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Ten Years Ago (August 2007)

◆ The Political Life of

William M. Steger: A look at Steger's gubernatorial and U.S. House of Representatives campaigns

◆ Presidential Election

Memorabilia: From the Tim Anthony Jackson Collection

On Display at the Library

MEET THE STAFF

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Refugees Among Us

"For University student Chris Vinn, going back to his hometown of Lake Charles, Louisiana is out of the question. Alone and separated from his parents, Vinn evacuated from Hurricane Rita in September 2005 and arrived in Tyler several days before the category 3 hurricane hit on the 24th. Staying with family and friends near Lake Palestine, Vinn waited out the storm that decimated his city. He went back three days later to find it in ruins. 'I couldn't get to the house—there were too many trees in the road. We had 50 or 60 pine trees in our yard and at least half of them fell.' Vinn's house was almost destroyed by the storm—everything facing east on the house was torn off because of the hurricane's counter-clockwise movement. 'We were on the bad side of the hurricane,' he said. Like many hurricane evacuees, Vinn had to rebuild his life away from the ruins of his hometown. He found that starting over in a different state isn't always easy when you're paying out-of-state tuition—and according to recent studies, Vinn is not alone. A report from the National Student Clearinghouse indicated more than 18,000 college students who evacuated from Katrina are scattered among 1,017 institutions in every state of the nation including the District of Columbia. The study looked at six institutions forced to close their campuses due to hurricane damage. It showed that 70 percent of evacuated students ended up in 10 states, with more than half of evacuees in Texas and non-hurricane affected areas of Louisiana. Texas colleges and universities harbored more



Rita laid waste to much of East Texas and Louisiana, including this church (top left) near Lake Charles. (Right) Chris Vinn moved to Tyler after hurricane Rita decimated his hometown. (Bottom Left) Evacuees from the Houston area on I-45. Staff and the photo

than 2,800 students, or 15.49 percent of evacuated students. Many colleges offered free tuition for hurricane evacuees while encouraging them to return after cleanup and recovery efforts were completed, according to the study. Vinn, a journalism major, said he doesn't expect to go back. 'It's not because I don't want to go back, but I'm just starting my career here and it would be hard to switch schools again.'" By Allen Arrick, *Patriot Talon*, August 27, 2007.

Twenty Years Ago (August 1997)

Nursing Program Offered

The School of Nursing offered its B.S.N. degree program in Longview beginning in the fall 1997 semester. In conjunction with Interactive Video courses at the Joe M. Hendrix Kilgore College Center in Longview, UT Tyler offered on-site labs and clinicals. "Kilgore College has provided a unique partnership arrangement," said Nursing Dean, Dr. Linda Klotz. "They have furnished classroom and faculty office spaces, utilities, and access to the skills lab, computer lab, and library. We are providing upgrades of laboratory equipment and operating computer software to meet the needs of B.S.N. students." Longview Columbia Regional Hospital provided additional equipment and its facilities for clinicals. Good Shepherd Medical Center provided its facilities for labs and clinicals. Longview Public Library resources and services were also available to students. Nursing courses consisted of lectures that originated in Longview and Tyler (via Interactive Video) and course labs and clinicals conducted on-site in Longview by UT Tyler Nursing faculty. Senior Lecturer in Nursing, Genie Bartlett, served as site coordinator. *Intercom*, August 1997.

Thirty Years Ago (August 1987)

Legislative Cuts Impact Operations

The Texas legislative budget session did not leave UT Tyler untouched as \$500,000 was gutted from the University's budget. The University received approximately two-thirds of its operating budget from the State of Texas, so the state-level cut had immediate impact. Not included in the reduction figure was the need to raise revenue to fund a ten-percent state-mandated merit raise for faculty. This was anticipated to add to financial burdens, as UT Tyler was required to pay salary increases to approximately 50 to 60 faculty members. Even with the revenue decrease and additional monies needed for faculty raises, UT Tyler did not eliminate any classes, and programs stayed intact. "We deliberately developed a plan which would not in any way diminish the quality of our scholastic programs or eliminate any current faculty positions," said University President Dr. George F. Hamm. The proposed plan to make up the half-million-dollar shortage included hiring freezes and some program changes. The plan was scheduled to trim \$200,000 from the 1988 summer session. The plan called for an energy conservation method that was projected to save the University \$60,000 to \$70,000 per year. Cutbacks included administrative reductions, as with the vacant offices of Vice President of Business Affairs and the Internal Auditor, that would remain vacant. By Sally Covington, *The UT Tyler Patriot*, September 17, 1987.

Forty Years Ago (August 1977)

Recruiting Helps

According to Public Information Director Archie Whitfield, the Texas Eastern University's enrollment of 1,794 for the fall 1977 semester was due in part to intensive recruiting of prospective students and the increasing population of the East Texas area. "We're putting a lot of effort into it (recruiting) in trying to interest the student on the junior college campus," he said. However, Whitfield noted that the average age of TEU students in the past had been higher than that of most college students and about the same as the average age of faculty members. Whitfield said more 19-21-year-olds were coming each year. He also noted that one of the reasons the average age is higher than in some places was because about thirty-percent of TEU students were graduate students who already had a baccalaureate degree. Why were so many older students coming to TEU? Whitfield said many East Texans finished junior college, but did not want to leave the area to go to senior college. "Now that there's a school available where they can get a baccalaureate degree, they've decided to come back." Whitfield also noted that a number of veterans were attending class, along with people in a career that required a college degree for promotion. *Texas Eastern Patriot*, September 29, 1977.

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