

# The Academy Perspective

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Vada Lee Barkley, Editor

## LOOKING AHEAD

November 11:

Todd Sheehy, a 1986 cum laude SNU grad, will be our Veteran's Day speaker. One of the most decorated pilots of the Persian Gulf War, Sheehy earned 12 awards including the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals.

Sheehy is the Director of Aviation at SNU. In addition, he continues to serve as a Captain in the Air Force Reserve and as President of Thunderbolt International, Inc., a real estate sales and investment company he founded in 1993.

Sam Davis, member of the Plans and Programs Committee, is responsible for this program.

December 9:

Rebecca Dorris is arranging a musical program by non-music majors from SNU.

January 20:

Roy Dorris will be speaking at this meeting. A pharmacologist, Roy has agreed to share some of his findings with us. He is involved with helping SNU students and with our own research interest group RIG.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DR. CANTRELL

On November 4, Dr. Roy H. Cantrell reached age 93. He is well on the way to becoming eligible for the Centenarian Club Mr. Amend told us about in October. Along with a birthday card, I'm sending Dr. Cantrell a copy of the poem "My House" which Mr. Amend read for us.

We congratulate Dr. Cantrell, not only on the quantity, but on the quality of those 93 years. He is the oldest charter member of the Academy and one of the best loved and appreciated.

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*The man who never makes a mistake must get tired of doing nothing.*  
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*A fool and his money are soon invited places.*  
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## RIG DISCUSSES ITS MISSION -- DEBUNKS MYTHS ABOUT RESEARCH

by Jack Arnold

"Research endeavors to make plain in the language of our day," writes Harold Larrabee in his seminal work Reliable Knowledge, "the unity of the goal of human inquiry. It emphasizes what is common to all men, whether in the humanities or the sciences or the social studies, who desire to act with wisdom on the basis of knowledge, -- the quest for reliability in what is known."

Following an informal brunch, eight RIG charger members, Vada Lee Barkley, Don Beaver, Roy Dorris, Bob Emmel, Bea Flinner, Elbert Overholt, Shirley Pelley, and Arnold, met on October 14, to determine the level of interest in an array of research topics. Four other charter members, Paul Gray, Bobbye McElrath, Naomi Tidwell, and Loy Watson were unable to attend this organizational meeting.

High-interest-research topics identified by RIG members include the following:

- Education and Reference
- Arts and Entertainment
- SNU's Centennial Celebration
- Science and Technology
- Sports, Health, and Fitness
- Seniors-in-General
- Housing for Senior Professionals
- The Function of the Academy
- The Wesleyan Tradition

Several prevailing myths about research were debunked in the opening minutes of the meeting by the RIG participants; three of those myths which were refuted include the following:

**MYTH 1:** Research is dull. -- Contrary to popular belief, research is exciting detective work. Looking for information is often one surprise after another.

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## THANK GOD FOR THE MEMORIES

by Vada Lee Barkley

Reviewing the Academy's six-year history, I fell into one of my famous--or infamous--dreams. I stood enraptured, gazing inside the Celestial City, where neither the Perspective nor our callers can reach. I saw our seven Academy alumni, with our beloved Esther Staggs, assembling for a luncheon meeting.

Dorothy Ellis, one of our first callers, had decorated the table. She'd snatched some of Dave's creative ideas. I recalled that she refused to let baby-sitting interfere with Academy attendance while she was with us. She brought Josh along to our meetings.

Milton Brasher had prepared a feast that was out of this world. He seemed perfectly at home catering a dinner for his friends. A staunch senior housing enthusiast here, he no longer needed to concern himself with earthly dwellings.

Ester Staggs insisted on serving the meal. There she had no concerns over how many place setting to prepare and exactly what time to start. Serving made her feel right at home.

Paul Sodowsky offered thanks. No need to "ask the blessing"; they were already supremely blessed. I remembered that Paul was always congenial and supportive of the Academy. He attended our meetings when he wasn't driving cars for dealers or serving as substitute father to a grandchild that day.

As Esther Overholt greeted everyone with her special warmth, I thought of her outstanding contribution to the Academy. She was a co-founder, our first secretary, a caller, and ad council member. Frankly, I don't know how we could have done without her help.

Velma Danskin, another senior housing enthusiast here, planned a heavenly program, including a song fest with Chuck Wilson at the piano. Chuck thrilled at the sound of those angelic voices.

Martha Gresham, an enthusiastic supporter of anything related to SNU, reminded us of Jesus' special hostess named Martha. While

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**MEMORIES (Cont. from P.1)**

most of us visited after a meeting, Martha helped clear tables. Like Esther Staggs, even in heaven, Martha arose and cleared the table.

As the group dispersed to report for heavenly duties and worship, I paused to thank God for each of them. Then I remembered the words of the Psalmist, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints" (Psa. 116:15). That helped ease the pain of our loss.

**NORTHUMBERLAND STRAIT BRIDGE**

by Evelyn Downs

Tourists visiting the Maritime Provinces of Canada this year are witnesses to history in the making, as construction of the Northumberland Strait Bridge nears completion. Stretching from Jourmain Island, New Brunswick, to Borden, Prince Edward Island, this bridge will bring easy access from the mainland to P.E. I., as the island is known, for the first time in history. From early settlement through the 1800's, the ice boat was the only means of transporting people and mail to P.E.I. This was replaced by regular Northumberland Ferry runs in the early 1900's. They in turn will be supplemented and partially replaced by the new toll bridge, due to open in mid-1977.

An engineering marvel, the construction of the bridge has incorporated innovative ideas throughout, ranging from far-reaching and exhaustive environmental management before and during construction, to the use of satellite positions for making survey studies for placement of the piers. Component installation was also innovative; the Svanen, a twin-hulled floating crane, is making the placements of the main girders on their prepared foundations and setting in the drop-in spans. The Strait Crossing Team, a public-private partnership with the government, is headed by a Canadian firm, G.T.M.I. (Canada) Inc., based in Calgary, Alberta.

Statistics on the bridge are formidable. Approximately eight miles in length (12.9 kilometers), it is a shore-to-shore concrete construction with no causeway components. The typical elevation is 169 feet above the water; a navigation span will allow passage of all but the very largest ships. Forty-four spans make up the bridge. The pilasters for these, each of which weighs 12,000 tons, are designed with a multi-angled shape, points of which front the water to minimize the damaging effects of wind and ice flows. The bridge is bi-level, offering in addition to two lanes of traffic with wide shoulders, a covered walkway, and on the lower level, a road for service vehicles. Twenty-four hour services offered will be traffic control, wind monitoring, snow

and ice removal, and a pedestrian and cyclist shuttle service.

Although the new bridge will solve a long-standing problem--connecting P.E.I. and the mainland more cheaply, efficiently and quickly--some questions remain for the islanders. Will enough commerce be gained to compensate for the loss of many jobs due to ferry cut-backs? And even more worrisome to them will this new connection mean the end of their peaceful, agrarian, Anne of Green Gables type of lifestyle of P.E.I., one of the world's loveliest islands?

**RIG (Cont. from P.1)**

**MYTH 2:** Research is tedious and dull. -- Yes, some research requires diligence and hard work, and it may appear tedious. However, nothing is more exhilarating than leafing through a stack of papers in search of the elusive fact...and finally finding it.

**MYTH 3:** Research is only for students. -- Since information is a lifelong need, it makes sense that research is a skill worth cultivating.

Whether you're a consumer, parent, businessperson, scientist, technician, physician, therapist, musician, administrator, student, teacher, writer, reporter, minister--or just someone who loves finding new facts--the RIG is a group which will help you find what you need, when you need it, and make sure that it's the most reliable information available on the subject.

The RIG welcomes any Academy member to its next meeting...next year, yes, next year:

**Mon., Jan. 20, 1997, 9:30-11:30**

**Conf. Rm.135, Royce Brown Bldg.**

This meeting will include a discussion of the RIG mission statement and strategies for achieving our desired goals.

**BOLERJACKS VISIT CHINA**

August 8, 1996, R.T. and Pat left OKC for Hong Kong and Beijing, China. This was our retirement trip after seventeen years at Nazarene Bible College and forty-four years in Nazarene ministry.

Our plane was late leaving OKC, so we missed our connection in Denver and San Francisco. With all the delays we covered 8,200 miles in about 30 hours, and arrived at the beautiful Hong Kong J.W.Marriott Hotel. Due to R.T.'s past travel relationship with Marriott, we were upgraded to the Executive level. What a treat! For several months, we had had contact with Jim and Kaye Williams, our missionaries in Hong Kong, who helped us to

be aware of many details about our travel plans. It was a joy and delight to have fellowship with them and their family--Lori and Lisa, students at SNU, and Ryan, a high school senior.

We had seven very enjoyable days and nights in Hong Kong. The first morning, Jim met us and showed us how to make the most of the marvelous transportation system in HK. We felt at ease using the subway, trolleys and buses. Pat and I had been there once in 1956 on our way to our assignment in Australia, but we were in such culture shock that we had only vague memories of our being there.

What a great city is HK! Of course we had no problem with the language since HK has been a British territory for the last 99 years. However HK reverts back to the Chinese government at midnight next June 30. There is much unrest and uncertainty about what changes will be imposed on the citizens and aliens living there. The Chinese Communist government already is exercising its authority in many ways. One USA businessman we visited with said their international company does not expect much major change for the next ten years, but then they theorize that the communist government will begin to create a "brain drain" from HK to Shanghai in order to make Shanghai the financial center of China and eventually of the world. Non-citizen immigrants, and especially Southeast Asians, have already been warned that they will not be allowed to remain in HK, but neither can they return to the country that they left. They have an unsolved dilemma presently.

We took Jim and Kaye with us to Beijing to be our guides and interpreters. Jim had been to Beijing three times, but this was Kaye's first time. We flew the 1,200 miles on Dragon Air. Beijing is a mass of people! Jim guided us through customs with no unexpected experiences. The city is about 55 miles across and is roughly the size of Belgium. The temperature was around 90 degrees with high humidity. There was such a dense smog that we did not see the sun shining for the five days we were there. Even the locals were talking about the heat and the smog.

Taxi was our means of sightseeing. With Jim and Kaye speaking the Mandarin language fluently, we did not feel uncomfortable. We did what tourists do there. However, we would not want to be in Beijing by ourselves! We tried that the last day and back to the airport. One feels quite helpless not being able to understand others, not to be understood, and not to be able to read signs. It seemed that there were nearly as many bicycles as there were people. All were old, dilapidated ones, but they still got around. We walked Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, lots of Monuments,

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