

Perspective

Vol. 34 No. 4

December 2025



Speakers By Rosalynn Wade

The speaker for ASP's December luncheon will be Dr. Reuben Bellows. Dr. Bellows is now in his third year as the superintendent of Bethany Public Schools and his 24th year as a public-school educator.



Dr. Bellows spent seven years teaching in Yukon. Then, after a five-year stint as a middle school principal in Deer Creek, he moved to the Bethany school system, where he served as the elementary principal for nine years.

Awards received in his career include the Teacher of the Year award at Yukon and the Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals' "Principal of Excellence" award while he was at Earl Harris Elementary School in Bethany. He also helped Bethany Elementary School earn the National Blue-Ribbon Award in 2017. The U.S. Department of Education gave this recognition to honor the school's overall academic performance.

A 2024 article on the Oklahoma Office of Educational Quality & Accountability website noted that Bethany Public Schools had reduced chronic absenteeism by 9% over the previous year. The article said that Superintendent Reuben Bellows attributes their success to early proactive outreach.

"When we made contact with the family, attendance improved in most cases," Bellows explained. The district reached out to families through letters, phone calls, and meetings early in the school year. They also held multilingual parent meetings to address cultural differences in how families viewed attendance. In

extreme cases, Bethany involved law enforcement, though this was always a last resort.

Rueben Bellows holds three degrees from Southern Nazarene University, including a doctorate in educational leadership. Dr. Bellows believes education has the power to change children's lives and transform communities. He loves baseball and attending his children's activities.

Dr. Bellows is married to Dana. They have three children, Abbey, Isaac, and Ruby, all of whom attend Bethany Schools.

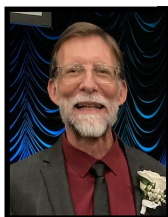


August 27, 2025

Bethany High School has been recognized as one of the best in the state, earning a place among the Top 10 High Schools in Oklahoma in the 2025–2026 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings. With an overall score of 91 out of 100, Bethany stood out in both state and metro-area rankings.

The ASP luncheon on December 8 begins at 11 a.m. in the Webster Commons Heritage Room on the campus of Southern Nazarene University.

Members will receive a call to RSVP. If you have not been contacted by Wednesday, December 3, you can RSVP to 405-517-3364 or by emailing emmalyncg@hotmail.com. Cancellations may be made by phone or email.



President's Column by Dave Bucher

The Beauty of Opposites

While we're familiar and comfortable with the thought that opposites attract, and how we've been blessed with our wonderful spouses, let's take a moment to consider other aspects of opposites.

The south and north poles of magnets are not only fun to play with but are at the very heart of electric motors and generators. Without the positive and negative poles of batteries, there would be no flow of energy for our devices. Due to their electron configuration, atoms may take on negative or positive charges. Some of these charged atoms play a critical role in our nervous system. Oppositely charged atoms can combine to create compounds such as salt. Skeletal muscles attached to opposite sides of the bones provide the physics for our joints to move. Colors that are opposite across the color wheel complement each other in a way that most people find aesthetically pleasing.

All this has me thinking that when faced with an opposite (argument, reaction), instead of digging in or pulling away, maybe I can find something useful or even beautiful in that situation.



Book Discussion by Barbara Culbertson

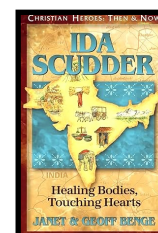
How could we start out 2026 any better than with January and February Tsundoku choices about reflecting God's image in some powerful ways?

Join us on January 5 at 2:00 on ZOOM to discuss the book *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterley. Metropolitan Library Systems give us this review:

"Starting in World War II and moving through to the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement and the Space Race, *Hidden Figures* follows the interwoven accounts of four African American women who participated in some of NASA's greatest successes. It chronicles their careers over nearly three decades as they faced challenges, forged alliances and used their intellect to change their own lives, and their country's future."

We will follow this intense story on February 2 with another biography from one of our favorite series by authors Janet and Geoff Benge. The story of Ida Scudder, missionary doctor serving in India, is told in the series "Christian Heroes--Then and Now." According to Wikipedia, Dr. Scudder was born and raised in India, the child of missionaries, with grandparents who also served as missionaries in India. She is remembered for having started a teaching hospital, as well as working to improve the plight of Indian women by fighting bubonic plague, cholera, and leprosy.

Have you read a fantastic book, but for some reason it's not exactly a good fit for our discussion group? We are expanding our horizons and will start including some of these book recommendations in our *Communique*, which is sent to you monthly via email. Send suggestions to Barbara Culbertson @ barbjc91247@gmail.com. (Book proposals will, of course, be reviewed for appropriateness.)





ASP Sponsors 2025-2026

December 8, 2025	Southern Plaza Attn: John Stoddard
January 12, 2026	Bethany Law Center Attn: Rick & Susan Martin
And	First Bethany Bank & Trust Attn: Priscilla Cude
February 9, 2026	Mercer-Adams Funeral Services Attn: Marla Mercer Cole
March 9, 2026	Concordia Life Care Community Attn: Julie Davis
April 13, 2026	Spanish Cove Retirement Village Attn: Jill Huff



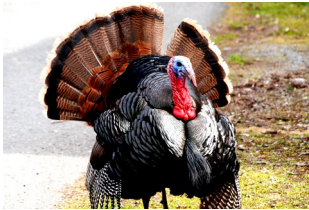
REMINDER ASP LUNCHEON PARKING

The designated parking lot has changed. It is just west of Bethany First Nazarene Church at the corner of NW 41st and Mueller. The SNU bus will meet you there and return you following the ASP luncheon..



You've been generous.
THANK YOU.





**Academy Re-Views
by
Hal Swinhart**



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Dave Bucher**



ASP Chorus



**Robin Jones
Castle Falls Restaurant
and Venue**



**Jon Cagnon
Dignity Memorial**



**Helen Ann Bucher
Felicity Miller,
SNU student**



**Nancy Cauthron
Norma Brunson**



Laura Danser



**Mark & Betty
Bolerjack**



Volunteerism by LaNell Stahl

Christmas is the time of joy and giving. As ASP members, this semester we've had many opportunities to give to others with our time, our help, or our money. However, as the semester ends, we will have fewer opportunities to volunteer on campus.

The good news is that we will find ourselves filling our time with friends, family, and new acquaintances during the holiday season. As we finish one year and begin another, our thoughts often turn to New Year's resolutions after reflecting on how well we have spent the past year. For ASP volunteers, we have spent it well. We've been involved in some new activities this semester and have met some wonderful students.

Aesop reminds us that "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Our acts of kindness have impacted the lives of SNU students, alumni, high school bands across the state, and families of SNU graduates. Our volunteers' helping hands have lightened the load for SNU employees, giving us the opportunity to spend time together and share our lives with each other.

If you haven't yet joined our volunteer group, please consider doing so. Volunteering has a way of touching all of us as it gives us a purpose, a feeling of accomplishment, and keeps us connected. Most of all, it is a way to give back at a time in our lives when our opportunities are fewer and our desire to be productive is great.

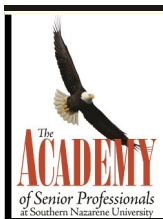


The hush of night, the stars so bright,
A manger cradles heaven's light.
No palace grand, no royal throne,
Yet love was born where hay was strewn.

Let kindness bloom, let hatred cease,
Let every soul be touched by peace.
For Christmas brings a sacred call:
To love, forgive, embrace us all.

Google Copilot





*"Sharing a
Continuous
Flight"*

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 Emmalyn German, Membership and Calling
 Joan Dozier, Publications

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Barbara Culbertson, Book Discussions
 LaNell Stahl, Volunteer Coordinator
 Karen Humble, Luncheon Assistant

Website Information

ASP Information

<https://www.snu.edu/asp>

Being revised



ASP Calendar

Monday December 8, 2025

10:00—11:00 Shuttle Service from the BFC parking lot (41st and Mueller) to the Webster Commons.

10:15 Southern Plaza Shuttle

11:00—1:00 Luncheon Meeting in the Heritage Room of Webster Commons

1:00—1:30 Shuttle Service to the parking lots and Southern Plaza

1:15—2:15 Administrative Council Meeting

The Academy Perspective

-- -Publication Board-- -

Production Editor	Joan Dozier
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	Barbara Culbertson
	Emmalyn German
	LaNell Stahl

-- -Columnists-- -

President's Column	Dave Bucher
Book Discussions	Barbara Culbertson
Speakers	Rosalynn Wade
Obituaries	Emmalyn German
Photography	Hal Swinhart
Volunteerism	LaNell Stahl

-- -Communications Policy-- -

We value correspondence from our readers.

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