

WINTER 2010

GENEVA MAGAZINE

**HER
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calendar

January

29 Dave & Buster's alumni event

February

12 Winter Open House

March

3 Genevans spring tour begins

20 Find Your Purpose Regional Events
(Baltimore and Philadelphia)

24 Geneva Women Green Tea

26, 27 Genevans concert

31 Easter Break begins

April

5 Classes resume

16 Annual MSOL Leadership Conference

17 Founders Day

28 Geneva Women spring meeting

May

7 End of spring semester

7 Graduate and Adult Education
Commencement

9 Baccalaureate

10 Undergraduate Commencement

26 Geneva Women spring luncheon

Check the calendar at
www.geneva.edu

for more event listings, or
call 724.847.6520.

ON THE COVER:
Illustrations by Kristen Miller.

DISCOVER ROME



GENEVA COLLEGE *Semester in Rome*

The Semester in Rome program is open to students from Geneva College, schools in the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), and to Christian students from other institutions.

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GENEVA MAGAZINE

WINTER 2010 CONTENTS



Geneva Magazine is published two times per year for Geneva College alumni, friends, students and parents. It showcases the college and its constituencies as they strive to fulfill the college's mission. Opinions expressed in Geneva Magazine are those of its contributors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the editorial review board or the official position of the college.



GENEVA COLLEGE

Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Please send your correspondence to editor@geneva.edu or Geneva Magazine, Geneva College, 3200 College Avenue, Beaver Falls, PA 15010.

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from the president



Why do students come to Geneva College? Is it for the community, the professors, the Christian environment, the academic programs? While answers may vary from student to student, you will find one theme underlying them all: Geneva College helps students hear and answer God's call on their lives.

At Geneva College, we do not believe that any one calling is more sacred than another. The faith-filled business professional or sales associate is heeding God's call just as much as the pastor or the missionary. God has equipped each of us with a unique set of gifts, and if we commit those gifts to His purposes, He will use us as instruments of change in His Kingdom.

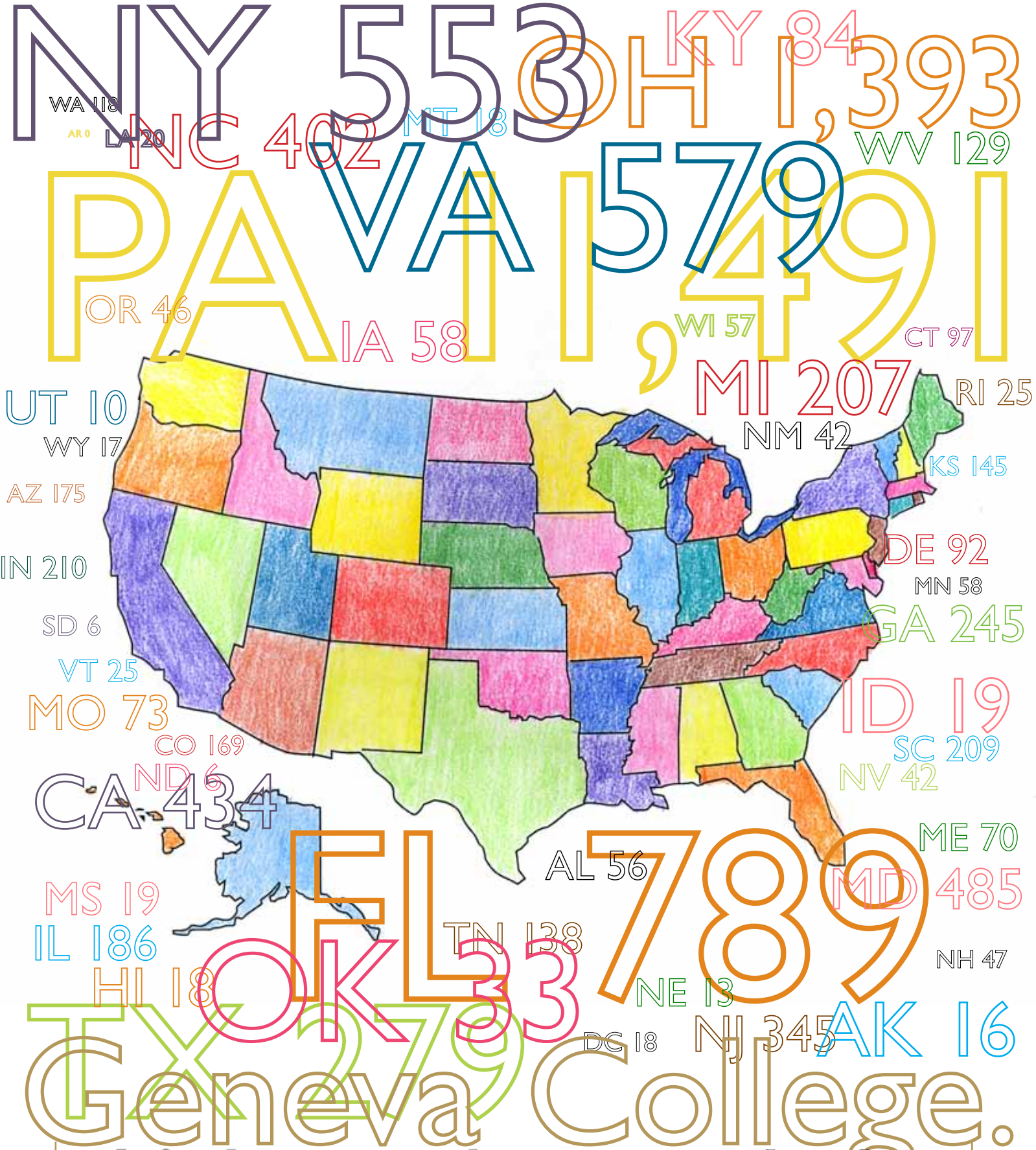
This issue of *Geneva Magazine* is about our alumni — the people who have come to Geneva to learn, grow, change, and pursue God's purpose for their lives. Serving in communities, schools, the media, the mission field, medicine, higher education, and more, these men and women have taken the mission of Geneva College and made it their own.

Babette Watterson '85 moved her family to New Orleans to serve as missionaries after Katrina hit, while Robin Larson '85 and her husband, Kevin '84, teach their six children at home in Virginia. Jim Gardner '96 runs an openly Christ-centered family practice in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, and Andy Brown '07 meets people all over the country flying as a first officer for U.S. Airways Express.

These and the rest of the stories in the following pages give just a brief glimpse of what God is doing through the Geneva College community. You and countless others have made Geneva's mission a living, breathing reality. You have taken your education and applied it in your lives, and in doing so you are transforming society for the kingdom of Christ. We are grateful to be part of your stories.

In His service,

Kenneth A. Smith '80
President



Connect with fellow alumni on the Geneva Alumni Place (www.gap.geneva.edu), in a local alumni chapter, or through Geneva's career development services. For more information, contact Alumni Relations at 724.847.6880 or go to www.geneva.edu/alumni.

in brief CAMPUS NEWS



Geneva College appoints academic deans

This fall, Geneva College announced three new academic dean positions: Dean of Academic Administration, Dean of Academic Programs and Dean of Faculty Development.

"These three people are responsible for administration of the for-credit, class-based education at Geneva, as well as a variety of other related programs and activities of the college," says Provost Ken Carson.

Dean of Academic Administration Dr. Terri Williams is now responsible for ensuring that resources for academic programs are effectively allocated, including budgetary concerns, personnel, time and facilities. She continues to chair and teach in the Department of Psychology, Counseling and Human Services.

Dr. Melinda Stephens, dean of academic programs, oversees the quality of academic course content, including the integration of faith and learning in accordance with the mission of the college. She continues to teach in the Department of Chemistry.

Dean of Faculty Development Dr. Dave Guthrie, former academic dean, is responsible for enabling faculty members to excel in their positions.

Rounding out the team responsible for education and student life outside of the classroom are Dean of Student Development Dr. Mike Loomis and Athletic Director Dr. Kim Gall.

Kudos

Geneva College faculty encourage their students to pursue excellence, and they teach through example. Below are just a few instances of the ongoing contributions faculty members are making in the Geneva community and beyond.

Dr. Todd Allen, professor and chair of the communication department, was among 50 men honored by *The New Pittsburgh Courier* for their professional excellence and devotion to the community in 2009. Allen was named one of the *Courier's* Men of Excellence.

Dr. Jeffrey Cole, professor of history and coordinator of the Semester in Rome program, received Geneva's 2009 Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Byron Curtis, professor of biblical languages, represented Geneva College at the Calvin 500 Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference was held in July of 2009 to commemorate the French Reformer's 500th birthday.

Dr. Robert Frazier, professor of philosophy, received Geneva's 2009 Excellence in Scholarship Award.

Dr. Karen Schmalz, professor of education, led a student mission team to San Luis, Mexico during the 2008-09 winter break.

Dr. Melinda Stephens, dean of academic programs and professor of chemistry, served as registration chair for Pittcon, an international chemistry conference with nearly 20,000 attendees.

Dr. Lynda Szabo, professor of English and Humanities, was selected for a three-year appointment as faculty-in-residence for Geneva's Semester in Rome program, which began in fall 2009.

Dr. Terry Thomas, professor of biblical studies, was appointed Scholar in Residence at the Mid-Atlantic College and Housing Officers Annual Convention.

Director of Sports Information and Head Softball Coach Van Zanic celebrated his 200th career win coaching the Geneva women's softball team.



Do justly, love mercy.

During the spring of 2009, Geneva College student Katherine Bull took a one-credit book discussion on *A Distant Grief*, by a Ugandan Presbyterian pastor named Kefa Sempangi. In 1979, Sempangi founded the Africa Foundation to minister to the 800,000 street children orphaned by the brutal regime of Idi Amin.

The book opened Katherine's eyes to the world's desperate need for social justice. Late one night during finals week, she sent Sempangi a message through the Africa Foundation's website. She thanked him for writing his book and told him how it had changed her life. Then she added, "Maybe you should come and speak at Geneva sometime."

She never dreamed his answer would be yes.

Sempangi came to visit Geneva College September 22-26 as the keynote speaker for Justice Week, an annual campus event that encourages students to get involved in the fight against poverty, hunger; HIV/AIDS, the sex trade and other issues.

In addition to speaking at several Justice Week events, Sempangi addressed the entire campus community at Geneva's chapel service. He encouraged students, as they strive to make a difference in the world, to be fearless and to make the most of what God has given them.



Moses only had a stick, he explained, but God called him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

"I think it pays to realize the little thing you have in your hand and what you can do," Sempangi said. "And you can't do missions without being willing to make your hands dirty."

For more information about Kefa Sempangi's ministry in Uganda, visit the Africa Foundation at www.africa-foundation.org.

Area churches connect with students

On September 11, the Geneva College Student Development Office hosted Cokes & Clubs, an annual event encouraging students to get involved on campus. This year, the college also made a special effort to invite local churches and ministry organizations to participate.

"Partnership with churches is very important to us," says Becky Phillips, associate director of church and parent relations. "We want to encourage students to find a church home while they are here at Geneva, and pastors and churches can also benefit from our on-campus resources."

On the day of the event, churches and community ministries made up half the tables along the new pedestrian mall. Big Brothers/Big Sisters was looking for "Bigs" to match with boys and girls in the community. Gateway Rehabilitation was looking for volunteers to work in Harmony House, a ministry for mothers who suffer from drug and alcohol addiction, as well as their homeless ministry. Skybacher,



a local sport-focused youth ministry, needed volunteers for summer camps and tournaments.

Greg Flanders, a 2008 Geneva grad, is now the youth pastor at Marion Hill Alliance Church. "I'm here to find some good youth leaders. We need a lot of female leaders and Geneva students always step up," he said.



HOMECOMING

1 2009 Homecoming court: Jeremy Shen, Monica Miller, Ryan Curley, Courtney Baughman, Justin Shaffer, Cally Cooper, Andria McCourt, Nella Matthews, Rachel Long, Alex Cowden, Seth Roush, Daniel Grubb.

6 2 Chemistry professor Dr. John Stahl in the dunk tank.

3 Career Development staff celebrate the "treasure" of alumni pursuing their callings.

4, 13 Golden Tornadoes (ages 60+) Alumni Reception.

5, 8, 15 Residence Life Reunion.



6, 7, 12, 14, 19 – 22 Petting Zoo and other family activities.

9 Jousting tournament on Memorial lawn.

10, 18 Students enjoying the College Hill Street Fair.

11 College friend Bill "Boomer" Aultman.

16, 17, 23 Donor Marjorie (Muldoon '45) Doriani-Griffin joins a capacity crowd at Reeves Field for the Geneva vs. Grove City football game.

24 10th Reunion Reception, Class of '99.

25 Several student events were held the night before Homecoming.

The disciplines converge in Puerto Rico



Drs. Frey and Kilpatrick give students a salsa lesson.

The core curriculum at Geneva College is designed to give students an understanding of how all areas of study are connected, each impacting the others in unexpected ways. Integrated courses offer students a unique opportunity to earn credits, experience a new culture, and explore the interconnectedness of the core disciplines. Puerto Rico is just such a course.

Since its inception in 2000, the Puerto Rico course has allowed students to earn three to six Humanities or core science credits, in addition to taking a 10-day trip to Puerto Rico over spring break.

"I've had students say, 'this trip changed my life and the way I think about learning,'" says Dr. Paul Kilpatrick, professor of English, "One student in particular said, 'I hated school. I couldn't wait to get out and start my career, but now, because of this course, I'm going to grad school.'"

And it's not just the students who are impacted by the trip and class. "In every case, every professor has come back changed because they see the potential for interconnectedness," Kilpatrick says.

Kilpatrick spent eight years teaching at the University of Puerto Rico, and he wanted to share the richness of the country with students and colleagues from Geneva. He teamed up with Professor of Math and Astronomy Dr. John Stein, whose life-long dream had been to take students to Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory. Together, they started talking to other professors who would come on board and share the diversity of their academic curiosity with students.

Puerto Rico 2010 will feature a variety of classes, including psychology with Dr. Carol Luce; history with Dr. Eric Miller; ecology with Lori Symmonds and professor Marjorie Tobias; and genetics of Puerto Rico with Dr. David Essig. During their time in Puerto Rico, students will also hear from a world-renowned Puerto Rican marine biologist and a political science professor.



Professor Tobias and Dr. Frey explore a Puerto Rican beach with students.

Geneva College welcomes new faculty and staff

Megan Morton, Assistant Professor of English; B.A., Saint Xavier University; M.A., Ph.D., Purdue University. Her primary focus is in rhetoric and composition, with a secondary focus in American literature.



Keith Martel, Director of Campus Ministries. B.A., M.A., Geneva College; M.A. and current Ph.D. candidate, Duquesne University. Martel has previously served as an adjunct professor at Geneva and as a campus minister with the Coalition for Christian Outreach.



Missy Davis, Assistant Director of Campus Ministries. B.A., George Fox University; M.S., Baylor University. For the last two years Davis has worked at Colorado Christian University.



Leave a Spark

As a student, Bill Martin '43 was an engineering major, a football player and a Navy reservist, and Geneva College shaped the course of his life. He passed away in April 2009, but his wife, Anna Mae, now continues their legacy of supporting education at Geneva College.

"He always said that if it wasn't for Geneva, he would have been a ditch digger," she says with a smile.

Because of the impact Geneva had on their lives, the Martins chose to include Geneva College in their long-range financial plans. In addition to other generous gifts to the college, they established the William C. and Anna Mae Martin Family Scholarship through a bequest in their will. The scholarship is awarded to deserving engineering students and will become endowed upon both of their deaths.

Over the years, the economic stability of Geneva College and many other non-profit organizations has been built as a result of charitable bequests. Bequests can be made in all amounts by people in all walks of life. The will is the most common vehicle for making estate-related gifts.

The generous support of donors like Bill and Anna Mae Martin makes it possible for students to experience a Christ-centered education at Geneva College. If you would like to learn more about making Geneva College part of your estate plan, please contact Director of Planned Giving Charles M. Knox, Jr. at 724.847.6614 or cmknox@geneva.edu.

PLANNED GIVING AT GENEVA COLLEGE

"As a result of my Christian education at Geneva College, Anna Mae and I have had a wonderful life together. We created this scholarship in appreciation for all that Geneva has done for us and our family."



Bill Martin '43



in service OUR PEOPLE

Robert Copeland graduated from Geneva College in 1966 and returned 15 years later as “Dr. Bob,” director of the Genevans choir and professor of music.

“I had been teaching at a Christian college in Kansas for 10 years and I loved it,” he says. “Then one day, I got a phone call from Dr. William Russell [dean of the college at the time]. He said that the college was advertising a position and asked if I would apply. However, the reason I came and the reason I stay here is because this is where God has called me to serve.”

When Copeland arrived at Geneva in 1981, he found the music department on the verge of extinction. There were not enough faculty to offer a music education major, and there were only 12 music students in the department as a whole.

“The college had actually considered dropping the music program,” Copeland says. “I knew something had to be done and done fast.”

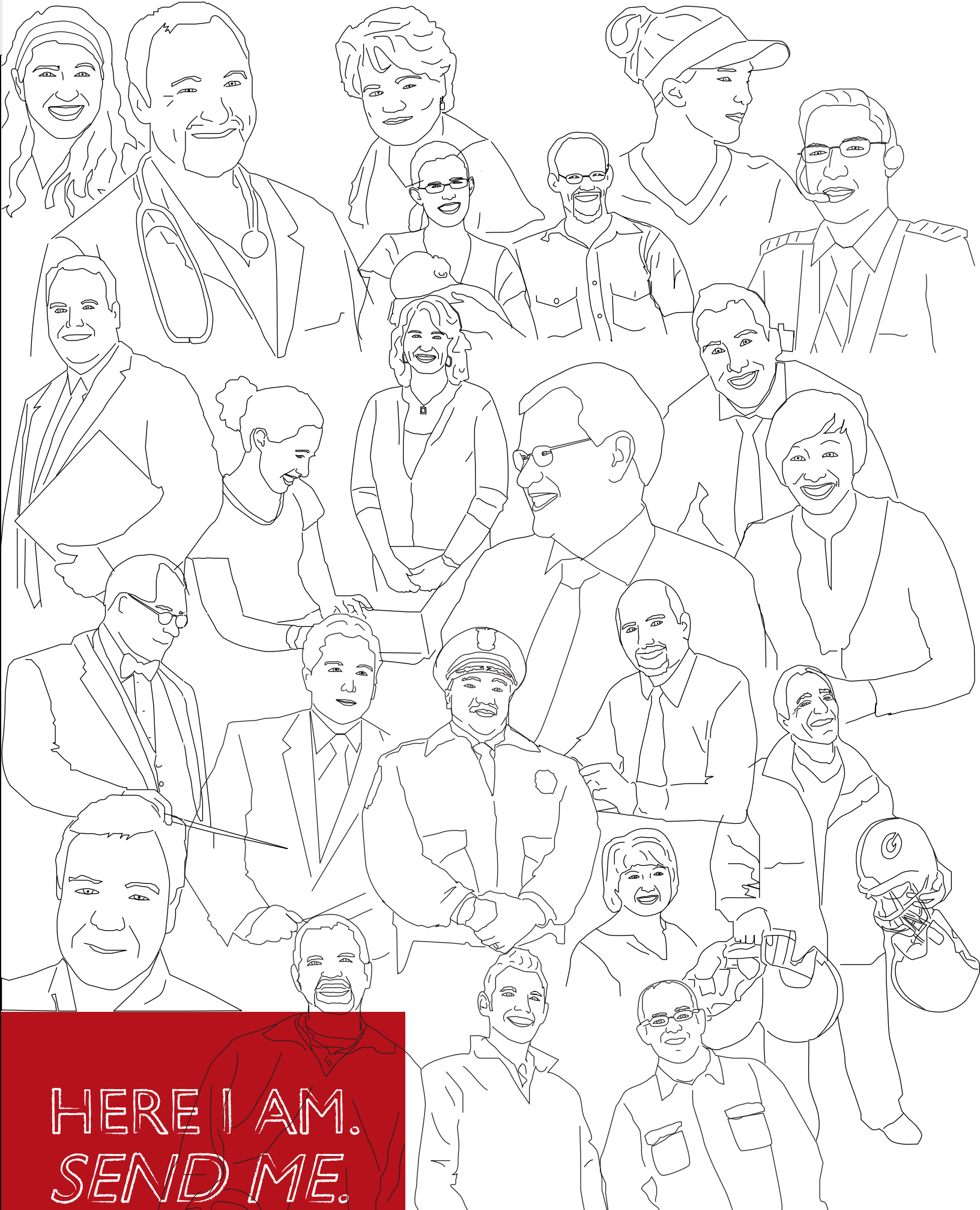
He immediately dug in to teaching, recruiting faculty and promoting the program. “Within two years we were definitely on the upswing, and within five years the whole program was really looking up,” he says. “Now we have between 45 and 50 music majors per year and the quality of our students has been improving greatly. This year I’m very happy with the freshmen we’ve got; they are talented, enthusiastic, confident and responsive.”

Dr. Robert Copeland

Even though the music program is thriving now, Copeland hasn’t slowed his pace. He chaired the department for 18 years and continues to serve as a professor of music and director of the Genevans choir. He also spent two years as a faculty representative on President Ken Smith’s leadership team. But no matter which role he fills, Dr. Copeland strives to put education and the needs of his students at the top of his to-do list.

“We always have to remember that Geneva is an educational institution first,” he says. “Our concern is the quality of education that students receive. Students have needs — academic and personal — and I think the faculty at Geneva bend over backwards to meet those needs. But at the same time, there are many things my students know a lot more about than I do. There are plenty of times when I can draw on them and see what they have to teach me.”





HERE I AM.
SEND ME.

"WHOM SHALL I SEND? AND WHO WILL GO FOR US?" AND I SAID, "HERE AM I. SEND ME!" ISA. 6:8

Many voices are calling out to today's college students. Pursue wealth. Do whatever it takes to get that job. Don't you want to be popular and successful? But at Geneva College, students are encouraged to listen to only one voice: God's. Equipping students to find and follow His call is what education at Geneva College is all about.

BY ELISA (PELLEGRITI '01) BECZE

The Voice of Truth



LARRY GRIFFITH MAJOR BROADCAST COMMUNICATIONS CLASS YEAR 1985 ACTIVITIES SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT, RA CURRENT VOCATION VP OF FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Larry Griffith '85

When Larry Griffith graduated from Geneva in 1985, he had no idea where his communication degree would lead him. Shortly after graduation, he entered the U.S. Navy's Officer Candidate School. He received his commission in 1986 and served as a naval officer until 1992, when he began an executive career with Alltel Wireless.

Eventually, Larry became regional president for the southeastern United States, responsible for \$1.5 billion, 1,300 employees and 2.6 million customers. But he had inherited a low-morale workforce, which had led to 70 percent employee turnover and low customer satisfaction. To motivate his workforce, Larry says he knew he had to draw on something deeper than corporate strategy.

"Geneva planted the seeds of servant-leadership in my heart, which over the years had resulted in personal passion and continued self-study on the topic," he says. "This passion was channeled into a servant-leadership course that our regional leaders went through based on the teachings of Christ."

Through the implementation of this radical yet Alltel-approved course, Larry and his team changed the culture of the company and cut turnover by 60 percent in two years. But Larry says the greatest payoff was not increased productivity for the company.



"The biggest reward from this program was having people tell me it made them a better spouse or parent, and I saw several people return to Christ or come to Christ," he says. "It was rewarding to know that the things I learned at Geneva and as an adult ultimately impacted 1,300 people."

Early in 2009, Larry's career came full circle when he accepted the position of Vice President of Finance and Operations for Geneva College.

Jennifer Flinn '00

When Jennifer Flinn graduated, she thought she knew exactly what God wanted her to pursue. After earning her bachelor's in psychology, she moved straight into Geneva's Master of Science in Counseling program.

Shortly after she completed the degree, she was given a teaching opportunity at Geneva. Dr. Carol Luce, then chair of the department, offered her the opportunity to teach a developmental psychology class for a professor who was on maternity leave.



The experience was a revelation for Jennifer. "I discovered that I loved to teach, and that I really loved developmental psychology," she says. "I know that Dr. Luce's phone call to me was more than a coincidence; it was God's providing me with a direction for my life."

Now juggling her own teaching schedule as a professor at Frostburg State University, Jennifer has a deep appreciation for the Geneva faculty members that made such a lasting impact on her personal and professional development. This motivates her to go the extra mile for her own students.

"I'll have students wanting to talk with me after class, and even when I'm tired and it's late and I really just want to get going, I'll do my best to encourage them the way [my professors] encouraged me," she says.

OPERATIONS AT GENEVA COLLEGE JENNIFER FLINN MAJOR PSYCHOLOGY CLASS YEAR 2000 ACTIVITIES GENEVANS CHOIR, NEW SONG, WGEV, GRACE NOTES, MARCHING


Geneva *planted* the seeds of servant-leadership in my heart

Learning to listen

As Geneva prepared Jennifer and Larry to pursue their careers, it also strengthened their walk with God. Through faith-centered classes, close friendships and a caring community, the college experience helped them come to know Christ in a deeper way than they ever had before.

"My time at Geneva really helped me to grow in my Christian walk so that I feel more confident to be a light in my little corner of the world," Jennifer says. "I was a Christian before I came to Geneva, but I feel like I 'owned' that statement by the time I left."

Larry says he strongly believes that Geneva's Christ-centered worldview sharpened his skill of separating God's truth from the many shades of the world's lies.

"Geneva College was a significant tool that the Lord has used in my life to allow me to hear the voice of truth in the midst of the many other voices that would discourage and lead me astray," he says, referencing the song "Voice of Truth," by Caedmon's Call. "Our students can go out into the world and live as beacons of wisdom in a dark, postmodern world." 



From Baseball to Broadcasting

NEWS

RICHARD KLINDWORTH MAJOR BROADCAST COMMUNICATIONS CLASS YEAR 2001 ACTIVITIES BASEBALL, WGEV RADIO CURRENT VOCATION NEWS ANCHOR AND REPORTER

Richard Klindworth '01 was a broadcast communications major at Geneva College, but his main focus was baseball. "It was the love of my life. I wanted to go pro," he says.

With graduation on the horizon, Rich tried out to advance into a professional league. When that didn't come together, he fell back on working as a recruiter for his uncle's sales company. He didn't find any fulfillment in his work and felt like he had hit a dead end. Then several relatives pointed out his talent for public speaking.

Along with baseball, radio had always been one of Rich's passions. He would listen to talk radio every day on his hour-long bus ride to and from school, and in college he hosted a show on Geneva's radio station.

"I absolutely loved it but never really talked to anyone else about that desire," he says.


"...if it wasn't for Geneva, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Rich decided to explore a career in broadcast journalism. He applied for a job working one day a week at a local radio station in Butler, Pennsylvania. In addition to his regular responsibilities, he took it upon himself to cover the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pirates. By 2003 he was working at a television station in Denison, Texas. After two years there he took a position in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and he is now an anchor/reporter for a local television affiliate in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

During the week, Rich is a writer, reporter and editor, shaping his own stories for air on that night's broadcast. On Saturdays and Sundays, he shifts gears to work as producer and anchor for the station's weekend show.

"I'm what I call a 'one-man-symphony,'" he says. On the weekend, he typically works from 3 or 4 a.m. until 12 or 1 p.m. After choosing and ordering stories for the show, he anchors during the 8 a.m. hour. "It's like juggling," he says.

And as a Christian, Rich strives to reflect Christ in the way he develops each story. "I have to make sure my pieces are unbiased, which can be tough. My job is to report the news, not make a name for myself at someone else's expense."

Rich's life has taken some unexpected twists and turns, but now he can see God's calling in it all. "God directs my path," he says. "And if it wasn't for Geneva, I wouldn't be where I am today. I guarantee that much." 





MARIA ZIFCHAK MAJOR MUSIC BUSINESS CLASS YEAR 1990 ACTIVITIES GENEVANS CHOIR,

The World's a Stage

BY BONNIE SMITH '12

"You never know what's going to happen from one show to the next," says mezzo-soprano Maria Zifchak.

A 1990 graduate of Geneva College, Maria spends her time performing on stage with the Metropolitan Opera, Central City Opera and Atlanta Opera, to name a few.

Maria has been involved in music since her middle school choir and started participating in musical theater in high school. From there, she went on to Geneva College.

"I wanted a smaller school, and I was interested that they had a music business program," she says.

She immediately got involved in as many musical opportunities as she could. When she began taking private voice lessons from Geneva music faculty member Louise Copeland, Copeland recognized her gift right away.


"She had an amazing, naturally beautiful voice," she says. "Those of us who worked with her knew that she had a rare and wonderful God-given talent. I have vivid memories of Maria in various programs on the Geneva stage — as Cinderella; as Mother Superior, bringing down the house with 'Climb Every Mountain'; as a recitalist; and as a soloist with the Genevans and the Geneva College Jazz Band."

Maria has held numerous roles since her days on the Geneva stage — from Suzuki in *Madame Butterfly* to Effie Bell Tate in *Cold Sassy Tree* — and she says she cannot pick a favorite.

"The roles are all so different, and I enjoy each one for different reasons."

Life in show business isn't easy, and Maria says that for her, the hardest part is maintaining a sense of self. "You have to work to not get sucked into all the negativity out there, but it is like that for any profession."

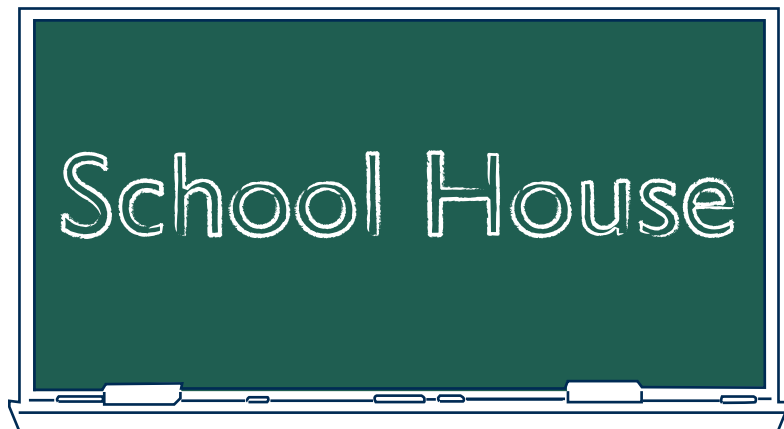
Balancing her demanding work schedule is also a challenge. "It takes planning. With my job, there is a lot of travel, uprooting from the familiar and staying in new places. I try to take advantage of all the different places to sightsee, and in between shows, I use the free time to visit family, re-plan and organize things and prepare."

Despite all its challenges, Maria sincerely enjoys her chosen path. And whether she's performing, practicing or on the road, she says that her Geneva education continues to shape the way she views her work and her interactions every day. 





Robin (Sharpless) and Kevin Larson, with Katrina, 22; Kristopher, 21; Karrin, 17; Karl, 15; Kirsten, 13; and Kara, 7.



For Robin (Sharpless '85) Larson, education isn't something to survive; it's something to experience.

This Geneva alumna fondly remembers life as a student in a close-knit community of English majors at the college, where learning about literature meant becoming a part of it. She remembers masquerading as one of Chaucer's pilgrims, celebrating Shakespeare's birthday by remodeling the English department with posters, poems and balloons, and even sitting down to a Tolkien-esque "hobbit dinner."

But Geneva did more than foster Robin's love of literature and give her a teaching degree; it gave her the foundation for educating her own children, all six of whom she has taught at home.

Robin, a Washington D.C. native, first heard mention of Geneva College through friends. After graduating from high school, she set out for Beaver Falls on a leap of faith. Little did she know that one course she would take there would change the path of her life.

That course was the Humanities. Still an integral part of Geneva's curriculum today, the four-semester program explores the vast expanse of history, the arts, sciences and philosophy through the lens of a Christian worldview. Both Robin and her husband, Kevin '84, credit the Humanities as one of the best aspects of their education and as the structure for teaching their own children: Katrina, 22; Kristopher, 21; Karrin, 17; Karl, 15; Kirsten, 13; and Kara, 7.

"We wanted to give them that comprehensive, sweeping view," Robin says. "We built our whole vision of home-schooling around that kind of curriculum."



THE CLASSROOM ISN'T CLOSE

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z ROBIN SHARPLESS LARSON MAJOR ENGLISH CLASS YEAR 1985 ACTIVE

But it wasn't always easy. Robin was just coming off of a three-year stint of teaching at a private Christian school when she first considered the idea of home instruction. Because the Larsons live in the farmlands near Richmond, Virginia, homeschooling was a convenient option but resources were limited. "Homeschooling was in its infancy then," she says. "But now the possibilities are endless."


Homeschooling has grown along with her children, especially in Virginia, where it is fast becoming a norm. With nearly 23,000 home-learners statewide, Robin says that almost everyone in Virginia knows someone who is homeschooled.

Far from living in isolated schoolrooms of their own design, the Larsons and other home-educators like them have access to an array of resources, cooperatives and support groups. They pool their interests and expertise to provide supplemental classes, activities and programs for their students. Robin teaches Latin at one nearby cooperative.

There are also plenty of resources available in the community. Robin says that a local community college offers classes to high school juniors and seniors, an opportunity her older children have already taken advantage of. Karrin, a senior, is currently taking classes, while Kristopher was able to earn a semester's worth of college credits by the time he graduated from high school.

Even with all the resources available to homeschoolers, Kevin and Robin find their most important educational assets in each other. Robin is a licensed teacher with an English background, while Kevin provides instruction in higher math and lends a hand grading papers. When their combined expertise is not enough, they enlist the help of qualified instructors, like one Ph.D. friend who helps out with chemistry lessons.

From the Humanities to literary excursions, the Larsons' decision to homeschool has largely been shaped by their time at Geneva College. And just like Robin's days as an English major, the classroom isn't closed at the ring of the last bell. Every day provides opportunities for learning, and every outing is an educational adventure.

"Geneva never really leaves you," she says. "You always carry it with you." 





"I'M ONLY A SMALL PART OF GOD'S PLAN
THAT WILL BE REVEALED TO US
AS WE LIVE AND WORK DAY BY DAY."

Part of the Family

BY ELISA (PELLEGRITI '01) BECZE

Although Justin Bryan '06 is the second generation of men in his family to graduate from Geneva College, he actually belongs to a much longer family tradition. He is among the fifth generation of Bryans to work in the family business.

Bryan Materials Group is a collection of several concrete, precast and aggregate companies in the Pittsburgh area. Together, the affiliated companies employ about 100 people in Western Pennsylvania. Bryan Materials Group traces its roots back to 1883, when Justin's great-great grandfather, Frank Bryan, founded the parent company Frank Bryan Inc. Bryan concrete has been used in a variety of local projects, including locks and dams, bridges, airport runways, tunnels and buildings.

Justin, his father, Tom '80, and his uncle, Dave '86, all graduated from Geneva with civil engineering degrees. Tom works as manager of the Frank Bryan Inc. plant in Pittsburgh's South Side, which produces concrete, and the Tri-State River Products plant in Beaver, Pennsylvania, which makes sand and gravel that is used in concrete production. Dave manages Concrete Concepts Inc. in McKees Rocks, which produces precast concrete, and Georgetown Sand and Gravel in Georgetown, Pennsylvania.

All three Bryans have worn many hats over the years while working for the company, from sales to quality control to welding and fabrication, all the way to the smaller yet still important jobs like cleaning out barges and doing odd jobs around the plant. Tom and Dave now oversee the operation side of things, and Justin is currently involved in research, design and quality assurance.


The Bryans say that their time spent at Geneva played a large role in how they approach the family business today.

"It's helped us learn to speak the language of the engineering community," Justin says, and this has helped to set Frank Bryan Inc. apart from other concrete companies. "We have had the opportunity to be a part of many high profile and high specification jobs around the city and work with some of the best people in our industry."

In addition to this technical knowledge, the Bryans say that Geneva reinforced their core beliefs and helped them understand how the work they do fits into their Christian view of life and the world.

"This has enabled us to run our family business with a little different basis than what you typically see in today's business environment," Dave says. "Christian beliefs and the world's view are many times at odds with each other, and we, as a family, have tried during our careers to do what is right, not necessarily what simply will make the company more money. We also feel a greater responsibility to our employees; they become part of our extended family and not just a number on a payroll sheet."

"I think the most important thing I gained was perspective — the fact that I'm just passing through," Tom says. "I'm only a small part of God's plan that will be revealed to us as we live and work day by day. God's hand is in every aspect of our lives whether we choose to recognize it or not."

As for Justin, he grew up in a Christian environment but says he never really thought about what engineering had to do with Christianity until he went to Geneva. "With civil engineering, we're building bridges and roads, bettering God's creation, and making things better for society. All of the summers and Saturdays I worked at the plant were fun, but I never made that connection until I got to Geneva." 



Heal the Broken

BY AMANDA (KASKALAVICH '06) FENNER



Four years ago, Hurricane Katrina made history when she ravaged the Gulf Coast states, destroying homes, wrenching families apart, leaving the remnants of famed cities like New Orleans ripe for looting and violence. Volunteers and missionaries still travel to Louisiana and the surrounding states to help repair communities that were torn apart both physically and spiritually by the storm.

Babette (Balla '85) Watterson is one of these volunteers.

Babette and her husband, Kevin, left everything on the altar in 2007 and traveled through EFCA Crisis Relief to help mend the broken spirit of New Orleans. The Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA) strives to “glorify God by multiplying healthy churches among all people,” and EFCA Crisis Relief uses that ministry to aid communities and churches that have been weakened by natural disasters.

Through a partnership with Trinity Church and Castle Rock Community Church, and an alliance with Urban Impact Ministries, Babette provides support for volunteers and helps plan missions for outreach in the local communities. Her mission in life seems clear now, but that wasn't always the case.

As a student at Geneva College, Babette had plans to become a secretary. She graduated with a degree in general business, but she left Geneva with much more than a diploma and a career path. Through classes, professors and friendships, the concepts of “seeing the world from God's perspective” and “living out what you believe” deeply took root in her heart.

Later, as a wife and mother at home in Pennsylvania, Babette believed she was doing exactly what God had called her to do. She and Kevin were raising their two young children (Kendra, now 11, and Logan, now 9) running a heating and air conditioning business, and living as active witnesses in their community. She never dreamed that God would someday call her to a life on a different mission field.

“It wasn't even on my radar,” she admits.

After Katrina, Kevin traveled to New Orleans on several short-term EFCA mission trips to help with the clean-up effort. He came home with a strong call to return permanently and bring his family with him.

“If he would have asked me if I wanted to go, I would have said no, but he asked me to pray,” she says. And she did.

hearted

“HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKEN- HEARTED...”

ISAIAH 61:1B



Soon, things were falling into place and God's plan for the Wattersons was becoming more and more evident. Their house secured a buyer before it even hit the market; their business also found a buyer, and her husband's work contract was lifted so they were able to leave on time. Although Babette still did not want to leave her home for New Orleans, she felt a sense of peace and security knowing that this was a call from God.


“Nothing else felt right,” she says.

By the time the Wattersons arrived in New Orleans in February 2007, work was in the reconstruction phase. Homeowners who had returned, or never left in the first place, were trying to rebuild their houses and their lives. By offering labor through the EFCA's holistic approach to ministry, volunteers were able to show the love of Christ week after week. After a year of rebuilding and establishing connections in the community, the Wattersons felt an even stronger pull to stay in New Orleans as full-time missionaries.

Babette says that Hurricane Katrina may be history as far as news is concerned, but newer volunteers are still amazed to see the work that needs to be done. Despite careful clean-up of tourist areas, low-income areas still bear the marks of the storm. Short-term volunteers often wonder how a week of their help could even matter, and even full-time staffers become overwhelmed. But Babette likens the experience to eating an elephant.

“One bite at a time,” she smiles.

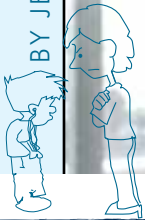
Still focusing on her role as a wife and mom, Babette works behind the scenes at the ministry, establishing outreach opportunities and assisting volunteers. Kevin continues to travel to nearby areas that have been devastated by natural disasters. Even though they still miss the comforts of home in Pennsylvania, Babette is secure in the knowledge that God has a purpose for her and her family in Louisiana.

“I'd rather be in the center of His will than somewhere out of it,” she says. 



Fortifying the FAMILY

BY JENNY (BOWER '05) PICHURA



WALT MUELLER MAJOR SOCIOLOGY CLASS YEAR 1978 ACTIVITIES RESIDENT ASSISTANT, YOUTH MINISTRY CURRENT VOCATION FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT

Why won't my son come out of his room? Why does it seem like my daughter has forgotten everything I ever taught her? What are the cultural forces impacting the kids in my youth group?

These are just a few of the questions that Dr. Walt Mueller hears from parents, teachers and youth workers all over the country. A sociology graduate of Geneva College, he is the founder and president of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding (CPYU), a non-profit organization committed to building strong families by bridging the cultural-generational gap between parents and teens.

Walt has always had an interest in youth ministry, but during his time as a student at Geneva College, that interest grew into a bigger vision for God's kingdom. Friends and mentors, such as former sociology professor Russell Heddendorf, played a key role in this process.


"He really helped me understand the integration of faith and life," Walt says. "It wasn't just a statement on the part of the school. It was real for him, and that was transformational for me."

Walt worked in student ministry with the Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO) after college and then went on to Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He became a youth minister at a church in Philadelphia, and that's when he began focusing on how to help parents understand the world that their teenagers are living in.

"I sat down with families and discussed the need to understand youth culture," he says. "I was able to go back to my time at Geneva — to my anthropology and sociology classes — and help them to practically unpack their function as cross-cultural missionaries in the lives of their kids."

Over the last 20 years, CPYU has developed an international reputation as a source of cutting-edge information, resources and analysis on today's youth culture. In addition to maintaining his blog and other CPYU publications, Walt has written eight books, writes for periodicals, conducts youth worker training seminars, and works with teachers and parents.

"We have a distinct and clear call to help parents, youth workers and mentors understand the rapidly changing world of kids; teaching churches, schools, government and the culture at large how to interact, and to teach Christ's followers how to be salt and light in this culture," he says.

Visit the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding at www.CPYU.org. 



BY ABBY JACKSON



To Protect and Serve

A Christ-centered college education isn't just for young students, fresh from high school. It's also for working adults already engaged in service. As they serve in their jobs and communities, Geneva's Adult Degree Completion Program (ADCP) helps them build on past experience and find deeper success and fulfillment in their calling.

Charles "Mick" Jones had joined the Air Force Reserves at a young age and developed an interest in police work when he was assigned to a security police squadron. Upon leaving the reserves, Mick took a position as a deputy at a local sheriff's department and began working on his associate degree in police technology.


He knew he wanted to complete his bachelor's degree, but before he knew it, he had 15 years of police work under his belt and had been a police captain for seven years in the city of Beaver Falls. It was at this time that he took a fresh look at his goal of finishing the degree that he had put on hold for so long.

Mick's familiarity and close proximity to Geneva College made the ADCP an attractive option. But Geneva offered something that meant more to Mick than a bachelor's degree.

"I chose Geneva College for its commitment to train and educate servant-leaders," he says, and it's a role he believes is vital to every aspect of his work as a police officer.

After completing his bachelor's in organizational leadership, Mick was promoted to the Chief of Police for the City of Beaver Falls. He is now back at Geneva, earning his master of science in organizational leadership.

"Geneva College has without question prepared me for the challenges I face as a chief of police," he says. "My degree in organizational development and my current studies in the MSOL program have been a blessing to me for implementing planned change and molding our agency into one of the most efficient and professional police departments in the area."

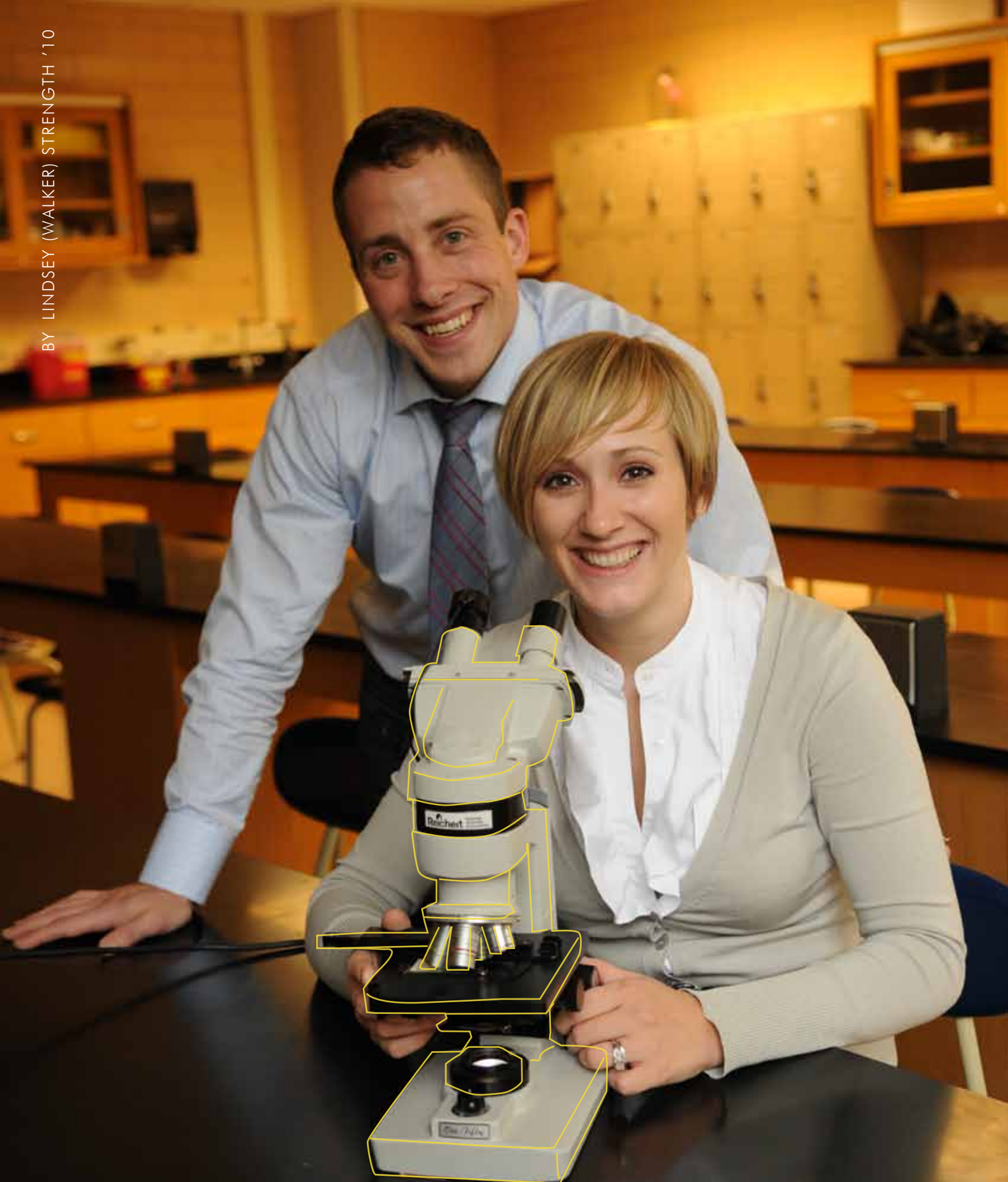
But Mick believes the greatest lesson Geneva has taught him is not to keep what he learns to himself. "It's all designed to share with my community and fellow man," he says. 

NT, CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH UNDERSTANDING, CHARLES "MICK" JONES MAJOR ORGANIZATIONAL LEADER-



SHIP, ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM CLASS YEAR 2007 CURRENT VOCATION CHIEF OF POLICE, BEAVER FALLS, PENNSYLVANIA





Witnesses to the World of Science

When Bryan '05 and Kate (Trueblood '06) Doreian were students at Geneva College, professors knew they were different.

"Brian and Kate have exemplified many of the ideals we would hope for in all of our graduates," says Dr. David Essig, professor of biology. "Early in their academic experience at Geneva, it was clear that they took their educational opportunities seriously and with great enthusiasm and gusto. It was truly synergistic when they began to join forces so to speak."

The Doreians are now continuing their academic careers at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. The past two years have opened their eyes to the challenges Christians face in the world of science.


Kate, who is studying and conducting research in the cellular and molecular physiology department says, "Science has been elevated to religious status, and it's a really hostile environment for people of true faith. They try to get you to divorce your faith from your work and that's not something we can do. I'm really grateful for Geneva because they saved my life in that regard."

Bryan graduated from Case in June 2009 with a Ph.D. in molecular biophysics, and he says that his professors from Geneva still influence him today.

"They're concerned not just about the grades and the education, but also the spiritual, physical and emotional well-being of the students," he says. "Without Christ there isn't true joy and love — something that is very evident when you leave Geneva and that learning environment."

During their time at Case, Bryan and Kate have become more and more conscious of how faith shapes every area of their lives.

"I think if Geneva taught me anything it's that we have to get Christians out into these different fields, especially in politics and science," Kate says. "We can't stray away from science because it has a tendency toward evil. We've got to get out there and we have to make a difference. Geneva helped me realize that you can serve God in the small things or the big things. I hope that my education at Case will give me the knowledge base to gain respect from the world. The world doesn't respect that you're a Christian; the world respects that you have a Ph.D. If I can open my mouth and profess Christ with a Ph.D. maybe they'll listen."

Bryan and Kate Doreian are not completely sure where they are headed next, but they are confident that God will lead them there when the time is right. 

"WE HAVE TO
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Dan '07 and Natalie (Weir '05) Faris

A normal day for Heather Huizing '97 starts at 7 a.m. when she wakes up to make oatmeal and tea on her multi-fuel blowtorch stove. After sweeping up debris that has fallen from her thatched roof during the night, she rides her bike to the market. She buys bread from a baker in a grass-walled shop, and on her way home, she stops to eat lunch with fellow Cush 4 Christ missionaries Dan '07 and Natalie (Weir '05) Faris and their one-year-old son, Samuel. She does some work for the ministry and weeds a local family's yard in the afternoon. After dinner, the rest of the team comes to her hut for a meeting, and then she falls asleep beneath a mosquito net.

Heather and the Farises live in Aweil, southern Sudan with Cush 4 Christ, a mission of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America (RPCNA). Aweil is close to southern Darfur, and although it's a distance from the publicized conflict, each day brings a measure of danger and uncertainty. But with faith comes confidence, and they know God has them exactly where He wants them to be.

Heather has always been interested in mission work, and at Geneva College she majored in sociology and Christian ministries. After graduation she took a job at William Carey International University (WCIU) and the U.S. Center for World missions. Then she met Cush 4 Christ missionaries Vince and Julie Ward. As Heather learned about the work they were doing in Sudan, she realized that this was where God was calling her to serve.

"I don't think there is a formula for hearing God's call," she says. "I believe we must prepare our hearts to hear from God by being in His Word and in prayer daily. And when we have things on our hearts that we are passionate about,


Give Abundantly.

we should seek to learn more about those things and pray fervently for them."

Like Heather, fellow Geneva grads Dan and Natalie Faris had always considered long-term ministry abroad, but they just weren't sure when and how it would happen.

"Before we were married we had agreed that we were interested in possibly serving overseas someday, if God would so lead," Natalie says. "We had been receiving e-mail updates from a small team beginning church-planting work in Sudan, and we were fascinated."

In January 2007, they spent a three-month stint in Sudan while considering long-term commitment. But following God's call to the Sudan meant leaving their home, families and countless everyday securities. What would they do for decent health care? How would this affect their young son? The questions seemed endless, but God made it clear that if they were willing to follow Him, He would provide. Less than a year later, only seven weeks after Samuel was born, they made the move.

"We believe very strongly that God will not lead us where his grace cannot keep us," Natalie says. "When we made our first visit to Sudan, Daniel said it would take a lot of grace to live here. During that same trip God impressed upon me the truth of II Corinthians 9:10-11 — that God gives abundant grace for us who give of ourselves abundantly." 



Heather Huizing '97

“WE BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY

HEATHER HUIZING MAJOR SOCIOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES CLASS YEAR 1997 CURRENT OCCUPATION MISSIONARY IN SUDAN WITH CUSH 4 CHRIST

THAT GOD WILL NOT LEAD

DAN FARIS MAJOR HISTORY CLASS YEAR 2007 ACTIVITIES

US WHERE HIS

GENEVANS CHOIR CURRENT OCCUPATION MISSIONARY IN SUDAN WITH CUSH 4 CHRIST NATALIE WEIR FARIS MAJOR LINGUISTICS (INDEPENDENT) CLASS YEAR 2005

CANNOT KEEP US...

GOD GIVES ABUNDANT

CHOIR, INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ORGANIZATION CURRENT OCCUPATION MISSIONARY IN SUDAN WITH CUSH 4 CHRIST

GRACE FOR US WHO

SAMUEL FARIS AGE 1 CLASS YEAR TO BE DETERMINED

GIVE OF OURSELVES

ABUNDANTLY.”





On Solid Ground

"When people think airline pilot, they think prestigious, they think classy, they think *Catch Me if You Can*. That's not true," says 2007 Geneva College graduate Andy Brown.

A first officer with U.S. Airways Express, Andy often has to get up around 3:15 a.m., board the plane by 4:15, and spend the night in a hotel or pilots' lounge. But despite the long hours and grueling schedule, he wouldn't have chosen any other profession for this stage in his life.

"This job has given me the opportunity to see some incredible places. I've been to Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Belgium, Hawaii, and I took a month off to sail in the Philippines," he says. "I've also gotten the chance to visit a lot of Geneva grads studying or working overseas. That's been a ministry in itself, just being able to see people who may not have had a visitor from home in over a year."

Through Geneva College's partnership with the Community College of Beaver County, Andy was able to earn a bachelor's in history with an associate degree in aviation. This unique combination makes him a rarity in the piloting world.

"A lot of guys go into flight school and get their bachelor's in aviation or flight science, so they're limited in what they can do," he says. "It's nice to have some diversification. If I ever lose my job or decide to follow a different career path, a history degree will help me."


But his Geneva education didn't just give Andy a wider range of career choices. It gave him a richer understanding of life and his unique calling in a broken — yet redeemed — world.

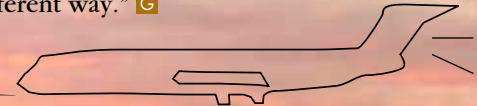
"In flight school, you take what you learn that day straight to the field and use it in the airplane. But Geneva really gave me the big picture," he says. "What I learned from Geneva was to view the gospel as more than just words on a tract, but as a way of life and as the path to restoring God's kingdom."

The flight program at CCBC taught Andy how to fly an airplane, but Geneva taught him how to live with a kingdom vision. While he uses only a small percentage of what he learned at Geneva in the cockpit, the rest goes into action when he's talking to his captain, discussing life with a cab driver, and interacting with the wide range of people he meets in and out of airports every day.

"In college, we used to talk all the time about 'when I get out in the real world,' and now that I'm out there, I love it. I feel like it matters, that the message is important. It's dirty and gritty and there's a lot of messiness. Geneva taught us that it's crucial to have our feet planted in the Word, but to be venturing out on a daily basis again and again into the world."

And with each day that Andy ventures out into the world, his appreciation for it grows. He's even learned to value his pre-dawn wake-up call.

"We always get to see the sun rise," he says. "I remember having this conversation with a professor at Geneva: We are in a three-way relationship between creation and our God. When I look at the sunrise and see the utter beauty and awesomeness of it, I can see God and understand His love for me and for this world in a different way." 



ANDREW BROWN MAJOR B.A. IN HISTORY; A.A.S. IN AVIATION CLASS YEAR 2007 CURRENT OCCUPATION FIRST OFFICER WITH U.S. AIRWAYS EXPRESS



Faith in Practice

BY JENNY (BOWER '05) PICHURA

Dr. Jim Gardner doesn't believe in compartmentalizing. "There are three levels to our composition — mind, body and spirit," he says, "and it's only when those things are in unison together that we will feel complete. That's my job — to unify those three areas."

This is Jim's personal mission, and it's also the mission of his private practice in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. At Family Medical Care of Lawrence County, each patient is treated as a whole person, made in the image of God.

As Jim was growing up, his family gave him a solid foundation in faith and encouraged him to pursue a Christian college education. He now believes that surrounding himself with fellow believers during one of the most formative times of his life was the best decision he could have made.


"It was a process of growing closer to the Lord and becoming continually sanctified but never satisfied with being the same person I was a year ago," he says.

Jim went on to Jefferson Medical School, where he learned to appreciate the solid foundation he'd built at Geneva. "I had to be very clear in my faith in a place where everyone else was clearly opposed to it, but that gave me the courage to stand up for my beliefs," he says.

He recalls one class in particular that automatically set him apart for his beliefs. "There were over 230 people in a lecture, and the professor would go up on stage to tell us how to counsel patients on social issues. One day the issue was abortion, and the professor decided we were going to do an exercise. He asked everyone who was pro-life to raise their hand. I was the only one."

Differing from the long line of surgeons in his family, Jim chose to specialize in family medicine. He also decided to complete his residency with In His IMAGE (International Medicine And Graduate Education), a top-ranking institution with one of only two Christian residency programs in the country.

Today, Jim's practice covers the whole spectrum of care, from the beginning of life to death. And along with the medication he prescribes for physical healing, he prays with his patients and directs them to God's Word as their only source of true hope.

But just as God alone can heal their physical bodies, Jim knows only God can heal his patients' hearts. "It's not our job to convert people but to be the light in the darkness," he says. "The Holy Spirit does the conversion." 



CURRENT VOCATION FAMILY PRACTICE M.D.



Don't Mess With Grace

BY G. BARRY DAVIS '75

Barry Davis '75 with his daughter, Lacy, who is now a sophomore political science major at Geneva.

John Montini was a graduate of the Geneva College class of 1936, and in the fall of 1970 he was the man in the admissions office who held my fate in his hands.

I was a less-than-motivated student in my high school days, and as Mr. Montini looked at the disheartening transcript that was my academic past and scanned the letters that were written in my behalf, he saw something.

"Mr. Davis," he said, looking over the rims of his glasses. "Everything in your records indicates that college and you shall never mix. In fact, everything in these records suggests that Geneva would be taking your money from you."

So, that was it, I thought. But then he looked back at the papers in his hands, turned his chair away from me and bowed his head. There was silence in the room, which seemed to last an eternity. Finally, he turned back to me, stood up and walked around the desk.

"Mr. Davis, common sense tells me to reject you as a student at Geneva, but something — something in those letters, has touched my heart, and I am going to give you a chance."

He extended his hand and a smile crossed his face. "Welcome to Geneva College, Mr. Davis. This is the easy part of your journey. What you take from this place, you must first be willing to put in here."

Thanking him with stunned disbelief, I turned to go before he changed his mind. But, before I could make clean my

escape, he called out, "Mr. Davis! Grace has given you a chance to become something you could never have imagined. Mr. Davis, please don't mess with grace."

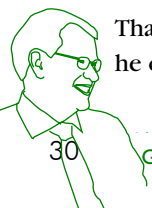
During my time at Geneva, Mr. Montini became a mentor and friend, listening to my concerns, and making sure that I was not wasting the opportunity that I had been given. On commencement day, Mr. Montini searched me out from among the line of giddy near-graduates. Stopping in front of me, he folded his arms and peered over his glasses.

"Mr. Davis," he said, "you made it, so I see. Remember that you have received grace upon grace in your life, and an agent of grace you must be from now on."

He offered his hand for what would be the last time, and a smile spread over his face. "God works in mysterious ways, Mr. Davis. No one would ever have bet the farm that you would be here four years ago. But, sometimes, God can see what no man can. Remember that, Mr. Davis. Remember that."

A few years ago, I wrote an e-mail to Ginny Caldwell, then director of alumni relations, and told her of my wish to honor a few of my former professors, as well as Mr. Montini. It began as a short note, but something moved me to share with this person how much Mr. Montini had meant to me and to my family. This was her reply:

"Your letter concerning Mr. John Montini brought tears to my eyes, and I had to write you and let you know how



“MR. DAVIS! GRACE HAS GIVEN YOU A CHANCE TO BECOME SOMETHING YOU COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED.”

pleased he would be to know how highly you thought of him and what a blessing he had been to you. I am his daughter, Ginny.”


I had no idea that Ginny Caldwell was Virginia Montini '68, and with that simple letter, I felt that I had reconnected with Mr. Montini.

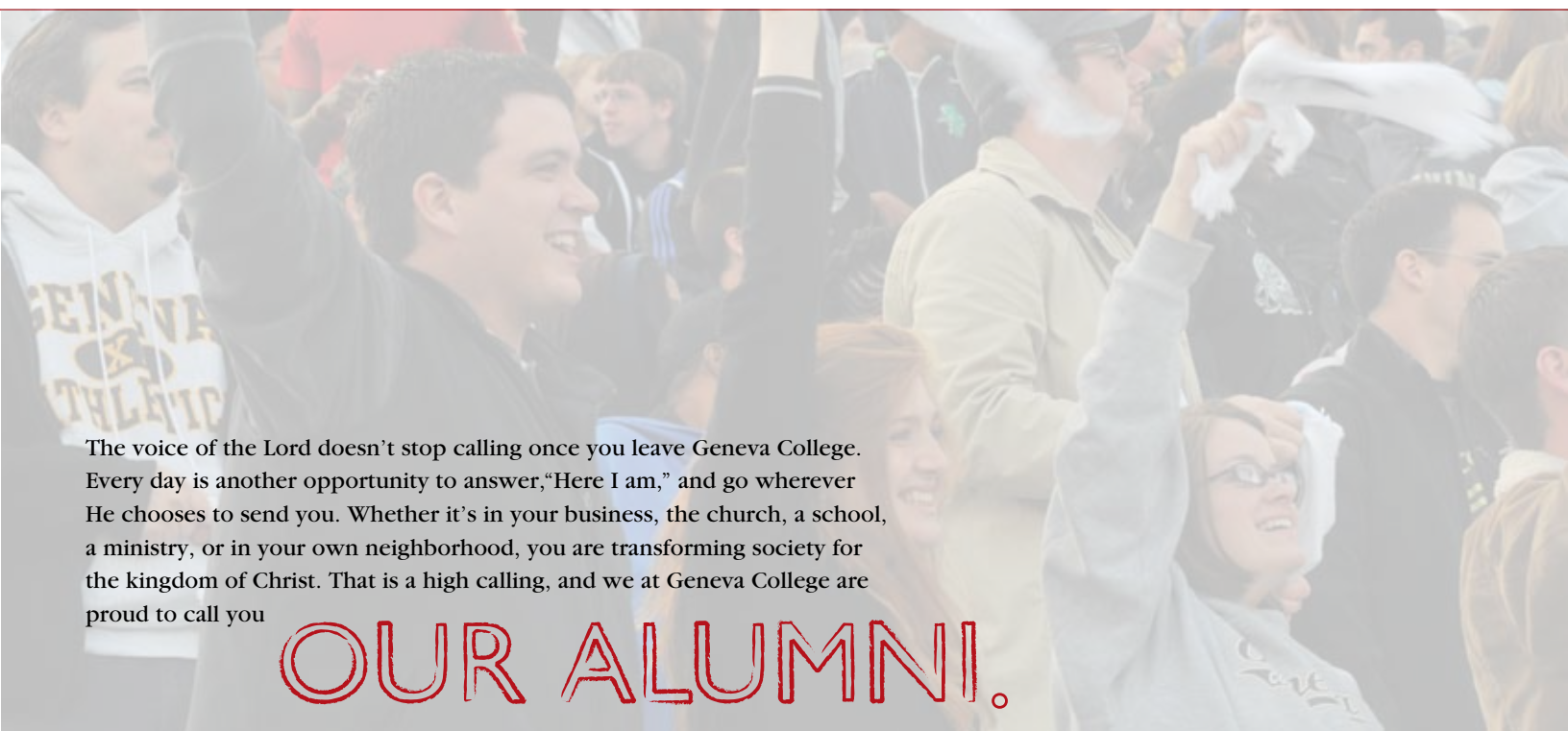
Since then, my own and my family's faith has been tested and strengthened through our long journey with my wife — the pain of her pancreatic cancer and her subsequent death. During that dark night of the soul, Geneva College ministered to us. There were weekly e-mails from people I had never met, telling me that they were praying for Gloria, Lacy and myself. Cards came regularly, along with gifts, and with each card, each gift and phone call, a grace enfolded us that made my entire family realize what a blessing Geneva was to us.

With Gloria's death, Geneva's ministry of grace did not end. Family and friends were amazed that Geneva had taken such an interest in the affairs of a long-graduated alumnus, but in my heart, I was not. The spirit that gave Mr. Montini the

power to be an agent of grace to me so many years ago is still at work in the faculty and staff of the college today.

After life had returned to a sort of new normalcy, Lacy and I drove to the campus to thank all the people who had ministered to us. We met so many people that day and felt so much love washing over us that both Lacy and I could not drive home, but sat in the car talking. It was then that my daughter looked at me and said, “You know, Dad, this is a special place. The people are so loving, so caring. Kind of like, well, I don't know — it's a place that I'd like to go to school.”

Now Lacy is walking those paths that I trod some 30 years ago. The Montinis still have an active interest in the Davis family, as Ginny (Montini) Caldwell has taken on a mentoring role with Lacy, sending her cards and watching over her as her father did for me so long ago. But it is the unchanging grace of this place — the welcoming atmosphere, the nurturing attitude and quiet faith — that has made Geneva the starting point for my walk of faith and for my daughter's as well. 



The voice of the Lord doesn't stop calling once you leave Geneva College. Every day is another opportunity to answer, “Here I am,” and go wherever He chooses to send you. Whether it's in your business, the church, a school, a ministry, or in your own neighborhood, you are transforming society for the kingdom of Christ. That is a high calling, and we at Geneva College are proud to call you

OUR ALUMNI.

Who Says You Can't Go Home Again

BY VAN ZANIC '93

Jim Pietro simply could not stop smiling. The 1950 Geneva College graduate had returned to his roots and the excitement was written all over his face. He returned to the new Reeves Field with over 20 friends and family to enjoy an evening of reminiscence and football. He returned to a place he had called home and that had always made him feel like a kid in a candy store. The memories came rushing back and all the now 82-year-old Pietro could muster was one big smile that lasted all night long.

Pietro was born in 1927, just two years after Reeves Field was built. He lived directly across the street from the stadium and lived with dreams of one day wearing the Geneva College colors and representing what were then called the Covies.

During his childhood, Pietro would go to just about any lengths to find his way into a Geneva football game. He finally found his niche in the eighth grade when he struck a deal with the coaching staff to allow him to tote the Geneva football helmets to and from the locker room. How much money did he get for such a daunting task?

"All I wanted was to watch Geneva play," says Pietro. "For me the greatest reward was to get a chance to watch the game."

In 1946, Jim Pietro fulfilled his life-long dream. It was the first of his four seasons playing football for Geneva College. He played for head coaches A.C. "Slim" Ransom and Walt West. Pietro credits those gentlemen with helping to make him a better player and a better person.

"I have nothing but great memories of my coaches and teammates," he says. "It was the camaraderie of those

men that I remember the most. They would do anything to help you in football and in life."

Like many of his teammates, Pietro fought in WWII as a member of the United States Navy. After a two-year term, he returned to Beaver Falls and began his college career.

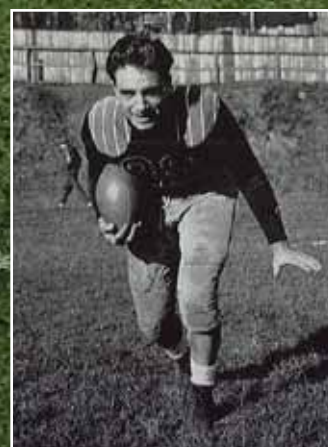
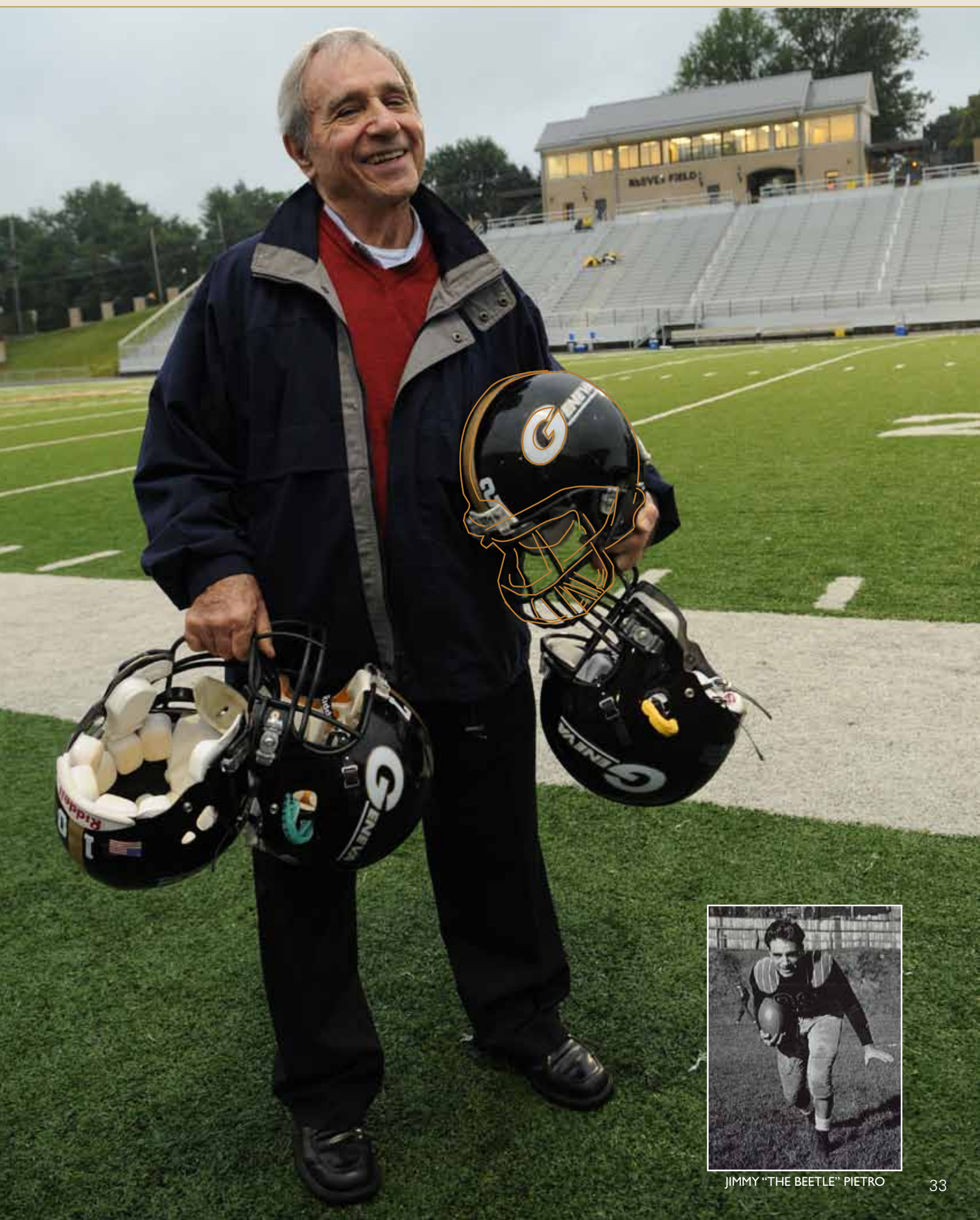
"Reeves Field should be renamed Veterans Field," says current head coach Geno DeMarco. "Jim is one of so many men that fought for our country and then returned to college. It was an amazing era at Geneva and these guys exemplify everything that is good about Geneva and about our country."

Upon returning to watch the Golden Tornadoes in late September, Pietro and his family were amazed at the renovations to the stadium and to the Geneva campus. "It is like a different place," said Pietro. "These stadium steps would have been a whole lot easier to run than the ones I ran back in the late 1940s."

Pietro spent the summer of 1947 running the long stadium steps of Reeves Field in preparation of the upcoming football season. His work paid off as Geneva turned in a 7-2 record that season. In fact, Pietro enjoyed one of the finest careers in school history. The Golden Tornadoes honored their top 100 players of all-time a few years ago, and Jim Pietro was on that list.

Every day there are prospective student-athletes visiting Geneva College and trying to make a decision on which school to attend. If those students would have seen the smile on Jim Pietro's face and the pride that he showed for Geneva, the choice would be an easy one.





JIMMY "THE BEETLE" PIETRO

Coach Ron Galbreath calls it a career

BY VAN ZANIC '93



When you have been doing something that you love for nearly 45 years, it is not easy to give it up. Ron Galbreath has been doing just that on a basketball sideline as one of the most legendary college coaches in the country.

While recovering from a stroke in the spring of 2008, Galbreath took the 2008-09 season away from the game that he loves so much. Then, after much consideration with family and friends, Galbreath made the difficult decision to step down from coaching permanently.

"I simply love the game of basketball," he says. "It has always been about helping people improve and helping the teams that I have coached get better throughout the year. I just don't feel comfortable enough that I can physically handle the demands that a basketball season will bring."

Inducted into the Western Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 1993, Galbreath has certainly left an indelible mark on this region's basketball history. He began his head coaching career at Westminster College in 1968 and then moved on to Clarion University for the next five years. It was after that stint that the legendary coach went back to New Wilmington to continue a career that posted an overall record of 634-192.

Galbreath spent 25 seasons at Westminster College coaching its men's team to six regular season district titles and three trips to the NAIA Division I National Tournament. He was hired at Geneva College prior to the 2002 school year. In his first six seasons with the Golden Tornadoes women's program, Galbreath recorded a 111-48 overall record and took Geneva to its only NAIA national tournament appearance in school history.

"I am so grateful and appreciative for the opportunity that Geneva College gave me to continue my passion of coaching. It has been truly a blessing to have this opportunity and to be able to work with such great people. I couldn't think of a better place for my coaching career to come to an end."

“I COULDN'T THINK OF A BETTER PLACE FOR MY COACHING CAREER TO COME TO AN END.”

“This has been a very difficult decision for Ron in that he has been coaching at the college level for nearly 45 years,” says Athletic Director Kim Gall. “We are so thankful and appreciative for his faithful service to Geneva College and especially the women’s basketball program.”

Geneva’s women’s program will move forward with a bit of Coach Galbreath still intact. One of his former players and three-year assistant Renee (Freeman ’04) Drake has accepted the position of interim head coach for one season. Drake played her senior season under Galbreath and continued with the program as Galbreath’s assistant from 2004-06.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for me,” Drake says. “I love Geneva College and am very much looking forward to getting back into college coaching. Coach Galbreath made a huge impression on me as a coach and player, and it is an honor to be following in his footsteps.”

As for Galbreath, you can be sure that he will be hanging around Metheny Fieldhouse throughout the winter months as basketball season kicks into full gear. “I will always be a coach,” says Galbreath. “I love the game of basketball and will continue to support Geneva College and our Golden Tornadoes.”





in conclusion

A Friend and Teammate

BY HEAD SOFTBALL COACH VAN ZANIC '93

Jessica (Vojnovich '06) DeMarco (1984 – 2009)

As a coach of the Geneva College softball team, it is always my first priority to help prospective student-athletes understand the importance of getting a solid education before ever worrying about the potential of playing softball at the college level.

Although Jessica Vojnovich DeMarco graduated from Geneva in 2006, she is still the first person that I mention during a tour of Geneva's campus with future softball players. What made Jess so special in my eyes and the eyes of the many teammates that she touched during her career? The answer is quite simple. She was one of the hardest workers and most genuine people I had ever met. Whether it was on the field or in the classroom, Jess simply did things the right way.

Jess would spend hours in Geneva's Science & Engineering Building, which is par for the course with any engineering student at Geneva College. Despite all the hours in the classroom and in the lab, she would always have time for her friends and for our softball program. She was a leader by example and had the ability to make her teammates understand what was most important in life.

On the softball field, Jess was one of the most unselfish players I have ever coached. As a four-year starter, she played four different positions during her Geneva career. She was a freshman

starter on our 2003 team that won 42 games and a conference championship. Never saying a negative word, she simply went about her business the same way she did everything else in her life.

I received more phone calls and messages in the days following Jessica's death than I can even count, each sharing thoughts and memories of a friend and teammate. It is hard to describe the meaning of team and all the life-long relationships that are built over a short four-year period of time on a college campus. We have nothing but fond memories of Jess and her time at Geneva and with our softball program. She was loved by more people than even she could have ever imagined.

We continue to pray for the Vojnovich family in their tragic loss, and we certainly continue to lift up the DeMarco family, as well. Jess' husband, Dan, was also a student-athlete at Geneva College as a four-year starter on the Golden Tornadoes' baseball team. Much like Jess, Dan has left an indelible mark on his friends and teammates, and we are prayerful that he will make a full recovery.

We will miss you, Jess, and just want to say thank you for all you meant to all of us. We are eternally grateful for you, and each of us is a better person for having had you in our lives.

Jessica graduated from Geneva in 2006 with degrees in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering. On October 24, 2009, she was tragically killed in a two-car accident. She is survived by her husband, Dan DeMarco '07.





on the web

The Geneva College website underwent a complete redesign this summer, making the website more interactive, attractive and user-friendly. New and updated features include:

Athletics headlines

The new athletics homepage includes the latest headlines and photos, scores, upcoming games, athletes of the week and highlights. Highlight videos and events information for individual sports can also be viewed.

Campus video map

Geneva's interactive campus map provides virtual tours of the different areas of campus, and student hosts share information about faith, student life, academics and more.

Publications

Reading *Geneva Magazine* online has never been better. Powered by Issuu, this realistic new format allows readers to turn each page with the click of a mouse.

Student profiles

Read the stories of students whose lives are changing at Geneva College right now.

News

Geneva's homepage is constantly updated with the latest campus news and events.

Geneva Alumni Place (GAP)

The GAP is a new online community allowing Geneva College alumni to connect with the college and each other. Alumni can post news and updates, register for events, network and more.

@Geneva

@Geneva is a monthly online newsletter that goes to all alumni, faculty, staff and friends. Each issue includes a feature story on a different area of the college community, as well as links to news, campus departments and more. Now, the parents of current students also receive an e-newsletter called *Parents@Geneva*, published monthly by the Office of Parent and Church Relations.

The Geneva Fund

Meeting needs behind the scenes.

"I am very grateful that the laundry is free on campus. As a college student, I am not the richest person, so that's one less thing I have to budget for and worry about."
Sarah Beckhusen '11

At Geneva College, the cost of tuition is not intended to cover all academic, residential and operational expenses. That's why the Geneva Fund is so important. From free laundry to financial aid dollars, the Geneva Fund bridges the gap between tuition and the everyday needs of our students. And the flexibility of these unrestricted gifts allows the Geneva Fund to meet these needs as they arise.

For more information or to give a gift today, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 724.847.6514 or visit www.geneva.edu/geneva_fund.





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Students referred to Geneva College by alumni or pastors will receive a college-funded grant upon enrollment. Refer high school students through the Gold & White Connections program and adult degree completion students through the Pay It Forward referral program.

For more information, or to complete a referral form, call the Office of Admissions at 800.847.8255 or visit www.geneva.edu.

