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FRENCH NATIVE SHARES FRENCH CULTURE WITH USF ST. PETERSBURG

St. Petersburg Fla - May 30, 2003

Dr. Martine M. Fernandes, a native of France, will join the faculty of USF St. Petersburg as an assistant professor in French. She comes from the University of California at Berkeley where she was a visiting assistant professor teaching French history, culture, language and linguistics.

Her love of languages is evidenced by her ability to speak not only her native languages of Portuguese, Spanish, and French but also English, Latin and Old French and reads German. “I think learning a language gives you access to a whole new world of experiences and it enables you to examine your own culture from another perspective,” she said. This philosophy governs Fernandes’ love of languages.

“In my courses,” Fernandes said, “I like to introduce students to the variety of French culture through texts, films, songs, and the Internet.” In addition to teaching her students, she hopes to develop French culture on campus through such events as French Film Series and providing the opportunity for traveling abroad that will “give students unforgettable life experiences.”

“Enhancing our linguistics program through the use of innovative and creative ideas to cross cultural boundaries and increase community awareness of cultural and ethnic diversity is exactly what USF St. Petersburg is looking for as we strive to meet the growing needs of our global community,” said Gary Olson interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs.

“To develop the French program at USF St. Petersburg is an incredible opportunity,” said Fernandes as she describes it as “a very challenging and rewarding experience.”

Fernandes received two doctorate degrees, one from Paris-IV Sorbonne in French literature and language, and one from University of California at Berkeley in French and Francophone literatures and linguistics with an emphasis in women, gender, and sexualities. Her research currently includes contemporary French woman writers and violence, and immigrant narratives in France. Some of her publications include entries about various historic personages in the Encyclopedia Encarta Africana.

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