

---

## USF St. Petersburg Hires Research Leader

By: [Holly Kickliter](#)

May 25, 2004 6:38PM EST

---

**Chris D'Elia** USF St. Petersburg has hired its first research leader in its 39 year history. Christopher F. D'Elia, PhD, will begin as Assistant Vice President for Research and Community Partnerships on Sept. 1.

Known for his research on coastal, tropical and subtropical ecology, D'Elia joins USF St. Petersburg from the University at Albany, SUNY where he holds a joint appointment as a professor of biology and public administration and policy. He is developing new programs in watershed science and policy and in forensic science for the University at Albany.

D'Elia has held numerous notable administrative positions. He directed the Biological Oceanography Program at the National Science Foundation and was Vice President for Research and Research Foundation Operations Manager at the University at Albany. He held a professorship at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in the University System of Maryland for 21 years. There he developed a leading analytical service laboratory for estuarine and marine chemistry, and directed the Maryland Sea Grant College for 10 years. His research on nitrogen and coastal nutrient overenrichment has had a substantial impact on water quality policy in Chesapeake Bay.

An advisor to the Sunshine State on numerous workgroups, D'Elia is familiar with environmental concerns facing South Florida's marine and estuarine systems. He was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to the Blue Ribbon Florida Bay Peer Review Panel on Florida Bay research and restoration (1993-95). He also served on the Ad Hoc Committee on Nutrients, Florida Bay (1996); the review committee for the Florida Bay Carrying Capacity Study (1999); co-chaired the Florida Bay Model Evaluation Group (1996); and was a panelist for the Florida Sea Grant Program review.

Regional Chancellor Karen A. White said, "Dr. D'Elia's academic experience, professional qualifications, demonstrated leadership and his marine and estuarine research make him a perfect fit with our campus. He will continue to closely connect our research enterprise with our sister campuses and community partners to channel research that is both relevant and cutting-edge."

Spanning nearly 30 years of research, D'Elia has held numerous grants and contracts from a variety of agencies including the National Science Foundation, the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institutes of Health and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. His present scholarly interests focus on environmental science and policy as well as mathematics and science education. D'Elia earned his Bachelor's Degree in Biology from Middlebury College and his PhD in Zoology from the University of Georgia.

D'Elia said, "I look forward to playing a key role in the development of USF St. Petersburg's research and outreach programs, in working with senior leadership to recruit, enhance and support faculty members, and to building programs in Environmental Science, Florida Studies, Journalism, Education and Business as well as in other areas of excellence that USF St. Petersburg represents."

On campus, D'Elia will hold the academic rank of Professor of Environmental Science and Policy and direct the Center for Science and Policy Applications for Coastal Environments. In addition to further developing its Programs of Distinction, D'Elia will be responsible for identifying new research priorities for the campus. He will develop and promote internal competitive awards, and oversee quality assurance for research activities.

In the community, D'Elia will promote economic development in the Greater Tampa Bay Region with a targeted focus on the needs of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County. Another priority will be work with community-based agencies to facilitate partnerships with faculty and students at USF St. Petersburg.

V. Mark Durand, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, chaired the search committee. "Our ability to attract a leader of Dr. D'Elia's caliber is a sign of our evolving success at creating an institution of the highest quality. Fifty-one new faculty members arrived on campus last July and they and the rest of our faculty are excited to take our research

to its next level of excellence.”

[News Page](#) | [Search](#) | [Sort News Archives](#) | [Submit News](#) | [Login](#)

— *USF St. Petersburg* —

USF St. Petersburg - 140 Seventh Avenue South, St. Petersburg Florida 33701-5016 -- 727-553-4USF  
Copyright © 2003, University of South Florida - Direct questions or comments about the web site to: [www@stpt.usf.edu](mailto:www@stpt.usf.edu)