



The Courier

The Geneva School Parent Newsletter

Summer 2003



The Geneva School Graduates of 2003

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Skinner, Heather Wayne, Jeb Beates, Todd Bledsoe,
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Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 18, 2003

All Saints Episcopal Church, Winter Park

Pastor Russ Kapusinski gave the charge to the graduating class

Remember To Dance



What follows is the message Russ Kapusinski gave to the graduating class at the Baccalaureate Service:

As some of you might know, there was some delay in responding to the invitation to be the Baccalaureate speaker on this joyful day. Now, I want you to know that my slow response was not due to any lack of desire to speak, but rather to a standing rule I've imposed upon myself. The rule is: I will not eat or do anything that I cannot spell. Obviously, this Baccalaureate Service comes under the latter heading of things to do. So, after utilizing the flashcard system, I stand before you a changed man, one who now possesses the ability to spell baccalaureate, and respond positively to your request to deliver the message at the service of worship. (Oh, by the way, b-a-c-c-a-l-a-u-r-e-a-t-e)

The message that I'm bringing to you this afternoon from God's word is simply this: **REMEMBER TO DANCE!**

One of my top five movie scenes is from the opening scene in Peter Weir's movie, *Dead Poets Society*. In this movie, Robin Williams plays an eccentric literature teacher (aren't they all a little eccentric?), a Mr. Keating, at a prestigious all-boys school in the Northeast. The first scene opens with the boys waiting for Mr. Keating, filled with anticipation as to what the new year, and new teacher, might require of them. Suddenly, Mr. Keating emerges from an adjacent room, as the room comes to a muffled silence. He walks slowly to the door which exits into the main hallway, and walks through it. The boys are perplexed. Abruptly, Mr. Keating sticks his head back into the classroom and commands, "Well, c'mon!" He leads the boys to a wall in the hallway that is lined with class pictures dating back into the 1800s. School trophies of every description fill the cases and the shelves. Keating leads the students in, faces the class, and the following dialogue ensues:

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KEATING Mister... (Keating looks at his roll) Pitts. An unfortunate name. Stand up, Mister Pitts.

Pitts stands.

KEATING Open your text, Pitts, to page forty and read for us the first stanza of the poem.

Pitts looks through his book. He finds the poem.

PITTS To The Virgins to Make Much Of Time?

KEATING That's the one.

Giggles in the class. Pitts reads.

PITTS Gather ye rosebuds while ye may / Old time is still a flying / And this same flower that smiles today / Tomorrow will be dying

KEATING Gather ye rosebuds while ye may. The Latin term for that sentiment is "Carpe Diem." Anyone know what that means?

MEEKS Carpe Diem... seize the day.

KEATING Very good, Mr.....?

MEEKS Meeks.

KEATING Seize the day while you're young, see that you make use of your time. Why does the poet write these lines?

A STUDENT Because he's in a hurry?

KEATING Because we're food for worms, lads! Because we're only going to experience a limited number of springs, summers, and falls. One day, hard as it is to believe, each and every one of us is going to stop breathing, turn cold, and die! Stand up and peruse the faces of the boys who attended this school sixty or seventy years ago. Don't be timid, go look at them.

The boys get up. Todd, Neil, Knox, Meeks, etc. go over to the class pictures that line the honor room walls.

KEATING They're not that different to any of you, are they? There's hope in their eyes, just like in yours. They believe themselves destined for wonderful things, just like many of you. Well, where are those smiles now, boys? What of that hope?

THE BOYS are staring at the pictures, sobered by what Keating is saying.





Scott Wilson with his mother, Edith

KEATING Did most of them not wait until it was too late before making their lives into even one iota of what they were capable? In chasing the almighty deity of success did they not squander their boyhood dreams? Most of those gentlemen are fertilizing daffodils! However, if you get very close, boys, you can hear them whisper. Go ahead, lean in. hear it? (loud whisper) Carpe Diem, lads. Seize the day. Make your lives extraordinary.

This is battle, boys. War! You are souls at a critical juncture.

CARPE DIEM Class of 2003, this is battle - WAR! You are souls at a critical juncture.

I believe this sentiment communicated by the eccentric Mr. Keating in *Dead Poet's Society* is the same one that is impressed upon you today by the even greater eccentric God of heaven and earth!

Ecclesiastes 11:8: "However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all."

And verse 9: "Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart, and whatever your eyes see."

And verse 10: "So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off troubles from your body..."

CARPE DIEM.

God is calling you to pursue a life of relentless joy, especially in your youth! After all, Ecclesiastes was intended to be instruction for young people who still had their youth to pursue these things.

Objection: Now, someone with their Bible open might be saying, "But (Mr. K), you're only reading parts of verses, didn't you teach us in Bible class to make sure we consider the whole context and to try not to make the Bible say just what we want it to say? It seems that this text also has some pretty depressing stuff in it, and some warnings. I'm not sure that this would have been the text I would have chosen to exhort people to pursue a life of joy with all of our

hearts in this springtime of our lives."

Well, let's consider this objection. It's explicitly clear from our text that God is calling us to pursue a life of relentless joy, but there are also some strong warnings and depressing statements like:

Verse 8b: "but remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything to come is meaningless."

Or, verse 9b: "follow the ways of your heart...but know that for all these things God will bring you judgment."

Or verse 10: "for youth and vigor are meaningless."

I'm sorry, but the Teacher of Ecclesiastes sounds like a neurotic, troubled, contorted soul, impaled on the horns of a dilemma that seems irresolvable. Let's enter his mind for a moment.....

Ecclesiastes 11:8-10: However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all; but remember the days of darkness, for they will be many. Everything to come is meaningless. Be happy, young man, while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart, and whatever your eyes see. But know that for all these things God will bring you top judgment. So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off troubles from your body for youth and vigor are meaningless.

What's the Teacher to do? What am I to do? What are you to do? How do we reconcile these things? Remember Keating - This is battle, boys. War! You are souls at a critical juncture. In other words, Do you think joy is going to come easily? War, battle for joy!

One commentator stated it like this:

Life does not yield up its joys easily. All that lies ahead in the earthly realm is fundamentally unreliable. For this reason, passivity cannot lead to a life of joy. (The difficult verses of this text) have elucidated the meaning of the vanity of life: it involves delay, uncertainty, perplexity and difficulty, ignorance and disappointment. It is this that makes effort on the part of the man so necessary.



Todd Bledsoe with his parents, Don and Lisa

The Teacher's whole argument seems to revolve around the call to pursue joy in this life. Now, while you're young. The judgment, death, the deterioration of the body in this life, difficult days, the gnawing angst connected with failing health, are buttressing the argument to enjoy life while you're young! In other words, "Don't take yourself, or life, too seriously." What! You can't mean this! We've got a Kingdom to build, sin to mortify, neighbors to share the gospel with. . .how can I possibly enjoy life?

It's time for you to exercise *faith*. You're intelligent and responsible enough to understand the basics of Christianity, and, you're either going to believe God loves you, and wants you to know joy and that it's found in Him, or, you're not going to believe this - period!

THE TEACHER IS SAYING: REMEMBER TO DANCE!

Another commentator said it like this: "Cheerfulness, here, is not merely permitted; it is commanded, and represented as an essential element of piety." Wow! Imagine if we held each other accountable for not pursuing joy in the manner that God commands us to in the same way as we hold each other accountable for other sins.

Question: How serious is God about you pursuing joy in your youth? Very. In verses 1-8 of chapter 12, God paints an exceedingly detailed, graphic, and disheartening view of the effects of aging and movement towards the grave. Why? To motivate the young to pursue joy. Now, while you still have real teeth, and while you can still hear, walk, run, climb, play, sing, think - and the list goes on.

REMEMBER TO DANCE! Jesus stated it this way, as found recorded in John's Gospel, chapter 10, verse 10:

"The thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full!"

Jesus goes on to tell us in this discourse that life, and joy, are ultimately found in Him! When a person owns Christ, and Christ owns him or her, joy is one of the necessary fruits of that union. Joy begins at the cross and the empty tomb. For, it's at the cross of Jesus Christ that we no longer have to slavishly fear the judgment that the Teacher speaks of in our passage: Jesus Christ has paid it all. He lived a perfect life, and died a death that covers our sin in full. There's an empty tomb in Palestine that reminds us that because He is risen, we are free, and the imminent death that faces us all has been conquered. So, there is hope beyond the grave. A hope that is absent in Mr. Keating's philosophy of CARPE DIEM. No

"lads", we're not "food for worms."

But we are going to experience a "limited number of springs, summers, and falls in this life. *What are you going to do with them?*"

REMEMBER TO DANCE!

CONCLUSION:

Let me close with the words of the modern day poet, Lee Ann Womack:

"Time, is a wheel in constant motion, always rolling us along, tell me who, wants to look back on their years and wonder where those years have gone, DANCE, I HOPE YOU DANCE!"

After all, it was the Lord, long before Lee Ann Womack, who called people to dance. Consider Ecclesiastes 3:4: "there is a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a *time to dance!*"

It's as though God were saying, "Dance Child! Remember to dance!"



Laura Cross with her mother Melissa, and Clare Skinner with her parents and brother Bryant, Joan and Joseph

Final Question: What does a "Dancing Christian" look like to a dying world?

I had a friend in college named Paul Bergstrom. Paul grew up in Africa and was the son of missionaries. We were attending college in Chicago. Now Chicago is filled with incredibly ornate buildings and apartments. Some of my friends lived in an apartment off-campus on the third floor of an apartment building built in the early 1900s. The greatest thing about this apartment was the huge bay window in the main living area. If you wanted privacy, this wasn't

the place! Early one evening, I was returning from football practice and as I passed my friend's apartment, I looked up and saw shadows dancing on the ceiling. As I stepped back away from the building, I beheld the source of the dancing shadows - dancing coeds! Paul was one of them. They were having an incredible time (Dipping, spinning, etc.)! But to me, it looked both foolish and compelling. Foolish, because I could only see them without audio attachments. Compelling, because of their delight.

Next time I saw Paul, I had to inquire. You see, Class of 2003, it's our dancing that's going to compel folks to ask. So, engage your world with dancing. **REMEMBER TO DANCE!**

Russ Kapusinski is the youth pastor at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Winter Park and a teacher of Bible at The Geneva School.

Graduation Ceremony Friday, May 23, 2003

Northland Community Church



Salutatorian - Victor Boyer

Mom, Dad, My Friends, Faculty, Parents, and Valued Clients, Good Afternoon: We're gathered here to commemorate and celebrate the passage of myself and eight of my friends into the "real world." For me, at least, it seems that these past few years have flown by faster than a Boeing 747 with a 50-knot tailwind...and now, we're ready to "make it on our own."

As I was prayerfully considering what the topic of my speech ought to be, the Lord laid on my heart that I should speak about missions: no, not the kind that sends people across the world or even across the country, but the kind that sends people across the city, across their neighborhood, across the street.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind all of us here of our mission, the mission of this senior class, and the mission of every single believer in this room. Many Christians mistakenly believe that if they just go to church every week, if they just are kind to those they know, that they're doing all that they ought. On the contrary, our calling is much higher. God calls each and every one of us to personal ministry in our lives - to the priesthood of believers (I Peter 2:9).

What does this mean? Essentially, it means that we're to go and be lights to the world around us in everything, because everything we say, everything we do, even where we go and what we dress like is being scrutinized by the world around us to see if we really are what we claim to be. This is missions work, the kind of missions work that sends you across the street. Pastor Hunter, here at Northland, used a benediction a few years ago that became one of my favorites. It says: "Go and be a light every where, every day. And remember, we will never be alone along the way." This is a wonderful compact description of our relationship with God: we are to be his messengers, being a light wherever we go. It also reminds us that belief in Christ is a journey, not a destination - "we ain't home yet" and we ought to point others to the direction of our heavenly home.

We Christians are on notice: the world is watching, and how we speak, act, even dress is being watched closer than how the FBI watches Al Qaeda. Many believers would like to be delivered from temptation but would like temptation to keep in touch. This is clearly not what we ought to be like - we are to live in a way that separates us from the world, but separated in word and deed, not in location. If we live aloof from society, we become no better than a secret society - the world ignores us, and we ignore it. Our calling is greater than that - we are to inhabit the world, to shine in it, so that it will be changed. Outside these sanctuary doors is a mission field - a mission field that each and every one of us have been called to.

I'm reminded of a story I once heard. This little girl was allowed to say the benediction at a church and she messed up and said, "glow, for God is with you." It is my charge not only to myself and my classmates, but to every believer in this room that we be on fire for Christ, and that we will shine with God's radiance so that the world around us will want what we have.

This graduation is more than a celebration; it is a commissioning. It is a commissioning to ministry and to walk in the good works He has set before us. I hope that all of us appreciate the gravity of this calling. This is not fun and games - it's a war between principalities, between God and the prince of the air, between good and evil, between life and death - and if you're not for God, you're unfortunately against him. We are charged with illuminating and changing the world, and it is my hope and prayer that each and every one of us will fulfill this glorious calling in our lives.

Please join me in prayer: "Dear Lord, I thank you for this class, my friends, and I thank you for the many gifts and abilities represented here. It is my prayer, Lord, that this graduation will not only serve as a celebration, but also as a commissioning. I pray that the students in this graduating class will serve as spotlights in a mighty tower, as beacons, which will allow others to navigate their way to you. Help us to minister to those around us personally, so that we may have a lasting impact on others' lives. I pray as we walk in You, that You will grant us Your peace and security; that we may be sure that our walk is in Your ways. I pray for Your blessing upon us and our ministry. In Your most precious and holy name we pray, Amen."

Thank you.



Valedictorian - Heather Wayne

Stepping out from our usual surroundings and into the world as adults is a scary thought. For four years we have worked, studied, worn uniforms, lived at home, and now the time has come to see what will happen with our years of preparation. Will we be overwhelmed? Will we miss the routine we have established? Will we succeed? For those who - like me - have been wondering what will happen when dramatic changes come, I offer a poem by Seamus Heaney, a twentieth-century Irish poet:

Masons, when they start upon a building,
Are careful to test out the scaffolding,
Make sure that the planks won't slip at busy points,
Secure all ladders, tighten bolted joints.
And yet all this comes down when the job's done,
Showing off walls of sure and solid stone.
So if, my dear, there sometimes seem to be
Old bridges breaking between you and me,
Never fear. We may let the scaffolds fall,
Confident that we have built our wall.

What is scaffolding? It is temporary, a means to an end, a conduit. How futile it seems to put so much effort into a makeshift structure. And yet, how very vital - for if a builder left one weak point in his supports, the fault could cost lives. As the builder uses scaffolding to give himself height to build upon his wall, so do we use the familiar supports to build up knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and faith. One could never comprehend calculus without the understanding of simple arithmetic, and one could never write a research paper without first learning to spell. These rudimentary tools are ladders that enable us to reach greater heights. Eventually the study of these tools becomes superfluous - studying this simplicity becomes a scaffolding, no longer necessary, that must be taken down. But there are other supports we rely upon, as well. Upon graduating from high school, we must leave behind the system we are accustomed to and jump into a school that is exponentially larger, where we don't know the expectations held of us, where we don't know anyone, and we must start anew, testing out our foundation. The teachers whom we have worked so hard to please and the relationships we have painstakingly formed will no longer be there to depend on. At times it will be frightening, at times it will be exhilarating, at times it will be overwhelming. But we must know that the turmoil isn't ripping away at our wall; it is merely the fall of the scaffolding. Perhaps the familiar will be gone, but the knowledge and understanding we have accumulated over the past four years will never leave.

Likewise, as Christians we face challenges and upheaval. Often we rely upon friends, leaders, or our parents to keep our faith on track. And this is important, for the encouragement and accountability that springs from these sources is necessary in order to continue to grow in faith. However, when these sources of encouragement, accountability, and comfort are taken away, one is tempted to feel as if there is nothing left. So often it seems God has become elusive - that the bridges you have worked so hard to build are crumbling beneath you. But He, too, assures us the foundation is safe. In Philippians 1:6 is the promise that "he who has begun a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Though the supports we have relied upon for so long may fail us, our Lord will not. He has been with us these past four years, and our whole lives, carefully building this wall. Hope and trust that He who has brought you so far will never forsake the work He has begun. He, like the poet, assures us that we may let the scaffolds fall, confident we have built our wall.



Jeb Beates, Regent of the Round Table, Charges the Junior Class

To you the audience, I want you to know that what I have to say is for the juniors. I am speaking TO them and WITH them here, but you all are welcomed to listen in. To the lower school, I am excited to see you all in attendance. I'm so glad you all could be here to see our graduation. One day I hope some of you will be making this same speech that I am making right now.

Alright juniors, so now I can dispense with the accustomed preliminary, introductions. It is now time for me to impart to you the charge. Let me first say that it is an honor to have the privilege of delivering a charge to you. I've known you all for a long time, and I've known some of you as great friends. But know this class of 2004, all that I have to say is for you, it is for no one else. So with that in mind, John Ritchie, please wake up, this is important.

Do you all realize that in less than an hour, after my friends and I have walked back down this aisle, you will no longer be juniors? You will be seniors! YOU will have the great honor and distinction as the oldest, and hopefully wisest, of the students at The Geneva School. It will be your responsibility to be examples to the young ones around you, a task that will become so much more important next year when the entire school is in one building.

Don't get me wrong, juniors. It is a lot of fun. But you have to remember that everyone is watching. Everyone will be following your lead. It is up to you to decide whether to take a stand for yourself and your beliefs, or to go along with the crowd. Being on top isn't always easy. When things go wrong and the entire class gets an incredibly huge homework assignment because of something YOU said, YOU will get the blame from your fellow peers. But at the same time, when you do something great, you will receive all the praise.

Being a leader is a one of the hardest things to be in life. It takes courage, honesty, humility, and faith. As an Eagle Scout, I was thrust into situations where I had to make a quick, reflex decision, and those decisions were not always favored by those other scouts around me. But they respected my decision because I had earned their trust. You juniors have spent eleven years being schooled in the ways of Augustine, Plato, and Jesus Christ. You have earned the trust of your teachers, your friends, your parents, and the trust of all of us around you. You have earned my trust especially. When Jon Shafe or Gingie Maynard tells me something important, I listen. When Steve Minegar gives me advice, I heed it. You all have my trust and the trust of every senior up here because you earned it.

Now it is time for you juniors to put our faith in you, and the faith of the faculty of this school, in action. It is up to you to take charge, to lead, and to guide.

This task at times might seem overwhelming. I know that at times this year I felt burdened by the weight of knowing that everyone looked to me for what to do. On the soccer field, it was my emotion and courage (and goal scoring) that set the tone for the team. On the basketball court, it was my passion and energy and level head that kept the team calm under pressure. Every day at school I had to put forth my best, or people would begin to wonder what was wrong. Leadership is a great responsibility.

Now, following the lead of last year's Regent, James Skinner, I am going to draw this into a movie. I have already mentioned that leadership can feel like a burden, like a heavy weight. And I am sure that some of you in the audience, especially my father, might see where this is headed. Frodo Baggins. What a loveable guy. He carried the greatest burden of the entire world. He carried the FATE of the world around his neck. He didn't have to carry it, but it was because no one else could that he volunteered to take the *One Ring*. I am reminded of one of my favorite scenes in the movie, *The Fellowship of the Ring*. It is set in the Mines of Moria where the Fellowship has come to a point in the road where Gandalf doesn't know which turn to make. As he sits there deciding which way to go, Frodo comes to him and confesses, "Gandalf, I wish the ring had never come to me. I wish none of this had ever happened." Gandalf looks at the young hobbit and says, "Frodo, so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide." Frodo begins to look sullen. Gandalf continues, "What you must decide is what to

do with the time that is given to you." Junior class, what you must decide is what to do with the time that has been given to you. Now that is inspiring.

So let me tie this all together. Frodo did what he did because he HAD to do it. He didn't like it; it scared him. Leadership is like that in a lot of ways. But fortunately for you soon-to-be-seniors, the fate of the world is not on your shoulders. It is your task to lead this school out of the darkness of this world and into the light. It is your task to live up to our school's motto.

So with that I come to the conclusion of my charge. To next year's students, follow your seniors. They have earned my respect and I charge you all to follow their example. To next year's seniors I charge you with this. Lead. Lead with all your strength and love and faith. Lead by word, lead by deed, and lead by example. Lead with a faith rooted in Christ. Lead.

I have a feeling that you all are going to exceed my expectations as well as everyone else's. I want to see you all surprise everyone. I want to see you all achieve your dreams. I am wishing the best for you, but now I challenge you to go and make those dreams a reality. Henry David Thoreau once said: "If you have built castles in your dreams, your work need not be lost; there is where they should be. Now put foundations under them. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you've imagined." Dreaming is an act of pure imagination, attesting in all men a creative instinct, which, if it were available in our waking, would make every man a Dante or a Shakespeare. Juniors, I challenge you to lead this school to greatness in the year to come, and I pray that you might discover yourselves along the way. Good luck, juniors.



Candle Lighting Ceremony

Written and Read by Katie Fridsma

The lighting of the candles is not merely some trivial ritual. By lighting your candles, we are bestowing upon you upcoming seniors a real privilege and a real responsibility.

It is a privilege in that you are now seniors. We resign our positions to you, and with them come special honors and recognition. You are at the top of the food chain; you rule the school.

But this is also a weighty responsibility. Do not lose

sight of this. Especially as a senior in high school, you are obliged to give your all, to make this school and your parents proud, to strive for excellence in everything you do. Also, it is incumbent upon you to be leaders. One does not choose to be a role model. Whether you know it or not, these children here are watching you. They realize that someday they will be here, too - walking across this stage. Why not give them something challenging to live up to?

The motto of Geneva is *Post Tenebras Lux*. By lighting your candles, we are charging you to demonstrate through word and deed that you have passed from darkness into light.

Memoirs of the Graduating Class

Laura Cross

To borrow the words of Hopeful in John Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, The Geneva School has "made me love a holy life, and long to do something for the honour and glory of the name of the Lord Jesus." Thank you to my teachers for instilling in me the knowledge and ability to aspire to this kind of life. I am confident that I am well prepared to take the next step and succeed. And to all my fellow seniors, thank you for all the experiences we have shared and the memories we have made. I will never forget them!



Katie Fridsma

I find it difficult to sum up my experiences of the past four years in one paragraph. I have gained friends. I have gained knowledge. I have gained wisdom. In short, I have benefited in many ways that enrich and compliment the academic gains. Now I have a firm foundation on which to build the rest of my life. Thank you.



I challenge the current students of Geneva to recognize, appreciate, and take advantage of the education they are receiving; and I challenge those of us leaving Geneva to remember and apply that which we have learned during our time here.

Michelle Prescott

The Geneva School has been a remarkable experience for me. In the beginning - I'll be honest - I felt overwhelmed by the work loads: a challenge that made me a better student, a hard worker. All my teachers have been a great encouragement to me. Thank you for inspiring me, for helping me, for caring for me.



I want to inform all of you out there that our student body is impressive. I have seen many students put great effort into their school work. I have never before known young people who actually like reading, writing, and working hard. Also, my peers are happy - and that has encouraged me greatly. So, fellow Geneva students, I want to thank you, for your happy spirits, your big smiles, and your uplifting attitude.

Finally I want to recognize our administration. It was a tough year for all of you, but everyone stepped up and helped out. For your cohesiveness, compassion, and consistency, THANK YOU.

Clare Skinner

"Run with endurance the race which has been set before you." So Scripture instructs us. My journey through high school at Geneva has been much like a race. In fact, Geneva is like a marathon - and anyone going to participate shouldn't expect many walking breaks! Throughout the course of my education here I definitely had times when I just wanted to slow down, but through the caring hearts of my teachers who were beside me all the way - urging me to persevere to the end - I was inspired to keep pace and complete the course.



Thank you, Geneva faculty, for being outstanding role models. You have been ambassadors for Christ, and the character you have displayed has been a great example to me. Your love of teaching has moved me toward a love of learning. Many of you younger students have also been an encouragement. Your love and zeal is seen in the joy and excitement in your faces at school. And to the senior class - you have made this year one of my best. The bonding our class experienced made this year very special to me. I value not only the good times we shared - but also the distinctive character of each of you that made our class what it is.

Thank you, Geneva family. May we all run the race with endurance, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Heather Wayne

So much of what I have learned at Geneva has been not only from my classes, but from my comrades. I have learned to fight for what is true, to eschew falsehood, to venture into new experiences, to be ever considerate of others before myself, to be patient, to encourage, to laugh and to love with all my heart. You, my classmates, have left an imprint that will not soon fade.



Jeb Beates

When I first came to Geneva I was just a smiling little third grader excited to be going to school. Through the years my friends have come and gone, but leaving the School was never an option for me. As I grew older, I saw that Geneva was more to me than just a school. It has been like a second home where everyone knows me and I know everyone.



Geneva has left a profound impact on me. It has helped to shape me as a student, as a Christian, and as a person. I want to thank everyone who has pushed me to succeed. Without your pushing I would surely be less well equipped to achieve my dreams. Geneva has taught me both to read and to dream. I think I am forever indebted to my alma mater for what it has done for me. I am proud to be graduating from Geneva.

Todd Bledsoe

"The real changes take place inside," said the company doctor in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. He was referring to what happens in the heart - the inner being - in certain situations and atmospheres. Coming from a home-school environment, I had expectations that were more than met at Geneva - not only by demanding academics, but also by what I received in personal relationships with the students and faculty. One of the finer advantages of a small school is the opportunity to get to know the teachers personally and see that they do care about you



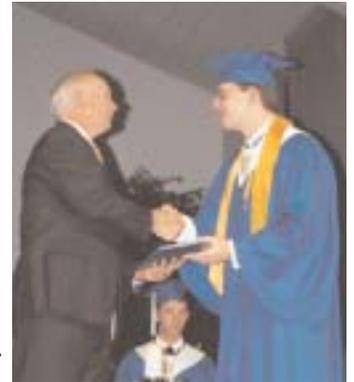
and your well-being. This I will always remember and hold dear.

Geneva not only questions your beliefs; it reinforces them so that you know what you believe and why you believe it. These kinds of experiences have penetrated my heart and who I am as a person. I do not think I will forget the changes that truly took place within.

Most importantly, I want to thank my parents for giving me the opportunity to learn at Geneva. Thank you, also, faculty and fellow students, for memories and experiences I will never forget. I will truly miss all of you.

Victor Boyer

Five years ago I came to Geneva expecting a challenge - and found one. From Logic to Latin to Calculus, I think that Geneva has prepared me for the rigors of college life and my life after college (a.k.a. the "real world"). Along the way, I've met with a variety of challenges and trials, but I've always had friends (and faculty masquerading as friends) to see me through. Excellent teachers - and good friends - have brought to a satisfying finish my high school career.



Scott Wilson

Geneva is my home. Home, in my view, is where one grows and matures, where one can learn and play. In grades 1 - 8, I had been moved from school to school. My four-year stay at Geneva has been the longest I have ever been in one institution. For this reason I have become especially fond of the teachers, students, and administrators. Through the journey that has now passed, I have learned a great deal - and have matured in mind and body. I will always look back with great respect at these short years remembering that this school has both made me who I am, and put me where I am. I have learned what it means to be a Christian, and how one should live, knowing the truth. I have learned how to be a better friend to others. I have learned how to be a good student, and I have learned what it means to have a home outside my family that is genuinely concerned for my welfare, my education, and my salvation. Geneva is my home.

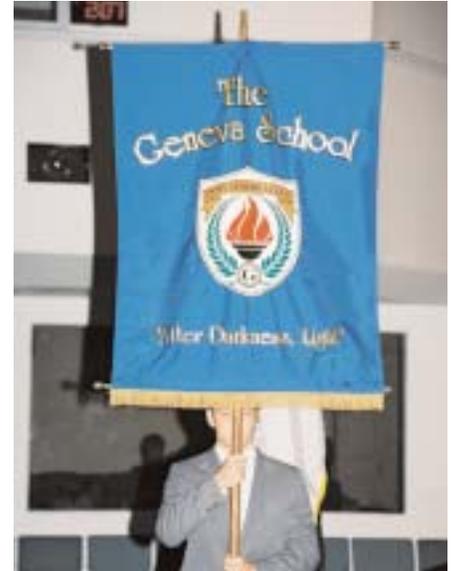


Post Tenebrus Lux After Darkness, Light



Rev. Robert Ingram - Headmaster Designate - remembers..

One evening during Memorial Weekend ten years ago a group met to discuss the plight of modern secular education. By the evening's end The Geneva School was conceived and born, its motto of **Post Tenebrus Lux** adopted - After Darkness, Light. So long forgotten, Christian classicism has been brought to light and specifically to the light of Christ. We are educators, a word whose Latin derivation means, "to lead out of." Geneva intends to lead out of the darkness of educational ignorance; it intends to lead out of the darkness of immorality; it intends to lead out of the darkness of spiritual sin and bondage. More than simply leading out of, Geneva is leading unto the light - specifically the light of Christ, in all that beautifully conforms to His likeness and image.



Top Left: Mrs. Marie Leonard and Jeb Beates. Marie was Jeb's third grade teacher back in 1993 when The Geneva School first opened its doors.

Top Right: Victor Boyer and Randall Van Meggelen, Geneva's music teacher.

Bottom Left: Katie Fridsma
Bottom Right: Michelle Prescott





The Reverend Father Micheal Eatmon gives the Commencement Address

The **FIDE** Scholarship, given to the senior who through his or her developing theological worldview evidences in thought, word and deed a sincere and personal commitment to the Gospel as informed by the Reformational distinctives of The Geneva School, was awarded to **Katie Fridsma**. The **FIDE** award is a \$500 scholarship granted by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the administration and the Rhetoric faculty.

The **LITERIS** Scholarship, given to the senior who through his or her understanding, appropriation and participation in Classical pedagogy has consistently modeled the Trivium in pursuit of a distinctly Classical education, was awarded to **Heather Wayne**. The **LITERIS** award is a \$500 scholarship granted by the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the administration and the

Dayle Seneff was awarded the “Come-Along-Side” award. This award is presented by the Board of Governors to the person or persons deemed to have made singular contributions to the life of The Geneva School by “coming alongside” it in the selfless giving of time, talent and treasure.



During the closing Chapel Service for the Grammar School students on the morning of Friday, May 23, Jeanelle Wardian was presented “The Order of the Towel.” This award is presented by the Board of Governors to the person or persons deemed to have demonstrated most consistently in their support of The Geneva School a faithful imitation of our lord Jesus Christ’s own servant leadership (see John chapter 13).