



Perspective

Vol. 15 — No. 4

January — 2006

“K9 Search and Rescue in Oklahoma” is David Gallant’s luncheon speech title on January 9

by Shirley Mears

All Academy of Senior Professionals (ASP) members and guests will be informed, interested, and entertained when they hear David Gallant speak about search and rescue dog cases in Oklahoma at the first luncheon meeting of the New Year, Monday, January 9, 11:15 a.m.-



David Gallant

1:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Webster Commons on the Southern Nazarene University (SNU) campus.

Gallant started training German Shepherds in the late 1960’s with the United States Air Force. He focused on K9 search and rescue during the 1980’s.

In the last several years, these amazing dogs have been credited with over two dozen live finds and 18 cadaver finds. The latest find was during the 1999 Oklahoma City tornado when the search dog “Ande” found two people buried alive. The youngest find was a four-year old child lost outside of El Paso in 2002; the oldest cadaver find was a 73-year old Alzheimer patient in 1998.

A non-profit corporation “Oklahoma Search And Rescue Dog Association” (OSARDA) was formed in 2000. OSARDA is developing legislation (1) to implement a central callout system for Oklahoma K9 search and rescue units, and (2) to improve Oklahoma laws to allow local authorities more freedom on utilizing K-9 search and rescue units.

Gallant received his Bachelor of Science degree in computer science at the University of Oklahoma, his Master of Science degree in geography at Okla-

homa State University, and his doctorate in geoscience at Texas A&M University.

Currently, Gallant is the Founder/President, Lynjonic Technologies in Oklahoma City and Adjunct Professor, History and Geography Department at SNU. His areas of interest are geographic information systems, computer mapping K9 search and rescue incidents throughout the Midwest, and orienteering. He has published in professional journals and taught a wide range of courses in computer science and geography at the university level.

The professional affiliations of our January luncheon speaker include the National Association of Search and Rescue, American Pet Dog Association, Association of American Geographers, American Geographical Society, and American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.

Important information regarding luncheon reservations

Members: If you have not been contacted by one of our telephone callers, then please call Mrs. Shirley Pelley, ASP Telephone Committee Chairperson, at 405.354.3853.

Guests: Please call Dr. Elbert Overholt, ASP Director, at 405.789.2036.

All:

1. The cost of the luncheon is \$5.00 person. The Burbridge Foundation is the subsidy sponsor for January.
2. Please make your reservation(s) *before Thursday, January 5.*

Contributors to Luncheon Cost Subsidies

October — Tom and Madelyn Barnard

November — Elbert and Darlene Overholt

December — Loren Gresham

January — The Burbridge Foundation

February — Thurman and Annette Coburn

March — Spanish Cove

April — Olson Enterprises and an anonymous donor
(one-half subsidy each)

May — Unfilled



Your president's point of view:

by Jack David Arnold

The "dark night of the soul" is *not* "the end of the world"

According to Gerald Clark in *Capote: A Biography* (1988), Truman Capote wrote the following words to his friend Mary Louise, who bore more than the usual burdens of sadness, to "raise her up":

All human life has its seasons, and no one's personal chaos can be permanent winter: winter, after all, does not last forever, does it? There is summer, too, and spring, and though sometimes when branches stay dark, and the earth cracks with ice, one thinks they will never come, that spring, that summer, but they do, and always.

The ancient peoples thought that the world was flat, and if one ventured too close to the edge, one would fall off. "The end of the world" is a place where there is no solid ground for us to step upon. It is as if the earth stops there, and only emptiness lies beyond. We all have times when there seems to be nothing solid on which we can walk, stand, or even rest upon. Our world, then, seems to be crumbling under our feet, and we wish we were anywhere, but where we are.

When my parents were divorced in 1948 in my junior year at Bethany-Peniel College, I was certain that no faculty members or my classmates understood how I felt; I was unable to convince those close to me how tormented I was during the 1970s when my alcoholism landed me in jail and almost took my life; I was unable to find comfort from those close to me about how deep my hurt and despair was when, in 1979 in Jackson, Mississippi, my only living option was to enter Harbor House, a home for male alcoholics; and there seemed to be no way to find outside help in 1980 once I left the House.

A mystic, Saint John of the Cross, called this crisis "the dark night of the soul." I have been awakened during the pre-dawn hours when others are sleeping, and there is no one to talk to; it almost seems as if I am the only person alive in the world. The night seems endless, and it easy to believe that morning will never come.

Continued next column



"Sharing a Continuous Flight"

The Academy Perspective

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We value messages from our readers.
By mail: *The Academy Perspective (TAP)*, Southern Nazarene University, 6729 N.W. 39th Expressway, Bethany, OK 73008
By fax: (405) 491-6381
By computer: www.snu.edu/sr_professionals

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To make contributions to the Academy of Senior Professionals:
Mail to: Roy Dorris, Treasurer
4607 N. College, Bethany, OK, 73008

Our crises are like that, seeming to be endless and without hope of a good outcome. At such times, we might begin to believe that life is not worth living. Perhaps, we think the world would be better off without us; however, this is never true!

Each person in the world has a reason for living. Each person has a part to play in the life of every other person in the universe. Each person *does* matter.

When involved in a situation that feels like the end of the world, I have pictured myself standing at the beginning of a stairway. When there was no light, I could not see that there were steps that would support my weight; however, when I asked for light,

Continued on page 6—Arnold



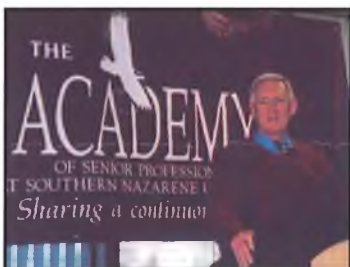
ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



January Academy Luncheon

SNU President Loren Gresham ↓



ASP President Jack Arnold ↓



ASP Program Chair Shirley Mears ↓



Guest Ruth Taylor ↓ Members: Jack/Dorothy Whenny ↓ Guest Rev. Mark Haney ↓ Guest Amy McCasland ↓ Dinner Music: Nona Burkhart ↓



Christmas reception hosted by President & Mrs. Gresham



Home of President and Mrs. Loren Gresham †
Beautiful and tasty reception refreshments ↓



Jack Arnold enjoys decorations ↓



Jack Arnold greets Bobbi Burbridge Lane †
The Greshams open gift from ASP ↓



ASP Membership Enjoys Fellowship At SNU President's Christmas Reception



Ed/EulaMae Neuschwander†



R.T./Pat Bolerjack†



Bob/Naomi Emmel†



Mr./Mrs Tim Griffith



Luna Watson



Tom Barnard, Sam/BKaye Stearman†



Elbert/Darlene Overholt



Dale/Gerri McClaflin†



Bob/Dorothy Griffin†



Roy Franklin†



Jack Pischel†



Shirley Mears, Jo Ann†



Park Burkhardt†



(l-r)Loren Gresham, Paul Gresham, David Ellis†



Betty Williams(left)
Anna Belle Laughbaum†



Shirley Pelley, Rebecca Dorris†



President's Ambassadors

Blake Carlson, Brock Van Cleave and Jeff Smith assisted with the ASP reception as members of the team of President's Ambassadors. Good job men!





Library Resources

by Bea Flinner

McGovern, George S. (George Stanley)

Ending Hunger Now:

A Challenge to Persons of Faith

It is no secret that there are untold millions of people worldwide who are starving and there seems to be no help in sight for many of them. Ending Hunger Now: A Challenge to Persons of Faith is a challenge to people of faith; this idea is stressed by the three authors: George McGovern, Bob Dole, and Donald E. Messer. They have accepted this challenge to end global hunger.

"To a hungry person," Mahatma Gandhi said, "God can appear only as a piece of bread." Thus, from the viewpoints of all of these men, the appeal and urgency of the book are directed primarily to help the clergy and the laity fulfill their responsibilities to combat global hunger. They believe that this heavy challenge can be met and are determined to bring that action to fruition. Donald Messer writes a powerful introduction challenging people to move towards accepting the urgency of this situation. He believes that women and children "bear the brunt of the brutality of malnutrition" because they are so vulnerable. Even small acts of kindness can be brought about in our daily living, such as sharing our lunch with someone. McGovern believes that the battle can be won, and gives a nine-point summary that would bring this about by the year 2030.



Research Interest Group Continues Genealogy Study

The focus of the RIG group meeting on January 9 will be Family History through Photographs, presented by Forrest and Jean Ladd. They give the following agenda for the meeting. It will be presented by Forrest and Jean Ladd. The first topic to be touched on will be saving, storing, and using of image files on a computer. Ways of obtaining pictures for family history and techniques for identifying subjects of pictures will also be discussed. Another topic for discussion is the restoring, editing, and captioning of old photographs through computer software. Time permitting, ways of organizing and storing digital images for family history, and with ways of publishing photo-centered family history materials will be included. Participants are encouraged to come ready both to ask questions and share their own experience with family history through photographs.



ASP News You Can Use

by Shirley Mears

I have so enjoyed my association with the officers, members, and friends of the Academy of Senior Professionals (ASP) and Southern Nazarene University (SNU). I first learned of this group when Mrs. Marilyn Olson, Chair of the ASP Strategic Planning Committee, mentioned to me that a senior adult conference (SAC2002) would be held at SNU in April.

I became acquainted with Dr. Jack David Arnold, ASP President, and he encouraged me to become involved as the ASP Program Chair. Since that time, I have had the pleasure of promoting the ASP in the Oklahoma community in my personal contacts with other professionals, *45 & Better News*, and my radio show on KTLR/AM890.

It is with pleasure that I am able to share the mission, programs, and activities of the ASP with friends, relatives, professionals, readers, listeners, and others in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. The concept of continuous, lifelong learning is inspirational.

I now have a long list of people who covet the opportunity to address our illustrious group. We are well on our way to having next academic year's (2006-07) speakers scheduled.

The upcoming speakers in 2006 include the following persons: sports enthusiast Robbie Robertson; *45 & Better News* columnist Robin Jones; and Bradley Wynn of the Oklahoma Film Society. On Thursday, April 13, we will travel to the Ford Center in downtown Oklahoma City to hear Mr. Ari Fleischer, former White House Secretary and Assistant to President George Bush. SNU President Loren Gresham has cordially invited ASP members and guests to attend this Partners-in-Learning Network (PLN) special luncheon and presentation.

Please let me know about speakers who interest you and whom you would like to nominate:

P. O. Box 850191, Yukon, OK 73085

405.603.6381

news@45andbetternews.com



Writer's Workshop Report

by Vadalee Barkley

The Writers' Workshop met Monday, December 12, at 9:30 a.m. in the Student Conference Room with Vada Lee Barkley presiding. Other members attending were Elbert and Darlene Overholt, Mary Smith, Naomi Tidwell, Paula Greer, Gene Chambers, and Jack Arnold.

Paula Greer presented the first part of her video entitled "The Seven Churches of Revelations." This program is the result of on-site visits and extensive research by her and her late husband, Bronell. Paula will continue the video at the February 2006 meeting of Writers' Workshop. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Mary Smith read her essay "The Superlatives of Christmas."

Naomi Tidwell read her story about her brother "Ernest Loran Toepfer."

After discussing these two writing samples, the meeting was adjourned until February 13, 2006.

HAPPY NEW YEAR — 2006

Continued from page 2—Arnold

then the stairway became visible, and each step led me from the problem to the solution.

There is a part of us that knows the right action for most problems that arise. There are no insoluble problems, only those we have not learned how to solve. Not knowing how to solve problems does not make us worthless persons. I am fond of saying, "There is a solution."

After the darkest night, the sun always rises. When we experience a problematic situation or a personal crisis, a cloud is hiding our faces from the face of the sun. The power and warmth of the sun within us will burn away the clouds that blot our inner light.

In this new year, 2006, may we let the sun of belief in life energize us as we walk together the surface of Mother Earth from January to December.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

--Louis Haskins, qtd. in *Abounding Grace*



NEWS BRIEFS

- **Speakers' bureau:** If you would like to speak on a topic of your choice in the community, please contact Dr. Jack Arnold (405.350.0405; jackarnold@aol.com) and/or Dr. Tom Barnard (405.621.9701; barnard22cox.net) about your interest in speaking and the topic that you would like to address.
- **Peer Learning Network (PLN) Presentation:** SNU President Loren Gresham has again cordially invited all ASP members to attend a special luncheon on **Thursday, April 13, 2006**, at the Cox Center in Oklahoma City. *Members only* will pay the usual five dollars cost for this luncheon, and the remaining cost of the luncheon will be subsidized by the PLN; all guests will pay the full cost of the luncheon. Former White House Press Secretary, Mr. Ari Fleischer, will be the featured speaker. Free transportation to this special even will be provided by SNU.
- **2005-2006 ASP Membership Directory:** If you did not receive the new Directory at the December luncheon, then please contact Dr. Overholt or Dr. Don Beaver (405.789.3941; dbeaver3@cox.net) for your copy. All members are encouraged to let Dr. Beaver know of any changes in their contact information.



ASP Calendar

Monday: January 9, 2006

- 9:00 a.m. Shuttle: Sawyer parking lot to Webster Commons **begins**
- 9:30-10:45 Research Interest Group: Commons Student Life Conf. Rm.
- 10:30 a.m. Shuttle: Sawyer to Webster **continues**
- 11:15 a.m. Luncheon begins: Heritage Room—Webster Commons
- 1:00 p.m. Luncheon meeting ends
- 1:15 p.m. Ad. Council: Faculty Lounge—Webster Commons
- 1:30 p.m. Shuttle: Webster Commons to Sawyer parking lot **ends**.
- 1:15 p.m. Ad. Council: Faculty Lounge, Webster Commons



REMINDERS

- **Membership Dues:** Members who have not paid their annual dues, may pay them at the January 9 Luncheon or send their checks to Dr. Roy Dorris, ASP Treasurer, 4607 N. College, Bethany, OK 73008. Yearly individual dues for the calendar year are \$15.00, or \$1.25 per month. The initiation fee for new members is \$10.00.
- **ASP Web Site:** Information about the ASP may be found at www.snu.edu/sr_professionals.
- **Luncheon reservations:** Kindly be reminded that when a member or guest makes a reservation, the ASP Treasurer must include it in his count and pay the Sodexo catering service.
- **Luncheon cancellations:** A member or guest who must cancel his or her reservation should call Dr. Elbert Overholt *before the Friday morning before the Monday luncheon*. If timely cancellations are *not* made, then he or she is respectfully requested to forward a check in the amount of \$5.00 to Dr. Roy Dorris, ASP Treasurer, 4607 N. College, Bethany, OK 73008. The check should be made payable to SNU with a notation on the check *ASP luncheon*.

Shuttle Service: SNU continues to offer free shuttle service to and from the northwest corner of the Sawyer Center parking lot, 41st and Donald Street. Newcomers should turn north at the red light at 39th Expressway and Peniel Street; go two blocks north to 41st Street; turn right (east) one block to Donald Street. The shuttle begins service at 9:00 a.m. and continues making trips back and forth to the Webster Commons where the luncheon is held until 1:30 p.m. Members are urged to use this shuttle service.

New brochure

Members and friends of the ASP may secure copies of the new ASP brochure at the January 9 luncheon or by requesting them from Dr. Elbert Overholt: 4245 Mariner Drive, Yukon, OK 73099; 405.789.2036; overez1@cox.net.