



Historical Westlake Hall

# Keeping Current With Kemper

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## College of Education and Health Sciences



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Dr. Sherrie Pardieck,  
Acting Kemper Fellow  
for Teaching Excellence

## Comments from William T. Kemper Fellow...

Spring is the time of year when everything is in bloom. It is a beautiful time of the year when every plant and tree grows and achieves its full potential. The term “blooming” is a wonderful analogy for teaching. Educators care and tend to their students’ needs and help them grow. For our four professional development schools, Manual High School, Roosevelt Magnet, Whittier Primary, and Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center, the importance of curriculum was a major focus for the school year. The curriculum nourishes the learning process and tends to students’ learning needs. Literacy projects, science inquiry, naturalists, math projects, and professional development opportunities have been the core of our collaborative efforts. Through the school/university partnership, much has been accomplished.

Dr. Helja Antola Crowe, the Kemper Fellow, has been on sabbatical leave during the spring semester. We have missed her gentle spirit of goodness and we look forward to her return in the Fall of 2008. It has been my honor to assume the duties of the Interim Kemper Fellow in her absence. I have enjoyed working with everyone in the professional development schools.

As she leaves her Site Coordinator’s responsibilities, we wish to thank Dr. Shari L. Britner for the expertise and service she has given to Roosevelt Magnet School. Dr. Britner has been at the school for five years and has enjoyed her tenure with Mrs. Tanya Jenkins, faculty, staff, and student teachers. The love and care that she has given to everyone will remain for years to come. Thank you Dr. Britner. Best wishes in your new endeavors!.

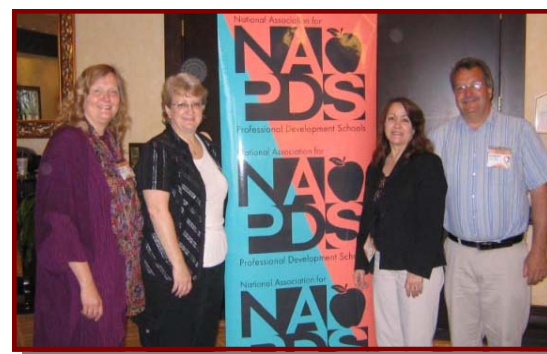
### Conference Notes

The National Association of Professional Development Schools Conference (NAPDS) met in Orlando, Florida on April 10-13, 2008. The conference attendees included professional development coordinators, site coordinators, school administration and faculty, clinical coordinators, and personnel from state boards of education.

The purpose of the conference was for professional educators to come together and discuss issues, share problem-solving strategies, and generate new directions for professional development schools. It was also a time for celebration of achievements and the efforts of those committed to the growth and development of school/university partnerships.

The Executive Council and Board of Directors of the National Association for Professional Development Schools’ presented information for PDS. They identified *Nine Essentials of a PDS* (2007) as:

1. A comprehensive mission that is broader in its outreach and scope than the mission of any partner and that furthers the education profession and its responsibility to advance equity within schools and, by potential extension, the broader community;
2. A school-university culture committed to the preparation of future educators that embraces their active engagement in the school community;
3. Ongoing and reciprocal professional development for all participants guided by need;
4. A shared commitment to innovative and reflective practice by all participants;



Dr. Heljä Antola Crowe, Dr. Patty Nugent, Dr. Sherrie Pardieck, and Dr. Bob Wolfe at the NAPDS Conference.

4. A shared commitment to innovative and reflective practice by all participants;
5. Engagement in and public sharing of the results of deliberate investigations of practice by respective participants;
6. An articulation agreement developed by the respective participants delineating the roles and responsibilities of all involved;
7. A structure that allows all participants a forum for ongoing governance, reflection, and collaboration;
8. Work by college/university faculty and P-12 faculty in formal roles across institutional settings; and
9. Dedicated and shared resources and formal rewards and recognition structures.

#### Presentations

Dr. Helja Antola Crowe and Dr. Robert Wolffe presented, *PDS Coordinator Role in Stimulating Synergistic Relationships* at the NAPDS Conference. Dr. Sherrie Pardieck and Dr. Patricia Nugent presented *Fish! Partnership!* The presentation was based upon the collaborative efforts of faculty and staff at two schools. From Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center: Dr. Beth Bussan, Ann Bond, Beth Crider-Olcott, Jodi Walshaert, and Elaine Greer. From Manual High School: Mr. William Salzman, Val Ray, Betsy Kolb, Ms. Goin, and Kristi Hubbard. Through our collaborative efforts, we continue to add to the knowledge base of professional development schools.



Dr. Antola Crowe and Dr. Wolffe giving their presentation

*Sherrie Pardieck*

## Manual High School

by Dr. Patty Nugent  
Site Coordinator



Bradley novice teacher with pre-school students at Manual.

One aspect of the Professional Development School Partnership is the placement of Bradley University students in the PreK – 12 classroom. This semester at Manual High School, there is one Bradley University student placed in Novice teaching and five Bradley students completing their student teaching experience. Theresa Kurnik [HS Math] is assigned for Novice teaching with Ms. Mindy Catton. Bradley University students who are completing student teaching are: Megan McCorkle [HS Spec. Ed] assigned with Ms. Linda Manning; Kristen Miller [HS English] assigned with Ms. Cheryl Lewis; Joseph Nixon [HS Math] assigned with Ms. Sharon Trussler; Chrystal Pehm [HS French] assigned with Ms. Brenda Gibbons; and Martin Weiss [HS Spec. Ed] assigned with Ms. Angela Hunsicker. Another aspect of the Professional Development partnership between Manual High School and Bradley University is the College Simulation activity. This activity gives Manual High School students the opportunity to experience the requirements of a college class, including an assessment. At the successful completion of the class work, Manual High School students

then have an opportunity to visit the Bradley University campus.

#### A Class Mix Of “Big” And “Little” Fish

Mrs. Val Ray has a very busy day...it begins with zero hour with ten Manual high school students, her “Big” Fish. The students arrive and participate in a one-hour class that follows a curriculum addressing issues of child development. At the conclusion of zero hour, she has very little time before 21 “Little” Fish (children ages three to five) enter her classroom. Mrs. Ray is assisted throughout the day by Ms. Kolb and Ms. Goin. Throughout the day, the Manual students return to the classroom for their service hour. Some of the activities Manual students participate in are getting and serving meals for the pre-schoolers, helping set tables, zipping coats, reading stories, playing games, playing make-believe, and helping with anything that may need to be completed in the classroom. The Manual High School students also recently participated in a United Way “Success By 6” program held at Valeska Hinton for parents of young children. Mrs. Ray has incorporated the FISH! philosophy in her classroom. It is evident that both her “Big” Fish (high school students) and “Little” Fish (preschool children) benefit from the four components of *Play, Make Their Day, Be Present* and *Choose your Attitude*.



FISH! bulletin board display in Manual pre-school classroom.

It is evident that both her “Big” Fish (high school students) and “Little” Fish (preschool children) benefit from the four components of *Play, Make Their Day, Be Present* and *Choose your Attitude*.

*“The past is history, The future is a mystery, Today is a gift, That is why we call it the present.” -Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Roosevelt Magnet School is on the GO!!

On Monday, April 7, Roosevelt Magnet School made a presentation to the District 150 School Board at their monthly meeting. After Mrs. Jenkins' introduction, things got active, creative, and...well, perhaps a bit crazy! Jeanne Youngren, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, talked to the board and visitors explaining how an emphasis on modality learning allows RMS teachers to incorporate the arts into all subjects. It was during this presentation that "Butch" made his entry! Butch is a somewhat colorful character (see photo) rumored to be Teresa

"Butch" is the handsome one on the left!!

Biddison, middle school language arts teacher, in disguise – although both deny the allegations! "Butch" presented a number of tools that he teaches to children to help them succeed with writing prompts. This was followed with performances by dance teacher Joella Shahan performing a rap song about learning and two students, Megan Higgins and Anna Spencer, singing an original song about succeeding on the ISAT. Five current and former students talked about what RMS means to them. In the case of the former students, they related how their time at RMS prepared them for success in high school. A parent, Barbara Boddie, then spoke about how much it means to have a school like RMS with their strong concern for children. Dr. Shari Britner talked about the collaborative projects between RMS and Bradley and how both institutions are enriched by the collaboration.



### Roosevelt Magnet School's 75th Anniversary Celebration!

On December 7, 2007, Roosevelt Magnet School recognized their 75th anniversary with a gala event at the school. The celebration of this historic occasion included student performances, dinner, and dancing



Roosevelt Principal Taunya Jenkins and RMS alumni

for Roosevelt alumni, current and past staff members, and community friends. The doors of Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School opened in 1932 with H.H. Baumgardner as the principal. It was the year that the junior high student's journey began with a trolley car ride to the intersections of Eckley Avenue and Warren Street or the Hurlburt car to Warren. Roosevelt became a magnet school in 1967 and was open to students from kindergarten to eighth grade. It's goal was to draw students from across Peoria so it had to have a curriculum that would make it more attractive for families in many neighborhoods. The school already offered programs for music, dance, and art. Roosevelt Magnet School's fine arts program today is legendary with students performing locally and nationally. Through their hallways have passed generations of educators, politicians, entrepreneurs, war veterans, doctors, attorneys, stay-at-home moms, athletes, musicians, and the list is endless.



Planning for the festive celebration!

Roosevelt's mission, as an innovative fine arts academy, is to ensure that each student develops to his or her academic, artistic, and personal potential by integrating the arts and technology within a safe, nurturing environment which embraces diversity in partnership with families and the community.



Roosevelt students celebrating the 100th anniversary of their school!

The College of Education and Health Sciences at Bradley University congratulates Roosevelt Magnet School for 75 years of progress, learning, success, and motivation for the students, the staff, and the Peoria community. We are proud to be involved with their organization as one of our William T. Kemper Foundation—Commerce Bank Trustee professional development school.



Cheryl Sanfilip and Cindy Fisher from District 150, Joan Sattler and Heljä Antola Crowe from Bradley, and Taunya Jenkins (second from right), Principal of Roosevelt Magnet

**Congratulations and best wishes as you continue academic excellence in the next 75 years!**

## Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center

*"Belief fuels enthusiasm, and enthusiasm explodes into passion.  
It fires our souls and lifts our spirits."*

Parker & Anderson

by Dr. Sherrie Pardieck

This has been a very busy school year for everyone at Valeska Hinton Center. The Creative Curriculum began, the DIBELS is going strong, the Artist-In-Residence Program has been full of activities, Grandparents' Day was very successful, the Professional Development Team has provided great professional development activities, plus many more programs and projects. Even though the school year has not yet ended, the faculty and staff are making preparations for next school year.

Mr. Durr's first-grade classroom  
at Valeska Hinton.



Portfolios and document display  
for NAEYC Accreditation

### NAEYC Accreditation

In November of 2007, Valeska Hinton Center hosted their National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation visit. The faculty and staff worked very hard to provide all needed documents and descriptions of projects and programs for the team of evaluators. On Thursday, January 31, 2008, the school received their accreditation. They were noted as having an outstanding program for their children, families, and community contributions. Congratulations! The accolades are well deserved!

Valeska Hinton Leadership Team  
Jodi Walschaert, Beth Crider-Olcott, Ann  
Bond, Dr. Bussan, Elaine Greer



### Early Childhood Cohort

The Early Childhood Cohort has been progressing very well. There are ten students in the program. The class is composed of early childhood educators who are working together to earn their Master's Degree in the C & I program at Bradley University. During the first semester of this school year, Dr. Helja Antola Crowe taught an early childhood course, and this semester Mrs. Ann Bond is teaching a research course. The courses are taught at Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Education Center.

### Naturalists.

The Naturalists have been infusing nature to the curriculum. A display table has been added to Center Court. The table contains various items from each season which can be found in nature. The display was entitled, "I Spy with My Little Eyes," as students look to find familiar items and animal tracks. A Nature Calendar was added to the Nature Nook and many more items were added to the central bulletin board. The committee is also looking into possible grants to create a natural garden environment with a water feature. Their slogan is, Recycle, Reduce, Refuse, and Reuse. The Refuse refers to not purchasing or using non-biodegradable materials.



Naturalist's display table.



Mrs. Rachel Williams, Bradley student  
teacher, at Valeska Hinton

### Student Teacher Notes written by Rachel Williams

*"Valeska Hinton Early Childhood Center is a community of learning like no other. The impeccable reputation is perpetuated for a reason. Each time a child walks into their classroom, they are entering into a world in which their growth is the focus. The recent NAEYC accreditation is a testament to the fact that everyone at Valeska is dedicated to teaching and providing the highest quality education for every student.*

*Each day of my student teaching experience has been a day full of learning for the students and especially for me. Anna Brown, Antoinette Jones and the Green 1 class have included me as if I had always been part of the team. Miss Brown's commitment to her students is awe inspiring. In her 25<sup>th</sup> year of teaching, she continues to search for ways to better meet the needs of the students. She is aware, and has passed the sentiment down to me,*

*that every educator must be a life-long learner. I am so thankful to have been assigned to the Green 1 classroom at Valeska Hinton. In the welcoming presence of the Valeska community I have had the opportunity to experience what a quality early childhood program should be."*

## Whittier Primary School

by Dr. Cecile Arquette  
Site Coordinator

### Mrs. Andrews, former Whittier Teacher, now the Principal!

When Dr. Desmoulin-Kherat moved to Manual High School this spring to prepare for her new job as Principal, Mrs. Renee Andrews became the acting principal of Whittier. Mrs. Andrews was Whittier's reading coach last year and a Whittier first-grade teacher this school year until she was assigned to Glen Oak School as the new Principal. After six weeks, she was asked to come back to Whittier. It is wonderful to have someone leading the school who knows the students and staff so well. Congratulations Renee!



Mrs. Renee Andrews,  
Whittier Elementary School  
Principal

### Samantha Black, former BU Student, now Whittier First Grade Teacher!



Samantha and some of her  
students!

*"My name is Samantha Black. I completed my student teaching at Whittier Primary School and, shortly after graduation, I was offered a full-time sub position in a first grade classroom at the same school. My first semester of teaching has proven to be quite a learning experience. First of all, since the position was open immediately, I had little preparation time. The absence of this time has made me realize just how important being prepared is in the world of education, and how not being as prepared as planned can be quite a challenge. I have also come to learn, though, that there are certain elements in the field you may never be quite prepared for-- a controversial question, solutions to certain behavioral issues, and helping kids up when they are down. Above all, being flexible is important! Joining the staff in the middle of the school year has also made me appreciate the value of cooperation and*

*collaboration among faculty. Without the other first-grade teachers and the rest of the staff, my transition into the classroom would have been much more difficult. I really appreciate the time they take to answer questions and their openness to share ideas and opinions. I am so grateful for the opportunity to teach at this wonderful school with all of its fantastic children and staff. I would not trade it for anything!"*



### BU Science Students Have fun with Whittier Kinder and First Graders!

This spring, students in kindergarten and first grade participated in hands-on science fun, designed and lead by future teachers from Science 101 classes at Bradley. Activities centered around growing things, making living seed necklaces, making natural paints (and painting) with plant juices, making a 'chia' pet, and a tour of the BU greenhouse. Students were able to pot and take home their very own plant! A big thank you to Michelle Edgcomb, Biology Department's Science 101 instructor, for facilitating this project.



### Second Grade Geography Unit

All three second-grade classrooms are working on studying geography concepts. This eight-week project, taught by Dr. Arquette, Bradley University, focuses learning on map vocabulary, ability to name and locate oceans, continents, and specific U.S. and Illinois geographical features. At the end of the project, children will have their own, self-authored, geography books to take home and share with their families.



### Busy 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders (Literature circles, Africa project)

Mrs. Sheet's third grade has been working on a project with an African flavor. First, they were introduced to life in Cameroon, where Dr. Arquette served in the Peace Corps. Next, they listened to, and read, folk tales from a number of African countries and tried their hand at writing their own folk tales. Finally, they crafted beads, based on traditional African trading beads, found in many countries on that continent.



## Contact Us!

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