



# Perspective

## “SNU in Challenging Times” is the title of President Loren Gresham’s address at the December 13 luncheon by Shirley Mears

The annual address by Dr. Loren Gresham, President of Southern Nazarene University, and a reception in the Gresham home during the holiday season are among the great traditions of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Southern Nazarene University.



Loren Gresham

His address will take place at the monthly luncheon on Monday, December 13, 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m., in the Heritage Room of the Webster Commons on the north end of the SNU campus. Parking is available for members and guests in the north parking lot of the Sawyer Building located at 42<sup>nd</sup> and Peniel Streets.

In his luncheon speech entitled “SNU in Challenging Times,” President Gresham will address four major points: (1) public policy changes, (2) ever-present private institution challenge, (3) CON issues, and (4) “the other side of the story.”

Minor points of the speech will include these specific topics: reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant, the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University presence, for-profit presence, going it alone, status quo, decline in youth membership, governance structure, enrollment, construction projects, academic profile, and the future.

Loren Paul Gresham was born in Nashville, Tennessee. He received a bachelor of arts degree in history from Pasadena College, master of arts degree in international relations from the University of Southern California, and a doctor of philosophy degree in political science from the University of Oklahoma.

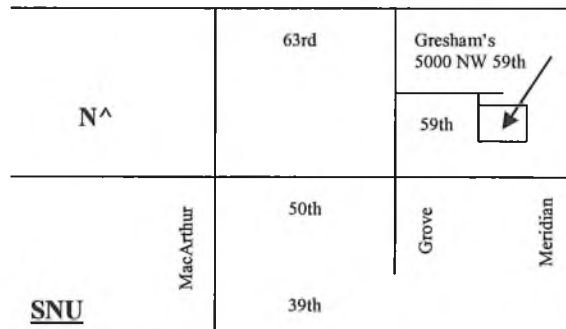
In 1985, he was selected by SNU’s President Ponder Gilliland to serve as the provost of the University. In 1989, the SNU Board of Trustees elected him to serve as

president of the University.

President Gresham currently serves as a member of the Council of Education of the Church of the Nazarene, chair of the World Mission Department of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene. He was a past member of the Board of Directors of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, chair of the Council of Presidents of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, member of the Oklahoma City YMCA Board of Directors, and a member of the Rotary Club 29 of Oklahoma City. Most recently he was elected to the Board of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Gresham’s career on this campus began at Bethany Nazarene College in 1967 as a professor of political science and history. As a Fulbright Scholar (1970-71) at Victoria University, Wellington, Zealand, he formed a wide acquaintance with leaders in many areas of national life. He married Linda Lee Brown in 1964. They have one daughter, Suzanne Lynette Strawn, who married Dr. Brad Strawn; they have two sons, Evan Bradley and Keaton Paul.

**All members and guests are cordially invited to hear Dr. Gresham and attend the holiday reception; they are also urged to make their reservations by calling 405.789.2036 before Thursday, December 9. The luncheon begins at 11:15 a.m. and ends promptly at 1:00 p.m. The reception will begin at 1:30 p.m. Please see map below for directions to the Gresham home.**



Map: Directions to the Gresham Home



### Your president's point of view:

by Jack David Arnold

## Ethics and religious belief: Finding common ground on moral problems

*An unexamined life is not worth living.*

--Socrates (ca 470-399, B.C.), Greek philosopher

A friend of mine made a statement recently that started me to think about ethics and religious belief. She said, "If we could get rid of all the religions in the world, we would probably have no more wars."

Somehow the idea has arisen that ethics and religion are unrelated and incompatible. When religious thinkers discuss ethical issues, especially in the context of political policy, as we saw in the recent presidential campaigns, they are thought to be exceeding their reach, and perhaps, even committing an offense against the principle of separation of church and state.

How ironic that such a notion should arise at a time when popular culture no longer values the distinction between informed and uninformed opinion. In any case, the notion is without historical basis.

Throughout our civilization's history, religious thinkers have spoken to the larger society on moral issues, and society has generally profited from their guidance. Problems arise when religious leaders go beyond speaking *to* society and begin speaking *for* it on the basis of particular doctrines. The debates over abortion and homosexuality are cases in point.

**The thesis of this editorial is that ethical discourse on moral issues should take place on *common ground*—a basis of mutual interest or agreement.** This approach will allow all participants—Christians, Jews, Muslims, agnostics, atheists, and others—to use their personal experiences, intellectual procedures, and decision-making criteria to solve moral problems. Because theological doctrine depends to a great extent on faith, it does *not* provide that common ground. To say this is not to disparage theology but merely to acknowledge that it is *not* the tool for the job in question.

A focus on faith, rather than reason, can also prevent us from presenting the most persuasive ethical argument. A case in point is the controversy that arose some years ago over a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) grant. It was awarded to artist Andres Serrano, who produced a shocking painting, which consisted of a crucifix in a bucket of urine.

Christians, believing that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, would understandably think Serrano guilty of

Continued next column



## "Sharing a Continuous Flight"

### The Academy Perspective

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blasphemy and the NEA guilty of supporting and approving the offense. That charge, however, would be ineffective in a *moral* argument offered to the general public.

No matter how tasteless Jews, Muslims, atheists, agnostics, and others may have found Serrano's work, they are not likely to be persuaded that ridiculing a religious belief constitutes an ethical violation. A more persuasive argument is that the use of *tax dollars* for such a work of art is immoral because it requires Christian citizens to contribute to the blatant disparagement of their religion.

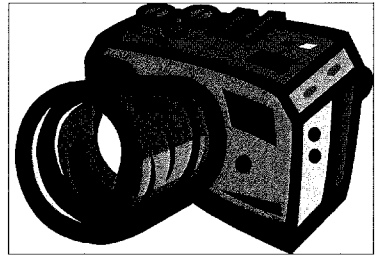
Similarly, when speaking with those who do not share our religious views, it is not very helpful to judge actions by the criterion of whether they "please or offend God." The question that naturally arises is, "How do you *know* whether they do or not?"

Continued on page 6—Arnold



# ASP PICS

PICTURES BY EDITH SONNEVIK PAYNE



**Jenny Fenner:** Director of Volunteers, Contact Crisis Helpline



**Tammy Schafer:** President of Tender Touch Home Services, Guest of Diana Garcia



**Stephanie McKinney:** Market Manager American Diabetes Assn., South Central Division



**Nancy Suhre:** Development Director, Contact Crisis Helpline

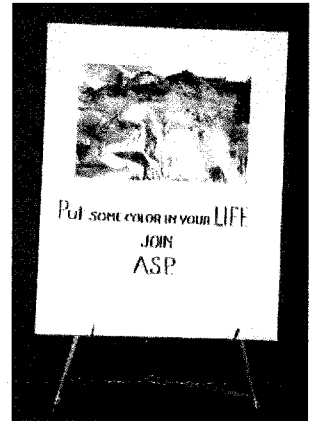


**Left:** Doris Littrell, visitor from San Diego, CA



**Right:** Luncheon decorations featured a quilted tablecloth made by mother of Joyce Ellis

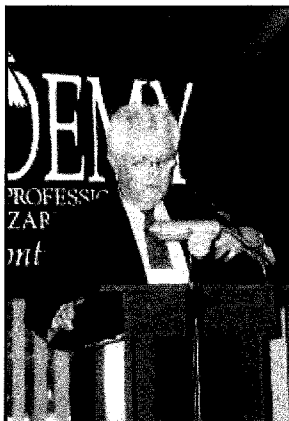
**Right:** A poster that speaks for itself, compliments of Joyce Ellis, Chair of the welcoming committee.



**Carol Spencer:** Presented a parking problem she had encountered



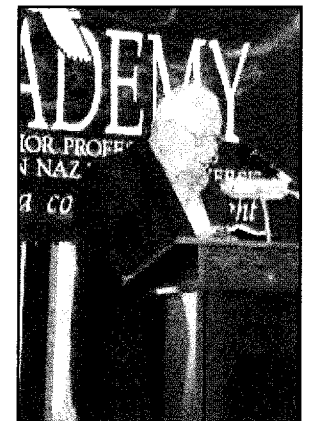
**Jack Arnold:** Our valiant and intrepid president



**Sam Stearman:** Brother Sam! Gave the closing prayer



**Gerald Knutson:** Presented information re: AARP driving program





### Library Resources

By Bea Flinger

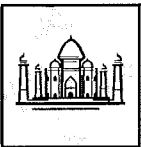
An appropriate book for the holiday season is *William & Catherine: the Life and Legacy of the Booths, Founders of the Salvation Army: a New Biography* by Trevor Yaxley with Carolyn Vanderwal.

After William Booth and Catherine Mumford found God, He led them to each other. They shared a passion for the glory of the Lord and for the rescue of desperate, destitute people. The Booths gave their lives to deliver the good news and to uplift, spiritually and physically, those in need. They allowed nothing to stand between them and being like Jesus, regardless of what it looked like to other people.

A century and a half later their example is still applicable to anyone who wants to be like Jesus. Their story remains today, especially to anyone who is seeking to impact the world spiritually and socially for lasting changes in people's lives.

"Trevor Yaxley has served us well by using the story of the Booths as a way to prophesy to this generation. Well-researched and well-written, this gripping tale of two of the greatest heroes of modern faith should be read by Christian leaders and new believers alike. I needed this book. God used it to rekindle my own devotion to evangelism and discipleship."

*In the SNU Library.*



### "Bronell Greer Memorial Project" Established

by Paula Greer\*

Beginning in 1963, through 1975, Bronell and I, accompanied by our son, Steve, made five overland trips by car between India and Europe through Bible lands. Our purpose was to take colored slides of all biblical sites, combine these with slides of places mentioned in the Bible, and prepare presentations to be used in India. After retirement, at the urgent request of the churches in India, it has been our goal to change slides into videos—and now most recently, into DVDs. Because of other involvements we were able to complete only one video—which we called "Iraq and Iran, The Lands of Daniel and Esther."

Because of Bronell's illness we could not fulfill our goal. Now, however, we have chosen to establish The Bronell Greer Memorial Project, and are striving to complete this work. This involves cleaning the slides by computer scanning, arranging them by subject, writing the commentary, choosing the appropriate musical background, and changing the final product into DVDs. Steve has given valuable assistance in scanning our much-used slides which has greatly improved their quality. Currently, we are completing The Seven Churches of The Revelation, which we hope to finish by Christmas.

Other slide series include, The Book of Acts, The Life of Abraham, The Life of Jesus, etc. We request your prayer support as we attempt this challenging project.

\*Paula and Bronell Greer have been members of the Academy of Senior Professionals.



### ASP News You Can Use

—Don't Get Mad—

by Shirley Mears

Holidays are best when celebrated with family and friends. Many people, however, struggle with how to party safely. Christmas and New Years parties can entice some people to focus their party time on drinking too much and then choosing to drive home.

Life is fragile and in 1980 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) formed to help find solutions to underage drinking and to create a grassroots effort to influence public policies. They also work to help support people who have suffered the pains of the senseless waste of life and health caused by irresponsible drinking.

If you know of someone with a drinking problem and want to help, contact Mothers Against Drunk Driving. To learn about a local chapter just click on the MADD website, [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org).



### Research Interest Group

#### The Facts About "The Blues"

by Valerie Morrison

The RIG program for the December 13 meeting is designed to cover facts about depression in later life from local resource information. Diana Hofstadter, with RSVP of Oklahoma, will be conducting the discussion regarding "The Blues: Not a Normal Part of Aging." RSVP has been in business in Oklahoma City since 1973 and their senior volunteers contribute over 230,000 service hours each year. The program will include a 15-minute video presentation.

Clinical depression affects 5% to 25% of all adults 65 and older in the U.S. Despite its prevalence among this age group, depression is not a normal part of growing older. Most older adults don't know how to recognize the signs of depression and aren't aware that it's a highly treatable medical illness.

Diana Hofstadter is a trained health professional who will be available to answer questions and provide additional information. She holds the bachelor's degree in social work from Wright State University and a master's degree in counseling psychology from SNU. She also holds national licenses/certifications as a professional counselor. Diana has served as the lead therapist for both the geropsychiatric and adult mental health units at the Midwest Regional Medical Center and is currently the lead therapist for Integris Decisions Day Treatment Center. This session will interest and challenge Academy members. All members are invited.

**The RIG meeting is scheduled for the Commons Student Life conference room at 9:30 a.m., Dec. 13.**

### ASP ON DISPLAY

The Academy was well-represented at the SNU Homecoming by posters designed by Joyce and Lloyd Ellis, assisted by Jack Arnold and Darlene and Elbert Overholt. Edith Payne provided pictures for the posters. The eye-catching posters were on display on the main level of the SNU Commons Friday and Saturday, November 12, 13.



### Writers' Workshop Report

by Vada Lee Barkley

In the absence of Chairperson Vada Lee Barkley at the November meeting, Jack Arnold led the writers in a discussion of two stories from June Phillips' book, *Joyful June Tunes*. Mary Smith read her short story, "The Cotton Patch." Arnold read a poem, "What Cancer Cannot Do." In addition to Smith and Arnold, the following writers were in attendance: Elbert and Darlene Overholt, Billie Harrison, Bob Emmel, Naomi Tidwell, Bea Flinner, and Paula Greer.



### Poet's Corner

Judith A. Lindberg

#### Christmas Poetry

##### Magic

It's in the snowflake skies of children's wishes  
It's in the music of children's laughter.  
It's in the breathlessness of children's anticipation.  
It's in the faith of children's embraces.

The magic of Christmas is here...  
In the childlike wonder of us all.

##### Someday, Perhaps

It begins long before the first frost—  
Somewhere between memory and reality.  
It touches us with compassion  
And whispers to us of hope.  
It tiptoes into our hearts with elation  
And opens our souls to faith.  
It's name is Christmas and we have yet to learn  
How to keep it close for more than  
This one brief, shining moment.  
Someday, perhaps...with love

*The Academy Perspective Wishes You—*

*A Blessed  
Christmas*



Continued from page 2—Arnold

The following two most common answers serve more to close off ethical inquiry than to promote it: One is, "Because the Bible says so." The other is, "This is my religious belief." If we wish to pursue the matter further, we are placed in the position of having to challenge the Bible as well or to invade the private domain of the other person's religious belief.

Some ethical questions cannot be adequately answered by reference to religious beliefs alone. Consider, for example, the case of a believer wrestling with this question: "Since I no longer accept some of the major teachings of the church in which I was reared, is it morally right for me to remain a member? What should I do?"

The question is by no means an easy one. Whatever approach the individual might use in answering it, the teachings of his or her religion would hardly be a definitive measure because they are an integral part of the question. *Using the church's teachings would be equivalent to affirming them and closing the issue.*

Most religious thinkers recognize the error of judging moral issues merely by religious belief. They realize the importance of discussing such issues in a way that is meaningful and appealing to *all people of good will and honest concern*; they wish to express their own understanding of human behavior but also wish to test it and help it to expand.

For this reason, they distinguish carefully between religious belief and philosophical ethics. Professor Sue Perry, my colleague at DeVry University at Dallas, compiled the primary works of philosophers from Confucius (c. 550-479 B.C.) to James Rachels (1941 to present) in her book *The Principles of Ethics*. She defines *ethics* as follows:

**The branch of philosophy that investigates and creates theories about the nature of right and wrong, duty, obligation, freedom, rights, virtue, means, ends, and consequences on issues where sentient [perceiving or feeling] beings can be harmed or helped. (2001, p. 268)**

Religious ethics is the examination of moral situations from a particular religious perspective. In it, the religious doctrine is *not* a substitute for inquiry. It is a starting point, a guide to inquiry, and a means to organize the findings of inquiry.

*There is a principle which is a bar against all information,  
which is proof against all arguments and  
which cannot fail to keep a man in everlasting ignorance—  
that principle is contempt prior to investigation.*

--Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), English philosopher



## ASP Calendar

### Monday: December 13

9:30-10:45 Research Interest Group, Commons Conf. Room

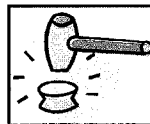
9:00-11:00 Shuttle: **Sawyer parking lot** to The Commons

11:15-1:00 Luncheon/Heritage Room-Commons

1:00 p.m. Shuttle: Commons to **Sawyer parking lot/Greshams**

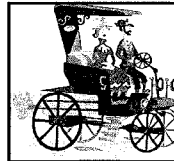
1:15 p.m. Administrative Council--No council meeting this month

1:30-3:00 President's Reception—Gresham's Home



## REMINDERS

\*Carol Spencer would like to remind you that if you look for a parking space for the next ASP meetings, don't forget to **consider using the Sawyer parking lot**. (North of the Sawyer Center—41st and Donald)



## AARP 55Alive Driving Course Offered Again in January

**Saturday, January 29 - 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
SNU Business Building, Room 125**

The 55 Alive program is national in scope and has served seniors and others for many years. Most states mandate that a graduate receive a discount off his or her auto insurance premium.

**The Academy of Senior Professionals is the official sponsor** of the classes held at Southern Nazarene University. The next class will be January 29, 2005. Registration begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. in Room 125 at the Royce Brown Business Building. The maximum class size is 35. **Please pre-register with Sue Eccles at 491-6312.**

The total cost is \$10.00 per person. This fee goes to AARP to cover materials. Dr. Gerald Knutson is a certified instructor and teaches the classes on a voluntary basis.

## News Briefs

**ASP Dues will be accepted at the December meeting.** Yearly dues are \$15.00 for one year, or \$1.25 per month. ASP Initiation Fee is \$10.00 for each new member.

**Bea Flinner** and her Christmas helpers will decorate the tables at the December 13 luncheon.

Special thanks goes to **Grant Keeton** for serving as the Temporary Telephone Chair for November and December. **Shirley Pelley** will serve as Chairperson for January through May.