



I attended my first auction last Saturday. I not only attended, but I actually bought something. I bought a large leather sofa. It was interesting to attend the auction and see what value that others put on things. I have to thank Emily White from the Registrar's office. I happened to sit next to her. She really helped me through the entire auction process.

Dr. Kelly Gregg is putting together a new student study area (in the old map room) and he is looking for somewhat quirky, but definitely comfortable furniture for the room. If anyone has some furniture that fits that description and they are willing to donate it to the cause, let Kelly know. He plans to have the room ready for students by the start of Fall 2012 semester. And that sofa I bought, it is going into this student study room. It is not very quirky, but it is definitely comfy!

I hope that your weekend is comfy, and to all you Dads, Happy Father's Day.
-- Lou

Department News

New Department Poster

A couple of you have responded about the poster. I assume the rest of you are okay with the pictures and the text used. If not, today is the time to say something.

New Paint on the Walls of Rooms 332 and 334

If you have taught in Room 332 or 334, you would have noticed that the walls are starting to resemble the walls of a dungeon in a 1950's low-budget movie. Well, physical plant has decided that it is time to do something. They have started the full repair process. They will scrape the walls and then apply a waterproofing layer. After the waterproofing has dried, they will re-mud the walls and finally repaint the rooms. This might take some time and cause us to do some shuffling of classrooms this summer and maybe next fall—but we will help in any way possible!

Digital Measures Updates are Due

The Dean's office wants to remind you to update your Digital Measures for the July Board of Trustee Notes. Dr. Turner's office will be downloading the report on July 9. If faculty

members have any questions regarding Digital Measures, they should contact Dr. David Thornton at thornton@jsu.edu (or phone 5359). Thank you.

Thank You! From Lynn Johnson Greene, MD

I just received my MD degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. I want to share this with you as you were all so critical in making this possible. You have helped change my life and therefore the lives of my future patients through your excellence in teaching and unwavering encouragement and support. I am eternally grateful for all you have done to help me attain this dream. -- Lynn



University News

May 6 Week Term Grades Due

May 6 week term grades are due at 1:15 on 15 June (today).

Power Disruption to Air Conditioning System on June 15

On Friday, June 15, Acker Electric will perform testing and repairs on the University's electrical substation. Repairs are estimated to take six (6) hours (2 hours per station breaker), according to the contractor. Power will be shifted in the substation to maintain electricity to the buildings. However, air conditioner loads might have to be disrupted to keep power functioning on only two breakers during the repairs.

Dead Towns in Alabama

If you go to the Drama Department web site the only information is: Up Next June 20-24! I think this gives us real insight into how a town in Alabama might die.

Top Ten List

America's Ten Dead Cities

A city does not die when its last resident moves away. Death happens when municipalities lose the industries and vital populations that made them important cities.

Source:

<http://247wallst.com/2010/08/23/americas-ten-dead-cities-from-detroit-to-new-orleans/>

1. Buffalo, New York

In 1900, Buffalo was the eighth largest city in America. It was located on one of the busiest sections of the Erie Canal, the terminus of the canal on the Great Lakes. The population rose to more than 500,000 in the mid-1950s. It is half that today. Buffalo was wounded irreparably by the de-industrialization of America.

2. Flint, Michigan

Flint was once a major industrial city and the birthplace of GM, then went into receivership —

the equivalent of municipal bankruptcy-in 2002. The city had almost 200,000 residents in 1960 and has fewer than 100,000 today.

3. Hartford, Connecticut

The city was once the "insurance capital of the world." In 1950, the city's population peaked at more than 177,000 and has dropped to 124,000 recently. Five large financial firms have downsized their workforces. These include Met Life, Cigna, Lincoln Financial, Mass Mutual, and, perhaps most depressing of all, The Hartford.

4. Cleveland, Ohio

Cleveland became a major port and land transportation hub, due to its central location on Lake Erie. A number of the largest rubber companies in the world and other manufactures for the car and steel industry were also located near or in the city. Cleveland had 914,000 residents in 1950. The figure is below 480,000 today. A number of the large manufacturing operations have left the region or downsized based on the transfer of the steel, rubber, and car industries elsewhere, particularly to Japan.

5. New Orleans, Louisiana

The location of New Orleans at the mouth of the Mississippi made it one of the most important ports in America for more than 200 years. Oddly enough, New Orleans remains a massive port, but a number of the jobs which were once performed by laborers are now automated. Faster growing southern cities like Atlanta became more important financial centers as their populations grew. The city suffers from its location, part of it below sea level, and several hurricanes that hit the city, particularly Hurricane Betsy in 1965. In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina dealt the city a nearly fatal blow. In the year after that, the population dropped to just above 250,000, down from 627,000 in 1960. The BP oil crisis has already begun to damage what might have been a nascent recovery, post Katrina.

6. Detroit, Michigan

The Motor City was the fifth largest city in America with a population of almost 1.9 million in 1950. The number of residents increased sharply from the 1920s when Henry Ford created the assembly line and set a wage of \$5 a day. The Big Three (Big Four before American Motors was bought by Chrysler) built products that were acceptable to consumers until they saw higher quality Japanese cars which began to flood the markets in great numbers in the 1980s. Detroit's car manufacturing base was nearly destroyed, symbolized by the Chapter 11 filings of GM and Chrysler.

7. Albany, New York

Albany is still the capital of New York State. It was once one of the largest "inland ports" in the world sitting near the place where the Hudson River meets the Erie Canal. This helped it become a major center for finished lumber and iron works. The city's manufacturing industry helped the population to rise to 134,000 in 1950. it is now under 95,000. The higher education institutions in the region have begun to help Albany become a regional center for information technology and the biotechnology industries, but these are not large enough to offset declines in the city's fortunes which began in the 1960s.

8. Atlantic City, New Jersey

Now known mostly for its gambling business, Atlantic City was dying before legislation allowed gaming companies to operate there. The city was created as a tourist location in the 1880s and a number of massive hotels were built there. The Democratic National Convention was held there in 1964. The city's appeal to tourists was damaged primarily by two things: the first was the availability of inexpensive air travel to southern resorts areas like Florida. Vacationers could fly from New York to Miami, Ft Lauderdale, and Palm Beach in less time than it took to drive to Atlantic City. The second, the rise of Las Vegas as the gaming capital of the world, made it the preferred destination for many conventions. Atlantic City got into the gambling industry in 1978-too late.

9. Allentown, Pennsylvania

This Pennsylvania city had two advantages in the middle of the last century. It was well located for railroads that moved freight from the Midwest through Pennsylvania and New Jersey to the Eastern seaboard. Its proximity to iron ore made it a major manufacturing center and refiner much like Bethlehem to its east and Pittsburgh to its west. Like many other Northeastern manufacturing cities, Allentown watched its major product, in this case steel, being produced in greater and greater volumes and at lower prices in Japan.

10. Galveston, Texas

This Texas city was one of the largest ports in the US a hundred years ago. It was also the location of one of the greatest natural disasters in American history. In 1900, a hurricane killed between 6,000 and 8,000 people. The cause of Galveston's demise is unique. It had become something of the Sodom and Gomorrah of the southern US. There was a large gambling industry there, some of it illegal, which was controlled by criminals. In the late 1950s, Texas state authorities successfully attacked local organized crime. The regulated tourist trade could not replace the illegal business. Galveston's port and hospitality industries had begun to improve, but were trampled by the effects of Hurricane Ike in 2008. The event destroyed a large part of the city's tax base, and set back the tourism industry once again.

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Contact Details

If you have items of news or interest that you would like included in the Department of Physical and Earth Sciences newsletter, then contact **Tracy Casey** before noon on Thursdays at: tscasey@jsu.edu or phone (256) 782-5232.