The Director’s role of the Academy of Senior Professionals

Newer Academy of Senior Professional (ASP) members may wonder about the connection between ASP and Southern Nazarene University (SNU). The history between the two is long and rich. As Academy Director, my goal is to provide a strong link between SNU and ASP.

The administration of the University embraces the values and principles of ASP. The group was formed through the cooperation of SNU. The president of the University maintains connection with the organization through the appointment of its director. Thus, the director is the person who represents the university to the Academy and visa versa.

The director is a voting member of the Administrative Council, and serves as the chairperson for the Strategic Planning Committee and the annual Nominating Committee. Through strategic planning, the director helps the academy evaluate its current practices and direction, and makes recommendations for the future. The director also identifies potential leadership, helping to recruit new members who will add to the future strength and health of the organization.

My employment with SNU brings some additional benefits. I am able to link those in the Academy with departments on campus who can make things happen.

I am honored and blessed with the opportunity to serve as the ASP director. I have been the Academy Director since 2010. I first started with ASP as a photographer for the Academy in 2005. Dr. Don Beaver and I worked on the third floor of Bresee next to each other and he asked me if I would be the ASP Photographer. The rest is History.

I look forward to the future in sharing news of growth and development, as well as supporting new opportunities within a place of fellowship and connection.

Health Care Forms and What They Mean???

Put this ASP Morning Seminar down on your calendar Monday, February 10, 2014 held in President’s Dining Room of the Webster Commons at 9:30 am. Ms. Ashley Kliewer will talk about some of the necessary healthcare forms you need to have, interpret what they mean and discuss how to fill them out properly.

Since 2010, Ashley Kliewer has been a medical social worker for INTEGRIS Hospice Services. Ms. Kliewer earned her Bachelors in social Work in 2007 from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and her Master’s degree in 2010 from the University of Oklahoma. Ashley has worked with children and the adult population, but continues to focus her career with hospice patients and their families.

CONGRATULATIONS

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MEDIA STRATEGIES COORDINATOR
The Academy of Senior Professionals is blessed committed people who have notable service in their vocations and to our schools, community and to Southern Nazarene University.

Meet George and Mary Evelyn Miller.

George’s mother, Verdie Sallee, a pioneer resident with Bethany roots, wanted a preacher boy. “However God had other plans and I believe firmly that is exactly what happened in my life.” says George. At age eleven, his family moved from Colorado to Ada where they were greeted with an Oklahoma tornado that ripped through their neighborhood.

At age 16, George’s first job was on air broadcasting with radio engineering duties. A week after high school graduation it was off to the U.S. Navy. After the war he entered college, torn between aptitudes for business and electronic engineering. He later graduated from Oklahoma A & M (OSU). George says he had eyes on the prettiest girl in Ada (Mary Evelyn) who attended his church. They were married in 1948.

Upon graduation they moved back to Ada where he became chief technical engineer of the local radio station. Soon afterward, the station owner saw the need for a television station. George said, “We applied to the FCC for a maximum power station to cover southeastern Oklahoma. It went on the air in 1954.” His on-air work led to a position as News Director. He later was elected two times as President of the Oklahoma Associated Press Broadcasters.

Mary Evelyn and George were blessed with four children. Mary Evelyn, with a degree in Home Economics nurtured and reared all four as a stay-at-home mom. Needless to say, she did a magnificent job. They now have 14 grandchildren.

In 1964, local leaders persuaded George to run for the state senate. With prayerful consideration, his family agreed. After prolonged reapportionment chaos, and winning five primaries in his now larger district, George won the general elections and started a revered and successful political career of ten years in the state senate where he championed education and human service issues.

During this time the State Chancellor for Higher Education repeatedly approached George working for the State Regents for Higher Education. The Millers’ children were about ready for college and their son, John David; a noted basketball star was here on our college campus on scholarship.

George had another huge decision to make. Should he cut all ties with State Human Services and join the Regents of Higher Education? When he tentatively agreed, the Human Services Director got word and called him from Washington DC and offered him “Secretary to the Director” of the state's largest agency. George accepted.

In 1974 George and Mary Evelyn moved to Bethany. George says “During the following 20 years I gained worlds of political experience and became friends with many top officials both in-state and nationally in both major parties.”

In 1994, George was appointed temporary Director of Human Services. About six weeks later however, the Governor came to his home and personally asked him to take the job on a permanent basis. How can you turn down the Governor? He was also appointed a member of the Governor’s cabinet representing health and human services.

Following retirement at age 70-plus, the House Speaker appointed him to the Health Care Authority board. George continues his service as Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee.

I asked George about his local ties in Bethany and our Academy of Senior Professionals at Southern Nazarene University. He said, “We’ve sent our four children to school here. Over the years we have been committed members of the Church of the Nazarene. My mother was a charter member having participated in the Church’s organization at Pilot Point, Texas. I have served as a Sunday School teacher, Sunday School superintendent, church board member, and district and General Assembly delegates, all good training for carrying out God’s plan for my life.”