

NEW ASP PROGRAM CHAIR INTRODUCES OCTOBER 14 PROGRAM

The Computer Nerd, my hero!

By Shirley Mears*

Computers are just boxes of plastic, wires and buttons. I have several of them in the garage with just one little thing that they won't do. I've spent money on them with dreams of the repair solving all my problems. However, I just end up getting another box.

My box has an amazing ability to invoke all kinds of emotions! I have had visions of tossing mine out of the window with a shout of, "There! Take that!" It has the gall to ask me questions I can't answer, and of course, it wants a conversation when I am nearing deadline and the next issue of 45 & Better News is supposed to be on the road to the printing company in Lindsey, Oklahoma.

Jim Tate, with Computer NERDZ, is the kind of person who loves helping spastic people. Like a fireman, he takes the call and sends help to the rescue, to save the day and to save us from ourselves in a computer meltdown. Like Jim, each of us must look deep into our souls to find our gifts and our purposes in life. There is no better life than to spend your day using your gifts.

Jim worked with Montgomery Ward company for 16 years, starting as a part-time salesman in the electronics department at Penn Square Mall and ending his career, with the bankruptcy of the company, as the

store manager at the Crossroads location.

He started with Computer NERDZ! in June of 2001 and his many years in customer service and people management were a perfect fit for Computer NERDZ! And he truly loves his job. "I have always had an interest in computers and the internet," he says. "Helping people is second nature to me. In all my years with Wards I don't remember having as much fun at work as I do now. Most people who call for help start their conversation with something like 'I am computer illiterate.' I always tell those people 'you are like most computer users, you can use your computer just fine so long as everything is working properly.'"

Heroes come in all kinds of suits and Jim Tate has the ability of making heroes out of everyday people. He says, "I tell all potential Field Nerds during their interview they will go out on an average of three calls per day and it is very rewarding to work for a company where you get to be someone's hero at least three times per day."

While looking at some of my high school photos the other day, I remembered that I was not on the football team or track team. I took computer-programming classes and wore glasses. I never considered myself a Nerd in high school, but now I know I was one. I am proud to be considered the General Manager Nerd over the state of Oklahoma for Computer NERDZ!



Jim Tate



*Shirley Mears is the newly selected chairperson of the Program Committee and new member of the Academy of Senior Professionals. She serves as the senior editor and publisher for "45 and Better News" based in Yukon, OK.

You will learn more about her in an upcoming issue of The Perspective. You will meet Shirley when she introduces the program for the October 14 luncheon meeting of Academy.



Your president's point of view:
by Jack David Arnold

**Focusing on Creative Activity:
A Look at Work and Leisure**

The arrival of Labor Day weekend last month had me recalling what my mom used to say: "There is dignity in any honest job done well." She was always coming up with sayings like that.

No less a personage than Martin Luther King said something similar: "If you are called to be a street sweeper, sweep streets even as Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music, or Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

George Bernard Shaw, the British philosopher and playwright, wrote, "Retirement is a living definition of hell." Like Shaw, I have never liked the word "retirement."

For many senior adults, life after full-time work is painful, not pleasurable, because they follow the god of sports, the goddess of shopping, game-show circus masters, and/or an agenda to "do-what-I-couldn't-do-while-at-work," etc.

Most senior-adult Americans define themselves by what they have produced or are producing. **Homo faber** (the make-er) reigns over **homo ludens** (the play-er) or **homo orans** (the pray-er).

Work becomes a way of life and defines us. Even leisure time is run by the work ethic: places to see, things to do, and problems to solve.

Work has allowed society and its members to defeat **creatively** the shortcomings of nature. The imagination of our ancestors and today's collective wisdom have made it possible for us to recognize not only the benefits of science and technology, but also of culture and religion.

Definitions of the word "**work**" fill almost a page of most scholarly dictionaries. I define **work** as a physical or mental activity that is directed toward the creation or accomplishment of something that affects other persons and their surroundings.

Work involves our relationship to others, to nature, and to God. It does not cover the whole of human existence nor can it provide the only pathway of life in all its complexity.

The real purpose of our existence as mature adults is **life in fullness**. Work and leisure are part of God's gift to us all.

Contrary to common belief, work itself is not the result of sin; rather, some **toilsome** work is. In the Hebrew scriptures, work is a "biblical given" in order to survive. It is the necessary human contribution that God wills in order to bring about the fullness of humanity with **creation**.

Leisure is a time/space/feeling for fresh, new experiences, for self-realization, for communion, for social integration, for fantasy, for play; in short, for **creative life**. It is a time for rediscovering the meaning and purpose of life, for seeing the pursuit of living in its wholeness. Leisure is the occasion for the development of broader and deeper perspectives; it is a time for renewing the body, mind, and spirit.

On March 1, 1996, I resigned as a full-time senior professor at the DeVry University at Dallas. Since then, my challenge in this new stage of life has been to find a **creative balance between work and leisure**.

Continued on page 6—Arnold



**"Sharing
a
Continuous
Flight"**

The Academy Perspective

---Publication Board---

Chair & Production Editor Don Beaver, Ph.D.
Copy Editor Anna Belle Laughbaum, Ph.D.
Managing Editor Elbert Overholt, Ed.D.

---Columnists---

President's Column Jack David Arnold, Ph.D.
Obituaries

Feature Writer Billie Harrison
Book Reviews Vada Lee Barkley, M.A.
Library Resources Wini Howard, M.T.
Esther Schandorff, M.L.Sc.

---Staff Reporters---

Photography Edith Sonnevik Payne, B.S.N.
Programs Shirley Mears
Research (Vacancy)

---Communications Policy---

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 > Alumni & Friends > Community Relations > Academy of Senior Professionals

---Newsletter Subscription Information---

Annual subscription cost for **The Academy Perspective**:
Non-members—\$10.00 per year
Members—Included in membership

---Contributions---

**Questionnaire Results Show that the ASP
Members Participate in Volunteer Work and Are
Satisfied with the Current ASP Agenda and
Program of Activities**
By Jack David Arnold

Last spring, the Research Interest Group, under the direction of Chair Bea Flinner, distributed the ASP Activities/Interest Questionnaires at the April luncheon requesting the attendees to record their current activities, interests, and make recommendations for future ASP programs. Seventy (70) persons returned their Questionnaires.

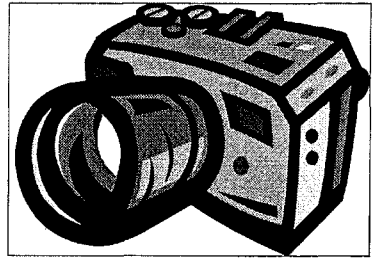
An analysis of the Questionnaires revealed the following results:

Continued on page 6—Questionnaires



ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



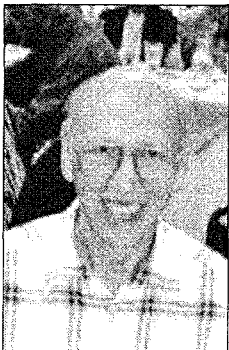
Left—New members: James and Shirley Posey.

Top right—Visitors Ty and Eunice Gainor (sister of Rebecca Dorris)



Right—New member: Darlene Graves.

Bottom right—Visitor: Tina Majors, candidate for state senate.

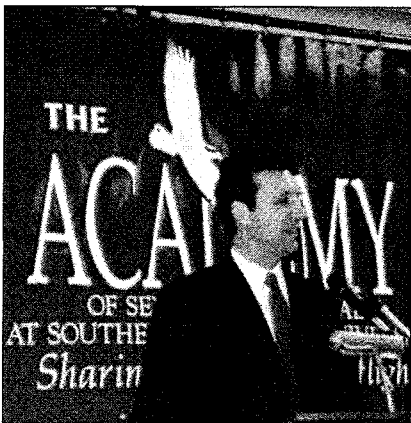


Left—New member/visitor: Fred Wenger.

Right—New members receive pins/certificates: l-r Darlene Graves, Shirley Posey, Shirley Mears, Jim Posey, Fred Wenger.



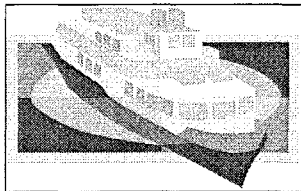
Pictures from the May, 2002, ASP Luncheon



Left—Speaker for the May ASP luncheon was Channel 5 TV meteorologist Rick Mitchell.

Right—Meteorologist Frank Johnson (left) with TV cameraman from KOCO TV Channel 5 who accompanied Rick Mitchell.





South American Odyssey

By James R. (Bob) Emmel

To embark upon a luxurious Celebrity cruise ship and then begin cruising one's way around the South American continent is to step into another world indeed. My wife and I had this rare experience during the month of December, 2001. After two days at sea we came upon the speck of an island, Aruba, off the coast of Venezuela. This tiny island, known for its year-round sun with its predominantly Dutch settlement of pastel painted houses and Dutch architecture, is quiet and serene. Sculptured by trade winds, the local *divi-divi* trees lean away from the winds, their top branches trailing like a maiden's floating hair. Below the jagged cliffs, thundering waves beat against a coral rock shore, and the beautiful white-sanded beaches make the island a delight for the many tourists who enliven this island year round.

After a day at sea we enter the Panama Canal, one of the great engineering wonders of the world. Construction of the Panama Canal has held the world's attention for scores of years. It has affected the lives of tens of thousands who have traveled from the Caribbean to the Pacific Ocean. The French initiated the building of the Canal but after so much discouragement and bankruptcy, the French sold their enterprise to the U.S. government. After many problems the Americans finally obtained permission to bring the Canal to fruition. In the process of building this ingenious canal it cost the French more than \$300 million dollars and hundreds of lives and they merely got the Canal started. As the Americans continued the completion of the Canal, finally on August 15, 1914—ten years after the Americans began work on the Canal—the first steamer sailed across the isthmus marking the official opening on the inter-ocean link. The total U.S. cost of the canal was \$387 million. Tragically, in the thirty-five years the French and the U.S. worked on the Canal, over 25,000 people died from accidents and diseases.

The route through the complete Panama Canal is approximately 50 miles long from the Pacific to the Caribbean. All ships must pay a toll, based on weight and cargo. The toll for our ship was approximately \$165,000; annual tolls total \$300 million. There are six locks—three on each coast—necessary to lift and lower the ship, which is pulled slowly by mechanical "mules" through the entire canal. The cost can run up as high as \$175,000 per vessel. The tolls may seem excessive, but not when considering the alternative route from east to west: the trip from the east coast of Panama around South America and its southernmost Cape Horn would add another 10,000 miles on the journey to the Pacific Ocean. Even at a vessel's fastest cruising speed, the journey would take well over three weeks, not including stops for provisions and fuel. Since the Canal opened 75 years ago, over 750,000 vessels have taken the short-cut, transporting everything from oil and grains to cars and trains, from tourists and travelers to elephants and giraffes.

After the fascinating travel through the Canal we begin our cruise down the West Coast of South America. Ecuador is located in the northwest side of South America at the equator and

is the smallest country in the Andean highlands. The country is made up of many ethnic groups and contrasting cultures, with the main population being native Americans. Our main port of call is the coastal city of Manta. The archaeological Museum of pre-Colombian artifacts is wonderfully preserved at the State museum. The city of Manta, founded in 1628, is renowned as the center of the Panama hat industry, with hats woven from straw obtained from certain palms on the Ecuadorian Coast. This city is a shopper's paradise, offering wonderful Ecuadorian arts and crafts in the main plaza of the city.

Next we have a day at sea as we cruise our way to Peru. The at-seas days are so filled with activities, such as classes of various kinds, wonderful lectures on the ports of call, concerts, and splendid after-dinner shows, that one does not have time to think of being homesick or seasick. Food is always available at the various restaurants, where you can have the choice of buffet or sit-down breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is a choice of foods during the entire cruise that one almost lives in the realm of frustration as to what to choose for a next gustatory delight.

After the fifth day at sea we enter the port of Callao, Peru, the chief seaport of the country. It is only a short drive from Callao to Lima, the capital, which has a wonderful array of attractions ancient and modern and everything in between. Lima is a city of many contrasts. Here one can see people on the streets dressed in the native Andean costumes or in the most modern fashions. There is the old and the new in architecture. The city square is loaded with historical wonders. To mention a few: there is the Government Palace, the wonderful cathedral, the San Francisco Monastery, and the museums of ancient artifacts. Peru is noted for its many archeological wonders, such as Cuzo, the archeological capital of the Americas. Here it is

Continued on page 6—Odyssey



News Briefs

- **Membership Directory:**

A new ASP members directory will be published next month and distributed at the November meeting. **All additions and/or corrections must be given to Don Beaver by Monday, October 14, to be included in the new directory.** A form will be available at the October 14, luncheon meeting. You may also call 491-6646 or e-mail: dbeaver@snu.edu.

- **Chairperson of the Research Interest Group:**

If you are interested in becoming the Chairperson of the Research Interest Group, you should contact Director Elbert Overholt or President Jack Arnold at your earliest convenience. President Arnold accepted former RIG Chairperson Bea Flinner's resignation last summer with regrets, but with appreciation for her outstanding leadership as the second RIG Chairperson.

- **ASP Contributions needed:**

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Academy of Senior Professionals (ASP) this fall. Your contribution will help us to have a positive balance in our operating projects throughout this academic year and to sponsor future projects. Kindly make your check payable to Southern Nazarene University with a notation on the check for the ASP.



"If you ask me"
By Vada Lee Barkley

When I mentioned to Don Beaver (TAP Editor) last spring that I had bought a computer, he suggested I write an article about my experience for TAP. Here goes.

I thought about a title such as "Travels with a Computer," but since I'm not going anywhere, I'll skip the title.

After wearing out my IBM Selectric II typing a book of Art's notes last fall, I was proud of the contents but so ashamed of the small type that I determined my next book would be typed on a computer. My first step was calling Paul Patrick to see if he could suggest a student I could hire. He couldn't.

"If you want something done right, do it yourself," I decided. So I bought a Gateway like one on display at the store.

Larry and Jim Hadley put the desk together and connected the computer. Dale Horton connected the printer. Roy Dorris got me on the internet. Dale McLaughlin set up my scanner. Now what?

I'd learned to type documents within a few days, but I had no idea all I'd have to do to get a book ready for a publisher. My publisher's specifications were extremely complicated.

Fortunately, Tim Griffith offered to help me. He tells me what to click, and we meet the requirements. He took pictures of Art's paintings, taught me to scan them, then took them home, and touched them up. Without his help, I would be a basket case.

I still have a lot to learn. But the book Smile-God Loves You will hit the market this fall. And I won't be ashamed of the type.



Meet Syble by Shirley Posey

During the last Easter Celebration, as I was reading the Bible and asking again why did Jesus die, I found one answer in II Cor. 5:15 which reads: "He died for all so that all who live having received eternal life from Him might live no longer for themselves to please themselves, but to spend their lives pleasing Jesus who died and rose again for them." Our pleasing Jesus will come from our caring for and helping them with their needs. Syble George is a very good example of pleasing Jesus by serving others and helping the needs.

For example, she drives patients for medical or counseling sessions for the Department of Human Services. These are people who do not have their own transportation. She stays with the patients during their appointments and then drives them home. Syble's husband, Cantley, sometimes drives with her when she needs help with a patient.

Syble also volunteers one-half day a week at Greenvale Family Center, where she answers the phone. This is another way to be a servant and to please Jesus. Hebrews 13:16 tells us: "Don't forget to do good and to share with others, for such sacrifices are very pleasing to God." Syble also makes appointments for the New Life Medical Clinic for those who call when the clinic is closed. In addition, she stuffs envelopes for Greenvale's mailings.

Furthermore, Syble has volunteered for several years with Bethany First Church's Classic Club for Senior Adults. The

monthly luncheon ladies, of whom Syble is one, decorate the



A look at a book
By Wini Howard

HALFWAY HOME: My Life 'til Now by Ronan Tynan

Halfway Home: My Life 'til Now is Ronan Tynan's autobiography. At 40 years of age, Tynan has concluded that he has lived half of his life. He hopes the second half won't be as traumatic as the first. However, there was much more than trauma. There has been great accomplishment.

Tynan's birth defects, badly deformed lower legs and feet, kept him in the hospital for his first three years of life. Then his "Mum" (mother) brought him home and began to care for him. Her grit and determination were certainly implanted in him. Despite his handicap, his competitive spirit enabled him to function in amazing ways. He became an excellent horseman. Several critical falls, from different horses, never discouraged him in his determination to ride.

At the age of 20, Tynan had his lower legs amputated and quickly was on his new feet. His determination not only to walk but participate and win in sports and Paralympics Games, is amazing. He won the gold medal in the Korean Olympics for the disabled. He also won medals in broad jump, discus, shot-put and set the world record for the 100 meter dash. His great achievement was winning the 100 yard sprint for double amputees. He won many honors at the Olympics in Korea in 1988.

Tynan finally decided to become a doctor, a demanding assignment. At the same time his singing ability was being recognized. Trying to pursue both interests created tension. Much to his parents' satisfaction, he completed his medical studies and received his MD. But at the same time the doors were opening wider for his singing career.

A choice finally had to be made. Responses to his singing were so great and fulfilling that he is giving all of his time to his music. He is known widely as one of the Irish Tenors.

This book is in the Metropolitan Library system.



tables using a seasonal theme. They arrange the drinks, serve the food and clean up following the luncheon. Syble and her co-volunteers also help with craft classes, trips and others activities for members of the Classic Club.

Syble serves as secretary for the World Missions Council at Bethany First Church. She also has served as secretary and missionary book reading chairperson of the Kumjoynus Sunday School Class.

Probably Syble's most rewarding volunteer work has been Work and Witness projects over the past 14 years. Her trips have taken her to Mexico, Guatemala, Africa, Venezuela, Haiti, and Argentine. Syble's most recent trip was to Juarez, Mexico with the SNU Commission to Mexico, where she assisted the nurses in a medical clinic.

Syble has a servant's heart. She unselfishly gives of herself to those who are needy.

Syble and Cantley have been ASP members since 1997.

Continued from Page 2—Arnold

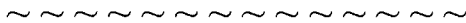
My endeavors in our professional society as a volunteer and in the DeVry University classroom as a salaried emeritus professor of rhetoric and ethics are exhilarating, joyful, and energizing; both provide me with opportunities for **creative activity**.

In the coming academic year, 2002-2003, I hope that each member or friend of the Academy of Senior Professionals will find work and leisure in his or her development.

The rewards of social participation, interesting experiences, and opportunities for self-expression can be obtained through both work and leisure in our professional society and extended community.

Dr. James Robert Emmel, my teacher, mentor, and friend of more than fifty years, sent me the following relevant and unsolicited e-mail message on April 13, 2002: "One of the real secrets of healthy living, in my estimation, is a life full of positive, constructive, and challenging activities."

Work and leisure present themselves as active, creative, and practical solutions to a vision of what could be.



Questionnaires—Continued from page 2

- Attendance at luncheon meetings was recorded by all seventy (70) persons as the activity in which they would participate
- Thirty (30) persons revealed that they participated in at least one of the following activities: collected money at luncheons, decorated luncheon tables, collected dues, played the piano at luncheons, called members for luncheon reservations, drove the shuttle from Bethany First Church of the Nazarene parking lot to Webster Commons for the luncheon meetings; delivered lunches to persons who could not attend the luncheons; and started the Book Review Group.
- Sixty (60) persons indicated that they had participated in one of the following committees or small groups: the Administrative Council, Bylaws, Program, Membership, Publications, Strategic Planning, Scholarship, Telephone Calling, Decorations, Senior Adult Conference 2002, Writing Workshop, Research Interest Group, Book Discussion Group, and Genealogy Workshop.
- Forty (40) persons indicated that they had participated in **volunteer work** in four categories: (1) ASP, (2) SNU, (3) church, and (4) extended community
 - **ASP:** See above listing of volunteer work in the ASP
 - **SNU:** President of SNU Foundation; Trustee on SNU Advancement Committee; Steering Committee for SNU Capital Campaign; Ad Hoc Committee of SNU Trustees for Care of President; presented paper at the Compassionate Ministry Conference 2001; Project Chair of the Faculty Dames
 - **Church:** Attended several Prime Time activities for Trinity, Bethany First, and Western Oaks Churches of the Nazarene; participated in Bethany First Church activities by serving coffee for Sunday School class; called on members and guests, created

senior adult crafts; attended meetings of the Classic Club and the missionary chapter; sang in the choir; served as officers of the Association of Retired Ministers and Missionaries (ARMM).

- **Extended Community:** served on the Board of the Bethany Senior Citizens; called on shut-ins and hospital patients; stuffed envelopes for Greenvale Scouts; tutored at Bethany Center; delivered Meals-on-Wheels, tutored after-school students; volunteered at the Greenvale Family Center and Clinic; directed SAM TOURS, Inc.; served as Class of 1944 Representative for the Central High School of Oklahoma City Alumni Association; attended meetings of the Oklahoma City Republican Women; member of Oklahoma City Retired Teachers.

RIG Chair Bea Flinner wrote on August 15, 2002, that she "was really surprised at the small number of people who expressed interest in ASP activities that they would like to see sponsored in the future. I recommend that we conduct another survey about mid-second semester [March or April 2003]."

As I stated in this month's editorial, "*Work and leisure present themselves as active creative, and practical solutions to a vision of what could be.*"



Continued from page 4—Odyssey

possible to fly over the lost city of Machu Picchu. There are so many fascinating archeological places of interest it is not possible to take in some of these sites, since distance and time are a great factor. Lima and surrounding areas are meccas for purchasing various items—especially alpaca woolens, copper, silver and leather goods.

This base of the Andes is made up of an interesting population of Peruvian people, who are short of stature and have kind faces and manners. They are a very warm, lovable people. As we leave to return to the ship, we drive through lovely residential areas along the calm coastal waters and beautiful parks.

"Odyssey" will be continued in the November "Perspective"



ASP Calendar

Monday: October 14	
9:00-11:00 am	Writing Workshop-General Conference Rm.
10:30-11:00 am	Shuttle: West BFC Parking Lot to Commons
11:15 am-1 pm	Luncheon meeting-Heritage Room
1:00-1:30 pm	Shuttle: Commons to West BFC Parking Lot
1:15-2:00 pm	Administrative Council: Fireside Room

Extra News Brief: Writing Workshop—October 14
 "Bring your completed articles, essays, poems, and enthusiasm for writing. I will look forward to our first meeting and renewing our interest in writing!" —Carol Spencer, Chairperson