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TAXES NOT TAXING TO NEW USF ST. PETERSBURG ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

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For most people, taxes can be quite taxing. But, not to USF St. Petersburg’s new assistant professor Dr. Raymonda Burgman. “I’m a tax economist and teach public finance, the branch of economics that looks into governmental revenue and service issues,” she said.

“I specialize in tax and tax policy as it pertains to tax preparers,” explained Burgman. “I examine questions like, ‘How do tax preparers help or hurt us as taxpayers?’ and ‘Do tax preparers lessen the revenue taken in by the government?’ There is also the question of what is ethical behavior on the part of the tax preparer as well as the taxpayer.”

“Dr. Burgman has a great deal of insight and expertise when it comes to various aspects of economics and finance,” said Gary Olson, interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs. “Our students will be able to tap into her experience and knowledge, just as we hope the Pinellas county business community will.”

Looking ahead to the fall when she will begin teaching at USF St. Petersburg’s College of Business, Burgman said, “The campus is in the midst of great change, a great revolution. It is always nice to be in a place that is in flux or undergoing a rebirth. The fact that USF St. Petersburg plans to begin a program focusing on ethics and responsibility fits well with my research.”

“In addition,” she continued, “I graduated from New College of Florida when it was still a part of the USF family, so I am familiar with USF and its many campuses. I am also a native Floridian, from West Palm Beach, and therefore, I am quite aware of the unique social, political, and business issues facing the Tampa Bay area as well as the state of Florida.”

Burgman voiced her acute interest in community issues, such as community development and sustainable growth. “As a tax economist,” she said, “I am keenly aware of what a city or state government can achieve with limited resources. Therefore, I am always interested in new projects that a city or state may undertake and the manner in which they will pay for the project.”

Burgman is also interested in community programs that promote mentorship of children. While in Gainesville obtaining her Ph.D., she was active in the Big Brothers – Big Sisters of Alachua County.

Looking to the future, Burgman said, “I hope that USF St. Petersburg is successful in its bid to become an even greater educational beacon in St. Petersburg and Pinellas County. I would like local businesses to see that the university can be an advocate as they think about growing. We as faculty can be consultants. In addition, we will graduate qualified students who will be the future business leaders in St. Petersburg. This is a college professor’s greatest achievement, producing bright, articulate students who walk as emissaries for the quality and standing of the university.”

Burgman attended Stanford University in California before moving on to New College and earning her bachelor’s degree in economics. She continued her education at UF where she received both her master’s and her Ph.D. Burgman garnered her teaching experience by teaching economics in Gainesville at both UF and Santa Fe Community College, and most recently at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana. Maintaining her community and professional involvements, Burgman has made presentations to a multitude of organizations including the Southern, Midwest, and Western Economic Associations, Students of Color of Rackham, and the American Statistical Association.

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