

Faculty Senate Resolution #####
The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures
August 18, 2008

Recommendation of *Emerita* Status for Dr. Susan S. St. Onge

Whereas, Dr. Susan S. St. Onge, Distinguished Professor of French, arrived at Christopher Newport College in 1970 and devoted her entire working life to CNU and the department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literature until her retirement at the close of the spring semester, 2009; and

Whereas, Dr. St. Onge is a master teacher who instructed and inspired her students and colleagues on a daily basis and has been recognized for these achievements with multiple awards both within the University and from national and international organizations: CNU Student Government Association Professor of the Year, Alumni Association Outstanding Service and Commitment Award, CNU President's Teaching Award, Foreign Language Association of Virginia Distinguished Service Award, State of Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award, and an honor only rarely granted to scholars outside of France, namely, the induction by the government of France as a *chevalier* into the prestigious *Ordre des Palmes Académiques*, which dates back to Napoleon's time; and

Whereas, Dr. St. Onge has made outstanding contributions to this institution and our local, national and worldwide community during her illustrious career; has built the French program by creating and teaching courses on every aspect of French culture; has served non-French-speaking students by developing innovative courses in English on culture and literature; has supported the CNU Honors Program by teaching numerous seminars for that program's participants; was the co-founder, organizer and initial leader of the CNU Seminars Abroad; has served on virtually all of the University's committees, often as chair; was co-chair of the task force that designed the current Liberal Learning Curriculum; was the University's first female faculty member to attain the rank of Distinguished Professor; was an elected representative to the Virginia Faculty Senate; was a member of the Board of Directors of the Virginia chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French; has served on the Board of Directors and as President of the Foreign Language Association of Virginia; has twice chaired the department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures; and has presided over the department's current renaissance from a faculty of six to its present sixteen and the doubling of language offerings from four to the current eight; and

Whereas, Dr. St. Onge has an extensive history of scholarship that includes numerous book reviews and conference papers; the publication of ten textbooks; co-authorship of the top-selling second year French textbook currently in its eighth edition; extensive work in the emerging field of Francophone Studies emphasizing the connections between the Francophone world and the Francophone populations of the United States of America; invited collaboration with an esteemed faculty member from the Sorbonne on a Francophone literature and culture textbook that has received the patronage of the Académie Française; and

Whereas, Dr. St. Onge has devoted her entire career to academic and professional activities in the field of language, literature and culture at Christopher Newport College/University; has mentored the next generation of MCLL scholars and solved many a *crise du jour*; has broadened the dietary horizons of Virginia students with French cheese and pâté; and whose genius has

shaped MCLL and made possible the work of so many other colleagues and students for almost four decades; the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures unanimously recommends to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Faculty Senate, and the Provost of the University that we continue Dr. St. Onge's professional association with the university beyond the date of her retirement; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures hereby requests that the title of *Distinguished Professor Emerita* be conferred upon Susan S. St. Onge, B.A., M.A., Ph.D., with all of the rights, honors, and privileges attendant to such status.

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Elaine M. Miller, Ph.D.
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Rosa Motta, Ph.D. Candidate
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Steven Spalding, Ph.D.
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Georgeta Georgescu, Ph.D.
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Yvonne E. Wynn
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