

EVENTS

GENEVA MAGAZINE

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SUMMER 2005

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GENEVA MAGAZINE



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read articles about route 18 over the years from the *geneva alumnus*, forerunner to *geneva magazine*, and *the cabinet*

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Geneva Magazine

Volume 85, Issue 3

Geneva Magazine is published three times a year for Geneva College alumni, friends, students, and parents of students. It reports news of the college and its alumni and provides a medium for the exchange of ideas related to the college's mission.

Opinions expressed in Geneva Magazine are those of the signed contributors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editorial review board or the official position of the college.

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IN RESPONSE

letters from readers

Preserving life

One letter in the winter 2005 issue of *Geneva Magazine* referred to the war effort in Iraq as “discouraging.” I find it discouraging when well educated people don’t see the importance of what our troops have accomplished in the Middle East.

We have eliminated a major breeding ground for terrorists. We have eliminated a regime that killed and tortured thousands of innocent people every year. We have seen the beginnings of democracy not only in Iraq, but in Afghanistan, Libya, Lebanon, and Egypt. We are doing exactly the same things the letter implored people to do.

A second letter found it “disgusting” that the president of Geneva believes in the right of self defense. I think the president’s Christian worldview probably gives him a better understanding of responsible gun use than most people. Properly used, a gun is a tool for preserving life. That is a very Christian principle.

Darrick Dean '98
New Castle, Pennsylvania

Remember what we stand for

We tend to become overly concerned about some social issues. There are many to choose from: abortion, stem cell research, cloning, alcoholism, drug use, gun control, capital punishment, war, environmental protection, domestic abuse, health care, politics, religious freedom, world trade, nuclear arms—you name it. It is natural for good people to be against situations and policies that do not seem right or just. It is common for us to selectively have some “anti” views.

I graduated from Geneva with a degree in pre-ministerial and pre-law studies. While I went on to other schools, I always remembered the Geneva motto, *Pro Christo et patria*—“For Christ and country.” This motto meant something to me. I cannot remember the mottos of other alma maters, but I always thought there could be no better motto than Geneva’s.

Over the years Geneva graduates have gone out across the world imprinted with this motto. It inspires us to positive living. It is a “pro” view, not an “anti” view. It challenges us to be all that we can be as Christians and patriots.

The answers to the world’s problems seem formidable and complex, but the ultimate solution for everything is to put our trust in God. God rules in his own way, although his plans may not be our plans.

Pro Christo et patria should be our gold-letter challenge to a sinful world, sacred words displayed on a royal banner, held high without shame. They show where we stand in the struggle against Satan, where our first priority is to defend our faith and defend our country. *Pro Christo et patria* says it all.

Thayer K. Miller '51
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Stem cell use doesn’t equal murder

This letter is in response to Dr. Daryl Sas’ article, “A new temptation? The case against stem cell research,” in the winter 2005 issue of *Geneva Magazine*. Certainly Dr. Sas is to be admired for courageously speaking his Christian beliefs on a very controversial subject. Nevertheless I find that I must disagree with his arguments on several grounds.

Dr. Sas begins his article by giving the background of human embryo stem cell (HESC) research, its potential for treating serious diseases, and the justification given by others for pursuing it. So far, so good. He then proceeds to attempt a definition of personhood based on scripture. In the opening paragraph to this section, he states, “Our humanistic culture makes a critical distinction between human being and human person. No one disputes that these embryos are human beings.”

This raises several questions. First, do we really live in a “humanistic culture”? Secondly, is there really a recognized distinction between a human being and a human person? And third, does everyone agree that unattached embryos are human beings?

Humanism is a word that means different things to different people. Webster’s gives several definitions; the one to which I imagine Dr. Sas was referring is “a philosophy that usually rejects supernaturalism and stresses an individual’s dignity and worth and capacity for self-realization through reason.”

There are certainly many individuals in the world who subscribe to this or a similar philosophy. I think that there



are fewer in the United States than in, say, Europe or East Asia. But there are also many to whom this philosophy is shortsighted and even repugnant, and they, too, are contributors to our American Christian culture. Humanistic ideals certainly influence us, but they don't predominate in our culture. Regarding the second statement: I have discussed HESC research with pro-life fundamentalist Christians as well as pro-choice humanist agnostics and many people in between. None of them has ever made a distinction between "human person" and "human being." The question really is whether God in fact regards embryos that are not attached to the uterus as human. Psalm 22:10 says, "I was given over to you at birth. You have been my God from my mother's womb." Other verses, such as Isaiah 49:5 and Jeremiah 1:5, reveal God's omniscience and his plan for prenatal lives. Clearly, there can be no question of God's concern for this life. The question is, At what stage does he have this regard for it?

To his credit, Dr. Sas frankly states his personal belief and does not claim it as directly scriptural. He simply says, "I believe that it is more helpful to think of the image of God as a relationship that God initiates at conception." Since this is his personal belief, and since there is no Bible verse that specifically states "life begins at conception," he must respect the fact that not everyone, including many Christians, will agree.

Of course the Bible was written long before anyone knew there were such things as cells. It is not to be expected that it would directly address the problem of HESC research. But humans then were certainly aware of conception, and it is significant that the verses that refer to God's dealings with prenatal life all involve development while in the womb, and hence attachment to the uterus. As is well known, many embryos do not attach themselves but instead are purged from the mother's body. Nobody, at least until very recent times, has ever regarded this material as a human being.

Having established to his own satisfaction that HESCs are human beings, Dr. Sas opposes such research under all circumstances, claiming it violates the Sixth Commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." He expounds on this: "An innocent person cannot be killed without his or her consent for any purpose." The commandment is usually interpreted to mean, "Thou shalt not commit murder," an interpretation I agree with, and it has nothing whatever to do with consent. It also says nothing about when life begins. There are many people involved in HESC research, some of who are dedicated

Christians. None of them are murderers from either a legal or a biblical standpoint.

Regarding the illustration of King Manasseh: He did not merely slay his son. His story is told fully in 2 Chronicles 33. Manasseh sacrifices all his children and commits other abominations. God chastises him for this but accepts his repentance and restores him to his throne. In fact, Manasseh had the longest reign of any king of either Israel or Judah. Biblical illustrations make excellent examples, but one should be scrupulously accurate when using them.

In concluding, Dr. Sas criticizes HESC research from the practical standpoint. This is somewhat surprising in view of his lengthy argument on the irrelevance of its practicality. Since I am not a biologist, I can't say what diseases HESC research will or won't cure. I do agree with Dr. Sas that the claims are somewhat exaggerated, but I believe that it holds great potential for good nevertheless. Because of this potential, and because I find no biblical condemnation of the practice, I support HESC research.

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Geneva Magazine wants to receive your feedback and welcomes letters to the editor and story suggestions. When writing, include your name, class year, and current address, as well as an e-mail address where readers can reach you. All letters must be signed. The magazine reserves the right to edit submissions for length, clarity, and content.

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in brief

GENEVA NEWS

NAIA no longer?

Geneva is considering a switch in its athletic affiliation that would renew regional rivalries—and fan interest. The college has belonged to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) since 1950, but in January Geneva registered for exploratory status with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The NAIA used to include more western Pennsylvania schools, but over the decades, arch-rivals like Westminster College and Grove City College left the NAIA and joined the NCAA. Today the Golden Tornadoes range far afield to find opponents. This season the football team is scheduled to play two games against Indiana teams and two against Illinois teams. For one away game against Quincy University in Illinois, the players will travel 720 miles by bus.

During the 2005–06 academic year, President Kenneth A. Smith and Athletic Director Geno DeMarco will head a review committee of alumni and trustees who will determine whether the conference would be a good fit for the college. The committee's decision is due by the end of the 2005–06 year.

Geneva would join the Presidents' Athletic Conference in the NCAA's Division III, which includes Westminster, Waynesburg, Grove City, Bethany, Thiel, and Washington & Jefferson colleges.

Switching to the NCAA would save the college thousands of dollars every year in travel costs.

It would also change the way the college recruits its athletes, since NCAA Division III rules prohibit members from offering athletic scholarships. Geneva awarded \$1.14 million in athletics scholarships in 2003–04. Some Division III schools find other ways to give athletes the same financial incentive, such as creating "leadership awards" for top recruits, according to CollegeNews.org.

Proclaiming the pandemic

Geneva's chapter of Acting on AIDS made its message hard to miss. The group's members wore bright orange T-shirts March 16–17 to raise awareness on campus to the worldwide AIDS pandemic.

The shirts bore the word "orphan" across the front; each wearer symbolized 100,000 children in Africa left parentless by the disease. Members distributed 185

shirts to students and faculty and staff members.

The group also posted signs along Route 18, spaced 14 seconds apart, to show passers-by that another child is orphaned every 14 seconds. AIDS has orphaned an estimated 14 million children.

Acting on AIDS is a national student-led organization dedicated to getting college students involved in the fight against AIDS. Geneva's chapter, which has nine members on its leadership team, started this spring. The activities were the chapter's contribution to World Vision's AIDS Awareness Week.

The group also presented a documentary about AIDS around the globe, organized a special convocation service about the issue, and collected craft materials to send to children in Africa.

Building a better G

The Geneva G, an icon of school spirit for decades, is slated for an upgrade this fall. Built of whitewashed boulders, the G overlooks the Metheny Stadium football field from a hill in Eastvale across the Beaver River.

Workers will make a clearing to the north of the G's current location, and a new, more permanent G will be built there. The hill is too



Jason Panella '04, plays his trumpet at the April 23 Founders Day Dinner & Swing gala.

Panella was among a dozen Geneva College alumni who returned to campus to perform at the event. The alumni joined the jazz band onstage for five selections, including "Basie Boogie,"

"In the Mood," and "Woodchopper's Ball."

Among the instruments represented in the alumni section were trumpet, saxophone, trombone, and electric bass.



steep to allow cement to be poured, so the *G* will probably be made of patio brick with a wooden frame, says Jeff Lydic, physical plant director. The new letter will be three times larger than its predecessor. Solar-powered lights will also be installed to illuminate the *G* at night.

The *G*'s location relative to the football field will shift from the southern 40-yard line to the northern 30-yard line, Lydic says.

The idea for the *G* originated with Charles M. Lee, who came to Geneva in 1918 as a Greek and Latin professor. Lee once drove through Manhattan, Kansas, and noticed a large concrete *M* on a hillside. He suggested that Geneva create something similar, and around 1925, the *G* was first built.

For years the *G* played a role in Geneva athletics. Students would light it with road flares during halftime of home football games. Rivals would try to sabotage the *G*; Westminster College students would paint it blue before games at Geneva.

Traditionally the freshmen would trek up to the *G* in the fall to clear brush and arrange and paint the stones. In recent years upper-classmen have taken it upon themselves to undo the freshmen's work by reconfiguring the *G* and painting it unusual colors. It's taken the form of a smiley face, a peace symbol, a dollar sign, an exclamation point, a heart, a cross, and the word "HI." It has also been hidden and painted florescent yellow and pink.



photo by jared wilkening '07

Backensto heads chaplain's office

The Reverend Bruce Backensto '69 accepted an appointment as interim college chaplain in January. He was appointed to help Assistant Chaplain Tom Gray, who oversees the student ministries portion of the office, and to provide a senior chaplain's presence in the program. Backensto is the pastor of Geneva Reformed Presbyterian Church, where he has served since 1995, a member of the board of trustees, and chair of the board's academic affairs committee.



President Kenneth A. Smith has organized a search committee to hire a full-time replacement for Chaplain Timothy Russell '79, who left the college in December 2004 to become the president of the Memphis Center for Urban Theological Studies.

MSOL celebrates 50th class start

The master of science in organizational leadership program marked a milestone in February: the start of its 50th class.

Founded in 1995, the program caters to working adults who are seeking an opportunity for personal growth and professional advancement. Each MSOL student enters a 12- to 17-member class, or cohort, that progresses together through the 24 months of weekly sessions required to earn the degree. Nearly 600 students have graduated from the program.

The faculty mentor for cohort 50, Dr. Debbie Jeannett, associate professor of leadership studies, was also an instructor for the first MSOL cohort. Cohort 50 is the first to attend classes at the Regional Learning Alliance (RLA) in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. The RLA is the result of a partnership among colleges and universities in the western Pennsylvania region.

Building the team

The winter of 2005 brought a flurry of organizational changes as President Kenneth A. Smith began implementing the administrative plan he'd developed during his first six months on the job. Smith's new structure cut the number of college officers from six to four and increased administrative support for the college's academic programs.

Geneva's former configuration had separate vice presidents for academic affairs, business and finance, campus and community ministry, enrollment, institutional advancement, and student development.

Now officers will oversee four main areas: finance; academics, which will include the college's curricular



academic affairs and undergraduate dean for seven years, has resigned and will take the position of provost at Simpson University in California. Smith appointed Dr. Kenneth Carson, chair of both the psychology department and faculty senate, as Clark's successor.

College controller Michael Fox was promoted to chief financial officer, and James Prince, vice president of business and finance, will now concentrate his efforts in the area of college operations.

Smith named Dr. David Guthrie, professor of higher education, as academic dean. Joy Jewell, vice president of student development, will become dean of student development.

The college hasn't yet hired its marketing officer. Smith is looking for someone skilled in conducting and



and student life functions; operations, including departments like technology services and maintenance; and marketing, which will include Geneva's public relations, enrollment, and institutional advancement efforts.

Prior to the restructuring, the vice president for academic affairs had 27 college employees reporting directly to him, a cumbersome structure that placed more administrative responsibility on faculty members. Smith also created a position for a full-time academic dean.

Dr. Stanley Clark, vice president of



interpreting market research—a person to help Geneva “learn to tell its story,” Smith says.

At its February

meeting the board of trustees approved Smith's new administrative structure.

Photos, left to right: David Guthrie, Kenneth Carson, Michael Fox.

Life on their own . . . together

This fall's incoming freshmen will encounter a new housing arrangement: freshman-only residence halls. The student development office has set aside Pearce, Clark, Young North, and Young East halls for freshmen. The change will bolster class unity and allow residence life staff to target programming to the specific needs of freshmen such as making new friends and adjusting to life away from their parents, says Paul Perrine, residence life director.

Some students criticized the decision in *The Cabinet*, Geneva's student newspaper. “My freshman year at Geneva, I roomed in both Geneva Arms and Pearce and

only saw the resident assistants when they did room checks,” wrote Paul Priest, a junior sociology major. “To assume that resident assistants and directors can provide all of the functions necessary for freshmen to balance education, relationships, and a walk with God would be folly.”

Junior Josh Wilson, a resident assistant in Pearce and class president, says he agrees with the decision, although he has some reservations about it. He regrets that students will no longer have the opportunity to live in the same residence hall throughout their stay at Geneva. But he thinks the extra help students will get in making the transition to college will outweigh the lost continuity.

INSTITUTIONAL memory loss

by Kelly Young '04

At the end of this academic year, three of Geneva College's most senior faculty members put down their chalk and walked away from the blackboard for the last time. (*See tributes on pages 27, 28, and 30.*)

While some retirements are always expected, recent turnover has left the responsibility for Geneva's future in the hands of the youngest and least experienced faculty the college has ever had.

In the past seven years, 39 senior faculty members have retired, an average of five per year. In the same time-frame, the college has hired 61 new professors. As a result, only 50 percent of the college's teachers have at least eight years' experience at Geneva, and the average age of a Geneva full-time faculty member is 49.

The trend at Geneva mirrors what's happening on the national level. A 1999 study found that 32 percent of college professors were at least 55 years old, setting the stage for major turnover as those professors move toward retirement. Eleven of Geneva's 83 full-time professors are over 60.

"This isn't a Geneva problem," said Dr. Stanley Clark, vice president of academic affairs. "It's happening all across the nation. After this last wave retires, we will find a pretty steady retirement rate develops. I believe that the trend will have leveled itself out in the next five to 10 years."

Each year retirements necessitate restructuring departments and promoting junior professors into leadership positions. The biology, chemistry, communication, English, and history, political science, and sociology departments have seen leadership changes in the last four years, as has the humanities program.

The generational turnover means that the "old guard" professors—longtime faculty members like Dr. Harry Farra, Dr. David Wollman, and Dr. David Badger—are unknown to many of today's students.

"We do lose a lot when these people retire," Clark says.

"Institutional memory," the perspective and historical understanding of Geneva that comes only with experience, is the most significant loss. This year's three retirees alone take with them about 120 years of combined experience at the college.

Less experienced professors are also less polished in their teaching skills and still have much to learn about classroom management, Clark says.

"Our core of faculty is a strong and diverse group that is more than up to the task of filling in the holes left behind by departing professors without missing a beat," Clark says.

"Despite the number of high ranking professors retiring this year, Geneva still has some 35 senior faculty members that are not planning to retire. This core is providing great leadership during this phase of transition."

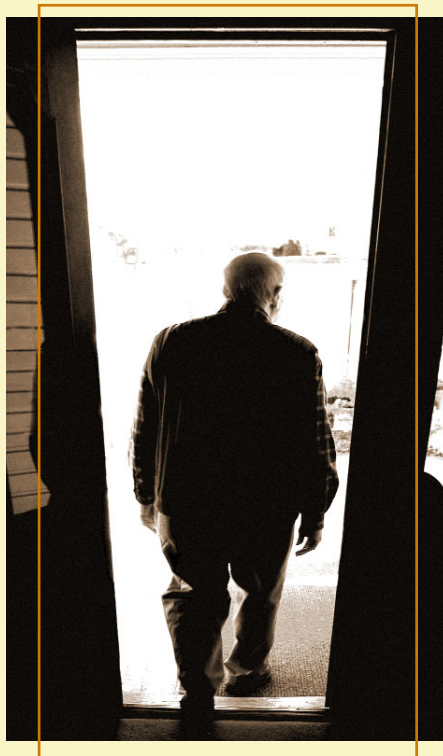
The high turnover also presents opportunities for Geneva to modernize technologically and revitalize its faculty, Clark says.

Younger teachers, according to retiring English professor Dr. Paul Smith, show a higher energy level, a better ability to relate to the students, and a familiarity with the latest technologies and theories of their discipline.

"The question with change is, do you have the stability to moderate the change, and I believe we certainly do," Smith says.

In retirement Smith will continue to work part-time at Geneva as faculty development coordinator. His responsibilities will include orienting new faculty members to Geneva and helping all professors improve their teaching and scholarship skills.

"It is important that we try to foster an educational community here that will make professors want to stick around here long-term," Clark says. "It is in these areas that we at Geneva still have a lot of room to grow."



rebuilding hope

by Josh Earl '03

THERE'S MOSS GROWING ON THE STEPS now, and the building's brick and stone exterior is streaked with soot and rust. The window frames gape like empty eye sockets, and water drips down through the twin belfries.

Like many other buildings in Duquesne, the 100-year-old Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church hasn't borne up well under neglect and abuse.

But Charlayne Turner can see past all that to something grander: a community revitalized.

Turner, a 1999 graduate of the Center for Urban Theological Studies (CUTS), acquired the dilapidated building in December 2004 with the goal of converting it into a focal point for community growth and activity. "When we walked in here for the first time, people said 'You are out of your mind,'" says Turner, whose CUTS studies focused on urban ministry leadership.

The property's plight reflects that of the surrounding community. In Duquesne, a borough of 7,300 located just southeast of Pittsburgh, the median household income is \$19,766, less than half that of the state as a whole, and nearly a third of families live below the poverty line. Only 8 percent of residents hold a bachelor's degree, compared to 22 percent statewide. Turner developed the vision for this ministry long before she had heard of Duquesne, when she was still a student in CUTS, a Philadelphia-based program aligned with Geneva College.

In CUTS she undertook a research project, studying a depressed neighborhood in south Philadelphia. She noticed a pattern consistent with those in other cities she'd lived in: A thriving community becomes gentrified, and small, locally owned businesses are pushed out by national conglomerates. Then economic hard times set in, the big chains pack up and leave, and the neighborhood has no resources to help it recover. Drugs, crime, and prostitution become the new small businesses.

"What I heard from a lot of young people was, 'We can't own our own businesses because we don't have

enough money, and they don't give us loans because they don't trust us. If we owned more businesses, our self-esteem would be different. We want to work for ourselves in our own communities,'" Turner says.

The key is for communities to do the work themselves. "I'm all about owning your own and not depending on the government," she says.

Those observations led to the idea for Destiny House, the name Turner has given her Duquesne ministry. Destiny House, she hopes, will "take young people from prison to the palace" through rigorous career training.

She plans to offer computer classes and Internet training. In the basement she wants to set up a workshop to teach basic plumbing and woodworking. The house's third floor will serve as a performing arts center, complete with a stage area and mirrored wall. Since there's no Christian bookstore in Duquesne, one room will be a media center with Christian books, music, and videos. Turner plans to hold seminars on community development, career training, and budgeting. About 15 percent of the neighborhood's houses are abandoned, so Turner also wants to teach residents about homeownership.

Next door, the former Holy Trinity building will become the Healing Temple, a house for the fledgling congregation is Turner is pastoring. Equipped with stackable chairs, the sanctuary will double as a flexible gathering place for community events and performances.

Turner didn't initially choose Duquesne as a proving ground for her vision. She was trying to buy a building in Wilkinsburg, but the local government wouldn't let her use it as a church. That's when she met Whilimena Carter, pastor of the Church of Christ congregation that owned the old Holy Trinity property. When Turner started telling Carter why she wanted the building, Carter said, "If you promise me that that's the kind of ministry you're going to put in here, you can have it." Turner had only to pay the \$20,000 in back taxes that had collected on the parish, which had been used as a private residence. The property's assessed value is \$250,000.



“It’s a beautiful place. It’s sad they let it get like this.”

The church building and its adjacent parish sat vacant for more than a year, abandoned by Carter’s dwindling congregation. The parish walls were caked with black mold, and trash covered the floor several feet deep in many rooms. Windows were either broken or, in the case of the church’s stained glass, stolen intact and sold.

“It’s a beautiful place. It’s sad that they let it get like this,” Turner says.

She is renovating the property with the help of her husband, Melvin, and several community members,

hauling off old refrigerators and ovens, clearing rooms of debris, and ripping out rotting walls and ceilings.

It’s slow going, as funds are hard to come by. She’s putting her paychecks from her day job directly into the project, and community members have helped out with bake sales, bowling parties, and donations.

But patience is something Turner understands. “It took 10 years, but he gave us the property to make Destiny House happen,” she says. “God blows my mind when I think about what he does for us.” 🙏

COUNSEL FOR THE *grieving*

by Teresa Bagamery '03

Faced with the destruction left by last December's tsunami, Stacie Brethauer learned that words alone can't salve the wounds of grief.

"Sometimes there's just not a whole lot to say when someone is sharing the deepest hurt of their heart," she says. "It's sharing care and concern, holding their hand, wiping tears, celebrating with them when remembering their family members and honoring their lives."

Brethauer, a 2004 graduate of the Geneva College master's in counseling program, traveled to Thailand in February as part of a three-person counseling team. The group was funded by North Way Christian Community in Wexford, Pennsylvania.

"I had taken domestic trips with Habitat for Humanity but never an international one," she says. "I'm a housewife from the 'burbs."

Brethauer arrived in Thailand February 3, about seven weeks after the tsunami of December 26, 2004.

She and the other counselors worked in the provinces of Phuket and Phangna, which are located on the western coast of Thailand, directly in the path of the tsunami.

On their first day in Thailand, the group drove north through a fishing village that once was home to 4,000 people—3,000 of whom died in the tsunami.

The counselors went to an elementary school, of which, Brethauer estimates, one-fourth of the 300 or 400 children had lost family members. The counselors met with the children, many of whom could speak English, to talk with them about their experience and help them express their feelings, which she says were grief, loss, fear, and anger.

They also met with a father who had lost his wife and two sons in the tsunami. The man shared family photos of his deceased wife and sons.

"There wasn't a disconnect or distance from the story or the tsunami for me anymore," Brethauer says. "I had names connected with the story. The most emotionally moving part of the trip was our time with this man. It became very personal."

Later Brethauer spent a day on Koh Kor Khoa Island,

where a fishing village named Pah Nam Kaem was devastated. The team helped clean the beach of debris, including cement and clothing. The tsunami destroyed the 50 or 60 homes that once lined the beach. Nothing remained.

"The average Thai home would not have had any type of foundation, especially those close to the beach," she says.

As the group worked, a man came to the beach still looking for his wife. The team members talked with him about Jesus and prayed for him. The man removed his necklace, like the one many villagers wear with a picture of Buddha or a monk on it, and gave it to one of the members. Like this man, Brethauer says, many people were still searching for their loved ones.

"Many, many families have not recovered remains and without their remains, they can not have a funeral in keeping with Buddhist tradition," she says. "So there is very little emotional closure for them. Again, the wound is very open and very raw."

Looking for lost loved ones was one way for sufferers to cope with the devastation, Brethauer says. Many people





Left: Stacie Brethauer used her knowledge of counseling to help grieving victims of the December 2005 tsunami. She visited the Ban Lam Kaen School where one in every four children had lost a family member.

Above: The fishing village of Khoa Lak was among the devastated sites Brethauer saw.

were still reacting to the trauma, experiencing the sleeplessness and nightmares that accompany post-traumatic stress.


Brethauer says a tragedy like the tsunami causes people to ask bigger questions about God. She feels the Thai people were not finding answers in their own religion, Buddhism. Although she gained respect for their religion, she says it doesn't offer "the hope that we find in Christianity in terms of resurrection and salvation."

Local missionaries have found an increased openness to Christianity in the wave's aftermath, she says.

Brethauer says she is grateful for the counseling program at Geneva, because it prepared her in many ways

for the Thailand trip. A course on the cultural and social foundations of counseling taught her to ask, "What cultural distinctions do I have to consider when working with the Asian people?"

"Asian culture is so different from the American culture," she says. "They grieve differently because of their culture and religion."

"You boil it down to the essentials of what counseling is about," she says. "The best gift is the ability to listen, empathize—how transforming that is for people." 

PAVEMENT, PERSISTENCE, & providence

THE ROUTE 18 STORY

by Josh Earl '03

State Route 0018, segments 0670 to 0680. A simple enough designation. But that 1,830-foot stretch of roadway has caused hundreds of accidents, injured dozens, and cost Geneva College thousands of dollars. For decades it has cut in twain Geneva's campus, and it has outlasted five administrations' efforts to reroute it.

No more. The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) is scheduled to start construction late in 2006 on a new path for Route 18, one that will allow Geneva to improve its campus and, more importantly, allow safe passage for the thousands of students, alumni, and local residents who cross the road each year.

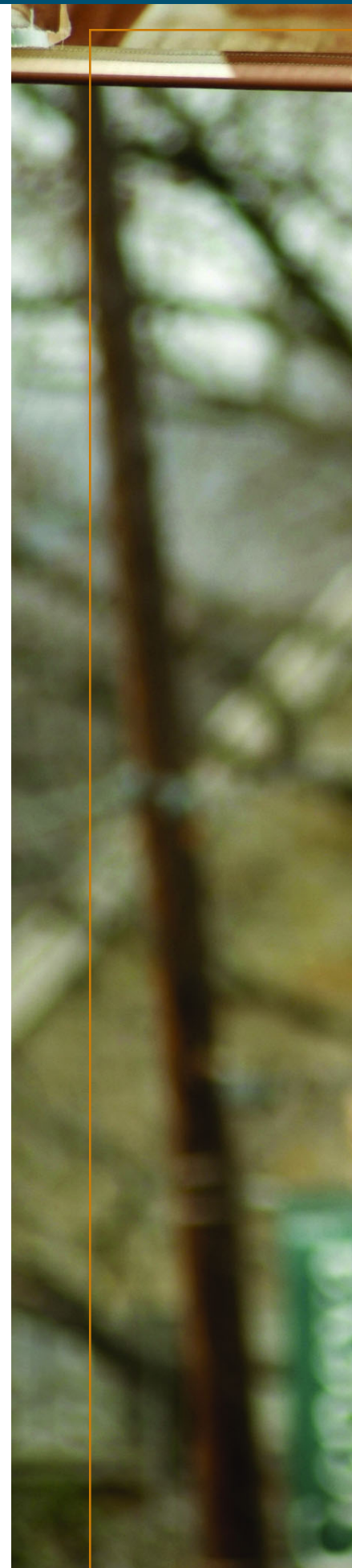
Although the two 90-degree turns of Route 18 have choked Beaver Falls businesses for decades, it was through the persistence of Geneva College administrators—and God's providence—that the plan to relocate the road was born. That's only appropriate, as the story of Route 18 is interwoven with Geneva's.

When Old Main opened its doors in 1881, the pavement of Seventh Avenue ended at the foot of the hill; College Avenue was a dirt road. Horse-drawn

streetcars traveled on rails up and down Seventh Avenue in Beaver Falls. These were soon replaced with electrically powered trolley cars, and the Beaver Valley Traction Company ferried passengers between Beaver Falls and College Hill on twin tracks that ran down the center of the street.

While the number of trolley riders declined as the automobile gained popularity, the trolley line may have left a lasting legacy. One theory holds that Route 18's tight turns—years ago there were two S-curves, one at the bottom of the hill and the other near the top—were meant to make it easier for trolleys to scale College Hill.

It's hard to determine exactly when or why this brick-paved, sycamore-lined avenue became a state highway. On maps drawn prior to the 1920s, the road appears as an unmarked route linking Beaver Falls with points north and south. In 1925, the same year Reeves Stadium opened, Pennsylvania developed a system for numbering state-maintained roads to make it easier for travelers to find their way. "The state highway department has about completed placing state route markers throughout Beaver Falls, New Brighton and adjacent territory, which is part of a program whereby 70,000 such markers have been placed throughout the state on 13,000 miles





ROUTE 18

BY THE NUMBERS

3 Average number of students injured while crossing the highway each year.

2,640 Number of heavy trucks that use Route 18 daily, many illegally.

57 Number of years Geneva has been trying to relocate Route 18.

18 Percentage of afternoon traffic that consists of heavy trucks.

4,500 Number of times Geneva's resident students cross Route 18 every day.

of highway,” reported the Beaver Falls *News-Tribune* in August 1928. (Prior to the sign system, printed travel guides sometimes directed motorists with hints such as “at the junction, follow the pavement.”) The *News-Tribune* heralded another innovation: “Stop” signs were placed at some major intersections. “While some motorists do not stop as required,” said a state engineer, “most of them do, and there is a decreased number of accidents as a result.” By 1929 the route was labeled as Route 18 on some maps.

From its earliest years, Route 18 has posed a hazard. In 1928 a man was struck and injured by a trolley car. The sharp double bend near the college also proved too narrow for the trolleys to share with the increasing automobile traffic, so the state in 1929 widened the curves by several feet.

New Castle and Youngstown,” said an article in the October 1948 *Geneva Alumnus*, precursor to *Geneva Magazine*. “College Avenue has become a bottleneck. It is loaded, day and night, with bumper-to-bumper streams of speeding automobiles and road-going freight trains, half a block long, loaded with steel tubing, rods, structurals, and bulk building materials. . . . It is clear that the time has come to consider whether Route 18 cannot be diverted to a course west of town—one that will bypass the College Hill area entirely. We certainly cannot put up with a freight highway through the campus.” The article followed an accident in which a truck’s tire exploded, shattering the windows in Old Main and blasting a pedestrian off the street. Other mishaps occurred: A truck lost a tire as it was rounding the

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Portending of things to come, the improvements fell behind schedule and were delayed by a year.

Thus were today’s curves cast in concrete, while Ford’s Model T still cruised the highways and Beaver Falls still “maintained” nine miles of its roads by dumping cinders and slag on them.

For a time, it worked. But by the 1940s Route 18 had become a major north-south thoroughfare. Rumbblings of discontent began on College Hill. “Route 18 appears on road maps as a secondary highway. Actually it has become the main traffic artery from Beaver Falls north and west to

bend, and the tire bounced through Old Main’s doors, just missing a professor. A flatbed truck dumped its load of sheet metal; no one was killed, but the college wasn’t sure if any students were under the jumble until a crane was able to lift it.

As Geneva grew in numbers so did its physical needs—more classrooms and dormitories, more parking. The college, which once rested solely on the eastern side of College Avenue, gradually swallowed Route 18. Geneva opened the Bagpiper Theater, purchased the Geneva Arms apartment complex to house students, and bought up pri-

vate homes as they went on the market. Some the college demolished to build Alexander Hall, which opened in 1971.

Charles M. Lee, president of the college from 1949 to 1956, seems to have been the first administrator to tackle the Route 18 problem, and he tried throughout his presidency to convince the state to create a bypass. Edwin Clarke, who succeeded Lee as president, also proposed several potential solutions, none of which were successful. In 1963 the college sent a letter to the state highway department requesting a traffic signal near the campus. The state responded that College Avenue didn't meet state requirements for a traffic signal, and the imminent Beaver Falls Bypass would solve the problem, anyway.

The bypass, a project discussed during the '60s and



early '70s, was a planned four-lane highway that would have started at the northern end of Beaver Falls, looped around the city, and rejoined existing Route 18 near Rochester.

Meanwhile Clarke attempted unsuccessfully to make part of College Avenue a one-way street or reduce the posted speed limit to 15 miles per hour. He also worked with the state on a proposal to relocate part of Route 18.

But in 1971 the state abandoned the bypass idea when it couldn't find money for the project, and during the mid-70s, PennDOT itself nearly collapsed. The state had built

too many roads with too much borrowed money, and it took a \$2 billion budget cut and more than 700 layoffs to stabilize the department. Geneva's relocation proposal was among the programs cut, and by 1977 the college considered the project dead.

Joseph McFarland, president from 1984 to 1992, revived the relocation effort, meeting with local lawmakers and traveling to Harrisburg to lobby state legislators. During McFarland's tenure PennDOT did make two improvements: It widened the part of the curve near Alexander Hall by a few feet, and softened the S-curve at the bottom of College Hill by moving a short segment of the road onto land donated by Geneva. McFarland also succeeded in getting the big reroute onto PennDOT's 12-year list of projects, but it languished near the bottom because it didn't have state funding.

By the time President John H. White became president in 1992, Route 18 had again dropped off PennDOT's list. Early on White decided to make Route 18 a major priority of his administration, and he set up a meeting with PennDOT, engineers, and legislators to kickstart the proposal. He directed Michael Baker Jr. Engineering to draft several possible configurations for the new route.

For a project like the Route 18 realignment to succeed, three elements must work together. First it has to clear dozens of bureaucratic hurdles—environmental, economic, traffic flow, safety, and historical studies, preliminary design approval, public hearings. Second, the project has to be financed. And third, it needs to have political support from key figures.

The Route 18 project has had political support for decades. It's in the bureaucratic and financial realms that it ran aground. But now White found that PennDOT's district director for the region, Henry Nutbrown, was willing to champion Geneva's proposal. Nutbrown also proposed an unusual arrangement that he thought would grease the bureaucratic gears: He suggested that Geneva take the lead as project manager, a role usually filled by PennDOT or local government officials.

White embraced the idea and engaged the college's engineering department to get the project underway. Robe Liljestrand, associate professor of civil engineering, and senior engineering majors Dennis Plitt and Eric Leneghar spent the summer of '94 conducting a comprehensive study of the site that was required for PennDOT to consider funding a realignment.

The study by Geneva's engineering students and Baker engineers showed with cold facts what every pedestrian who had scurried across the road already knew: Route 18

continued on page 34

WHEN A *waggle* GOES AWRY

by Josh Earl '03

The play call was a “waggle to the right,” a decoy maneuver where Golden Tornadoes quarterback Justin Sciarro was to fake a handoff, then turn and sprint toward the edge of the field.

Geneva College, playing at home against powerhouse St. Francis of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, was trailing 7-3 early in the second quarter, but the GTs had the ball near midfield. On second-and-9, Sciarro executed the waggle.

The quarterback quickly realized a St. Francis defender was moving in for the sack. Sciarro stopped, planting his right foot, but he never made a throw.

The cleats on his right shoe caught in the soft, thick mud near the middle of the field. His right knee made a snapping sound and caved in. Sciarro went down while the defender was still 5 yards away.

The October 2, 2005, injury ended Sciarro's season after just four games, and it hurt the Tornadoes for the rest of the year. The team narrowly lost the St. Francis game and finished the season at 5-5.

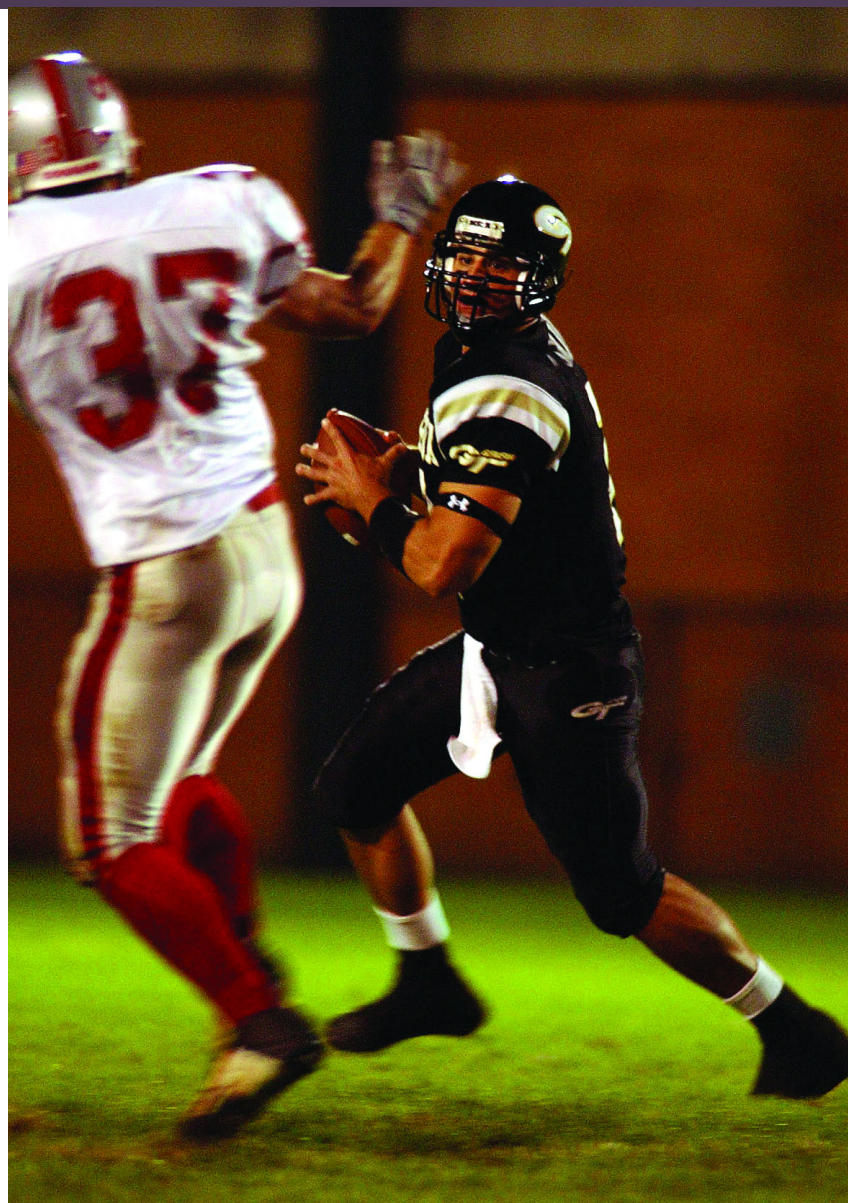
Sciarro had plenty of company on the injured list. Last year 17 players suffered season-ending injuries, including backup quarterback Bobbie Bondi, and 27 players injured their lower legs. Eleven, including Sciarro, required surgery. Geneva's trainers and coaches point to a common culprit in these injuries: the playing surface in Reeves Stadium.

The stadium field gets heavy use, as the GT football team practices and plays on the surface, and Beaver Falls High School plays its home games there on Friday nights. A weekend of high school and college games, along with traffic from marching bands and a full week of practice, makes it difficult for maintenance workers to keep the turf in good shape.

“We have serious concerns about the surfaces we are putting our players on each week,” said head coach and Athletic Director Geno DeMarco. “Our practice field is just simply too hard and it creates a big problem for our program.”

Geneva is considering installing an artificial playing surface in Reeves Stadium as part of its upcoming campus improvement project. The college will also replace the crumbling stadium walls and repair the dilapidated press box, concessions stands, ticket booth, and restrooms.

The artificial turf, which would cost \$500,000 and would



need to be replaced every eight to 10 years, would reduce the number of injuries and expand the field's usefulness.


To help fund the stadium renovations, Pennsylvania awarded Geneva a \$1 million grant this spring, due to the efforts of state Representative Mike Veon and Senator Gerald LaValle '56.

“Representative Veon and Senator LaValle see the stadium as a community resource,” says Sam Siple, vice president for institutional advancement.

There is a catch, though. “We will only get the grant if we are able to raise funds to match it,” Siple says. “This allows our alumni to have their gifts matched dollar for dollar, up to \$1 million. But if they don't give, we don't get the money.”

Three days after his injury, Sciarro learned he had torn the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his knee, requiring reconstructive surgery and months of rehab.

“It was definitely depressing,” Sciarro says. “I missed a week and a half of school, and my GPA went down a little bit. It was hard to go to practice everyday and be around those guys and not be able to play.”

But soon he started thinking, “All right, what do I have to do to come back next year?” Sciarro says. 

in motion

ATHLETICS NEWS

Men's basketball

In a season that showed promise from day one, the men's basketball team did not disappoint its fans. The Golden Tornadoes finished the season with an impressive 19–12 record and came within minutes of advancing to the American Midwest Conference (AMC) championship game.

After an inconsistent start, Geneva finally hit its stride in February. Winning a season-high six straight games, the Golden Tornadoes worked themselves into the playoff mix.

Geneva finished the regular season in fourth place in the AMC North, which meant the team had to play its first playoff game, against Mt. Vernon Nazarene, on the road. Geneva ran through the Cougars 96–67, scoring 21 unanswered points to finish the game.

But Geneva's season ended in the AMC semi-finals when the GTs lost an 83–78 overtime decision to Seton Hill University.

Seniors Tim Sawyer and Stefan Grundberg enjoyed outstanding senior seasons. Both players were named first team all-conference players. They were also first team selections on the NCCAA all-east regional team. Jeff Santarsiero was the NCCAA east regional coach of the year. Sawyer finished the season as Geneva's leading scorer with 18.6 points per game, while Grundberg posted 16.2 points and 8.0 rebounds per game. Junior point guard Nate Conley, who was a second team all-AMC North selection, ended the season with the most assists in the nation. Conley finished the season with 249 assists and averaged over eight per game. Conley's 249 assists was the fourth highest single season total in school history.

As a team, Geneva averaged 86.3 points per game. Its total of 2,674 points was the fifth highest single-season total in Geneva basketball history.



Women's basketball

Head coach Ron Galbreath would be the first person to tell you that the 2004–05 women's basketball season was a disappointment. After posting 19 victories a year ago, the Golden Tornadoes finished their most recent campaign at 14–14. Struggling through a season of injuries, Geneva still managed to come within one game of qualifying for the AMC tournament.

Junior Jen Rawding led Geneva in scoring for the second straight year at 13.5 points per game. Junior Ali Cananzi finished the year with 9.2 points per game, and freshman sensation Allyson Clarke checked in at 9.1 points per game. Clarke was maybe Geneva's brightest spot of the season. Leading Geneva at 7.8 rebounds per game, Clarke may end up being the conference freshman of the year.

Seemingly out of the playoff race with a week to go in the regular season, the Golden Tornadoes ran off three straight victories to stay in the race until the final day of the season. But an 11-point loss to Roberts Wesleyan in the season finale kept Geneva out of postseason play.

With no seniors on the current roster, the future still remains bright for Galbreath and the Golden Tornadoes in 2005–06.

Photos: Junior point guard Nate Conley, above, led the NAIA in assists per game. Sophomore Ruth Dobos, left, was among the AMC's leaders in blocked shots.



commitment first

by Richard Morris '97

My return to my homeland of Liberia last fall was to be a fact-finding mission on the state of the Morristown Community School. What I found changed the way I see the people of my birthplace.

The idea for the school came to me in 2000 when I was visiting Morristown for my father's funeral. My grandfather founded the town, located in southwestern Liberia about 50 miles from the Atlantic coast, and much of my family still lives there.



I noticed throngs of kids roaming around, and I asked the townspeople if they had a school. They did not. The school I attended as a child had been destroyed in the civil war that has raged in Liberia since 1990. They asked me to help them start a school.

Of the people of Morristown, I am the only one to have received a formal education. I realized that nothing would make me happier than to see the children of Morristown educated.

When I returned to the U.S. in 2000 from Liberia, I had my doubts about building and maintaining a school in Morristown. Who would lead it? Where would the funding come from? Were the people of Morristown committed to it?

But with encouragement from friends like Dr. John H. White, who at the time was the president of Geneva College, I set to work raising money. Several Geneva faculty members joined the school's steering committee. President White promised to kiss a pig if students raised enough money; they donated \$400, and he kissed the pig.

We raised several thousand dollars, enough to build a small temporary building, and the Morristown Community School opened in 2001 with three teachers and about 175 students. The Reverend Jerry Kulah, the United Methodist

Church's director of missions and evangelism for the region, helped administrate the school. The students, whose ages range from 3 to 20, started learning their ABCs, math, and Bible verses.

The new school had been in operation for about a year when violence returned to Morristown. Many people were driven away and the school building was damaged in the fighting.

It opened again a year later, and by 2004 the school had grown to approximately 100 students. But I began to feel concerned over the school's state. Photos showed students learning their lessons while seated on bricks and smooth stones; clearly the school lacked adequate furniture. Since I first started working on the project, I foresaw the school's development occurring in two phases. First, we needed to build an adequate building. Second, I would need to teach the people of Morristown how to take ownership of the school and sustain it. I thought the second of the two would be much harder than the first, and I found the lack of facilities troubling.

I thought it was about time, since the school was now four years old, to do a thorough assessment of the its overall health and its needs for the future. I suggested to the

steering committee that I travel to Liberia to undertake the task.

So it was that I made a two-week trip to Liberia last fall.

When I arrived in Liberia, I received a debriefing from Kulah.

He made a statement that stunned me. “Brother Morris,” he said, “I think the most important thing that has happened in Morristown, in a long time, is the school. It has unified that community and is helping to mold the hearts and minds of the children there.”

After the outbreak of violence, he said, the townspeople returned home. The first thing they did was organize a community workday to clean debris from the school grounds, raise money to pay teachers’ salaries, and reopen the school.

His words addressed one of the chief questions surrounding the school’s survival. The community was taking ownership of the school, prioritizing it above everything else.

This sounded too good to be true, I thought, so I set out to prove the veracity of his claim. If he was right, we could be sure of the school’s survival.

Four days later, Kulah and I arrived in Morristown to a jubilant crowd. The townspeople spent hours singing, danc-

ing, celebrating, and greeting us with hugs and with gifts—roosters, goats, and clothing.


Then, as I turned, I saw Chief Momo Kiazolu, a nearly 93-year old citizen of the community, with sparkles of joy in his eyes. “Richard,” he said, “you have made us happy again.”

The following day an elaborate welcoming program was staged in our honor with more dancing, students rendering gospel music, reciting Bible verses and poems, and coming one after the other to the podium to give thanks for their school. At the end the school board made a lengthy report on activity at the school and in the community.

The board’s report confirmed Kulah’s claim. The community responded when work needed to be done—it was showing its commitment and ownership.

My understanding of the people of Morristown was flipped on its head. My focus was on the school’s physical needs; they grasped the importance of the school to their community, and they were working to keep it. What I thought was the first priority they felt was secondary.

The school still has needs. In the short term it needs benches, windows, and doors for the current facility; in the long-term it needs training for its teachers and a new building spacious enough to accommodate the growing student population.

But, I now know, the greatest needs are being met: commitment and ownership to the school and its mission. 



RICHARD MORRIS earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering from Geneva in 1997 and a master’s degree in organizational leadership from the college in 1999. He is working for Geneva as a telecommunications engineer while pursuing his doctorate in higher education administration at the University of Pittsburgh.

longing



graphics by shane meyer '99

to know

by Dr. Esther Lightcap Meek

A stylized illustration on the left side of the page. It features a telescope pointing upwards and to the right, and a building with a green roof and a blue sky background.

W

hy care about knowing? For one thing, practical matters concern us more. We ask instead, Will this information promote my business? Save me money? Or, when we can set practical matters aside, we ask, Why care about knowing when you can play? Get the job done, and go play.

Plus, we've always known that finding things out can be painful. Ignorance is bliss, we say.

Look what happened to Eve, or to Frankenstein. Looking more closely at society, government, the world, and our families reveals brokenness and suffering that we were happier not knowing about. Our well-intentioned attempts to understand a situation can often make the situation worse. We can actually consider bolting back into ignorance. Just let me get my education, get a good job, and be happy living my life, and I'll leave the rest alone.

But the present cultural milieu raises the question at a deeper, more unsettling level. The voices in our head whisper, sometimes shout: Truth doesn't exist. There is no objective, unchanging, coherent collection of claims, no reality there to be discovered, much less to give significance to our lives. There is something worse than uncovering suffering in our knowing. It is uncovering nothing at all. Worse than the thought that truth hurts is the thought that truth doesn't exist.

Seriously, why care about knowing? Knowing doesn't happen. Some of us remember a time when we actually thought knowledge possible. Despite accumulating and encroaching reasons to doubt the prospect, we forged ahead in pursuit of truth. Our disagreements didn't outweigh and undercut these beliefs. The ultimate question, Does truth exist? didn't raise its nasty little head and howl. Not so anymore. Youth today are by contrast certain of only one thing: There is no certainty.

When we think of knowing, we picture certainty: a completely lucid grasp of a concept that can't possibly be mistaken, sentences that match and photograph the world in high-definition resolution, unclouded by subjective factors such as personal or social perspective or agenda, and risk- and responsibility-free.

Our culture remains haunted by this receding vision of certainty: If there were knowledge, it would have to look like that. But now nobody is so naïve as to think that it is attainable. It's plain for

everyone to see, everybody's perspective and agenda shapes their truth. We have learned with every statement to deconstruct it, to meet it with the undercutting question, What motive lies behind it?

What's more, you can't help but feel pressured socially to concede that there is nothing but private truth. It can be considered wrong for you to not to. There isn't any truth there. Except my truth; truth is what I make it. And I make it by seizing the day and getting people to do what I want. That's what reality is (and reality TV). (But what if I don't find myself particularly worth the effort?)

The apparently dispassionate doubt about truth often cloaks a far more painful personal profession about trust: There is no one I can trust. People's deep-seated question about truth often has been forged in a furnace of broken trust and dashed hopes. So many children grow to realize that the ones whose trust they should have happily taken for granted cannot be trusted. It's not just families, but friendships and churches and heroes and governments. Why care about knowing? There is no one caring about me.

On the other hand, never has a culture been so awash in information. Factoids tidbits of knowledge barrage us, ping-pong like cinders on our fuselage. We manage information—or we drown in it. The info is devoid of significance. After all, it was born of our dispassionate detachment: impersonalism plus research yields information. We shouldn't expect the product to engage us. So what? Who cares? It induces boredom, not longing. Let's play another computer game.

No truth or hope of truth, just hurt, and boredom. Why would anybody long to know? As if there were something there to uncover and that would really transform?

I am not describing particular students that, as a new professor at Geneva College, I have thus far been privileged to know. Quite the opposite: I have been astounded by the

readiness and earnestness and spark-in-the-eye excitement that characterizes many. For even when the cultural milieu isn't chanting, No truth, no truth, the longing to know is neither a given nor a reliably manufacturable commodity. But when the milieu is chanting No truth, I surmise that even my eye-twinkling students at times ask on the deepest level, Why bother? Is truth there?

because it is human to care

As confident as I am that skeptical voices fill our heads, I am more confident of a more truthful voice speaking quietly from our gut, patiently but incessantly tapping out a counterpoint message. To be human is to care; to be human is to long to know, to knock persistently on the door of the world in which we find ourselves, to beg entrance and receive far more than we anticipate.

To be human is to care. It is to wake to our day and want to take hold of it, to sense our bodies in touch with the world and to lunge them further into it, to itch to make sense of experience, to connect the dots, to push on the world and sense it pushing back.

I'm not talking abstractly here, or necessarily globally. Just think how your mind and body went into action the last time you misplaced your car keys. Better yet: remember the last time you were so sick you cared about nothing, and then you started to get well. How did you know you were on the mend? You started to care again. Yuck! I haven't washed my hair in a week. How very, very satisfying that first shampoo felt. It wasn't about making a good impression or getting a good job. There was just sheer joy in caring about clean hair, of lathering up and loosening grease and feeling the warm spray of the showerhead cascading joyously over your weak-but-fever-free body. It felt good to want it, to long for it, and to take hold of the possibility, and to satisfy the longing. Not to care is not to be human; it is to be sick, or on the way to being dead.

Why care to know? Why pick out chords on a guitar? Why get to know that quiet young woman who works on the third floor? Why yearn to go to West Africa, or seek peace in the Middle East? Why long to design a more environmentally friendly automobile, or find a cure for cancer? Why seek the Lord?

Have you stopped to wonder that, while the word *truth* is no longer in vogue, the word *reality* is? And then there's the word *authenticity*. People care about authenticity, and they are quick to tell you so. Here's the question: Is it authentic or inauthentic to say that there is no truth? Do



you live authentically when you are true to culture's voices in your head, or when you are true to your gut? When your gut-level humanness rides its care into the world, how can you authentically surrender the hope of truth?

Caring, coping, longing is the unnamed something that thrusts us or pulls us into the world. I am intrigued by this documentably human dynamic because I feel it shows that the way we have thought of knowledge and truth, and the ensuing hopelessness and boredom concerning truth, has something wrongheaded about it. We have held to a wrong picture of knowing.

Have you stopped to wonder
that, while the word *truth*
is no longer in vogue,
the word *reality* is?

We have pictured truth in exhaustively lucid and timelessly impersonal categories. We have associated knowledge and truth with disembodied, disparate factoids of information. Such knowledge, if it could be had, held no hope either of linking us to the world or of wakening our souls to love. If this is the picture, who would feel the attraction? If this is the picture, it is stifling our gut.

what caring says about knowing

What instead does human longing suggest about knowing? It says that knowing begins from the before-words, palpably felt, sense of our situatedness in the world. It starts with somebody at home. Knowing is embodied, already in the world, poised as cat before a leap, both to marshal resources at hand and to gauge uncharted terrain beyond.

Knowing rides the wave of desire. Caring is the vector that carries us into the world. To care is to move toward the unknown in hope.

This means that we do not yet know fully what it is we long for. We pursue an as-yet undiscovered reality—another intriguing commonplace of human experience. How do we do that? If we do not know it, why do we desire it?

Longing for what we do not yet know opens us up to that as yet unknown reality. It exposes our flank. We incur risk. We take responsibility for our choice to plunge into the unknown, a choice for which we cannot as yet have an airtight rationale.

Our caring affirms the reality that we have yet to discover. We show respect for it and submit to it. We can sustain such

longing over moments, or over years. It requires that we comport ourselves with patience and humility. We must wait, and risk the wait's issuing in nothing.

Even if we do not fully know the thing we long for, we begin to live our lives on its terms. We display our readiness to obey, to live in light of its only partially revealed reality. Do you want to learn to fly? You must go to flight school and log hours in the simulator and in the cockpit. Do you want to bless your community with a thriving business? You must learn the ways of the community, and the ins and outs of the business. Is it what you long for? Then you will do it on the terms of the reality you have yet to discover.

Do you long to know God? Do you want this even if you don't exactly know what it holds in store for you, or where it will take you? Then you must do it on his terms. You must climb into words that perhaps still mystify you. You must embody them in obedience that you perhaps don't yet understand. Above all, you must yield yourself in worship, gazing at him.

Knowing looks less like dispassionate cataloging of information and more like passionate indwelling of that half-hidden object of our care. We are all ears. We scramble to understand what it feels like from the inside. We care, we love. To know is to love.

caring invites the real

But now here's the most amazing thing yet. To love will be to know. Our committed caring actually invites the reality we seek. Reality responds to our overtures.

Knowing is like a wedding. The groom pursues the bride in love. He waits patiently in hope. He pledges to love, honor, and obey the as-yet undiscovered reality. Only then does that reality unfold itself. Apart from the promises, were the groom to demand knowledge—we would consider that, by contrast, rape. But instead, the bride reveals herself in response to the groom's love, in the context of covenant relationship.

And we may expect both to recognize and to be surprised by reality. Reality both is and isn't what we surmised



it might be. But that is just what confirms its reality to us. To invite the real is to unlock a door through which reality of a surprising nature might enter. Far from there being no truth, what we find sometimes is more truth than we were prepared for. Sometimes reality knocks our socks off, as we say. We thought it was about our coming to know. We can find instead that it is about our coming to be known. We are not lone seekers in a meaningless void. Somebody Else besides us is home in the universe. Knowing is a conversation. It has about it the reciprocity of the interpersonal.

Christians will recognize that Somebody Else. Of course, it is God, the Person who is (rather than has) truth. God is the reality who knocks our socks off, the One, ultimately, who, when we have sought him we find he was seeking us. Of course his world has the tough responsive characterized many-sidedness about it that it does. It has the personal about it. In this world we are surrounded by God's personal effects. Where Truth is a person, knowing will be both covenantal and interpersonal.

Geneva College alumnus and author—and my friend—Steve Garber, describes this as a biblical understanding of true knowing: “to have knowledge of, means to have responsibility to, means to have care for. If one knows, one cares; if one does not care, one does not know . . . It is rooted in the deepest realities of God's nature and character, and of our bearing His image, called to care for the world in imitation of Christ . . . The biblical vision is clear: to know is to love. Simply said.”

To know is to love. But may we hear it: to love is to come to know. It is the lovers who see, says Pittsburgh-born author Annie Dillard. The key to knowing is longing. Love unlocks the world. I know that sounds syrupy. I also think it is right. Do you long to know? To know, longing is the best thing you can do.

What of the pain of it? To love is to risk pain, indeed, often to head into the pain. But hear noted author of *The Healing Path*, counselor, my friend, Dan Allender: “Embracing a person or reality requires openness . . .

Openness involves a hunger for life . . . In opening our arms to another, we put out a welcome sign that implies we have made room for them ourselves . . . For that reason, to the degree we open our arms, we are changed . . . Pain enables us to discover ourselves. Pain may very well signal reality's approach.”

What of the loss of trust, the betrayal and broken relationships that have prompted doubt and hopelessness regarding truth? The pain of this confirms rather than disconfirms what I argue for here: if human knowing is fundamentally interpersonal and covenantal, wedding-like, then loss of trust has everything to do with pain in knowing. This is just what the old factoid approach could make absolutely no sense of. This vision of knowing holds no superficial promises of freedom from pain or automatic restoration of relationships. But it removes a misguided ideal that has thwarted healing. More than that, covenantal knowing actually holds power to heal.

Don't let the voices, chanting No truth, no truth, in our heads win the day. Do not let them quell your passion to know. Not to long is not to be human. Don't stop loving the longing. Embrace the adventure, and unlock the world. 🐦



DR. ESTHER LIGHTCAP MEEK is an assistant professor of philosophy at Geneva College. She earned her doctorate in philosophy from Temple University in Philadelphia. Meek also taught at Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis. She is the author of *Longing to Know: The Philosophy of Knowledge for Ordinary People*.

in review

FAMILY HARMONIES

by Jason Panella '04

If there's one thing that's immediately striking about Kindred Cross, it's the voices. The band uses the term "family harmonies" when describing their sound; after listening to their debut album *From Now On*, you can tell they're not kidding. But I'll get to that in a moment.

Kindred Cross was formed in 2003 by Steve Cunningham '81. After a series of emotionally taxing experiences in 2002, Cunningham sat down in his office with his acoustic guitar and wrote the bulk of the songs that appear on *From Now On*. Primarily a drummer, Cunningham was astounded at how easily the songs came to him.

"I didn't write them," he says. "The Lord gave them to me."

Within the next year, the key members of the band came together one by one. Brothers Tim, Mark, and John Cunningham and sister Ruth Berkheimer provide vocals; Lorne Porta plays a host of string instruments, including guitar and dobro; David Allen Kurtz plays keyboard and records the band in his studio; J. Harry Wilkinson plays bass; Rob Rice adds percussion; and Mark Farra plays the violin. Steve Cunningham sings and plays guitar and drums.

As far as sound goes, Cunningham describes the album as if "the Eagles did a Christian CD." The parallels include everything from Jars of Clay to Kansas, as well as major elements of southern gospel and roots rock. Some bluegrass even crops up here and there.

But let's get back to the family harmonies. The Cunningham siblings sing in a unique, impressive style, what Kurtz describes as "almost like one-voice harmonizing."

The roots of Kindred Cross can be traced back to the Cunningham's childhood, when he and his siblings would sing together as much as possible. Their mother, Nancy, dreamt of her children singing together in a band. Diagnosed with cancer in January 2003, Nancy saw her dream finally become a reality when Kindred Cross released *From Now On* the following December, a month before she passed away.

With the ball finally rolling, Cunningham and Kindred Cross haven't let it stop. "We wrote 14 more songs," he explains. "They have more of a rock sound, with some ballads and a couple of praise and worship tunes."




The vocal harmonies are the most striking part of Kindred Cross's debut album, From Now On.

Cunningham mentioned that the band is testing out some of the new material live, and that they are performing as much as they can around the eastern portion of Pennsylvania, where everyone resides but John, who lives in Michigan.

Though all of the members of the band have day jobs, they would love to see Kindred Cross become more than a hobby. "If the Lord wants it bigger, that will happen," Steve says.

Kindred Cross' purpose in recording and performing is "serving God and telling others the message of Jesus Christ," Cunningham says.

For more information on the band and merchandise, visit www.kindred-cross.com. 

Some quotes and information in this article originally appeared in the Coatsville Ledger and The Philadelphia Inquirer.

in touch

NEWS FROM ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

Includes news received as of March 1, 2005. News for the summer issue must be received by July 15, 2005.

1949

Kenneth G. Smith and his wife, Floy, spent three months ministering on the island of Cyprus. Ken writes: "I am spending personal mentoring time with pastors and elders on a regular weekly basis both for Trinity Christian Community Fellowship and also the Greek Evangelical Churches. It's the kind of mentoring one could have wished these pastors had received in seminary, but most seminaries don't equip pastors in personal, one-on-one type of discipleship. My purpose in spending this time with them this way is to give them experience in how such mentoring is done."

1967

David Everett Howell, teacher and minister for over 20 years, has recently published a children's novel titled *Swan Songs—In Search of the Staffstone*. The book was published by Xulon Press Inc. David, his wife Jane, and their three children reside on a small farm in Enon Valley, Pennsylvania.

1971

Chuck Milliken is a park ranger for the U.S. National Park Service, where he works in the National Trails System's intermountain region. He serves as an interpretive media planner and designer for the California, Mormon Pioneer, Oregon, and Pony Express national historic trails. The Millikens live in Utah.

1972

Linda (Frazier) Brown retired August 1, 2004, after 32 years of teaching. She taught elementary education for the Toms River School District in New Jersey. She and her husband, John, enjoy traveling and entertaining.

Scott Piccola and his wife, Darlene, became the parents of Karlee Ann and Rylee Lynn on March 23, 2004. On September 6, 2004, Scott's older daughter, Khara, had twins Jaxson and Kalle. Scott writes: "I became a new dad and granddad of twins in the same year!"

1974

Charles Kurowski has announced his candidacy for judge in Washington County Common Pleas Court in Pennsylvania. Charles, a Democrat, plans to cross-file. Much of his legal background is in family law. He holds master's and law degrees from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.

Send your news to:

Ginny (Montini '68) Caldwell

caldwell@geneva.edu

www.geneva.edu/alumni/staying_in_touch.html

724-847-6525

Frank Papa has been named treasurer of the Heritage Valley Health System board of directors. Papa is the owner of the Brighton Hot Dog Shoppe. He is a licensed certified public accountant and is actively involved in real estate development. Papa is an active member of the Beaver County Chamber of Commerce, the Penn Ohio Regional Health Care Alliance, the American Institute of CPAs, the Pennsylvania Institute of CPAs, the National Restaurant Association, and the Pennsylvania Restaurant Association. He also serves on the advisory board of Big Brothers Big Sisters.

Martha (Codi) Raak bicycled across the United States from San Diego, California, to St. Augustine, Florida, from March 8 to May 7, 2004. She and 12 other women over 50 made the trek to raise funds and awareness for breast cancer research. Martha's mother is a survivor. Martha raised over \$7,000. Martha was featured in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and interviewed on WQED's *Lifestory* show by Eleanor Schano.

1977

Ann (Caskey) Fincke is an assistant preschool teacher at Great Beginnings Childcare Center in Moorhead, Minnesota. Her husband, Bishop George Fincke, is vicar of King of Glory Reformed Episcopal Mission in Fargo, North Dakota.

Tammy (Leach) Richko is an elementary vocal music teacher for the DuBois Area Schools in DuBois, Pennsylvania. She is also an independent beauty consultant with Mary Kay.

1978

Larry Lolama and his wife, **Vale (Torrence) Lolama** '79, announce the birth of their first grandson, Jordan Paul Fitzgibbon, born to daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Todd on November 18, 2004. **Martha Beard** '49 and **Ruth White** '53 are Jordan's great aunts. **Mary Vale Torrence** '56 is his great-grandmother.

Debbie Melone married Bob Hanes on April 24, 2004, but will retain Melone as her surname. Debbie received the Distinguished Service Award during Geneva's Homecoming 2003. They live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Shirley (Reed) Rutter is the language arts department chair and writing resource teacher for Fox Chapel Middle School in Spring Hill, Florida. She received National Board certification in 2004 in early adolescent English and language arts. She married Stuart J. Rutter of Nottingham, United Kingdom, March 1, 2003.

1979

Vale (Torrence) Lolama—see **Larry Lolama** under 1978.

1980

Laurie (Barker) Copeland writes: “I have a book coming out titled *The Groovy Chick’s Road Trip to Peace*, which I co-wrote with Dena Dyer. It will be available in Christian bookstores in May 2005.”

Theresa (Paules) Dean Bulger married David A. Bourne on August 8, 2004. Her previous husband, Robert J. Bulger, died after a lengthy illness on February 11, 2003. Theresa is the chief executive officer of the Auditory Oral School Foundation. She was also a delegate to South Africa in October 2004 in support of children who are hearing, speech, or language impaired. She divides time between her homes in the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania, Chincoteague Island, Virginia, and rural Maine.

1985

Lisa Kurtz taught third grade last year at the American School in Kwajalein, Republic of Marshall Islands.

1987

Tim Hall is a credit analyst with First National Bank of Pennsylvania in Hermitage, Pennsylvania. He has also served as treasurer of First Alliance Church in New Castle, Pennsylvania, since 1994.

1988

Judy Willson was named director of media relations for athletics at The University of Louisiana at Monroe. Previously she served as assistant commissioner of media relations for the NCAA Sun Belt Conference.

1989

Sherwood “Woody” Price writes: “I received a professional development certificate in counseling from the Upper Bann Institute for Further and Higher Education in Banbridge, Northern Ireland, in December 2004. I still work for the Stauros Foundation, which is a Christian ministry that befriends people with addiction problems and offers support to their families.”

RETIREMENTS

Dr. Kenneth Hartman

Even retirement can’t quell Dr. Kenneth Hartman’s enthusiasm for teaching.

“I love chemistry,” the chemistry professor says. “I love teaching. God put me on this earth to be a teacher.”

A 1963 Geneva College graduate, Hartman went on to graduate school for a doctorate in organic chemistry, then followed in the footsteps of his favorite Geneva professors by becoming an educator himself. But Hartman is wrapping up his Geneva career this spring after 37 years of teaching chemistry at the college.

Retirement, though, won’t mean idleness. Hartman plans to continue his work with NursingABC, a program he started in the 1970s. NursingABC is a school for busy adults who want to go into nursing or radiology but are unable to because they don’t have certain high school-level courses like biology or chemistry.

“The average student is 30 to 40 years old, working, and needs a high school course to get into nursing,” Hartman explains. “That’s where we come in. Students can start at any time and can work however they want to, at their own pace.”

The program started with 15 students and a request from a nursing school in New Castle, Pennsylvania. Now NursingABC offers classes online, and enrollment has reached 500.

Hartman and his staff of about half a dozen develop the curriculum and send materials and exams by mail or e-mail.

“Saturdays and Mondays are our busiest days, with maybe 20 things to grade,” he says. “Because students can do their work at their own pace, we get just a little every day.”

During his career at Geneva, Hartman loved nothing better than seeing his students’ skills develop. “To see them discover that they can do it is an amazing thing,” he says.

He calls himself a “song-and-dance man,” a teacher dedicated to presenting his students with material in a way that will grab their attention and make them feel at ease with it. His approach to teaching is casual but systematic. Rather than beginning a course at a predetermined level, Hartman believes strongly in starting students off with material they will readily understand and then helping them work their way toward more heady material.

Geneva formally recognized his efforts in 1992 with the Excellence in Teaching Award, which his students nominated him for.

“I can’t look back on a period of my life as a teacher and think of any time when I was unhappy,” he says. —Allison I. Betke '06



1990

A.J. “Rick” Vaccarelli is the vice president of sales and underwriting for WQED Multimedia in Pittsburgh. He and wife Carol reside in Monaca, Pennsylvania.

1992

Lori (McArdle) Rankin and her husband, Duane, became the parents of Sarah Leeann on December 7, 2004. She joins brother Robbie.

1993

Stephen Plut, chief information officer for Mine Safety Appliances Company in Pittsburgh, has been recognized by IDG’s *Computerworld* as one of the business world’s premier 100 information technology leaders. The award honors executives who manage internal IT organizations.



1994

Grace (Moran) Bailey and her husband, Ryan, became the parents of twins Nathanael Cooper Raphael and Samuel Reed Allen on January 20, 2005.

Kim Burgess married Allan C. Kuzmowski in Harmony United Methodist Church in Hamilton, Virginia, on December 3, 2004. They live in Round Hill, Virginia.

Heather (Richardson) Panichelle and her husband, **Brian Panichelle** '97, became the parents of Clara Nicole on February 23, 2005. Clara joins siblings Monica, Amanda, Anthony, and Dominic.

1995

Matt Eisenhower enrolled at Northeastern Seminary in Rochester, New York, to complete his master’s of divinity. He and **Becca (Doyle) Eisenhower** moved to Springville, New York, to work at the Springville United Methodist Church. Matt is the associate responsible for youth and organizing and leading a contemporary worship service. Becca home schools their first grader and preschooler, leads a moms’ group, and participates in the praise team at church.

Heather (Vickinovac) Loggains and her husband, Chris, became the parents of Berkley Elizabeth on December 2, 2004. Berkley joins sisters Cheyenne and Montana.

Becky (Smith) McClellan and her husband, **Patrick McClellan** '98, became the parents of Patrick Carson on May 25, 2004. Patrick joins sister Lauren Nicole.

Robert Scholz MA is the director of student disability services at Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles. Robert also serves as an adjunct professor of psychology in Pepperdine University’s marriage and family therapy program in Malibu, California, and provides clinical and program development consultation services to forensic mental health programs across the United States.

RETIREMENTS

Dr. Howard Mattsson-Bozé

As Geneva College’s resident intellectual gadfly, Dr. Howard Mattsson-Bozé has been involved in campus politics since he arrived at Geneva in 1962. Dr. Matt, as he is known to many, has had a conflict with every president at Geneva during his tenure—“more than one with some,” he says. “But I’ve had a good relationship with almost all of them, too.” Recent Geneva students know Dr. Matt as the most visible Democrat on a campus that is overwhelmingly Republican.

But Mattsson-Bozé, who turned 69 in May, has relinquished that role. Dr. Matt retired at the end of the spring semester.

History teaches that intellectual gadflies aren’t always welcome in their communities: Socrates was forced to drink



1996

P. Joel Martin, a certified public accountant and auditor with Cottrill Arbutina Professional Services in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, has been elected a partner of the firm. Martin has managed audits for governmental agencies, school districts, and credit unions and is a pioneer of the firm's paperless audit service. He and his wife, **Alison (Peck) Martin** '97, live with their two sons in Industry, Pennsylvania.



1997

Richard T. Bentley and his wife, **Wendy (Lewis) Bentley**, became the parents of Blake Thomas and Carly Jan on September 7, 2004. The twins join sister Emma Elizabeth. The family lives in Rochester, New York.

Marla Bradford is an employment recruiter with an emphasis in diversity recruiting at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She has a master of arts degree in industrial labor and relations from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Laura Herrmann received her master's degree in art history in 2004 from the University of South Florida. She and her husband, Jay Hollenbeck, live in Mountain View, California.

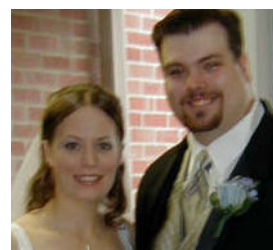
Brian Panichelle—see **Heather (Richardson) Panichelle** under 1994.

Lorrie (Musser) Tanner and her husband, **Danny Tanner** '98, became the parents of Zoie on February 27, 2004. She joins three-year-old sister Maiah. Lorrie and Danny work together at Pathway Community Church in York, Pennsylvania. They recently recorded a worship album titled *Up from the Ashes* with several original songs, two of which were co-written and performed by **Jon Pacella** '98 and **Susan (Nutter) Pacella** '01. Samples from the CD are posted at www.pathwaycc.org. Danny has also just finished filming a full-length feature film, *Thunder and Hurricane*, which was scheduled for an April 2005 release. A preview is available at www.thunderandhurricane.com.

1998

Deborah Kuenzel married **Andrew Close** '99 on October 26, 2002.

Geneva Chaplain Tim Russell conducted the ceremony. Geneva alumni in the wedding party included **Jon E. Spaugh** '96, **Michelle McCoy** '98, and **Bob Moreau** '99. Several other alumni attended as well as the late philosophy professor Dr. Byron Bitar.



Michael Lichius and his wife, Alva, became the parents of Myka Joy on December 29, 2004.

Patrick McClellan—see **Becky (Smith) McClellan** under 1995. **Aimee Susan Reese** married Daniel Scott Mayer on July 3, 2004. Aimee teaches first grade in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, and Daniel is a high school special education teacher in the

hemlock, and Kierkegaard was ridiculed daily in the local paper. But Dr. Matt has remained a respected faculty member at Geneva for nearly 40 years as a professor in the humanities, sociology, and history.

"Sometimes humor helps a lot," he says.

His comic timing is legendary. Students start smiling preemptively when Dr. Matt pauses, looks over the rim of his glasses, and flashes a mischievous grin. Dr. Matt recently took two Geneva students to a conference, but the trio arrived late due to poor directions. The conference's opening speaker concluded the final three sentences of his address and asked for questions from the audience. With his trademark timing, Dr. Matt stood and signaled the speaker. The speaker, a friend of Dr. Matt's, acknowledged Dr. Matt, who said, "Yes. What did you just say?"

Mattsson-Bozé's humor is part of a "beautiful generosity of spirit," says Dr. Eric Miller, assistant history professor and heir-apparent to the role of campus gadfly.

Dr. Matt's generosity also shows in his sensitivity to those in need. He's not willing to let a student he knows sit

alone in the cafeteria, and his political stands on and off campus are often forged out of a desire to help those who need someone to "go to bat" for them.

Dr. Matt's sense of humor has also served him well in the classroom. As someone who is philosophically minded, Dr. Matt has an appreciation for the importance of ideas and the people that hold them.

"I will tell stories, and I will make a joke out of things, not because I take them lightly, but because I take them seriously," he says. "It seems to me that if you can lighten the atmosphere and have good relations with people, you get a lot further."

Maybe this is how he has been able help generations of students reexamine their deepest beliefs—which has been his goal all along.

"The greatest compliments have been little notes from people who said, 'You made me think,'" Dr. Matt says. "If I've made people think, what else can I ask for?" —*Matt Stewart* '05

RETIREMENTS

Dr. Paul Smith

Dr. Paul Smith is known to his colleagues as a man of peace, joy, and grace.

Those are also the qualities Lynda Szabo '85 admired in Smith when she sat under his instruction as an undergraduate.

Smith, a professor of English and head of the English department, retired this spring after 39 years in Geneva College classrooms.

Szabo has had the unique opportunity of working with Smith both as a student and a colleague. She is now an associate professor of English at Geneva and has taken over the department chair from Smith.

"I'm still telling him, 'Please don't retire,'" Szabo said. "He's left a strong department. He has managed to keep this motley crew of eight people who are in this department together and healthy and happy. He's got a firm guiding hand and does the work with such grace."

During his time as department chair, Smith adopted a vision to develop a writing program that encompassed more than freshman composition and "to introduce into our curriculum much more of the literature of minorities and world literature," he says. "The curriculum had become pretty narrowly British and American."

"We're the kind of department that constantly rethinks what we're doing," Smith says.

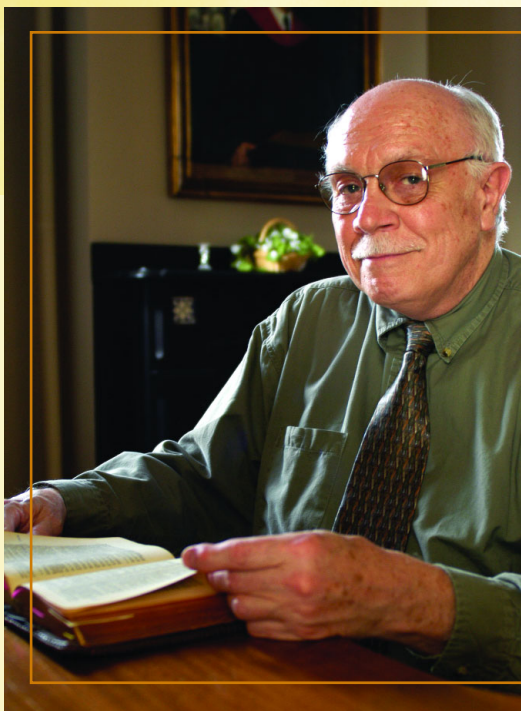
During his 39 years, Smith has taught about 40 different courses—"a lot of breadth and, some people would say, not too much depth," he says.

Most frequently he taught a survey of both British and American literature and advanced composition, although 17th century English literature is his area of doctoral work and is still his favorite subject to teach.

"He's someone that I really trust with my weaknesses," Szabo says. "I think that's the mark of a really good leader: that you can sit in front of them and say, 'I really messed up,' or, 'I don't think I can do this.'"

"When I fully retire the thing I'll miss the most will be the collegial interaction," Smith says.

Smith will continue working part time at Geneva, coordinating programs and seminars to help college faculty members grow professionally. —Jonathan Dodd '05



Western Beaver County Schools. They live in Rochester Township, Pennsylvania.

Danny Tanner—see **Lorrie (Musser) Tanner** under 1997.

Brian Wilt and **Pam (Lighty) Wilt** '00 became the parents of Lydia Ruth on February 16, 2005.

1999

Andrew Close—see **Deborah Kuenzel** under 1998.

John Kinyanjui writes: "I graduated from University of Nevada–Las Vegas with my master's degree in December 2003 and assumed a research associate position with the chemistry department at UNLV. I published five technical papers in 2004 in various chemistry journals, for which I feel really blessed."

Jennifer Diane Sneeringer received her master's degree in child development from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001. In 2002, she married David Molisee. She and David became the parents of David Charles Molisee Jr. on September 28, 2004.

2000

Raecyne (Washington) Bechtold is a family liaison with Pressley Ridge in Westmoreland, Pennsylvania.

Gary S. Bush and **Heather (Torres) Bush**

'01 became the parents of Tyler Scott on November 9, 2004. They live in Mansfield, Ohio, where Gary teaches elementary and high school computer classes at Mansfield Christian School. Tyler received the Geneva College bib from "aunt" **Lori Reda** '01, Heather's college roommate.



Amanda (Kurz) Creason is a learning support teacher at Hershey Elementary School near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She received a master's degree from Penn State University in 2004.

Shannon (Barnickel) Henry writes: "I have been teaching music for the last five years first in North Carolina and then southern Maryland, where I am now teaching elementary general music in St. Mary's County Public Schools. My music education at Geneva prepared me very well for my career and my life. I have presented professional development to my peers on integrating reading into music instruction and have taken on other leadership roles such as chairing the arts committee and being a mentor-teacher. I married Christopher Henry on July 8, 2000. In marrying

him, I also married the U.S. Marine Corps. He is now a sergeant stationed in Washington, D.C.” Shannon has also earned a master of arts degree from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland.

Tamara (Beck) Rosenfeldt and her husband, **Nicholas Rosenfeldt** '02, became the parents of Abigail Grace on October 6, 2004. Nicholas teaches English at Cincinnati Hill Christian Academy.

Jenn Weir is pursuing a master's degree in information management in the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies. She is the database and human resources administrator at the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities in Washington, D.C.

Pamela (Lighty) Wilt—see **Brian Wilt** under 1998.

2001

Faith (Noack) Burchfield earned her master of arts in speech language pathology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Heather (Torres) Bush—see **Gary S. Bush** under 2000.

Natalie (Romano) Davis and her husband, Jeffrey, became the parents of the birth of Jack Edward on October 12, 2004.



Bryan Gratton and his wife, **Kristen (Kerr) Gratton**, became the parents of Kai Russell on November 5, 2004. Bryan and his wife also helped start Discovery Christian Church in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania.

Joy Heidorn married Manoah Geese on June 2, 2004. The wedding was held on Po'olenalena beach in Maui, Hawaii.

Jonathan Stevens is working as a financial adviser for Raymond James and Associates Inc. He lives in Sharon, Pennsylvania.

Jason Varner works as a mortgage consultant with Core One Mortgage Corp. in Wexford, Pennsylvania.

2002

Sarah Early was promoted to the newly created position of associate director for admissions at Lancaster Bible College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Early had worked in the department as an admissions counselor for more than two years.

Danielle (Tarr) Kirsch earned a master of arts degree from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Michael Jonathan Mallek and his wife, **Wendy (Ferguson) Mallek**, became the parents of Sarah Abigail on December 24, 2004. The family lives in West Mifflin, Pennsylvania.

Holly (Paine) Magnuson received her master's in industrial and labor relations at Cornell University in 2004 and joined the human resource leadership development program at Genworth Financial, formerly known as GE Financial Assurance. **Joshua Magnuson** '03 is an associate scientist at Pharmaceutical Product Development (PPD). The Magnusons live in Richmond, Virginia.

Nicholas Rosenfeldt—see **Tamara (Beck) Rosenfeldt** under 2000.

Andrew Warner is a full-time student at Reformed Theological Seminary. **Sarah (Karns) Warner** '03 received her bachelor's in nursing from University of Delaware in February 2005. She is employed as a nurse at Union Hospital in Elkton, Maryland.

2003

Jim Cole MA writes: “I have been recently employed by the San Juan Island Emergency Medical Services as the chief/administrator starting January 2005. I have also been accepted as the lead pastor for a new church plant with Christ the King Church in Friday Harbor, Washington.”

Alissa Hicks married **Nathan Gardner** on June 26, 2004.

Nathan is employed by EMH & T as a civil engineer. Alissa is pursuing a degree in middle childhood education at The Ohio State University. They live in New Albany, Ohio.



Sue Gitto is enrolled in Duquesne University Law School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She is an administrative professional with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Shannon Lawhorn was promoted to the position of youth and family specialist with Family Links and is enrolled in Geneva's master of science in organizational leadership program.

Joshua Magnuson—see **Holly (Paine) Magnuson** under 2002.

Sarah (Karns) Warner—see **Andrew Warner** under 2002.

2004

Oscar Awa was hired as a senior teller at Charter One Bank in the East Cleveland area.

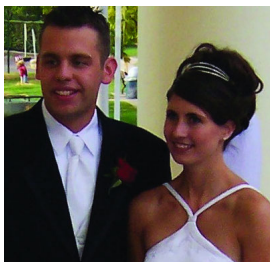
Jon Cuny is a manufacturer's representative for the turf and ornamentals division of Syngenta Professional Products. He represents Syngenta in western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and western New York.

Holly M. Frantz married Adam J. Schnur on August 21, 2004. Holly is employed as an adoption caseworker at Children's Aid Society of Mercer County in Pennsylvania.

Kirsten Nicole Erdos married high school sweetheart Lt. Jonathan Stuart Gardner on August 13, 2004. Jonathan is training as a pilot at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas, and Kirsten is pursuing a master's degree in social work.



Emily J. Lundeen married **Brandon M. Marzley** on October 9, 2004. The Marzleys live in North Canton, Ohio.



Beverly Perry married **Jeremiah Kvasnik** on October 2, 2004. The wedding was held in Bozrah, Connecticut. They live in Norwich, Connecticut.



Timothy McClain was named assistant vice chancellor for development-special projects at the University of North Carolina at Asheville. His work will be in major capital gifts to UNC Asheville as well as in estate and life income gifts.

Allison Marie McNear MA married David Pierson on October 23, 2004. David is a graduate of Scottsdale Culinary Institute in Arizona and is now employed at Bravo! Cucina Italiana restaurant in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania. The couple lives in Beaver, Pennsylvania.

Abby Stewart is reading specialist at Richard Allen School in Georgetown, Delaware.

Amy Totten is teaching fourth grade at Praise Christian Academy in North Versailles, Pennsylvania.

Rachel L. Weyand married **Jay K. Sharrer** on September 17, 2004. Both are employed at Family Behavioral Resources in Beaver, Pennsylvania.

Jonathan "Zig" Ziegler lives in West Philadelphia and is working through a program called Mission Year. He is also working with youth and community outreach in the inner city and working as tutor for GED preparation classes.

2006

Matthew Brown and his wife, Erin, became the parents of Kyler Scott on December 31, 2004. Matt's parents, Geneva

employees **Scott Brown** and **Marge Brown**, are enjoying being first-time grandparents.

Friends

C. Scott Shidemantle and **Wendy (Harry) Shidemantle** became the parents of John Curtis on December 25, 2004. Scott and Wendy are faculty members at Geneva.

in memoriam

1920s

Mary Jo (Bittinger) Lloyd Evans '29 on July 19, 1999.

Helen Elizabeth (Sonneborn) Hinish '29 on November 26, 2004.

Harry Mesnick '29 on January 7, 2005.

1930s

Margaret A. Williams '30 on December 27, 2004.

Rosalie (Lucia) Shillito '30 on February 9, 2005.

E. Catherine (Stephens) Halladay '30 on December 22, 2004.

Matthew A. Curry '33 on November 21, 2004.

Ruth F. Braun '35 on September 1, 2000.

Ruth (Klein) Gray '36 on November 29, 1999.

Helen Althea (Riddel) Herr '38 on November 19, 2004.

1940s

Phyllis V. Mancini '40 on November 12, 2004.

Peter F. Slade '40 on January 30, 2005.

Guy J. Lateano '41 on January 2, 2005.

Virginia Z. (Cowan) Sweitzer '42 on February 26, 2005.

Ernest A. Toth '43 on December 28, 2003.

M. Isabelle (Murphy) Vetter '43 on January 2, 2005.

Marcel A. Okon Jr. '46 on February 2, 2005.

Richard D. Smith '46 on January 9, 2005.

Willard G. McMillan '47 on March 12, 2005.

Dorothy "Billie" (Hamilton) Thompson '47 on November 2, 2004.

Robert C. Springer '48 on November 15, 2002.

Jack P. Trembath '48 on October 6, 2004.

Harold A. Blinn '49 on November 6, 2004.

1950s

James R. Crombie '50 on June 14, 2004.

Adam F. Karcis '50 on December 30, 2004.

Charles R. Romigh Jr. '50 on November 17, 2004.

William S. Waldron Jr. '50 on December 5, 2004.

Edgar S. Funk '51 on October 21, 2003.

Robert B. Baker '52 on May 23, 2004.

Joseph Gale Gibson '53 on December 31, 2004.

Carole Ann Murdock Bertram '54 on December 18, 2004.

James Crombie '54 on June 14, 2004.

Steve Milos Klipa '54 on December 20, 2004.

Alfred F. Merdes '54 on October 15, 2003.

Richard D. Anderson '56 on January 15, 2005.

Donald D. Brutout '56 on November 5, 2004.

George J. Glatz Jr. '57 on April 2, 2004.

Allen Lovett South '57 on January 16, 2001.

Richard A. George '59 on October 6, 2004.

1960s

Joseph Pushinsky '61 on July 19, 2004.

Eugene Bruce Horvath '62 on November 4, 2004.

Thomas Phillip Daquila '63 on November 12, 2004.

Mildred R. Lang '67 on November 18, 2004.

Emily M. (Kowaleska) Baker '68 on November 3, 2004.

Dennis G. McKee '68 on March 29, 2004.

J. Howard Figley '69 on March 7, 2004.

1970s

Larry R. Anderson '75 on November 13, 2004.

1980s

Paul J. Ruby '81 on October 27, 2005.

John T. Harlan '89 on November 26, 2004.

1990s

Robert Smith '91 on November 27, 2000.

JoAnne Turner Wade '95 on January 16, 2003.

Oliver L. Whitaker '98 on May 26, 2004.

Friends

Louis J. Ananias on February 14, 2005. Louis was a loyal Geneva supporter.

Archie C. McKissick on September 29, 2004. Archie was the father of Vickie (Burke) McKissick, **Robert McKissick** '73, **Bruce McKissick** '77, and **Jean (McKissick) Stewart** '78. His wife, Ruth Holcomb McKissick, also survives.

Marian H. Starr on November 21, 2004. Marian was junior and senior high school teacher in the area and a friend of Geneva for many years.

Dr. Willard G. McMillan

1924–2005



Dr. Willard G. McMillan '47 died of cancer on March 12, 2005.

McMillan began his college studies at a school in New Concord, Ohio, but World War II and service in the U.S. Navy intervened. When he returned from the war he elected to finish his degree at Geneva College. Here he met his wife, Shirley (Stewart '47), and earned a bachelor's degree in Bible.

In 1955 he accepted a position as an instructor in Geneva's Bible department, and he became an integral part of the college. McMillan served as dean of students, Bible department chair, and spiritual activities director.

After his retirement in 1990, McMillan remained an active member of the Geneva community. He is survived by his wife and his children Katharine (McMillan '72) Dennis, Martha (McMillan '75) Wright, Scott, and Stewart '81.

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was a safety nightmare, and it was only getting worse. The students found that 15,400 vehicles per day traversed the S-curve; by 2013, that number would grow to 18,800. They also estimated that each of Geneva's students crossed the road six times a day, making for 4,500 pedestrian crossings. The accident rate at the curve was 250 percent higher than the statewide average. Even if drivers slowed to 10 miles per hour, the curves could still cause them to lose control. Commercial trucks represented a disproportionate amount of the traffic. During rush hour traffic, trucks made up 10 percent of vehicles, and in off-peak times they accounted for up to 18 percent. The average for roads like Route 18 is 3.6 percent. Many of the big rigs couldn't make the turns without veering into the opposing traffic lane, and even then the trailers' rear wheels frequently hopped onto the sidewalk near Alumni Hall.

The study, along with White's persistent appeal for state funding, earned the support of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Regional Planning Commission (SPRPC), which prioritizes roadwork in the region. But in 1996 PennDOT dealt out another round of budget cuts, \$1.1 billion worth, and the Route 18 project was among the casualties. Attempting to improve safety, PennDOT posted signs banning trucks 102 inches wide and longer than 28 ½ feet. To this day, truckers ignore the signs, and the state ignores the truckers.

White persevered despite the setback, making several appearances before the SPRPC, rallying local business leaders to lobby for improvements, and bending politicians' ears.

The turning point came in 1998. Ron Klink, who was then the Beaver County representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, secured a \$1.4 million federal grant earmarked for the Route 18 project. The funding vaulted the project from near the bottom of PennDOT's list to near the top, and the preliminary work progressed slowly but steadily under the guidance of Geneva and Baker. The college donated \$338,000 in labor and land, and Baker did two summers' worth of work *pro bono*.

On March 12, 2004, 76 years after the state first posted Route 18 signs through Beaver Falls, PennDOT announced the official configuration for the relocation, and the project

entered the final engineering stage. Baker was authorized to start final design on April 25 this year, and PennDOT has started the process of buying up the remaining property needed for the project.

When the relocation is complete, visitors driving south on Route 18 will continue straight onto what is now Fourth Avenue instead of making a 90-degree left near the Bagpiper Theater. The highway will continue straight until it passes 31st Street, where it will gently bend leftward and eventually rejoin the current route at the bottom of College Hill. PennDOT will also install a traffic signal at the road's

intersection with 31st Street, which will allow students from the Geneva Arms and Young apartments to cross safely. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of next year.

(For a map of the new configuration, visit Geneva's Route 18

project Web site at www.geneva.edu/rt18.)

Even from Dennis Plitt's perspective, the change has been long in coming. After graduating from Geneva, Plitt went to work for Baker, and now he's overseeing the firm's Route 18 work. "As a student I never thought it would take 11 years," he says. "For as relatively simple as it is—we're only talking about 1,800 feet of roadway, four city blocks, not a major project in terms of cost—it seems to have taken a long time. But I do believe with all my heart that this road is going to move."

Moving Route 18 will make the college safer for students, faculty members, and visitors. It will open up land for Geneva to grow, and it will create a serene environment. Campus will feel . . . like a campus.

The relocation will also present new challenges. Geneva will have to figure out how to carry on around the PennDOT trucks and orange barrels. When work crews finish, the century-old roadbed, as well as four abandoned side streets, will still sit on Geneva's campus. The college will have to raise funds to remove them and beautify the campus.

But these are welcome challenges. 

Look for an indepth article about Geneva's campaign to reshape campus in an upcoming issue.

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ago this day, Philip's father died; God would heal my son.

For the next five days, I carried my Bible everywhere I went; it was my shield. I played Christian music constantly in Philip's room. I had people praying around the clock. God was all I had. He would heal my son. But every day the doctors told me there was nothing more they could do. There was no change. He had color in his cheeks; his blood pressure was normal; he appeared to have life; but he showed no physical response.

On Friday evening, February 4, a friend of mine came with her brother and daughter to pray with me. Her brother was a minister. Before we prayed he asked permission to pray against any strongholds that may be there, and I told him that would be fine. While we were praying, I had the strongest feeling that Philip sat up. In fact, it was so strong, I opened my eyes to look at him; I just knew he was sitting up with his big smile, praying with us. He wasn't.

Looking back, I believe what I felt was his spirit leaving his body. After that prayer his blood pressure and oxygen levels kept dropping. The color was gone from his cheeks. I didn't see life anymore. But I couldn't let go. I couldn't pull the plug on the life support system. Even when my mother told me he was gone, I wouldn't; I couldn't hear it.

But then my dad spoke. Dad always could say things to me that no one else could say to make me listen. He said, "We love you and will support you, but are you really trusting God or are you trusting the machines? If God wants to heal Philip, he doesn't need the machines. Just think about it." I did. I heard him. I knew in my heart, but still couldn't let go. He was my son. My firstborn.

February 8, Philip's 21st birthday. I knew I would have my answer on this day. I had to meet with the hospital staff to discuss moving him. They said they could not continue to provide treatment, so I would need to have him moved to another facility if I didn't let them pull that plug.

"God, HELP!"

The night before, February 7, I called Marilyn, a prayer partner at church. I told her I was going to have to meet with the hospital staff the next morning and I needed strength and wisdom to know what to do. I just couldn't pull the plug. She told me to try to rest and she would pray. I understand what scripture means to have someone lift us up when we can't carry ourselves. She prayed, and I slept more soundly than I had in a month.

Dad and I walked into the hospital at 8:30 a.m. I walked into Philip's room and knew. There was no color in his cheeks. The machines registered zeros. I knew God had

answered our prayers. He had performed his healing, the ultimate healing. Not the healing I wanted, but it was the greatest healing Philip would ever experience. No more pain, no more sorrow, no more hurts, no more tears—God had taken him home.

We met with the hospital staff at 9:30 a.m. Philip's life on earth was over, but his ministry had just begun. I decided to donate his organs. Two folks have life with his kidneys. Some cancer patients have life with his bone marrow. Someone has sight with new eyes. I have no idea the number of lives that have been touched as a result of his earthly death. Philip's ministry continues through my other son, David, as he shares com-


February 8, Philip's 21st birthday. I knew I would have my answer on this day.

fort and encouragement through devotionals and day-to-day dealings with students at Lee University. Philip's ministry continues through me as I speak at women's retreats and other places, giving encouragement to those who have lost loved ones to death.

I had Philip's gravestone inscribed with Psalm 103:2-5: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's."

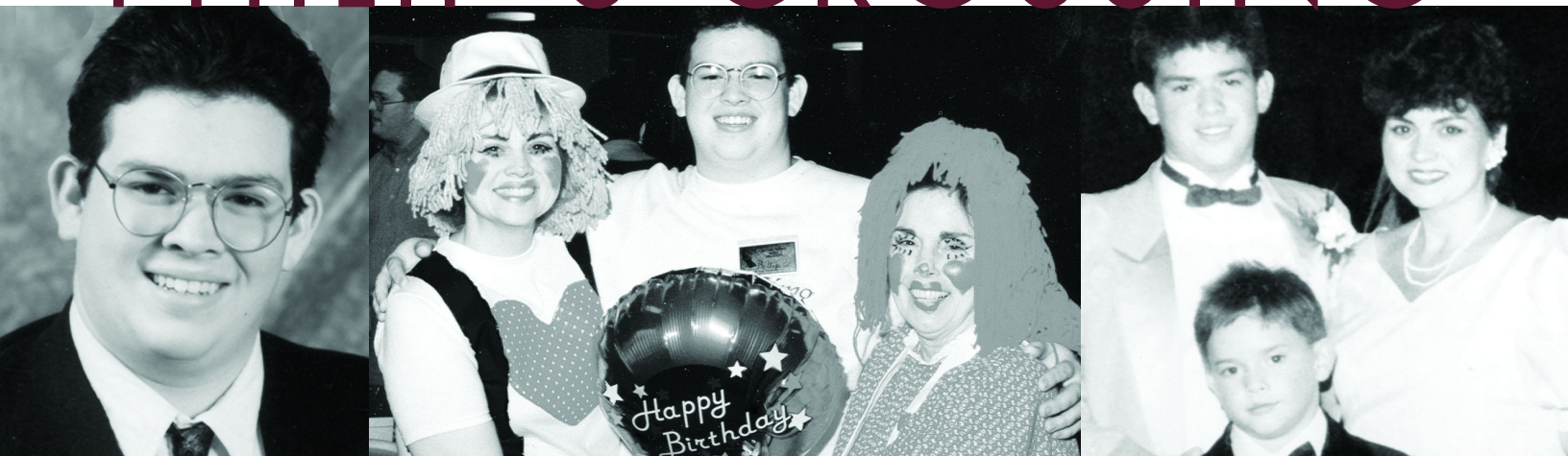
His life has been renewed. His diseases have been healed. He has been given a crown of love and compassion; his life was filled with love and compassion. He has been renewed like the eagle. One day soon I know I will see him again. I know he is with his earthly father, but even greater is the fact that he's with his heavenly Father.

I have vowed that as long as I have life in me, I will testify to God's healing power, the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and the love our heavenly Father showers over each of us every day. I am so grateful for his love and his strength.

I share these memories in hope that they may help prevent others from experiencing the same tragedy. As a student at Geneva College, I remember dodging traffic on Route 18, crossing over to the music building in front of Old Main. I think of the many close calls my friends and I had as we tried to beat the trucks. I pray with the changes on campus, we won't neglect the students who are "just trying to cross the street." Let's keep them safe! One of them may be another Philip Beale, another young man or woman desiring to minister and spread the gospel. What greater gift could we give? 

in conclusion

PHILIP'S CROSSING



by Judy Beale '72

On Saturday, January 14, 1995, at approximately 7 p.m., my oldest son, Philip Beale, was crossing the street in front of his dorm at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. He was about four feet from the edge of the road when he was struck by a car and tossed into the air. He was rushed to the local hospital with two broken bones in his right leg. Doctors encased his leg in a cast from toe to hip.

While in the hospital, Philip developed a fatty embolism in the lung and was placed on oxygen. When he was finally released from the hospital 10 days after the accident, I withdrew him from school and took him back home to Marietta, Georgia.

On the morning of January 31 I took him to a doctor in Marietta for follow-up care. Philip needed to have surgery to put a rod in his leg, and that afternoon a lung scan was scheduled at Kennestone Hospital in Marietta. As I tried to help him fit his 6-foot, 2-inch frame into our station wagon, he complained that he couldn't breathe. The hospital was only four miles from our home, so I told Philip we would go straight to the hospital and they could give him oxygen. (I thought that by the time I went in the house to call 911, and wait for the paramedics to arrive, we could be at the hospital.) When we arrived at the hospital, I took him to the door where the staff took him in and I went to park the car. When I walked back into the emergency room, I was taken to a room where I was told that I have a "very sick" young man. They had called a heart specialist and had already placed Philip on

life support. He was going to be transported by helicopter to St. Joseph's Hospital in Atlanta. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. He had a broken leg!

That evening, he underwent surgery at St. Joseph's. When he arrived I was told that he had about a 10 percent chance of recovery. After the surgery the doctors said his chance of recovery had improved to 90 percent. The doctors removed two clots, one 18 inches long, the other 22 inches, that had broken loose and gone to his brain.

But 90 percent: I knew he was going to be fine. I knew God would heal him because Philip was studying to be a minister. This would be part of his ministry.

The whole time he was in the hospital in Cleveland, I stayed in one of the girl's dorms at Lee University so I could visit with him every day. We spent the time discussing his desire to begin his ministry—he wanted so much to be a youth pastor. We laughed, we cried, we prayed, we talked, we shared his plans.

The next morning, February 1, I walked into Philip's room in intensive care. The doctor said he was not responding as they would like. I shook his hand and said, "Hey, sleepyhead, wake up!" He opened his eyes, looked at me, then closed them again.

On February 2, the doctor met me in the hallway outside Philip's room. He said, "I'm very sorry, Ms. Beale, but we have done tests and have no response in the brain. There's nothing more we can do. Your son is brain-dead." I looked at the doctor and said, "I know you've done all you can do, but the Lord is the ultimate physician, so we'll see what he does." Besides, one year

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geneva summer fun

ALUMNI CAMP OUT MORAINES STATE PARK

July 22, 2005

Camping the way it used to be: primitive.

FAMILY DAY PICNIC MORAINES STATE PARK

July 23, 2005

Join Geneva staff and other alumni for a pig roast in the park, as well as games for kids and adults. Bring your favorite picnic food.

GENEVA DAY AT KENNYWOOD PARK

August 12, 2005

Geneva alumni, staff, and students get a significant discount on the price of admission. The college has pavilion 1 reserved for Geneva folks to fellowship.



Check the Web for more events, including the Gateway Clipper freshman and alumni boat cruise and an alumni trip to PNC Park to watch the Pittsburgh Pirates.

For more details, visit www.geneva.edu or contact the special events office at events@geneva.edu or 724-847-6614.

www.geneva.edu/alumni

Visit Geneva's alumni page for upcoming event information, alumni news, photos, and to keep us updated about significant events in your life.