

Connexus

Connexus ~ Latin ~ bound together by ties of friendship, kinship, etc.

Fall 2007

LESSONS LEARNED

Unique program gives students first-hand diversity education

Education majors are reaping the benefits of a new and unique partnership between the College of Education and Human Development and the Aldine Independent School District (AISD).

Kenneth Brantley II of Shreveport, La., Ester Cruz of Bowling Green and Lisa Naiman of Findlay, Ohio, graduated in May after completing their student teaching in Aldine, a highly diverse educational setting in the urban district located just outside Houston. Aldine's student population is comprised of approximately 61 percent Hispanic, 32 percent African American, 5 percent Anglo and 2 percent Asian students.



Aldine students learn about weights from one of their teachers.

When asked what made her student teaching opportunity at Aldine special, Naiman said, "Surrounding myself in such a diverse community, ranging from social class to ethnicities and culture, has broadened my experience far beyond compare."

Brantley, who was co-captain of the BGSU football team, holds a bachelor of science in education degree in adolescent/young adult integrated social studies. Cruz holds a bachelor of science in education degree in early childhood education. Naiman, who has a hearing impairment herself, holds a bachelor of science in education degree in deaf/hard of hearing. All are currently employed by AISD.

In addition to providing a highly diverse educational setting in which to

place student teachers, this partnership enables other EDHD students to have virtual field experiences by observing Aldine classes online. The program also facilitated the creation of Electronic Kits for Investigating Diversity in Schools (ekids)—a virtual online school including a wide variety of Aldine student profiles to be used for EDHD student projects.

Dr. Julie Matuga, associate dean for graduate studies and external programs, is also using this unique liaison for research. She is researching how access to this diverse educational setting will change BGSU students' knowledge, skills and disposition of diversity issues. "We believe this partnership has tremendous potential to impact not only our students' understanding of diversity but also the attitudes and skills that are critical to teaching 21st century students."

For more information about the Aldine school district, refer to www.aldine.k12.tx.us.

From the Dean

We have many exciting things to share with you in this Fall 2007 edition of *Connexus*; but first, with sadness, I must announce that Josué Cruz has decided to leave the position of dean, College of Education and Human Development, in order to pursue other educational adventures. I have been appointed to serve as the interim dean and am honored to do so. The search for a permanent dean will begin at a later time.

This edition of *Connexus*, in particular, highlights some of the many partnerships EDHD shares with individuals such as our students, new faculty, alumni, donors and advocates as well as partnerships with our local, national and international community. Although we can only share a few examples here, EDHD faculty members are extremely involved in the community. Out of 135 faculty members, 116 are involved in scholarship of engagement, with more than 1,200 unique activities. These partnerships continue to make our College a forerunner in the field of education and a highly valued member of our community.

Welcome to this small glimpse of EDHD highlights. I hope you enjoy reading about these exciting activities as much as we enjoy presenting them to you.

D. Rosalind Hammond

YOUR DONATIONS AT WORK

The College of Education and Human Development (EDHD) is pleased to announce that we have exceeded our goal of \$7 million as part of the University's Building Dreams Centennial Campaign with nearly \$7.3 million raised as of July 31.

Congratulations and thanks to all those whose efforts and stewardship have enabled us to reach this significant milestone nearly two years earlier than anticipated. Although we have met this initial challenge, the College will continue to seek further support and funding to help address our needs and challenges and will maintain our focus on fund-raising initiatives during the final phase of the campaign, which runs through 2008.

The contributions we receive from our alumni and donors provide for a variety of important programs, services and initiatives for our students, faculty, alumni and community that would otherwise go unfunded.

Some of the most recent include:

- a new literacy lab,
- expanded capacity in the education computer lab,
- additional scholarships,
- new playground equipment at the Child Development Center (CDC),
- a refurbished life science lab,
- a new apparel merchandising and product development computer lab,
- a new interior design computer lab, and
- a new kinesiology computer lab.



Children enjoy some of the new playground equipment at BGSU's CDC.

Your contributions make a huge difference. Each and every dollar helps us maintain and enhance the reputation we have earned for high-quality programs and top-notch graduates. Thank you so much for your help!

College reaches out to students in STEM disciplines

A shortage of highly skilled science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students and professionals, has BGSU looking for ways to increase the number of students studying within these disciplines. The College of Education and Human Development (EDHD) is doing its part with several scholarly outreach grants to attract students in these areas.

This summer, Dr. Julie Matuga, associate dean for graduate and external programs, and Charlene Butler of the Wood County Educational Service Center received a \$225,000 Post Secondary On-Line Corridor grant from the Ohio Department of Education. The grant helped to provide science courses to 97 qualified junior and senior high school students. The three arts and sciences courses were taught online in conjunction with area high school teachers. For more information, refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/news/2007/news28425.html.

The goal of another project entitled Research-based Inquiry Physics Experiences (RIPE) is to provide early childhood (pre-K through third grade) teachers with tools to increase student learning and excitement about science. This project implements research-based inquiry instruction in their classrooms through a \$133,549 grant from the Ohio Board of Regents. "The objective is to put more science experience in the hands of the youngest schoolchildren by helping their teachers think of ways to make science more exciting," said Dr. Tracy Huziak-Clark, project director and assistant professor in the School of Teaching and Learning. For more information, refer to www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/news/2007/news26197.html.

For more information about other STEM-based efforts at BGSU, such as AIMS and REAL, refer to www.bgsu.edu/aims and www.bgsu.edu/offices/mc/news/2007/news26197.html, respectively.

Focus on an Advocate: Derek Eiler



After growing up as one of seven children in Ann Arbor, Mich., Derek Eiler '93 attended BGSU and then headed to Atlanta for his first job. After 14 years with the same company, he is currently the chief operating officer of The Collegiate Licensing Company (CLC), the oldest and largest trademark-licensing agency in the collegiate marketplace. Professionally, he says he is most proud of "building a successful business that has positively impacted the lives of so many employees and their families."

Bonnie Berger, director of the School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies (HMSLS) said, "I have an enormous respect for Derek. He is a fine example of the kind of quality that has been attracted to our sport management program and the kind of success our students have when they leave here."

Berger applauds his dedication to remaining active with the program and values the time, energy and finances he so willingly shares. Whenever he is in town, he speaks to HMSLS classes, sharing inspiring stories with a real-world, business perspective that the students greatly appreciate. In 2002, BGSU honored Eiler as a BGSU Accomplished Graduate in the College of Education and Human Development (EDHD) and earlier this spring he received the 2007 Recent Graduate Award from the BGSU Alumni Association. The college is proud to have someone of his caliber and dedication serving on the Advocates Board.

"The College of Education and Human Development, and particularly HMSLS, will always hold an important place in my life for the four great years I spent on campus," said Eiler. "Serving as an advocate is a chance to reconnect in a meaningful way to positively impact future generations of BGSU students. I've enjoyed discussing key future strategic issues impacting EDHD and interacting with such a unique and talented group of peers."

Eiler resides in Atlanta with his wife Sarah, four-year-old son Ryan and two-year-old daughter Kelsey. His two favorite hobbies are cooking and fly fishing, although he is still trying to create enough time to someday achieve "expert" status in both disciplines.

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Community Partnership connects

GENERATIONS and CULTURES

Through a community partnership between BGSU and the Perrysburg Heights Community Association, multi-cultural, multi-generational murals now grace the walls in the Perrysburg Heights (Ohio) Community Center's new addition. Co-directors of the partnership included Debra Zappitelli, interior design program coordinator and lecturer in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences; Dr. Radhika Gajjala, associate professor in the School of Communication Studies; Laura Rusnak, instructor in the School of Art; and Anita Serda, administrative assistant in the Center for Innovative and Transformative Education (CITE) /Partnership for Community Action (PCA) as well as co-founder and president of the Perrysburg Heights association.

The mural project began as a cooperative effort to help younger generations of the Perrysburg Heights community develop self-respect, identity and community engagement through self-expression; explore intergenerational values to help connect families, neighbors and the community; and highlight shared concerns, hopes and values. Work began with a viewing and reading of a pod-cast video and narratives compiled by Gajjala as well as graduate and undergraduate students under the direction of Gajjala and Dr. Lynda Dixon, professor in the School of Communication Studies.

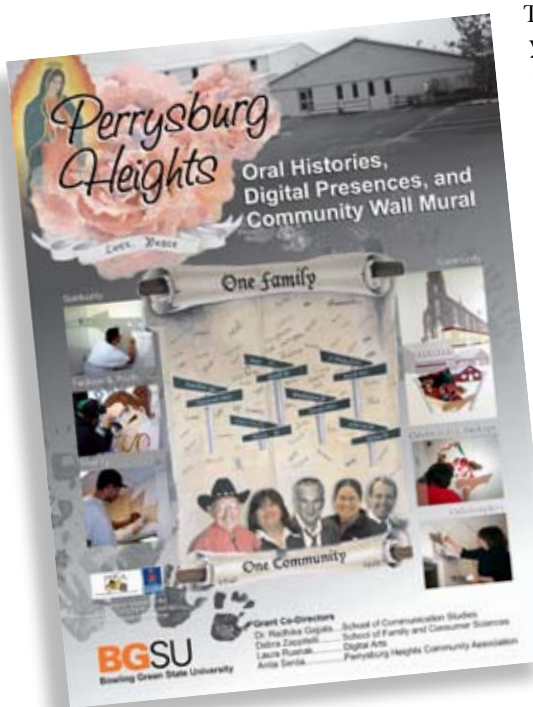
Focus groups, including young children, adolescents and adults from the community, then met weekly with Zappitelli to brainstorm and explore common themes. The focus groups studied traditional Latino muralists whose work emanated from politics, culture and revolution as well as contemporary Mexican examples found in urban settings. In each case, ethnic as well as national identities emerged as a powerful means of cultural expression.

Finally, several common themes emerged including embracing diversity, embracing one's culture and tradition, embracing faith and embracing the future.

"The project clearly demonstrated what the melting pot of the United States is all about," said Serda. "It gave the Perrysburg Heights community the opportunity to view the positive aspects of their culture and history across the generations, thus encouraging an openness and oneness within themselves."

The murals, designed and painted by members of the Perrysburg Heights community with instruction and assistance from Zappitelli, graphically portray the values and traditions of the community families and help to tie the strengths and accomplishments of the community together. Zappitelli said, "The project became a collective experience and a powerful way to illustrate the history of the community center, the neighborhood and the rich cultural traditions and family histories that embodied the essence of the Perrysburg Heights community."

This project was made possible by a PCA/CITE Partnership Support Grant as well as the Sherwin-Williams Company, a corporate donor who provided paint and materials.



Faculty news

The College of Education and Human Development is pleased to welcome the following new faculty:

School of Leadership and Policy Studies

- **Dr. Bruce Collet**, assistant professor, from York University in Toronto with extensive experience in Canada and research interests in diversity and education.
- **Christopher Frey**, instructor, Ph.D. expected soon from Indiana University with extensive expertise and experience in Japan.
- **Dr. William (Kyle) Ingle**, assistant professor, from Florida State University with expertise in teacher quality, hiring and retention as well as politics and diffusion of scholarship programs.
- **Tom Lammers**, instructor, non-tenure track.
- **Courtney Vorell**, instructor, non-tenure track.

School of Intervention Services

- **Lisa Dimling**, instructor (deaf education/hard of hearing), Ph.D. expected soon from Michigan State University with expertise in deaf education and literacy.
- **Dr. Scott Graves**, assistant professor (school psychology), from the University of Kentucky with expertise in modifiable factors that lead to academic proficiency in at-risk students.
- **Tom Reuss**, instructor (assistive technology), non-tenure track.

School of Teaching and Learning

- **Dr. Mohammed Darabie**, assistant professor (middle childhood reading education), from Defiance College with extensive experience in the Middle East.
- **Dr. Emilio Duran**, assistant professor (science education), from University of Toledo with content expertise in biology and education; brings more than \$1.9 million in grants over the next three years.
- **Dr. Lan Li**, instructor (technology), from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with extensive experience in China.

School of Human Movement, Sport and Leisure Studies

- **Coyte Cooper**, instructor (sport management), from ESPN with specialization in sport finance and management; Ph.D. expected soon from Indiana University.
- **Dr. Keith Christy**, visiting assistant professor (sport management).

It is also with mixed joy and sadness that we announce the retirement of **Dr. Leigh Chiarelott** after 30 years of valued service to the College. Chiarelott was the inspiring force behind the development and implementation of the graduate curriculum and teaching degree in the School of Teaching and Learning (STL).

Welcome to **Dr. Shirley Baugher**. In addition to joining BGSU as provost and vice president for academic affairs, Baugher also holds the rank of professor with tenure in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS).

HOMECOMING
2007

We hope you will join us Sept. 29 when BGSU celebrates Homecoming 2007. Please come to EDHD's tent from 4 to 6 p.m. for free food and to reconnect. For more information about Homecoming, visit the Homecoming Web site at homecoming.bgsu.edu.