

Sooner Scene

By R. BOYD GUNNING

There is a growing interest among alumni in opportunities for continuing education. The University of Oklahoma has long recognized this interest and offers a great variety of adult programs of study. These programs are of primary value to the individuals who profit from them in terms of professional and personal growth. In a broader sense they stimulate the economic and cultural development of the state.

These courses are within reach of every adult. Forty-thousand people living in 77 counties participated in them during the school year 1957-58. The courses were offered by correspondence study, extension classes, and short courses. These spare time students came from all walks of life—from 178 professions and occupations.

By correspondence study you may take courses in a great variety of subjects, from accounting to zoology, at either high school or college level. Evening classes are offered in various cities of Oklahoma taught by regular members of the O.U. faculty. The largest center of such classes is at Midwest City where Tinker Field employees study in great numbers. For several years enrollment there has been running in the neighborhood of 600 persons. The most diversified section of this work is found in the short courses, workshops and institutes held on the Norman campus. The faculties of nearly every college and department cooperate in both the planning and instruction of the programs. A few examples include, a series of Business Management short courses, courses or institutes for lawyers on such subjects as estate planning and taxation. Perhaps the most famous course of all is the Gas Measurement Short Course. Organized by Dean William H. Carson many years ago, it attracts engineers from virtually all the gas producing areas of the country. There are many courses in music, the sciences, leadership training, and others. To name and describe each one would fill the pages of this magazine.

All the adult work is offered as a public service by the university. The nature of the work is determined by the needs of the state.

The program is administered with imagination and efficiency under the direction of Dean Thurman J. White.

The University of Oklahoma has a cooperative relationship with a number of outside foundations and agencies. None is more impressive, however, than the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies, Inc., sponsored by 36 universities and operated under contract with the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

It is the major avenue through which these universities participate in and support the nation's atomic energy program. This great research center provides an opportunity for university faculty members

and graduate students to work at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and allied installations. Dr. S. H. Wender is the O.U. representative on the Institute Council.

Since O.U. will soon have a "swimming pool" type nuclear reactor and a high speed electronic digital computer, our participation in the Oak Ridge program should soon be of even greater importance than it has in the past.

As headquarters for the Manhattan Project it was here that the atomic energy was harnessed into the most devastating weapon in history. It is also here that great progress is being made in solving the problems of man's new power source.

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