

WINTER 2014-2015

# ExVeritate

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TRUTH

## *New Faculty Raise the Bar*

TEACHERS RECEIVE TECH  
UPGRADES

GENEVA ANNOUNCES  
HOMESCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

FROM THE GRIDIRON TO THE  
DIAMOND

GENEVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY



## *Headmaster's Remarks*

Many, if not most, of the great characters of literature have gone on quests. Odysseus, Hercules, John Bunyan's Christian, Tolkein's Frodo, and even the Bushman from the 1980's film *The God's Must Be Crazy* all had difficult journeys and obstacles to overcome. In the Bible, Jacob sought Rachel and Moses sought the Promised Land; in ancient literature, Jason sought the Golden Fleece and Aeneas sought a new homeland; in Medieval narratives, Sir Galahad sought the Holy Grail and Dante sought Paradise. Like these heroes of old, Geneva families are on a quest together to raise our children in the nurture and admonition, or rather education, of the Lord.

We are bound together, pursuing the common cause of the benefits of a classical and Christian education for our children. While we travel, we cannot see what lies beyond the curve of the road or what is over the next hill. Our mission statement serves as our map; it guides our journey and sustains us in the endeavor.

"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."

The book of Proverbs points out, "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding." The object of our quest as Christian parents is wisdom for our children. I hope that you see in the following pages that the Hand of Providence is upon us and the Lord is blessing our journey together here at Geneva. Let us strive to be faithful as God writes this chapter of our story together, and may we be eager to see what comes next!

RICHARD CALI , Headmaster





# ExVeritate

MAGAZINE

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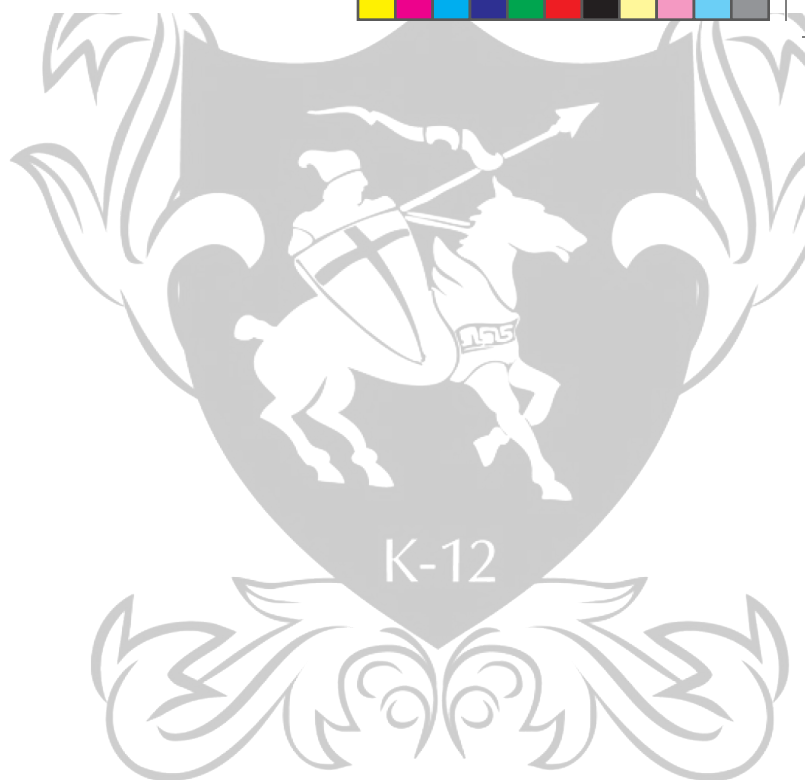
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## MISSION STATEMENT

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## GENEVA CLASSICAL ACADEMY, INC.

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POSITION



# Geneva Teachers Receive Tech Upgrades

A teacher opens her laptop, turns on a projector, and shows a slide of a famous painting to her students. She asks, "What do you see in this painting?" And then, "Do you know who painted it?" Finally, "What was going on during this time period?" Thus she introduces her lesson to her students. Gone are the days of, "Open your books to page 121." Technology has made access to important works possible at Geneva.

Thanks to a grant provided by the George W. Jenkins Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation, Geneva purchased 15 laptops for our teachers along with four new overhead computer projectors. These machines were purchased and set up by our IT specialist, James Hammett of NetMan, Inc. Teachers

were trained on how to utilize them optimally by Dr. Jennifer King, formerly the director of technology instruction at Florida Southern University and now with her own consulting firm. She spent an entire day demonstrating the possibilities and training teachers how to use technology to get students into Higher Order Thinking. She called us "H.O.T." teachers!

Now our classrooms have dynamic PowerPoint presentations by teachers, involving great works of art as well as images of historical sites, artifacts, music, films, and enormous amounts of information. In addition, students are able to utilize this technology for their own projects and presentations. Thanks to this generous contribution, a new day of technology has dawned on Geneva.

# National English Honor Society Issues Chapter to Geneva

Geneva Classical Academy's inaugural chapter of the National English Honor Society was installed on September 18, 2014. The National English Honor Society is the only national organization exclusively for high school students and faculty who, in the field of English, merit special note for past and current accomplishments.

The following charter members were inducted during a ceremony led by Faculty Advisor Monica Maravilla and the Advisory Council — Rich Cali, Megan Boutwell, Eric Fullgraf, and Joy-Marie Strawbridge:

Meredith McGinnis, President  
Joseph Ford, Vice President  
Abigail Smith, Secretary  
Virginia Lawrence, Treasurer  
Megan Brock  
Dana Dombroski  
Joseph Fielder  
Jennifer Germany

Jordan Germany  
Jackson Maravilla  
Tyler Snively  
Emily Brown  
Rebecca Fielder  
Elizabeth McGinnis  
Charley Smith  
Ethan Whitehurst

Congratulations to Geneva and these students on this achievement. We look forward to the new chapter's continued growth and impact on our community.

*18th Annual*



**BUCKFIN  
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**FEBRUARY 27, 2015**

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 eight, full-page program ad, four Buckfin shirts, 80 raffle tickets)

**THE BULL DOLPHIN \$2,500**  
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**THE GATOR TAIL \$1,000**  
(premier seating for four, quarter-page program ad)

**THE WILD HOG \$500**  
(premier seating for two, eighth-page program ad)

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## *Geneva Announces Homeschool Partnership*

As an outgrowth of Geneva's individual course offerings to Dialectic and Rhetoric students, the new Geneva Homeschool Partnership Program provides families of grammar-aged students the opportunity to homeschool while benefiting from the support and resources of an established program. Geneva's mission has always been to partner with parents in the stewardship and responsibility of "training up a child in the way he should go." This program aligns beautifully with that mission while also offering flexibility and a more "hands on" approach to a child's education.

Participating students have the opportunity to attend special classes such as music, art, and physical education on the days they are on campus, and follow a structured lesson plan on the days they homeschool. This program follows the same scope and sequence of the full-time curriculum, and meets the high academic standards of Geneva. The Homeschool Partnership Program is a great fit for families who desire assistance and direction with lesson planning and content while seeking a homeschooling experience.

Kelly Nix, our first grade home school partnership teacher, is the product of a homeschool education and has a passion for the "art" of home education. Her love for learning carried her through several departments during her undergraduate and graduate work, including music, English, and religion, before she finally landed in the education field. She holds a Master of Arts in School Administration from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina and taught various subjects in multiple schools while working through her own schooling. A large portion of her graduate studies was devoted to the concept of a school/parent partnership model for education, as well as the writing of curriculum and materials that would assist parents and teachers in this endeavor. The Geneva Homeschool Partnership Program is a perfect fit for both her training and passion, and she is eager to see it grow and develop. ☞

EX VERITATE 5







# *From the Gridiron to the Diamond*

If you've been on campus, especially after school, no doubt you've noticed many athletes heading to various practices, drills, and matches. In the fall, Geneva added girls' varsity volleyball to our growing roster of varsity football, cheerleading, men's basketball, JV volleyball, and archery. A winter addition was a men's JV basketball team.

The Geneva Knights football team kicked off the season with a new head coach, Paul Brown, who trained his young men to play hard every week, coaching with a team-oriented philosophy. The Knights moved from their old home field, "The Pit," and brought the Friday night lights to Geneva's campus. Anyone driving on Lakeland Highlands Road during a game would have seen the bright lights and heard the roar of the crowd as we cheered on the Knights football team in front of the school. The team ended their season on a high note with a 58-32 victory against Peniel Baptist. Of course, the Knights football team would not have performed nearly as well if it were not for the Geneva cheerleaders supporting them. Once again, Lory Pyle coached the Knights cheerleaders. This year she had

three returning cheerleaders and added five new girls to the squad. Though the squad was young, they did an excellent job of leading the crowd and keeping the football team's spirits high.

Andrea Wiegman coached both the JV and varsity women's volleyball teams. She loved coaching the girls, and both of the teams preformed very well, ending the season with successful records of 7-4 for JV and 8-2 for the varsity women. Geneva hosted the Central Florida Athletic Conference tournament in November. Despite girls missing due to injury and travels, the Knights varsity team managed to dig deep, overcome adversity, and finish in second place. Congratulations, Andrea and the volleyball teams!

Archery welcomes a new coach for the team's second season. Makaylee Graves, a former archer who went to nationals herself, aims to keep the Geneva archers on target. Last season, then-Junior Dana Dombroski made it to nationals, and a few of Geneva's archers nearly qualified. With Makaylee at the helm, Geneva is primed to send several athletes to the national competition this year. William Tell and Robin

Hood would be jealous of the marksmen Geneva has assembled in just a brief time.

Men's basketball season is well under way. Wilson Murphy coaches the varsity men and anticipates another successful season. Young men in grades seven through nine, coached by Ethan Barbee, form Geneva's JV team.

Geneva would like to add a baseball team in the future. Athletic Director Rick Strawbridge would love any assistance that parents could lend toward making this goal possible. Parents who are interested in a team can email Mr. Strawbridge at [rstrawbridge@genevaclassicalacademy.com](mailto:rstrawbridge@genevaclassicalacademy.com). Having a list of kids who are interested in playing the sport is vital to starting the team, as well as any parents who feel qualified to coach.

Rick would like to thank all of the Geneva parents who have volunteered their time at Geneva's sporting events. He also wants to give a special thanks to Laura Warneke and Teri Lawrence who have kindly dispensed some of their wisdom and experience to him as he takes the helm of a quickly growing athletics program at Geneva.









## *New Faculty Additions Continue to Raise the Bar at Geneva*

We at Geneva are unabashed in boasting about the master teachers the Lord has brought to our campus. For the 2014-15 academic year, He blessed Geneva again with the addition of six outstanding faculty members, three full-time and three part-time.

**Donna Lynam** joins Geneva's faculty as our fifth-grade teacher. Donna holds a BA in Biblical Education and a Masters of Education Administration. After enjoying time at home with her children, she followed her youngest to school and began teaching at Berean Academy, a Christian and Classical school in Tampa. She has been teaching for 18 years (grades 4 through 12) and loves it. About her transition to Geneva, she shares, "Having taught in a classical school in Tampa, it was like coming home when the Lord brought me to Geneva. Because of past contact with Geneva teachers, I knew I was in for a treat, and it has exceeded my expectations. The faculty, staff, and parents have been so welcoming that it has been more like becoming a part of a family."

Donna continues, "It is a wonderful privilege for a teacher to teach in a classical school where you know the students have been so well prepared and you can enjoy taking them to the next level. My fifth-grade class is a treasure. They are eager to learn, diligent in their studies, and enjoyable to teach."

Geneva welcomes **Lisa Brock** as our K5 teacher. From 2005-2010, she taught sixth grade at Geneva, and we are excited to have her return to our faculty. Her husband, Peter, is the Associate Pastor of Missions at Faith Baptist Church in Winter Haven, where he has served for 11 years. Prior to that, they served together as missionaries to the beautiful people of Italy for 10 years in the industrial city of Torino, Italy. Peter and Lisa have four children: two sons and two daughters. The older three are married, and Megan, who is 18, is looking forward to completing her senior year at Geneva.

Lisa adds, "I am thoroughly enjoying being the kindergarten teacher at Geneva! I have so appreciated the other teachers at this level who are mentoring me as I walk through this first year in kindergarten. Having taught at the upper elementary age for so long, I find I must check my expectations, methods, and

communication style with these precious little ones. I can see God at work, deepening my dependence on Him, and my joy in watching children develop into lifelong lovers of learning. It has been a terrific year so far!"

Geneva's new third-grade teacher is **Shelly Alligood**. After graduating from Florida State University with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, she first taught a combined second/third-grade class at a charter school for arts, science, and technology. She then went into teaching reading and math remediation which gave her experience with all the elementary grade levels, kindergarten through sixth. While living in the mountains of Colorado, she taught second grade at a classical Christian school, and there she fell in love with the classical model.

Shelly adds, "My children love knowing that Mom is right upstairs, and I enjoy stealing hugs and kisses as I see them throughout the day. I have also loved the personal relationships and friendships I have developed with their teachers, which are strengthened all the more since we work together. I have seen a particularly positive influence for my son, Gavin. He is a different child since coming to Geneva. He attended a public school for kindergarten and first grade, and though he learned, he was very unhappy. Over the past couple of months I have seen the joy of learning return to him."

"Knowing my children are in a loving and nurturing environment centered on Christ, knowing they are receiving an amazing classical Christian education, and also the fact that I get to teach an incredible group of third graders... I feel beyond blessed! Geneva has certainly been an answer to prayer, and I am honored to be here."

**Jenny Heidtman** was welcomed to Geneva's Arts Department this year as choral instructor. Jenny was born and raised in Bartow and is a classically trained pianist and singer. Ms. Heidtman graduated from Florida Southern College and studied vocal performance at Salzbürg College in Austria, the Royal Academy of Music in London, and Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Jenny has performed more than 20 operatic roles with various national and international companies.

An accomplished recitalist, chamber musician, and cabaret singer, she has created shows combining opera, musical theater, comedy sketches, and jazz. Ms. Heidtman has taught voice for more than 15 years. About her new students she says, "My vocal arts students are delightful! They are smart, funny, creative and loaded with personality. I love working with such bright young people."

**Jacob Smith**, Geneva's new Dialectic Latin teacher, says, "I have been daily reminded by Geneva (faculty, staff, parents, and especially the student body) of the wisdom of Socrates when he said, 'The only thing I know is that I know nothing.' This has been one of my favorite learning experiences." Jake graduated from a classical Christian high school in Tennessee before becoming an alumnus of the University of Tennessee where he studied philosophy. Additionally, he served in the U.S. Army as a signals intelligence analyst for four years. His recent relocation to Lakeland has been a blessing for our school.

**Rick Strawbridge** joins Geneva as our eighth-grade Greco-Roman history teacher as well as our athletic director. Mr. Strawbridge homeschooled, attended Geneva Classical Academy, and the Cambridge Study Center in Lakeland before moving to Gainesville, where he earned his BA in history from the University of Florida. Having played football at Geneva and being a general lover of all things sports, he aims to build Geneva's current sports programs and expand into new teams this year. We also congratulate Rick on his marriage this summer!

"As a former Geneva student, it has been such a cool experience to be back on campus as a teacher and athletic director," he says. "I have enjoyed getting to know the other teachers and staff members, some of whom worked at Geneva when I was a student. I think my favorite part has been seeing how much the teachers and staff members invest in their jobs and truly long for the students to grow in knowledge and in their faith."

Geneva is blessed to have these fine additions to our faculty as we continue to grow and develop into Polk County's finest private Christian and college-preparatory school.






## Junior Classical League Chapter Preparing for Orlando Regional Forum

The National Junior Classical League, founded in 1936, is now the largest academic organization for middle and high school students in the world, with a membership of over 50,000. NJCL is sponsored through the America Classical League, for the express purpose of encouraging students to study and appreciate the classical languages, literature, and culture of ancient Greece and Rome, and how "the classics" have so profoundly influenced our own culture.

Many people may think of FJCL as an enlarged "Latin Club," but the scope of classical studies reaches deeply into the philosophical, religious, ethical, and aesthetic foundations of our country. When we make an effort to understand and appreciate "the classics," we reap the benefits of interpreting and appraising ourselves.

The National Junior Classical League is comprised of 1,200 local and state/provincial chapters across the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Our local chapter is under the "umbrella" of the Florida Junior Classical League, which is under the auspices of the NJCL.

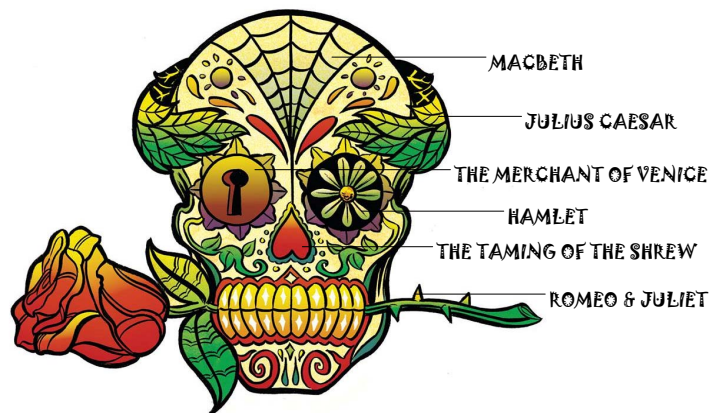
As an affiliate of the NJCL/FJCL, our Geneva chapter, now in our second year, offers our 6th-through 12th-grade students opportunities to participate in academic, creative, graphic arts, and athletics at the state and national conventions; a creative-writing contest; local, state, and national quiz-bowl competitions, called "Certamen;" National Latin (or Greek) Honor Society; and scholarship possibilities for both students and teachers on the state and national levels. NJCL/FJCL also offers student leadership opportunities on the local, state, and national levels. However, students may consider the greatest benefits of membership to be the possibilities for fun and friendship with other students of common interests.

Our 2014-2015 Geneva chapter currently has 12 card-carrying members. We meet on Thursdays after school and will be meeting almost every Thursday now through February for Certamen practice and preparation for the FJCL Orlando regional forum, to be held in late January or early February. 



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## SAY WHAT?

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Saturday, January 17 at 7:00pm

Please join us for our eighth annual Shakespeare show:  
A clever conglomeration of Shakespearean tid-bits strung together with modern song and dance.  
*"All that glisters is not gold, or so it is that I've been told. When making a dish fit for the gods, one must weigh and balance the odds. To be or not to be, there's the rub, for something wicked this way comes. To kill with kindness is the name of the game. A rose is a rose by any other name."* ~ A. Grubb

General Admission: \$10/Adult, \$5/Student



Performances will be held in the Kent Harrison Auditorium at the  
**Polk Museum of Art**  
800 East Palmetto Street, Lakeland, FL 33801



For more information call 863-644-1408  
[GenevaClassicalAcademy.com](http://GenevaClassicalAcademy.com)







*The 1st Geneva Gala, with Dr. George Grant as the guest speaker, was an elegant evening that raised \$64,000 for classical Christian education. We are grateful to our generous guests.*





### *Faculty Interview:*

## *Michael Strawbridge Brings Passion to New Position*

Beloved teacher and mentor Michael Strawbridge joined Geneva's administration team this year with the added title of Head of Upper School and the duties that accompany it. We asked Mr. Strawbridge to share a bit about himself with our readers.

### *EV: How long have you been a Lakelander, and what do you love most about the city?*

I was born in Lakeland and, outside a short stint of but three months during which I left the country and then moved to San Francisco, I've lived in this fair city all my life.

What do I love most? Family. My family has been in Lakeland for almost 60 years. In addition to my grandmother, mother, and siblings, I'm surrounded by a growing plethora of cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews — and I'm happy about it! We don't plan on going anywhere. Lakeland is home.

### *EV: What is your educational background?*

I homeschooled and studied at Cambridge Study Center all the way through high school. I went on to earn a bachelor's degree in classics from the University of South Florida and a master's in Latin from the University of Florida.

### *EV: How long have you been teaching?*

My first official teaching job was that of teaching Latin and logic at Cambridge Study Center in 2007-2008. In 2008-2009 I began teaching at Geneva.

### *EV: What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?*

Easy: my employment of ethos, pathos, and logos — central elements of rhetoric — as I persuaded Joy-Marie Harrison to marry me.

### *EV: How has the Lord prepared you for teaching at Geneva?*

My parents always exemplified a love of learning. This has, no doubt, done more than anything else to prepare me for teaching. Their desire to understand the world, their love of great books and science and history and philosophy and the big questions of life, their passion for theology and God's Word, inspired me as a young man — and continues to do so — to love and pursue the same. I was also introduced to Latin in high school through the Cambridge Study Center. This introduced me to the wonder of classical languages.


### *EV: What are your greatest strengths which you bring to your students?*

I hope that my training, preparation, experience, love of learning, and passion for what I teach are amongst my greatest strengths.

### *EV: How have you adjusted to leading Geneva as Head of Upper School?*

With a lot of help from my friends. I watched Doug Smith closely as he led last year, and, prior to taking the position, I sought guidance and counsel from him and Mr. Cali. I continue to do so as I adjust to my new role.

### *EV: How do you apply the ideals that you disciple in the students and faculty to your own life?*

I seek to grow in my knowledge and understanding of God, his Word, and his world — thereby growing in wisdom. I want the pursuit of understanding to be something that is bigger than formal education and the classroom: I want it to be an integral part of my Christian walk. If our students and faculty are applying their Christian faith to all of life — in fact, seeing no other way to live — then God has accomplished something great through us. 







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*(We came. We walked. We helped.)*

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*Light lunch to follow!* ↗



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