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This Month in UT Tyler History

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UNIVERSITY
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This Month in UT Tyler History

FEATURED EXHIBITS
(DECEMBER 2015)

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 12

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◆ The Development of the UT Tyler Theatre Department featuring production programs and photographs.

On Display at the Library

Ten Years Ago (December 2005)

Patriot Singers Perform In Washington For White House Holiday Extravaganza

15 members of the Patriot Singers presented a selection of sacred and secular Christmas songs to tourists from across the nation December 3 at the White House Holiday Open House. Following the Yale Glee Club's performance that Saturday evening, the three year-old ensemble entered the highly decorated lobby, and sang a collection of Christmas songs for 45 minutes, sophomore Lindsey Olivarez said. Choir Director Mark Johnson stated that since the program occurred so late in the evening, the group decided not to return to Tyler until Dec. 5, providing the students an unexpected opportunity to explore the nation's capitol. On December 4, a group of students attended the National Cathedral, and later visited other historical sites around Washington. "My favorite part of the trip was when we went to the Korean War Memorial, because my stepfather was actually in the war," freshman Matthew Einsohn said. This trip to Washington was the group's first national-level performance. The Patriot Singers that attended the Washington trip were: Tim Holland, Nick Hoenshell, Matthew Horn, Matt Einsohn, Tracey Bailey, Dannea Blaylock, Jennifer Fuller, Elise Leung, Erin Holt, Stephanie Comer, Lyndsey Olivarez, Matt Altman, Austin Caudle, Lucy Crawford, and Byron Boulter. From the *Patriot Talon*, Januray 23, 2005, by Karla Clark.

Twenty Years Ago (December 1995)

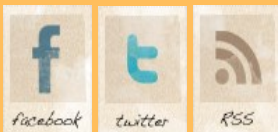
Theatre Ensemble Company Wins Kennedy Center Awards

The University of Texas at Tyler Theatre Repertory Ensemble Company's production of "Lettice and Lovage" received 13 awards at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. "I was extremely proud of the UT Tyler team, the students and actors and actresses," said Dr. Stephen Lefevre, Dean of the School of Liberal Arts. "It was one of the best plays I've seen in a long time." "Lettice and Lovage," written in 1989 by Peter Shaffer featured the acting talents of Amy Nigro, UT Tyler Lecturer in Theatre, and Anita Tecce, Tyler Junior College English Instructor, who presented the relationship that develops between a dismissed tour guide for British historic homes and her one-time employer. Together they staged "living" history within a basement flat as a tribute to the great theatrical moments of the past. Nigro and Tecce received awards for excellence in acting. Nigro, who teaches acting techniques, enjoyed being on stage and working with the students as a fellow actor. "It was a really nice experience because I haven't performed in a long time," said Nigro. "I think it was nice for the students to see me demonstrate what I've been talking about in the classroom. My performance was not for me but for the students. They put in a lot of hard work, and it paid off because we got a broad range of awards and everyone was recognized which is nice." UT Tyler students winning top honors were Rita Rhea and James Johnson, who won the Irene Ryan Acting Award; and Katherine Arnold, Excellence in Theatre Criticism. Other students receiving awards included: Sharon Atkinson, Excellence in Stage Properties; Douglas Tomlin, Most Valued Honor Crew Member; and Kristell Hines, Johnson, and Rhea, members of the honor crew. The technical crew was also recognized as the festival's Most Organized Crew. UT Tyler faculty and staff recognized included: Dr. James A. Hatfield, UT Tyler Associate Professor of Theatre and Director of Theatre, Excellence in Program Graphics; Katherine La Pietra, UT Tyler Lecturer in Theatre, Excellence in Costume Coordination; and Bill Breckel, UT Tyler Print Shop Supervisor, Excellence in Printing (Production Programs).

MEET THE STAFF

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Thirty Years Ago (December 1985)



THE GOOD EARTH—Wheeler Willbanks, ground supervisor at UT Tyler plants a Yew tree outside the administration building. Willbanks is the man responsible for the campus landscape and can be found around campus in one of his many jobs of mowing, trimming, raking, planting and general upkeep of the grounds. [Photo by Lori Cravley]

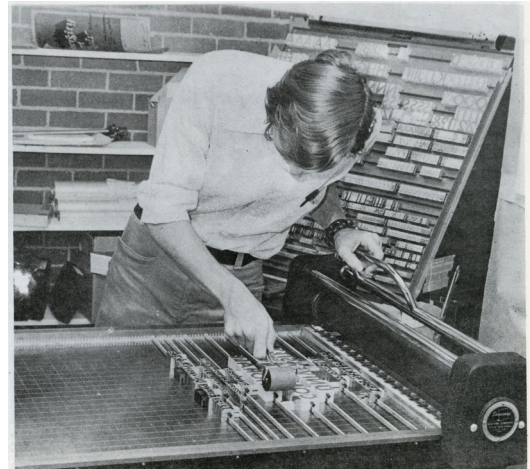
Supercomputer To Aid In Research

The University of Texas System began planning for the installation of a \$15 million CRAY X-MP Supercomputer. The central computer system was later located in Austin, with access for all system campuses available through remote job entry stations. The CRAY X-MP was the most powerful computer in the United States at the time. It was estimated that after the system was completely installed and upgraded, a total of \$50 million would have been spent. This supercomputer was to be used primarily for solving problems in science engineering and operations research. The entire University was to have access to the computer, but computer science students were expected to have a special interest in it. "The administration, faculty and students are excited about the potential of this system for supporting research here at UT Tyler," stated Dr. George Whitson, Associate Professor of Computer Science. From *The UT Tyler Patriot*, December 5, 1985, by Kim Thompson.

Forty Years Ago (December 1975)

Board Approves Construction of Lake

The construction of a two-level lake, totally funded through contributions, on the permanent campus site of Texas Eastern University was approved by the Texas Eastern University's board of regents. The lake was named Harvey Lake in honor of M.J. Harvey, Sr., who donated \$100,000 toward the construction of two dams. The remainder of the \$150,000 project was paid for by the Texas Eastern University Educational Foundation Inc. The upper dam on the lake was planned as a pedestrian crosswalk, and the lower dam for vehicle traffic. C. Quentin Abernathy, Chairman of the Board of Regents, said the "lake is being designed and built by private funds. Construction of the lake will save the University money due to the fact that dams will provide thoroughfares from one part of the campus to another."



SIGN MAKER - Jerry McMillen, media-center technician at Texas Eastern University, has been active producing various signs and

University Archives and Special Collections

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm

and by appointment

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.