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Pam Bellis
‘Landlocked’ Professor Sets Sail for USF St. Petersburg

June 20, 2003 (St. Petersburg, Fla.) - Dr. Susan Allen is anxious to reach Florida’s Suncoast and begin teaching this fall at USF St. Petersburg’s College of Arts and Sciences. “I am excited to be coming to USF St. Petersburg to teach in its excellent social work department,” said Allen. “Although I have quite a bit of teaching and clinical experience, this will be my first tenure-track position. It will be great to be in sunny St. Petersburg after more than 20 years living in gray Ohio.”

Allen, who grew up on the nation’s east coast, said she has felt “landlocked in Ohio” and will be “glad to be back by the water.” She will join the College of Arts and Sciences faculty as an assistant professor of social work and will bring both her scholarly and her clinical expertise to her classroom.

“Dr. Allen will be a valuable addition to USF St. Petersburg,” said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. “She has conducted extensive research that will benefit students and her fellow professors. Dr. Allen also has an impressive background in clinical experience as a private therapist working with young children, teens and adults.”

Early intervention with at-risk infants and toddlers and their families is a key element in Allen’s research. She has spent many years researching mental health interventions for young children and adolescents and their families, as well as taking a close look at school social work. Allen has conducted studies comparing United States policies to that of other nations. She has spent considerable time evaluating social work education, particularly in terms of cultural sensitivity and diversity.

Her publications include Working Parents with Young Children: Cross-National Comparisons of Policies and Programs in Three Countries, Revitalizing the Role of Home Visiting in Schools, and Integration of Therapeutic Approaches on Working with Children.

Currently teaching classes in generalist practice with individuals, making connections with children and adolescents, and introductory policy foundations at Wright State University in Ohio, Allen has extensive experience in social work, including working in the Counseling and Treatment Center of Good Samaritan Hospital, Young Children’s Assessment and Treatment Services, and as a therapist in private practice.

Allen earned her bachelor’s degree in human relations from Earlham College, her master’s in social work from Smith College School for Social Work and her doctorate in social welfare from Case Western Reserve University.