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Press release : 2011 : 10 : 10 : Fulbright Program Brings Moroccan Scholar to Teach and Learn at USFSP

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Fulbright Program Brings Moroccan Scholar to Teach and Learn at USFSP

Posted **October 10, 2011** at 4:42 pm by [Talia DeAngelo, '15](#)

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Raja Benchekroun honed her professional language teaching skills in her native Morocco, teaching English to local and European students and Arabic to American students that were studying in Morocco. And now, as a Fulbright foreign language teacher at USFSP for the 2011-2012 academic year, Benchekroun is developing her understanding of education in the United States, something she formed an interest in after teaching many American students and visiting the U.S. as a tourist.

“It is surely fascinating to be standing in a bridge between two cultures,” Benchekroun said. “My experience as an educator in the United States is definitely teaching me a lot about the American educational system.”

Through Fulbright’s Foreign Language Teaching Program, foreign educators receive a grant to teach at an American university and take two courses per semester to better understand American students and their educational environment.

Fluent in English, Arabic and French, Benchekroun earned her bachelor’s degree in English studies and a master’s degree in communication studies from the University of Caddi Ayyad. She earned language teaching certificates from the British council in Morocco.

She wants to offer her students insight into another culture and introduce them to a subject they may have more interest in then they realize, she said.

“I want to leave an imprint on my students,” Benchekroun said. “I desire to be that remarkable teacher that they remember.”

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