Alvin Aller was the second child born on the Aller family cattle ranch in southwest Kansas on September 5, 1906. He graduated from Bresee Academy in Hutchinson, Kansas. He attended Bethany College (now Southern Nazarene University) where he sang in a male quartet for two years, traveling in six states representing the College. In 1929, Alvin transferred to Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, in order to get a degree in biology and to study voice and cello in Bethany’s famous College of Fine Arts. He received his B.S. degree in Biological Science and his M.S. degree at Kansas State University with a major in botany and minors in entomology and ornithology. He then joined the faculty at Bresee Academy and Junior College where he served one year as Acting President.

In 1930 Alvin married Florence Snowbarger from Sylvia, Kansas. Their son, Wayne, was born in 1933. During the war years, Alvin served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, teaching aerial navigation to Navy cadets.

In 1946 the family moved to Corvallis, Oregon where Alvin pursued work for a doctorate. His dissertation was based on a field study embracing the plant taxonomy and ecology of a mountain in the Oregon Cascades. Alvin had found his niche!

In 1949 the family moved to Nampa where Alvin founded the NNC Herbarium, taught classes, and served as Chairman of the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He spent two summers as a Ranger Naturalist in Glacier National Park. After ten rewarding years at NNC, Alvin accepted a position in the botany department at the University of Idaho where he taught systematic botany and plant ecology. While there, Florence entered graduate school and earned her doctorate. Both taught at the University until their retirements.

A short residency in Arizona resulted in a modest collection of southwest desert plants now housed in the NNC Herbarium.

Many professional honors have come to Alvin, but his primary commitment was to the Kingdom, his family, and the church, attested by his involvement in church choirs, church boards, Sunday School teaching, sponsoring a Bresee Fellowship for fifteen years at University of Idaho, and training in the teaching of Personal Evangelism.

Criteria for awarding of scholarship

1. Candidates shall be nominated by the Department of Biology and approved by the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

2. The candidate shall declare Biology as his or her major and have attained sophomore standing.

3. A GPA of 3.0 shall be the minimum in all courses in the Division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and an overall minimum of 2.75 must be met.

4. The general requirement for full-time student status applies.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived. Gifts to NNC’s Endowed Scholarship Program become a “helping hand” to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others. For more information, contact the Development Office, NNC, Dewey at Holy St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8842.