

Teacher Education

Winter 2009 No. 1



Welcome Dr. D. Antonio Cantu, department chair

Not only is the Department of Teacher Education introducing the first edition of its biannual newsletter with this publication, it is welcoming a new chair, **Dr. D. Antonio Cantu**. Although Cantu just joined Bradley University in August 2008, he has been an effective leader in his first few months in the department. All faculty and students have been particularly aware of the new energy that Cantu has brought to the department.



D. Antonio Cantu

Cantu comes to Bradley with more than 20 years of experience in professional education ranging from high school through the graduate level. Prior to his appointment, he served as professor and dean of education at Indiana University Kokomo; professor of history and director of social studies education, as well as editor of the *International Journal of Social Education*, at Ball State University; and social studies department chair and teacher at Ste. Genevieve High School in Missouri.

He has served in many leadership positions in professional organizations, including president of the American Association for History and Computing; president of the Indiana Council for the Social Studies and Missouri Council for the Social Studies; and chair of three National Council for the Social Studies committees:

publications, resolutions, and instruction.

Cantu is the author of several research articles and books on history education

and technology integration, including *History Education 101: The Past, Present, and Future of Teacher Preparation* (2008) and *Teaching History in the Digital Classroom* (2003). He has served as a curriculum writer for many national organizations such as The History Channel, *The Wall Street Journal Classroom Edition*, and PBS *Frontline*.

Cantu's wife, Sandy, is an educator, who serves as a high school special education teacher. Their daughter, Deanna, attends Elmwood Elementary School; and their sons, Derek and Dylan, attend Elmwood High School.

Leadership conference encourages dialogue

"Social Justice for Illinois Schools PreK-12" was the theme of the Third Biennial Leadership for Diversity Conference, which was held at Bradley in January.

Presenters from Bradley's Department of Teacher Education included **Dr. Heljä Antola Crowe** and **Dr. Twila Lukowiak**. **Dr. Jana Hunzicker** was a main conference organizational committee member.

The conference's purpose was to encourage ongoing dialogue about the best leadership practices to promote learning in diverse environments. Teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members, parents, and higher education faculty and administration attended and actively participated in the dialogue on social justice challenges and successes in Illinois.

A remarkable BU alumnus—Brad Cohen

There are few members of the Bradley University community who do not know **Brad Cohen '96**. Since the Hallmark Hall of Fame movie, *Front of the Class*, aired in December 2008, even more people across the nation know about him.

From the time he was a student at Bradley to the present, Cohen has shown himself to be a remarkable teacher; and an inspiration to children, families, and the U.S. community. The title of his book, *Front of the Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had*, expresses in his own words his confidence and leadership in teaching.

Cohen has experienced a life journey few can imagine. In 2006, he shared his story at Bradley's 100th Anniversary of Teacher Education celebration.

In this presentation, which no one will forget, he left the audience with a memory that is best interpreted using words from his book: "I look at life this way: I choose the road I'll take. Do I choose the straight road—that is, the easy road? Or do I choose



Brad Cohen advises Bradley teacher education majors at the department's 100th anniversary celebration in April 2006.

the curvy road? I have decided to take the curvy road. I feel successful when life is more adventurous and challenging. For me, the curvy road builds character. It's my path, and I don't regret it for an instant. We all have our individual circumstances. We all play the hand we are dealt, and we all choose how we'll live" (pages 220-221).

Visit Cohen's Web site, www.frontoftheclassbook.com, for information on this alumnus, the Hallmark film, and Cohen's appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show."



Members of the Department of Teacher Education include, seated from left, Shari Britner, Heljä Antola Crowe, Bob Wolffe, Cecile Arquette, Jana Hunzicker, Susie Stear, Twila Lukowiak, and Sherrie Pardieck. Standing, from left, are Colleen Slane, Debora VanHoorn, K. Paul Kasambira, JeanMarie Grant, Cindi Heimann, Hwa Lee, Kevin Finson, D. Antonio Cantu (chair), Deitra Kuester, Pat Chrosniak, Celia Johnson, Dave McMullen, and Patty Nugent. Others in the department include Victoria Huffman, Virginia Dien, and Mhairi Doty.

Department news

Let them read

A teacher of preschool children at the Henry Senachwine School, alumna **Sheila Hartwig '07** and her colleagues invited **Dr. Pat Chrosniak** in January to join their school community in an evening event focused upon strategies for reading to children. Hartwig and her colleagues funded the event through a grant received to provide activities for families of their students.

Families shared dinner with the school faculty and staff. The children and staff were dressed in pajamas and ready to read. As the adults sat in the bleachers of the school gym, "Dr. Pat," surrounded by children on the gym floor, led all in a rendition of a song, "Gray Squirrel." This was followed

by the reading of Eric Carle's book, *The Very Grouchy Ladybug*.

Through the grant monies, children were provided with a fleece throw blanket, a book of their choice, and a Beanie Baby. Parents and guardians were encouraged to read with their children after the presentation. After all of the activities, those participating were ready for a good night's sleep.

Program supports teachers

The Peoria Grow Your Own program is an opportunity for 40 Peoria community members to complete a bachelor's degree in special education learning behavior specialist I or early childhood education. The consortium behind this program consists of Bradley's Teacher Education Department, Illinois Central College, Peoria Public Schools District 150, The Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Urban League, and the Peoria Federation of Support Staff. For more information, visit the department's Web site at bradley.edu/academics/ehs/teachereducation.shtml.

A tale of two departments

Teacher Education and Educational Leadership and Human Development have established an advisory council to provide communication and collaboration in common initiatives.

The council is comprised of students and faculty and includes **Dr. D. Antonio Cantu**, ETE chair; and **Dr. Christopher Rybak**, ELH chair. A recent collaboration was the Third Biennial Leadership for Diversity Conference in January.



Sheila Hartwig '07, a Henry Senachwine School teacher, joins Dr. Pat Chrosniak during a special evening reading event at her school.



Dr. Jana Hunzicker of Bradley, Teresa Donley, David Price, and Lydia Branch represent Peoria Grow Your Own Program teachers at the November 2008 state conference.

Staying in touch

This is a newsletter with a cast of thousands. We at the *alma mater* encourage you to share your lives with us. Keep in touch via e-mail and, if you prefer, send us updated information using the form on this newsletter.

Spread the word to alumni who may not be listed in our Office of Alumni Relations. Please let us know updated contact information for yourself and other alumni. Send your material to:

Alumni Records
c/o Paula Thomas
Bradley University
1501 W. Bradley Ave.
Peoria, IL 61625
or pthomas@bradley.edu.

Alumni notes

Amy Blank '08 is a teacher at St. Mark Catholic School in Peoria. She is popular as a speaker in **Helen Ferguson's '66** teacher education classes.

Trevor Butenhoff '06 spent one year in the banking industry but now teaches mathematics in Portland, Oregon.

Jennifer Copeland '08 is developing a special education program in her first job in the Chicago area.

Christopher Douglas '06 is in his third year of teaching in Wada, Japan. His junior-level students say he is "cool," but he is not willing to admit that. He teaches English language arts in this fishing town on the north-west coast of Honshu Island, Japan.



Katie Fedota '06 is involved in a leadership role as a teacher of family and consumer science in her home district in northern Chicago. She continues communicating with FCS students and faculty via e-mail.

Jason Juchems '07 teaches science at Washington Grade School in Pekin.

Amy McFarland '07 teaches a combined third- and fourth-grade class in St. Charles. She is pursuing her master's degree.

Candy Robosky '08 is a special educator in Washington Grade School in Pekin.

Alexa Schlosser '06 teaches biology in Minooka. She has spent her past two summers with two of her colleagues teaching students in Tanzania, Africa. How wonderful to be in range of the Victoria Falls.

Ryan Speiden '08 has decided to continue as a program coordinator at Common Place in southside Peoria, a nonprofit organization dedicated to literacy. Common Place serves more than 100 children and adults each year. Current student **Thomas Pierce** is employed as a program coordinator.

Susie Stear '86, MS '07 is advising coordinator in Teacher Education.

Alumni news:

The Department of Teacher Education wants to hear what you have been doing! Please take the time to fill this out and send it back to us.

Send to: Shelly Smith, 1501 W. Bradley Ave., Bradley University, Peoria, IL 61625

Name _____	Spouse's Name _____
Class Year _____	Other Information _____
Address _____	_____
_____	_____
City _____	_____
State and ZIP _____	_____
Ph. h (_____) _____	_____
w (_____) _____	_____
Job Title _____	_____
Employer _____	_____
E-mail _____	_____

Lifelong learning

Teaching in the 21st century is especially exciting with the rapid spread of instructional technology. Teachers are able to integrate a wide array of resources into lessons, no matter what their field. Yet, the book remains a powerful vehicle to support growth. Here are some resources that have come across the faculty's desks from BU students and alumni.

■ Nieto, S., editor. *Why We Teach*. New York: Teachers College Press, 1991.

The book offers thought-provoking as well as inspiring reflections of teachers who work in the public schools.

■ Perricone, J. *Zen and the Art of Public School Teaching*. Baltimore, MD: PublishAmerica, 2005.

John Perricone, keynote speaker for Bradley's 100th Anniversary of Teacher Education, provides insights into his journey as a teacher in Binghamton, New York. Visit his Web site (johnperricone.com) for more.

■ Robinson, Sir Ken. "The Loss of Creativity in Education." A video presentation on the Web site of Technology, Entertainment, and Design. <http://www.ted.com>. Also available on YouTube.

Teacher resources:

<http://www.readwritethink.com>

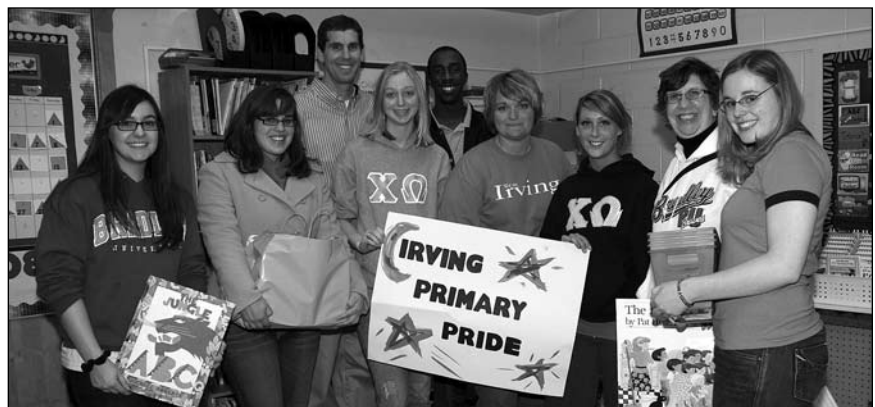
Lesson plans and materials

<http://www.edutopia.org>

Project-based learning, assessment, videos

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com>

Lessons and graphic organizers



In fall 2008, hundreds of Bradley University students came to the aid of alumna Denyse Hagemann '90, MA '04 whose Irving Primary School first-grade classroom was severely vandalized. Teacher education majors and other BU students delivered more than \$2,500 worth of supplies and funds to Irving. Along with Hagemann's room, nine others were affected.

Visit us online at
<http://www.bradley.edu/academics/ehs/teachereducation.shtml>

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Highlights from Whittier Primary School

Department of Teacher Education students and faculty are working with Whittier Primary School (a Professional Development School) on various activities.

Special emphasis research project

PDS coordinator and education professor **Dr. Cecile Arquette**, undergraduate co-researchers **Jamie Taylor** and **Erin Nichols**, and graduate assistant **Carrie Hoffman** are working on a collaborative research project at Whittier. Whittier is one of four schools collaborating with Bradley University through a grant from the William T. Kemper Foundation.

Arquette's research is looking at the efficacy of a three-year dialogue journal project, which began in fall 2006. A dialogue journal is writing done between a student and another person. In this case, kindergarten through fourth-grade students wrote to pre-service teachers weekly. Over the past three years, 33 different classes of K-4 children, nearly 175 pre-service teachers, and 18 classroom teachers have participated in the project.

In fall 2008, the student researchers gathered interview data from Whittier students and helped code the data, along

with data previously collected by Arquette. They have also submitted an application to present at the National PDS Conference, which will be held in spring 2009. If the presentation is accepted, Taylor and Nichols will travel with Arquette to present their findings. A co-authored paper is also a part of the project. This research is supported by grants from CRS and the Office for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development.

Other Kemper activities at Whittier

From the STAR pre-school class to fourth-grade, Whittier is participating in a book-writing project. Children from pre-K through first-grade are writing collaborative class books. All other students are writing individual books. This program is courtesy of Student Treasures Publishing, a company that provides book kits for students to create professional, hardbound books. There are no costs to the students or teachers. Serving as class volunteers,



A Bradley teacher education student helps Whittier Primary School children with a science project.

Bradley education students are helping the students complete their work.

Teacher education students taking Science 101 (a special lab course for future teachers) visit Whittier twice a year to provide hands-on science activities in the kindergarten and first-grade rooms. In fall 2008, the BU students studied the prairie ecosystem. They developed activities such as planting miniature grasslands and creating a model of a pond.