



From: "Norseha Unin" lattice@msu.edu

To: Lattice@list.msu.edu

Date: 18 July 2007

Subject: LATTICE Newsletter # 439

Linking All Types of Teachers to International Cross-cultural Education

www.latticeworld.org

To: All LATTICE members and friends

LATTICE HIGHLIGHTS:

1. LATTICE Updates
 - a. LATTICE Book club Dates for 2007-08
 - b. LATTICE Membership Drive
 - Ice Cream Social @ the International Center (8/16)
 - Graduate Student Orientation & Resource Fair (8/25)
 - c. LATTICE online community on FACEBOOK!
2. Multicultural Education through Miniatures
3. Postal rates hurt good will via books
4. Art as a way of understanding and expressing the world
5. LATTICE Dates for 2007-08

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1. LATTICE Updates
 - a. LATTICE Book club Dates for 2007-2008

The book club will be meeting from 4–6 pm at the East Lansing Public Library

Thursday Sept. 6 – Galimoto

by Karen Lynn Williams and
Catherine Stock and
Heaven Shop by Deborah Ellis.

Thursday Oct. 4 Stealing Buddha's Dinner:
A Memoir by Bich Minh Nguyen.

Thursday Nov. 1 Before We Were Free by Julia Alvarez

No meeting in Dec.

Thursday Jan. 17 American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang

Thursday Feb. 14 Immigrant themes – books will be:
Ask Me No Questions by Marina Budhos and
At Ellis Island: A History in Many Voices
by Louise Peacock and Walter Lyon Krudop.

Thursday March 20 To Be Announced

Thursday April 24 To Be Announced.

Thursday May 15 Bring your suggestions for summer reading.

These books are available through local libraries and for a 20 % discount at Everybody Reads. You can find more information including summaries and reviews at elpl.org or amazon.com

For questions about LATTICE book club, please email:

"Mary Hennessey" <maryhenn@sbcglobal.net>

"Amy Kilbridge" <AKILBRID@inghamisd.org>

b. LATTICE Membership Drive

More International graduate students are needed to participate in LATTICE sessions for 2007–08. Lattice members are encouraged to invite potential International Graduate students to participate in LATTICE sessions by attending these two planned events.

Pls email lattice@msu.edu by July 28 if you could help at the following membership drive:

Ice Cream Social @ the International Center, August 16, 2007

The final OISS FREE ice cream socials for international students and scholars during the summer will be held:

Thursday, August 16
4 – 5:30 PM
Spartan Rooms, International Center Food Court

Graduate Student Orientation & Resource Fair, August 25, 2007

The annual orientation program for NEW and RETURNING graduate students of Michigan State University will be held:

Saturday, August 25, 2007
10:00 AM – Noon
Kellogg Center

Program begins at 10AM in the Auditorium, Kellogg Center
Resource Fair begins at 10:30AM in the Lincoln Room, Kellogg Center

Featuring:
Resource Fair
Hints & Advice from Associate Deans
Ice Cream Social

Sponsored by The Graduate School and The Council of Graduate Students

c. LATTICE on FACEBOOK!

Facebook is a social utility that connects you with the people around you.

FACEBOOK Updates! We are very pleased that this online group has 25 registered members. Everyone in the LATTICE listserv (594 members) can Join!

If you are not a registered member on facebook, pls mail "lattice@msu.edu" to be invited in the group, so that you can create password, add profile, etc... (Pls use subject heading: LATTICE on FACEBOOK)

You may click this link for lattice on facebook:

<http://msu.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2497461566>

2. Multicultural Education Through Miniatures

Culture can be expressed through clothing, currency, music, language, etc. Several activities and games are provided to test your knowledge about the culture of different regions of the world. Links to other parts of the website are provided at the bottom of each activity page.

Learn more from:

<http://www.coedu.usf.edu/culture/photo.htm>

3. Postal rates hurt good will via books

Mail – The end of a special rate makes it more expensive to stock libraries overseas

Monday, July 09, 2007 (WADE NKRUMAH)

Being a self-anointed goodwill ambassador the past 12 years was affordable and easy for Fred MacLeod, Shannon Brown and her husband, Lance Cole.

Then came postal rate increases and the end of a special low rate that allowed people to ship printed material in a 66-pound bag overseas by boat. Now the bags -- called M-bags -- can go air mail only, and at up to nearly four times more than the sea rate that MacLeod, Brown and Cole had used.

Yvonne Yoerger, spokeswoman for the U.S. Postal Service in Washington, D.C., said low demand forced elimination of the ship-by-sea economy rate, which accounted for 2.7 percent of U.S. Postal Service international mail in 2006. "The global network of surface transportation is decreasing," she said. Now the only available option through the Postal Service is air mail. Charitable groups also are affected.

Air not an option

Working with nonprofit Friends of Malawi Book Project (www.friendsofmalawi.org) since 1999, Brown and Cole have helped start "dozens of little libraries" in the country, she said.

And, he feels, the rate increase is leaving many others adrift.

"There's people like me, who have been trying to build up the American image abroad, who are just out of luck."

Wade Nkrumah: 503-294-7627; wadenkrumah@ news.oregonian.com

About those postal rates . . .

Sunday, July 08, 2007

The postage increase last month wasn't limited to the rate for mailing a letter first class. The increase affected costs for M-bags and other mail. The Postal Service suggests these steps to help adjust to the new rates:

International rates and information: Go to

<http://pe.usps.gov/cpim/ftp/pubs/pub51/pub51.pdf> and scroll "International Postal

Rates and Fees" International mail business products and services: Go to

www.usps.com/business/international/welcome.htm

4. Art as a way of understanding and expressing the world

Gioia to graduates: 'Trade easy pleasures for more complex and challenging ones' (Stanford Report, June 17, 2007)

Following is the partial prepared text of the speech delivered by Dana Gioia at Commencement on June 17, 2007

There is no better place to start this rapprochement than in arts education. How do we explain to the larger society the benefits of this civic investment when they have been convinced that the purpose of arts education is mostly to produce more artists. Hardly a compelling argument to either the average taxpayer or financially strapped school board?

We need to create a new national consensus. The purpose of arts education is not to produce more artists, though that is a byproduct. The real purpose of arts education is to create complete human beings capable of leading successful and productive lives in a free society.

This is not happening now in American schools. Even if you forget the larger catastrophe that only 70 percent of American kids now graduate from high school, what are we to make of a public education system whose highest goal seems to be producing minimally competent entry-level workers?

The situation is a cultural and educational disaster, but it also has huge and alarming economic consequences. If the United States is to compete effectively with the rest of the world in the new global marketplace, it is not going to succeed through cheap labor or cheap raw materials, nor even the free flow of capital or a streamlined industrial base. To compete successfully, this country needs continued creativity, ingenuity, and innovation.

It is hard to see those qualities thriving in a nation whose educational system ranks at the bottom of the developed world and has mostly eliminated the arts from the curriculum.

I have seen firsthand the enormous transformative power of the arts in the lives of individuals, in communities, and even society at large.

Marcus Aurelius believed that the course of wisdom consisted of learning to trade easy pleasures for more complex and challenging ones. I worry about a culture that bit by bit trades off the challenging pleasures of art for the easy comforts of entertainment. And that is exactly what is happening not just in the media, but in our schools and civic life.

Entertainment promises us a predictable pleasure, humor, thrills, emotional titillation, or even the odd delight of being vicariously terrified. It exploits and manipulates who we are rather than challenges us with a vision of who we might become. A child who spends a month mastering Halo or NBA Live on Xbox has not been awakened and transformed the way that child would be spending the time rehearsing a play or learning to draw.

If you don't believe me, you should read the statistical studies that are now coming out about American civic participation. Our country is dividing into two distinct behavioral groups. One group spends most of its free time sitting at home as passive consumers of electronic entertainment. Even family communication is breaking down as members increasingly spend their time alone, staring at their individual screens.

The other group also uses and enjoys the new technology, but these individuals balance it with a broader range of activities. They go out to exercise, play sports, volunteer and do charity work at about three times the level of the first group. By every measure they are vastly more active and socially engaged than the first group.

What is the defining difference between passive and active citizens? Curiously, it isn't income, geography, or even education. It depends on whether or not they read for pleasure and participate in the arts. These cultural activities seem to awaken a heightened sense of individual awareness and social responsibility.

Why do these issues matter to you? This is the culture you are about to enter. For the last few years you have had the privilege of being at one of the world's greatest universities, not only studying, but being a part of a community that takes arts and ideas seriously.

Art delights, instructs, consoles. It educates our emotions. And it remembers. As Robert Frost once said about poetry, "It is a way of remembering that which it would impoverish us to forget." Art awakens, enlarges, refines, and restores our humanity. You don't outgrow art. The same work can mean something different at each stage of your life. A good book changes as you change.

Congratulations to the Class of 2007.

5. LATTICE Dates for 2007-08

Please Mark your calendar!

October 25 Thursday 12:00-4:30 PM

November 29 Thursday 12:00-4:30 PM

December 7

Friday, 6 pm: International Movie Nite @ MSU International Center.

January 10 Thursdays 12:00-4:30 PM

February 7 Thursdays 12:00-4:30 PM

March 13 Thursdays 12:00-4:30 PM

April 17 Thursdays 12:00-4:30 PM

May 8 Thursdays 12:00-4:30 PM

Monthly sessions are held at Haslett High School on Marsh Road.

End of LATTICE Newsletter # 439

LATTICE is supported by the following mid-Michigan School districts 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 (CLACS), College of Education, Graduate School , International Studies and Programs, Women & International Development (WID) at Michigan State University.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in the e-letter or if you know someone interested in LATTICE and would like to be added to the listserve please contact lattice@msu.edu

Best wishes and enjoy your summer!

Margaret, John & Norseha.

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Have a great one!

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