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Press release : 2009 : 09 : 25 : USFSP Hosts 17 African Journalists for Academic Exchange

Melanie Marquez

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USFSP Hosts 17 African Journalists for Academic Exchange



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(St. Petersburg, Fla.) September 25, 2009 – As one of 11 university programs in the country selected to participate in the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists, the Department of Journalism and Media Studies at USF St. Petersburg will host 17 African journalists the first week of October with lectures, discussions and cultural immersion.

Four lectures and a reception are free and open to the public:

Friday, October 2

1 p.m.

“The Risks of Responsible Reporting” with Deni Elliott, Poynter-Jamison Chair of Ethics and Press Policy
Davis Hall, Room 130

2:30 p.m.

“Social Media Mashup” with Monica Ancu and Paul Wang, both assistant professors in the Department of Journalism and Media Studies
Davis Hall, Room 130

4:30 p.m.

Neighborhood News Bureau Reception & Program at The Sanderlin Center
2335 22nd Ave S

Monday, October 5

9 a.m.

“Journalism Education: From Africa to America” with graduate students from the Department of Journalism and Media Studies
Davis Hall, Room 130

10:30 a.m.

“Reporting in Africa” with the African journalists telling stories about reporting in Africa
Davis Hall, Room 130

The U.S. Department of State’s Edward R. Murrow Program has brought more than 450 emerging journalism leaders from throughout the world to examine journalism in the United States and share their professional experiences in their home countries. The program began in 2006 and participants, selected by the U.S. Embassy in their country, visit Washington, D.C., and New York City before spending a week at select universities.

The group chosen to visit USF St. Petersburg will come from Angola, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe. They work as reporters, editors, and directors in television, radio and print. One is a university lecturer.

Robert Dardenne, department chair and associate professor of journalism, has partnered with the International Council of the Tampa Bay Region to organize the visit. The council serves as the official council for international visitors in Tampa Bay for the U.S. Department of State and hosts foreign leaders through the federal International Visitor Leadership Program. Dardenne has hosted foreign journalists on a regular basis since 1998 at the request of the U.S. Department of State from countries such as China, Thailand, France, Iraq, Syria and Argentina. He taught and lectured in China on a Fulbright Fellowship during the 1999/2000 academic year.

"For our students to sit with 17 African journalists and hear them talk about what they do and how different and challenging it is to be a reporter in another culture far different from that of the United States is an incredible educational opportunity," Dardenne said. "And not just for our students, but for our faculty, the university community and the public as well."

The journalists' week at USF St. Petersburg runs from Oct. 1-7 and includes academic forums open to the public, visits to local media outlets such as the St. Petersburg Times and the Tampa Tribune, a cruise on a USF College of Marine Science research vessel, meetings with local leaders, a community event at the university's Neighborhood News Bureau in Midtown, and a session at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies.

Other universities selected to host foreign journalists through the Edward R. Murrow Program include the University of Georgia, the University of North Carolina- Chapel Hill, the University of Tennessee, the University of Oklahoma, Syracuse University, the University of Maryland, the University of Minnesota, the University of Southern California, the University of Nevada and Marquette University.

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