

For Immediate Release
March 23, 2005

Contact Bill Taylor, Asst. Director, News Services
taylorb@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2065 or 591-5604

Sudanese health, environment adviser presents Ferris Fulbright Lecture

BIG RAPIDS – Suad M. Sulaiman, Sudanese health and environment adviser, will present this year’s Fulbright Foreign Lecture, “Sudan: A Peaceful People in a War-Torn Land,” on April 7 at 4:30 p.m. in Instructional Resource Center Auditorium 002 at Ferris State University.

Dr. Sulaiman is a parasitologist who has served in many capacities, including research professor and adviser on health issues and coordination for the Ministry of Science & Technology in the Sudan. She is currently the Vice President of the Sudanese Environment Conservation Society, serves on the Nile Basin Initiative and the Khartoum Academy of Technology and is on the advisory committees for several non-governmental agencies including ALMANAR, a women’s empowerment group, and WAG, the Women Action Group. She has also acted on several World Health Organization (WHO) advisory committees.

“We are excited to have a person of her caliber from the Sudan,” said Robert Friar, professor of biology, who met Sulaiman 20 years ago when he was a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Khartoum in Sudan. “She is a delightful person who has worked tirelessly for the last 30 years to improve the quality of life of the Sudanese, especially women.”

Sulaiman has worked in the Sudanese Ministry of Health, and has had a major influence on health issues in the Sudan, which is the largest country in Africa. She has traveled widely in Africa and is very knowledgeable about the people, their customs and ways of life.

“She brings us an entirely different perspective on a number of crucial issues concerning Africa’s potential, which is something we need,” said Phillip Middleton, languages and literature, a former Fulbright lecturer at the University of Khartoum in the 1980’s. “I am anxiously awaiting her arrival.”

Besides presenting the 2005 Fulbright Lecture, Sulaiman will visit a variety of Ferris classes, discussing many subjects: parasitology, African literature, women’s issues including female circumcision, and technical communication in a global context.

The annual Fulbright Foreign Lecture is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Ferris Fulbrighters, a group of 17 faculty members who have taught and studied abroad under the auspices of the Fulbright Scholar Program. In recent years, the group has hosted lecturers from Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Paraguay, Romania, and Mexico.