

Assistant Professor of Portuguese Christine Marie Guedri visits LERC

Wednesday 2nd June 2010, LERC, NDU

Reported by Elie Nabhan

Assistant Professor of Portuguese Dr. Christine Marie Guedri paid a visit to the Lebanese Emigration Research Center at Notre Dame University in Lebanon, accompanied by LERC's Latin America Liaison Officer, Mr. Roberto Khatlab.

This was Dr. Guedri's first visit to LERC even though she has been in touch with the Center and its director for the last three years. Dr. Guedri is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, where she teaches courses in language and linguistics.

Dr. Guedri's Ph.D. dissertation *A Sociolinguistic Study of language contact of Lebanese Arabic and Brazilian Portuguese in São Paulo* dealt with the maintenance of Arabic and acquisition of Portuguese language by the Lebanese immigrants and their descendants in São Paulo and the sociological factors that affect this process among them.

Dr. Guedri is teaching an innovative class on the contact between Arabic and Spanish languages at the University of Amman in Jordan over the summer of 2010 following her being awarded a grant from Rotary International. While in the Levant, Dr. Guedri will also undertake research on Brazilians-Lebanese and their maintenance of Portuguese and acquisition of Arabic to complete the picture for her Ph.D. work.

Explaining the main premises of her dissertation, Dr. Guedri said that "in exploring three generations in the Lebanese-Brazilian community of São Paulo, I found that first generation immigrants had more variability in their spoken Portuguese with this variability extending to loan words of Arabic origin. Subsequent generations," she went on, "are believed to have less access to the Arabic language and have less variability in their spoken Portuguese."

The Lebanese Emigration Research Center is reviewing Dr. Guedri's thesis for publication. A Manuscript Review Committee of international experts is being formed to review her thesis as part of LERC's publications.

After her meeting with LERC Director Ms. Guita Hourani, Dr. Guedri was introduced to LERC's electronic archives and databases by LERC indexer Mrs. Liliane Haddad. Her trip concluded with a tour of the Lebanon Migration Museum at NDU. Dr. Guedri was taken by the collection and expressed her wish to use some of the material available in her ongoing research. In her parting statement, Dr. Guedri wrote in four different languages, "of her pleasure in being with LERC and the amazing and very important work they do".



Dr. C. Guedri (right) being introduced to LERC's Lazer Fiche program by LERC indexer Mrs. L. Haddad (June 2010).



Dr. C. Guedri pictured at the museum with Mr. R. Khatlab LERC's Latin America Liaison Officer (June 2010)