



GENEVA COLLEGE
Department of Leadership Studies

November 2008
Volume 1, Issue 1

LEADING EDGE

New Beginnings

October has brought MSOL two exciting new beginnings — the start of Cohort 66 in Monroeville (pictured at right) and the inception of this newsletter, *Leading Edge*.

In the coming months we will be distributing subsequent editions featuring you — our students and alumni. Please contact us at msol@geneva.edu with any comments, suggestions, or items you would like to see featured.

Best of luck, Cohort 66! We're happy to have you with us.

Fall Alumni Kick-off event a success

On Wednesday, September 24, 2008, MSOL alumni and faculty enjoyed an evening of fellowship during the Fall Alumni Kick-off networking event at the Willow Restaurant in Pittsburgh.

A diverse range of alumni were present, from the first cohorts to the most recent graduates. Alumni were able to view the new MSOL video (available at geneva.edu/page/msol), hear from Geneva's Director of Career Development, Rob Rostoni, and win prizes.

LEADING EDGE

is published regularly by the Geneva College Department of Leadership Studies, 3200 College Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010.

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Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Geneva College, founded in 1848, is a four-year Christian liberal arts college. Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools accredits Geneva College.



Our newest students: Cohort 66, Monroeville

Perspectives from a grad: Calvin A. Womack

I started my collegiate experiences immediately after high school. I left after my sophomore year to join the Air Force and fully intended to return to school after a couple of years and with assistance from the G.I. Bill. In the interim, life intervened.

I served during Operation Desert Storm and returned to complete my education. I started working first to get money for school. I found that getting back into school was much more difficult than I'd expected.

I started looking at local schools to complete my half-finished education and was given an idea by my mother-in-law who is a Geneva alumna. She asked if I'd ever considered Geneva. I phoned the admissions office and they notified me of an information session that was scheduled at the Radisson Inn in Monroeville.

The next month, I was enrolled in the Degree Completion Program. A member of Cohort 22, I finished with an "A" average and a Bachelor of Science in Community Ministry. Just as we were completing the program, Geneva representatives visited us about the possibility of furthering our educations in the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership Program. I saw that the possibility of a master's degree was real and I refused to let the opportunity to pass.

There were challenges along the way to be sure. There were always the ever-present realities of family life, work, church and various other life events that were part of the journey. There were still marriages, graduations, funerals, hospitalizations, financial crises and a host of other intrusions into one's cerebral academic foray.

The amount of work was eye opening, but the subject matter was stimulating. I engrossed myself in the new ideas, theories, lexicons and avenues of thought. Fortunately, the DCP had me well-prepared for the rigors of this academic discourse.

The one thing about the experience that means the most to me is the bonding that occurred between the members of our cohort. The cohort experience is quite unlike any other academic experience, in my opinion. Over the course of the two-plus years that we met repeatedly, our lives became enmeshed in ways that I'm still coming to grips with. In a very real way, these people who were initially strangers, became family. We prayed together, cried together, encouraged each other, fought one another and, most of all, loved one another. I had the double honor of actually going through both the DCP and the MSOL programs with one classmate, Rev. Carol Milligan.

Participation in the MSOL has broadened me spiritually, academically and professionally. Spiritually, I've been awakened to exegetical understanding and hermeneutical applicability of the Word of God. (Continued on page 3)



FROM THE CHAIR

Volume 1, Issue 1 — these words signify something new. And that is just what this first volume and first edition of this newsletter we call *Leading Edge** represents.

We plan to send this publication to our MSOL alumni, to individuals who

inquire about the MSOL program, to current students, faculty, friends and other groups or organizations that may be interested in receiving it. Each edition of *Leading Edge* will contain articles and features focused on MSOL alumni, Program highlights, Alumni Association activities and events, book reviews and faculty.

We hope you find it informative, interesting and inspiring. We expect that *Leading Edge* will be a way for MSOL alumni to stay in touch with us, to update us regarding what has happened in their lives, and to connect with other MSOL alumni, students and faculty. We trust it will serve as a means to transmit the story of the MSOL Program experience to others who may be interested in joining the now over 760 folks who are members of our alumni.

We pray that God will continue to bless the efforts of those associated with the MSOL Program, and that *Leading Edge* will become another instrument in our efforts to “educate and minister to a diverse community of students.”

James K. Dittmar, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Leadership Studies

*Thanks to our graduate assistant, David Jones, for creating the name for our newsletter.

SAVE THE DATE

2008 - 09

Leadership Conference Meeting

We will be holding a meeting for anyone interested in helping with the Spring Leadership Conference, particularly with our recruitment and marketing efforts. The meeting will be on Monday, November 17, 2008 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the RLA in Cranberry Township. RSVP to msol@geneva.edu.

Leadership Issues Discussion Groups

Beginning on November 15, we will be holding small discussion groups about various readings on leadership issues in Pittsburgh, Monroeville and Cranberry. The discussions will start at 9 a.m and last about an hour. RSVP to msol@geneva.edu if you're interested in attending.

Cohort 67 at BC3 @ Lawrence Crossing

In January, MSOL will begin Cohort 67, New Castle on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at the new BC3 Campus on Rt. 224 in Union Township. There is still time to apply! Feel free to apply online at www.geneva.edu/page/msol.

Annual Leadership Conference

This year's conference theme is “Leadership as Service.” We are excited to be featuring several well-known keynote speakers, including Frances Hesselbein, Founding President and Chair of the Board of Governors of the Leader To Leader Institute; Larry Spears, Executive Director of the Spears Center for Servant Leadership; Michele Hunt, former Senior Vice President for People at Herman Miller, Inc.; and John Stahl-Wert, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation.

In addition to these keynote presentations, panel discussions and question-and-answer sessions will be part of the day's agenda. There will be plenty of time to interact and network with other participants, and a book table full of some of the latest leadership titles will be available. What a great way to spend a day with some of the most engaging “thought leaders” of our time. You'll also be enabled to further your leadership abilities and aptitude along with other professionals.

Mark the date on your calendar — Tuesday, April 14, 2009. If you think your organization would be interested in being a sponsor for this event, please contact Dr. Dittmar at jkd@geneva.edu or 724.847.2715.



MSOL Video Materials

The Department of Leadership Studies has a new promotional video featuring some of our diverse range of alumni. You can view the video online in a number of ways including our site at www.geneva.edu/page/msol; on YouTube by searching for “Geneva College MSOL”; or on our new Facebook fan page.

If you or someone at your workplace is interested in displaying the video more formally or on a larger scale, please contact the office at msol@geneva.edu or 724.847.2715 and we will be happy to send you a DVD.

Calvin A. Womack (continued)

I've grown in my relationship with the Lord and have become keenly aware of my purpose. I am not here by accident or coincidence. I am here by the will of God and that revelatory awakening has been a blessing. Academically, I've been given tools that allow me to not only be accepted professionally, but also sought after for the depth of knowledge contained in the education I've been given. I've even taken the next step and am currently in a doctoral program at Robert Morris University.

The person who holds this degree is the one to whom all heads turn when the meeting comes to an impasse. The expectation is that you will know what to do next.

This master's degree gave me access to people and organizations that were previously not within my sphere of influence. The doctoral program at Robert Morris is another step in the evolution of my future. This particular doctoral program gives me the expertise and course of study necessary to pursue my future goals. I fully intend to be in service to others for the remainder of my life and I endeavor to be as effective as possible in living out my purpose. The Doctorate of Science in Information Systems and Communications allows me to work with, understand and build infrastructures that are essential to a myriad of organizations, especially the ones that I intend to start myself.

Without the MSOL program, I would never have been ready to tackle the challenges that I encounter in the doctoral program. I am confident in my abilities and knowledge base and I am forever grateful to those instructors at Geneva who invested so much in me and in my potential. They

will never know how much their wisdom, knowledge and understanding contributed to the person I've become and the person yet to be revealed. Again, I'm humbled and so grateful.

The most significant revelation from the MSOL program was the understanding that God is not *apart* from my professional and academic pursuits, but He is *a part* of them (the greatest part, I might add).

Students: This is an opportunity unlike any other. It is the opportunity to refine your focus so that your purpose can become clear and you can understand that servant leadership isn't just a theoretical construct, but it is a passion that grafts itself to you and permeates every aspect of your life.

Instructors: The outcomes of the work that you do does not manifest itself only in the classrooms and papers completed by your students. It shows up when crises arise and your students rise to the occasion. It manifests itself in their homes and on their jobs. It manifests itself when they become parents, preachers, teachers, mentors, servant leaders and exemplary followers wherever they go. Your work is critically important and it is work that you must continue to do well because — it matters!

Administration: My prayer for you is that you continue to be aggressive in your efforts to offer these opportunities to student who can become the proverbial "diamonds in the rough." I pray that your strength is increased so that you can make my current reality possible for others. Remember that through your efforts the world can indeed become a better place if you remain vigilant about the purpose that God has for Geneva College.

— Calvin A. Womack, B.S., M.S.



Some of our MSOL faculty and staff

Womack. Kathy spoke about her hopes for increased alumni involvement in the program and the Alumni Association. Calvin spoke about the influence the MSOL program in his life and work, as well as his current foray into his Ph.D. program at Robert Morris University.

Also covered were ideas for student satisfaction and outcomes surveys to be administered online at the end of each module in the program. These surveys will allow us to collect informative data that could be used to shape the course material and its approach. If you have any suggestions, they would be greatly appreciated. Contact msol@geneva.edu.

Fall Faculty Planning Retreat

On Friday, September 12, the MSOL faculty met at the Regional Learning Alliance at Cranberry Woods to discuss upcoming cohorts, current promotional materials, the spring leadership conference, and possible alumni events.

During the retreat, our staff heard from two of our alumni, Kathy Coder and Calvin



The Geneva College Department of Leadership Studies has joined Facebook!

Now you can join our team online by visiting www.facebook.com and searching for "Geneva College Department of Leadership Studies."



BOOK SPOTLIGHT

By Jeff McCollum

Published in the *Servant-Leader News*

Authentic Conversations: Moving from Manipulation to Truth and Commitment

Jamie Showkeir and Maren Showkeir Berrett-Koehler, 2008, 192 pages, \$18.95

Authentic Conversations is challenging and provocative. It wants us to understand how deeply our everyday conversations at work are riddled with a lack of authenticity, and how that lack stifles engagement and personal accountability. As a result, business results are less than they could be. The case for change starts with an identification of "relationships that don't work at work." Specifically, they point out how the following conversations — holding others accountable, care-taking, coping with disappointment and colluding with cynicism — are so deeply ingrained that we take them for granted. The conversations rest on a set of "old" management assumptions that see people as objects, ignore individual freedom and will, use policies and procedures that ensure compliance, and emphasize leaders and experts while ignoring those who work in the system. These types of conversations, done in a manipulative parent-child environment, tie people in knots. Done authentically, they create clear, clean communication that, in turn, drives business performance to higher and higher levels.

*Start dates for GENEVA COLLEGE Department of Leadership Studies cohorts
Master of Science in Organizational Leadership*

COHORT 67

New Castle, Pennsylvania
Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Call for details.
Geneva College
Department of Leadership Studies
724.847.2715
msol@geneva.edu

COHORT 68

Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 5, 2009

COHORT 69

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Tuesday, March 10, 2009

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