USU Shines at Annual Western States Folklore Society Meeting | English

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WSFS participants

Utah State University made a great showing at the annual Western States Folklore Society meeting this past week in Eugene, Oregon. Participants mingled with scholars from across the country for two days of conversation, scholarship, and fun.

Bonnie Moore, Rosa Thornley, and Deanna Allred participated in an organized panel entitled Gendered Narratives: Rebellious Voices of the West, which was well attended. Bonnie Moore’s paper, "The Non-Vocal Narrative: Shenanigans of a Polygamous Woman at the Turn of the 20th Century," examined a Mormon polygamous woman as a trickster figure; Rosa Thornley’s paper, "One-Upped: Tables Turned in Shivaree Escape Narratives," presented her long-standing research on wedding shivarees, and Deanna Allred’s paper “I Heard, But I Didn’t Hear”: Analyzing Narrative Devices in Difficult Family Stories” examined how silences and pauses in family stories indicate much more than linguistic filler.

CJ Guadarrama presented his thesis material in "Mapping Intermountain Boarding School" and became BFF’s with the President of the American Folklore Society; Faye Haynes presented “Sex, Sluts, and Shame: Vaginal Humiliation in Contemporary Legends,” advising her audience to “go clitoral”; and Geneva Harline presented the final stages of her thesis project, "Allowing the Untellable to Visit: Investigating Digital Folklore, PTSD and Stigma.” Lisa Gabbert presented her dystopian ideas about children, pedophiles, and surveillance in "The Talking Angela app, Stranger Danger, and Contemporary Legends.”

This being the Left Coast, there was entirely too much Grateful Dead and Bob Dylan played in bars and restaurants, and the Merry Pranksters made an appearance on campus. Students were duly warned not to eat or drink anything they might hand out in order to avoid incurring the wrath of USU’s risk management department.