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Press release : 2003 : 03 : 31 : USF St. Petersburg hires political science professor

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ST. PETERSBURG, FLA (March 31, 2003) – USF St. Petersburg hires political science professor

Nicole Elaine Johnson, Ph.D., accepted an associate professorship at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg and will begin teaching government and international affairs in the fall session.

Struck by the college's "direction" and "energy," Johnson said, "It was quite obvious that the faculty and administration is very committed to the university and excited about the growth on the horizon. I was very encouraged about the direction the university is going."

"This is a win-win situation," said Dr. Gary Olson, interim associate vice president of Academic Affairs. "Not only will she win in having a job at this wonderful institution, but we will win in that we will benefit from her experience and her perspective."

While working at Howard University, a prestigious, historically black college, Johnson taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in national government, public opinion and propaganda, political behavior, and introduction to black politics.

She has been published in the Southeastern Political Review as well as other publications on subjects such as "Resources and the Representation of African Americans in the State Legislature" and "Preparing Future Faculty at an Historically Black College/University."

Johnson is currently researching several topics of interest, including the conditional effects of racial cues in candidate evaluations and the costs of mobilizing around health issues for black women.

The African American Institute called on Johnson to conduct a series of lectures on "Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers: Our United States Government" for women parliamentarians from Senegal and for municipal councilors from Tunisia.

"I think one special talent I'll bring to the university is the fact I have had a great deal of experience at many different universities," said Johnson. "I have attended a small liberal arts school, a large public university, and a historically black college. I think this experience has helped me be very accommodating to student needs."

Johnson received her bachelor's degree from Spelman College and both her master's and doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. Her major fields of study included political and voting behavior, race and ethnicity, political psychology, political participation, and state and urban politics. In addition, she attended the University of New Hampshire, University of Michigan, and Ohio State University.

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