



The Courier

The Geneva
School
newsletter
summer 2005



The Geneva School's Graduating Class of 2005

Parent Orientation

Monday, August 15, 2005

7:00 p.m.

The Geneva School Gymnasium

We ask that every family be represented at Parent Orientation by at least one parent. Important information will be discussed and distributed during the evening. If you cannot be there, please arrange for someone else to take notes and pick up your information.

Meet the Teacher Open House

Tuesday, August 16, 2005

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

During this time the School will be open for students to meet their teachers and see their classrooms. Please come so your children will be familiar with their new surroundings before the first day of school.

Salutatorian Address by Danielle Wayne



As fall approaches, and the time comes when everything I have come to know will be gone, I am fearful and excited. It is especially difficult to journey to an unfamiliar place, when you love so deeply the familiar. But I have found a prospect in which not only to take comfort, but to take joy.

In my years at Geneva certain ideals and virtues have been instilled in me. I have grown in knowledge, but more significantly in wisdom. I toiled over AP Calculus while studying the philosophy of Descartes and Pascal. Mr. King's rhetoric notebook was a definite struggle, but I was blessed to learn the beauty of language. Mrs. King gave the French language depth as we translated the French New Testament, *Waiting for Godot*, and the poetry of Emily Dickinson.

Geneva has prepared me for college and eventually a career. But beyond that, my experience at Geneva has prepared me to live a whole life.

I believe that out of Geneva will come many talented, driven workers. My hope and delight is that they will also become mature and godly husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, mentors and friends. I believe

this will be so, for just as the Geneva faculty have helped us to learn, so also they have taught us to laugh and to love, and that is a most cherished gift.

Although this is the end of our schooling at Geneva, this is no farewell. In the time ahead it will be most important to hold tightly to our Geneva educations, and step up to every challenge bravely and eagerly. We are equipped to face challenges of the mind, affections and will.

As Emily Dickinson said,

*We never know how high we are
Till we are asked to rise
And then if we are true to plan
Our statures touch the skies--*

She goes on to say,

*The Heroism we recite
Would be a normal thing
Did not ourselves the Cubits warp
For fear to be a king--*

At this stage in our lives, some degree of fear is inevitable. But if we have the wisdom to apply what we have been given, we will not allow our statures to be warped or diminished. I believe that as my peers and I are called to rise in the coming years, Geneva will be with us, and we will stand to be the men and women we ought to be.

WHERE WILL THE GRADUATES BE IN THE FALL?

Emily Hernandez: Florida Gulf Coast University, Ft Myers, Florida

Kyle Lewis: University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi

Amy Scholz: Valencia Community College, Orlando, Florida

Melissa Stevens: University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida

Trevor Swanson: Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida

Casey Vaughn: Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina

Danielle Wayne: Furman University, Greenville, South Carolina

Valedictorian Address by Casey Vaughn



"I can't believe I'm going. . . . I'll never get over Lemnos; this island's going to be the keel under me and the ballast inside me. . . . I feel I'm a part of what was always meant to happen, and is happening now at last." These lines display

Philoctetes' hope and apprehensiveness as he leaves his home of ten years for a new life.

It appears as if we have come to our first exit in life and must get off in less than half a mile. But we must take a closer look and recognize that we have only merged onto the interstate and must continue onward for over a hundred miles. Our future is going to be full of shifting landscapes, varying climates, and new passengers. It is a daunting task for most of us, but we have been given a glorious gift which is much more than a road map. We have been given our own Lemnos. Our Lemnos comes from Geneva, it is Geneva - its worldviews, its wisdom - it is who we are and commands who we will become.

I have never been able to put into words what exactly Geneva has blessed me with these past ten years. I might never have been able to do it if it wasn't for the final assignment of writing our senior profiles Mr. King gave us before we left on our cruise. And I admit that though I may have whined just a little about the assignment, I would be completely lost without having ever read these lines. Philoctetes' closing words in Seamus Heaney's *The Cure at Troy* offer us an experience which parallels our own graduation.

Geneva is not a deserted island, as Lemnos was; it is the keel which supports our ballast - faith in Jesus Christ. It has led us through many rough waters which will seem mild compared to the ones we will face as we sail onward. But we are not alone, though we may be few in number. We will continue to have the support of our friends and families, and most importantly the support of Christ. We have been shown absolute truth. A famous French philosopher once observed, "Truth is so obscure in these

times, and falsehood so established, that unless we love the truth, we cannot know it." Geneva has aided us in the understanding and love of truth. We know that God exists and believe that Christ died for our sins. We have been given an insurmountable weapon and companion which we will take with us as we forge onward. We have been given a wondrous wealth of knowledge for which we will be abidingly grateful. I would never have found this quote from Pascal's *Pensées* if it had not been for Mr. Jain's pre-calculus class last year. All these things are a part of our Lemnos.

Whether or not it was our decision to make it this far at Geneva, we did. We were called here - to this very instant in time - so that we might go out into the world and have dominion over it. We might be led to stray away from ourselves, but we have been given a life support which will never deflate. There must be very few places in this world where we may be awarded the Order of the Towel or be called virtuous scholars. I know that we wonder if we will be able to hold on because we have been sheltered in the most blessed of ways unlike those whom we will be joining on our journey. Some might still be questioning if we will make it. But if we truly take to heart what we have been given here at Geneva - that Christ has led our lives in the directions that we are headed - then we should have no fear. We will have to face opposing beliefs and post-modern ideals, we will have to live righteously in a world full of unrighteous people, and in order to survive we must hold fast to the keel beneath us and the ballast inside of us.

We have dreamt of this day since kindergarten. We knew that it would come and that it would push us off into our destinies. We must remember what we have gained and that we would be lost without it. We did not merely drift here by accident but were led by the force which guides and blesses all of our lives.

"Come on my friends." Let us thrill to the chorus' closing exhortation, "Now it's high watermark and floodtide in the heart and time to go. . . . It was a fortunate wind that blew us here."

We need to remember that this is not only an exit but an entrance. We have been given something much more than just a jump start. We come prepared for the road ahead better than we could ever have imagined.

EMILY HERNANDEZ

Waking up every morning at 5:30 in order to be at The Geneva School before the second bell rang got old very fast - like after the first day. But the reward of seeing the faces of my classmates every day made the journey worth the while.

As you can see, we are a small senior class—but we are a solid seven who have built a storehouse of memories: so many that were I to write them into a novel, I might not finish it until I was in my rocking chair at another kind of senior home—a rest home.

The past four years at Geneva have been an extraordinary experience—made possible because my teachers, my friends, and my family all had faith in me. I can't tell you how many times I heard the charge, "Hang in there! You can do it!"

I am profoundly grateful for the graciousness, love, and open hearts shown by my family and the Geneva faculty. My Geneva experience will always be in my thoughts.



CASEY VAUGHN

As the last few days of second grade wound down, I remember bragging to my friends that, next year, I was going to a private school where I would learn Latin, have to wear a uniform, and get to go on field trips to cities like Boston and Williamsburg. Boy, were they jealous!

When I think back ten years ago on the excitement of my first year at The Geneva School, I realize that I now have so many more life-affirming experiences I can brag about. Though the field trips were, in truth, unforgettable [and the uniforms, alas, definitely not brag-worthy], these facets of school life give only a glimmer of the experience I have had at Geneva.

Geneva has allowed me—as a student and, more importantly, as a Christian—to create a picture of myself that I readily embrace. I have come to accept and blossom as the introverted yet randomly rambunctious and weird person that I am today.

I have been able to set goals for myself, accomplish them, and continue to strive for higher ones—from strenuously studying for the AP tests to being prepared for college better than I could ever have imagined.

I could keep talking (as I am prone to do) but then Mr. King's 200-word maximum would turn into a slight novella.



KYLE LEWIS

I have been going to The Geneva School for the past six years. In fact, I have been going here for so long that I really don't know how a school could be any different. I am proud that I belong to The Geneva School - an institution characterized (as Mr. Eatmon has so often impressed upon us) by the pursuit of the

good, the true, and the beautiful.

Unfortunately, I have to leave this place which I have come to love very dearly: the place which has served as a refuge whenever I have felt weak for the past six years; yet I know that I must go.

I am grateful to Geneva for equipping me with the tools I need to succeed in college and, more importantly, in life. I hope that in the years to come I may—by God's grace—live up to what it means to be a Christian scholar in my pursuits in college and wherever else the Lord leads me.

Thank you, Mom and Dad, beloved faculty, and fellow students, for making my time at Geneva a rewarding, as of now, one-third of my life.

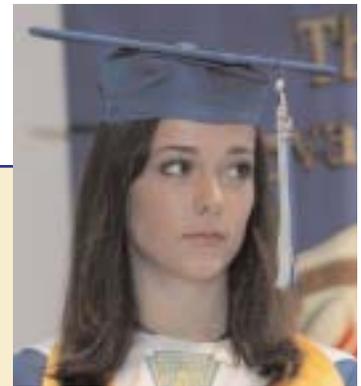
DANIELLE WAYNE

I came to The Geneva School as a shy seventh grader—if such a thing exists. In my six years at Geneva, I have been both challenged and enriched.

My appreciation of a classical education has grown in many ways. The Geneva faculty blows me away with their enthusiasm for learning. Also, I am continually encouraged by the eagerness of the students at Geneva and inspired by their quest for excellence (accompanied, on occasion, by my classmates' capacity for caprice!).

What is truly astounding about Geneva is that the core education does not lie in Advanced Placement classes only. It starts much earlier. The education on even the most fundamental levels is outstanding - and I envy those who have gone, or will go, through all three stages of a classical education: grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric.

I am both proud of and grateful for the education I am leaving with, and I cherish the friendships I have made.



AMY SCHOLZ

When I arrived at The Geneva School last December, it was clearly not what I had expected. Much had changed since I had spent grades 4-6 here. No un-tucked shirts . . . The right sweater on the right day . . . Chapel on Mondays . . . And a bell to begin and end each class!

For five months now, I have been moved each day as I walk into school and see rhetoric students conversing with little kindergartners, or a student and a teacher having pleasant conversation in the hallway before class, or simply observing the gentlemanly character of a male student opening the door for a female student as they walk in.

Knowing that those students and teachers whom I see and admire share my faith--and worship the same Father--comforts and delights me.

Things I will miss very much:

Mr. King's passion for literature and passion for story-telling; Mr. Freeman's strong opinions and theories on almost any subject; Mr. Gum's smile and "Hello, Amy" in the hallway; Mr. Miller's lame jokes as he shares with the rhetoric choir every day--and his proceeding to laugh at them; Mr. Clark's humor, his willingness to stop class to discuss an issue that is on our hearts, his praying each day before class--and his wonderful ability to chase a rabbit trail to the extreme; Coach Harger's energetic, full-hearted "Hey, Scholz, how you doin' today?" and openness to talk about what's going on in our lives; Mrs. "Amy's" sweet and helpful spirit; Most of all, Mr. Eatmon's sharing with us each day in aesthetics class as we listen, observe, and discuss the true meaning of the beauty that surrounds us.



MELISSA STEVENS

To sum up my first few days at The Geneva School as quickly as I can, for I do not wish to return to them, is to state rather mildly that I was not a happy camper. As the weeks and months progressed, however, I gradually warmed to the idea of a truly classical education, rather than that of the public school that I had previously received.

To be fair, I must recognize that at the public school I attended, it was indeed possible for a serious and determined student to learn a great deal; but an indifferent student could slide through effortlessly. At Geneva the less motivated student must expend at least moderate energy to survive.

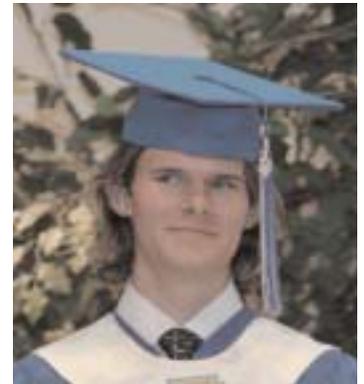
TREVOR SWANSON

A little learning is a dangerous thing;
Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring,
There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
And drinking largely sobers us again.

Throughout my four years at The Geneva School, I have heard Mr. King recite these lines by Alexander Pope time after time. From the endless hours that all the seniors have put in throughout our years here, we know that Geneva is a place of learning where we have drunk deep--deep not only of academics but also of things no textbook can teach.

Much of this extracurricular learning has come from our fellow students. We have learned from each other to seek the truth, to branch out into the unknown, and to go the distance.

These things, if we have drunk deep, will not leave us.



Transcripts of the Baccalaureate Address and the Commencement Address as well as pictures from both of these events can be found on the School web site

I cannot even begin to name to you the wide range of subjects the Geneva student is instructed in; "Math" and "History" are too broad. Highest of all, I learned about life - whether through open-line discussions or through examples set by teachers who are certain to become role models to every student they teach.

Geneva requires an enormous amount of work, but I assure you every bit of it is worth all the effort you are willing to put into it. The days, the months, the years fly by before you know it, leaving you standing on this final day with an overwhelming sense of gratitude, feeling a little sad, fairly excited, and extremely well prepared for the next stage in life's pilgrimage.

Melissa Stevens - Junior Class Address



The student's journey toward education seems sometimes like a soldier's march, sometimes an athlete's sprint and sometimes a snail's painful crawl.

Though much of the work during your final year of high school may feel like the dragging of a heavy shell over broken terrain, it's the last month, this one, that leaves the snail in the dust, that becomes the marathon run at the sprinter's pace. One is left in wonder as to how and, in fact, whether all necessary credits, classes, or assignments have been completed.

The pace least often found is that of the soldier's determined march - a purposeful striving to do what must be done, in a dignified, respectable and responsible manner.

Nearly 100 students began the next leg of their upper-school journey this last fall at Geneva, some as newcomers to the school and some as veterans. Eager, and somewhat nervous, at the beginning of the year, they tried to settle in quickly through the halting and unsettled hurricane-filled weeks of summer.

Homework to right of them,
Teachers to left of them,
Future in front of them,
Volleyed and thundered.

Flashed all their textbooks bare,
Flashed as they turned in air,
Penning the papers there,
Noble young students.

Throughout the past nine months at Geneva, some among us have fallen, and others have joined our ranks in the charge for education--to prepare us for life.

My challenge to you, young scholars, is to choose the bold march of the martial pace less traveled, knowing that in the end, this will have made all the difference. Some things, it has been said, are worth fighting for; and if worth fighting for, then worth dying for; and if worth dying for, then most surely worth living for.

In your continued journey toward education, my friends, may your work be honorable, your goals respectable and your minds full of the wisdom gained as you press on in the march - right across the finish line.

On behalf of the CNL company Jim Seneff and Bob Bourne receive the *Come Alongside* 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 School by "coming alongside" it in the selfless giving of time, talent, and treasure.



Leigh Kennedy receives the *Order of the Towel* 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.



Geneva Welcomes Four New Teachers to the Dialectic and Rhetoric Faculty

The Geneva School welcomes the Reverend Brian Shriner, Mr. Robert Jones, Mrs. Shelly Bradon and Mr. David Petrak to the Dialectic and Rhetoric faculty.

Brian Shriner earned a degree in education from Florida Southern College and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Pittsburgh. He has six years of experience in area schools teaching English and History and has served for seven years as an ordained minister in the Episcopal Church. He is the husband of Leslie Shriner, one of Geneva's first-grade teachers, and the father of four daughters - Anna Grace (K), Laura (2nd), Alyssa (6th) and Cassie (10th) - each of whom attends The Geneva School. From this vantage point he is very familiar with Geneva both as a parent and the spouse of a teacher.

Brian will teach Old Testament (7th grade), Ancient Near Eastern History (7th grade), Western Civilization (9th grade), Drama (7th and 8th grade) and the Theater elective for 9th - 12th grade students.

Robert Jones earned a degree in Secondary Education, majoring in Mathematics and History from Texas A & M and a Masters degree in Mathematics from Notre Dame University. He comes to Geneva with 34 years of experience teaching mathematics - mostly to middle school students. Robert has a passion for math and he loves to teach. He has been a MATHCOUNTS® coach for more than a decade with all of his teams consistently placing first or second in the region. In 2003 his team placed first in the state giving him the opportunity to coach the national team. MATHCOUNTS® is a national math enrichment, coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement in every U.S. state and territory. Throughout

his teaching career Robert has received many awards including the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematical Teaching. Robert and his wife Nancy have three daughters - Jasper (3rd grade), Piper (K4) and baby Naomi.

Robert will teach Pre-Algebra, Algebra I and Algebra II. He will head up a new MATHCOUNTS® program at Geneva and also be a valuable math resource to the 4th - 6th grade teachers.

Shelly Bradon earned a degree in Fine Arts from Southern Mississippi University majoring in Graphic Design. Shelly was co-owner of Bradon & Fraser, a graphic art studio, for 15 years. She taught Introduction to Graphics at Valencia Community College for three years and was Geneva's art teacher during the 1997-98 school-year. For the past 4 ½ years Shelly has worked part-time as a graphic designer and marketing coordinator for a local landscape architectural company. She is the mother of Noah, an 11th grade student at Geneva, and is very much looking forward to getting back into the classroom.

Shelly will be teaching 7th & 8th grade Art and the Yearbook elective for 9th - 12th grade students, and assisting Dale Wayne in the 9th - 12th grade Art elective.

Geneva's Manager of IT, David Petrak, will be teaching one class of Geometry this year. David earned a degree in Mathematics from Iowa State University and this past May graduated from Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, with a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies. He is delighted to be given the opportunity to teach.

The Accounting Office Has Moved!

In order to free up some space for additional classrooms the accounting office has moved across the street to the Cascades Executive Center at 1890 S.R 436. The office is located on the 3rd floor - suite # 337.

Checks may still be dropped off at the front desk but if you need to meet with either Elizabeth Yawn or Sharon Leigh in person they will be glad to receive visitors at the new location. They may be contacted by phone via the main school office number.

David Petrak (Manager of IT), Larry Loftis (Development Director) and Edgar Lane (Maintenance Manager) also have offices located at this new location. There will also be the space for projects which require extra room.



Good-Bye Martha



It is with a great deal of sadness that we communicate to you that Martha Tate will be leaving The Geneva School's administrative team at the end of the month.

For the past nine years, Martha has served the life of the school energetically, with wisdom and selfless devotion. During that time she served the school in many capacities. Initially, Martha served as Director of Resources, a position that coordinated volunteer efforts and fundraising activities. Later as Director of Communications, she helped devise the public relations and marketing strategies of the school. When Geneva grew to the point of needing a lower school principal, Martha graciously accepted that challenge for a two year commitment. Throughout her tenure Martha has served as Director of Admissions, welcoming new families into the life of the school. Much of the current success we enjoy in each of these arenas is attributable to her efforts.

In characteristic fashion Martha wanted us to know that she would continue to serve the remainder of her time at Geneva with passion and vigor, so as to smooth the transition in every way. Martha leaves not only a legacy and memories, but also many friends who have benefited from her thoughtfulness and hospitality. She has promised to pray for Geneva as it moves forward into the future and expressed gratitude for the years she has been part of the school, both for all that she has learned and, most of all, for the relationships that she has enjoyed.

July & August 2005

July 28 - 30: CiRCE Conference - Deland

August 8 - 17: Teacher Training and Planning

August 15: Parent Orientation - 7 p.m.

**August 16: Meet the Teacher Open House
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.**

August 18: First Day of School

The Geneva School

2025 State Road 436

Winter Park, FL 32792

www.genevaschool.org

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