Speech Institute Opens Short Courses

Each Year, Short Courses and Institutes Become A More Important Part of the University's Work

The genuine interest alumni have expressed in the University short course program has led to the initiation of several courses in the past, and further expansion, especially in professional work, is expected this year.

The opening program is the Annual Oklahoma Debate and Discussion Institute, to be held October 17 and 18. This Institute is sponsored each year by the University as a speech activities program for high school and college students and speech directors. Last year, 320 persons attended the Institute from every section of the state; an even greater attendance is expected this month.

The program is planned to give practical speech experience and instruction to the students, and serves as the starting gun for the Oklahoma speech calendar which usually culminates in one of our Oklahoma high schools winning the national public speaking contest. This is no idle boast, for the national debate contest has been won by an Oklahoma school seven out of eleven years of its existence.

The topics for discussion will be the current debate questions for high schools and colleges. The high school question is: "Resolved: That every able-bodied citizen in the United States should be required to have one year of full-time military training before attaining the present draft age." The college question has not yet been chosen.

Some of the program highlights will include practice debates for those schools interested in having their cases analyzed by University faculty observers. There will also be several panels on the debate question, conducted by members of the University faculty and debate directors from visiting schools. A demonstration debate will be given by the University of Oklahoma and the University of Kansas teams. National leaders in speech education will appear on the program, including Professor E. C. Buehler of the University of Kansas, who is editor of an annual debate publication for Noble and Noble, Publishers.

William Sattler, director of forensics and of this institute, and R. Boyd Gunning, director of short courses at the University, are busy making final arrangements on the program.

Another important annual meeting scheduled for the month of October, is the Oklahoma Mineral Industries Conference which will be held on October 24 and 25. This conference is sponsored by the Oklahoma Geological Survey, and is under the direction of Mr. Robert Dott, director of the Survey.

Last year, the conference group was organized, and Moore C. Hess, manager of the Concho Sand and Gravel Company, Oklahoma City, was elected president.

The program will include talks on such problems as raw materials, manufacturing processes, uses, economics, and products. Brief talks will be given on sixteen local industries, such as brick, cement, natural gas, gypsum, crushed stone, zinc smelting, etc.

Many interesting and worthwhile talks are on the program, but the highlight will be the dinner on Friday evening at which talks will be given by J. F. Owens, president of O. G. & E., and Joseph A. Brandt, president of the University. There is no registration fee for this conference and all persons interested in the industrial and economic future of Oklahoma are invited to attend. If you would like to have complete information about these programs, write to R. Boyd Gunning, director of short courses, Extension Division, University of Oklahoma, Norman.

The Druggists' Short Course, officially called the School for Retail Pharmacists and Sales Personnel, will be held at the University in February, for the sixth consecutive year. According to Dean D. B. R. Johnson, of the School of Pharmacy, this course was one of the first to be held by any of the mid-western states, and has led to the establishment of similar courses in several places.

The program this year will be geared to meet the problems of the retail druggist arising out of the present emergency. The program committee for this course works tirelessly each year to bring to Oklahoma the nation's best speakers and scientists in this field. With the increase in prices, taxes and labor problems the sessions should be of a practical and worthwhile nature this year.

Last year, a total of 52 short courses were conducted by the University. These courses dealt with many subjects. Plans for the Gardening Short Course, the Machining and Welding Conference, and many others are now under way. Future issues of Sooner Magazine will keep you up to date on these self-improvement opportunities.