Frank H. Smyrl (1938-1989) was the initial history faculty member and founding Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Tyler State College (UT Tyler). Prior to this appointment he taught at San Antonio College and East Texas State University (Texas A&M Commerce). Receiving B.A. and M.A. degrees from The

University of Texas at Austin and Ph.D. from The University of Oklahoma, his focus was on Nineteenth Century America, especially the American West, the Civil War, and Texas.