

2012 Prospect Practitioner Fellows

Barbara Burrington

Barbara Burrington is the PreK-8 principal at the Alburgh Community Education Center in Alburgh, Vermont. Prior to that she taught in the Early Childhood Education Program at the University of Vermont and coordinated the preschool programs of the UVM Campus Children's School for 14 years. Barbara holds a B.S. in Education from Norwich University and an M.Ed. in Educational Leadership from UVM. She is currently a member of the Snelling Center's Vermont School Leadership Project. She has been engaged in the study of teaching and documentation as processes that promote inquiry and reflection over 20 years. She lives on North Hero with her husband, David Desautels.

Jed Norris

Jed Norris is currently the Program Director at Burlington Children's Space in Burlington, VT. In the past he spent six years as a mentor teacher at the Campus Children's School working as an infant/toddler teacher and collaborating with the Early Childhood Program at the University of Vermont (UVM). Jed holds a B.S. in Child Development from Colby-Sawyer College and a M. Ed. from UVM in Early Childhood Special Education. Jed resides on Grand Isle with his wife Erika and son Dylan.

Lara Ramsey

Lara Ramsey grew up in Georgia and have lived and worked in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Connecticut, California, Vermont, and Massachusetts. She has been living in Massachusetts for 13 years now, anchored by graduate school, amazing mentors, and an ideal job teaching 4th grade at the Smith College Laboratory School. In 2005, Lara formed a study group to support her thesis research under Eleanor Duckworth and Steve Seidel at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. The study group was called the Research Collaborative for Close Attention to Student Thinking, and it took on a life of its own; the group has lasted, expanded, and evolved into a Critical Friends Group that uses a protocol to look at student work on a monthly basis. She is looking forward to the Prospect Archive Practitioner Fellowship, particularly the chance to learn about archiving conversations.

Amanda Terreri

Amanda Terreri is a classroom teacher and pedagogical coordinator at the UVM Campus Children's School and has been part of the community for ten years. She holds a B.S. in Early Childhood Education and a Masters in Curriculum and instruction with a focus on Library Media Studies. She lives in South Burlington with her partner James and beloved dog Vega.

2012 Prospect Practitioner Mentor

Ellen Schwartz

Ellen Schwartz has taught primary grades in Vermont and Massachusetts since 1983. Prior to that she taught in a bilingual cluster program in Boston, directed a school-based youth center in Brighton, England, taught English in the former Yugoslavia, and worked as a typesetter.

Ellen began her association with the Prospect School and Center in 1984, when she attended her first Summer Institute. She was amazed at how much was revealed about a child through description of her works, and felt that she had found a place where she would be able to explore the many questions that teaching was raising for her. Ellen has attended Summer Institutes ever since, along with the Fall and Spring Conferences formerly held by Prospect. She is a member of a study group that uses Prospect's descriptive methodology in support of teachers' inquiries into their students and various aspects of their practice and a Board member of the Institute for Descriptive Inquiry, which is carrying forward the institutes formerly run by Prospect.

Ellen has published articles about teaching and learning, and is currently co-editing a collection of stories and essays by teachers who have taken the philosophy of Prospect into other settings, mainly public schools.