

Perspective

Vol. 34 No 7

March 2026



Speakers By Rosalynn Wade

Our March speaker, Bart Taylor, is a two-time Oklahoma Museum Association Award-winning educator and the Will Rogers Interpreter at the Will Rogers Memorial Museum.

He has written three children's books about Will Rogers and does shows and programs for children. He has worked at The Gilcrease Museum, Prairie Grove Battlefield State Park, and The Gathering Place.

Taylor, also known as Buckaroo Bart to thousands of children across the state, connects kids to the history of Will Rogers in a unique, experiential way! Whether he's in public schools, home school co-ops, or public libraries, he always does the big rope tricks Will Rogers was known for.

Bart also enjoys reading one of his three books: *Will Rogers and His Great White House Sleepover*, *Will Rogers and His Great Presidential Pals*, and his newest release, *Will Rogers and His Great Inspiration* (with a forward written by country music legend Reba McEntire).

His second book is the featured book in 2026 for Read Across America week in Oklahoma. It will be given out by the Oklahoma Department of Libraries to over 3,000 young readers. Bart says, "We need more connectors like Will Rogers in this country today, and I think kids can be inspired by his message of coming together and using your God-given talents!"



His father, Dr. Tim Taylor, who works at SNU, took Bart to historical sites growing up, and eventually they began reenacting Civil War events together. Bart got his bachelor's from SNU in 2010. He earned a master's degree in American studies from NSU in Tahlequah.

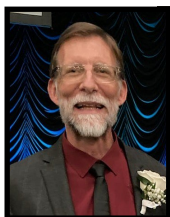
Bart has had over 14 years of experience as an educator and hopes to continue that journey by connecting people to what Abe Lincoln said in his first inaugural speech about our shared history, "our mystic chords of memory." Bart's goal is to connect people to our history.

Bart now lives in Claremore, Oklahoma, where he enjoys kayaking, playing guitar, and writing about Will Rogers.



The ASP luncheon on March 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, March 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



Book Discussion by Barbara Culbertson

It's late January as I sit down to write this, and we're still iced in. While most of the days and evenings have been quiet, there have been hours of squeals, cheerleader routines, and the occasional sibling squabble as the five-year-old twin granddaughters have come from across the street to visit.

I'm reminded of the years I spent living in the dorm of a state university when the only quiet times I experienced would be early Sunday mornings as I prepared to go to church, and the cacophony of the weekend parties had dissipated to a level that I could actually hear the hum of my refrigerator.

We've been taught to be still ... to hear the small still voice of God. These are lessons I'm still learning. How to slow down in a hectic world. How to find those secluded and insulated places away from the constant noise of voices, music, traffic, and the mechanics of modern life. But the hardest lesson is the one that produces the greatest return. How to be still and quiet in my soul while immersed in an environment of motion and noise.



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We started 2026 off with two inspiring books—one about 4 colored women who endured racial abuse but stayed the course to make a major impact on the U.S. space program, and the other about a woman who helped break sexist ideas that cost many women in India their lives, as well as bringing the good news of the Gospel. We even got to view a movie about those NASA ladies!

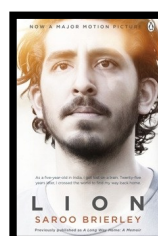
So, we continue into March with another story from India. With the month that supposedly comes in “like a lion,” how appropriate to find a book that reflects that sentiment—*Lion* by Saroo Brierley. Although I was at times in tears, the book also found me rejoicing as God's presence became real to Saroo.

Barnes and Noble says of this autobiography: “*Lion* is a moving, poignant, and inspirational true story of survival and triumph against incredible odds. It celebrates the importance of never letting go of what drives the human spirit: hope.”

The book discussion will be on March 2 at 2:00 on Zoom.

By April, most of us will probably be remorseful over our new year's resolutions gone-by-the-wayside. Without seeming to scold, Bob Goff offers ideas for getting our lives more in order in his book *Undistracted: Capture Your Purpose. Rediscover Your Joy*.

We Tsundokuans have read Goff's books in the past, and reactions have been enthusiastic. Join us on April 6 as we discuss a tome that the Metropolitan Library describes as “[reassuring] readers that they can harness today's distractions, follow Jesus' example, and find focus, purpose, and joy.”





**Obituaries
by
Emmalyn German**

Ronald L. Mercer

Ronald L. Mercer, 91, passed away on January 25, 2026. He joined Xerox Corporation in 1961, overseeing operations in the United States and Canada until 1987.



After his retirement from Xerox he went to work for Dorskil-Wilson Foods corporation. During that time, he joined with Gene Adams to build and co-own Gene Adams Funeral Service, now operating as Mercer-Adams Funeral Service.

Ron held leadership positions with many local organizations, including Southern Nazarene University Board of Trustees, Bethany Children's Center Board of Trustees, Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, and Oklahoma City Leadership Foundation. He was Vice Chair of the DHS Board of Directors, and Co-Chair of the Oklahoma Futures Board under Governor Frank Keating.

Ron served numerous terms on the Bethany First Church of the Nazarene board and on the General Board of the global Church of the Nazarene. He taught at SNU as an adjunct professor and served as a Sunday School teacher for over 50 years at the numerous churches he attended.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Yvonne; sons, Gary Mercer and wife Sunni; Michael Mercer and wife Sabrina; daughters, Marla Cole and husband Tim; Lisa Jones and husband Ken; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Ronald L. Mercer Business Scholarship Fund at Southern Nazarene University and to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries of the Church of the Nazarene.

ASP Sponsors 2025-2026

March 9, Concordia Life Care
Community
Attn: Julie Davis

April 13, Spanish Cove Retirement
Village
Attn: Jill Huff

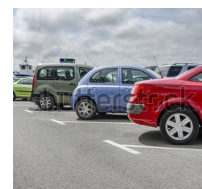
MARCH CALENDAR

- 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 8 International Women's Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring



REMINDER

**ASP LUNCHEON
PARKING**



www.shutterstock.com - 422274064

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**



**Howard Hendrick
Speaker**



Music by Emmalyn German



**Marla Mercer Cole
Mercer-Adams Funeral Service**



Willie Burkhart



January 22, 2026

Southern Nazarene University has renamed its general chemistry lab in honor of Don and Linda Carley. They enriched our community with their faith, kindness, and commitment to Christ-centered education. This lab stands as an enduring impact, reminding us of the power of love and collaboration in shaping future generations."



Volunteerism by LaNell Stahl

February has come and gone. As we march forward into the month of the Irish and St. Patrick's Day, our volunteer opportunities increase. We have set aside at least one day per month through the end of the spring semester to help the alumni department prepare for future events. Those work dates are as follows:

Friday, March 27 at 10:00 a.m. in Bresee Hall
 Friday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. in Bresee Hall
 Friday, May 1 Ushering for Baccalaureate and assisting with the Ivy Ring Ceremony
 Friday, May 1 Decorating the Bud Robinson Room at A.M. Hills Dorm for the Golden Grads' activities on Saturday
 Saturday, May 2 in the Bud Robinson Room at A.M. Hills Dorm and parking lot to assist with Golden Grads' activities
 Saturday, May 2 in the Sawyer Center for morning and for afternoon commencements

The activities are varied, and I will provide specific information as the dates approach. Usually, our activities include preparing mailings for specific events, gathering items for events, and other duties as needed.

Preparing for graduation will be our busiest time because there will be robes to steam and organize by size for the golden grads' activities, tables to decorate for the golden grads' breakfast, and ushering for baccalaureate on Friday and graduation on Saturday.

Volunteering at SNU is a blessing for many people, including our ASP members. It makes such a difference in our senior citizens' lives as we reach out to touch students on campus and alumni scattered across the United States. There is no volunteer activity that is too small or unimportant to do.

Remember to get your security clearance application completed if you want to volunteer. Please contact LaNell at 928-853-4908 if you need help with the process.



SNU School of Music Spring 2026

MAR 6 & 7 Spring Musical: Big Fish
 Fri 7 PM Herrick
 Sat 2 & 7 PM Herrick
 Tickets: snu.booktix.com

MAR 10 Symphonic Band Concert
 Herrick 7 PM

APR 10 Jazz Band Concert
 Herrick 7 PM

APR 11 SNU Honor Band Concert
 Guest Conductor JaRod Hall
 Herrick 5:30 PM

APR 13 Vocal Jazz Festival Concert
 Guest Artist Christine Guter &
 SNU University Singers
 Herrick 7:30 PM

APR 14 Clarinet & Brass Ensemble Concert
 Cantrell 7 PM

APR 21 SNU Choral Concert
 Cantrell 7 PM

APR 23 Symphonic Band Concert
 Herrick 7 PM





***“Sharing a
Continuous
Flight”***

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Barbara Culbertson, Book Discussions
 LaNell Stahl, Volunteer Coordinator

Website Information

ASP Information

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

Facebook

**“The Academy of Senior Professionals at
Southern Nazarene University”**



ASP Calendar

Monday March 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.

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- - -Newsletter Subscription Information- - -

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- - -Contributions- - -

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

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