

# Carter Put Bonaparte Back Into Exile

*A Guest Editorial by* **Victoria Tyler**

By now everyone has had a chance to digest the article about the USM budget cuts appearing recently in *Inside Higher Ed* entitled [Cruel Irony](#). CoB economist, George Carter, provided the article's author with a letter that Carter has been circulating around the USM community and elsewhere that lists what are, in Carter's mind at least, some issues of due process regarding the USM administration's recent decision to eliminate the economics majors. In that letter Carter tells readers that CoB assistant professor of economics, Yosef Bonaparte, was [terminated](#) by USM during the 2008-09 academic year, Bonaparte's first year out of grad school (University of Texas) and first year at USM-Gulf Coast.

Having been terminated during 2008-09 meant that Bonaparte was going to have to answer some probing questions from interviewers out on the economics job market. And although Carter's letter claims that Bonaparte has no clue why he (Bonaparte) was fired, recent *GH Chatter* says there were some "issues" there that would have to be addressed. That situation was salvaged, however, when the central administration at USM informed the CoB's other nine economists in early August of 2009 that the 2009-10 academic year would be their last year at USM too. Thus, in a weird turn of events, Bonaparte was thrown a bone that he could use to make his 2009-10 job search a bit less stressful. Bonaparte could fold his own situation into that facing the CoB's other nine economists, telling interviewers that he was terminated as a result of fiscal distress on the part of the State of Mississippi.

With Carter's recent revelation, Bonaparte was thrown under the proverbial bus by Carter and Mark Klinedinst, who used Bonaparte's "situation" to buttress the argument that *they* (Carter and Klinedinst) should not have been fired. Think about it – there were no *letters* circulated nationwide for Bonaparte. Quite the opposite – Bonaparte's bone was taken away from him by a group of senior profs who are *in the PERS retirement window*, so that Bonaparte is now back in his original position of having to face the uncomfortable questions from interviewers. No longer can Bonaparte wrap himself around the fiscal situation facing all of Mississippi. Maybe we should pay heed to those who are saying the CoB's economists are going to make 2009-10 like a bad meal that everyone will be forced to eat. We have to look no further than the Bonaparte situation to get a taste of the appetizer.