

**A HISTORY OF
THE ACADEMY OF SENIOR PROFESSIONALS**

OF

SOUTHERN NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Compiled by Lecil Brown, historian

From April, 1998 to May, 2006

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The **Academy of Senior Professionals'** history, so nobly advanced through **March 1998** by Dr. Paul Gresham, now rests in less skillful hands due to the request of Dr. Elbert Overholt and Dr. Jack David Arnold that I, Lecil Brown, take up this task.

The **Academy's Annual Meeting** was held on **April 13, 1998**. Treasurer Bud Cargill reported a balance on hand of \$1,492,08 as of March 31, 1998. President Vada Lee Barkley indicated that it was time for her to take a little slower pace. She gave her eighth and final report, which was received with much appreciation. The nominating committee, Elbert Overholt, Chairman, and members June Phillips and Helen Silvey, presented a ballot, and the following officers were selected for the coming year:

Jack Arnold, President

Don Beaver, Vice-President

Syble George, Secretary (Darlene Overholt was appointed by President Arnold to replace Syble George who was elected but unable to serve.)

Bud Cargill, Treasurer

Milton Sonnevik, Member at Large

A plaque was presented to Prof. Susan Baker, SNU's Director of Academic Computing, for her "dedicated service to the Research Interest Group and the Academy of Senior Professionals, 1997-1998."

On **May 11**, the final meeting of the 1997-1998 year, tribute was paid to Mrs. Vada Lee Barkley for her outstanding service to the **Academy**. She was presented with a check for \$500 and a clock/plaque inscribed with words of tribute. She replied with words of appreciation. Dr. Jack Arnold, incoming president, presented a ceremonial gavel to Mrs. Barkley. SNU President, Dr. Loren Gresham, was special guest and speaker for the meeting. As always, he gave an upbeat report on what is happening on the SNU campus. He reported that work was progressing on the Sawyer Center and expected completion was by the second week of November.

The first meeting of the **Academy** for the 1998-1999 year was on **September 21**. Dr. Lloyd Glenn McArthur, highly respected physician and distinguished SNU Alumnus, was the special speaker. Dr. McArthur spoke on a subject of concern to many of the group's members, "Living with Arthritis." Progress toward developing the Academy Web Page was reported by Susan Baker and Chichi Freeland in the September *Perspective*. Also, Dr. Jack David Arnold, new **Academy** president, wrote a thoughtful editorial which he titled "An Anatomy of the Academy."

The **October 12** meeting featured a speaker widely known as a scholar, evangelist, camp meeting speaker—Oklahoma's own Dr. Mendell Taylor. Dr. Taylor's wisdom, his friendship, and vast storehouse of knowledge always leaves his audience challenged to strive for excellence. The **ASP** Ad Council authorized the purchase of a paving stone to be placed on the SNU Centennial Plaza. The stone will read "Southern Nazarene University Academy of Senior

Professionals Founded 1990.” Foreign travels by **ASP** members Milton and Mabel Sonnevik and R.T. and Pat Bolerjack delighted readers in the October *Perspective*.

Attorney James Posey was the speaker for the **November 9** monthly luncheon. Jim, a SNU alumnus, received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. He is a member of the Oklahoma and American Bar Association. His law practice has been in Bethany. Jim and wife, Shirley, are members and actively involved in Bethany First Church of the Nazarene. Jim’s topic for the occasion was “Legal Matters Involving the Senior Adult.” SNU President and Mrs. Loren Gresham held a reception for **Academy** members at their home following the meeting.

The final meeting during the calendar year 1998 was held on Monday, **December 14**. The incomparable Mark Reighard presented a musical program for the delight of all who were fortunate enough to be there. Dr. Reighard holds a Bachelor of Music degree from SNU, and a Master and Doctorate degree from the University of Oklahoma. He has been on the SNU faculty as a professor since 1969. He has served as pianist and organist for several churches in the Oklahoma City area. He has performed for banquets, retreats and other events hundreds of times and never failed to delight his audience.

Following the festivities of the 1998 Christmas Season, the new year got underway with a meeting on **January 14, 1999**. Before leaving 1998, however, this writer wants to note that three highly esteemed colleagues left us late in the year. Dr. Wesley Moon died on December 19. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in science from Houghton College in 1933. He received his Master of Education from the University of Rochester and his Doctorate of Education from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Dr. Moon served as head of the Education Department of SNU for 25 years. Services were held Tuesday, December 22, 1998, at Bethany First Church of the Nazarene. Rev. Clifton Norell died on December 17 at the age of 85. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in theology at Bresee College. Rev. Norell pastored churches in Kansas, Illinois, and Oklahoma during 40 years of full-time ministry. Doris Darlene Beaver Schumann died at her home in Bethany on November 19, 1998. Doris was a graduate of SNU. She served as a pastor’s wife, and taught in the public schools and at SNU. The **Academy** welcomed nine new members at the January meeting: Hugh Bright, Frank Ellis, Mary Ann Ellis, Grant Keeton, Evelyn Keeton, George Miller, Mary Evelyn Miller, Ralph West, and Louise West. Bob Emmel introduced Marilyn Olson, well-known local Christian business woman, as the speaker. The title of her speech was “Hope and Options for Seniors.”

The **February 1999** meeting focused on total well-being through exercise, diet, and emotional balance. It was noted that seniors are increasingly interested about these concerns. Bea Flinner, Chairperson of the Research Interest Group (RIG), was leader of the panel for the program. Bea, known as a very capable person, has a B.A. degree and three masters degrees. Dr. Wanda Rhodes has been a health educator and has served as SNU’s Dean of Women and Chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department. “Nutrition and Exercise for Optimal Health” was her topic. President Arnold spoke of his admiration for Dr. Kenneth Cooper’s extensive research and his book Antioxidant Revolution. I note with sadness the passing of two distinguished educators, Dr. Merle Jamison on December 30, 1998 and Dr. Mendell Lee Taylor on January 23, 1999.

One significant part of the **March** meeting was the presentation of proposed changes in the Bylaws. Chairman Robert Griffin and the Bylaws committee had done extensive work to change and update the Bylaws. The revision was presented by Dr. Griffin who made a motion that the revision be adopted. The motion was seconded by member Charles Harrison, and it passed unanimously by the membership. New members Ruth Craddock, Rev. Dallas McKellips, and Rev. Art and Dorothy Evans were introduced. Dr. Forrest and Jean Ladd presented an informative and interesting program entitled "Principles of Genealogical Research." Forrest and Jean are honor graduates of SNU. Jean taught business courses in high schools and college and managed the Bethany Book Store for 39 years. Forrest earned the Ph.D. degree from the University of Kansas, and he devoted forty years to teaching and administrative work at SNU. After their retirement, Forrest and Jean did extensive travels in genealogical pursuits.

The annual meeting on **April 12** included reports, an election for new officers, and Steve Stearman's speech, "Southern Nazarene University's Adult Education." President Jack Arnold gave his first annual report which he called "An Attitude of Gratitude." The ballot for the coming year was presented by Elbert Overholt, Director and Chair of the Nominating Committee. The following were elected:

Don Beaver, Vice-President

Bud Cargill, Treasurer

June Phillips, Member-at-Large

Milton Sonnevik, who had served as Member-at-Large since 1990, submitted his resignation April 8. Steve Stearman, son of much loved Sam and B. Kaye, has been Director of Admissions and Marketing (Adult Studies) at SNU for the past seven years. The members enjoyed his presentation.

The **May 10** meeting, the last one before the summer break, featured Dr. Roy L. Dorris who brought to our attention the problem of adverse drug interactions with so many new drugs on the market now available to the elderly. He stressed the importance of letting the doctor know what drugs have been prescribed if we see more than one doctor. Marguerite E. Ross, Assistant Principal at Putnam City Central Middle School, presented "The Song in my Heart." Prior to joining the Putnam City School System, Ms. Ross was director of vocal music and keyboard instructor for the public schools of Oklahoma City for fourteen years. The revised ASP Bylaws, approved in the March meeting, provided for a Strategic Planning Committee. Marilyn R. Olson was appointed the first Chairperson of this committee. Barbi Moore of Heart to Heart International gave a report of the organization's help for victims of recent tornadoes in our state.

The **October 11** meeting dealt extensively, through the Research Interest Group (RIG), with the research and publications of Dr. Kenneth Cooper. He published the book Aerobics in 1968. He showed the importance of exercise and later made nutritional therapy a key to seniors' well-being. Dr. Jack Arnold, friend of Dr. Cooper, brought an excellent and detailed report on Dr. Cooper's contributions in the whole area of seniors' health. Dr. Elbert Overholt, director and founder of the **Academy of Senior Professionals**, was unable to attend the meeting due to heart by-pass surgery on September 27. Reports were that he was making good progress toward recovery.

Mr. John Gillespie, President and CEO of Access Financial Group, Inc. in Bethany, was the special speaker on **November 8**. He has fifteen years of experience in the field of estate planning. After his able presentation he gave opportunity for **ASP** members to ask questions.

With the spirit of Christmas in the air, the **December 13, 1999**, meeting brought the Chamber Chorale of the School of Music at SNU to perform for us. The group was directed by Professor David Miller. Following the Chorale's performance, Prof. Miller led the entire group in singing Christmas carols. The **Academy** welcomed Dr. Elmer and Marjorie Shellenberger as new members. President Jack Arnold wished all "good health and peace of mind" for the coming year. For the December issue of the *Perspective*, Dr. Annabelle Laughbaum wrote a very meaningful poem entitled "Thoughts for December."

ASP Moves into its Second Decade and a New Millennium

As we approached **January 1, 2000**, there was much in the news and print media about the possibility that computers would crash, and that widespread chaos would result. In fact, the transition to a new millennium went smoothly, and life moved on. The Academy welcomed Dr. Rex Tullis as speaker on **January 10**. Dr. Tullis has been Chair of the School of Education at Southern Nazarene University since 1995. He is very knowledgeable in the areas of education and computer technology. He encouraged seniors to adapt to the computer and all the other electronic gadgets we must deal with, although reluctantly at times. After the luncheon, Academy members were invited to visit Southern Plaza for dessert and a special tour. Southern Plaza is a retirement facility owned by SNU. New members Bobbie Steele, Pat Burton, and Richard and Carol Spencer were introduced to the meeting. Dr. Robert Emmel reported that he and Naomi recently completed a delightful cruise to the Empires of the Black Sea.

Four new members were welcomed on **February 14** bringing the total membership to over 160. New members were Park and Wynona Burkhart and James and Violet Weeks. An outstanding program of music was presented by Rosa McCroskey, Myra Schubert, Evelyn Keeton and Pat Bolerjack. Bea Flinner's RIG group had been working on a topic of interest to everyone – genealogy. She introduced Glorene Brown who has devoted many years to the search for ancestors. There was so much interest in the subject that another meeting was scheduled so there would be time for additional information to be presented. In February, the By-laws committee, chaired by Bob Griffin, met to consider changes in the **Academy** By-laws recommended by the Committee on Publications. The proposed changes were to be presented at the April meeting.

Distinguished public servant George Miller was speaker for the **March 13** meeting. Miller served ten years in the Oklahoma State Senate. He, along with his wife, Mary Evelyn, three sons and a daughter, moved to Bethany, from Ada, OK. The March meeting was held in the Chapel-in-the-Round of Bethany First Church of the Nazarene.

Several items of business were on the agenda for the **April 10** meeting. President Jack Arnold gave his annual report. He reviewed several achievements of the **Academy** during the 1999-2000 academic year. Dr. Robert Griffin, chair of the By-laws committee, presented a motion to establish a Committee on Publications as the fifth standing committee, and the motion was approved. Rev. George Cargill, Treasurer, presented a recommendation of the Administrative

Council that annual membership dues be increased from \$10 to \$12. The recommendation was approved. Dr. Elbert Overholt, Director, presented a resolution calling for the establishment of an ASP Scholarship Endowment Fund in the amount of \$10,000. This, as well as other proposals, received unanimous approval. Rev. George Cargill gave the Annual Treasurer's report for the fiscal year which ended March 31. Dr. Arnold noted that membership in the Academy is now 167—an "historical record." President Jack Arnold and Secretary Darlene Overholt were re-elected by acclamation.

The last meeting until monthly meetings resume in October, was on **May 8**. Dr. Dudley Powers was the special speaker. Dr. Powers has given most of his life in service to the Church of the Nazarene. As reported in the *Perspective*, he received his M.D. degree in 1962 from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas. After two years of medical practice in Bethany, OK, he accepted an assignment as a physician and administrator in New Guinea for four years. He then returned to Bethany where he was associated with the Bethany Medical Clinic until his retirement in early 2000. Dr. Powers is a much respected Bethel Bible teacher and Sunday School teacher. His topic was "Science and Religion, Conflicts and Consequences."

SNU president, Dr. Loren Gresham, welcomed the ASP members for the beginning of the 2000-2001 academic year on Monday, **October 9, 2000**. Dr. Gresham has been with SNU since 1967 when he started as professor of political science. He was born in Nashville, TN where he attended Trevecca Elementary Training School. When his parents moved to Pasadena Nazarene College, he went to Pasadena Academy and then to Pasadena Nazarene College where he graduated with an B. A. in history. He received his M.A. from the University of Southern California in international relations and later his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Oklahoma. He was selected to be provost of SNU in 1985, and the SNU Board of Trustees elected him president in 1989. Dr. Gresham married Linda Lee Brown in 1964. They have one daughter and two grandsons. President and Mrs. Gresham welcomed the ASP members to their home for an open house and reception following the meeting. ASP president Dr. Jack David Arnold, in his monthly reflections in the *Perspective*, reminded his readers of this bit of advice from George Burns: "if you want to live to be 100 or older, you can't just sit around waiting for it to happen, you have to get up each day and go after it." Dr. Robert Emmel's thoughtful comments on a "Design for Christian Living" pointed out that the ideal system of ethics was to be found in the Sermon on the Mount.

The **November 13** meeting provided the privilege of hearing attorney and *Daily Oklahoman* columnist Jim Priest. His weekly column "Family Talk" has many appreciative readers. He has also published a book with the same title. The title of his presentation was "The Continuing Challenge to the Greatest Generation." Jim and his wife, Diane, and children, Amanda and Spence, are members of the Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene. SNU professor Sue Anne Lively reported some of the findings her research observed about the habits and activities of seniors as she continues work on her dissertation. Her findings were complimentary to us. New members Robert and Beverly Parker, and Jarrell and Bernice Garsee were welcomed to the meeting. Dr. Anna Belle Laughbaum wrote a thoughtful and insightful poem for the *Perspective* titled "Lessons from the Leaves."

Celebrating Christmas was in the air on **December 11** as the SNU Chamber Chorale performed for our listening pleasure. The Chorale, a group of 12 musicians, and their director, Dr. Brent Ballweg, presented a program of Christmas music, both sacred and secular. This is Dr. Ballweg's first year at SNU after holding college and university conducting positions in Arizona, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas. The 12 members of the chamber Chorale are Beth Balderas, Duncan, OK, Leslie Bond, Yukon, OK, Jordan Brown, Richardson, TX, Marti Callies, Norman, OK, Sara Cantley, Bixby, OK, Tracy Couch, Iota, LA, Rachel Graves, Houston, TX, Jennifer Huff, Big Springs, TX, Rachel McArthur, Norman, OK, Jeremy Stover, Rifle, CO, Melanie Swanigan, Independence, MO, and Owen White, Ephrata, PA. Jessica was accompanist for the group. Program planner Milton Sonnevik introduced the group. Dr. Tom Barnard and wife, Madelyn, were welcomed as new members. Dr. Barnard has recently retired from Eastern Nazarene University. Marilyn Bergman, SNU Alumni Director, talked to the group about alumni activities.

Guest speaker on **January 8, 2001** was Bethany City Manager Dan Gallaway, Mayor J.D. Johnston was scheduled but was unable to appear and asked the city manager to report instead. Gallaway gave an up-to-date report on matters concerning the citizens of Bethany. SNU professor Sue Anne Lively brought an update on her extensive research into the lives, interests, commitments, plans and programs of the ASP members, all of which she is using for her doctoral dissertation. This writer has read most of her work and it is truly impressive. For the *Perspective*, Dr. Robert Emmel wrote the second part of the world travels he and Naomi enjoyed last year. His report covered their visit to Moscow, Red Square and other scenes from the socialist revolution. Their tour came to an end after a visit to Helsinki, Finland and London. Bea Flinner, chair of the RIG group, feature writer Vada Lee Barkley and book review editor Winni Howard continued to make important contributions to the *Perspective* in the areas of their interest.

The **February 12** meeting brought to us Lt. Colonel (retired) Charles A. "Chuck" Garrison. He was recently appointed State Coordinator for the Oklahoma Centennial Commission. He and his staff will provide leadership for the numerous projects leading up to 2007. Lt. Col. Garrison is a native of Bartlesville, OK. He served as an infantry officer for nearly 25 years. His assignments took him to Ft. Benning, GA, Hawaii, at the Joint Readiness Training Center in AR and at the U.S. Headquarters Forces in Japan. He and his wife, Laurie, also from Bartlesville, now reside in Edmond with their three sons, Reid, Cole and Doss. His subject was "Oklahoma's Centennial 2007." New members Garland and Edith Johnson were welcomed. Glendena and Gene Adams reported on obituaries of three much loved members who died recently and will be greatly missed. Rev. George O. "Bud" Cargill died on December 14, 2000. Ruby Takemire died on November 16, 2000, and Dr. Olan Moore died on December 23, 2000 at the age of 96.

Milton Sonnevik introduced guest speaker Paul Dougherty for the **March 5** meeting. Prior to the speaker's introduction, Milton reviewed the history of Oklahoma City's Deaconess Hospital, which Mr. Dougherty now serves as president and chief financial officer. Deaconess has served the health needs of this area for over 100 years. It was given the name Deaconess Hospital because everyone referred to it as "the hospital that the deaconess ladies ran." Bea Flinner arranged for Glorene Brown to present another genealogy workshop following the luncheon. Pat Beck, Jonathan Gassett and Helen Jamison were welcomed as new members.

The Academy was fortunate to have Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott as speakers on **April 9**. The Parrots, at the request of Governor Frank Keating, spent a year in Oklahoma traveling throughout the state speaking in churches, service clubs, schools and to state officials. The purpose was to try to lower Oklahoma's high divorce rate. The speakers are authors of many articles published in national magazines and have been guests on CNN and TV programs including "Oprah," "NBC Nightly News," "CBS This Morning." They took this time from their regular duties as faculty members at Seattle Pacific University. Dr. Paul Gray, director and prime mover for SNU's archives, reported that over 4,000 items have been collected, organized, catalogued, preserved in acid-free containers, and available for research. These important items have to do with the founding of Southern Nazarene University and the City of Bethany. This has been a labor of love for Dr. Gray over the last 18 years. The archives are presently located on the third floor of the R.T. Williams Learning Resources Center. Dr. Gray earnestly hopes for a permanent home in the visitor's center building to be built on the SNU campus in the future. Book reviewer Wini Howard's feature in the ASP *Perspective* gave an interesting review of Gen. Colin Powell's autobiography, My American Journey. Powell's account is of his journey from the time when a Southern city would not allow him to eat in the restaurant, to a time many years later when it gave him a hero's welcome. This account indicated to him that progress was being made in race relations in our country.

"Our Own" Sue Anne Lively was the speaker for the **May 7** meeting. The title of her presentation was the same as the title of her Ph.D. dissertation, "Learning, Growing, and Aging. Life-long Learners in the Academy of Senior Professionals in Bethany, OK." Sue Anne seems like one of us because of her parents, Bud and Trudie Cargill. Being an SNU graduate and now professor, she currently teaches in the School of Adult Education and is director of the Alternative and Prior Learning Program. As reported earlier, she has done extensive research into the lives, careers, and contributions of many ASP members to academic, church and community endeavors. Sue Anne is married to Dr. Robert Lively, head of the History and Political Science Department at Southern Nazarene University. They have one son, Patrick. President Jack Arnold had invited the SNU department chairs as his guests and those able to attend were: Dr. Ann Ferguson, Dr. Hal Cauthron, Dr. Pam Broyles, Dr. Robert Lively, Dr. Martha Banz, and Dr. Larry Mills. A string quartet from the SNU School of Music entertained us during the luncheon. The students were: Bryan Young, Hazel Snowbarger, Leslie Cannata and Sarah Michel. Marge Fisher and Sherryl Gasset Gordon were welcomed as visitors. In this month's issue of the *Perspective*, Vada Lee Barkley gave a moving tribute to her husband, Rev. Arthur Barkley, under the heading "My Sweetheart's Homegoing." Rev. Barkley—"Art" as he was affectionately known—died in Oklahoma City on March 16, 2001. He was born in Ohio on June 30, 1916. He was converted at a young age, joined the Church of the Nazarene at the age of 9 and devoted his life in service to God and his church. Art and Vada Lee met in Yukon, OK in 1950, were married, and worked together as a team.

The fall sessions got under way **October 8** with special speaker Dr. James Poteet. "Jim," as we all know him, and his wife, Peggy, have been members of the faculty of Southern Nazarene University for many years. Jim served as Associate Professor of Physical Education, basketball coach and Athletic Director from 1971-1979. Since his retirement he has been very active in the community's after-school educational program at the Floyd Center. Dr. Peggy Poteet is

chairperson of the Division of Humanities at SNU. They have one son, Josh. Dr. Poteet's presentation was well received by ASP members. It was announced in the *Perspective* that Dr. Anna Belle Laughbaum's autobiography, Nine Glimpses of My Life, had just been released.

Southern Nazarene University President Dr. Loren Gresham brought the **Academy** membership up-to-date on the university's operations and programs on **November 12**. Dr. Gresham has a distinguished record in Nazarene higher education. His service at SNU began in 1967 as a professor of political science and history. In 1985 he was selected by then President Ponder Gilliland to serve as Provost of SNU. The Board of Trustees elected him President of the University in 1989, the office he still holds. Dr. Gresham and his wife, Linda Brown Gresham have one daughter, Suzanne Lynnette Strawn. She and her husband, Dr. Brad Strawn, have two sons, Evan Bradley and Keaton Paul. Dr. and Mrs. Gresham entertained **Academy** members in their home following the noon luncheon.

The **December 10** program, following a practice of previous years, featured a musical program. SNU's handbell choir, under the direction of Professor Brad McKenzie, provided the special music. Prof. McKenzie received his B.S. degree in church music and a B.S. in religion from Southern Nazarene University in May, 2000. Prior to joining the SNU music faculty in August, 2001, he served the Community Church of the Nazarene in Midwest City and the Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene. He is also an Associate Pastor and Minister of Music of the Lake View Church of the Nazarene.

Before beginning **2002 on January 10**, we note with sadness the loss of three faithful and long-time members in December, 2001. Gene Adams died on Sunday, December 9. Gene was born in Knowles, OK on April 13, 1928. He moved to Bethany in 1945. He was a long-time member of Bethany First Church of the Nazarene and a community leader. Gene is survived by his wife, Dena, and three daughters. Colleen Karns Cornwell died on Thursday, December 13. Colleen was born February 21, 1926. She grew up in Ford, KS and graduated from high school there. She is survived by her husband, Don, and a sister, Jean Ladd. Shural Knippers died on Tuesday, December 11. Shural was born August 6, 1923. He was a graduate of Bethany Peniel College, and did further graduate work at Baptist Seminary in Ft. Worth, TX and UCO in Edmond, OK. Shural had a distinguished career as a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a Lt. Col. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn, two sons and a daughter. Speaker for the **January** meeting was Mr. Russ Urquhart. He is the new director for Cornerstone. On April 19, 2001, Cornerstone was awarded the contract from the Department of Human Services to act as an intermediary organization to work with 2,771 faith communities in forty-seven Western Oklahoma counties. Cornerstone's goal is to work with the various social service agencies to provide services to the poor and needy. Bobbie Steele was recently appointed chairperson of the **ASP** membership committee. Preliminary planning was started for the **2002 Senior Adult Conference to be held April 18**.

It was a real pleasure to welcome Dr. Tom Barnard to the meeting on **February 11**. Tom and his wife, Madelyn, have moved back to Oklahoma City after spending 20 years with Eastern Nazarene College in Boston, MA. Dr. Barnard is a native of Glendale, CA. He earned his A.B. degree at Pasadena College, now Point Loma Nazarene University, in 1958. After earning his Master of Religious Education from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1960, he pastored Nazarene

churches in California until he joined the faculty of Bethany Nazarene College in 1966. While on the BNC faculty, he earned the Doctor of Education degree in higher education and administration at Oklahoma State University. His presentation to the Academy was "Creating Scholarship Funds." The RIG (Research Interest Group) had Dr. Paul Gresham as speaker. He presented interesting background based on research in preparation for the book he and his son, Dr. Loren Gresham, are co-authoring to be titled "From Many Came One, in Jesus Name: Southern Nazarene University Looks back on a Century: A Pictorial and Synoptic History of SNU."

Mustang, OK mayor Ross Duckett was the special speaker for the **March 11** meeting. Mr. Duckett has a long record of distinguished public service. He holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree from Oklahoma State University. He taught in the public schools of Oklahoma for 16 years. He was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1972. He chaired the Mental Health Committee for 10 years. Mr. Duckett was twice selected the Christian Legislator of the Year." His presentation was titled "The Christian's Involvement in the Legislative process." Members were reminded of the unique opportunity to hear an outstanding speaker next month, Dr. Tedd Mitchell, M.D., director of the Wellness Program at the Cooper Aerobics Center. The theme will be "Using the Gift of Longevity."

It was a special privilege to have **Dr. Tedd Mitchell** as our special guest here on **April 18** for our first statewide **Senior Adult Conference (SAC 2002)**. Tedd Mitchell, M.D., is Medical Director of the wellness program at the Cooper Aerobics Center in Dallas, TX. The program included three lectures by Dr. Mitchell, "Maintaining Mobility," "Aging with Attitude," and "Mental Fitness." The theme of **SAC2002** is "Using the Gift of Longevity." He suggested several ways to lessen mental decline as aging increases: keeping physically fit, maintaining healthy self-esteem, and developing new learning activities. Eight seminars were available at the conference which included Long Term Care, chaired by Kay Love, and The Spiritual Adventure presented by Dr. Dudley Powers. Artists Pat Bolerjack and Evelyn Keeton provided a delightful piano duo for the luncheon.

Rick Mitchell, the "Rick said it Would" weatherman was the speaker for the **May 13** meeting. Rick is the chief meteorologist for KOCO TV, Channel 5 in OKC. Rick was born in Omaha, Nebraska and graduated with a major in meteorology and a minor in climatology. Following jobs in Pennsylvania and Iowa, he came to Channel 5 nearly eight years ago. Rick and his wife, Kim, have two children, daughter Zoe, and son Shane. This being the last meeting until the fall, the Administrative Council met at 3:00 p.m. on **May 12** with members Jack Arnold, Don Beaver, Roy Dorris, Robert Emmel, Wes Harmon, Elbert and Darlene Overholt, June Phillips, Milton Sonnevik and Bobbie Steele present. Roy Dorris gave the treasurer's report, which was approved and accepted. There was discussion of several matters but no action taken. Bea Flinner, Grant and Evelyn Keeton, and Milton Sonnevik were especially commended for the outstanding work they have done for the **ASP**.

New program chairperson, Shirley Mears, was welcomed to the **October 12** fall meeting. Shirley is the senior editor and publisher of "45 And Better News" in Yukon, Oklahoma. The publication provides news and features for people who are over 45 years of age who are active in the workplace and community. She is in demand as a speaker at business and community events.

Mears made her professional start at KQCV Radio. She started "45 and Better News" in March, 2001, in her home with a couple of friends and relatives who volunteered to help. In the first 18 months it has grown to a circulation of 30,000 with a staff of 17. Shirley introduced the speaker for the meeting under the title, "The computer Nerd, My Hero!" Jim Tate started with Computer NERDZ in June, 2001, after 16 years in the electronics department of Montgomery Ward. "I have always had an interest in computers and the internet," Jim said. In the October *Perspective*, Dr. Robert Emmel reports a very interesting trip he and Naomi took through the Panama Canal and on to Peru. Writer Shirley Posey pays tribute to member Syble George for the volunteer work she does helping others.

The **November 11** program brought special speaker Jenny Broughton, wife of Rev. Sam Broughton, pastor of Baptist Temple in Oklahoma City. Orphaned at an early age, Mrs. Broughton had a very difficult childhood. Having overcome many difficulties, she now speaks to churches and civic groups across the nation. She is an "overcomer." Her message was one of encouragement and hope. With sadness, we noted the death of a long-time friend and pastor, Rev. Charles Stipe, on September 16, 2002. Charles is survived by his wife, Eula Mae, and two children, Denise Fitch and Paul Stipe.

On **December 9** the ASP members again had the privilege of being invited to the home of Dr. Loren and Linda Gresham following the noon meeting. This is an annual event hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Gresham and a delightful time was enjoyed by the members. Dr. Loren Gresham has been with Southern Nazarene University since 1967 when he became professor of political science. He reported on progress at SNU and shared some of his vision for the future.

With Christmas and New Years parties receding in memories, the ASP assembled on **January 13** to get **2003** underway. Gayle Chambers-Dyer was the special speaker. Gayle is a good example of those who, despite difficult circumstances in her pathway, refuse to let them define her life. She was a wife, mother and homemaker from 1957 to 1986. She became a widow in 1984. She founded her first business in 1982 as owner of Willow Creek Antiques and Gifts. In 1984 she became co-founder of "An Affair of the Heart, Inc." The business is now one of the largest events and marketplaces in the country for arts, crafts and gifts. Her business received the tourism award of merit for public relations in 1996. She is on the advisory board of the Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence. Her presentation was well received. Book reviewer Wini Howard suggested we read Out to Pasture by Effie Wilder who has written about life at Fair Acres. Wini said "this book is on the light side, but most folks could use some humor. Seniors who can laugh at each other, and also at themselves, are much more pleasant to live with." The Book Discussion Group met and discussed the book Aging with Grace. Roy and Ruth Franklin were visitors having moved here from Pueblo, Colorado.

Elbert Overholt expressed the appreciation of the entire membership on **February 10** for the excellent services rendered by a number of individuals in the past. Grant Keeton has been the calling chairman. Larry Henderson has replaced Grant as calling chairman. Evelyn Keeton has provided beautiful and enjoyable dinner music. Pat Bolerjack has replaced Evelyn in this role. Bea Flinner has replaced Esther Schandorff as library resources person. Esther has moved to Nampa, Idaho. Darlene Graves has replaced Bobbie Steele as chair of the membership committee. Bobbie has moved to Columbia, Tennessee. Harold Dozier is leading a newly-

formed computer users group. Billie Harrison has replaced Vivian Chambers as chair of the decorating committee. Program chair, Shirley Mears, introduced Jill Justice for a preview of a St. Patrick's Day celebration. Jill and her husband, Joel McClung, will perform at Rose State Performing Arts Center on March 16. Changes in the By-laws recommended by the By-laws subcommittee chaired by Bob Emmel, and approved by the Administrative Council, were presented for review and a vote at the March meeting. Membership Chair, Darlene Graves, introduced five new members: Roy and Ruth Franklin, Dr. Gerald and Audette Knutson and Glorene Brown.

The **March 10** meeting opened with prayer by Dr. Bob Emmel and piano music by Pat Bolerjack. The recommended changes in the By-laws, distributed last month, were brought up. After a motion to accept by Dr. Emmel and seconded by Casey Robinson, the members approved with a unanimous vote. Program chair Shirley Mears introduced Tom Hill, speaker for the day, and his wife, Kay. Mr. Hill is Executive Vice-president and CO of Kimray, Inc., a leading manufacturer of oil and gas equipment and controls located in Oklahoma City. Mr. Hill had a desire to help all employees. It was from this desire that he built an organization called "Character First." Since its beginning in 1992, over 1200 businesses, 2000 school districts, and 150 communities have implemented the program.

Shirley Mears shared with the group on **April 14** some of the background of her *45 & Better News* publication. The group she seeks to reach, the "Baby Boomers," need to be preparing for their senior years. The April *Perspective* carried an interesting article by Mary Louise Smith about knowing the family of famed football coach "Bear Bryant." His mother, Ida Bryant, was a praying woman. She spent many hours praying for her children. As Coach Bryant's fame spread, he drifted away from her prayers and spiritual matters. The years passed by and Ida Bryant's prayers for her son had not been answered at the time of her death. Years later on the "Hour of Power" program Mary was watching when Robert Schuller told of a plane trip and that he "happened" to be seated by Coach Bear Bryant. Bryant had just retired. After a few minutes talking of trivial matters, Rev. Schuller turned the conversation toward spiritual concerns. Bryant admitted that he didn't know God and that he thought he was too bad for God to forgive him. Bryant prayed and asked God to forgive him. Two weeks later Bear Bryant died. Perhaps his mother's prayers for him were answered. Billie Harrison reported the death of Dawn Tullis, wife of retired SNU professor, Lyle Tullis. Lyle and Dawn were married in 1942 and Lyle soon left for WWII duty in the army. After the war, Dawn completed her education and became a gifted teacher. Dawn was a member of the ASP and helped with table decorations. Dawn died on September 17, 2003. Poet Jack Pischel observed the season with a poem "Spring."

The last meeting before summer recess brought the members together on **May 12**. Mart Green, founder of the Mardel Christian and Education Supply business was the special speaker. Green sees himself, not so much as a business man but as a servant. He grew up watching his parents serve others as they began their business in their garage. His father and mother, David and Barbara Green, started a business now widely known as Hobby Lobby. When entering a Mardel store one instantly notes the clean-cut appearance, the friendly employees, and the large inventory of Christian books, cards, supplies and music. His presentation was well-received. President Jack Arnold, with pianist "Wally Brown playing background, recited from The Pilgrim's Progress. Wini Howard reviewed Rick Warren's popular book, The Purpose Driven

Life. Jill Beaver, daughter of Don and Joy, was a special guest. Jill is an attorney for Washington University in Seattle and a personal friend of Mart from Bethany high school days.

ASP members returned from various travels over the summer months and gathered on **October 13** to be entertained by organist and pianist Wally Brown. Wally is a professional organist and pianist and a member of the ASP. This writer (no relation) first met Wally as a student at Bethany Peniel College (now Southern Nazarene University). After one semester at BPC, he transferred to Oklahoma University. Wally joined the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He spent his navy days in San Diego where he received his first professional experience playing the organ at the Admiral Kidd Officers Club. He then moved back to OKC where he played the organ for 16 years at Glen's Hik'Ry Inn. He later played at the Oklahoma City Skirvin Plaza, for the Oral Roberts Evangelistic Association. He has played for PTL, TBN, General Council of the Assemblies of God and many city-wide crusades and concerts. He has recorded two albums, ten cassettes and two compact discs. It was good to have Wally "back home." Dr. Anna Belle Laughbaum wrote of her trip to New England, and Elbert Overholt wrote of his and Darlene's trip to an Elderhostel in Denver. Both of these reports were recorded in the *Academy Perspective*. Billie Harrison provided the obituary for Marjorie Shellenberger who died on August 3, 2003. Marjorie is survived by her husband, Dr. Elmer Shellenberger, son, Kent and wife Stephane, daughter, Susie, and sister, Maurine Dickerson. She was a graduate of SNU and a public school teacher. New members Paul and Mary Anna Scheie were welcomed.

One of our own members, distinguished public servant, George Miller, spoke to the group on **November 10** about "What Worries Americans more than Terrorists." Mr. Miller was born in Montrose, CO. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Oklahoma State University. He served in the U.S. Navy in 1945-1946. From 1950 to 1964 he was chief engineer and news director in radio and television. He served ten years in the Oklahoma State Senate. He was appointed Director of the OK Department of Human Services in 1974, and served there until retirement. This was his second appearance at ASP, having spoken to the group in March, 2000.

Following tradition, the ASP welcomed SNU President Dr. Loren Gresham for his annual greeting and SNU update on **December 8**. His presentation was "Southern Nazarene University in Change: A Current Perspective." Dr. Gresham has been President of SNU since 1989. He and wife, Linda, extended a cordial invitation to all ASP members and their guests to attend a reception in their home after the meeting. It was a delightful time, a fitting event as Christmas and the end of **2003** neared.

ASP members who braved the cold on **January 12, 2004** welcomed Lynn and Anita Baker as speakers. The "Benefits of Toastmasters" was the title of their presentation. Lynn Baker is Professor of Human relations at the University of Oklahoma, and teaches on military bases throughout the world. He has been an active Toastmaster for nine years and is presently serving as the Public Relations Officer for the State of Oklahoma. Anita Baker has been a Toastmaster for ten years. She presently serves as coordinator of the Oklahoma Toastmasters Speakers Bureau and the editor of their newsletter. She is a certified Senior Advisor with Choice Financial Planning with a primary focus on long-term care. The Bakers have been married for over forty years and have four children and four grandchildren. The *Perspective* noted the loss

of long-time member Vernon Dawson who died on November 18, 2003. Vernon is survived by his wife, Margaret, also an active member of the **ASP**, daughters Vernona Dawson and Janice Dawson. He is predeceased by another daughter, Kerry Funk.

The **February 9** meeting reminded all *Academy* members that we live in the Age of Technology. A well-qualified speaker with twenty years of experience and current CEO of Critical Technologies, Scott Klosoky, was the special speaker reminding us that technology is changing our society, so we had better adapt to it rather than resist it and be left behind. President Jack David Arnold brought some interesting thoughts on "Being more creative with Money and Time" during the coming year.

On **March 8** Mr. C. Sherman Huff spoke to the *Academy* luncheon on "Retirement Living: Past, Present, and Future." Mr. Huff is CEO of Spanish Cove Life-Care-Retirement Village in Yukon, OK. He holds a Master's Degree in Gerontology from the University of Central Oklahoma. He is a board member of the Oklahoma Association of Homes and Services for the Aging and participates in senior adult issues at the legislative level. He discussed the history of retirement living, and how the needs of seniors have changed over the generations. His sincere desire to help seniors make informed decisions about quality living in retirement came through in his presentation. President Jack David Arnold gave detailed information about the meeting on April 1 in the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City. Dr. Loren Gresham, SNU President, cordially invited the **ASP** members to be guests of the Peer Learning Network and to hear Dr. Kenneth Cooper, the "Father of Aerobics." By action of the **ASP** Administrative Council in its January meeting this will replace the April 12 meeting. Special guests for the March meeting were John Branscum, Marge Fisher, Phyllis Armstrong and Will Stemen.

As noted above, *Academy* members met in the Cox Convention Center on **April 1** and heard Dr. Kenneth H. Cooper. Dr. Cooper was born in Oklahoma City on March 4, 1931. He received a B.S. degree in 1952 from the University of Oklahoma, and the M.D. degree in 1956 from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. Dr. Cooper is recognized as the leader of the international physical fitness movement. It was a privilege for over 50 members of the **ASP** to hear his presentation.

Dr. Lori Hansen-Lane was a well-received speaker for the **May 10** meeting. Although born in La Junta, Colorado, she has been an "Okie" by choice for many years. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1979. Dr. Hansen is active in many professional associations. She has devoted much of her life to helping victims of violence. She received world-wide attention for her work in reconstructive surgery after the Oklahoma City bombing. She is married to Wesley Lane, Oklahoma City's District Attorney. The annual business meeting of the Academy was also held on May 10. The group noted the death of long-time missionary to India, Rev. Bronell Greer, on April 5. He, and his wife Paula, served as Nazarene missionaries for 47 years. He is survived by his wife, Paula, and two sons, David and Stephen. Vada Lee Barkley, first president of the **ASP**, and a regular contributor to the *Perspective* announced that this would be the last issue in which her column, "If You Ask Me," will appear. She has made an enormous contribution to the organization. She will still be around, just slowing down a bit. Elbert Overholt, Director, presented a ballot for the election of 2004-2005 officers. A motion to accept the ballot as presented and elect the officers by acclamation was passed unanimously. The

officers are: President, Jack Arnold; Vice President, Tom Barnard; Secretary, Roy Franklin; Treasurer, Roy Dorris; Members-at-Large, George Miller and Joyce Ellis.

The **October 11** luncheon meeting was delighted in a presentation by "Miss Merry Weatherbee." Shirley Mears met Penny Stephenson over coffee and invited her to bring her light-hearted and upbeat "Slice-of-Life" to our group. Wearing several "hats" she presented "Observing Life in the Rhyme of Schemes." Miss Weatherbee has been a regular on *45 & Better Radio Show* for several months. New members Morgan Weber and Valerie Morrison were recognized. Valerie is also chair of a new Research Interest Group. Wally Brown was guest pianist. We were saddened on September 27, 2004 by the death of Rev. Bill Porter. Rev. Porter, along with his wife, Juanita (Blake) Porter are SNU alumni, former pastors and missionaries. He is survived by his wife, Juanita, and two sons, Jerry D. Porter and William B. Porter. A more detailed obituary appeared in the November *Perspective*.

As the Thanksgiving season approached, we gathered on **November 8** to hear Nancy Medley Suhre, Director of Contact Crisis Helpline. It was pointed out that Oklahoma ranks ninth in the nation in deaths by suicide. They received nearly 44,000 calls in 2003 from people in some form of crisis. Shirley Mears reminded the members that November was American Diabetes Month and urged that all with this problem learn all they can about how to lower their chances for heart disease and stroke. Stephanie McKinney, Market Manager for American Diabetes Association for the South Central Division was a special guest.

Members always look forward to December and the annual report of Dr. Loren Gresham, President of Southern Nazarene University. The date this year was **December 13**. Dr. Gresham's address was titled "SNU in challenging Times." Dr. Gresham has been SNU's president since 1989. Dr. Loren and wife, Linda, again invited the group to their home for a delightful holiday reception. Valerie Morrison, chairperson of the RIG group, invited Diana Hofstadter, a trained health professional, to their group's meeting to answer questions about "The Blues: Not a Normal Part of Aging."

The new year, **2005**, was off to a good start on **January 10** with special speaker Edith Sonnevik Payne. Inasmuch as nearly all members of ASP have memories reaching back to those WWII years, her recounting those years in her native Norway during the Nazi occupation was especially appreciated. Edith and her brother, Milton Sonnevik, have many friends in Bethany and other Nazarene circles. Brenda Styers, marketing director for Southern Plaza, presented information on Southern Plaza and provided a beautiful gift box for each table. The gift box was given to a member at each table. The Administrative Council met at 1:30 p.m. in the faculty lounge. A motion made by Don Beaver, and seconded by Bob Emmel, to appoint a small group from the Ad Council to prepare a draft of an updated mission statement and goals was approved. Dr. Tom Barnard was appointed chairman. Dr. Gerald Knutson will chair a Committee on Defensive Driving (55 and Alive).

Our **February 14** meeting came on Valentine's Day. A delightful program featured Charlotte Lankford who spoke on "Finding the Gifts in the Dark Times of Life." Mrs. Lankford is Director of the James Hall, Jr. Center for Mind, Body, and Spirit at Integris Health and is a marriage and family therapist in private practice with the Baptist Counseling Associates. In the

ASP *Perspective* Shirley Mears noted that “at the age of 40, Mrs. Lankford fell down the side of a cliff and broke almost every bone in her body. Concerning this unfortunate accident, she wrote, a wise friend suggested to me that instead of dwelling on what had happened to me that I should look for what I was learning from what had happened to me.” She is a popular speaker at church, civic, and professional groups throughout Oklahoma. Tammy Schafer, new membership chairperson, told about her company, Tender Touch. Diana Garcia was welcomed as a new member. Becky Walker from SNU announced that the Peer Learning Network will present David Gergen in the April meeting to be held in the Cox Center. President Arnold announced that Lecil Brown had agreed to serve as historian for the ASP. He will replace Dr. L. Paul Gresham who was historian from the Academy’s beginning until March, 1998.

“What’s Right with America” was the timely topic by speaker Anna Belle Wiedermann on **March 7**. Mrs. Wiedermann was recently named “Woman of the Year” of the Heartland Chapter of American Business Women for 2005. She is experienced in all aspects of the agricultural process as a farmer and rancher. She has served as a state legislator and as a member of many prestigious committees. She has traveled extensively throughout Europe, beyond the iron curtain, South America, Australia and Canada. She is also a wife and mother of one daughter, and has two grandchildren. Billie Harrison reported on the deaths of two past members who will be sadly missed. Dr. Clyde Dawson died on January 24, 2005 surrounded by friends at home. He pastored in the Church of the Nazarene for more than forty years. He is survived by his wife, Anna Faye, three daughters, one step-daughter, one step-son and five siblings. He was 93. Rev. Loy Watson, 90, died on February 4, 2005. He is survived by his wife of over 70 years, Luna, two sons and their wives, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Rev. Watson pastored forty-five years in the Church of the Nazarene.

Thanks to SNU President Dr. Loren Gresham for subsidizing the cost, the members gathered at the Cox Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City on **April 8** to hear David Gergen at the Peer Learning Network. Mr. Gergen has 30 years of experience in Washington and the White House. He has served as advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan and Clinton. He is editor-at-large of the *U.S. News & World Report*. His insight into the ways of Washington gives a unique opportunity for ASP members to learn his views on the situation in Washington. Over fifty members were in attendance at the special event.

For the last meeting of the ASP until fall, District Attorney Wes Lane addressed the group on **May 9** on the topic “The Role of the District Attorney as Minister of Justice: Turning Theory into Practice.” An Oklahoma native, Mr. Lane received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma. While he was still a law student in 1981 he became a legal intern in the Oklahoma County District Attorney’s office. After graduation from law school he was appointed Assistant District Attorney by Robert H. Macy. In the position he won about 95 percent of his jury trials. The speaker’s mother, Bobbi Burbridge Lane, was a special guest. Other special guests were Ellen Jane Wheeler, Thomas Peil and Jory Conly from the Urban Financial Group and luncheon vocalist Erica Seyfert who sang “I’m Proud to be an American.” Elbert Overholt, Director, presented the election ballot for 2005-2006 as recommended by the nominating committee. The results announced later were: President, Jack Arnold; Vice President, Tom Barnard; Secretary, Roy Franklin; Treasurer, Roy Dorris; Members-at-large

Harold Dozier and Tim Griffith. President Jack Arnold closed the meeting with the prayer or St. Francis and the Irish Blessing.

Before the **October 10** meeting the Administrative Council met on September 2 and decided to reduce the cost of the monthly luncheons from \$7.50 to \$5.00. The purpose was to keep the luncheons as affordable as possible for everyone. In order to do this, the Council believed, that individuals and organizations would be willing to pledge \$300 toward one month's meals. Volunteers quickly came forth and pledged to underwrite six of the eight luncheons in the 2005-2006 year. Dr. Tom Barnard was the sponsor of the October luncheon. "Blessed are the peacemakers: Conflict Resolution" was the subject of the presentation by Mr. George Rennix. He was the founder of "Barnabas Ministries." The Barnabas Ministries reaches out to business men, pastors, and men's ministry leaders in and out of the church. The purpose is to "promote, encourage, and teach the wisdom, commands, and practical applications written in the Holy Bible." Dr. Anna Belle Laughbaum, retired SNU English professor, wrote for the *Academy Perspective* some reflections under the title "Written on the 231st Day of My 90th Year." It was a delightful piece from a great lady. All members lost a cherished friend on June 8 with the death of Cantley George. A native Texan, Cantley came to BPC where he met and married Syble on August 31, 1952. Cantley was perhaps best known for his many mission trips (97) when he served as an interpreter. President Jack Arnold announced the appointment of Rev. Park Burkhardt as the new chairperson of the Membership Committee.

Downsizing is a word often in use by seniors. So it was no accident that the **November 14** meeting had as speaker a lady who would offer expert advice. Marsha and Steve Loflin created a business they named *Store It in Style*. They specialize in redesigning closets, laundry rooms, pantries and garages. Marsha said "no organizing project is too big or too small. Steve and I have helped many seniors downsize and simplify their lives." She brought a number of items with her to demonstrate how to attack the problem. Forrest and Jean Ladd, recognized genealogists, presented another program to the Research Interest Group. A tour of the new SNU Marchant Welcome Center was provided for those interested at the close of the luncheon. Lecil Brown wrote an article for the *Academy Perspective* giving some historical background for Armistice Day, November 11, 1918, which now is observed as Veterans Day in recognition of veterans from all the nation's wars. Elbert and Darlene Overholt were sponsors of this month's luncheon.

SNU President Dr. Loren Gresham joined the group on **December 12** for his annual visit and report on SNU. He spoke this year on "What a Time to be at SNU." Three main points he brought to our attention this year were: (1) the Marchant Family Welcome Center dedication on November 12, 2005, (2) the 2005 SNU enrollment record, and (3) the installation of the new SNU Provost. Dr. Gresham's distinguished career began at Bethany Nazarene College (now Southern Nazarene University) in 1967. He has been President of the University since 1989. Dr. Gresham serves on many boards of national organizations, and the Church of the Nazarene. Dr. Gresham and his wife, Linda, have one daughter and two grandsons. They again graciously invited all members to their home for the annual **ASP Holiday Reception** following the meeting. Dale and Gerri McClafin introduced the visitors at the luncheon in the absence of Joyce Ellis. Guests were: Ruth Taylor, LaWanda Allison and Dr. Mark Heaney, Pastor of the First

Presbyterian Church of El Reno. Piano music was provided by Nona Burkhart. Dr. Gresham sponsored the luncheon this month.

Program director Shirley Mears promised that all members would “be informed, interested, and entertained” during the first meeting of the new year on **January 9, 2006**. The speaker was Dr. David Gallant who spoke about search and rescue dogs in Oklahoma. Gallant started training German Shepherds in the late 1960’s with the United States Air Force. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in computer science at the University of Oklahoma, his Master of Science degree in geography at Oklahoma State University, and his doctorate in geo-science at Texas A & M. He is currently Founder/President of Lynjonic Technologies in Oklahoma City and Adjunct Professor, History and Geography Department at SNU. Unfortunately, Dr. Gallant was unable to get to the meeting but Shirley made good use of the time by sharing several articles from the *45 & Better News*. Information was also presented about the Angel Food Program. Dale Gober, Director of Operations for *45 & Better News*, spoke on “Thinking Outside the Box.” Dr. Don Beaver, Publications Chairman, who announced last month that the 2005-2006 directory was available reminded the members who did not get a copy that they could get one after today’s meeting. The Burbridge Foundation subsidized the cost of the luncheon today. Nona Burkhart provided piano music.

Former local sportscaster, Robbie Robertson, reported on physically-disabled athletes at the luncheon meeting on **February 13**. He and his wife, Adrienne, created a non-profit organization called the Sports Group, Inc. The University of Central Oklahoma became the title sponsor of the Sports Group and brought it into the UCO family. The title of Robbie’s speech was “UCO Disabled Sports & Events: From an idea to Olympic partnership in six short Years.” Dale Gober introduced the speaker. New members Walter and Dorothy Hammert were welcomed, along with several visitors. Thurman and Annette Coburn subsidized the cost of the luncheon today.

“A National Treasure Turns 50” was the focus of the **March 6** meeting as the **ASP** members heard Chuck Schroeder speak about the “future mission, history and vision of the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum” He has been the Executive Director of the museum since March, 2002. “A cowboy in a suit would be a good description of Chuck Schroeder.” He has been involved in the development of our beef and cattle industry. He maintains the Schroeder Cattle Company, the family’s ranch in Nebraska. He was introduced to the group by Dale Gober. Edith Sonnevik Payne introduced new members Harry Stultz, Ryne Jarboe and Martin Grantham, and guests, Kathryn Janssen and Phyllis Armstrong. The Spanish Cove Life-Care Retirement Village subsidized the cost of the March luncheon.

For the fourth year in a row, SNU President, Dr. Loren Gresham, invited **ASP** members and guests to participate in the *Partners-in-Learning Presents* luncheon on **April 13** in the Oklahoma City Cox Convention Center. Featured speaker was Mr. Ari Fleischer, former White House spokesman and assistant to the President of the United States. He is author of a book *Taking Heat* and is now President of his own firm *Ari Fleischer Communications*. In the Administrative Council meeting today a motion was made by Tom Barnard and seconded by Roy Dorris that Brenda Styers be appointed as co-director of the **ASP** effective May 1, 2006. After one year as co-director, consideration will be given to make her full director as Elbert Overholt moves on to

other responsibilities. The motion carried. Olson Enterprises and an anonymous donor subsidized the April luncheon.

The 2005-2006 academic year came to a close for the **ASP** on **May 6**. Special speaker and film creator, Bradley Wynn, chose for his topic "Captain Kirk, the Deep Blue Sea, and Me." He became interested in the film industry while working as a state police officer and wrote some of his imaginative stories on the back of ticket books. Mr. Wynn lives in Oklahoma City. President Jack Arnold was invited for lunch with Chuck Schroeder who was our speaker in March and he suggested that Charles E. Rand, Director of the Dickinson Research Center, would be an excellent person to speak to our own RIG group. Mr. Rand accepted the invitation and was the speaker at the RIG meeting this month. His presentation was well received. Tribute was given to Dr. Anna Belle Laughbaum who died on April 2, 2006. She was a great teacher, great Christian Lady and a friend to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of BPC, BNC and SNU students from the time she started teaching in 1947. She will be missed. Dr. Robert and Naomi Emmel were sponsors of the luncheon today.

