

## When Carter was Green over Green

George Carter and Trellis Green have each been around USM's business school for many years. Both were students here (at the undergraduate and master's level; Carter preceded Green), and both are now on the faculty in the EFIB (Carter was hired before Green). That's generally where the parallels between these two end. While studying at USM Green was a star student. Carter was not. When Green returned from doctoral studies to USM as a faculty member, his research had achieved a measure of fame and he soon thereafter published in a top-flight academic journal. Carter returned from doctoral studies to USM with little fanfare, and he spent many years thereafter without producing any notable scholarship.

Then, in 1989, Carter ascended to Chairman of economics at USM. That's when Green's nightmare began. At a faculty meeting around that time, Carter criticized the quality of economics and statistics instruction at USM, saying in the process that he (Carter) had not received a proper education while a student. Some of the long-time professors that Carter began to speak about in a disparaging way were in that very meeting room, a captive audience to the criticism. Green was also in that room, which for Carter must have been an unpleasant reminder of his (Carter's) own shortcomings. After all, Green had been the star student, and as a USM faculty member Green had published A-level scholarship and had been awarded significant grant monies for his research.

It must have been about this time that Carter's jealousy of Green's accomplishments and abilities began to grow. Just a few short years later, 1994 to be exact, Carter would act on that jealousy by leading an effort to deny Green's application for promotion to associate professor of economics – a position Carter had held since 1979. Green did not sit idly by and allow Carter to act out his jealousy in a way that would hurt Green professionally. Green hired an attorney and filed suit against Carter, former CBA Dean Harold Black, former USM Vice President David Huffman, and former USM President Aubrey Lucas. Green sought the promotion that was denied him by Carter and the others in 1994, along with \$800,000 in actual and punitive damages. At the end of a legal process that lasted about three years, USM settled with Green before trial and Green was awarded a promotion to associate professor of economics and an undisclosed financial settlement. At about that time, Carter resigned as chair of USM's economics department.

Green had been vindicated, but at what cost? Carter has never been able to produce scholarship like that produced by Green in the 1980s. Green has not been able to replicate his scholarly accomplishments of the 1980s. Some would say that a promising young career was upended before it had a real chance to blossom, and at the hands of a failed academic-turned-administrator. Stories such as this one are all-too-common in USM's College of Business. Too many careers have abruptly ended, and too many lives have been damaged as a result.

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