

2015 Prospect Practitioner Fellows

Joe Alberti

Dr. Joe Alberti has been a teacher in the School District of Philadelphia since 2006. He has been a teacher at his neighborhood school, Samuel Powel Elementary, since 2007, teaching 4th grade for most of the time. Alberti completed a Ph.D. program in Education at the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania, concentrating in reading, writing, and literacy. He is also adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, and Swarthmore College. Dr. Alberti earned National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards in 2012 as a Generalist in Middle Childhood. He is a member of the Philadelphia Teacher's Learning Cooperative, which is a group of current and retired public school teachers started in the 1970s that focuses on the Descriptive Processes and Descriptive Inquiry, as many of the retired teachers were closely connected with the Prospect Center before it closed.

Joseph Boisvert

Joseph Boisvert was born and raised in Chicago and currently lives in Brooklyn. He teaches a 2nd/3rd grade class at the Ella Baker School in Manhattan. He attended Sarah Lawrence College for undergrad, focusing on photography and poetry, and graduated from the Art of Teaching program in 2014. At both SLC and Ella Baker he has been interested in Prospect's method of documentation and description of student work. His oral presentation for his master's degree discussed photography and video as a means of enriching student portfolios.

Lara Ramsey

Lara Ramsey has been teaching 4th grade at the Smith College Laboratory School for 16 years. In 2005, Lara formed a study group as part of her doctoral work on close attention to student thinking in the classroom. Ten years later, the study group continues to meet regularly to look closely at student work. Lara is looking forward to the Prospect Archive Practitioner Fellowship, particularly the chance to learn about overlaps between the current research on "classroom talk" and the kind of talk engendered by descriptive review processes.

2015 Prospect Practitioner Mentors

Ellen Schwartz

Ellen Schwartz taught primary grades in Vermont and Massachusetts from 1983 until her retirement in 2013. 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 to conduct inquiries into children, learning and teaching, and is 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. She is a co-editor of *Making Space for Active Learning: The Art and Practice of Teaching*, a collection of stories and essays by teachers about building on children's interests, experiences, and questions and incorporating ongoing inquiry into teaching practice.