

31st & Pearl

Carter's Moniker

With his impending retirement after this, the 2009-10, academic year, it appears as though former EFIB chairman George Carter's 30-year career in USM's business college will be coming to an end. Much of that career was spent as chair, and it was during those periods that Carter came to be known by some b-school faculty as "the smiling assassin." That moniker was, as some would say, earned by Carter after years of treating those who worked under him – from the Trellis Greens in ECO to the Laurence Eisenbergs in FIN – with disdain and disrespect. Even though Carter used up 12 years to get tenure for himself, Green had to file suit in Forrest County Circuit Court to seek the same promotion (to associate) that so many other USM b-schoolers had earned in their sleep. Years later Carter would spend days surreptitiously building a coalition to oust Eisenberg from his tenure-track position. Green would win his settlement (promotion + promotion salary + undisclosed financial settlement), while Eisenberg would move up in the academic world (to Tier 2 New Jersey Institute of Technology, and *with promotion to associate*). Soon, in 2010, Carter will be moving out, and on.

Though there are many other stories like these to tell, now is the time to focus on 30-June-2010, or the day that Carter will pack up his little JAG office and head into the next phase of his career. Some are saying that will be private consulting, while others believe it will entail so-called "phased retirement." One source even tells USMNEWS.net that part two will be spent as dean of business at William Carey University. Wherever Carter may soon go, it will be difficult for him to overcome the reputation he earned and deserves. That reputation is as a bully, who uses all of the power of his position, and all of the levers of the political machine available to him, to get his way. He stepped on a number of people over the past 30 years to get to where he was going, the cost of which we might never know. It's time now for Carter to begin contemplating all that he has done, and to whom he has done those things, since stepping onto campus so long ago. There may even be opportunities for redemption, chances to make some things right, along the way. And with those chances may also come the possibility for making a new name, or a new moniker, for himself. The seasons change. Let's hope that in this instance people do too.