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**A Celebration of the Life, Leadership, and Scholarship of Dr.  
Robert Dardenne (1946-2003) [An Exhibit from October 2013  
through January 2014]**

James Anthony Schnur

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## **Biographical Research Notes: Dr. Robert Dardenne**

**Compiled by Jim Schnur, Special Collections Librarian, 20 October 2013**

In the Winter 1993 issue of *Bayboro Briefing*, an article described how USFSP's Journalism Program "bucks tradition" as Bob Dardenne and Mike Killenberg encouraged students to "question the old ways and encourage approaches they think make news more meaningful to readers" rather than conforming to "standard reporting practices." As director of the graduate program at the time, Dardenne said "journalists need to stop hanging around the edges of institutions to get the close, personal picture of events and how they affect the everyday person."

During the early 1990s, around 1993, Dardenne and Killenberg hosted a number of lectures/programs around the theme of "The Conversation of Journalism." Along with Rob Anderson, they published *The Conversation of Journalism: Communication, Community, and News* through Praeger Press in 1994. In April 1995, Dardenne presented another lecture on "News: Nature and Forms."

Served as one of four members of a Campus Faculty Council (predecessor to Faculty Senate) planning group that sought to develop strategic statements across the faculty in a 1 November 1994 open forum.

In 1996, he published "'Plump White Rabbits'—The Case of Charles Manson," in *The Press on Trial: Crimes, Trials, and Media Coverage* by Greenwood Press.

During the summer of 1996, he was involved in a community journalism project co-sponsored by WTVT, Ch. 13, and the *Weekly Planet*. Known as "Speak Up Tampa Bay," this initiative hoped to encourage citizens to speak up about causes important to them. He was on the advisory group.

On October 5, 1996, he spoke on "A Free and Responsible High School Press" (the keynote address) to approximately 500 high school students who attended the meeting of the Florida Scholastic Press Association.

September 25-26, 1997, he was part of and led community forums in Tuscaloosa, AL, at a Public Policy Institute training session held under the auspices of the University of Alabama. In October 1997, he and Killenberg presented "Why Journalists Hate Public Journalism (and Why

Academics Love It)" at the annual conference of the Society of Professional Journalists' meeting in Denver.

Served as a Fulbright scholar at Shanghai International Studies University in 1999-2000.

One of the recipients of the 1994-95 Teaching Incentive Awards program that recognized high-quality teaching. The award offered a \$5,000 salary increase to recognize superior faculty.

Served as chair of Faculty Council during the important transitional period of 2002-2003.

In December 2004, Dardenne received an invitation to speak by Nigeria's Union of Journalists and the Nigerian government on "Journalism and Governance: The Interface" during a week-long event at Abeokuta, the capital of Ogun State.

Traveled to China in August 2005 to speak at the Fourth Annual International Convention of Asian Scholars. He offered two lectures. One was as a panelist in the "Imaging Asia" session that looked at perceptions of Asia in the media. The other involved a discussion of press policy in China. He told a reporter for the *Crow's Nest* in a 14 September 1995 article that "our image is quite a bit deteriorated since I was there before."

In 2007, he served as Interim Regional Associate Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies.

He served as the speaker for our Banned Books Week event on 4 October 2007 when he presented a program entitled, "Freedom to Think: News, Censorship, and Amusement."

While serving as department chair, Journalism and Media Studies at USFSP earned re-accreditation for both undergraduate and graduate programs by a 19-0 vote from the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications in the spring of 2010. In a 12 May 2010 press release, Dardenne stated that "our program is rigorous, nurturing, innovative and ahead of many programs in adapting to the media's digital environment."

In the fall of 2011, he started the process of stepping down from his position as Chair of Journalism and Media Studies. Deni Elliot replaced him in fall 2012.