1-18-2006

Press release: 2006 : 01 : 18 : New Director Joins Journalism Department

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New Director Joins Journalism Department

January 18, 2006 4:10PM EST

(St. Petersburg, Fla) Jan. 19, 2006 - Tony Silvia, Ph.D., begins this month as the new director of Journalism and Media Studies in the College of Arts and Science at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Silvia comes to the campus from the University of Rhode Island where he was a professor of Communication Studies and coordinator of the Public Relations Studies program.

He joined the University of Rhode Island in 1988. Prior to that, he was a reporter/anchor with WLNE-TV in Providence, Rhode Island for seven years. Silvia earned his bachelor’s from the University of Rhode Island and a master’s and doctorate from the University of Birmingham, England.

He is the author of three books: "Student Television in America: Changing Channels" (1998), "Global News: Perspectives on the Information Age" (2001) and "Diamonds in the Air: Radio, Baseball, and Small Town America" (2003). Silvia was the recipient of three Emmy Award nominations for excellence in television news and an Associated Press Award for Outstanding Documentary.

"Tony's broadcast, news and administrative background bring another dimension to our department,” said Bob Dardenne, associate professor of journalism and media studies. “As traditional news technologies merge on the internet, our department, in part through the hiring of Tony, is expanding its perspectives to offer students more of the kinds of skills and concepts they need to live and work in an increasingly digital and complex media environment.”

Students honored Silvia three times as a nominee and finalist for the URI Teaching Excellence Award. In 1996 he was selected for one of three fellowships awarded annually by CNN.

Journalism and Media Studies offers three undergraduate degrees: news-editorial writing, magazine writing and visual communications. The graduate program offers a Master’s of Art in Journalism and Media Studies prepares students for careers in the news media while laying a foundation for those students who elect to continue their studies at the Ph.D. level.

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