

## Panels to examine immigration through interdisciplinary lens

By Nancy Newcomer

Local, national and international scholars will meet at ASU for an interdisciplinary workshop on immigration and refugees Sept. 10-11. Participants will present and discuss original social science research that examines immigration and its impact on transnational migration, diverse populations and communities, and law and policy.

Research interests among participants reflect a variety of disciplines – sociology, anthropology, economics, geography, public policy, public health and others – and different contexts, from the United States to Europe to Africa.

The workshop is organized around five interdisciplinary panels addressing historical and contemporary issues at home and abroad. Major themes include immigration and transnational migration, immigration and community, and immigration and the legal system. The panels will last 90 minutes each and be led by a participant who is the designated discussant. Program officers from the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security will be present and offer comments on the papers. The workshop is open to the public, but seating is limited.

“The wide range of disciplines represented by our participants and the depth of their knowledge in this area provides a unique opportunity for collaborative research on immigration issues in the United States and across the globe,” says Marjorie S. Zatz, the faculty head of justice and social inquiry in ASU’s School of Social Transformation, an academic unit in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. “We are hopeful that the edited volume and white papers resulting from this workshop will inform social policy, as well as future research projects.”

Zatz is the lead researcher on a National Science Foundation grant that is funding the event. Other researchers include Charis Kubrin from George Washington University and Ramiro Martinez Jr. from Florida International University.

Conference sessions will take place from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 10, and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 11, in the Memorial Union, Cochise Room (228) on ASU’s Tempe campus. For more information, call (480) 965-7038.

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## College of Teacher Education and Leadership

# Professor earns international accolades for nature book series that teaches children to ‘look closely’

By Stephen Des Georges

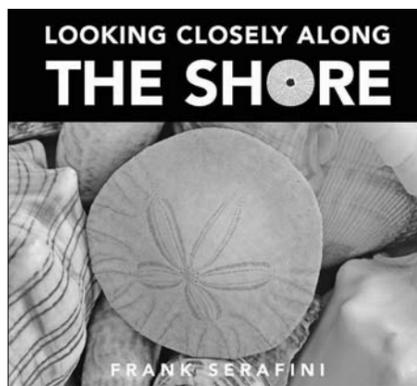
Frank Serafini, an associate professor of literacy education and children’s literature in the College of Teacher Education and Leadership at Arizona State University, is combining his passion for teaching with his love of nature photography to produce an award-winning series of children’s books.

The second in his “Looking Closely” series, “Looking Closely Along the Shore,” has been recognized by the International Reading Association as a 2009 Teachers’ Choice winner. Published by Kids Can Press (Toronto), “Shore” is part of a series that currently counts four books and will total eight by 2011. Included in the series are: “Looking Closely Through the Forest,” “Looking Closely Along the Shore,” “Looking Closely Across the Desert” and “Looking Closely Inside the Garden.” On tap for release over the next two years are “Rainforest” and “Pond” (2010), and “Swamp” and “Meadow” (2011).

The “Looking Closely” series takes children on a journey of discovery by challenging young readers to guess the identity and ask questions about each of a number of close-up photos. On each subsequent page, the full photo is revealed, accompanied by a description of the habitat. The books are designed to help build problem-solving skills while also encouraging a curiosity about environments full of unexpected wonders.

“I am humbled by the honor, as most of my works speak to teachers,” says Serafini, who earned his master’s degree in elementary education and his doctorate in curriculum and instruction from ASU. “For instructors to say they like the work, well, I like that. It’s a good thing.”

The award is actually the third in a string of honors for “Shore.” Earlier this year, the book



**ASU’s Frank Serafini has produced an award-winning series of children’s books that challenges young readers to see nature in new and more complex ways. The second in his series is “Looking Closely Along the Shore.”**

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*– Frank Serafini,*

*associate professor,*

*College of Teacher*

*Education and Leadership*

received an honorable mention from the Society of Children’s Libraries, and also shared accolades with “Forest” as a Bank Street College of Education Featured Children’s Book.

In each of his books, including “Shore,” Serafini has the final say on which pictures are featured.

“I don’t want children to not be able to guess,” he says. “They should be able to guess at least 50 percent of the pictures – not all of them – because it would not be fun for them. I want the young readers to be surprised by some of the photos that are featured.”

In the “Photographer’s Note” at the conclusion of “Shore,” Serafini writes: “I can spend hours wandering along the shore, through the forest, across the desert or in my garden, looking for interesting things to photograph. My destination is not a place, but rather a new way of seeing. By creating the images featured in this series of picture books, I hope to help people attend to nature, to things they have normally passed by.”

Each of the books in his series closes with a final photo on the outside back cover that invites his young readers to explore nature. In “Shore,” it is a picture of a sandy tropical beach with footprints leading toward the horizon.

“Children are naturally curious about the world around them,” says Serafini, whose photography bug was fed in his native New York where he hiked and snapped shots in the picturesque Finger Lakes region while growing

up. “The books are designed to get children to slow down and see what’s around them. At the end of each book, there is an invitation in the final photo to go out into the environment and explore and discover, to look very closely and notice things.”

And while the awards are impressive and the “crop and reveal” format of the series unique, Serafini’s journey to teaching and photography is a Renaissance tale of sorts, as his business card could easily read teacher, photographer, musician, world traveler.

His teaching career was jump-started after he earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo. He moved to the Valley in 1985 and played his guitar and waited tables along Mill Avenue, a stone’s throw from ASU’s Tempe campus, gathering a pretty good following along the way. Eventually, he landed a substitute teaching gig at a local elementary school, and it took just three days in the classroom to get him hooked. After teaching for three days, he signed up for a master’s in education program at ASU.

Once he completed his master’s work, it was on to doctoral studies and his doctoral program in curriculum and instruction, eventually leading to nine years as a grade-school teacher and another three in the Washington Elementary School District working with teachers as a Title I staff development coordinator/literacy specialist.

“I can remember calling my mother and telling her, ‘I have a new career move,’” he says. “I was always looking for that one thing I could do well, and this was an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children.”

Serafini broke into the college ranks of teaching in 1993, working as a faculty adjunct professor in literacy education at ASU and later at Northern Arizona University. In 2001, he accepted a position as assistant professor of literacy education and children’s literature at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and left in 2008 to take his current position at ASU. At ASU’s West campus, Serafini teaches undergraduate courses in language literacy in elementary schools and graduate courses in assessment, children’s literature, and reading methods and theories of literacy education.

In the meantime, he has traveled the world taking photographs, appearing as a keynote speaker at state and regional conferences, and consulting with international governments on education issues. He is widely published and has contributed articles and served on editorial boards for education’s top journals.

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## Speaker series features former chief economic adviser

By Debbie Freeman

President Bush’s chief economic adviser, the chairman and chief economic officer of U.S. Bank, and the heads of Mayo Clinic, Deloitte LLP and Caterpillar will be among those featured in the Economic Club of Phoenix speaker series this season. Every year, Phoenix-area audiences are invited to come and hear some of the top names in business speak at the luncheon series.

“At this season’s first event, President Bush’s chief economic adviser is set to generate major interest with his inside look at how we got to this point in the economy and our prospects for the future,” says Robert Mittelstaedt, the dean of the W. P. Carey School of Business at Arizona State University. “We also hope to provide insight into important, quickly changing areas of the economy, such as finance and health care, this year. In light of the recession, we have a lot to talk about.”

The Economic Club of Phoenix (ECP) was founded by a group of prominent business executives called the Dean’s Council of 100, in conjunction with the school. The group is now the preeminent Arizona forum for the exchange of ideas about business and the economy. Its monthly luncheons and other activities offer Phoenix-area business leaders and others opportunities to network and engage.

This year’s speaker lineup (subject to change) is:

- Oct. 14: Edward P. Lazear, former chairman, Council of Economic Advisers under President George W. Bush.
- Nov. 19: Sharon L. Allen, chairman of the board, Deloitte LLP.

- Jan. 19: Denis A. Cortese, president and chief executive officer, Mayo Clinic.

- Feb. 25: Richard K. Davis, president, chief executive officer and chairman of the board, U.S. Bancorp (U.S. Bank).

- March 25: James W. Owens, chairman and chief executive officer, Caterpillar Inc.

- April (date TBA): Dean’s Council of 100 Executive of the Year.

- May 6: Annual Economic Outlook Luncheon.

The events take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Luncheons will be held at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa in Phoenix, except for the November event, which will be held at the Camelback Inn in Scottsdale.

Guests are welcome for an \$80 luncheon fee. The Executive of the Year luncheon cost is \$125. Funds in excess of the cost of the lunch are used to support student scholarships and faculty research at the W. P. Carey School of Business.

For more information about the club or to reserve seats, call (480) 965-7223, e-mail wpcarey.ecp@asu.edu, or visit the Web site [www.econclubphx.org](http://www.econclubphx.org). For sponsorship opportunities, or to register groups of nine or more, contact Rhett Wilson at (480) 965-2333 or [rhett.wilson@asu.edu](mailto:rhett.wilson@asu.edu).

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## ASU Insight

ASU Insight is published by Media Relations, a department within the Office of Public Affairs. ASU Insight is published on Fridays, except during university holidays and other times as deemed necessary by the Insight editorial board. Submit items typed, double-spaced. The editor reserves the right to edit for style and space. Send an e-mail to [asu.insight@asu.edu](mailto:asu.insight@asu.edu), fax (480) 965-2159 or send campus mail to 5011 – ASU Insight. To reach ASU Insight by telephone, call (480) 965-9689.

**Deadlines:** Submit all articles, notices and calendar items as early as possible. **Deadline is Friday before noon for the following Friday’s paper.**

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**Printed on paper from Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certified mills and forests.**