

31st & Pearl

Memory Lane

The old USMNEWS.net stories about the fall of economics at USM really paint the picture of just what went wrong on the 3rd floor of JGH since former EFIB chairman George Carter took control of the department reins (for the second time) back in 2005. From vote trades for course releases, to sorry stats instruction, to the ethicist-in-residence who facilitated Frank Glamser's ouster, Carter hits all the marks. Reminding us all of former EFIBer Charles Sawyer's role in everything was also worthwhile. Learning from history is usually beneficial.

Why upper-level USM administrators chose to "go down" with ECO over the years continues to boggle the mind. Former CoB dean Harold Doty, and his associate Farhang Niroomand, both lost everything by siding with Carter and Carter's minions in one ill-conceived plan after another. Now these two are "leading by example" out west at the University of Texas at *Tyler* and the University of Houston at *Victoria*. No boggling there.

It would be fitting if USM president Martha Saunders devoted some special events and break-out sessions during the spring 2010 centennial celebration to administrative malfeasance at USM during the past 100 years. Of course, much of this time could be devoted to life during the Shelby Thames administration (2002-07) at USM. That includes the EFIB administrations of Carter and Mark Klinedinst in ECO, as well as Cherylynn Becker's time over TM. None of these names rings any *liberty* bells. These CoBers are now *infamous* for top-down and/or absent administration that worked to erode quality in the CoB.

One can only hope that the second 100 years of the institution brings much better. Mississippians deserve it.

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.