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University Archives and Special Collections Department

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Ten Years Ago (January 2005)

Homecoming Chili Showdown

The University Alumni Association sponsored the second annual chili cook-off as a part of the third annual University of Texas at Tyler Homecoming celebration. Ten teams set up in the Patriot Center parking lot January 29 to decide who could cook up the superior pot of chili. After stirring, consulting, and tasting for two hours, each team handed their concoction over to four judges who awarded the Tri-Beta Honor Society team’s, “Biology Boiling Brew” first place. Society president and team leader Rachael Porter said that they had no recipe, but “just came out with their ingredients and added them to taste.” University Human Resources Director Joe Vorsas’ “Home Run Chili” won second place, and the College of Nursing Cooks’ “Code Red Chili” won third place. A showmanship award was given to the Geeks and Gurus team who stirred their “No Spam Chili” with an oar, and played Monty Python’s “Spam Song” in the background.

Drinks for Charity

Special drink cups went on sale at two campus locations as part of a program to give students discounts and raise money for local charities. These “charity cups” were available for purchase at Subway and the Varsity Grill in the University Center for $2. Patrons who purchased the cups enjoyed 25-cent refills on Thursdays and Fridays along with free popcorn at any home basketball game.

Twenty Years Ago (January 1995)

Symphony Conducting Seminar Held

“Enhancing Podium Skills and Ensemble Performance,” sponsored by the East Texas Symphony Orchestra Association, was held January 27, in conjunction with the UT Tyler Department of Music and the Tyler Junior College Department of Fine Arts. The seminar featured workshops by Dr. Kate Tamarkin and Ronald Todd in conducting activities designed to enhance podium skills and ensemble performance.

“College for Seniors” Organized for the Spring Semester

The University of Texas at Tyler Office of Continuing Education offered courses for senior citizens for the spring semester. The five-week programs were designed expressly for adults 55 years or older in the East Texas area, with the purpose of providing opportunities for mature adults to achieve lifetime learning in areas of interest. 23 non-credit courses were available, and for a total fee of only $35, participants could enroll in as many courses as desired. Courses included: Genealogy, The Governance of Texas, ABCs of Good Nutrition, Art Appreciation, Dance Appreciation, Building Self-Esteem and Self-Confidence, Ethics, Stretching your Investment Dollar, Home Repairs, Insurance Smart, International Cuisine, Fiction Writing, International Travel Preview, Low-Impact Aerobics, Morning Coffee Book Review, Oil Painting, Parliamentary Procedures, Photography, Practical Law, Sculpturing, Stress Management, Success with your Computer, and Topical Issues.
Thirty Years Ago (January 1985)

Microcomputer Laboratory Aids Education
Opened by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in the summer of 1984, the lab had trained 350 teachers and prospective teachers from 20 area school districts by January. Designed as a model for public school microcomputer labs, the UT Tyler lab included 20 Apple IIe microcomputers with monochromatic and color monitors. Apples were selected because of their wide use in public schools, and 90 percent of educational software at the time ran on Apples. A Sony large-screen projector was also used for instruction.

Microcomputer Laboratory Aids Education

Forty Years Ago (January 1975)

Tyler State College Groundbreaking Ceremony
The official groundbreaking of Phase I construction on the permanent campus site was held January 29. TSC President Dr. James H. Stewart, Jr. presided over the ceremony. Commissioner of Higher Education Coordinating Board of the Texas College and University System, Dr. Bevington A. Reed addressed the crowd of 500 as the featured speaker. During the program, Dr. Stewart read letters of congratulations from Governor and Mrs. Dolph Briscoe, Senator Peyton McKnight, and Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby. Those in attendance included the Smith County Commissioners Court, City of Tyler officials Mayor Baker Lucas and City Manager Ed Wagoner, and area junior college presidents.

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.

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