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Assembly set Aug.25

Fall semester - 1983 for The University of Texas at Tyler begins Thursday, August 25 with both the annual back-to-school assembly of all employees and regular registration scheduled. Classes are to begin Monday, August 29.

UT Tyler employees are invited to attend a coffee and donuts treat from 8:30 - 9 a.m. in the University Center. This event is being hosted by the UT Tyler Alumni Association.

The general assembly of all employees will be at 9 a.m. in the University Center. The program will feature an address by Dr. George F. Hamm.

Registration for the fall semester will be from 1:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the University Center.

Regent items include operating budget

The 1983-84 operating budget for The University of Texas at Tyler will be among items to be considered Friday by the UT System Board of Regents during their meeting in Austin.

Other agenda items submitted for board consideration include a request for authorization to establish a Master of Science degree in computer science and to submit the proposed program to the Coordinating Board for approval and the recommendation to accept a gift and pledge and establish the B.G. Byars Foundation Presidential Endowed Scholarship.

UT Tyler docket items include gifts to the university and amendments to the 1982-83 operating budget.

Alumni offers special rate

Have you, as an employee of The University of Texas at Tyler, been considering joining the UT Tyler Alumni Association during its charter year but just not followed through with your intentions? Time is running out to become a charter member of the orgaization. However, you may join during August and renew your membership for 1983-84 at a special rate.

The Alumni Association Executive Committee has established a special rate of \$5 per member for those who join in August if they renew at the same time for 1983-84 at \$10. For the \$15 total, a person will be classified as a charter member and still retain membership through August 1984.

In order to qualify for this reduced rate, dues must arrive in the Public Information Office by 5 p.m. Wednesday, August 31.

The deadline is also running out on the opportunity to join the Association as a Life Member at the rate of \$500. On Sept. 1, 1983, the Life Membership fee will be \$1,000.

The UT Tyler Alumni Association how has 325 members, including several employees of the university. Membership is also open to currently enrolled and former students of the university.

For additional information, contact the UT Tyler Public Information Office.

Stewart (sught tive years in a high school, and worked four

Teaching is sharing knowledge, Stewart says

To be a good teacher one has to be learning all the time, is the belief of Dr. James R. Stewart, chairman, Department of Biology, and associate professor of biology and chemistry.

"I teach because I like to learn and I like to share what I learn," the 1978 Piper nominee said.

Stewart believes that teaching is sharing knowledge and if teachers are not open-minded and willing to learn, they are not good teachers.

"We learn from our students just as they learn from us," he said. "When I taught the nurses, I'd tell them what I know and ask what they had to add. They had experience in things that I had no knowledge about whatsoever."

He added, "I've learned a lot I never would have learned if I had not been willing to learn from my students. If you don't have controversy in the classroom, you don't have much going on."

Stewart was in his junior year of college before he decided what he wanted to teach.

"I had several friends who were going to teach and I guess they influenced me," he said. "But after deciding to teach, I needed a subject. Biology was the subject I had most enjoyed in high school, so I decided on biology."

Stewart taught five years in a high school, and worked four years doing postdoctoral research and teaching in biochemistry at The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio before coming to Tyler in 1974.

He enjoys his work at UT Tyler.

"Teaching and research go hand-in-hand at the university level," Stewart said. "Research is another love of mine and this is one reason I enjoy teacing at the college level so much more."

He explained that his greatest pleasure here is working with graduate students on research projects. Stewart values the time he spends on research and working with students in the lab.

Stewart was named chairman of the Department of Biology in September 1981.

"Even though being chairman takes time away from research, it is an essential part of the program," he said. "I view it as a challenging part of my career."

Campus street striping scheduled

Painting stripes on all streets of the UT Tyler campus is scheduled August 15-18 by the Physical Plant Department. Most of the work will be done between 8:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. each day. The planned schedule is as follows:

Monday: Lake Drive from the entrance on Patriot Avenue to the Spur 248 intersection. Also included will be the street to the Power Plant.

Tuesday: Drives around the Physical Plant and Campus Drive from the entrance on Old Omen Road to the exit on Patriot Avenue.

Wednesday: Circle Drive from the exit on Old Omen Road to the area near the Sciences and Mathematics Building.

Thursday: Circle Drive around parking areas 2, 3, 4 and 5.

Senate amends Teacher Retirement System Act

Senate Bill 567 amended the Teacher Retirement System Act by reducing the state contribution from the current of 8.5 percent to 7.1 percent. It also reduced employee contributions from the current rate of 6.65 percent to 6 percent.

Employees who are in the Optional Retirement Program do not have a reduction. The rate for contribution continues at 8.5 percent of members and 6.65 percent for the state.

Senate Bill 288 increased the annual membership fee for the Teacher Retirement System from \$5 to \$10.

The above bills become effective August 29.

The legislature, which sets the rates for TRS and ORP, reduced the TRS rates because the pension plan's "post-service liability" had dropped to 17 years, well below the generally-accepted standard of 30 years. (Post-service liability refers to funds that must be available to cover members including those who entered TRS at its inception, and were covered for prior years of service, but who had not made any contributions to the plan because it was new.)

Senate Bill 567 provides for the reduction in contributions for a two-year period only. Unless further legislation is enacted, contributions will return to the former rate on Sept. 1, 1985.

FROM THE MASTER CALENDAR

August 12

August 12

Final Examinations

Last day for submission of rental renewal requisitions for 1983-84 funds to Purchasing Department

End of second summer session

August 15

Deadline for publication of Handbook of Operating Procedures

Second summer term grade sheets due from faculty to Office of the Registrar, 12 noon

New officers elected for 8-5 Forum

The 8-5 Forum elected 1983-84 officers at their noon luncheon meeting Friday, August 5. Officers for the new academic year will be Jackie McAuley, president; Janet Whitehorn, vice-president; Marianna Cunningham, secretary; Mary Elizabeth Dorsey, treasurer; Peggy Arnold, historian; and Dixie Waldrop, reporter.

Installation of the 1983-84 officers will take place during the Sept. 2 luncheon meeting. Hostesses for the luncheon will be the incoming officers.

INTERCOM is published every other Thursday (excluding holidays) for The University of Texas at Tyler personnel. Deadline for submission of written material is 5 p.m. Monday before publication. The information is collected, edited and written in the Public Information Office, Room ADM 21-5, Telephone Extension 215.