

WINTER 2013-2014

# ExVeritate

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRUTH

## *Scholarship Program Blesses Many*

MR. FULLGRAF'S LOVE OF GREAT  
BOOKS IS CONTAGIOUS AT GENEVA

LOCKER ROOM NEWS

GENEVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY



## *Headmaster's Remarks*

Greetings from Geneva Classical Academy! The Board of Directors, Administration, Faculty, and Staff are pleased to send you this edition of the Ex Veritate newsletter to give you a “state of the school” address here at the end of the calendar year.

It's an exciting time at Geneva Classical Academy:

- We are settled into and enjoying our new facilities at Highlands. Our relationship is strong with both the church and their school.
- With the new scholarship program, we've experienced growth in the number of students and families.
- Our Upper School continues to mature, with the addition of more co-curricular and extracurricular activities.
- Our marketing efforts are making our name present and recognizable in the community, and donors are demonstrating confidence in us which translates into a sound budget.
- We are beginning the process of pursuing accreditation through the Association of Classical Christian Schools.

We hope you enjoy the new look of the newsletter as you read and are encouraged by what the Lord is doing at the school.

God bless,

RICHARD CALI , Headmaster





# *ExVeritate*

MAGAZINE

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Design & Production	PATTERSON PUBLISHING
Photography	PHILIP PIETRI

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## MISSION STATEMENT

Geneva Classical Academy exists to assist families in fulfilling their biblical obligation to educate and train their children by providing an extraordinary education founded upon a scriptural worldview, distinctively Christian and classical, thus equipping students to know, love, and practice all that reflects goodness, truth, and beauty and encouraging them to live purposefully and thoughtfully in the service of God and man.

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## GENEVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY, INC.

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# Scholarship Program Blesses Many

A Geneva education is, in many ways, priceless. The value of the education our students receive will be measureless as they progress in the journey of their lives; however, very real costs are attached to running a school and educating in this manner. This cost sometimes stretches families beyond what they can manage, and we lose those precious students.

This year we were blessed to make it possible for many families to avoid the difficult decision to find alternative education for their children due to tuition prices and even to attract new ones who would not otherwise afford a Geneva education. Thanks to the George W. Jenkins Fund within the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland which contributed \$300,000 for scholarships over three years for financial assistance for families, Geneva has been able to

reach more students.

With this generous provision, Geneva has grown from 113 students in 2012-13 to 129 students this year. That's about a 12 percent increase. In faithful stewardship of the gifts given to us, Geneva has granted scholarships to 28 students in 20 different families. One such special family has had many recent changes in their lives, including the father leaving his job, starting seminary, and the mother returning to work. About their two children joining Geneva they write:

"Words cannot express our appreciation towards all who made education at Geneva Classical Academy possible for our kids. Our children have been richly blessed to be able to transition from home-school to Geneva...Knowing that our children are

instructed about God, His world, and His word as part of their daily lives gives us hope that one day our children will go and change the world with God's unchanging word...You have picked two parents off the floor from praying for a time as this and given us hope as we are going through a wonderful but very challenging transitional time in our lives. Once again, our immense gratitude to all of you that made these scholarships possible."

The generosity of the George W. Jenkins Fund within the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland has given opportunity for Geneva teachers to disciple more students and touch the lives of more families. We eagerly look forward to enrollment for next year and the possibilities the scholarship money affords. ☺



## Teacher Interview: Eric Fullgraf

**How long have you been a Lakelander?  
What do you enjoy most about Lakeland?**

I've been a Lakelander for 40 years. The people are the main attraction for me. Over the years, Lakeland has introduced me to a wonderful assortment of people who astonish me with their wisdom, godliness, intelligence, resourcefulness, generosity, and humor.

**What is your educational background?**

I attended Lakeland Christian School for eight years. I studied cartooning with the late, great C. C. Beck. After that, I went to the University of South Florida for my undergraduate degree in English literature and to USF again for my Masters degree in liberal studies: a program that allowed me to create my own degree, straddling the English lit and visual arts departments. I focused on writers who illustrated their own writings, with special attention paid to the life and work of English poet/painter William Blake.

**How long have you been teaching?**

I began teaching by leading Inductive Bible Studies for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at USF in the early 1980s. When I was a freelance cartoonist and illustrator, I received regular invitations to lead drawing workshops for local public elementary schools. Shortly after that, I began teaching Sunday school classes for high school and adults at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Lakeland. My first professional teaching job was with Cambridge Study Center in 1999 where I taught Bruce Kirby's core curriculum Thoughts Captive and for whom I wrote a middle school and relational skills curriculum. I also taught five years at Berean Academy in Lutz with Rich Cali, Lory Pyle, and Lauren Fritz.

**What do you consider your greatest accomplishment so far in your life?**

As a teacher, there's nothing more gratifying than



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## AS A TEACHER, THERE'S NOTHING MORE GRATIFYING THAN THE LOOK ON A STUDENT'S FACE WHEN HE DISCOVERS A PROFOUND TRUTH FROM THE TEXT OF A GREAT BOOK.

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the look on a student's face when he discovers a profound truth from the text of a great book. When you tell them that truth, it has much less impact and robs the student of the joy of discovery. But when the student discovers it himself, he has a pride of ownership that's priceless. My greatest accomplishment has been helping students learn to identify the key themes in the Bible and other great works.

### *How has the Lord prepared you for teaching in Upper School at Geneva?*

God has been good to me in providing me with many opportunities to teach a wide variety of subjects. I'm convinced that, in our age of specialization, there

is a great need for generalists, especially at the Upper School level. The ability to cross-reference other fields of study in a nimble fashion is a valuable skill and one that I try to teach my students before they're forced to specialize when they get to college.

### *What are your greatest strengths that you bring to your students?*

As with most things, my greatest strength is a borrowed one. My deep affection for the Great Books is genuine and unforced. In teaching them, my goal is making that enthusiasm contagious. As I guide students to appreciate the same things that I appreciate about these books, I am profoundly aware that I can

never succeed as a teacher without great material to teach — material created by others.

### *How do you apply the ideals that you teach to your own life?*

The goal I maintain for my students is one that I try to maintain in my own life. I want my students to become lifetime self-educators out of love for the Truth. My job is not merely to teach students academic material, but to point them to Christ. "Woe to you blind guides ..."

I would appreciate your prayers that I carefully attend to my walk with Christ, so that I can be a faithful guide to my students. ☞



## Educational Reform

BY RICHARD CALI

Gayle Sierens, News Channel 8's esteemed news anchor, recently led a story stating, "Florida lawmakers gather to deliberate the next round of education reforms for your children." That got me to wondering how long educational reforms have been going on. Looking for that answer, I pulled some books off my office shelf.

In a 1940s article, "The Lost Tools of Learning," Dorothy Sayers saw a problem. C.S. Lewis wrote about education in the 1950s in *Abolition of Man*. Harry Blamires shook things up in the 1960s by proclaiming, "There is no longer a Christian mind" in his book by that name. R.J. Rushdooney challenged American evangelicals in the 1970s with *The Messianic Character of American Education*. Neil Postman informed us in the 1980s with *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, and Os Guinness wrote to our generation in the 1990s with *Fit Bodies, Fat Minds*. Warning sirens continue to sound in the new millennium from writers like Sir Ken Robinson. That's about seventy years of educators, analysts, and critics who have seen problems in education.

In fact, R.L. Dabney, the great Presbyterian theologian, predicted an educational crisis back in the 1870s as America began the move toward public, government-funded education, saying, "If the State in America becomes the educator, education must be secularized. In theory, our State is the institution for accomplishing secular justice. It has absolutely severed itself from all religions equally." Since no religion is to be taught and since education is inherently a religious activity, logic dictates that nothing can be taught. At least nothing of substance can be taught, so things like self-esteem and diversity have replaced the tools of learning. Education reformers are desperately looking for something more substantive to teach.

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### AS PARENTS AND EDUCATORS, THIS IS WHAT WE PARTNER TO DO: DISCIPLE FUTURE LEADERS BY CAPITALIZING ON THE WISDOM OF THE PAST.

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This is why "Common Core" has become the new wave. This is a good idea gone bad. Classical Christian educators believe in reading from a shared core curriculum, as David Hicks asserts in his book, *Norms and Nobility*. We read from the great thinkers of Western civilization who raise transcendent issues rather than "common" books selected by contemporary left-leaning special interest groups — which actually are not all that common.

We want to read inspiring stories like *Treasure Island* as opposed to *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*; or worse, forsaking *The Divine Comedy* and *Hamlet* for the questionable and explicit *In the Time of the Butterflies* or *The Bluest Eye*; books from Common Core's "exemplar texts" for high school juniors which, according to critics, contains graphic portrayals of sex, pedophilia, and rape without a moral context to guide the reader.

Geneva, and the classical Christian movement of which we are a part, desire to read from the core of works which Mortimer Adler called "The Great Conversation." By reading from the likes of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Milton, and Shakespeare, we best prepare students to be future leaders.

As parents and educators, this is what we partner to do: disciple future leaders by capitalizing on the wisdom of the past. By God's grace, we will do so. ☞

## Alumni Interview:

# Savannah Makes UF Home Away From Home

Geneva 2010 alumna Savannah Smothers recently spent some time on campus observing current classrooms and teachers. We asked her how she was progressing through college and how her Geneva education has benefited her.

### *Where and what are you studying?*

I'm at the University of Florida majoring in family, youth, and community science with a minor in Florida teaching. Essentially, I can work with any nonprofit or social service, or anything that specializes in helping family and youth. And with my minor, I can teach.

### *When you transitioned to college, what was easy and what was hard?*

Going from a school that had 125 students to a school of 50,000 can be very intimidating. My first semester at UF was in the summer of 2010. Starting early helped as there were fewer people and smaller classes. I had to learn to have the right balance of friends and school. Educationally, the transition wasn't difficult. I was accustomed to a heavier course load and knew the importance of school, so the adjustment wasn't bad.

### *Did Geneva prepare you for college?*

Yes, definitely. I attended Geneva from kindergarten through 12th grade, so I got the whole body of classical education. Geneva benefited me the most in history and English. In one of my freshman college English classes, we were simply going over what a thesis was, and I was shocked at how many people didn't know.

During my junior year in a technical writing class, we had to write a research paper. When asked how many of us had written a research paper, out of the 150 students, 7 of us raised our hands. Many students complained and struggled writing this paper, but since I had written so many for Mr. Strawbridge, it was easy for me. So to all you students and parents: those research papers do pay off!

### *Was it difficult to enter a large secular university after attending a small Christian school?*

Going from a class of 3 to a freshman class of 15,000 was a little overwhelming. But, in some ways, attending Geneva actually benefited me because it was smaller. Since I was so used to having a one-on-one

relationship with my teachers at Geneva, I was more comfortable going to my professors, asking questions, and engaging in classroom discussions.

Although UF does have 50,000 students, I found ways to make it seem smaller. I got strongly involved in Reformed University of Fellowship, a Christian campus organization. This is where I met some of my closest friends and current roommates.

I've been able to stand firm in my faith because of Christ Jesus but also because of the way my parents raised me. They grounded me in my faith by raising me in the church and always pointing me to Christ with everything I did. So I do thank them so much for raising me the way they did. I made it a point to find a church and attend it regularly, and find Christian friends who are going to hold me accountable and ask me hard questions.

### *What are your future plans?*

I'm graduating in May 2014 and am planning on returning to Lakeland. I'm praying for opportunities and excited to see where the Lord leads me. I honestly would love to come back and teach at Geneva at some point, but we will see.

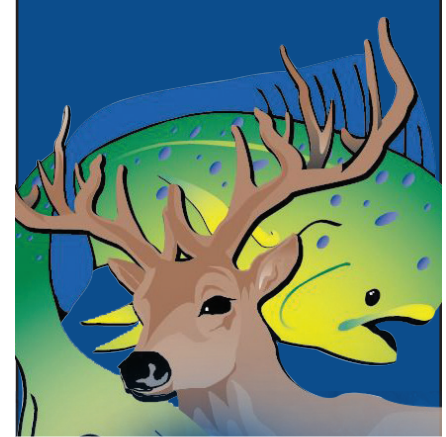
### *What do you value most about your Geneva education?*

Geneva was a big part of my life. The education that I received is not like any other school. Even within my education classes I always bring up different aspects of classical education, and so many people have never heard of it. With classical education you memorize so much useful information, you learn how to think logically and then form valid arguments.

I know some people would wish for bigger classes, especially in high school, but I eventually grew to appreciate it. The education that I received was far better than having more friends at my school because you can find friends everywhere, but classical education is rare. ☺



17th Annual



## BUCKFIN BANQUET

FEBRUARY 28, 2014

At Geneva, we are raising up future community leaders.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to support this high quality, classical Christian education. Sponsorship opportunities are available:

### **THE BIG BUCK \$5,000**

(Official event sponsor, table recognition, premier seating for 8, full page program ad, 4 Buckfin shirts, 80 raffle tickets)

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(premier seating for 4, quarter page program ad)

### **THE WILD HOG \$500**

(premier seating for 2, 1/8 page program ad)

All corporate sponsors receive signage space at BuckFin and promotion in printed materials.

## Locker Room News: *Extreme Growth at Geneva*

If you've been on campus this fall, especially after school, no doubt you've noticed more athletes heading to their various practices, drills, and matches. Geneva has increased its athletics program dramatically in the past year, thanks to the hard work of Director Andrea Lamb. Adding to our football and cheerleading program, Geneva added a JV men's basketball team last winter, as well as a ladies' volleyball team, cross country team, and archery team this fall. Finally, a varsity basketball team began practice in November.

The Knights football team, which competes in the FCAPPS League, entered the season with a mix of returning and new coaches and players who worked hard and developed a strong team spirit. Ending the season 5-5 landed them a spot in the playoffs. We bid farewell to graduating seniors Josh Whitehurst, Jordan Davis, and Andy Carrol who have been with the team for several seasons. Their leadership, dedication, and talent will be missed.

Lory Pyle became the new cheerleading coach of Geneva's 11-lady team. Sporting new uniforms and several new cheers and stunts, the ladies cheered at each home game and will cheer for basketball this year as well. Team unity thrived this year as the girls started the season with a cheer retreat and carried that spirit into each vigorous practice and game.

Geneva's ladies' volleyball had a strong inaugural



season with nine ladies between 5th and 8th grade. They competed in eleven matches this fall. Coach Lamb was very proud of the ladies' hard work and looks forward to building on this foundation for next year.

A co-ed middle school cross country team was also established this fall. Runners in 5th to 8th grades raced in a couple of meets, including the county championship. Knox Gibson qualified for the Middle School State Championship and finished that race 65th out of 240 runners (9th among the 6th-grade boys). Congratulations, Knox!

The new archery team, co-ed for 7th-12th graders, have begun practices and competitions. Several team members have already competed individually and are looking forward to combining their skills and strengths into our first team. They will compete against local schools and in the state tournament through the National Archery in Schools Program. The equipment purchased for the team will also be used in PE classes for 5th-10th grades.

Coach Lamb's arrival at Geneva has led to tremendous growth and enthusiasm for athletics at Geneva. The future is bright for Geneva athletes! ☺



Congratulations to Samantha Sokolski and Lief Goodson for taking first place in the ladies' and men's divisions of this year's Sporting Clays benefit. The winning team consisted of Tim Smith, Minter Goodson, Dara Goodson, Jake Goodson and Jim Everett.

**THE 7TH ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS BROUGHT IN  
OVER \$8,000 FOR GENEVA!**

## *Matching Grant Challenge*

We invite you to participate in our "Grace of Giving" annual year-end matching campaign. **All donations up to \$22,000 will be matched dollar for dollar by special Friends of Geneva Supporters to reach \$44,000 by January 10, 2014.** Please prayerfully consider what you can do in contributing to this opportunity.

With your gifts and God's blessings, we continue to provide a high-quality academic education built on a Christian worldview that cultivates virtuous character in our students. Our culture needs virtuous leaders, and Geneva cultivates virtue in our students by nourishing their souls on truth, goodness, and beauty. Invest in virtue through your gift to Grace of Giving by returning the enclosed envelope or by visiting [www.genevaclassicalacademy.com/support-gca](http://www.genevaclassicalacademy.com/support-gca) and designating Grace of Giving. ☺



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