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Recommended Citation

University of Texas at Tyler, "Intercom 1998 March 9" (1998). *Intercom*. Paper 17.
<http://hdl.handle.net/10950/3613>

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INTERCOM

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT TYLER

Mabry Named UT Tyler President

Dr. Rodney H. Mabry, dean of business administration at the University of Tulsa, was named president of UT Tyler on March 6 by the UT System Board of Regents.

Mabry has been dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Tulsa since 1994.

"The Board of Regents should be commended for what, in my judgment, is an excellent choice. By distinguishing himself in the classroom and through his publications, Dr. Mabry has demonstrated the ability to move higher education forward at an accelerated pace throughout East Texas. Moreover, his accomplishments in bringing corporate leaders and the greater community into the university family at Clemson and the University of Tulsa are convincing evidence of his commitment to the idea that the university belongs to everyone. Dr. Mabry is eminently qualified to lead UT Tyler into its next era of growth and development," said President George F. Hamm.

The Board of Regents selected Mabry after interviewing him and another finalist for the presidency, Dr. William G. Cale Jr. of Lamar University. Two additional finalists had been named by the advisory committee in January, but they subsequently withdrew their names from consideration.

"Dr. Mabry is a highly capable academic administrator with a distinguished record both as a scholar and a teacher," said Donald L. Evans, chairman of the Board of Regents. "He is an innovative and resourceful leader, and he has a deep understanding of the issues and challenges facing higher education. He will be a dynamic and unifying force at UT Tyler as the university continues its expanding role of service to the people of East Texas."

Chancellor William H. Cunningham said: "Dr. Mabry comes to UT Tyler with a long and highly successful history in higher education administration. He has a thorough appreciation for the diverse constituencies of an institution such as UT Tyler, and he will be a great president for the university."

Regent A.W. "Dub" Riter Jr. of Tyler commented: "I am delighted that Dr. Mabry will assume this vital leadership role for UT Tyler. The university community and the entire region served by UT Tyler will find in Dr. Mabry a leader of consummate skill. He is a visionary and personable administrator who cares deeply about people and knows how to bring them together in support of a common purpose."

Mabry, a native of Paducah, Ky., earned a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Kentucky and a doctorate in economics from the University of North Carolina.



Dr. Rodney H. Mabry



Cowan Center Presents 'Cats'

The longest-running Broadway play in history, "Cats," is scheduled to take the stage at the UT Tyler Cowan Center for three performances, President George F. Hamm announced.

The first performance will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 4. The following performances will be 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, April 5.

Faculty, staff and students receive a discount of \$3 off the price of one ticket for either Sunday performance. Tickets can be purchased at the Cowan Center Box Office or by calling 1-888-597-7827.

"The 'Cats' touring company coming to Tyler is the same cast that plays Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and all the major cities across the U.S. and Canada," Hamm said. "We are delighted to host this wonderful production by the one and only cast of 'Cats' for the enjoyment of East Texas audiences."

Tours of "Cats" have played in 208 cities in the U.S. and Canada for 701 engagements and 162 cities have hosted the show more than once.

Based on T.S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, "Cats" is directed by Trevor Nunn with Gillian Lynne associate director and choreographer.

"Cats" won seven Tony Awards in 1983 and the original Broadway cast recording has sold more than two million copies.

Snapshot



UT Tyler hosted the 101st Texas Academy of Science annual meeting where some of the state's outstanding scientists were recognized for their contributions to science. Among those honored were Dr. Clark Hubbs (center), UT Austin emeritus regents professor of zoology, who was named the 1998 Texas Distinguished Scientist. Dr. Ronald King (left), UT Tyler professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science, and Dr. Don Killebrew (right), UT Tyler professor and chair of the Department of Biology, were recognized as 1998 TAS Fellows. King also is the TAS president. (Photo by Clarence Shackelford)

Professors Awarded Grant

Dr. Arun Kulkarni, professor of computer science, and Dr. Ron King, professor and chair of the Department of Computer Science, received the NeuralWorks University Teaching Grant, Dr. Lynn Sherrod, dean of the School of Sciences and Mathematics announced.

The \$25,000 grant, awarded under the Aspen Tech University Teaching Grant program, will provide software to establish an Advanced Neural Computing Center at UT Tyler. The computing center will provide students with hands-on experience in many applications such as image processing and artificial intelligence, as well as the development of new technology.

Kulkarni will serve as the principal investigator with King serving as co-investigator for the grant.

Author of the text *Artificial Neural Networks for Image Understanding*, Kulkarni was awarded a 1997 NASA Summer Faculty Fellowship in Aeronautics and Space Research. The fellowship allowed him to work on a project dealing with algorithm and software development for a fuzzy-neural decision system which will monitor plants in space.

King has 25 years of experience in higher education and is author of *Applied Statistics Using the Computer*. He currently is serving as president of the Texas Academy of Science.

in the spotlight . . .

Dr. **James W. Joseph**, assistant professor of political science, gave a presentation titled "Defiant Dragon: China and the Coming Cold War with the U.S." to the American Association of University Women on Feb. 11 at the Tyler Public Library. He also was interviewed by KTBB Radio Feb. 20 about the military crisis in Iraq.

Dr. **Randy LeBlanc**, lecturer in political science, gave a presentation titled "Human Rights and American Foreign Policy" during the American Association of University Women's Great Decisions Program on Feb. 18 at the Tyler Public Library.

Dr. **Stephen B. Rainwater**, associate professor of computer science, was elected vice president of the computer science special interest group of the Texas Computer Education Association during the organization's annual conference on Feb. 3 - 6 in Austin. He also presented "Animating Algorithms and Dynamic Processes with PowerPoint 97" during the annual conference.

Dr. **Ronald B. Livingston**, assistant professor of psychology, presented a paper titled "Internal Consistency of Neuropsychological Tests for Children" at the Texas Association of School Psychologists on Feb. 27 in Houston. Graduate psychology student, Julianna Garner, is co-author of the paper.

Dr. **Greg Utley**, assistant professor in Spanish, presented a paper titled "Postmodernism in Columbia" on Feb. 19 at the 19th Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Language and Literature in Baton Rouge.

Barbara Haas, lecturer in nursing, presented a poster titled "Wading Through the Quality of Life Quagmire: Clarification and Integration of Similar Concepts" at the 13th annual meeting of the Southern Nursing Research Society held in Fort Worth on Feb. 19-21.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

NEW EMPLOYEES

Julie Pickle Recorder Office of Admissions & Student Records ADM 202, ext. 7201 Effective 2/9/98	Jim Fredericks Radio/TV/Film Specialist A/V Services LIB 118, ext. 7441 Effective 3/2/98	Kathleen Andrews Secretary School of Liberal Arts HPR 272, ext. 7250 Effective 3/9/98
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SERVICE RECOGNITION

Congratulations to **La Tonya McCoy** for 5 years of continuous service at the university on March 4.

HOLIDAY

Offices will be closed Friday, March 20 for spring break.