



March 8, 2005

**Kellogg Center Hotel & Conference Center
East Lansing, Michigan**

Purpose:

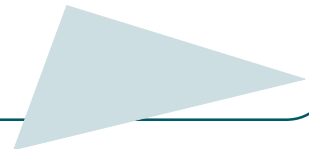
The purpose of the 2005 "Exploring Literacy Across the Lifespan" conference is to provide a forum for discussing the knowledge, research, skills, and resources necessary to make long-lasting changes in the literacy levels of all people.

Audience:

Anyone who wants to make an impact on increasing literacy levels is invited to attend this conference. This includes volunteers, service providers, educators, child care providers, advocates, clergy, lay ministers, librarians, parents and anyone else who works to promote literacy.

**MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION**

Children, Youth & Family Programs
Michigan State University Extension
Human Development AoE Team





Exploring Literacy Across the Lifespan

Conference Agenda:

8:30 – 9:00:	Registration and Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 10:15:	Keynote Address — Jenifer Ivinskas Strauss <i>Storytelling: The Key to Expressive and Receptive Language Development</i> In a lively and interactive presentation, Storyteller Jenifer Strauss will share passion and proof that the ancient, oral art form of storytelling and its related activities, is not only entertaining, but transmits values and cultural information. Storytelling is playful, intimate, interactively engaging, and has the ability to naturally maximize a child's learning potential.
10:15 - 10:30:	Break
10:30 - 12:00:	Concurrent Session #1
12:00 - 1:15:	Lunch and Viewing of Posters and Exhibits
1:15 - 2:45:	Concurrent Session #2
2:45 - 3:00:	Closing, Evaluation and Free Gift



About Our Keynote Presenter:

Jenifer Ivinskas Strauss

*“Let a Story be Told...
Let a Story be Heard...
Let a Story be Told Again”*

Storyteller Jenifer Strauss has been sharing her own unique blend of energy-injected traditional and personal tales, for over a decade, with over 300 audiences a year, throughout the Midwest and beyond. A former environmental educator and elementary teacher, Jenifer combines her love for teaching and storytelling to offer dynamic storytelling performances and writing workshops for all ages. Jenifer's telling style is dynamic and thought provoking... heart-warming and sometimes outrageous!

Concurrent Sessions: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

A-1: Encouraging Literacy Development in Your Community

This workshop will describe bringing literacy to life through literacy bags and how to have a successful family literacy event. Through this session participants will learn how the whole community can be a vital key in the language development of children. *Roxanne Brinkerhoff, Director of Family Support Services, The Guidance Center*

A-2: Adult Literacy 101

This session will provide an introductory look at adult literacy levels in the United States. Common issues of adults functioning at low literacy levels will be discussed. Participants will learn strategies to

assess and create materials for differing levels of literacy. *Meagan Shedd, Associate Program Leader and Dawn Contreras, Ph.D., Program Leader, MSU Extension*

A-3: Making Literacy Development Fun for Everyone

To keep both adults and children excited about literacy development, the experiences they share should be meaningful, but fun too. This session will energize participants with strategies for fun and purposeful literacy activities. Ideas for use in the home and in early childhood education settings will be presented. *Kara Murphy Gregory, Ph.D., Author and Assistant Professor, Michigan State University*

A-4: Read to Kids Zone — Community Connection with Home and School

In response to Gov. Granholm's challenge to Michigan parents to read to their children everyday, Traverse Bay ISD early childhood team created RTK Zone. Business and professional groups offer a wide variety of experiences with schools and families to support reading everyday. The program was presented to Gov. Granholm's cabinet in Nov. 2003, endorsed by her and is being replicated across the state.

Sue Zell, Early Childhood Supervisor, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District

Concurrent Sessions: 1:15 - 2:45 p.m.

B-1: Bringing Books to Life

Ideas that expand upon a variety of popular children's books will be presented. These activities are not only designed to get families excited about books and reading, but also include developmentally appropriate skill-building. There will be a short presentation followed by a make-it and take-it component.

Barbara Reynolds, Parent Educator and Susan Anderson, Parent Educator, MSU Extension Grand Traverse County

B-2: 4-H Book Buddies — Cross-age Partnerships for Literacy Success

What do you get when you put high school-age volunteers, lower-elementary students and a public library together? The result is a dynamic program that builds reading skills through themed activities. Now in its seventh year, the 4-H Book Buddies program is a safe space where young people for whom English is a Second Language receive individualized attention for

their literacy needs. Come explore the process in this fun, hands-on session.

Christy Hicks, Youth & Community Development Agent, MSU Extension and Alexandria Haynes, 4-H Book Buddies Teen Volunteer

B-3: Unlocking Literacy Potential — Oral Language is Key

The development of literacy begins at birth, and continues even through adulthood. Oral language provides a firm foundation for literacy development and encompasses all ages. This session will focus on the importance of oral language and its role in literacy development for infants, children, adolescents and adults.

Kara Murphy Gregory, Ph.D., Author and Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

B-4: Family Literacy — A Creative Approach

Leaps and Bounds Family Services provides family literacy services in a variety of ways. This session will

discuss emergent literacy efforts that take place in collaboration with faith communities and community sites, like laundromats. It will also share experiences of a community literacy center that uses computer self-study for adult education.

Denise Dorsz, Executive Director and Kathy Esper, Community Literacy Programs, Leaps and Bounds Family Services

B-5: Helping Parents and Kids Get Ready for Kindergarten

Explore hands-on learning with the school readiness kits for parents and their four-year-olds. The kits explore balanced early literacy, articulated by the MLPP, and inform parents of expectations for kindergarteners in the new grade level content standards.

Beth Hackett, Consultant, Genesee Intermediate School District

General Conference Information

Mail completed registration form and payment to:

Dawn Contreras
Attn: Literacy Conference
240 Agriculture Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

Check or money order payable to:

Michigan State University Extension

Registration deadline: February 23, 2005

Conference Location:

The 2005 Literacy Conference will be held at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, South Harrison Road, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824-1022, phone: 517-432-4000 or 1-800-875-5090. fax: 517-353-1872.

Directions:

Driving directions can be found at the following Web site: <http://www.hfs.msu.edu/kellogg/areamap.html>

Meals:

Continental breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee.

Parking:

A parking ramp is attached to the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. Parking will be free for all paid participants to the conference. Tickets to leave the lot will be distributed at check-in.

Participant Identification:

Paid participants will receive name badges indicating the sessions for which they are registered. Name badges need to be worn in order to gain entry to meals and conference sessions.

Concurrent Session Assignments:

Concurrent session assignment will be made in order of registration receipt. Please indicate your first and second choice on the registration form.

Registration:

Your completed registration form and payment must be postmarked by February 23, 2005. Payment should be made by check or money order. We are not able to process credit card transactions. On-site registration will not be available.

Further Information:

For further information contact Dawn Contreras, Ph.D. at Michigan State University Extension, 240 Agriculture Hall, phone: 517-353-3886, fax: 517-353-4846 or email: contrer7@msu.edu

Registration Form

2005 Literacy Conference: Exploring Literacy Across the Lifespan

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Title/Position: _____

Agency/Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

(Please submit one form for each participant. Duplicate copies of the blank form may be made.)

Fill in the session number of your 1st and 2nd choice for each concurrent session:

Concurrent Session A (10:30 a.m.):

1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____

Concurrent Session B (1:15 p.m.):

1st Choice: _____ 2nd Choice: _____

Vegetarian Lunch Option:

Check one: Yes No

Registration Fee: \$65.00 per person (includes parking token, continental breakfast, lunch, and participant handouts).

Registration Deadline: Your completed registration form and payment (check or money order) must be **postmarked by February 23, 2005**. No on-site registration will be accepted.

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