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Westview Staff

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Regional Studies Workshop Is Held

Approximately thirty Southwestern Oklahoma State University administrators and faculty members participated in a Regional Studies Program Workshop January 6-12. All of the meetings, with the exception of the one on Friday, January 8, were held in the President’s Conference Room of the SWOSU Administration Building. On Friday, January 8, the group toured the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City and the Western History Collection of the OU Library in Norman.

Participants in the Workshop were Agha Armoudian, Kay Branson, Roger Bromert, Bob Brown, Doug Brown, Sara Chapman, Lee Daniel, Wayne Ellinger, Mel Fiegel, Chris Gould, Ed Green, Donald Hamm, Sheila Hoke, Con Hood, Claude Kezer, Billy King, James Kitchens, Sam Lackey, Pat Lazelle, Robin Montgomery, Jerry Nye, Clarence Petrowsky, Ed Rolison, Joanna Roper, Leroy Thomas, Homer Timmons, Carolyn Torrence, M. C. Weber, and Ed Williams.

The Workshop was led by several guest lecturers. On Wednesday, January 6, Dr. Clayton Feaver, David Ross Boyd Professor of Philosophy at OU, opened the session with a discussion of educational purposes and learning activities. Later in the day, Mr. David Gwinn and Dr. John Ludrick, SWOSU professors, discussed the use of instructional media in regional studies.

On Thursday, January 7, Ms. Dee Ann Ray of Clinton, Director of the Western Plains Library System, pursued the topic “Local Resources for Regional Studies — Materials and People.” Dr. H. Wayne Morgan, George Lynn Cross Professor of History at OU, using research and writing as departure points, spoke on the topic “Interpreting History and Placing Local History/Culture in a Regional, National, and World Context.”

Dr. Bruce Joseph conducted a tour of the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City on the third morning of the Workshop, and Dr. Bob Blackburn, editor of OKLAHOMA CHRONICLES, informed the participants regarding publication possibilities. At OU on the Field Trip Day, Dr. Jack Haley and Dr. John Ezell conducted tours of the Western History Collection. Dr. Haley also lectured extensively on “Reading and Restoring Old Photographs.” At the end of the day, the group enjoyed dinner at Chi Chi’s in Oklahoma City.

On Monday, January 11, Dr. Pendleton Woods, Director of Oklahoma Living Legends at Oklahoma Christian College, gave an oral history demonstration and an introduction to oral history techniques. And Dr. Guy Logsdon, chairman of the Folklife Department and former Director of the University Library at Tulsa University, revealed some insights on writing about the Oklahoma Scene.

During the last day of the Workshop, Tuesday, January 12, Dr. Patrick O’Brien, Director of the Emporia State Great Plains Study Center in Emporia, Kansas, gave insights concerning the conducting of a regional studies center. The sessions were closed with presentations by Vice-President Earl Reynolds and by Deans Bob Brown and Donald Hamm.

Workshop arrangements were made by Dr. Clarence Petrowsky, who is in charge of curriculum development for the SWOSU Regional Studies Program. Since one of the topics of the Workshop dealt with local folklore, Dr. Petrowsky’s final comments included a reading of “The Sculptor from Tennessee,” a poetic expose of an early-day SWOSU event.

Guest Speakers are from top to bottom: Mr. David Gwinn, SWOSU; Dr. Clayton Feaver, OU; Dr. John Ludrick, SWOSU; Dr. H. Wayne Morgan, OU; Ms. Dee Ann Ray, Director of the Western Plains Library System, and Dr. Patrick O’Brien, Director of Emporia State Great Plains Study Center.