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University Archives and Special Collections Department

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Ten Years Ago (October 2004)

Candidates Debate Issues in Vaughn Auditorium
In preparation for the November election for the 1st U.S. Congressional District, the University hosted a debate between incumbent Congressman Max Sandlin (D-Marshall) and Republican candidate Louie Gohmert of Tyler. Panelists Roy Maynard of the Tyler Morning Telegraph, Emily Stevens of the Patriot Talon, and Dan Couse of KTRE presented questions to the candidates about the rising costs of post-secondary education.

International Student Organization Hosts World Culture Event
Members of the International Patriots, a student organization representing over 100 students from 38 countries, presented their first annual multi-cultural showcase in November 2004. Established to highlight campus diversity and help international students become more involved in campus life, the event documented global culture through exhibits, demonstrations, and food. Dr. Marianthia Coroneou, international student life director, served as faculty advisor for the organization.

Twenty Years Ago (October 1994)

Two-time National Security Advisor Presents Distinguished Lecture
General Brent Scowcroft, national security advisor to Presidents George H.W. Bush and Gerald Ford, presented his distinguished lecture in the University Center on November 1. General Scowcroft served with distinction in the U.S. Air Force, graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and with his Ph.D. in international relations from Columbia University. Scowcroft spoke about his diverse experiences in international diplomacy, including his work under five presidential administrations.

Criminal Justice Students Association Hosts Workshop and Symposium
The university’s Criminal Justice Students Association presented a short workshop and symposium on the topic of illicit drugs on November 3. Topics and guest speakers included pharmacologist Joe Sartor on the effects of drug addiction and withdrawal, Dr. Paul Lundberg-Love of UT Tyler on the behavioral impact of drugs, DPS crime lab supervisor Glen Johnson on drug use statistics in the East Texas region, and Wade French, chief U.S. probation officer for the Texas Eastern District, on the criminal justice response to drug trafficking in East Texas. The forum was open to the public at no charge.

Thirty Years Ago (October 1984)

Former Carter Press Secretary Speaks on Campus
Jody Powell, former press secretary to Jimmy Carter, presented the second Distinguished Lecture in UT Tyler’s 1984-1985 series. Powell, a syndicated columnist for the Los Angeles Times, spoke about the state of the American press corps. Powell challenged his peers to prioritize sound journalism instead of publishing misinformation for profit. The distinguished journalist spoke about the need for greater transparency and accountability across all levels of press, emphasizing that a free press is vital to a strong democracy.
UT Tyler Hires New Coach for No. 4 Ranked tennis Team

Fred Kniffen, former head coach at Tyler Junior College, was hired to replace coaches Jason Morton and Russell Seymour for the Spring 1985 season. Coach Kniffen, member of the Texas Professional Tennis Association and U.S. Professional Tennis Association, hoped to build upon the existing program to create a nationally competitive program. Coaches Morton and Seymour, the inaugural coaches for the UT Tyler tennis program, lead the men’s team to a national ranking of No. 4 in the NAIA. Coach Kniffen would go on to lead the men’s team to two NAIA national championships (1989 and 1994). He was the first inductee into UT Tyler’s Athletics Hall of Fame.

UT Tyler honored with official rose

Professional rose grower O.L. Weeks, of California, presented UT Tyler with a rose of its own in November 1984. The salmon-orange hybrid, designed by Mr. Weeks and sheltered at Tate Nursery, was delivered to the university to be planted at the main campus entrance. Dr. E. W. Lyle was responsible for developing the roses locally.

Forty Years Ago (November 1974)

Student Center to get new look

The student center at Tyler State College’s Bertha Street campus was scheduled for renovation during the Thanksgiving holidays. Plans included new drapes and carpeting in the school colors of blue and green (the University adopted new colors of blue and orange in 1979 upon joining the University of Texas system).

University Archives and Special Collections

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.