

# Project Bridge Newsletter



Creating a Pathway for New Teachers...  
Increasing Achievement of All Learners

## Heart in Education Teacher Outreach: From Indiana to Honduras

November, 2006  
Volume 4, Issue 4

Heart in Education Teacher Outreach (HETO), a part of the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish on Indianapolis's north side, has been working to share Indiana's educational resources with Honduras for the past four years. According to the HETO web site, [www.heartineducation.org/](http://www.heartineducation.org/), their mission is, "to provide educational support and guidance to schools in Honduras by partnering them with Indiana teachers and schools in order to connect cultures and build a stronger education."

Participating teachers are

volunteers from Indiana and teach in a variety of areas, including high school, kindergarten, and the arts. Prior to travel, volunteer teachers and the program director develop an appropriate plan of assistance to be delivered to the teachers' partner schools. This assistance includes supplies and educational knowledge, and incorporates the volunteer teachers' students. Volunteer teachers spend a week at their partner schools, "learning, teaching and exploring the Honduran

culture." After face-to-face contact, partner school teachers and students keep in touch with each other and continue to provide mutual learning opportunities and assistance.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer teacher or assisting the program, please see the web site for contact and other important information.



### Teacher Tips:

From *New Teacher Advocate: Fall 2006 issue*

*For a successful first year of teaching:*

- Have a vision
- Build positive relationships
- Establish and prioritize procedures and routines
- Set high academic standards
- Over-plan for the first few days of school
- Be professional
- Communicate behavioral expectations
- Students first

## Marian College Trip to Honduras

Marian College is planning two study abroad program trips to Honduras in the coming year. The program's title is "Third World Poverty: Education, Healthcare, and Business: Nuevo Paraiso, Honduras." Travel will take place over winter break (December 15-22, 2006) and summer break (May 6-13, 2007). The following description of the program was provided by the coordinator, Tonja Couch:

"We will be working with Sociedad Amigos de los Niños. Sociedad is a unique organization with 40 years of experience founded and directed by Sister Maria Rosa Leggol, of the School Sisters of St. Francis. This organization provides support to the most vulnerable sector of the Honduran population, the children. There is a variety of service projects that

we will work on once on site, including but not limited to, the following: school visits, teaching lessons in schools, participating in medical brigades, working in the clinic and/or pharmacy, visiting micro-enterprises (small businesses), and developing a business plan with the participation of members of the community."

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# November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Phase-In	2 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Phase-In	3 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Phase-In	4
5	6 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	7 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	8 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	9 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	10 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	11 INTESOL Conference 9:00am— 3:30 pm
12	13 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	14 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	15 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	16 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	17 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	18
19	20 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	21 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	22 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	23 Thanksgiving	24 Break	25
26	27 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	28 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	29 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching	30 School with Mentor Teacher: Solo Teaching		

## Events: Arts and Culture

**The Nutcracker:** 11/30 — 12/3 at Butler University. See [http://www.butler.edu/about/abo\\_news\\_story.asp?strBack=%2Fdefault.asp&iNewsID=932](http://www.butler.edu/about/abo_news_story.asp?strBack=%2Fdefault.asp&iNewsID=932) or call the Cluses Hall box office at 317.940.6444.

**Annual Holiday Artists Exhibition:** 11/17 at the Stutz Building. See [http://www.indyarts.org/aci\\_calendar\\_results\\_detail.aspx?id=5789&txtFromDate=10/19/2006](http://www.indyarts.org/aci_calendar_results_detail.aspx?id=5789&txtFromDate=10/19/2006).

**Dia de los Metros:** 11/1 at the Indiana State Museum. See <http://www.indy.org/page/whattodo/9631579.html>.

**Circle of Lights:** 11/24 on the Circle. See <http://www.indydt.com/lights.html>.

**Indiana Premiere of the film, "Shalom Ireland," with live music by Hog eye Navy:** 11/11 at the Jewish Community Center. See [http://www.icenterindy.org/au\\_event\\_cal\\_details.asp?EventID=131](http://www.icenterindy.org/au_event_cal_details.asp?EventID=131).

**Asian Galleries Opening:** 11/5 at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. See <http://www.indy.org/page/whattodo/9863254.html>.

**International Festival:** 11/2—11/5 at the Indiana State Fair in the Exhibition Hall. For ticket information, go to <http://www.indyinternationalfestival.org/>.

## Update: Indiana 2-1-1

The September, 2006 edition of the *Project Bridge Newsletter* included an article about the Indiana 2-1-1 Referral Network, a version of the national 2-1-1 telephone system. Lynn M. Engel, President/CEO of the Indiana program, has since notified us of a significant change. The following is a message to our readers from Ms. Engel:

"As you may know, for several years the marketing committee

of our Board has been wrestling with two related issues: the low awareness of Information and Referral Network and the need to increase awareness of 2-1-1. After studying the situation from many different perspectives, they agreed that what the agency needs is an awareness of its own, but one that is complimentary to 2-1-1.

Based on those objectives, the

committee recommended developing a DBA (doing business as) for IRN that could be used to tell our story in a more recognizable and memorable way. Based on these objectives, the Board recently approved the new working name of **Connect2Help**, effective September 1, 2006."

To view the original *Project Bridge Newsletter* article, go to <http://www.marian.edu/education/mat/newsletters/37thedition.pdf>.

## Peter Battistini: A Teacher and So Much More!

Peter Battistini, a recent graduate from the Marian College School of Education and a teacher in the Brownsburg school system, has experienced some unique accomplishments. He published a well-reviewed

book, *American Top 40 With Casey Kasem (the 1970's)*, and won a cartoon caption contest for a nationally syndicated cartoon, *Speedbump*. For information on the book, go to [http://www.amazon.com/American-Top-](http://www.amazon.com/American-Top-Casey-Kasem-1970s)

<http://www.amazon.com/American-Top-Casey-Kasem-1970s>. To see the cartoon and read why his submission was selected, go to <http://www.speedbump.com/>. Congratulations, Peter!!

## Culture Corner: Indy's International Festival

The International Festival of Indianapolis will be held November 2-5, 2006 in the Exposition Hall at the Indiana State Fairgrounds located at 1200 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Indianapolis. The festival is sponsored by the Nationalities Council of Indiana (NCI), and it celebrates central Indiana's ethnic heritage. The Nationalities Council is comprised of more than 50 ethnic or national affinity organizations, in addition to businesses and individuals interested in celebrating diversity. The 2006 festival theme is "Tradition & Innovation", the same theme used for the 2006 Spirit & Place Festival.

The headline entertainers this year are the San Jose Taiko Drummers from San Jose, California. Their performances are inspired by traditional Japanese drumming rhythms which they combine with African, Balinese,

Brazilian, Latin and jazz percussion. The company also includes traditional and contemporary dance in its fully choreographed performances. San Jose Taiko was one of the first American taiko troupes invited to tour Japan, and the group has collaborated in joint concerts with many internationally known performing artists. To read more about San Jose Taiko, see their website at <http://www.taiko.org/main.html>.

The festival features lots of fun and educational activities for children. They can learn about various cultures through displays and interactive activities at the ethnic booths, watch ethnic dancers, and listen to musicians and singers who perform traditional and contemporary entertainment representing many parts of the world. They can learn about immigrants who settled in Central Indiana, write

their names in Chinese calligraphy, try African drumming or ethnic dance, and taste foods from booths representing many different countries. They can also watch a Naturalization Ceremony and be among the first to congratulate new American citizens. The Lilly Foundation sponsors the "student passport program" in which students secure visas from the countries (booths) that they visit. Teachers who attend the festival may obtain lesson plans and activities for their classes.

For festival hours and ticket information, check the website of the Nationalities Council at <http://nationalitiescouncil.org/>. Special hours and ticket prices are available for school groups, home-schooled students, and senior citizens' groups.



**Project Bridge to Achievement**

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Readers, this is your newsletter. We welcome any contributions you wish to make. If you have a news item, a suggestion or a correction, please contact Jenny M. Witcher by phone or email. If you are a mentor or student and would like to volunteer to be profiled in subsequent issues, or if you would like to contribute a "Teacher Tip," please contact Jenny, Patricia Stewart or Cheryl Hertzler. Thank you for your interest and participation!

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**MAT Information Sessions**

Are you or is someone you know interested in becoming an MAT Intern? Free information sessions about the program will be held on:

- Tuesday, November 21, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 14, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 11, 2007 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All sessions will be held in the Music Room of Allison Mansion at Marian College. Please R.S.V.P. to Cheryl Hertzler at chertzler@marian.edu, or at (317) 955-6087.

**Intern Profile: Tanika Hale**

Tanika Hale, a member of Project Bridge's fifth cohort, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Ball State University. She came to the program with professional experience in the field of education, including work as an Instruction Assistant for a Special Education class at Snacks Elementary School. Of her work with children and her desire to teach, she says, "Throughout my college career until now I've worked with children in a variety of settings. I know becoming a teacher will allow me to create a greater influ-

ence on children, as well as bringing out the best in myself."

When planning her teacher preparation experience, Tanika was attracted to the Project Bridge program for two main reasons: the focus on cultural diversity and the full-time, one year intensive structure. The thing Tanika was most looking forward to as a graduate student was "the knowledge that I will gain to become a successful teacher." Tanika says, "I feel (that) being a part of this program will give

me the challenge and fulfillment that I have lacked. This excitement will greatly benefit my future students and my son, and enhance what I have to offer."

Tanika's philosophy of education is based on opportunity and accessibility. She says, "Education opens many doors that would otherwise remain closed." We hope that Tanika's experience in the Project Bridge program will open many doors in her professional future!