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Ten Years Ago (April 2007)

Darr Throws University’s First No-Hitter

“Senior pitcher Sam Darr made one last piece of history in her final collegiate start as she pitched the University’s first-ever no-hitter on April 21 during senior day. Darr, who recorded her 17th win of the year, pitched five innings and struck out six in the final game of the doubleheader, which the Patriots won 1-0 over the LeTourneau Yellowjackets. Darr did walk two batters, which voided the perfect game. In the second game, the Patriots used four Yellowjackets’ errors and allowed only one hit en route to another shutout, this time winning 8-0. Freshman Loren Parks got the start and pitched three innings before Patsey Toman and Taylor Geddes came on to finish out the game.” — By Jeremy Cotham, Patriot Talon, April 30, 2007.

Patriots Finish Best Season Ever At 37-1

“Eight more runs and they would have had a perfect season. It took 35 games to happen, but the Patriots finally found an opponent they could not beat. On April 20 in Pineville, Louisiana the Patriots’ 40-game winning streak, which dates to last season, came to an end as the Louisiana College Wildcats defeated the Patriots, 9-2. “They [Louisiana College] executed some good hits and bunts all night long,” said Coach James Vilade. “It was just one of those nights where everything they did was right. We just weren’t able to come up with a win. It’s really hard for them to beat at their place.” The Patriots did come back on Saturday and take two wins in the doubleheader against the Wildcats as they won the first game 6-3 and won the second game, which was a 1-0 pitching duel. “I was happy with the way our team responded from the loss and was able to come back the next day and take those two games.” The Patriots finished the season with a 37-1 record, a .973 winning percentage, which is a NCAA record for best winning percentage in a season. The Patriots also tied the NCAA record for longest winning streak, which is 40 games. Both records will not be recognized because of the Patriots’ provisional status.” — By Jeremy Cotham, Patriot Talon, April 30, 2007.

Twenty Years Ago (April 1997)

Debate Team Places Third In Nation

UT Tyler’s Speech & Debate Team captured four gold medals and six silver medals at the Pi Kappa Delta National Finals. Chad Martin and Chris Dickson won their way to the semi-finals round where they took a split decision with Cameron University to finish third in the nation, said Assistant Professor of Communication and speech and debate sponsor Dr. Jack Rogers. One hundred and eight colleges and universities from across the United States entered teams in the competition hosted by Northern Kentucky University. Seven students from UT Tyler participated. “UT Tyler speech and debate students have worked hard and deserve much credit. So far during this academic year, only their second year of competition, our students have won more than 100 trophies,” Rogers said. From Intercom, April 21, 1997.
Thirty Years Ago (April 1987)

Black Texas Women Photographic Exhibit Opens at UT Tyler

A photographic exhibition honoring black Texas women and featuring Tyler’s Willie Mae Glass was displayed at The University of Texas at Tyler’s Robert Muntz Library through the month of April. “They Showed the Way: An exhibition of Black Texas Women, 1836-1986,” was on view in the main floor lobby during regular library hours and was open to the public at no charge. The exhibit, circulated by the Museum of African-American Life and Culture in Dallas, was brought to Tyler by the UT Tyler Minority Student Union. Glass was elected to the Texas Women’s Hall of Fame in 1985 and was named Woman of the Year by the Tyler Zonta Club the same year. Once a state consultant for home economics with the Texas Education Agency, she founded the national organization, Top Ladies of Distinction, a group dedicated to improving quality of life for youth, senior citizens, and women. Other East Texans featured in the exhibit included Clara McLaughlin, owner of KLMG-TV in Longview; Alma Pennell Gunter, nationally exhibited folk artist from Palestine; and Barbara Conrad, a native of Pittsburg who made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1982. The exhibit depicted the history of black women in Texas, from Emily Morgan (“The Yellow Rose of Texas”) to noted contemporary figures such as Barbara Jordan, professor at UT Austin and former state senator, and Muriel McDaniel, Secretary of State during Gov. Mark White’s administration. Categories of photos on display included: Pioneers and Heroines, Religion/Medicine/Healing, Arts/History/Culture, Law/Government/Politics, Education, Business/Communications, Community Leadership, and Civil Rights. From UT Tyler News Release, April 9, 1987.

Forty Years Ago (April 1977)

Arts Festival Features Work In Three Fields

A Fine Arts Festival held April 17-23 featured music, art and drama presented by Texas Eastern University and area junior colleges. A Sunday, April 17 piano recital dedicated the University’s Steinway grand piano. Featured performers were Doris and Ralph Harrel of San Marcos. The piano was a gift from the estate of Mrs. V.E. Sutton. Harrel was the dean of the School of Creative Arts at Southwest Texas State University. Mrs. Harrel was professor of piano at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Both completed master’s degrees at the Juilliard School of Music. TEU senior Sue Dunn, contralto, presented her senior music recital April 19 in the University Center. She performed works by Guiseppe Forelli, Johannes Brahms, Georges Bizet and other composers. An art exhibit by students from Lon Morris College, Kilgore College, Henderson County Junior College and Navarro College was on display all week in the hallways of the second floor of the Hudnall-Pirtle-Roosth Building. Each school sent five selected works of any size for exhibit. TEU students also exhibited advanced drawings, paintings, and graphics. Artist and Professor of Painting at the University of Florida Hiram Williams presented a painting demonstration. He also gave critiques of the junior college art work. Williams had worked in the National collection of Arts in Washington, D.C., the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. Junior college choirs from Jacksonville, Navarro, Kilgore, Panola, and Tyler and the TEU Concert Chorale performed during a choir festival April 23 in the University Center. Each choir performed an individual program and then combined to perform a major work. The Department of Theatre Arts presented “Biography” April 20-22. TEU and Tyler Junior College faculty members and TEU students performed the comedy by S. N. Behman. Cast members included TEU faculty members John Callahan, Judy Freeman, Paxton Hart and Cathy Speas, and TJC instructor Steve Westhafer. TEU student members were senior drama major J.B. Duffield and junior music major Neal Gibson, both of Winnsboro, and senior Vicky Musick. From The Patriot, May 9, 1977.

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.