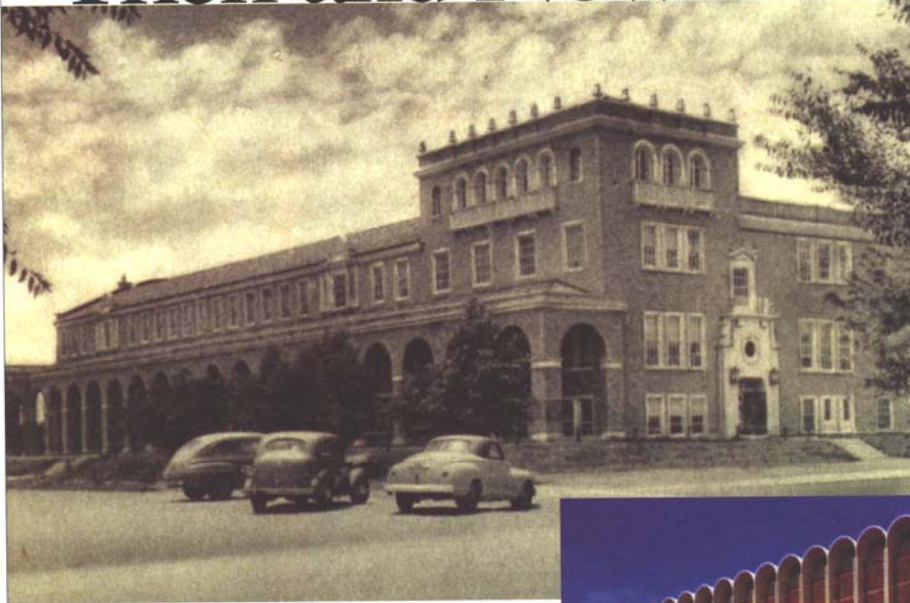


Then and Now



Above: Taken in 1956. Then the Library, now the Math Building.
Right: The University Library today.



In higher education, we spend part of our time in the necessary endeavor of planning for the future. As the academic year 2004-2005, is winding down, I started thinking about where the University might be in 50 years. Envisioning the future can be difficult. Reflecting on the past is an easier task. The University Archives is a place where one can accomplish such reflection. Among the items housed at the archive are catalogs and commencement programs for Texas Tech.

I decided to take a look at Texas Tech 50 years ago, academic year 1954-1955, and compare it to Texas Tech as it is today. A key component of any university is its catalog. Catalogs are somewhat like contracts between a school and students. The University Archives has copies of Texas Tech's first catalog and each catalog for the following years. In comparing catalogs, the first thing I noticed was that the catalog of 50 years ago was titled, "Texas Technological College Bulletin, General Catalog 1954-1955, Volume XXX." The catalog listed the following divisions and departments for the College: Agriculture, Arts and

Sciences, Business Administration, Engineering, Home Economics, Graduate, as well as Air and Military Science and Tactics (ROTC), Extension, and Interdepartmental Programs.

The catalog today is titled, "Texas Tech University 2004-2005 Catalog, Volume LXXXI." It is available online. Today the following colleges and schools make up Texas Tech University: Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Architecture, Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Education, Engineering, Honors Human Sciences, Mass Communications, Visual and Performing Arts, the Graduate School and the School of Law. This comparison illustrates how the college has expanded into a university.

Both catalogs describe departmental requirements and course offerings. Each includes a brief history of the institution as well as a location description. The catalogs describe the library. In 1954-

1955 the library had 112,537 cataloged volumes. Today the libraries contain more than two million volumes. The Southwest Collection of 1954-1955 has grown to be the Southwest Collection /Special Collections Library today. Expansion on campus is evident by comparing campus maps from then and now. Buildings such as the Student Union have grown as the university has developed. Barracks or portable buildings used to house labs and such in 1954-1955, and have since been replaced by structures with modern technology. Today there are thriving campus locations in cities other than Lubbock. The student newspaper 50 years ago was called the *Toreador*. Today we read *The Daily Toreador*.

Within each catalog, there is an estimate of expenses. In the 1954-1955



Holden Hall today.

Catalog, the following are included in the "Estimate of Annual Cost":

Registration Fee	\$25.00	\$25.00
Student Activity Fee (optional)	\$15.00	\$8.00
Student Union Fee	\$5.00	\$5.00
General Property Deposit	\$7.00	
Books and Incidentals	\$45.00	\$36.00
Room and Board in College Dormitory	\$270.80	\$260.00
TOTAL (estimated)	\$367.80	\$328.00

The 2004-2005 Catalog reports the following average or estimated expenses for resident undergraduates:

Tuition	\$1,860.00	\$1,860.00
Fees		
• Academic Fees	\$660.00	\$660.00
• Student-Related Fees	\$399.00	\$399.00
• Other Fees	\$155.00	\$155.00
Additional Estimated Costs	\$5,290.50	\$5,290.50
TOTAL	\$8,364.50	\$8,364.50

Fees range from "Information Technology Fee" to "ID Card Maintenance Fee." "Housing in a Residence Hall" is included in "Additional Estimated Costs" as well as other costs such as books and transportation. As I reviewed the cost comparison, I wondered about other price comparisons, so I used the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* to check car prices. In December 1954, an ad for a Chrysler four-door car showed a cost of \$2,983.76. A Chrysler four-door car listed for \$29,814.00 in a December 2004 advertisement.

A visit to the "Historical Data" page

maintained by the Department of Institutional Research and Information Management reports a total of 6,257 students enrolled in the fall of 1954, and 5,066 for spring 1955. For fall 2004, the total student number is 28,325 and 26,220 students for the spring semester 2005. Commencement programs, including the first held in 1927, are available for viewing at the University Archives. A total of 911 degrees were awarded in 1955.

In 2004, 5,348 degrees were conferred. In spring 2005, more than 2,700 students graduated. Then, spring 1955 graduation was held on May 30, in Jones Stadium (with a note that if the weather was bad the commencement would be held at the First Baptist Church). The commencement address was delivered by Logan Wilson, president of the University of Texas. Now, graduation exercises are held at the United Spirit Arena, in May, August, and December with separate ceremonies for the Law School and the health sciences center, neither of which existed in 1954-1955.

The college of then has grown into the university of now. The past 50 years have seen many changes for Texas Tech, but a continued commitment to higher education for the region was a component then and is now. The institution has grown into a research university, which continues to evolve. As I look back, I wonder what those involved with Texas Tech 50 years ago might have envisioned for the future. As I look forward, I wonder where Texas Tech will be 50 years from now. ■



Holden Hall in 1955, then the Museum.

The campus map from the 1954-1955 catalog.

