

**You are invited to the
American University
School of Education, Training, and Health (SETH)**

**Preview-Opening
The Larissa Gerstel Critical Literacy Collection
within the Curriculum Materials Center (CMC)
in the American University Library**

**Friday, April 21, 2006
9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Bentley Lounge/Gray Hall**



You are invited to join the American University/School of Education, Teaching, and Health (SETH) and Larissa (Rozek) Gerstel's family - Robin, Bob & Loree Seitz & extended family - in honoring Larissa's (April 3, 1979- April 14, 2005) life, professional work as a teacher, and contributions to American University's literacy efforts.

During her college years, Larissa worked with Dr. Vivian Vasquez as a founding member of student group that became the *Educators for Critical Literacy (ECL)*, a DC Area AU Student Affiliate of the *National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)*. This group worked to reach out to local community organizations to make literacy a central component of children's lives, specifically, focusing on literacy for social justice and equity.

Larissa graduated with a B.A., cum laude, from American University in 2000.

The Larissa Gerstel Critical Literacy Collection within the Curriculum Materials Center (CMC) in the American University Library (Grand Opening planned for September 2006), is being created as a resource for the AU community and the wider DC-area public as the local library has been closed.

On Friday, April 21st, there will be a dedication ceremony to celebrate Larissa's life and work, presentation of the construction/furniture plans and literature for the Collection within the CMC, mural - hand painting for children, a reading of international and bilingual children's literature, musical sing-a-long, and light refreshments will be served. (American University, 4400 Massachusetts Ave, NW. Washington, DC. 20016. Parking will be available and open to the public.)

The Larissa Gerstel Critical Literacy Collection within the Curriculum Materials Center will have comfortable reading areas for children, their parents, and SETH student-teachers, and will include literature for young children through young adults on multicultural and social justice issues as well as more popular literature.

Larissa with "her kids" during Pierson, FL field trip

