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Researcher of Race, Crime and Poverty Brings Expertise to USF St. Petersburg

Jason Davis’ grassroots research is sure to add to his appeal among USF St. Petersburg criminology students. Davis will join the faculty as a visiting instructor of criminology in the fall. Over the past several years, he has conducted extensive research in the fields of violence, crime prevention, race, poverty, and inequity.

Most recently, his primary area of research interest deals with white-collar crime. “In particular,” said Davis, “I examine theoretical explanations of why employees commit crime and the process by which the justice system prosecutes and sanctions criminal organizations. In fact, my doctoral dissertation examined the Federal Sentencing Guidelines for Organizations to determine consistency of punishment given to organizations,” he said.

“We are looking forward to Dr. Davis’ arrival at USF St. Petersburg,” said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. “Davis is fast becoming a noted scholar in the field of sociology and criminology. Our students will benefit from his on-going research into many aspects of crime, punishment and inequality of justice in our society.”

Davis began his studies in sociology at Augusta State University and went on to earn his master’s degree and doctorate from the University of Florida in Gainesville. He has taught courses in criminology, social problems, and principles of sociology.

He has published a number of papers on such topics as analyzing attitudes toward the poor, social ecology of violence, racial situations, and society's prejudices. He received the Department of Sociology Graduate Student Teacher of the Year Award in 2001, was the winner of the Georgia Sociological Association Paper Competition, and was a Hope Scholarship recipient.

Davis’ new wife, also a criminologist, will be joining him as they make their home on the Suncoast and he continues his teaching career at USF St. Petersburg. “I am extremely excited to be part of the development of USF St. Petersburg. The opportunity and challenges of shaping the future of this rapidly expanding university is very appealing,” said Davis.

“In addition,” he added, “I look forward to interacting with the students to help develop their interests and professional goals.”