

# The ECO Terminal

A Newsletter Relating to the Elimination of Economics Programs

## Bonaparte Terminated After 2008-09

In an interview with **INSIDE HIGHER ED**'s Jack Stripling about the recent elimination of USM's economics programs – for Stripling's [14-August-09 article](#) entitled "Cruel Irony" – CoB economics professor George Carter provided Stripling with a copy of letter that Carter is circulating, and that he (Carter) believes makes a case against USM's decision to terminate the economics faculty. As part of that case, Carter reveals that CoB assistant professor of economics Yosef Bonaparte was terminated by USM during the 2008-09 academic year, meaning that Bonaparte was facing a terminal contract (for 2009-10) prior to USM's decision to cut its other economics faculty loose. The portion of Carter's letter to which the Bonaparte case is associated is inserted below.

Indications that economics has targeted:

- Summary termination of a new economics tenure-track faculty member in his first year out of graduate school. He received a letter of termination out-of-the-blue. His chair was completely unaware of any reason or deliberations for termination. He received no counseling regarding any perceived shortcomings. In fact, he still does not know why he was terminated.

According to Carter, Bonaparte's was a "[s]ummary termination" that came "out-of-the-blue." Bonaparte's chair – George Carter – "was completely unaware of any reason or deliberations for termination," and Bonaparte himself "received no counseling" nor does he "know why he was terminated."



Yosef Bonaparte

According to [commentary](#) here at USMNEWS.net, Bonaparte's [employment](#) in USM's CoB began questionably, coming on the heels of the hiring of Deniz Gevrek, Bonaparte's grad school associate. Not only that, sources have on various occasions reported that there were "issues" with Bonaparte's employment in the CoB, so it is not altogether clear that his case is an appropriate one for Carter's

argument. Compounding that is the fact that Carter endorsed an almost identical termination case that arose during the Harold Doty administration (2003-07), and that came up again during the Alvin Williams administration (2007-08), without showing any remorse. The way this transpired also indicates that two former CoB deans – Doty and Williams – joined Carter in endorsing such termination practices in USM's b-school. As such, it seems as if Carter's consternation arises only in such termination cases that are "close to home" in the sense that they involve him or his sycophants. On a final note, sources say that waiting until mid-August 2009 to complain about so-called termination improprieties that occurred months prior does little to inspire confidence that one's current concerns/motives are genuine.

## Is Carter the Best Face?

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that former EFIB chairman and current CoB professor of economics, George Carter, is clearly *not* the best face to put on ECO's recent (and perhaps year-long) push to reverse the USM administration's decision to eliminate the CoB's three economics majors and its 9 tenured/tenure-track economists. Carter has a long history in USM's b-school, and those who have spent any time in the CoB between 1979 and 2009 have seen Carter involved in one questionable activity or another. Here at USMNEWS.net one can find a multi-part [series](#) on Trellis Green's lawsuit [against](#) Carter and other former USM [officials](#) who [denied](#) Green's application for promotion to associate professor [back](#) in 1994. Green's [lawsuit](#) went to trial in 1997, though it was hastily interrupted due to USM's decision to settle, giving Green (1) his sought-after promotion, (2) the promotion-to-associate raise, and (3) an undisclosed financial settlement. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that when the trial ended, Carter was "sitting alone" at the loser's table.



George Carter

Carter has also provided USMNEWS.net readers with months of disturbing material via the "What Carter Thinks" series, which represents a host of Carter opinions made public from 2006-07. Those are housed in the vast USMNEWS.net audio library, and one of these is available in audio version on page 1 of [www.usmnews.net](http://www.usmnews.net). According to Carter (2006) -- when asked by a superior to do something people might consider ethically/morally (and perhaps legally) questionable: "I'm a 'what is' kind of guy . . . It may not be right and it may be unacceptable . . . but that's 'what is' and that's what I'm going to do . . ." Also according to Carter (2006), the doctrines of tenure and of the tenure track can be a useful thing for administrators: "That's one of the great things about tenure, is that

you do have a club over somebody's head. . . . you can really put a person in an awkward situation professionally for a number of years, if not the rest of their career, by 'canning' them. I mean they become a pariah on the profession."

Finally, Carter may have been behind a [plot](#) to oust then-EFIB chairman Mark Klinedinst, who is now Carter's cohort in criticizing CoB dean Lance Nail and others in the USM administration. That report also contains a link to one that is of utmost interest to many USM constituents – that is one that [addresses](#) Carter's role in the firing of former USM professors Gary Stringer and Frank Glamser. With just the documentation presented in this brief entry, sources say that Carter is clearly not the best face for the CoB economists to associate with their fight for continued existence.

## **SEC! SEC! SEC! SEC!**

Early in George Carter's letter (mentioned above) blasting the Lance Nail administration's decision to eliminate economics he (Carter) attempts to make the case that Nail's prior claim that most b-schools do not house an economics department is false. To do so, Carter draws data *from only* the Southeastern Conference. There, Carter notes that 10 of the 12 SEC institutions house their economics departments in their colleges of business (see insert below). Nail, on the other hand, stated that more than half of the AACSB-accredited institutions do not house an economics department in their b-schools.

Economics is both a department and a program in every one of the twelve peer institutions that make up the Southeastern Conference. Of those twelve, the economics department is located in the business college in ten of them (University of Alabama, Auburn University, University of Tennessee, Mississippi State University, Louisiana State University, University of Arkansas, University of South Carolina, University of Kentucky, University of Georgia and University of Florida). Only the University of Mississippi (College of Liberal Arts ) and Vanderbilt University ( College of Arts and Sciences) have economics departments located outside of the business college.

Sources who have spoken with USM indicate that Nail's empirical foundation is appropriate, while Carter's is silly. First, Carter refers to the 12 SEC institutions as "peer institutions." Doing so opens the door for Nail to compare the publications of economists at these institutions to those of the economists in the CoB, providing Nail another avenue to shine a negative light on CoB economists. Second, Carter's data appear to be inaccurate at best, as evidence indicates that at least two schools among Carter's 10 either do not currently house ECO in business or are making plans not to do so in the future. One of these is Louisiana State University, as indicated by the lengthy memo [here](#). Sources tell USMNEWS.net that this Carter gaffe changes even the "silly" SEC comparison from "10 do – 2 don't" to "8 do – 4 don't," and they (sources) are still investigating matters in this regard. They also say that it shows how little Carter knows about the academic economics profession.