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Interactive Technology Improves Distance Learning

The University of Texas at Tyler Educational Technology Services department worked to bridge the technology gap in University classroom settings and provide a convenient, affordable option for students at UT Tyler campuses in Tyler, Longview, and Palestine. Thirty interactive video classrooms comprised the ITV network. Panoramic cameras, large television monitors, projectors, and sensitive sound equipment allowed complete communication between each location. “It’s a network where video and audio come together,” said Educational Technology Service Manager Kyle Stewart. “We take the AV components, digitize the video and audio information, send it over phone lines to another site, and then the information is returned through similar components. Communication has to be 100 percent all the time, that’s our goal. You always have bumps in the road with technology, but we strive to provide students, faculty, and staff the best ITV quality and service as possible.”

Technology advancements had simplified everything in the ITV classrooms since UT Tyler began using ITV in 1992, according to Telecommunications Systems Specialist Denise Duncan. “The majority of our classrooms have been upgraded with our standard technology now. It can turn the VCR, DVD player, projector, screen, and document camera on - the only thing it can’t do is turn the computer on,” said Duncan. Flexibility was a main objective in creating the ITV classrooms at UT Tyler’s campuses in Palestine and Longview, Stewart explained. UT Tyler Press Release, July 6, 2007.

UT Tyler Nursing Division Becomes School of Nursing

President George F. Hamm announced that the University of Texas at Tyler Nursing Division would become the School of Nursing. Designation from Division of Nursing to the School of Nursing was awarded in recognition of the significant development and growth of the University’s nursing program, and was approved in accordance with procedures of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Additionally, the bachelor of science in nursing and the master of science in nursing degree programs were given full reaccreditation for the next eight years by the National League for Nursing and the Board of Nurse Examiners for the State of Texas.

Dean of the UT Tyler School of Nursing Dr. Linda Klotz commented that “Accreditation is a quality indicator which consists of a peer review by experts in the field. They evaluated the programs, faculty, and resources, and recommended full accreditation for the B.S.N. and M.S.N. at the UT Tyler campus and the Palestine extension campus.” The nursing program in Palestine utilized a combination of on-site instruction by UT Tyler nursing faculty, interactive video communication between classrooms in Tyler and Palestine, and clinical experiences in the Palestine area. UT Tyler Press Release, July 3, 1997.
Forty Years Ago (July 1977)

Regents Approve Budget
A $8,777,850 budget for the 1978 fiscal year was approved for Texas Eastern University by the Board of Regents at their July 6 meeting. The budget included $3,078,063 for salaries and wages, $1,470,457 for operating expenses, $4,087,597 for construction of Part A of a library building and $141,733 for debt services. New personnel included one new faculty position for the School of Business Administration, a new professional position of media librarian, and eight new classified positions. Other highlights included a 3.4 percent cost of living increase for most full-time faculty and other professional and classified employees, promotions in rank for 11 faculty members, and salary increases above the 3.4 percent level for seven professional employees and 17 classified employees. Intercom, July 14, 1977.

TEU Regents Approve 12 Promotions
Eleven faculty members received promotion in rank and another was promoted to department chairman in action taken by the Texas Eastern University Board of Regents July 6. W. Clayton Allen was promoted from coordinator to chairman of the Department of Industrial Education. Promoted from associate professor to professor were F. Gary Mears, Keith W. McCoy, Evelyn Sowell, Joanna Martin, Vivian Hicks, and Lannom Smith. The five receiving promotion from assistant professor to associate professor included Barry Green, Marilyn Young, James R. Stewart, John H. Spurgin, and Patricia A. Gajda. Intercom, July 14, 1977.

Visiting Professors Scheduled for the Second Summer Term
Four distinguished visiting professors were scheduled to teach at UT Tyler during the second summer session as a part of the Windsor-Richardson Summer Scholars Program. Visiting professors were: Dr. Marco Sassoli, a member of the legal division of the International Red Cross in Geneva; Dr. John Evans, professor of English at Arizona State University and member of the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies; Dr. Robert Loewenberg, director of the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies, Jerusalem, Israel; and Dr. Helmut Schreier, professor of education at the University of Hamburg, Germany. Established in 1986 through a major gift from Mrs. W.C. Windsor of Tyler, the Windsor-Richardson Summer Scholars Program was named in honor of Mrs. Windsor and her late husband, Wilbur Cunningham Windsor, and their daughter and son-in-law, the late Gertrude Anne and Will Mann Richardson. Intercom, July 6, 1987.

Thirty Years Ago (July 1987)

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.