



P R E S E N T S T H E

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



Lisa Lundy

College professor-turned high school teacher finds fulfillment in Garland ISD

As a past English major with her doctorate

in English literature and years of experience as an English teacher at the college level, it's obvious that her subject matter is important to Lisa Lundy, Advanced Placement Literature teacher at Naaman Forest High School and Teacher of the Month. But a desire to affect the whole child drove her to pursue a teaching career at the high school level.

Dr. Lundy says, "It takes a special person to teach high school, to care about all the aspects of a student as well as the subject matter."

To illustrate this philosophy, Dr. Lundy says, "A high school teacher really can make a difference in students' lives. You see them every day, unlike in college. A high school teacher has to worry about more of the little things, such as the dress code and enforcing rules. You have to help students learn in high school how to get along in society. I liked teaching at the college level, but I just wasn't busy enough there."

Now that she is in her fifth year at Naaman Forest, keeping busy is no longer a problem. In addition to teaching AP English, Dr. Lundy also teaches four levels of German, including AP German.

In fact, it was German that got this English teacher in the door at Naaman Forest. Mrs. Lundy had been teaching at North Texas State University, but "I had young children and it was so far away. I tried teaching at SMU," but that wasn't much closer to home. She took a year off from teaching, then saw a posting for a German teacher at Naaman Forest.

"That campus is literally 13 minutes from my front door, so it was perfect for me," she says. A year later, the school's AP English teacher left, and Dr. Lundy was able to take on that role as well. She's remained busy

with those roles ever since, adding the role of foreign language department head along the way.

As department head, Dr. Lundy has had the opportunity to help guide new teachers through the demands of the classroom.

"One new teacher came to me and said, 'I can't believe they're sleeping in my class and expect me to be their alarm clock!' We can't be just a teacher, but also almost a parent in many ways. Are the kids dressed, fed, rested? We have to be willing not just to teach, but to encourage and even love them. Patience is just priceless in this profession," she says.

Dr. Lundy's patient, loving approach to teaching is obviously paying off. She was named Teacher of the Year at Naaman Forest this year, "and this is an honor that means a lot to me as it is a teacher-elected honor," she says.

Her influence is recognized by her students as well as her peers. She says four of her previous students have become German teachers, and several have also become English teachers.

Naaman Forest principal Steve Baker says her passion for teaching shines through in everything she does.

"My students rave about Dr. Lundy's classes. She is one of those rare teachers who personifies all that an outstanding educator should be. Many former graduates return and praise Dr. Lundy for the impact she has made on their lives both personally and academically."

That fact proves the efficacy of Dr. Lundy's whole-child teaching philosophy. Putting it into practice has obviously paid off in tangible ways for her students, and that might be the highest honor any teacher can achieve. Congratulations to Dr. Lundy for her commitment to teaching – and to the far-reaching impact she has had on her students.



Always there when you need us!

www.garlandpower-light.org