



GenevaClassicalAcademy.com



*"In Accordance with the Truth"*

# EX VERITATE

Vol. 1 Spring 2016 NEWSLETTER



## Year in Review

By Rich Cali, Headmaster

As we come to the end of our Twentieth Anniversary year, we look back with gratitude to God for His blessings on our school. From 1996 to the present, Geneva has touched the lives of hundreds of students and families, discipling with the Gospel of Christ using the methodology of the Trivium and the classical curriculum. To the credit of our Geneva predecessors board members, teachers, and administrators Geneva has been faithful stewards of the resources that our donors and families have entrusted to us, avoided government funding in order to steer clear of requirements such as Common Core and other programs that detract from our mission and vision, and remained solvent for all these years. We are extremely grateful!

Geneva has had a trend of growth over the past few years, from 116 in 2012 to a promising projection for next year of 145-150 students. Helping this growth has been the support of our scholarship program from the George W. Jenkins Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation for three years, making a Geneva education available to more families. Furthermore, we have sought new and different sources of scholarship funding to shift our fundraising efforts from operations to capital improvements.

The accreditation by the Association of Classical and Christian Schools this year is a milestone that demonstrates that we are on par with other schools in this nation-wide movement of classical Christian education. The school has long desired to be accredited, and we were finally able to achieve it this year.

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## Geneva Offers a Uniquely Classical, Distinctively Christian Education for K-12

Geneva Classical Academy seeks to cultivate wisdom and virtue in the souls of our students in order that they may love that which is worth loving.

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## Year in Review

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We have met or exceeded all of the requirements of the association, receiving a number of commendations from the accrediting team. ACCS will present us with a plaque at their summer conference in June.

Each year, Geneva has an education symposium to bring in an outside speaker to encourage our community of faith and learning. Some recent speakers have been authors Ravi Jain, *The Liberal Arts Tradition: A Philosophy of Christian Classical Education*, and Louis Markos, *From Achilles to Christ: Why Christians Should Read the Pagan Classics*. This year the Germany family arranged for us to host Michelle Tepper, speaker for Ravi Zacharias International Ministries (RZIM), who talked to our parents and older students about "Love, Relationships, and Sex". She encouraged everyone that Biblical teachings in these areas are God's provision for our best. We had a record turnout!



Our excellent teachers and small class sizes have helped us to train young people to think critically using time tested methods, utilizing great books to challenge students to think deeply, integrating all subjects at appropriate developmental stages building year to year, and equipping the graduate to lead in all spheres of life.

Thankfully, this year's senior class traveled to Europe to see the cultural accomplishments in Athens, Rome, Florence, Venice, Pisa, and Paris, enjoying many of the accomplishments of Western Civilization. They also presented and defended their 20 page theses papers before the faculty. This exercise prepares them well for college and future academic endeavors. Graduates who have done this are often heard saying,

"After the thesis defense, everything else in college was easy." Our Seniors have been accepted to Auburn University, Flagler College, Mississippi State University, University of Alabama, University of Mississippi, Florida State University, and University of Florida. We bless them as they move out into the world.

Like our seniors who accomplished so much and are looking forward to a new chapter in their lives, Geneva Classical Academy has celebrated our first twenty years this year with joy and gratitude, and we eagerly look forward to our next twenty years and beyond! May God grant that we continue to grow in wisdom and influence, for the glory of The Son.



### BuckFin 2016

Excitement grew as the crowd of over 200 checked in, picked up their guest gifts, and gathered in the warmly lit Dana Camp House barn to begin bidding on silent auction items, raffle items, and card tricks. Geneva's guests bid on items like an olive tree, class theme baskets, and a specialty .22 rifle.



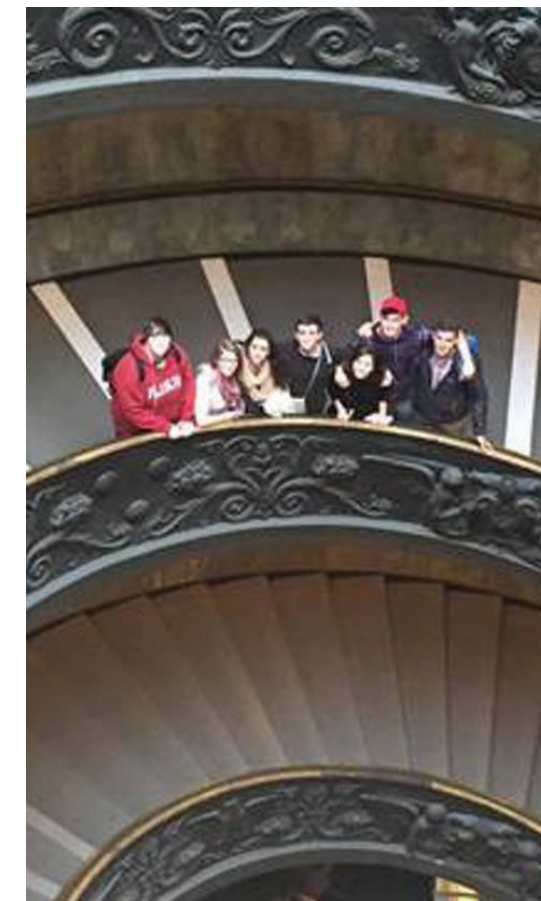
After mingling and partaking of fresh hors d'oeuvres of quail, alligator tail, oysters, and whole smoked pig, grace was said and the feast began: smoked ribs, fresh fish, venison, corn on the cob, and scalloped potatoes were some of the favorites. A history of BuckFin and a brief description of classical education were followed by the live auction which truly became lively at times as supporters helped Geneva with purchasing vacations, luxury items, artwork, and hunting trips. Bidding became electrified over "Brenley" the BuckFin bunny and a day of fishing with fishing pro Bobby Lane. Before it was all over, we reached our goal of \$100,000, and everyone walked away with something while supporting a good cause. The overall theme of the event was excitement!



### Terri's Europe Experience



As long as I have been teaching in a classical school, it has been a dream of mine to visit a few of the places that I have had the privilege to teach about. Many of you know that this dream became a reality this past March when I traveled to Europe with our senior class.



We spent 17 amazing days walking (107 miles to be exact) though places like Athens, Rome, Florence, Cinque Terra, Venice, Pisa, and Paris. Seventeen days sounds like a long time, and it was for my family, but we barely scratched the surface of all there is to see. Needless to say, I returned home with a full mind and an encouraged soul.

Many have asked, "What was your favorite part?" I find that question hard to answer because Europe changed me. We read Paul's message to the Greeks from Acts 17 while actually standing on Mars Hill; my daughter was overwhelmed with emotion when she saw the Coliseum for the first time because she had only ever seen it in pictures; I overheard our seniors talking about the amazing things they've learned in history at our great school, and I watched it all come alive for them.

I constantly viewed everything through the lens of a teacher, a mother, a believer, and I'm convinced we are on the right track. I'm incredibly grateful for our school and the education that my children are receiving. My encouragement to others would be, "Don't give up! A classical education is rigorous, but so worth it." For me, it's a gift worth receiving and sharing.