



# FIELD *notes*

Publication of the Office of Practicum Experiences and Teacher Induction  
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## Fall 2007

**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
**Lynch School of Education**  
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## GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

September 2007 marked the successful launch of 110 Full Practicum students placed in 30 BC Partnership Schools in the greater Boston area. These students began their field experiences on September 4, and were joined four weeks later by over 250 pre-practicum students placed in the same schools creating an impressive BC presence in authentic and supportive learning communities.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER 2007

- 6 Full Practicum Kick-Off Meeting, 3 pm, Heights Room
- 24 Pre-Practicum Experiences begin; *Carnegie Lecture: "Academic Language," Kris Gutierrez, 4:30, Robsham Theater*

### OCTOBER 2007

- 4 **Special Issues in Teaching, #1**  
*"Equity for Gay and Lesbian Families and Children in Schools," 6 pm, Campion 139*
- 8 Columbus Day, No Classes
- 9 *Jump Start Licensure Info*
- 10 Sp 2008 Full Practicum Informational Meeting, 12:00, Campion 139
- 16 *Jump Start Licensure Info*
- 22-26 *Full Practicum Placement Week for Spring 2008 Students*

### NOVEMBER 2007

- 1 **Special Issues in Teaching #2**  
*"Fixing Urban Schools: The Road Behind, the Road Ahead" Charles Payne, 7:40, Devlin*
- 11-13 Lynch School Symposium Events, "Weathering the Challenges of Education from Washington, D.C., to South Africa, to the Crisis in New Orleans, Time/Place TBA
- 21-23 Thanksgiving Break, No Classes
- 27 **Special Issues in Teaching #3**  
*"Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse & Neglect, What is the Teacher's Responsibility?" 6 pm, Campion 139*

### DECEMBER 2007

- 7 Practicum End
- 11 *"Full Practicum Community of Learners" Heights Rm, 3:30-6:00 Heights Room*
- 13 Endorsement Meetings, 4-5:30, Heights Room UG
- 18 Endorsement Meetings, 4-5:30, Heights Room Grad

Clinical Faculty Supervisors met with their full prac students at the "Kick Off" meeting on September 6<sup>th</sup>, preceded in late August by an engaging and rigorous Professional Development Program that included 25 graduate assistant supervisors under the direction of Melita Malley. The 2-day event included sessions on developing cultural competence with Catherine Wong, Director of Urban Initiatives and Outreach, and hands-on training using "Tapped In" technology to build bridges for online mentoring, with Amy Ryan, Associate Director of Mentoring & Instructional Strategies. Monthly supervision meetings will continue to highlight mentoring, building bridges between theory and practice, and supporting English Language Learners in mainstream classrooms and preparing teachers for social justice.

As Melita and I welcome in the new academic year, please accept our best wishes for a great semester. We look forward to seeing you in Campion 103 and 106 where you will find an enthusiastic and informed staff ready to greet and assist you.

- Fran Loftus



Clinical Faculty Supervisors compare learning styles and practice "Tapping In" with Amy Ryan.



## TNE THE NEW TEACHER ACADEMY CONFERENCE HOSTS 100+ NEW TEACHERS



Under the direction of Amy Ryan, Assoc. Director of Mentoring & Instructional Strategies, over one hundred beginning teachers from more than twenty-five school districts throughout Massachusetts gathered at Boston College in August for a two-day conference designed for K-12 educators in their first through third years of teaching. Sponsored by Boston College Teachers for a New Era, in partnership with Boston Public Schools and Bridgewater State College, the New Teacher Academy offered a wide range of critical topics such as assessment, building classroom community, classroom management, differentiated instruction, No Child Left Behind Act, and working with English language learners and special needs students.

Participants collaborated with a cadre of experienced facilitators who were either K-12 teachers or doctoral candidates from the Lynch School of Education. Teacher-facilitators modeled effective classroom techniques and shared valuable teaching strategies with participants. It was an interactive and collaborative experience for educators of all grades and levels of experience.

Beginning teachers reflected that they felt valued as educators, part of a professional community of learners, and were comfortable raising questions. One initial teacher reflected, "I had a great time learning new skills and meeting new people. I greatly benefited from this academy. I have tons of great ideas and good classroom resources. I also have more confidence to learn from my mistakes, ask questions, and to be open to new ideas and strategies. I would love to come again next year!" The Lynch School is committed to providing teacher education graduates with access to high quality induction programs and looks forward to the second annual New Teacher Academy in August 2008.

- Amy Ryan

## THE INTERNATIONAL VIEW

The Practicum Office is delighted to announce two new partnership schools that are welcoming two graduate students as they complete their full practicum experiences this fall semester. St. George's College in Kingston, Jamaica is a Jesuit High School with a history of sending teaching members of their staff to the Lynch School for graduate study. They are now prepared to welcome our students to complete student teaching in their community of learners in an ethos similar to that of the Lynch School. A graduate student in secondary English is settling into St. George's College and is learning the National curriculum for the islands. Across the Atlantic, the BC connection with the Advanced Study in England program has resulted in a Lynch School partnership with Weston All Saints Primary School, in Bath, England. The "WASPS" is welcoming a BC graduate student in elementary education who began her student teaching this September and is joined by other BC Juniors who are completing pre-practica in the same school creating meaningful connections and collaborations. Both students are also completing their Inquiry seminars online via email with a member of the Lynch School faculty. See the school websites listed below and consider doing your practicum in one of these new welcoming and supportive schools!



Grad student Kevin Collins with his students at George's College

- Alexandra Flores

### International School Websites:

St. George's College, Kingston, Jamaica  
<http://www.jaweb2.com/jaalumni/stgc/stgc.html>

Weston All Saints Primary School,  
 Bath, England  
<http://www.westonallsaints.bathnes.sch.uk>

**Spring 2008 Full Pracs**  
 Please submit your Full Prac  
 Application Today!  
**Deadline: Oct. 15, 2007**  
 Pick Up Application in Prac  
 Office, Campion 103

## JUMP START THE LICENSURE PROCESS!

It's never too early to think about the teacher licensure process. A series of "Jump Start" Licensure Info Sessions is offered for students in teacher education programs. Learn the latest on MTEL preparation, Reciprocity and how to open your own ELAR profile on the Mass. DOE website. The sessions, led by Fran Loftus, are offered as follows:

**Fall 07 Grad P1, & Undergrad P3:** Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Campion #139 @3:00-4:00.

**Fall 07 Full Prac Students:** Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>, Campion #139 4:30-5:30 or Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup>, Campion #139 @ 4:30-5:30  
 More to come for Spring 2008  
 Pre-Practicum Students.

## VOICES from Spring 2007 Student Teacher

Reflection Portfolio excerpts from "What Teaching For Social Justice Means to Me...."

"In every course in the Lynch School of Education, we learn the theory behind our Social Justice themes. In our practicum experiences we put that theory into practice."

"Teaching for Social Justice requires great patience, flexibility, and the ability to change at a moment's notice. It requires conscious decision-making when it comes to creating lesson objectives, choosing culturally relevant materials, creating assessments, and setting the tone for the classroom environment. Most of all, it requires holding each student to the same high standards for academic success."

"If children do not feel safe, valued, empowered, and hopeful, then they cannot fulfill their greatest potential, and what is the point of learning, if not to grow into one's best self?"

"Teaching for social justice does not mean that every child gets the same thing, but it does mean that every child gets what he or she needs and is made to feel like a valuable member of the class."

"I believe that as a teacher it is my mission to help narrow the gaps that exist in our educational system and to work to make education more equitable for all students. This belief is at the core of what motivates my desire to become a teacher."

"As a teacher it is important, not just to recognize this difference among students, but act to sustain equity among such differences; unity among this diversity"

## CATHERINE WONG JOINS THE LYNCH SCHOOL COMMUNITY

As the newly selected Director of Urban Outreach Initiatives I want to offer my warm welcome to all of you at the start of the Fall semester. Programs directly associated with this initiative are: The Donovan Urban Teaching Scholars, College Bound, and Step Up (5 University Partnership).

The themes that remain central to all these programs include broadening the understanding of the complex realities facing urban education, facilitating sustainable relationships with partners from within Boston College and in the wider community, and creating innovative curriculum and supportive learning strategies that are responsive to the whole child.

An important and treasured part of my role involves collaborating throughout the course of the year with the Office of Practicum Experiences & Teacher Induction with supervisors, cooperating teachers and students in working toward cultural competence. More specifically, 1) What are the key **influences** that inform who we



are, 2) In what ways do these influences impact our desire and capacity to teach, mentor, and coach, and 3) What motivates us to take the necessary time for **introspection** about lessons learned personally and professionally? In closing, I want to leave you with a proverb from Hawai'i, where I am from, "A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka halau ho'okahi: all knowledge is not taught in the same school, one can learn from many sources." I look forward to having our paths cross in the coming days and months as we continue to learn from one another. With aloha,

Catherine Wong