August 2016

University Archives and Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uttler.edu/uasc_news

Recommended Citation
University Archives and Special Collections, 'August 2016' (2016). This Month in UT Tyler History. Paper 51.
http://hdl.handle.net/10950/426

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives and Special Collections at Scholar Works at UT Tyler. It has been accepted for inclusion in This Month in UT Tyler History by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at UT Tyler. For more information, please contact tbianchi@uttyler.edu.
Ten Years Ago (August 2006)

Police Search for Arsonist

University police investigated an arson fire a witness describe as a “small fire” in the Hudnall-Pirtle-Rooste building on August 27. Amber Lee, a math instructor at the University said she was preparing lessons on that Sunday afternoon when she heard the fire alarm sound. “I thought it may be a drill,” she said. “But when I went to the door I saw a small fire through the window beside the door.” She said normally during the week the door would have been open for students to come and go freely, but on that weekend day, it was closed. She said she was afraid of opening the door at first. “I thought, I hope opening the door doesn’t suck in the fire,” she said, recalling what she had seen in the movies. “I did open the door and it was a tiny fire.” She said she ran outside the south end of the building and down the stairs. She saw a math graduate student leaving the offices downstairs and they both went down to the ground level toward the patio deck to use the emergency phone. Campus police and the Tyler Fire Department responded. “They came pretty quickly,” she said. “I went outside without thinking about it. There were red flashing lights in the hall and the alarm and the fire... I was pretty scared.” By Erin Buller, Patriot Talon, September 18, 2006.

Twenty Years Ago (August 1996)

$500,000 Endowed Chair Established in Honor of President George F. Hamm

A $500,000 endowed chair in honor of President George F. Hamm was established at The University of Texas at Tyler, A.W. Riter, Jr. announced at a dinner for the UT System Board of Regents. In a surprise presentation to President and Mrs. Hamm, Riter unveiled a bronze plaque commemorating the establishment of the George F. Hamm Endowed Chair in Arts and Humanities as a permanent endowment at UT Tyler. The endowed chair was funded entirely with gifts from Tyler citizens, said Riter, who served as chairman of the UT Tyler Development Board. “An endowed chair is the single most notable recognition that can be accorded an educator. It perpetuates a commitment to academic excellence. Thus, it is fitting that this chair is established in the name of Dr. Hamm,” Riter told an audience of more than 400 university supporters. Also present for the presentation were Chairman Bernard Rapoport and members of the UT System Board of Regents, and Chancellor William H. Cunningham. Riter said, “This is a wonderful opportunity with all of you here, to provide long overdue recognition of an individual whose name is practically synonymous with that of this university.” UT Tyler News Release, August 7, 1996.
Thirty Years Ago (August 1986)

Summers Tennis Center, Courts Ready

The Summers Tennis Center officially opened on the University of Texas at Tyler campus with the beginning of the Fall 1986 semester. The new construction added three courts, a 2,000-square-foot building, and landscape design that provided for a sloped viewing area. The new tennis complex was made possible through a gift from Tylerite Betty Summers. “We’re excited about the center and ready to get out on the courts,” said UT Tyler tennis coach Fred Kniffen, as he watched workmen hanging the nets on the new courts. From his office in the northwest corner of the STC, Kniffen enjoyed a press box view of the tennis courts. “It was planned that way. Mrs. Summers and I worked with administration and the designers and everyone agreed that this site was a natural for the building,” said Kniffen. The full-masonry building was placed atop a 36-percent graded slope immediately to the east of the new tennis courts. Interior space was allotted to accommodate two offices, a reception/meeting room, storage and maintenance areas and restroom facilities. Kniffen believed the new complex would contribute to the University’s ability to attract top-seeded players, and be a boost to team morale. “Having a center like this really gives students a lot of pride in their school,” said Kniffen. Additionally, the complex enabled UT Tyler to host tournaments without needing to use off-campus facilities. Kniffen looked forward to showing off the new complex on September 27 and 28 when UT Tyler hosted the United States Tennis Association’s 1986 Satellite Circuit. “It has been planned that all players participating in the tournament will do so on campus,” said Kniffen, adding that viewers would be seated on covered bleachers. Temporary use of bleachers during the tournament was arranged through Tyler Junior College, according to Kniffen. By Patricia Whitmoyer, UT Tyler Patriot, September 11, 1986.

Forty Years Ago (August 1976)

Fall 1976 Registration Held On Permanent Campus

Registration for the fall semester was held on the permanent campus August 31 and September 1, with classes beginning September 2. The first and second floors of the Administration Building and the first floor of the University Center were used during the registration process. Students received registration materials in Room 127 of the Administration Building. Each of the six schools were assigned rooms on the first level where students consulted with an advisor and registered for courses. When all courses had been recorded, students proceeded to the north entrance of the second floor of the Administration Building. Registration clerks were working in Room 210 and 211. Checkers were located outside the conference rooms. The business office set up stations in the hall, and financial aid advisors were located in Room 221. Students left the Administration Building through the south doors to pick up parking decals, purchase books and purchase student insurance in the University Center. Intercom, August 5, 1976.

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.