

University of Texas at Tyler

## Scholar Works at UT Tyler

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This Month in UT Tyler History

University Archives and Special Collections

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10-2016

### October 2016

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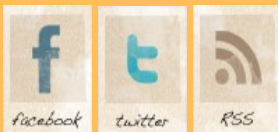
◆ **That's So 80s:** A look at campus life during the 1980s.

On Display at the Library

## MEET THE STAFF

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## Ten Years Ago (October 2006)

### Mascot Named During Homecoming Festivities

The University mascot received the name “Swoop” during homecoming week festivities. Spirit squad Coach Suzie Turner stated that the person behind the mask would remain a secret. “We do not want students to focus on the person inside the costume, but the mascot itself. We want people to recognize him as a symbol for this University.” Although no one instructed members of the cheer team to keep silence regarding the mascot’s identity, the cheer team and pom squad would not disclose his/her identity, cheerleader John Robertson said. Robertson said secrecy was important in making the mascot a mysterious tradition and that Turner selected the student behind the mask based on personality. During the fall of 2006, Turner incorporated the pom squad, mascot and cheerleading team to form the new spirit squad. After discussing the project with Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Dale Lunsford, and Dean of Student Affairs, Dr. Howard Patterson, Turner began generating ideas for the new mascot. “Almost every other campus has a mascot because they are a traditional part of sports and campus life. The new mascot will help students identify with being part of the University network,” Patterson said. The cheer team held a contest to name the mascot and after paring down the list from 364 entries, students voted from a list of five possible names including, “Major ‘Vic’ Victory,” which received 112 votes; “Riot,” 141 votes; “Spirit,” 52 votes; “Tex,” 88 votes, and the winner, “Swoop” with 177 votes. Junior, Jarrett Hill submitted the name Swoop and received a \$300 gift card to Best Buy courtesy of the University. Several students wrote in “Chuck Norris,” but, write-in candidates were not an option. Swoop received special training at a training camp this summer alongside mascots from Baylor University, Texas Tech, the University of Texas at El Paso, and the University of Texas at Austin. By Karla Clark, *Patriot Talon*, October 16, 2006. 38(4).

## Twenty Years Ago (October 1996)

### Coordinating Board Approves Degree Program

President George F. Hamm announced that The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a new master’s degree program in political science for UT Tyler. Administered by the Department of Social Sciences in the School of Liberal Arts, the M.A. degree in political science was designed to focus on four areas: American politics, political theory, comparative politics, and international relations. A 36-hour non-thesis option was intended for students seeking broad knowledge in the political science field, and wish to complement that knowledge with additional course work and intensive reading within the discipline. The 30-hour thesis option was designed for students contemplating doctoral study and those desiring advanced research skills. At the time, no M.A. degree in political science was available within a 100-mile radius of Tyler, including adjacent states. The program approved by the UT System in August of 1995 expanded off of political science courses offered as a primary field in the M.A. degree program in interdisciplinary studies.



**ROYAL FITTING** — Mary Ellen Wright, lecturer in theatre, assists Dr. Victor Scherb with his costume for the Theatre Repertory Ensemble Company’s production of “Octavia.” The play premiered on campus Oct. 11 and will be presented again at 7:30 p.m. Thursday - Saturday, Oct. 24 - 26; and 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 27. Dr. James Hatfield, associate professor of theatre, is director and Wright is costume designer. Complimentary tickets for faculty, staff and students are available from the Department of Theatre and Communication, HPR 272, ext. 7253. (Photo by Michael Murray)

# Thirty Years Ago (October 1986)

## Unused Greenhouse Kills Plants and Funds

On the north end of Mike Harvey Lake, between the Science and Business buildings, stood a \$90,000 greenhouse virtually unused. Completed in 1979, the structure could not be effectively used due to basic mechanical malfunctions, expensive repairs and lack of funds to bring the facility up to functional specifications. Dr. Lynn Sherrod, Dean of the School of Science and Mathematics said the greenhouse allowed plants to burn up in the summer and sometimes in winter. One serious defect causing this problem was malfunctioning louvers at the top of the greenhouse. The louvers did not open properly when the interior temperature warmed to greatly. The gears opening the louvers would frequently “hang up,” preventing them from opening and letting cooler air in. Another mechanical problem was connected to cooling pads and fans set on either side of the two wings of the greenhouse. On the inside, at the level of the fans, were horizontal pads covered with water. The idea was for the fans to circulate air over the water bringing down the temperature, said Sherrod. “In principle, it is good, but it does not actually work in this greenhouse. The fans are not large enough and cannot move the volume of air across the pads and the pads do not have large enough surface areas.” These mechanical problems kept the greenhouse empty of both plants and students for most of the year. “We cannot use the facility during the summer. I’ve measured 130 degree temperatures in the summer where the plants would be growing,” Sherrod said. Some plants could be grown in the greenhouse between mid-to-late October and mid-to-late March. “Even then, temperatures have to be monitored. On a bright, sunny fall or winter day, the temperature can climb above 90 degrees and that is too hot for many plants.” Even though heaters in the greenhouse worked during the winter, Sherrod said the facility had limited use. “We use it mainly for keeping tropical plants-such as ferns-in the winter.” Under these circumstances, neither students, faculty or staff could make effective use of the greenhouse, limiting the research potential of UT Tyler’s biology program. “They can’t do it,” said Sherrod. “I’ve seen one graduate student do some ‘modified research,’ but I’ve also had a student that wanted to do a study about the medicinal value of plants that could not do it.” By Lona Kennedy, *UT Tyler Patriot*, October 23, 1986.

# Forty Years Ago (October 1976)

## TEU Offers Financial Aid

Texas Eastern University offered an extensive financial aid program through its Student Financial Aid Office. Grants, loans, employment and scholarships were offered to students who established financial need and were United States citizens. Donald G. Zachary, Student Financial Aid Officer, emphasized TEU availability of funds under the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG). BEOG was sponsored by the federal government through the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. No repayment of an award was required. Zackary said some students get the idea they aren’t eligible for assistance when they actually are. It cost only 13 cents to determine eligibility. Other grant programs offered were the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG) and Texas Public Education Grants-State Student Incentive Grants (TPEC-SSIG). TPEG-SSIG were made available through student tuition fees and TEU funds matched by the federal government. Loans programs open to students included the National Direct Student Loans (NDSL), Hinson-Hazelwood College Student Loan (HHSL), Federally Insured Student Loan (FISL) and Institutional Short-Term Loan.

## 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.