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**Date:** 17 Oct 2006

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Subject: LATTICE Newsletter # 415

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Linking All Types of Teachers to International, Cross-cultural Education

[www.latticeworld.org](http://www.latticeworld.org)

To: All LATTICE members and friends

LATTICE HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Next LATTICE Session on Thursday, October 26, 2006.
2. Excellence in Diversity Awards Program.
3. A conversation with South African author Eddie Daniels – Oct. 21.
4. 2006 POETRY CONTEST FOR MICHIGAN SCHOOLS –letter due Oct.31.
5. Teaching of critical foreign languages in Michigan K-12 schools.
6. International film fest to focus on Middle Eastern films.
7. Nobel Prize Links Poverty Reduction to Peace.
8. Tell world leaders to help poor women!
9. "No Child Left Behind" in the US, "Every Child Matters" in the UK.
10. Educators to Saudi Arabia Program.
11. Charity knitting project – Afghans for Afghans!
12. CLACS Bulletin – October 2006.
13. Guided Tour at the MSU Museum.
14. Eid ul-Fitr – October 23.
15. Halloween – October 31.

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1. Next LATTICE session on Thursday, October 26, 2006.

Topic: Intercultural Communications.

This will be an exciting opportunity for us as educators and learners to learn and discover, discuss and make connections, with some of the interesting experiences from North America, Europe, South Africa, Latin America and Asia. Our hope is that this

session will provide us with useful insights and meaningful conversations as we relate to this year's LATTICE theme on EDUCATION!

Also, we will have Associate Professor Anne Mungai, Director of Special Education & Literacy Programs from Adelphi University, New York as our Special Guest who will share her stories on interesting Kenyan Projects.

You are also welcome to the LATTICE Potluck with Anne Mungai at Sally McClintock's House:

6336 Skyline Dr. East Lansing  
Friday, October 27th at 6:30 pm.

Sally's contact: 517-332-6668 (home phone)  
or e-mail: "Sally McClintock" <sallyma@COMCAST.NET>

On another note, did you know that last month we had about 60 participants at the LATTICE session? And we would like you to know that we are anticipating a bigger crowd in the next session. So, LATTICE members are welcomed and encouraged to bring a dish to share at the Food Break (yummy) and be prepared to LEARN!

NOTE: "Learning is a personal, creative act" Pope & Denicolo (2001:202).

I would add that, based on my learning experiences including those from LATTICE sessions, I have come to an understanding that our personal, creative act for learning may be driven by our past experiences, guided by our current ways of knowing, and informed by our ways of being. At the same time, I fully understand that this individual understanding can be exclusively biased and highly contested! (Norseha Unin)

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## 2. Excellence in Diversity Awards Program.

Michigan State University is proud of its long-standing tradition of celebrating diversity among its faculty, staff and students. Throughout the year, the University sponsors a number of events that highlight and promote diversity. Since 1990, the All-University Excellence in Diversity Recognition & Annual Awards Program has recognized efforts that foster a culture and environment where diversity is valued and pluralism is achieved.

Members of the MSU community have the opportunity to participate in the program by identifying people whose contributions have advanced diversity at MSU or in the broader community. I am urging support for this program and encourage you to submit

nominations for those within MSU whose exceptional efforts warrant recognition.

The completed nomination packet and 12 copies must be submitted to the Excellence in Diversity Program Office by 5pm, November 27, 2006.

Each year awards are given to individuals, teams, units and organizations whose activities advance diversity at MSU and students who creatively express through art what diversity means.

Award categories are: "Emerging Progress," "Sustained Effort toward Excellence in Diversity," "Lifetime Achievement," "Excellent Progress toward Achieving Diversity and Pluralism," and "Students Making A Difference through Artistic Expression." Awards and recognition will be conferred at the Annual Excellence in Diversity Recognition and Awards Program in the spring.

Nomination packets, artistic entry forms and details about the program, including a list of past winners are available at <http://www.diversity.msu.edu> . Questions can be directed to the EIDA Program Office at 104 Olds Hall, 517-353-3922.

Thank you for your support as Michigan State University continues to join together to expand the world of possibilities mandated as the nation's first land grant university.

President Lou Anna K. Simon.

"Lou Anna K. Simon, President" <presmail@msu.edu>

NOTE: LATTICE has won ONE of these Excellence in Diversity Awards in the past, and it becomes promising for LATTICE as there are more award categories to consider this time around!

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### 3. A conversation with South African author Eddie Daniels.

An informal conversation with South African author Eddie Daniels will be held on the campus of MSU this coming Saturday. This remarkable man was held as a political prisoner in South Africa's Robben Island for decades, sharing the same cell block with Nelson Mandela. They remain close friends today.

He has written a book that recounts his amazing story. John Metzler, Coordinator of African Studies at MSU reports that, "You will never be the same" after meeting and hearing him. There will be an opportunity for questions, rich conversation and to purchase his book – Robben Island: There and Back: 1964–1979.

Please feel free to share this invitation with anyone interested in engaging in this stimulating event. Mr. Daniels, with the wisdom his life experiences have taught him, has a genuine passion for youth and securing the basic rights and dignity for all of humanity.

The meeting will be held:

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21  
ROOM 303, MSU'S INTERNATIONAL CENTER  
10:00 – approximately noon

This is NOT a home football Saturday, so parking should not be an issue. You do not have to RSVP in order to attend, but we would welcome you do so as we plan to have coffee and donuts/bagels.

Respectfully,  
Greta McHaney Trice and Nancy Lubeski

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#### 4. 2006 POETRY CONTEST OPEN FOR SCHOOLS

(from "katie robiadek" <katie.robiadek@gmail.com>)

Poetry Out Loud will provide curricular tools and award prizes to Michigan HS students; National champion to receive \$20,000 scholarship

(LANSING)-----The Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) announces it is accepting letters of interest for the second year of the Poetry Out Loud competition. Each participating high school will receive poetry curriculum materials and audio CDs of poetry recitations. Awards will be presented to the best students and the best schools in the competition. The winning student will also represent the state of Michigan in a national competition. The MHC is presenting the competition in partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA), the State Library of Michigan, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and The Poetry Foundation. Those schools

and teachers interested in participating must send a letter of interest to the Michigan Humanities Council by October 31, 2006.

"We are excited to build on last year's success with Poetry Out Loud by expanding to more schools," stated Jan Fedewa, executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council. "This is a great opportunity for students to learn directly from a poet. We are pleased to partner with MCACA and the State Library to offer a strong educational program for Michigan's underserved high schools."

Poetry Out Loud seeks to foster the next generation of literary readers by capitalizing on the latest trends in poetry – recitation and performance. The program builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form, as seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of rap music among youth.

Poetry Out Loud is offered to Language Arts and English teachers from Michigan high schools, with special consideration given to schools from underserved areas. An under-served community is defined as one in which people lack access to arts and humanities programs, services, or resources due to geography, economic conditions, cultural background, or sociopolitical circumstances. Ten schools will be selected to participate. Teachers selected to participate in the project will earmark two or three weeks of class time and will run their program between

November 15, 2006 to February 25, 2007. During this time frame, the goal is to have a poet offer a workshop and possibly a performance to help provide leadership and guidance as the teacher prepares the students for the school-wide and state competitions. By March 1, 2007, the teacher(s) will select one winning student to represent their school in a statewide competition with students from other participating schools. Each of the winning students will compete on March 10, 2007, to become Michigan's Poetry Out Loud representative for the national competition in Washington, D.C., from April 30 to May 1, 2007.

The state winner will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to the national competition. The winner's school will receive a \$500 stipend for the purchase of poetry books. The runner-up in the Michigan competition will receive \$100, along with \$200 for their school library. Scholarships and school stipends totaling \$50,000 will be

awarded at the National Finals, with a \$20,000 college scholarship for the Poetry Out Loud National Champion.

Last year's inaugural Poetry Out Loud state champion was Travis Walter from Holt High School, with Miquala Branklin of Sexton High School (Lansing) as the runner up. The two were among 17 finalists from five schools across Michigan, and presented at the Wharton Center in East Lansing on March 25, 2006.

#### FACTS AND FIGURES FROM 2005–2006 MICHIGAN'S POETRY OUT LOUD

- 481 students participated in Michigan
- 5 high schools participated: Bullock Creek HS (Midland), Sexton HS (Lansing), Holt HS, Owosso Christian HS, Dondero HS (Royal Oak)
- 15 teachers participated in Poetry Out Loud
- Teachers provided 174.5 hours of their time in addition to 103.5 hours of classroom time
- Over \$100,000 in prizes were awarded to students and schools at state and national levels

Students who returned evaluations reported the following about Poetry Out Loud:

- 86% understood poetry can be a powerful tool to express one's personal feelings and view of the world
- 75% saw a connection between poetry and today's culture
- 75% understood that reading poetry is like acting
- 54% identified the elements and reasoning behind poetry
- 42% understood that various poetic forms support different modes of artistic expression
- 42% were more confident in their public speaking

#### 2006–7 POETRY OUT LOUD DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 31, 2006. Letter of interest mailed to the Michigan Humanities Council
- November 7, 2006. Schools informed of selection and curriculum materials mailed
- November 15, 2006 to February 25, 2007. Schools weave POL into curriculum, hold school competitions.

· March 1, 2007. One winning student from each school selected to participate a statewide competition

· March 10, 2007. Michigan Poetry Out Loud competition. Lansing, Michigan.

· April 30 to May 1, 2007. National Poetry Out Loud competition. Washington, D.C.

The Michigan Humanities Council, founded in 1974, is the state's independent, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For additional information on the Michigan Humanities Council, please visit: <http://www.michiganhumanities.org> or call 517-372-7770.

Scott Hirko  
Public Relations Officer  
Michigan Humanities Council  
119 Pere Marquette Drive, Suite 3B  
Lansing, MI 48912-1270  
517-372-0029 ext. 25  
<http://michiganhumanities.org>

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5. Teaching of critical foreign languages in Michigan K-12 schools.

News Release Thursday, October 12, 2006.

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Grants from two federal agencies to Michigan State University and the Lansing and Dearborn public school districts that will help more students learn Chinese and Arabic were announced today by university, agency and school leaders.

The U.S. Department of Education announced that the Lansing and Dearborn school districts have each received grants under the Foreign Language Assistance Program for K-12 programs in Chinese and Arabic. The program provides grants to establish, improve or expand innovative foreign language programs for elementary and secondary school students.

Contact: Kristan Tetens, University Relations: (517) 355-5633, [tetenskr@msu.edu](mailto:tetenskr@msu.edu)

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6. International film fest to focus on Middle Eastern films.

News Release Thursday, October 12, 2006.

EAST LANSING, Mich. — This fall, the College of Communication Arts and Sciences at Michigan State University will host its first international film festival with a focus on Middle Eastern films. The film festival will screen a wide variety of features, documentaries and shorts from Nov. 12-18.

The film festival is open to students and to the public. All films will be shown free of charge in the Communication Arts and Sciences Building. Tickets can be reserved online at <http://www.elff.com> beginning Oct.15.

The film festival will take place during MSU's International Education Week set for Nov. 11-19. The festival also will coincide with the culmination of a new fall freshman seminar offered by the college, "Beyond CNN: Inside the Middle East."

Sponsorships are available to help support the festival. For more information regarding the sponsorships, contact Woods at (517) 336-5802, [susanwoods@elff.com](mailto:susanwoods@elff.com) or Kirsten Khire at (517) 355-3410, [khirek@msu.edu](mailto:khirek@msu.edu).

7. Nobel Prize Links Poverty Reduction to Peace.

Fri Oct 13, 12:00 PM ET (from AFP)

Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus, the so-called "Banker to the Poor", and the Grameen Bank he founded three decades ago were the surprise winners of the award for pioneering a system of small-scale loans that has helped 6.6 million people escape the grind of poverty.

As the head of the Nobel Committee, Ole Danbolt Mjoes, said: "Lasting peace cannot be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty."

Asle Sveen, a Norwegian historian who closely follows the Nobel Prize, told AFP: "It is the first time that the fight against poverty has been rewarded in itself.

"It is not enough to make peace, this peace must be a just peace and the causes of war, such as hunger and poverty, must be treated at their roots."

"Challenges to peace have become different over the years. We have become more aware of new connections which impact on our security.



"Peace is not just the absence of war but also the absence of reasons for having a war. The committee has been good at updating its concept of peace," Lodgaard said.

"The prize this year is distinct because it's really focused on Yunus' contribution to alleviate poverty.

NOTE: Interestingly, one of LATTICE monthly sessions last year touched on this particular issue of poverty in the reality of globalization!

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8. Tell world leaders to help poor women!

(from "Kurniawati Yahya" <yahyakur@msu.edu>)

Dear Friend,

I just added my voice to CARE's 60th anniversary Women CARE declaration, urging world leaders to fulfill the commitments of the Millennium Development Goals and to place special focus on helping poor women all over the world.

The United Nations member states have made a promise to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015. On their 60th Anniversary, CARE is urging world leaders to follow through on this commitment by investing substantial resources in women and girls in the developing world.

For 60 years, CARE has been at the forefront of humanitarian aid for those affected by violence, disaster, and poverty. Today, I added my voice to this important cause by signing the Women Care petition – will you join me?

Click on the link below to take action today:  
<http://my.care.org/campaign/womencare?rk=wpNlai61QQMpW>

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Powered by GetActive Software, Inc.  
The Leader in Online Campaigns  
<http://www.getactive.com>

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9. Interesting Comparison: "No Child Left Behind" in the US and "Every Child Matters" in the UK.

Both the US and UK are in the middle of "all-children" educational initiatives. "No Child Left Behind" in the US and "Every Child Matters" in the UK. But ECM and NCLB differ in some very dramatic ways.

A number of other articles are available at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/everychildmatters>

Ira Socol

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10. Educators to Saudi Arabia Program.

(from "Sally McClintock" <sallyma@COMCAST.NET> )

This notice was in the Peace Corps GlobalNet newsletter.

Applications are now available to participate in a fully funded ten-day study tour of Saudi Arabia. Sponsored by Aramco Services Company, this professional development opportunity is open to full-time social studies teachers and library media specialists in grades 1-12.

The Educators to Saudi Arabia Program aims to cultivate a greater awareness and understanding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in U.S. primary and secondary schools and communities. The Educators to Saudi Arabia Program will examine Saudi education, culture, history and global relations through site visits, panel discussions and cultural activities in the cities of Dhahran, Riyadh and Jeddah from March 27 to April 10, 2007.

Social Studies Teachers and Library Media Specialists in grades 1-12 are encouraged to submit applications for the Educators to Saudi Arabia Program. Interested individuals can download an application at: <http://www.iie.org/aramco>.

For more information, visit our website or contact us at <mailto:atsap@iie.org>

The application deadline is November 20, 2006.

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11. Charity knitting project – Afghans for Afghans!

(from "Sally McClintock" <sallyma@COMCAST.NET> )

Here is a charity knitting project that I just became aware of. It is short notice, but some of you are fast knitters. There is an organization called "Afghans for Afghans". They have committed to making 900 sweater vests and pullovers for school children in Afghanistan. The school in question has been attacked repeatedly by the Taliban in recent months. There is more information about this project on their website:

[www.afghansforAfghans.org](http://www.afghansforAfghans.org)

Please let me know if you plan to send a sweater!

[sallyma@comcast.net](mailto:sallyma@comcast.net)

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12. CLACS Bulletin – October 2006.

Contains many interesting on-going events. For details, pls check out the attachment – "clacs bulletin."

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13. Guided Tour at the MSU Museum.

This is a special invitation from John Beck at the MSU Museum for a Guided Tour of the new exhibit entitled "Workers' Culture in Two Nations: South Africa and the United States."

If you are interested please contact "Margaret Anne Holtschlag" <holtsch2@msu.edu>

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14. Eid ul-Fitr for Muslims.

According to the calculation criteria for determining the Islamic Lunar dates adopted by the Fiqh Council of North America, following are the dates for Ramadan and Eidul Fitr for the year 1427. (Solar date: 2006)

Ramadan 1427 – First day of Fasting September 23, 2006

Eid ul-Fitr 1427 – First day of Shawwal October 23, 2006 (MONDAY)

So, Eid ul-Fitr will be next week! Now, what do you know about Eidul Fitr?

Here's a simplified description from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Eid ul-Fitr is an Islamic holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the month of fasting. It is a joyous occasion with important religious significance. Happiness is observed at attaining spiritual uplift after a month of fasting. Muslims dress in traditional holiday attires. After attending the special congregational prayer in the morning, Muslims greet and embrace each other in a spirit of peace, love, and brotherhood.

Visiting neighbors, friends and relatives is common. For Muslims, Eid ul-Fitr is a joyful celebration of the achievement of enhanced piety. It is a day of forgiveness, moral victory and peace, of brotherhood and unity of the ummah (society). Muslims are not only celebrating the end of fasting, but also thanking Allah the Almighty for the help and strength given to practice self-control throughout the previous fasting month of Ramadan.

Common greetings during this joyful festival is the Arabic greeting "Eid Mubarak!" which, loosely translated, means "Happy Eid!". In many parts of Southeast Asia, it is common to greet people with "Selamat Hari Raya" or "Selamat Idul Fitri" which means "Happy Eid" in Malay and Indonesian. In Indonesia and Malaysia, more people say the additional greetings of "Maaf Zahir dan Zatin" which means "Forgive me personally and spiritually," because in Indonesia and Malaysia, Eid-ul-Fitr is not only for celebrations, but it is also a time for Muslims to cleanse their individual sins by seeking forgiveness from one another.

Selamat Hari Raya, Maaf Zahir dan Batin to all Muslim friends!

NOTE: In the spirit of this joyous Eid ul-Fitr, muslims friends are invited to attend LATTICE October session in their traditional attires together with their traditional Eid food, from around the world!

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15. Halloween on October 31.

From Britannica Concise Encyclopedia

Holiday observed on October 31, the eve of All Saints' Day. Its pagan origins can be traced to the Celtic festival of Samhain, celebrated in ancient England and Ireland to

mark the beginning of the Celtic new year. The souls of the dead were supposed to revisit their homes on Samhain eve, and witches, goblins, black cats, and ghosts were said to roam abroad.

The night was also thought to be the most favorable time for divinations concerning marriage, luck, health, and death. The pagan observances influenced the Christian festival of All Hallows' Eve, celebrated on the same date. The holiday was gradually secularized and was introduced into the U.S. by the late 19th century.

Still associated with evil spirits and the supernatural, it is celebrated by children in costume who gather candy by ringing doorbells and calling out "trick or treat," "trick" referring to the pranks and vandalism that are also part of the Halloween tradition.

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End of LATTICE NewsLetter # 415  
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Please mark your calendar for the coming session!

LATTICE Monthly Session Dates for 2006–2007:

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THEME: EDUCATION  
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September 28	Education as a Global Phenomenon
October 26	Intercultural Communication
November 30	Education and Economic Development
January 11	Education Issues of Science and Environment
February 8	Arts and Humanities
March 22	Gender Issues in Education
April 19	Religious Foundations of Modern Education
May 10	Education and Political Socialization

Day & Time: Thursdays, 12:30 – 4:30pm

Location: Haslett High School, 5450 Marsh Road, Haslett, Michigan

LATTICE Book Club: Upcoming Meeting Dates for 2006–2007:  
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October 19: Esperanza Rising

November 16: The Language of Baklava by Diana Abu-Jaber

January 18: Palestine by Joe Sacco.

February 15: TBA

March 15: TBA

April 12: TBA

May 3: TBA

Day & Time: Thursdays, 4:15 to 6:00 pm

Location: East Lansing Public Library

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LATTICE is supported by the following mid-Michigan School districts

Bath, DeWitt, Durand, East Lansing, Gobles, Grand Ledge, Lansing, Holt, Haslett, Hemlock, Laingsburg, Waverly, Webberville, Okemos, Mason, Ingham Intermediate, Palo Community Schools, Portland and Romeo;

And African Studies Center, Asian Studies Center, Center for Advanced Studies of International Development (CASID), Center for European and Russian Studies, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, College of Education, Graduate School, International Studies and Programs, Women & International Development (WID) at Michigan State University

Items in LATTICE letters come from various sources including MSU's African Studies Center newsletter ([fruge@mail.msu.edu](mailto:fruge@mail.msu.edu)) and GlobalTeachnet or the National Peace Corps Association. (<http://www.rpcv.org/pages/sitepage.cfm?id=67>)

LATTICE encourages subscribers to pass information along to colleagues and other interested parties. If you would like to submit an item to be included in an upcoming posting or if you would like to be placed on the LATTICE listserv please contact [uninnors@msu.edu](mailto:uninnors@msu.edu)

Many thanks to LATTICE members who have actively submitted items for our e-letters! If you are LATTICE alums, we also encourage you to send us occasional updates on what's new in your professional endeavors!

BEST WISHES.

Margaret, John & Norseha.

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LATTICE Co-Directors for 2005-2007:

Margaret Holtschlag      [holtsch2@msu.edu](mailto:holtsch2@msu.edu)

John Metzler              [metzler@msu.edu](mailto:metzler@msu.edu)

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