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Press release : 2003 : 05 : 02 : USF St. Petersburg's Science Journalism Program Just Got More Interesting

Pam Bellis

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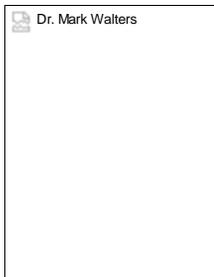
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USF St. Petersburg's Science Journalism Program Just Got More Interesting Dr. Mark Walters Brings Diverse Background to St. Petersburg Campus Students

St. Petersburg Fla - May 2, 2003



Whether it's casting a hook in the running waters of a stream or writing the perfect lead to a new article designed to "hook" the reader's interest, Dr. Mark Walters is equally expert. "I cannot imagine a better location than USF St. Petersburg for training students in journalism," said Walters in response to being a new associate professor of science journalism at USF St. Petersburg.

Dr. Walters comes to USF St. Petersburg from his current position as a clinical assistant professor in the department of Environmental and Population Health at Tufts University. He is also an independent consultant and visiting lecturer at Harvard Medical School and a contributing health editor for Orion Magazine.

"I am especially excited by the prospect of working across programs," said Walters. "Whether the sciences, English, Florida Studies, or others, the Journalism and Media Studies Program is a near-perfect venue for wide-ranging disciplines on campus to come together, intermingle, meld, complement, cross fertilize and hybridize into new knowledge and greater opportunities for students and faculty."

"USF St. Petersburg has big plans for its Journalism and Media Studies Program," said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. "Our Science Journalism Center is the only one of its kind in the southeast, and is already a valuable resource for the journalistic and scientific communities. With Dr. Walters and the other new faculty we have hired, we are sure to increase the center's visibility and reach our goal of becoming a national model for research, instruction, and service."

Olson also stated that, "whether students are developing expertise in cutting-edge technology, learning how to disseminate scientific information in time of crisis, or telling the stories that give voice to the voiceless, they will all leave USF St. Petersburg's journalism program with knowledge gained from some of the nation's leading journalists and experts in the field."

Walters is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine. His master's in journalism is from Columbia University School of Journalism, and he graduated magna cum laude from McGill University where he received his bachelor's degree in English Literature.

He has published several books and articles and served as an editor and staff writer at Readers Digest. His book, *Six Modern Plagues and How We Are Causing Them*, published by Shearwater/Island Press, will be available later this year. In addition, he also wrote *A Shadow and a Song* and *The Dance of Life* which both received glowing reviews from major sources including the New York Times, Boston Globe, and Publishers Weekly.

Walters' background is vast and varied. His past employment has taken him from Washington D.C. to Jamaica, and from Ohio to Nepal. He worked as a biodiversity conservation analyst in the nation's capital for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and director of workshops in Nepal. He was the environment program director for the Nathan Cummings Foundation and the program officer at the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. In addition, Walters was a consultant for Kenneth A. Scott Trust and Morningstar International Corporation.

He has made appearances on *A Closer Look*, *Earth Talk*, *The Gary Daniels' Show* (FL) and the *Frank Haines Shows* (CA), and was profiled in *Florida Today*. In his spare time, he has spent more than 20 years mastering the art of fly fishing.

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Media Contact: Pam Bellis
Phone: (727) 553-1297

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