



The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

May 2003



Editor's Note: On Tuesday, April 8, Dan Pugh and Jim Seneff were elected by the Board of Governors as co-chairmen of the Board. We recently had the opportunity to sit down with Dan to talk about the vision he and Jim have for Geneva.

Courier: Dan, first let me congratulate you on your new role as co-chairman of the Board.

Dan: Thank you very much. Although Jim and I realize we have our work cut out for us, we're looking forward to the challenge.

Courier: You both will be serving as 'co-chairmen.' That's a new designation, is it not? How did that come about?

Dan: Well, when Bob Ingram suggested that he step down as chairman, it became clear that it would take two of us to do the job that he had done! Jim had joined the Board in March, and the more the Board thought about it, it seemed that there would be a nice blending of talents and expertise if we were to take on the chairmanship together.

Graduation Celebrations

Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 18

2 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Winter Park.

Graduation Ceremony

Friday, May 23.

2 p.m. at Northland Community Church.
All Geneva Students will be in attendance at the graduation ceremony.

We welcome all parents of present and future students to this truly memorable occasion.

Nota Bene

- May 2:** Sports Banquet. 6 p.m. - 1st Pres., Maitland
- May 18:** Bachelaurate Service. 2 p.m. at All Saints' Episcople Church, Winter Park.
- May 20:** 7 - 12 grade finish at noon.
- May 21:** Exams for 7 - 12 grade. Finish at noon
- May 22:** Exams in morning for 7 - 12 grade
Graduation rehearsal (4 - 12 grade) 1 - 3 p.m.
- May 23:** Graduation Ceremony. 2 p.m. - Northland.
Students dismissed after graduation.

Announcements

Moms in Touch: Moms from both campuses meet every Monday at 8:30 a.m. for an hour to pray for The Geneva School - students, parents, teachers, staff and board. Come as you are and join us in the Library at the Grammar School campus.

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Courier: Could you talk a little bit about Bob and what his leadership has meant to the School?

Dan: There is honestly not enough time nor room in your article to adequately answer that question. Bob was a founding board member, and for the last eight years he has served as its chairman. During those eight years there have been enormous challenges facing Geneva that at times have even threatened its existence, and yet, through it all Bob has remained steadfast in his commitment to the original vision of the School. What is even more amazing to me is the manner in which he has exercised his leadership. He has a unique gift for being determined yet compassionate, uncompromising yet gracious. The man has a heart that is uncommonly large and which beats steadfastly for Geneva. I consider it a great blessing to have served under him. I'm also thrilled that he is going to remain on the Board. This will mean that the School will continue to benefit from his great leadership.

Courier: Do you and Jim have a new vision for Geneva?

Dan: Well, yes and no. In one sense, the vision has not changed in the slightest. We are as committed as ever to producing 'virtuous scholars' - students whose academic understanding is broad and deep and whose hearts are fully committed to Christ. We believe the classical model is the most effective means for achieving that goal. And we are unflinching in our determination to sustain the educational and theological commitments on which the School was founded. At the same time, we see that Geneva is now positioned to move to the next level-to be the School we have dreamed of having.

Courier: What does that school look like?

Dan: It is a school that is certainly bigger. And bigger means that we are able to offer this incredible type of education to more and more students. With more students, academic, social, and sports programs are more numerous and greatly enhanced. Exceptional teachers are easier to recruit. And the School becomes more visible in the community and region, allowing us to be a model for other Christian classical schools to emulate.

Courier: A city set on a hill?

Dan: Exactly. That idea - being a model school - has always been a part of our vision, but we are now in a position to make it happen.

Courier: What's different now?

Dan: At some point in an organization's life, a critical mass is reached and you begin to see momentum. I

think Geneva is at that point. We have been building momentum for awhile, but it has now reached a level where it's easier to recognize and easier to perpetuate. Jim and I believe that the School is poised for exponential growth-not just in size but, more importantly, in quality. There are resources and expertise that are coming to bear from a number of sources which Geneva has never before enjoyed. Jim and I want to help the School be better prepared for the growth that, Lord willing, is sure to follow.

Courier: How do you do that? What areas will you focus on?

Dan: We want to get ahead of the curve, so long-range planning will be a critical issue. We'd like to develop five-, ten-, and twenty-year plans, particularly in the areas of human resources, curriculum/education, and finance. Additionally, we want to focus over the next twelve months on board governance, redefining board and administrative roles. Jim and I have also talked about attracting people to the board in an advisory capacity who are what I'd call 'luminaries,' people who have name recognition and, more importantly, who have gifts and expertise that could significantly help advance Geneva and give it more visibility. Fundamental to all these ideas is the recognition that we need to find great people to help further develop the vision. Both Jim and I have seen in our own businesses the paramount importance of getting the right people in the right positions.

Courier: Certainly getting the right person for the headmaster position is key. Wouldn't you agree?

Dan: Absolutely. It's why we are allocating so much time, energy, and money to the headmaster search. That position is critical, and we are confident that the right person for the job does indeed exist.

Courier: How is the search coming?

Dan: Well, we've interviewed two highly qualified candidates already and have three more in the pipeline. We would love to have the position filled by this summer, which I believe is very possible, but again, getting the right person is the crucial issue, not simply filling the position.

Courier: Dan, we appreciate your willingness and that of Jim Seneff to serve the School in this way, as co-chairmen of the Board. You both seem to be the 'right person' for the job, and we look forward to great things ahead.

Dan: Thanks so much. It's an exciting time for Geneva and I'm thrilled to be a part of it.



**After
Darkness
Light**



***THE AUCTION MET IT'S GOAL
OF \$50,000!***



**Friday,
April 5,
2003**



**Next
Year in
our own
Gym!**



WE ARE ON THE MOVE!

Well, the time we've been waiting for is almost here! Inventories are being taken, movers are giving estimates, plans are being drafted. Excitement is building as we prepare to pack up for the long-anticipated relocation to 2025 Semoran Boulevard, Winter Park.



Relocation Committee co-chair Harry Santamaria's current agenda includes assembling moving estimates and making recommendations to the Board on which means and methods to use. He is also sharpening his pencil and coming up with the budget for this endeavor (also of great interest to the Board!) Joining Harry in this monumental venture is Laura Grace Alexander, Julie Tressler, Leann Steers, and co-chair Norma Ailes. This valiant planning team is hard at work on all the

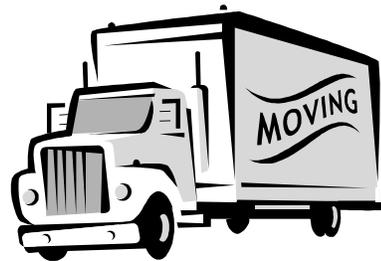
details - nailing down dates, drafting packing guidelines, and crafting pack-and-move strategies.

Once school finishes on Friday, May 23, we have until the end of May to get everything at Northland and 410 Ridge Road packed up. To enable more parents to help, Leann Steers has taken on the task of enrolling some of our older students to provide activities and childcare on the days we will be packing and unpacking. Julie Tressler is seeking a suitable and affordable off-site location for childcare and has also agreed to fill the many man-



power slots for this campaign. She will also keep communications flowing smoothly both inside TGS and outside to parents. Julie's husband, Rick, is giving input on refurbishment of fixtures and furnishings. Laura Grace Alexander is in charge of obtaining, storing, and setting up boxes and packing materials prior to packing days.

Harry Santamaria gave a preliminary briefing to the GPA class representatives at the April GPA meeting and asked that they help locate a class parent to be the relocation representative. These reps will be working with the teachers and parents in each class to make sure everything gets packed and unpacked.



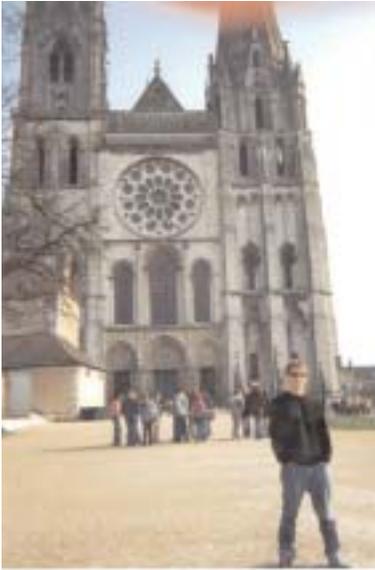
The task of moving The Geneva School from two campuses to one - one of which we have lived in for nine years - is no small job. We will need the help of many people. We also would appreciate donations of packing materials, blankets, and other moving needs. If you can help in any way please tell Sara Ingram or Laurie Cardona - they will be happy to give you more details. You can also contact Julie Tressler directly.

As you can see, the Relocation Committee is buzzing with plans and preparations, working hard to ensure that all goes smoothly every step of the way.

Stay tuned!



Vive La France!



Despite the war with Iraq, Geneva's trip to France went extremely well. From Charles-de-Gaulle airport, 10 slightly jet-lagged students, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. King, took a bus to their hotel. After finding their rooms and freshening up, they ventured onto the Paris metro and traveled to the ornate opera house. From there they walked to the Louvre to wander the halls of Renaissance art. Among the vast numbers of displays at the Louvre, one student noticed that a particularly enormous painting looked strangely familiar, and so discovered the original work of art that decorates the cover of the *Western Civilization* history books! The day was wrapped up with a dinner of flams, a thin pastry with all kinds of toppings - ham and pineapple, right down through dessert flams ornamented with banana and chocolate or apple and cinnamon. In such a way did the first typically busy day of the trip run.

Other sightseeing ventures revealed the wonders of the gothic architecture of Notre Dame and the cathedral at Chartres; the unending gardens and



halls of Versailles, as well as the Hall of Mirrors; the vastness of the chateau de Chambord; the uniqueness of Chenonceau as it spanned a river, and its history of many owners; Amboise and the chapel in which lay the relocated grave of Leonardo da Vinci; a view of the house of the Renaissance man, from afar; a favorite café of Hemingway; La Basilique de Sacré Couer; and the entrance to the 1889 World Fair, the Eiffel Tower, with its magnificent view of Paris. Another interesting place was Le Mont Saint-Michel, an abbey built upon a rocky island just off the north coast of Brittany, around which a picturesque (if still touristy) town has grown up. A day was spent at the ruined bunkers, pillboxes, uneven ground, and rusty barbed wire of Pointe du Hoc on the coast of Normandy, which stand as reminders of the struggle against the Nazis. Also visited that day was the flat, deserted Omaha Beach where Allied forces landed on D-Day, and a memorial of World War II showing a film with live footage and various other historical exhibits. The sightseeing ended with a nighttime cruise down the River Seine and another gorgeous view of the Eiffel tower, and then it was time to say farewell to the Oregon school group we had toured with, who had an early flight the next day, while lucky Geneva students got to 'sleep in' (or at least not get up at three a.m.)



So, overall, the trip went very well. A great deal is owed to Mr. and Mrs. King for being willing to continue the trip and chaperone us all through the crowded metro and fast-paced schedule of nonstop sightseeing; without them, this trip would not have been possible, and it certainly would not have been as enjoyable as it turned out to be.



Top Left: John in front of Chartres Cathedral.
Top Right: Todd, John and Clare looking over the gardens at Versailles.
Bottom Left: Brenna, Gingie, Stephanie and Rachel in front of the Eiffel Tower.
Bottom Right: Mr. King posing in front of the Palace of Versailles.

Geneva Parents Association

TO ENRICH THE LIFE OF THE GENEVA SCHOOL THROUGH PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

by Gordon Cloke - GPA President

It is hard to believe that another academic year at The Geneva School is rapidly drawing to a close. For my family, this will end our seventh year at the school, since Alex, our eldest, joined third grade in 1996. Between them, our four children have now benefited from a grand total of seventeen years of Geneva education. By the time our youngest child Moira, currently in Kindergarten, graduates in 2015, Lord willing, they will have racked up a mind-boggling total of forty-seven years! It really does not seem long since we first took that step of faith in trusting God to provide what we needed in order to send the first of our children to this school that had so captured our hearts and imagination. I know this is an experience that many of you may recognize!

This will also conclude my sixth year as President of the Geneva Parents Association, and at the April GPA meeting, a motion was received for me to continue in this role next year, there having been no other nominations. Though sometimes a challenge, it is always a joy to participate with you in this work, and I thank you for the confidence that so many of you have expressed that, for now, God wants Sarah and me to continue serving in this way. Which brings me to another, perhaps obvious point - that without my wife's irrepressible energy and passion for The Geneva School, I could not do any of this. Thank you, Sarah, for allowing me this great joy, and sharing with me in it.

Also at the April meeting, we heard in some detail about the plans for the new property and for the relocation. Board member Ms. Crosland Stuart summarized the events leading up to the school's recent purchase of the new property, and then presented, in some detail, the schematics for the layout of the building, including an artist's rendering of how the school will look when all the renovations are complete. Harry Santamaria spoke on behalf of the Relocation Committee and, following the meeting, the GPA

grade representatives started to work on coordinating some of the volunteer assistance that will be needed at the classroom level. There is a great deal of work ahead between now and the first day of school, but just think ahead to the day when we will be able to gather as a whole school and thank God for providing us a new home!

During May there are at least two events that I have come to regard as a highlight and climax of the whole school year. The first is the graduation ceremony, which will take place at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 23, in the Northland sanctuary. The program includes a number of awards and features that combine to make this a truly inspirational event, especially to those of us who dream of graduating their own Geneva scholars one day - or dream of doing so themselves! The other event is the Baccalaureate service on the preceding Sunday, May 18, at 2 p.m. in the chapel at All Saints Episcopal church, Winter Park. This is another wonderful event, which includes, within a service of worship and thanksgiving, a spiritual charge for the graduating class from an invited preacher with close connections to the school (pastors Mike Malone and Robert F. Ingram have delivered these charges on the two previous occasions). Taken together, these events provide a very fitting end to the school year, and to the graduates' time at Geneva, combining to provide a cohesive context of celebration and thanksgiving to God for what He has accomplished in the lives of the students in the past, as well as hope and encouragement for what He will bring in the future.

I very much look forward to seeing many of you there,

Gordon Cloke

President, Geneva Parents Association, 2002-2003