Lisa Anne Culp, assistant professor of English, is one of 16 educators selected to participate in the 2004 Fulbright-Hays Seminars Abroad in China this summer. She will travel to China in June for the month-long History and Culture in China: Social Trends/Popular Culture Focus.

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. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Seminars are designed to provide a broad and introductory cultural orientation to a particular country. There are 10 seminars every summer with 16 positions per seminar.

Culp hopes to come away from the summer's intensive study to write an entrepreneurial-based business writing textbook. In addition to developing business-writing skills, this book will focus on sociolinguistic issues for writing, such as identity, acculturation and evidence.

"The goal is to help writing students understand that writing styles are merely conventions based on history, culture and ideology," Culp said. "Through this textbook, I hope to help both native and international students become more attuned to cultural differences and to appreciate that there are a variety of ways to express oneself through writing in the appropriate style for the discourse community or country for which one has a membership."

Culp began teaching at USF St. Petersburg in Fall 2001 as an assistant professor. She specializes in teaching business, technical and composition courses that develop academic and professional writing skills. She received her doctorate from the University of Arizona where her area of emphasis was rhetoric and composition and English as a Second Language. Her research focus is second language writing and technical and professional writing. She has a master of arts in communications management from the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Southern California. Culp has also been invited to teach technical writing this May to English as a Second Language students at the University of Artois in Bethune, France.

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