Introducing the PROFMEX Coordinator

UC MEXUS NEWS, Number 4, Winter 1982-1983


Clint E. Smith, Coordinator of The Consortium of U.S. Research Programs for Mexico (PROFMEX), resides at Stanford University where he is Deputy Coordinator of the Project on United States-Mexico Relations. Smith, who retired from the U.S. Foreign Service in 1981, headed the Mexican Desk at the State Department in Washington, D.C., and has many years' experience in Mexico.

A native of Las Cruces, New Mexico, Smith received the B.A. from the University of New Mexico and the M.A. from the University of California at Berkeley. In 1971 he was awarded the Meritorious Honor Award from the Department of State for his work as Acting Country Director for Mexico. He served as chairman of the Editorial Board of the Foreign Service Journal (1970-1971) and has contributed many essays and reviews to that publication.

In his new duties, Smith coordinates the PROFMEX Board of Directors, which consists of representatives of nine institutions with major Mexico and United States-Mexico relations research projects.

At the same time, a major goal of Smith as PROFMEX Coordinator is to expand membership as rapidly as possible by enlisting associate institutions and individual scholars interested in Mexican affairs. When discussing his new duties, Smith pointed out to UC MEXUS NEWS that given the demands of coordinating the efforts of so many international scholars and programs, he will no doubt be able to put his skills at diplomacy to good use.

The current Chair of PROFMEX is Stanley R. Ross, Director of the Office of Mexican Studies and Coordinator of the Border Research Program at the University of Texas, Austin. His successor, as of January 1, 1983, is James W. Wilkie, Universitywide Coordinator of UC MEXUS, UCLA history professor, and editor of the Statistical Abstract of Latin America.

Other PROFMEX board members are: Wayne A. Cornelius, Director of the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at UC San Diego; Abraham Lowenthal, Secretary of the Program in Latin American Studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars; Oscar J. Martinez, Director of the Institute of Inter-American and Border Studies at the University of Texas at El Paso; Michael C. Meyer, Director of the Latin American Area Center at the University of Arizona; Clark W. Reynolds,
Coordinator of the Project on United States-Mexico Relations at Stanford; John W. Sewell, President of the Overseas Development Council; and Albert E. Utton, editor of the Journal of Natural Resources at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Ex-officio directors of the PROFMEX board are Paul Ganster, Coordinator of Mexico Programs at the UCLA Latin American Center and editor of the UC MEXUS NEWS, Colin M. MacLachlan, (UCI and UCLA) and Jaime E. Rodriguez (UCI), co-editors of the International Journal of Mexican Studies.

As decided upon at the August 1982 planning meeting in Tucson, PROFMEX will be responsible for promulgating information through use of several publications. UC MEXUS NEWS will serve to announce general information in the field of Mexico-related research and this will be supplemented by Clint Smith’s executive calendar entitled VISTA: Mexico-USA (see related story). The UC MEXUS interdisciplinary International Inventory of Current Mexico-Related Research, will offer twice-yearly an all-inclusive listing of current research related to Mexico.

Another facet of Smith’s activities as PROFMEX Coordinator is to establish a vigorous outreach programs to reach policymakers at all levels. The first of these is a U.S. congressional staff program proposed by the Wilson Center’s Latin American Program and the Overseas Development Council. Policy-oriented research agendas, joint cooperative efforts, and additional outreach efforts will be discussed at annual meetings of PROFMEX directors.

To complement the above activities, PROFMEX is in the process of helping UC MEXUS create The International Journal of Mexican Studies (IJMS) to be housed at UCI. Also, PROFMEX will call regional meetings of associate members to be coordinated by advisory boards which will report on regional activities relating to PROFMEX goals and objectives.

Membership in PROFMEX assures up-to-date information and contact with research programs and activities related to Mexico and to Mexico-United States relations. In this way members hope to avoid costly duplication of research efforts and projects and increase collaborative efforts whenever possible.

For dues, individual associates pay $25 per year; institutional associates pay $300 per year; and board members pay $500 per year. These dues will help offset the publications costs for the IJMS and UC MEXUS NEWS. For more information on PROFMEX activities or membership, please contact Clint E. Smith, PROFMEX Coordinator, FRI 306, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305, (415) 497-3096.