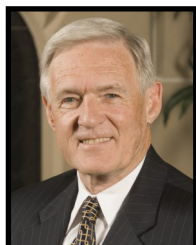


**Programs**  
By  
**Shirley Mears**

SNU President Loren Gresham  
Annual Address  
December 14 Academy luncheon

Dr. Loren Gresham has been president at Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma for 27 years and has served on the campus for almost 50 years. In this time, he has overseen tremendous campus changes that continue to attract larger student populations each year. Financially, Dr. Gresham has submitted 27 years of balanced budgets. His leadership and caring for his faculty, staff and students is legendary among his national peers and the Nazarene denomination.



At age 75, Dr. Gresham attends just about every event on his campus and teaches a leadership class during the week. He and his wife Linda have made SNU "home" to thousands of alumni that are out changing the world for Christ all around the globe. Internationally, Dr. Gresham impacts lives also by serving as Chancellor of the Southern Africa Nazarene University in Swaziland, Africa. It goes without saying that the impact that Dr. Gresham has had on countless individuals, his community, church and the world is one that will never be forgotten.



The Academy of Senior Professionals  
Cordially Invites You to Our

**ANNUAL  
DESSERT  
HOLIDAY  
PARTY**

**At the Gresham home:  
Monday, December 14  
1:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.**

The SNU shuttle will take ASP members and guests from the Webster Commons to Dr. and Mrs. Gresham's home for Christmas dessert. At 2:45 p.m. the shuttle will return the members back to the SNU campus.

LUNCHEON DECEMBER 14, 2015 begins at 11 AM in the Webster Commons, Heritage Room, on the campus of Southern Nazarene University. Each month members receive a call to RSVP. If you have not received a call by Thursday, December 10, 2015, you can RSVP by phone: 405-728-0515 or by emailing [donlincarley@prodigy.net](mailto:donlincarley@prodigy.net)



## President's Column

By  
Leonard Skodak

### What is Christmas Really About

Is Christmas about gift giving, stress, time consumption, frustration and all of the other hoopla that may go with it or is it truly about the birth of our Lord and Savior?

Several years ago a friend shared a book with me that she had read. I've read it a number of times since. The book by Bill McKibben is titled *Hundred Dollar Holiday*. To me, it is a very thought provoking book. The book tells of a Methodist minister who started a project among a number of small rural churches. His idea was to encourage families to limit holiday spending to a hundred dollars within their family.

What a great idea!! First, let me give you a little background history of Christmas as we know it today.

Christmas prior to the early 1800's was a season of "rowdyism" in the streets. In 1818 Clement Clark Moore, an extremely rich professor of Hebrew was writing "A Visit from St. Nicholas" which we know as "The Night before Christmas". The new idea presented by this writing didn't immediately change the previous roughness in the streets but it was a start. Parents began to buy presents and that, along with Santa Claus, brought Christmas inside the home and out of the streets.

By the end of the nineteenth century F. W. Woolworth netted a half million dollars in sales and the Christmas card business was also booming.

I for one truly believe that this is a holiday that has gotten far to commercialized and the true meaning lost. I feel that there are thousands upon thousands of people who are caught up with gift giving and all of the frenzy and yet are clueless as to what the season is all about. It is believed that 80 - 90% of gifts received are not needed nor do we know what we're going to do with them anyway.

Let me take you back to the theme presented by the author of this book. Stress is big at this time of year. Time is of importance. Time spent with children, grandchildren and family is far more important than expensive gifts. Spend time teaching children to make gifts and they don't have to be costly. I had want for nothing else.

Christmas is a "season of peace" and one of the reasons why "Silent Night" is the all-time favorite carol.

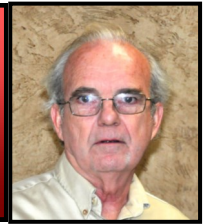
I've practiced these thoughts and ideas over the years and not gone into debt for months after the season is over. This year I intend to follow the philosophy of this book in another way. I plan on giving additional monetary gifts to the church, SNU, ONU, ASP and organizations that I feel will put it to good use and benefit children without. I trust that you won't take this as boasting or patting myself on the back but just as suggestions as to what might be done.

Would you think about joining me and enjoy the blessing of giving maybe even more than ever before? BLESSINGS to each and every one of you during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season and may the Lord bless you richly.



## The SNU Connection

By  
Howard Culbertson

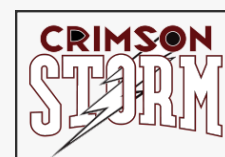


Thanks to Julie Duncan, SNU women's soccer coach and last year's Great American Conference Coach of the Year, for facilitating the "SNU Connection" at the November luncheon. Goalie Yoli Zamarripa accompanied her and Coach Duncan highlighted Zamarripa's contributions to the team and to SNU as well as noting some of the challenges which life has thrown at Yolie.



Plans are for the December "SNU Connection" to feature an SNU women's basketball player. That storied program, which has several national championships to its credit, is now led by hometown boy Derek Dorris. Dorris, a 1996 graduate of SNU, is in his fourth season as head coach of the Crimson Storm women's basketball team.

Southern Nazarene University began its women's basketball program in 1974 with Math Professor Obed Watters as its coach. That math flavor has returned to the SNU women's basketball team since Coach Dorris' SNU degree was in math education.





**The Director's Corner**  
By  
**Eunice Trent, Director of ASP**

**Grant Awarded to Center of Excellence  
for Veteran Student**

Southern Nazarene University (SNU) is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$330,000 grant award to support student veteran success on campus. The three-year, **Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS)** grant is funded through the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE).

The grant will establish a **Veterans Educational Transitions Success (VETS) Center** on the SNU Bethany campus, develop a veteran student support team across campus offices, and add a coordinator for the new program.

The VETS Center at SNU will serve as a single point of contact to coordinate veteran student support services on campus for both graduate and undergraduate students. Support services will assist veteran students in transitioning to campus life, including orientations, academic and career counseling, and connecting to community support.

"SNU's longstanding commitment to serving military veterans will receive a welcome boost from the CEVSS grant," said SNU President Loren Gresham. "Our ability to serve more vets with enhanced services will result in higher achievement rates and better results after graduation in the workplace."

Out of 13 total grants nationwide, SNU was the only recipient in the state of Oklahoma and will house the only federally funded Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS) in the state. SNU will contribute to the overall funding costs of this program (\$39,000 or 9% along with the federally-funded \$330,000 or 91%).

SNU currently has more than 230 veteran students in traditional, graduate, and Professional Studies programs for adults. All of SNU's educational programs are VA approved.

SNU is a Post-911 G.I. Bill Yellow Ribbon Program participant and was named a 2015 Military Friendly School® by Victory Media. SNU accepts ACE credit for military training and experience, participates in the VA's Principles of Excellence Program, and endorses the President's 8 Keys to Veterans' Success.

SNU offers courses for both traditional students and working adults. The School of Professional Studies offers six Bachelor's and eleven Master's degree programs across areas such as Business, Network Management, Organizational Leadership, Family Studies and Gerontology, Counseling, Education, Kinesiology, Nursing, and Theology.

Southern Nazarene University's mission is to transform lives through higher education in a Christ-centered community. As a Christian community of scholars, we model the hospitality of grace, the pursuit of truth and the practice of discipleship, all within the Wesleyan-holiness tradition, as we prepare graduates who THINK with clarity, ACT with integrity and SERVE with purpose.

**SNU ANNOUNCES  
THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
FOR  
VETERAN STUDENT SUCCESS  
GRANT 2015**

Funded through the U.S. Department of Education,  
Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE)

**Southern Nazarene University**  
CHARACTER | CULTURE | CHRIST



**LUNCHEON SPONSOR  
SOUTHERN PLAZA  
3737 N College Ave,  
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405-440-1100**

Patriotic luncheon  
music by  
Emmalyn German



*LUNCHEON PICTURES*  
*BY HAL SWINHART*



Dale German leads the audience  
in the Star Spangled Banner.



Shirley Mears, Program Chair, introduces Chris  
McGahan, CEO of Bella Forte Glass Studio as the  
luncheon speaker.



Howard Culbertson interviews Frank Dewey,  
retired missionary to India and Ukraine.



Anna Belle Wiedemann and Leonard  
Skodak dress in honor of Veterans Day.



Eunice Trent, ASP Director—  
— SNU Soccer Goalie  
Yoli Zamarripa





## Music Notes

By  
Wayne Sacket

Our guest musician for December hails from the Grand Canyon State, though she has extensive ties to the great state of Oklahoma. She began life in Eldorado, Kansas, where her father was a superintendent in the oil industry. The family moved to Bethany where he taught chemistry – later becoming Dean of Students at Bethany Peniel College (BPC now SNU) along with being elected mayor of Bethany. Her great uncle, Dr. A.K. Bracken, was President of BPC for twenty years.

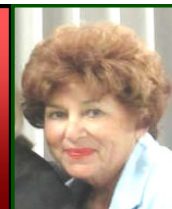
Her music education came mostly from BPC professors beginning at age five with Willa Mae Beresford, then Vivian Chaffee, and Margaret Dunn. When her family moved to Pasadena, California, she was taught by Professors Walter Hildi (who was from BPC) and Rita Rundlett. She graduated from Pasadena College with a degree in Education. (A fellow graduate was a young man by the name of Loren P. Gresham). After teaching for a short time, she was hired at Honeywell in Los Angeles as a computer programmer. There she met and fell in love with another programmer by the name of Larry Girouard. With the arrival of their first son, she became a piano teacher so she could stay home with her family. That was over forty-three years ago. This musician is returning to SNU to honor her first student to graduate with a Music Education Degree - Caleb Simonds, who just happens to be her great nephew.

We welcome Mrs. Esther (Shannon) Girouard, sister to our own Dr. Madalyn Long, as she shares her gift of Christmas music with us.



## ASP “Trek” Time

Pat Perry

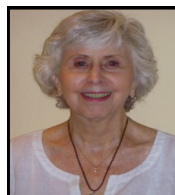


Merry Christmas ASP Members,

I hope all of you have a very blessed Christmas and New Year. No times or dates yet, but I hope to have a get-together for Christmas lights and lunch. More information will be provided.

There may be room left on the Australian/New Zealand trip if anyone is interested. Let me know. I would love to have some ideas for local trips if you have any suggestions next year.

Take care,  
Pat Perry  
373-4157 - Home  
627-3996 - Cell

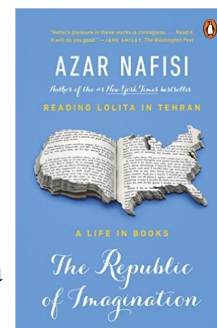


## Book Discussion

By  
Carole Gossett

*The Republic of Imagination* by Azar Nafisi.  
January 2016

Nafisi came to America in the seventies to escape from Tehran when she was about to face execution for teaching American fiction classics to her students. She taught English classes at Oklahoma University after coming to America. She is now a citizen and lives in Washington, D.C. She writes some about herself as she makes her case for a free mind and a willingness to dream through the imagination of fiction.





**“Sharing a  
Continuous  
Flight”**

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Carole Gossett, Book Discussion  
Pat Perry, Travel Club  
Wayne Sacket, Music  
Get Acquainted Moments, Mary Skodak  
Howard Culbertson, SNU Connections



**ASP Calendar**

Monday December 14, 2015

10:00-11:00 a.m. Shuttle Service from the Sawyer Center lot  
(41st and Donald) to the Webster Commons

**\*\* No Morning Seminar in December \*\***

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Luncheon Meeting in the Heritage  
Room

1:00—1:30 p.m. Shuttle Service to the Gresham reception

2:45 p.m. Shuttle will return to the SNU campus  
parking lot

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President’s Column	Leonard Skodak
ASP Director	Eunice Trent
Book Discussion	Carole Gossett
Morning Seminar	Leonard Skodak
The SNU Connection	Howard Culbertson
Obituaries	Vickie Sacket
Photography	Hal Swinhart
Travel Club	Pat Perry

**- - -Communications Policy- - -**

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