GENEVA COLLEGE

Virtual Alumni Awards Program

Homecoming 2020
Friday, October 9
7:00 p.m.
PROGRAM

Welcome
Kelly Sanzari, M.A.
Director of Alumni Relations

Prayer
Adam Shaffer ‘11
Alumni Council President

Introduction of Alumni Awards

Young Alumni Award
Gabriel S. Chick ‘10
Gregg J. Conley, JD ‘11

Alumni Award
Yvonne F. Allison ‘65
Shawn A. Jenkins ‘89
Josie N. Badger, PhD ‘07

Distinguished Service Award
COL Claire E. Brittain Jr. (USAF Ret.) ‘60
Gregory N. Postma, MD ‘80
Rev. Timothy L. Russell ‘79 (posthumously)

Address to Alumni
Calvin L. Troup, Ph.D. ‘83
President
Gabriel S. Chick, 1 of 8 children, was born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, the son and grandson of Steelmill workers. He is a first-generation college graduate that completed his Associate’s Degree at the Community College of Allegheny County. He then attended Geneva College where he completed a degree in Business Administration in 2010. While at Geneva Gabriel was active in the Beaver Falls Big Brother, Big Sister Program.

After Geneva, Gabriel served as a Field Artillery Officer with the Army’s 101st Airborne Division. He deployed to Afghanistan in 2013 and was awarded a bronze star for his exceptional meritorious service. Thereafter, he resigned his military commission to pursue a MBA from Carnegie Mellon University. While there he was introduced to the concept of small business ownership as a potential career. He then spent over 2 years scouring the country for a business until he found Service-Tech Corporation, a HVAC and industrial cleaning company in 2019. He currently serves as President at its headquarters in Cleveland, OH.
Gregg Conley is the Executive Counsel for Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John King. Previously he worked for International Justice Mission fighting against human trafficking in the country of Ghana. Gregg received his J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, and a B.A. in Philosophy from Geneva College in 2011.

A veteran, Gregg served as an infantryman in the U.S. Army, completing two tours in Iraq and one tour in the Republic of Korea. Gregg also spent two years in Ghana working for International Justice Mission (IJM) as a legal fellow. While there, he assisted the Ghana field office as they pled the cases of those who have been bound into slavery.

Gregg now lives in Atlanta with his German Shepherd, Duke.
YVONNE F. ALLISON ’65  
Alumni Award

Yvonne, a 1965 graduate of Geneva College began her varied career at the CBS owned Pittsburgh television station, KDKA-TV2 as a consumer reporter, moved to news anchor and finally hosted and co-produced her own live weekday talk show. She spent 20+ years at network owned television stations in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Boston and Detroit. Her expertise as an executive in television creative services and advertising won her two local Emmy Awards at the NBC owned television station, WCAU-TV10 in Philadelphia, PA.

Following her television stint, Yvonne moved into the realms of organizational/operational communications. She began her organizational approach to departmental communications in the public sector when she served Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh as Press Secretary for the Department of Community Affairs. This prestigious position sent her into each one of the 67 counties throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Yvonne’s second position in the public sector was Deputy City Representative for the City of Philadelphia during Mayor W. Wilson Goode’s administration. From there, Yvonne moved into advertising as President of Beach Advertising, the oldest and largest minority owned and operated ad agency in PA. She was responsible for the daily operations and direct supervision of the forty staff members which included a team of freelancers.

Yvonne also served as Chairman of the Philadelphia/Montgomery County American Lung Association Board of Trustees and served as a member of the Hahnemann Hospital Board of Directors and chairing the Nursing Committee of the Board.

In addition to her Emmy Awards, Yvonne has received numerous accolades over her extensive career including two “Women in Communications” awards, in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, PA. She remains active in the community and resides in Rydal, PA with her husband, John, a retired Verizon executive.
Dr. Josie Badger received her Bachelor’s degree from Geneva College in Disability Law and Advocacy in 2007, a Master’s from the University of Pittsburgh in Rehabilitation Counseling, and a Doctorate from Duquesne University in Healthcare Ethics. In 2014, Josie founded J Badger Consulting Inc. where she provides youth development and disability consulting services for organizations, on transition and leadership development. She is the Co-Director of the national RSA-Parent Training and Information Center technical assistance center (RAISE).

She is the Campaign Manager of the #IWantToWork Campaign, to improve the employment of people with disabilities and is a Field Organizer for Denny Civic Solutions for the Family Care Act, a bill that supports paid family leave. She serves as a board member of the United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, The Woodlands Foundation, the Mary Grace Hospice Foundation, and FISA. In 2012, Dr. Badger was crowned Ms. Wheelchair America.
After graduating from Geneva College in 1989, Shawn moved to Charleston, SC to work with a global missions organization called Team World Outreach. He helped manage the operations, finance, and travel logistics for teams of people traveling to many places, including, Haiti, Kenya, Belize, Mexico, Guatemala, and more. The teams served by holding free medical clinics, kids and youth camps, evangelism programs, and construction projects.

After five years with the mission organization, they relocated, and Shawn had a series of jobs that ultimately lead him to finding software as a passion. In 2000, he co-founded a software company called Benefitfocus. He served as President and CEO as the company grew rapidly and did an Initial Public Offering in 2013. Shawn led the public company for five years and past $250M in annual revenue and a valuation over $1B. He decided to retire early in 2018 and have taken the last few years off to travel with his wife and kids.

In 2015, his family was able to help the Medical University of South Carolina begin the process of building a new Children’s Hospital in Charleston. The new hospital was opened earlier this year. Shawn’s oldest daughter, Olivia was treated at the original MUSC children’s hospital and now serves as a nurse in the new hospital. While they never dreamed of building a children’s hospital, they now see how God used the work he did with the business to in turn now help the community’s moms, children, and families.
Claire was raised in Aliquippa, PA and graduated from Hopewell High School where he lettered in basketball, baseball and cross-country. After a final summer of playing baseball, swimming and hanging out with my buddies, it was time to get serious. So, he applied to Geneva and was accepted in the fall of 1956 and graduated in 1960 with a BS degree and left immediately to be sworn into the United States Air Force.

He was commissioned as 2nd Lt. with Navigator Wings and sent to Greenville, SC at Donaldson AFB. For about 12 years, his primary duty was flying. Over the years, Claire accumulated approximately 8,000 hours. During his assignment in South Carolina, he married Geraldine (Jerri) Phillips, together they have two sons. In the boys formative years, he was stationed in Germany, Viet Nam, and Thailand.

Retirement orders finally came after nearly 31 years and they were off to Greenville, SC where they joined the First Presbyterian. Claire started to notice Jerri was beginning to have mental problems which resulted in full blown Alzheimer’s disease. After many years of Claire taking care of her at home Jerri passed away. Their boys knew he had done very little for himself for years, so they had a plan to get him socially active. Kay Fifield later became his wife. They may have slowed down but still stay very active at New Hope Presbyterian Church and Sunday school. This virus has kept them homebound in Florida so until a hurricane chases us out of the house we will be right here. Geneva will always remain a special part of his life and he trusts that prayers and financial contributions can provide support without his physical presence there.
Dr. Gregory Postma is a Professor and Vice Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University and is the Director of the Center for Voice, Airway and Swallowing Disorders since 2005.

After graduating from Geneva College in 1980 he received his medical degree from Hahnemann University in Philadelphia in 1984. He served in the US Navy as a submarine and diving medical officer for several years and then he completed his residency in Otolaryngology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1993. He completed a fellowship in laryngology at Vanderbilt University and then joined the faculty at Wake Forest in 1996.

He is a past President of both the American BronchoEsophagological Society (ABEA) and the Dysphagia Research Society.

He is the author or co-author of more than 110 peer-reviewed publications, edited 3 books, and has written 70 chapters and invited articles. He has given more than 700 presentations on a wide array of laryngologic topics.

He has been selected as one of America’s Top Doctors, a reference that identifies the top 1% of physicians in the nation, for the past twenty years.
Tim Russell was a 1979 graduate of Geneva College and served in several roles at the college from 1991 to 2004, including Director of Financial Aid, Director of Church Relations and College Chaplain. He served on Geneva’s Board of Corporators from 1984-1991 and as a Degree Completion Program Adjunct Faculty from 1998-2004. After his time at Geneva, Tim and his wife Kathe relocated to the Memphis, TN area. Tim was president of Memphis Center for Urban Theological Studies in the early 2000s and also served as Head of Schools for Westminster Academy and Lexington Christian Academy. Tim was Assistant Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church in Memphis, TN, at the time of his death.

Tim passed away on Monday, March 30 after a brief battle with COVID-19.
The Institutional Advancement (IA) Office works to support the vision and mission of Geneva College by engaging alumni, parents, friends and community with the college and by raising philanthropic support.

Each area within IA serves a unique purpose, but ultimately the office works as a team to bring glory to God through their work and enhance each person’s experience with Geneva.

The Advancement Office works with alumni and friends who are interested in making the high-impact gifts to Geneva. They help donors discover what areas within Geneva they are most passionate about and develop personalized giving plans for them.
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