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For Immediate Release

## Educators to be Learn the Power of Story Telling

University Park, IL, June 22, 2007 – Lynne Clayton did not just bring an interesting story from a far off place to Fran Jordan's class at Governors State University, she brought the power of a good story and the imagery and emotion that accompanies it.

Clayton was guest storyteller in the Multicultural Literature in the Classroom course taught by Jordan. Her presentation included a story from China explaining why it snows. As she told the story that included emperors and dragons, Clayton cut snowflakes from paper and pulled her audience into her tale.

"Story telling taps into our shared experiences of being read to and enjoying stories together," said Clayton. "It transports us to a very comforting and nurturing place. I enjoy giving that feeling with my storytelling especially to adults."

The students, according to Jordan, were impressed and moved by Clayton's story and her ability.

"It is important for these elementary education students to learn how effective a story can be. Looking at traditional literature and cultures means understanding folktales. Teachers do not just read stories, they must become storytellers themselves and encourage their students to tell their own stories to others," said Jordan. "This is a very important tool in education."

Clayton, of Park Forest, has been a professional storyteller since 1995. She performs at schools, park districts, libraries, nature centers, and for community, seniors', and women's groups. As staff secretary in the College of Education at Governors State, Clayton is also frequently asked to perform for literature and education classes at the university as well as social and cultural events on campus.