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Pam Bellis
Balance and Growth Catch Attention of Economics Expert

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USF St. Petersburg adds a nationally recognized expert in economics to its already impressive list of new faculty scheduled to begin teaching in the fall. Dr. Thomas Carter, currently a full professor of economics and finance at Oklahoma City University, will join USF St. Petersburg's College of Business as an associate professor of economics.

"There are several reasons I am attracted to USF St. Petersburg," said Carter. "One is that I like the mix of teaching and research. Some universities emphasize research and seem to neglect the students. Some go too far the other way, neglecting the professional activities necessary to building a high-quality university. USF St. Petersburg has a more logical and valuable idea of the roles of teaching and research, seeing the two as complementary."

Another factor that appealed to Carter was "the anticipated growth of the campus. It is always exciting to work in a place that is growing and building something for the future. (In the years ahead) we will be able to look back at all the accomplishments and get a definite feeling of pride. I anticipate that feeling as a faculty member and I hope that feeling is shared by the community," he said.

"We are very fortunate to have Dr. Carter joining our faculty," said Gary Olson interim associate vice president for Academic Affairs at USF St. Petersburg. "He is a nationally recognized expert in his field and our students will benefit from his years of research and teaching."

Carter is also a prolific writer and has had a number of papers published in the Journal of Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, and Atlantic Economic Journal. In addition to his research and writing, Carter conducts workshops on a number of economics-related topics.

"I am enthusiastic about moving to St. Petersburg because of my research ... on the economic effects of immigration," said Carter. "I am sure I will find it interesting to live in Florida, where immigration plays such an important role in the economy. I also expect that my research will benefit from interaction with people currently at USF St. Petersburg and the other new faculty members being hired." Carter has also conducted extensive research in international economics, labor economics, and macroeconomics, the real effects of monetary policy in efficiency wage models.

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and received both his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

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