

TEACHER FEATURE

*A weekly
service of the Journal*



ERIC BRUTON

School: Center Point High School.
Grade level/subjects: 9-12 Biology, and Anatomy and Physiology.
Years teaching: Five.
Years at school/CPISD: First.
College: Texas A&M.
Teaching awards: Bruton earned a Teacher of the Month award while at Ingram Tom Moore High School in 2008, but is more proud of 11 of his anatomy class students going on to obtain RN nursing or radiology technician degrees and/or certification.

Reason you chose a career in education: "I like helping kids. It gives me an opportunity to change their way of thinking of what they want to be in life, and I like challenges."

Most enjoyable part of teaching: "Seeing my students graduate. You see a lot of kids that drop out, think the best thing is to go get a job. You try to encourage them to get a degree, that it makes life easier."

Hardest part of teaching: "The hours teaching and coaching away from my family."

If I could change one thing in education, it would be: Bruton described himself as an "old school" teacher, and in favor of returning corporal punishment to the schools.

"It's holding kids accountable for their actions," Bruton said. "If you got it here (swats), you got it at home."

Other duties at school: Bruton is the head boys basketball coach for the Pirates, and also an assistant softball and football coach. "It's a full-time job doing teaching and coaching," he said.

Hobbies/interests: Weight lifting, fishing, spending time with the family.

Personal: A graduate of Brazoswood High School in Clute, Texas (south of Houston along the Gulf Coast), Bruton was a four-year swimming letterman, and also played basketball. ... He and wife Shawna have been married eight years, and he has a son Nick and daughter Briana, both ITM graduates, from a previous marriage. ... Bruton was the Lady Warriors' softball coach in 2009 and 2010 before coming to Center Point.

"The weather and people are much nicer," Bruton said of coming to the Hill Country from the Houston area. "I just love the people, they wave at you when you drive by. In Houston, you don't get much of that."

Club Ed... with Phil Housel

Breathe... and other holiday tips

The holiday season (and New Year) approach. Time to share hits, tips, and tricks that come from what we learn in the more than 400 Club Ed classes we offer each year.

Enjoy

Collect the rain.
Thinking of installing a rainwater collection system? Wondering how much water you can collect? Amazingly, a 1-inch rain on a 1,000-square foot roof will produce more than 600 gallons of water. (Master Gardener Ann Brown notes that you can fill a 55-gallon barrel with just 1/4-inch of rain.)

The Hill Country averages 30 inches of rainfall annually, so with sufficient storage capacity, the average home should collect sufficient water for household use.

Sharpen your tools
"A dull tool is a dangerous tool," says Dr. Tom Harris, gardening wizard.

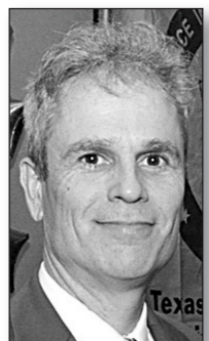
"You have to work harder to make a dull tool work," he noted. "If the blade is sharp, it will do what it is supposed to do, easily. If it is dull, that's when you make a mistake."

No matter how you do it, keep your spades, scissors, knives and shears sharp.

"It is just fascinating," Harris said, "when you can get something

sharp enough to shave with, whether it is a shovel or a razor."

Dance



Housel

According to Nурсel Conrad of Kerrville School of Dance, dancing is like taking a vacation. Benefits include improved coordination and flexibility, increased strength and conditioning, plus it raises your awareness of rhythm and balance, and raises your creativity and self-confidence. So move!

Misdirect

When performing magic, the point is not to "trick" or audience. Playing a trick on someone makes them appear the fool.

Magic instructor Alan Fox always made the point that you are creating an "illusion." The more you draw in your audience's help in creating that illusion, the more they appreciate the performance.

Tricks are for Halloween; magic is timeless.

Change yourself

Life Coach Leia Francisco knows no one can change you except you.

"We are not advice givers. Coaches believe you - the client - have the answers. Our real power is helping you clarify the issues, understand the possibilities, then help you take action."

Like the proverb, it's not just feeding you fish, it is teaching you how to fish.

"You are never too old to develop your life purpose and goals."

Keep your scroll up

When playing the violin, keeping the scroll up will help your bowstick go straighter. (Cathy Learoyd will teach a complete course in fiddling in the spring.)

Back up your computer

The three rules of preserving computer data:

- 1, Back it up;
- 2, Back it up often;
- 3, Back it up in three different places.

Be a clown

When appearing in clown, you typically get three types of reactions:

- 1, Total belief. These people rush up for a hug or photograph.
- 2, Discomfort. These people keep their distance or walk away.
- 3, No reaction.

These are common responses, according to entertainer Shannon Anderson, Sunshine the Clown. "It is often their own insecurities that keep them from playing with you. But they will usually come around if you leave them alone and just keep playing."

Write a song

When writing a song, start with the words, then add music. Or, start with the music, then come up with the words. Or, start with an

idea, then combine words and music.

(Obviously, there is no rule for writing songs.)

Finally, the most important rule of all ...

Breathe

Pat Labeda, hypnotherapist, learned this basic of relaxation while working at a trauma center. She noticed that people under stress stop breathing deeply. Simply taking several deep, cleansing breaths can lower the heart rate, freshen the mind, and induce calm.

See you in class!

The new Spring 2011 Club Ed catalog is now online! Printed editions will be mailed after Christmas, but all courses are open for sign-up at www.clube.net.

There is still time to get an eGift card - in any amount. Click www.clubed.net, or call 895-4386.

Club Ed is the Community Education program of the Kerrville Independent School District. Each session, we offer hundreds of enrichment classes and individual training throughout the Texas Hill Country and online. Follow us at ClubEdComments.blogspot.com, on Twitter @clubedtx, and on Facebook at Club Ed!

Katie's Klan



Photo by Bonnie Arnold

HAL PETERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL teacher Cara McDonald shows off her "Katie's Klan" T-shirt currently being sold in support of Katie McCarty. McCarty is an HPMS student who is currently undergoing treatment for the second time for Leukemia. These shirts are being sold for both moral and financial support of the local teen. Any one wishing to purchase a shirt can do so at the middle school office or by contacting McDonald at 459-8979. The cost for the shirts is \$10, with all of the proceeds being donated to McCarty's family for medical expenses.

Regional choir honors



Courtesy Photo

REGION HONOR CHOIRS are selected by audition every year. More than 300 middle school students from Del Rio to San Antonio compete for 170 seats. This fall, 17 Peterson Choir members placed high enough to join with all the other school district winners in Region 20. Four students even placed in the top 10 seats. The students selected, pictured above and in no particular order are, Shelby Kuykendall, Shirley Dixon, Hannah Hiester, LeAnn Blundell, Miriam Hernandez, and Marisela Rosales, Ben McCright, Amir Ponce De Leon Osornio, Matthew Rathbun, Christian Garcia, and Chase Baldwin, Rachel McCormick, Ellie Butler, Meagan Doyle-Stephens, Jennifer Morquecho, Taylor Sparkman, and Stephanie Anthony.

Rainbow Trout release set for park Dec. 14, Jan. 11

The Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, again will have rainbow trout fishing opportunities this winter in Louise Hays Park.

The first release was scheduled Tuesday, Dec. 14, and was expected to consist of 1,100 rainbow trout.

The second release will occur on Jan. 11, consisting of another 1,100 rainbow trout.

The trout are provided by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery in San Marcos.

Everyone is invited to come to Louise Hays Park and enjoy a great fishing experience. Individuals more than 17 years of age are required by law to have a valid freshwater fishing license.

For information regarding community fishing lakes, fishing regulations, license requirements and rainbow trout fishing tips, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

For more information on these fishing opportunities at Louise Hays Park, contact the A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery at (512) 353-0572, call the Kerrville Parks and Recreation Department at 257-7300, or visit the City of Kerrville website at www.kerrvilletx.gov.

Greystone students serve as bell ringers for holidays

Amidst completing term papers and projects and studying for final exams, the 28 Greystone students at Schreiner University are donating some 56 hours of community service to the Greater Kerrville area. They are assisting with bell ringing at the Salvation Army kettles in front of many area merchants throughout the Christmas season.

"This is just another great way we can give back to the community that has been so support of our efforts at Greystone," said Joel Davis of Minnesota. Davis is class president this semester.

Donations to the Salvation Army's Red Kettles assist in their on-going programs

throughout the year - and especially during the Christmas season.

Greystone at Schreiner University is a unique program that combines intense academy preparation with a challenging university education for high school graduates committed to earning their appointments to one of the five Federal Service Academies. In the past six years, 98 percent of all Greystone graduates were accepted into military officer programs and 90 percent of those graduates earned their academy appointments. This success rate remains unmatched by any other academy preparatory program in the nation.

Scholarship winners



Courtesy Photo

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP of Kerrville has awarded \$500 scholarships to two Schreiner University students. Javian Johnson, a marketing major from Austin, and Cody Womack, a math major from Cleveland, Texas, are the recipients of the annual Loubet-Bramsch Scholarship. The scholarship, named for the fellowship's founders, was established in 1977. The money is to be used for book expenses. Students are chosen on the basis of academic standing and need. For more information about Schreiner, visit the University's website at www.schreiner.com.

Pickleball offered at Kroc Center

The Kerrville Kroc Center is now offering Pickleball every Wednesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon. They will have lessons, demonstrations and play.

Those who are not Kroc Center members can get a day pass for \$3-5 depending on the person's age.

The center is located at 201 Holdsworth Dr.

Call 315-5762 or Sharon and Floyd Walling, the local Pickleball ambassadors, at 257-2714.

Club Ed spring catalog now available

The Spring 2011 Club Ed catalog is now posted online and ready for registration at www.clube.net.

Courses range from computers, travel, recreation, cooking, and art, to self-improvement, business, training and more.

Hundreds more online courses are available for monthly sign-up year round.

Club Ed is the community education program offered by the Kerrville Independent School District. Courses are open to the entire public, regardless of age or residence.

Complete information and registration is available now at www.clube.net, by calling 895-4386, or by visiting the Auld Center, 1121 Second St.



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