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Illinois Wesleyan's Orlando Selected for Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — Valérie Orlando, associate professor of French at Illinois Wesleyan University, has been selected to participate in a Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminar in Morocco.

The theme of the Fulbright-Hays group's research during the month-long seminar is "The Triumphs and Challenges of Moroccan Women." The 16 participants will travel throughout Morocco, visiting all major cities — Rabat, Fes, and Marrakech — as well as several out of the way places in order to talk with women who are confronting contemporary issues that impact women throughout the Muslim world. The seminar will visit numerous non-governmental organizations as well as schools and universities to study how women are faring today in Moroccan society.

"This is a particularly fantastic opportunity for me because the topic of my third book is on women authors' socio-political engagement in Morocco and other parts of the Maghreb," said Orlando. "I am elated to have been selected." Orlando plans to remain in Morocco following the seminar to conduct independent research in Rabat.

Orlando joined the Illinois Wesleyan faculty in 1999. She received her B.A. from the University of Redlands, her M.A. from George Mason University, and her Ph.D. from Brown University. Her teaching and research focuses on 20th-century Francophone literature and civilization of Africa and the Caribbean, 20th-century French literature and civilization, French cinema, African cinema, and women's studies.

She is the author of *Nomadic Voices of Exile: Feminine Identity in Francophone Literature of the Maghreb* (1999) and *Of Suffocated Hearts and Tortured Souls: Seeking Subjecthood Through Madness in Francophone Women's Writing of Africa and the Caribbean* (2003).

The Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad Program provides opportunities for educators and administrators with responsibilities for curriculum development in fields related to humanities, languages, and area studies. The seminars were created under the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange (Fulbright-Hays) Act of 1961. Seminars are designed to provide a broad and introductory cultural orientation to a particular country. The program is geared towards those educators who demonstrate the need to develop and enhance their curriculum through short-term study and travel abroad and who have little or no experience in the host country.