

Farms to K "Social"
5:30 – 7:30, October 24, 2008
Balch Theatre Lobby
Kalamazoo College

Enjoy conversation, local food and beverages, and learn about Farms to K
Panel Discussion: "What Feeds Us: Our Stories of Food, Culture, and the
Liberal Arts" 6 – 7 pm

PANELISTS

Amelia Katanski (K '92) is Associate Professor of English at Kalamazoo College. Her interest in food grows out of her experience growing up with grandparents who were immigrants from Poland and Italy and kept their culture alive through cooking. When she was a student at K, in fact, she wrote a piece for the campus literary magazine, the Cauldron, titled "Autobiography in which I Compare Myself to a Piece of Kielbasa"! Her research focuses on American Indian literature and culture, and issues of sustainability in its many forms. The connection between food and culture is central to that work. She teaches a First-Year Seminar on "Commitments" that focuses on local food systems as a central component of what it means to be committed to place. "Commitments" students over the years have completed a number of service-learning projects related to the local food movement, and in 2005, a group of those students founded Farms to K to build relationships with local growers and bring more locally grown food to the campus cafeteria. She has served as the faculty advisor for Farms to K ever since.

David Strauss taught American history at Kalamazoo College for 29 years. Since retirement, he has traveled widely, and is preparing a manuscript on "Setting the Table for Julia Child: The Rise of Gourmet Dining in America, 1934-1961."

Dale Norton (K'73) is a partner in a 4 -family multi-generational farm that includes his brother Ken (K'71), nephew Josh (MSU'99), and son Michael (MSU'2001). Their original partnership (Kendale Farm) was established in 1973 with parents Rolland and Margaret, who are both 88 and still active in the farm. They raise hogs, cattle, seed corn, canning tomatoes, snap beans, corn and soybeans on around 3000 acres in Branch County, which is about 60 miles SE of Kalamazoo. Dale was appointed to the Michigan Agricultural Commission in 2005 by Governor Granholm. The Ag Commission is a 5-member bi-partisan commission that hires the Director of Agriculture in Michigan and oversees MDA policy.

Heather Crull, (K '99, Biology and Environmental Studies) has worked in environmental education for over 10 years and currently serves as the manager of Fair Food Matters' urban educational gardening program, the Growing Matters Garden in Kalamazoo (<http://www.fairfoodmatters.org/garden.html>). She loves growing, cooking, sharing, and eating healthy, local, organic foods! There are two Growing Matters gardens on Kalamazoo's north side; one is at The Woodward School, which is the Underwood Stryker Institute's closest partner. Every summer she hosts "K" interns who work with her in the garden and help develop curriculum for city youth.

David Hammond (K'73) became infatuated with food during his foreign study experience in Strasbourg, France. A writer of corporate communications and food journalist living in Oak Park, Illinois, David is a founder and moderator of LTHForum.com, the 6,500 member Chicago culinary chat site, and a regular contributor of restaurant reviews and food-related articles for *TimeOut Chicago*, *Local Beet*, and *Chicago Reader*. David's primary interest is in the Mexican culinary tradition, and with his friend Michael Gebert, he created a cable documentary on Hispanic chow at Chicago's Maxwell Street Market. A returning guest on WLS and WGN AM radio and the Food Critic on Chicago Public Radio, David was featured on "Good Morning, America," "Chicago, Tonight," and Nippon TV when he developed recipes for preparing seasonal cicadas, which invaded Chicago during the spring of 2007. Food writing and bug-cooking videos can be found at www.dchammond.com.

Holly Anderson (K '09), coordinates the Farms to Kalamazoo College ([Farms to K](#)) program as a LaPlante Civic Engagement Scholar with the Mary Jane Underwood Stryker Institute for Service-Learning.. An HDSR major with a Women's Studies concentration, Holly took Dr. Katanski's First Year Seminar, "Commitments," in which students researched the possibilities for introducing more locally grown food into our cafeteria. When the quarter ended, the group decided that it was necessary to continue and she knew that she wanted to be involved as much as possible, and Farms to K emerged. The organization connects 'K' students, staff and faculty with organizations in the Kalamazoo community to nurture and support the local food system, while fostering sustainable agriculture with safe and fair working conditions. Holly received the 2007 Commitment to Service Award from the Michigan Campus Compact, given to one student per campus in the state of Michigan for breadth and depth of community service, and the Michigan Humanitarian Award, given to three undergraduate students for their innovation and leadership in community service. Holly was also one of only five students nationally to be honored by Campus Compact with its Swearer Award (http://www.compact.org/awards/swearer/2007/swearer_recipients.pdf), given annually to students who have been nominated by their college presidents for creating an innovative approach to addressing a social, educational, environmental, health, economic, or legal issue within a community.

Steve Gevinson (K '73) (**Moderator**) is chair of the English department at a Chicago-area high school. He is NOT a "foodie," but stays in touch with Dale and David. (More to come)