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A NEWSLETTER FOR TEMPLE UNIVERSITY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ALUMNI

## Fulbright Winner Suzanne Gauch to Spend Year in Fez

**Scholar of North African literature and postcolonial studies to share her knowledge and insight with Moroccan students while learning from the varied cultures of the region**

Every year, the U.S. government-sponsored Fulbright program sends talented American scholars and teachers to overseas destinations to conduct research, teach in foreign institutions, and gain hands-on experience with the host culture. This year, the English department's own Suzanne Gauch has been awarded this prestigious fellowship for the year, which she will spend in Fez, Morocco. At first glance, Fez's Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah University might seem an unlikely place to find a member of Temple's English faculty. But the centrality of global cross-cultural exchange in Professor Gauch's research makes this a perfect opportunity. She sees the trip as an occasion to deepen her knowledge of Moroccan culture and literary, film, and feminist currents.

"I'm thrilled at this opportunity. Moroccans are justifiably proud of their culture, which values tradition and diversity while remaining open to the modern age. The opportunity to engage in sustained dialogue with Moroccan colleagues and students will not only deepen my research but add a new dimension to my teaching when I get back to Temple." She will also use the opportunity to improve her Arabic, a language central to the texts on which she publishes.

Professor Gauch has already researched the region extensively in her 2007 book *Liberating Shahrzad: Feminism, Post-colonialism, and Islam*, a project that



Always intrepid, Professor Gauch prepares for a year in Morocco as a Fulbright Senior Scholar

analyzes Arab writers and filmmakers through the lens of feminist practice. These artists invoke the well-known storyteller from the *Arabian Nights* as a figure of female empowerment. "Shahrazad is the antithesis of Western media depictions of Arab women: she is smart and courageous—and in speaking out she is able to change political realities."

In addition to her teaching at the university, Gauch will be working on her latest book, which examines North African film. She is also looking forward to bringing her experiences back to the Temple classroom and is developing a course on the global politics of food. "Food touches everyone," says Gauch, "infusing a culture, its literature, and its social practices." We look forward to welcoming her back into the Temple classroom with her new perspectives onto North Africa and its diverse cultures following her exciting year in Fez.