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University of Texas at Tyler

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**This Month in UT Tyler History**

**Ten Years Ago (August 2008)**

**UT Tyler Staff Lays Out vision for Year Ahead at Convocation**

Dr. Rodney Mabry, president of UT Tyler, told faculty and staff gathered for the annual convocation that the university’s goal was to improve its profile as a place of higher learning. Mabry described UT Tyler as the most important economic influence for growth in East Texas. “One in five students in East Texas is taught by UT Tyler instructors, forty percent of nurses in the area graduate from UT Tyler,” he added.

He said ongoing research taking place at the university provided a $4.5 million boost to the local economy, and the university tied for 15th in the US News and World Report for its first-year masters program the year before. Still, the university was struggling to raise its profile outside the East Texas region. The goal was for UT Tyler to be a strong alternative to UT Austin.

Dr. Mabry added that the University was working to get more funding through the State Legislature, to continue updating and expanding campus facilities. He also urged instructors to stay engaged with their students and talked at length about student retention. *Tyler Morning Telegraph August 26, 2008.*

**UT Tyler Soccer Opens**

The UT Tyler soccer team was picked to finished second in the American Southwest conference. In the preseason poll, the Patriots received 345 points and nine of possible 28 first-place votes in a poll of the league’s head coaches and sport information directors. *Tyler Morning Telegraph August 29, 2008.*

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**Twenty Years Ago (August 1998)**

**Dr. Rodney H. Mabry Takes Office as UT Tyler President**

Since taking office on July 1st 1998 as UT Tyler’s third president, Dr. Rodney H. Mabry had embarked on active schedule of meetings with deans, faculty and staff, news media, members of community and public officials. Dr. Mabry got active right away and was scheduled to deliver the summer commencement address on Friday, Aug.7 in the Cowan Center, to welcome the university’s new freshmen during the orientation on August 15, as well as address the faculty and staff at fall convention on August 17. Dr. Mabry was surely passionate about UT Tyler. He stated: “In the weeks ahead, I intend to continues to meet as many people as possible—certainly faculty, staff and students, and citizens throughout the region to hear their ideas about UT Tyler, the priorities they see, and the dreams they have for its future”. *Intercom August 1, 1998.*
Thirty Years Ago (August 1988)

Commencement sets record
UT Tyler held what was the largest summer commencement in the university’s history at the time, on Friday, August 12 1988. The ceremony recognizing 240 degree candidates, 146 at the bachelor’s level and 94 at the master’s level, with the event beginning at 7: 30 pm in the Harvey Convention center. Dr. George F. Hamm gave the commencement address and conferred degrees. Intercom, August 9, 1988.

Exciting concert Scheduled
In August 1988, Chisholm, an exciting group of performers, had been scheduled to come and play on campus. Chisholm had appeared with such headliners as Alabama, the Judds, Randy Travis, Sha-Na-Na, Marshall Tucker and John Schneider. The four-man vocal group and their band had been dazzling audiences across the Southwest with concerts featuring their own original material as well as a dynamic renditions of hits by other famous groups like the Beatles. The concert was the first in the Standing Room Only series to be sponsored by the Student Association in the 1988-89 academic year. Intercom, August 29, 1988

Forty Years Ago (August 1978)

General Scholarship fund established at TEU
A general scholarship fund had been established at TEU to accept gifts from individuals, clubs, business firms, organizations or other sources. An initial deposit to the account was made with the a contribution by the National Society Daughters of the American Colonists.

“This gives the university an added dimension in our scholarship program by providing a permanent growth fund that will effectively benefit students,” President James H. Stewart Jr. said, in announcing the new fund. Intercom, August 10, 1978.

Fall Registration begins on TEU Campus
An Orientation program was held on the Texas Eastern University campus on August 10 with more than 175 new students participating. A total of 142 students registered for the fall semester during that orientation session. These 142 registered for 1662 semester credit hours. Intercom, August 24, 1978.

University Archives and Special Collections

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