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# USFSP to Offer Culinary Certificate; Food Conference to Kick Off Program

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**Deni Elliott, D.Ed., chair of the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, will oversee the new certificate program.**

Acclaimed cookbook author and Southern culinary authority Nathalie Dupree will be the keynote speaker at the first [USFSP Florida Food Conference](#) on Saturday, April 5. The conference is the kick-off event for the launch of USFSP's [Graduate Food Writing and Photography Certificate](#) program, which will start in the fall.

“This will be a cutting-edge program,” said Janet K. Keeler, Tampa Bay Times food and travel editor, and program coordinator. “It is intended to help culinary communicators improve their skills in writing, photography and entrepreneurship.”

The Food Writing and Photography Certificate is a 15-credit graduate certificate offered through the Department of Journalism and Media Studies. Of these 15 credits, 12 are comprised of four required courses in Multimedia Reporting, Digital Law and Ethics, Special Topics in Food Communication, and a final three-credit project. The remaining class can be earned by taking elective courses online or on campus.

The USFSP Florida Food Conference will feature Dupree, as well as Keeler, her husband, Tampa Bay Times photographer Scott Keeler, and culinary blogger Isabel Laessig. The conference will be held from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the Peter Rudy Wallace Florida Center for Teachers. Tickets are \$25. Advance reservations and payment are required by April 2 through the website, [usfsp.edu/flafood](http://usfsp.edu/flafood).

Dupree will be available to sign copies of her latest cookbook, “Mastering the Art of Southern Cooking,” winner of the 2013 James Beard Foundation Book Award for American Cooking.

[Read more about this on the Tampa Bay Times story.](#)



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