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University Archives and Special Collections Department

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Tyler Physicians Honor Reading Professor with Endowment

Dr. Lawrence L. Anderson of Dermatology Associates of Tyler and his wife, Dr. Svetislava J. Vukelja, donated $50,000 to establish the Gary Wright Diagnostic Reading Endowment to fund diagnostic reading services for children. Dr. Gary Wright, professor of reading at UT Tyler, specialized in diagnostic testing of children to identify reading disabilities.

Ten Years Ago (April 2003)

Herrington Family Honored in Patriot Center Dedication

UT Tyler officials rededicated the Health and Kinesiology Physical Education Complex as the Louise Herrington Patriot Center, honoring the parents of Louise Ornelas. Joseph and Louise Ornelas contributed $6.4 million towards the center's 127,312 square foot expansion, marking one of the largest donations in the history of UT Tyler.

Tennis Teams Seize National Conference Championship

The mens' and womens' tennis teams defeated University of Dallas and Tulsa's Rhema Bible College in the NCSAA conference finals, winning the overall championship and all singles and doubles titles.

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Twenty Years Ago (April 1993)

Tennis Coach Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Fred Kniffen, coach of UT Tyler Patriots Tennis Team, was inducted into the Men's Tennis Hall of Fame by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). The NJCAA had named Kniffen Coach of the Year four times between 1985 and 1993. Under his leadership, the Patriots won their first national championship in 1989.

University Hosts International Day

Faculty and students gathered in the University Center on April 16 to celebrate International Day 1993, themed “The Significance of International Education”. Dr. Joe Neal, president and CEO of the Texas International Education Consortium, gave the keynote speech. Additional speakers included representatives from TJC, TISD, and UT Tyler. The celebration also featured an international buffet dinner and opera scenes performed by music department students.

Four Year Status for UT Tyler Debated in Austin

Representative Ted Kamel introduced House Bill 2578 for the four year expansion of UT Tyler to the House Higher Education Committee in Austin. A delegation of faculty, staff, and students traveled to Austin on chartered buses to speak for the proposal. Members of the delegation included Dr. George Hamm, UT Tyler president, Dr. Gerald Morris, Vice President of Administrative Affairs, Dr. Steve Lefever, Dean of liberal arts, and Dr. Mac Mosely, Dean of education and psychology. Community advocates included Ralph Spence of the Tyler Development Foundation and Tyler City Councilman Gus Ramirez.
Thirty Years Ago (April 1983)

UT Tyler Hosts Social Science Colloquium
The Second Annual Social Science Colloquium took place April 19 in the University Center. The agenda included keynoted speaker Dr. Paul C. Glick, professor emeritus from Arizona State University, and student presenters from East Texas Baptist College, Texas College, LeTourneau College, UT Tyler, and Jarvis Christian College. Dr. Glick presented his research on “Marriage and Divorce in the 1980s”. Events were open to the public.

Sixth Annual Science Day Celebrated
On April 29th, students and faculty presented 26 seminars in the first floor lobby of the Sciences and Mathematics building (now known as BEP). Drs. Don Killebrew, professor of biology, and Don McClaugherty, associate professor of chemistry, coordinated the event. Seminars topics included Nuclear Weapons in the USSR, AIDS research, forensic science, and careers in computer science.

Former V.A. Director Speaks to Students on Disability, Combat
The UT Student Association sponsored a free and public presentation by Max Cleland, former director of Veterans Affairs under President Jimmy Carter, on Tuesday, April 12 in the University Center. Mr. Cleland, a Vietnam veteran who lost three limbs at age 25, spoke about his experiences as a returning veteran and advocate for young people with disabilities. He also presented materials from his 1980 memoir, “Strong at the Broken Places”.

Builders Break Ground on Student Housing Development
On Monday, April 10, UT Tyler officials attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the new University Place apartment. Builders Interests, Inc., of Houston lead the two phase building project. The first phase included 248 apartments at a cost of $6.25 million. The second phase added an additional 176 units. East Texas Savings and Loan served as the major financier. The project was slated for completion by the start of fall term 1983.

University Requests Grant Approval, New Degrees
UT Tyler representatives met with the UT System Board of Regents in Austin on Friday, April 15 to request authorization for two new masters degree programs and permission to accept $400,000 in gifts and pledges. UT Tyler proposed the creation of a Masters of Education degree in Education Administration, and a Masters of Science in Public Planning and Administration. Grant moneys included $200,000 from Mrs. Robert R. Muntz and family (part of a $1.5 million pledge made in 1982), six $25,000 presidential endowment scholarships, and a pledge towards the creation of the “Tyler Clearing House Association Endowment for American Education”.

University Archives and Special Collections Department

The University Archives and Special Collections Department (UASC), located on the ground floor of the Robert R. Muntz Library, retains materials of archival and/or historical interest to the University of Texas at Tyler and the surrounding community.