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University Archives and Special Collections Department

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University Begins New Traditions

Two new traditions were introduced, Freshman Convocation and the freshman book. Freshman Convocation was held in the Vaughn Auditorium of the Cowan Center. The event lasted about an hour and a half, according to Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Rick Osburn. The ceremony included a lecture from the author of 2005’s freshman book, Ron Suskind. All members of the 2005-2006 freshman class, as well as all University staff and faculty were required to attend the event. Suskind autographed copies of his book “A Hope in the Unseen” following the ceremony. The book was originally launched from a series in the Wall Street Journal that earned Suskind the 1995 Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing. From the August 23, 2005 issue of The Patriot Talon, by Adrienne Graham

New Dining Options on Campus

The University opened five new food venues and cafes around campus on August 23. Casa Solano opened in the University Center serving Mexican food. Its menu included fajitas, chicken enchiladas, beef enchiladas, tacos, and rice and beans. Main Street Wok, also located in the UC offered Asian entrees, including sushi and noodles. The ATP Zone, served smoothies, power and energy bars, fruit, protein cookies, and bottled juices and water. Also located in the UC within The Varsity Grill, The Potato Gourmet served a variety of baked potatoes. Liberty Station, located on the first floor of the Business building offered Starbucks coffee and Tazo tea, along with desserts, salads, and grilled panini sandwiches. For breakfast Liberty Station served smoothies, waffles, fruit, and bagels. From the August 23, 2005 issue of The Patriot Talon, by Rachel Ryan

Regents Approve Degree Programs

UT Tyler received approval for two new degree programs – a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Computer Information Systems and a Master’s of Arts degree in Political Science – at the UT System Board of Regents meeting August 10. Both degree programs required approval by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board prior to implementation. The B.S. in Computer Information Systems combined core curriculum for the Bachelor’s of Business Administration degree with courses in computer science that emphasized database design, computer programming, and computer applications to business problems. Curriculum was designed to meet the objectives established by the Data Processing Management Association and the Institute for Certification of Computing Professionals, and to prepare students for careers in the growing number of companies with information systems departments. The M.A. in Political Science was a 36-hour graduate program with an option for a 30-hour program with thesis, administered by the Department of Social Sciences in the School of Liberal Arts. The program was designed to build on political science courses offered as a primary field in the Master’s in Interdisciplinary Studies program. The program was designed to prepare students to teach in high schools and community and junior colleges in the region. At the time, no Masters degree in Political Science were available within a hundred-mile radius of Tyler, including adjacent states.
Thirty Years Ago (August 1985)

Instructors From Metz Join Faculty For Fall Term

Doctors Jean Claude Lajosne and Jean Marie Fey, both of Metz, France, joined the faculty of The University of Texas at Tyler for the fall 1985 semester. Lajosne, Assistant Professor at the University of Metz specialized in Comparative Linguistics in Germanic languages, Computational Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, and Sociolinguistics. At UT Tyler he taught French Conversation and Composition, Modern Grammar, and Topics in History: The High Middle Ages. Fey, instructor and translator of French and German, as a representative for the City of Metz with the Tyler-Metz Sisters City Program, taught French to participants of the UT Tyler Travel/Study Program for Summer 1985. Fey taught German at UT Tyler and French at Robert E. Lee High School.

Forty Years Ago (August 1975)

Texas Eastern Day Observed

The special program recognized the change in name from Tyler State College to Texas Eastern University, and was held in cooperation with the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce. The name change bill, which Gov. Dolph Briscoe signed May 26, 1975, became effective 90 days after the 64th Texas Legislature adjourned. Since the new name became effective on the Labor Day holiday, the observance was scheduled for Friday, August 29. The day’s activities began at 10 a.m. with a press conference and tour of the new campus for East Texas news media. A luncheon for the press, University officials and other invited guests was held at the Willow Brook Country Club. A campus tour was held at 1:30 p.m. University President Stewart said, “We are pleased that the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce has developed this means of focusing attention on our official change to university status.”

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.