

Perspective

Vol. 34 No 6

February 2026



Speakers By Rosalynn Wade

On February 9, the luncheon speaker will be Howard Hendrick. His topic will be “Pastoring Lincoln: Civil War Sermons of Rev. Phineas Densmore Gurley.” Even as a child, Howard was drawn to Abraham Lincoln. In elementary school, books on Lincoln were his favorites. President Lincoln was a learner, a student of the law and history, and a lover of books.

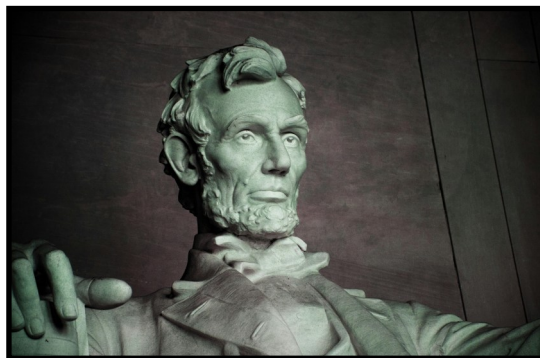


Unlike Lincoln, who was mostly self-taught, Howard graduated from Bethany High School (OK), Southern Nazarene University, and graduate school at the University of Oklahoma (MBA and Law). In 1986, after practicing law for six years, Howard was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate. He was re-elected twice and held many Senate leadership roles, including Republican Floor Leader. He served twelve years on the Senate’s Health and Human Services Committee. In 1998, Howard resigned from the State Senate to become the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. He served as Director for nearly 14 years, the second-longest tenure in state history and the longest tenured human services leader in the nation at the time of his retirement. With offices in all 77 Oklahoma counties, Hendrick led a staff of 7,500 and administered a \$1.6 billion budget.

He also served as Health and Human Services Secretary in the cabinet of Republican Governor Frank Keating and as Human Services Secretary for Democratic Governor Brad Henry.

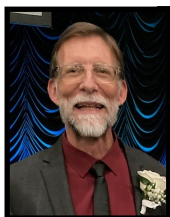
During his senate career, his interest in Lincoln bloomed into a passion for collecting Lincoln biographies. Today, he has more than 600. His love for Lincoln biographies has led him to battlefields, memorials, libraries, churches, theatres, homes, and other sites.

With experience in both the legislative and executive branches of government, Howard gained a deeper appreciation for the factors that influenced many of Lincoln’s decisions. Examining the insights of different writers and the role of Lincoln’s emerging faith added more depth to Howard’s understanding of Lincoln and the root causes of the Civil War. Howard has been married to Tracy for 48 years. They have four grown children and fourteen grandchildren.



The ASP luncheon on February 9 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, February 4, 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

My Perspective vs. Reality

It's my birthday month, and I was contemplating how many total miles I might have travelled over these years. The calculation can only be an estimate, starting with the miles I have driven each year and the number of steps each day, and adding in airline flights around the country and across the oceans to calculate what I thought had been a long journey so far.

But then I began thinking about other distances I travel that I am generally not aware of. To begin, every day I circle around Earth's axis. To come up with a figure to add to my travel distance total, I'd have to make some adjustments of how many years I have spent at different latitudes. And then, of course, every year, I take a massive lap on an orbit around the sun.

So, the distance I initially thought I had travelled in my life is just a small fraction of the distances I have actually travelled.

At that point, I had a George Bailey and Clarence the Angel moment. I am more than ever convinced that the difference we make in the world is much more than we are aware of.



Book Discussion by Barbara Culbertson

In January, we learned about the obstacles encountered and overcome by the "hidden figures" of four black women mathematicians who worked for NASA. Our February 2 book discussion will focus again on a female, as we look at Janet and Geoff Benge's book *Ida Scudder: Healing Bodies, Touching Hearts*.

One of the questions the NASA female employees had to answer was when to fight and when to concede—like when to sit in the back of a bus or when to take down a cafeteria sign. Although Ida Scudder lived in a different era and a different part of the world, she faced some of the same quandaries. Here's a summary of Ida Scudder's life:

"In the early 1890s in India, before Ida Scudder had even decided to study medicine, she was summoned one evening to attend several women in childbirth whose husbands refused to allow the presence of a male physician. Watching helplessly as all three women died, Scudder committed herself to providing Indian women with medical education and care. She went on to do just that, in a career spanning five decades" – the National Institute of Health website.

In March, get out your handkerchiefs for a tear-jerker, *Lion*, by Saroo Brierley. Short Form Book Guides gives the following glimpse into this tome:

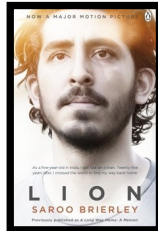
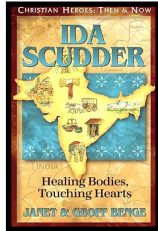
The story chronicles the remarkable journey of Saroo Brierley, [whose] . . . challenging early years culminated in a separation from his family in India. . . [The author] . . . provides a vivid account of his formative years" and eventual adoption in Australia and searching for his birth family.

It is a wonderful account of God's grace and provision. Although it will tear at your heartstrings, it will also (hopefully) strengthen areas of faith in your own life.

Continued Page 3

Book Discussion continued

Find both books through the Metropolitan Library System (OK county). Check with Barbara Culbertson (405-615-347) if you have trouble obtaining a copy. Meetings are February 2 and March 2 at 2:00 on Zoom. We will send out a reminder a few days before, with the URL link.



February Holidays

February is packed with well-known holidays like *Groundhog Day*, *Valentine's Day*, and *Presidents' Day*, along with dozens of fun observances such as National Dark Chocolate Day, Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, and Thank a Mail Carrier Day

- Groundhog Day — February 2
- Valentine's Day — February 14
- Presidents' Day — February 16



ASP Sponsors 2025-2026

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..



**Academy Re-Views
by
Hal Swinhart**



**Dr. Keith Newman
President SNU**



**Music by Renda Brumeloe
ASP choir**



Carolyn Newman



**Helen Ann Bucher
Maggie Wojan, student**



**Jim Dorough
Tommy Davis
Dale German**



**Ryan Owens
Bethany Law Firm**



Volunteerism **by** **LaNell Stahl**

During the school year, I write this column about the volunteer work that we as ASP members do for Southern Nazarene University. This month, I decided to do a little research on volunteerism and was pleasantly surprised to discover that the verb “volunteer” was first used in 1755. Who knew?

According to “Bloomerang,” about 63 million Americans volunteer annually. There were various sites that had bits of trivia about volunteering. Some site governments were even willing to charge a monthly fee to help organizations design and maintain a volunteer program. One site gave five qualities of a successful volunteer.

My experience with volunteers has taught me that the best qualities of a volunteer are dependability, joy, caring, and being willing to follow directions. I find all of these qualities in our volunteers at SNU. I can depend on our volunteers to be there if their schedule and health allows them, and the weather permits. They come with joyful hearts and a sincere desire to help others. I often observe how they intently listen and diligently try their best to follow the directions given. If the task is difficult or causes one of them to struggle, there is always another volunteer willing to help them succeed.

February, being known for its focus on love and sharing, is a great time for me to tell all you ASP volunteers how much I love you for the work you do and the joy you bring to the tasks.



Music & Words

An Opinion

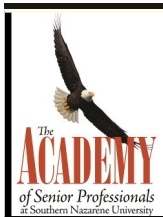
By Hal Swinhart

Have you ever been to a music event that included vocal & instrumental sounds? If you have listened to your TV, stereo, radio or internet music we have an idea of the sounds that please us. That music didn't just happen. There were many hours of rehearsal & perfection. In the retail world, that creates sales.

We have come to expect some form of perfection in our church music (as well we should). The late Ponder Gilliland said: “We should strive to get good Christian literature and good music to God's people. “These days there is a push to get louder sounds to the masses. Next came projecting sung or spoken words on big screens. This appears as a solution to the disappearance of old-fashioned hymnals in our churches. Then the idea (with the words on the screen), let's push the instruments more in our sound system! For some, it becomes annoying. For example, if a soloist is telling a story and we perceive only half of the words because the guitar is wailing in the background, that is not good.

Bill Gaither says: “Somewhere along the way I started listening to the words. If we can't understand the words, we might as well turn it all off and go home (my paraphrase).” My challenge to you is to pay attention to the words. If you are in that environment, close your eyes and try to concentrate on the message of the words. If you can't hear the message, imagine how left out new people must feel!





***“Sharing a
Continuous
Flight”***

2025-2026 Officers and Committees

Carolyn Jagers, Director
 Dave Bucher, President
 Jim Dorough, Immediate Past President
 Helen Ann Bucher, President-Elect
 Nola Swinhart, Secretary
 Frank Dewey, Treasurer
 Nancy Cauthron, Member Representative
 Conley Henderson, Member Representative
 Brenda Rice, Member Representative
 Johnina Wardwell, Member Representative

Standing Committee Chairpersons

Rosalynn Wade, Speakers
 Frank Dewey, Bylaws and Organization
 Emmalyn German, Membership and Calling
 Joan Dozier, Publications

Special Committee and Activity Leaders

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 February 9, 2026

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
Copy Editors	Howard Culbertson
	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.

By mail:

The Academy Perspective (TAP)

Southern Nazarene University
 6729 NW 39th Expressway
 Bethany OK 73008

By fax: (405) 491-6381

- - -Newsletter Subscription Information- - -

Annual subscription — ***The Academy Perspective***:

Non-members—\$10 per year

Members—Included in membership dues

- - -Contributions- - -

To make tax-deductible contributions to the Academy of Senior Professionals, mail to:

Frank Dewey, Treasurer
 Southern Nazarene University
 6729 NW 39th Expressway
 Bethany OK 73008

