

STAY CONNECTED

Please stay connected! Tell us what's new with you. Do you have a new job, promotion, marriage, birth, promotion, award, publication or exhibit? We'd love to hear from you. It's easy to send us your news. Just go to the Alumni website and update your info, send in the following, and share your email address to receive the ENewsletters.

Don't forget to send photos!

Name: First, Maiden/Middle, Last

Class Year and Major

Home Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

New Address

Former Cougar athlete

Sport

Job Title

Employer

News for Class Notes

Send to:

Office of Alumni Affairs
Genesee Community College Foundation
One College Road, Batavia, NY 14020

You can also update your information by
visiting: www.genesee.edu/alumni

Find Us On Facebook



SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING



Oh, The Places We Go!

**Friday and Saturday
October 1-2, 2010**

Oh the places we go both far and near! Now it's time to come back to GCC! Many outstanding people have been students at Genesee and have gone out into the community and the rest of the world to take their place as leaders and innovators. Our graduates have traveled to countless places that have taken them far away from here, but Homecoming is a time to come back. It is a time of renewing old friendships and celebrating the development of Genesee into the college it is today.

A group of alumni are planning GCC's first-ever Homecoming. If you want to get involved, have a knack for planning or have great ideas for events for Homecoming, let us know! We would love to have you join in all the fun! Contact the Alumni office at (585) 343-0055 ext. 6265 or jkchristenson@genesee.edu to get involved. Homecoming 2010 is a time to bring your families, have fun and get reacquainted with your old friends from GCC!

Watch your mail for more details coming in August. As final plans begin to develop, you can go to www.genesee.edu/alumni and click on Homecoming 2010.

Stay Connected!

Keep in Touch, Stay Connected, Get Involved, Give Back

JANUARY 2010

THE GENESEE FORUM

Alumni Newsletter



*The New Athletic Field
Alive with Cougar Pride*



FIRST-EVER HOMECOMING

October 1-2, 2010

~ See back page for information ~

A New Chapter in Alumni Affairs

As we welcome another new year, I hope you will welcome me as your new Alumni Affairs Coordinator. My plate is full of possibilities and I look forward to meeting and interacting with Genesee's great alumni. This year, I hope to bring as many alumni back to campus as possible, so they can see how much the College continues to grow and how their support and involvement with their alma mater adds an incredible dynamic to the life and times at Genesee. I hope to do this through the GCC Alumni Career Network, a career mentoring program pairing students with alumni for the purpose of encouraging, supporting, advising and motivating (see page 5); GCC's first Homecoming (see back page); volunteer opportunities for alumni to interact with the great students on campus today; and much, much more.

As you will read in this issue, there are differences from GCC "back in the day" to GCC today, but the basic core of what makes Genesee Community College an extraordinary institution is unchanged – caring and motivating faculty and staff. Many alumni have written back saying they would not be where they are today without the good foundation GCC gave them. The College holds a warm place in their hearts for the opportunities the College provided them. Genesee's alumni have made a difference in their communities and around the world, and I hope this next chapter of Alumni Affairs gathers more alumni support than ever.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jackie

Jackie Christenson
Coordinator, Alumni Affairs



The Genesee Cougar gives President Steiner an alumni T-shirt.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January

19 First day of classes

February

28 Genesee Symphony Orchestra Concert

March

5 Friday Visit Admissions

6 Open House – Experience Genesee

10-11 *Anansi the Spider and the Middle Passage* - Children's Theater performance

11 Health Care Job Fair 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

24 Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

26 Friday Visit Admissions

April

8-11 *Chicago - Musical Performance*

9 Friday Visit Admissions

13 Job Fair 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

17 5th Annual Cool Kids ECO-Fest Celebration

24 Open House and Annual Fashion Show

May

1 Eastman Wind Ensemble

2 Genesee Symphony Orchestra Concert

6 Spring Fest

23 Commencement

June

1 Summer Classes begin

July

6 Summer Session 2 begins/ Genesee Promise Plus

18 Cruise at the College

August

23 First Day of Classes

September

18 PTA 20th Reunion Celebration

2000's

Jason Beideck '02 is a theatre program teacher in North Carolina.

Jamie (Hedrick) LaFrance '03 is currently pursuing a graduate degree in Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She is in her second year of study and works in the lab of Jim Chambers using DOCK to design and synthesize Ampakines.

Christopher Morasco '03 received a bachelor's degree in business management from SUNY Fredonia and then went on to a four-year chiropractic program at D'Youville College in Buffalo and will be graduating in May. Chris also volunteered his chiropractic assistance to "Extreme Makeover; Home Edition" a few weeks ago when the show was in Buffalo.

Elizabeth Downie '04 has taken the position of secretary to the associate vice president/dean of Math, Science, and Career Education at Genesee Community College.

Amy Lukowski '05 went on from Genesee to graduate from Buffalo State with a Fashion Merchandising degree. She is currently executive assistant to the president of Fashion Expressions of Orchard Park, NY, traveling to trade shows and designing the handbags for the company.

Heather Ackerman '05 and Joe Mallison '05 graduated from the UB Theatre program.

Giang Au '06 graduated in 2009 from Drexel University with a Master's in Biomedical Engineering and is presently working on her PhD.

Whitney Fagan '07 (AAS Business Administration) is engaged to John Sardinia of Elryia, Ohio. A June 26, 2010 wedding is planned.

Ayako Ibarski '07 is currently appearing in an off Broadway show.

Mikako Iwami '07 is back in Japan and a member of a theatre company.

Whitney R. Foskit '08 has entered the Fashion Textile Technology program with a concentration in Fashion Merchandising at Buffalo State and will add a double major next semester, in Business/Marketing. In a letter to Genesee faculty member Richard Dudkowski, Whitney notes, "I used a lot of the skills I learned in my two years at GCC for the interviews...great eye contact, listening to the other person and most importantly I came prepared. Thanks for all you taught me..."

Justin Ryan '08 auditioned and was accepted into the University of Buffalo Theatre program.

Jacqueline M. Stephens '08 is employed by AAA as a member service consultant.

Marriages

Stephanie (Borgal) '06 and Kevin Underhill were united in marriage on August 28, at the home of the bride's parents in Lyndonville, on the shores of Lake Ontario. After a honeymoon to Los Cabos, Mexico, the couple will be living in Batavia.

Matthew Wojtaszczyk '08 and Danielle Lauricella (currently pursuing an education degree at GCC) were united in marriage June 20, 2009, at Bethel Baptist Church in Bergen. A reception followed at Genesee County Park, East Bethany. After a honeymoon in Daytona Beach, FL, the couple is living in Batavia.

Passages

Ralph W. Gavenda Jr. '70 passed away suddenly Saturday, October 3, 2009. Ralph was a former postmaster of Albion Post Office, and a member of the Albion Elks Lodge.

James H. Mancuso '70 died at home after a brief illness.

Gail M. Kelley '86 died October 6, 2009 at Highland Hospital in Rochester. Gail had been employed for the past six years as a social worker at the Batavia Nursing Home.

Jennifer E. Neill '98 passed away on February 12, 2009.

To report your Paw Prints, please use the form on the back page.

1970's

Duffy Palmer '71 has become one of the state's top education officials. Gov. David A. Paterson has named Palmer New York State Deputy Secretary for Education. After receiving his Associate's degree from Genesee, Palmer earned a Bachelor's degree from Buffalo State College and did graduate work at University of Buffalo, SUNY Genesee, and SUNY Brockport. He taught for 33 years in the Batavia City School District, where he worked with learning disabled, emotionally disturbed, gifted and talented, social studies, and remedial reading students before retirement in 2006.

Monica Hale Dawson '71 has been elected to the Genesee Community College Foundation Board of Directors. Other alumni on the Foundation Board include Todd Bender '89, Bob Bennett '74, Brian Daviau '81, Jerry Reinhart '71 and Tim Woodward '71.

Len Bartello '72 Accomplishments include serving as Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals (HFTP) 1993 Global President and receiving the 2003 Paragon Award for making significant and lasting contributions to the Hospitality Industry. He is especially proud of his service to the private club industry as chair of the consultant committee charged with producing the Sixth Revised Edition of the Uniform System of Financial Reporting for Clubs.

Mario Cipollone '73 graduated the University of Phoenix online with a Master of Business Administration/Public Administration in May of 2009 and is now pursuing a Masters of Education to teach biology/science at the secondary level. He is presently substitute teaching in the Middletown, NY school district.

Chris M. Barons '74 has been extremely busy since graduating from GCC. He was sports editor at the Daily News from 1976-77, assistant to the Director of Student Activities at GCC in 1978, and Audio-Visual Technician at Elba Central School from 1977 – 2005. In 2005 he began a second career in the blood services division of the American Red Cross in Henrietta. His first novel, *In the Midst Of*, was released in April 2008 and has gotten great public reviews.

Julia Benton '77 went on to Buffalo State where she received her Master's degree in education. Julia is now teaching 4th grade in a school in Buffalo.

1980's

Mickey Hyde '87 has been promoted to the position of assistant vice president of the LeRoy branch of the Bank of Castile. A former institutional sales manager for Raymond James Financial in Florida and a professional baseball player in the Philadelphia Phillies organization, Mickey was hired in 2003 to manage the LeRoy bank. He is the assistant baseball coach at LeRoy High School.

Kelli (Sperino) Pease '89 has recently accepted a position with the Genesee Valley Penny Saver in Avon to head their new Internet Advertising department. Kelli would like to find alumni that were part of the communication department/radio station – WGCC 90.7. Look Kelli up on Facebook, her email is Ksperino@frontiernet.net

Timothy S. Whitcomb '89 was appointed Cattaraugus County Sheriff after the untimely death of the previous sheriff.

Julia Benton '77 went on to Buffalo State where she received her master's degree in education. Julia is now teaching 4th grade in a school in Buffalo.

Karen Cutitta '89 has been named vice president for Five Star Bank. In addition to being a vice president, Karen has continuing jobs of public relations, events and sales support manager.

1990's

Robin (Gonsales) Turner '90 is currently living in Honolulu, HI, working at the Department of Prosecuting Attorney as a victim/witness advocate.

Eric Fish '91 received his Bachelor of Science in Technical Management in 2008 and was recently awarded his MBA from the Keller Graduate School of Management. Eric presently lives in Georgia with his wife, Amanda.

Wispeny Ellis '92 (Business Administration) has been named assistant commissioner of the Great Lakes Valley Conference, a 12 member Midwestern collegiate athletic conference sponsoring 15 NCAA Division II sports. She currently resides in Carmel, Indiana with her husband, Thomas.

Deborah A. Voltura '92 and Thomas M. Shea were united in marriage September 12, 2009. Deborah is the principle financial clerk at the Genesee County Sheriff's Department in Batavia. After a trip to Aruba and Florida, they are living in Stafford.

Robert Goulet '98 is a learning specialist with the Pittsford Central School District. Robert and his wife Melanie live in Wyoming County with their three children.

Joseph Andreano '99 has his latest exhibit at the Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council's satellite gallery at the Shirt Factory Caf  in Medina. The exhibit features 23 paintings and is his first solo exhibit. For more information see page 8.

Shannon McCaffery '99 was promoted to assistant vice president of Five Star Bank. She has been with the bank since 2006 and is currently a business banking underwriter.

2000's

Heather Anger '00 went on to pursue her BEA from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit where she graduated with honors in 2005, and was hired as a design sculptor by General Motors, and is finishing up her last year at the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Sarah E. Petty '01 received a Bachelor of Science degree at SUNY Oneonta '03 and returned to Genesee to complete an AAS degree '05 in Business Administration. Sarah is a Home D cor associate with Kmart, as well as the assistant director of Batavia High School's Colorguard and Winterguard. She sings with the Genesee Chorale, serves on several committees at the First Presbyterian Church, and is busy planning her wedding in July 2010.

William G. Wallace '01 is co-owner and Business Manager of Delectious Web Design. William's Business degree shows in his strengths of sales and business sense and he is noted for his concern for customer satisfaction and financial management. Along with his work as professional photographer for the business, William enjoys mountain biking, motorcycling and skiing.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Scott Gardner
Class of 1997

AAS PARALEGAL

The Genesee Choice

"GCC provided me with a quality, affordable, and flexible education to begin my career. I worked in our family business which eventually closed and I was not able to 'go off' to college' like many of my peers. It was necessary for me to work almost full-time while I was going to school, and GCC gave me an opportunity that I might not have otherwise had at the time."
- Scott Gardner

Scott Gardner, '97 is enjoying his time as Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Dan Burling (147th Assembly District). A resident of Warsaw, NY, he has stayed in the Western New York area because family, friends and the great people of the region. He has a enormous interest in working on issues that are important to the future of New York State, as those issues are ever changing and always challenging. He also enjoys all of the people that cross his path in the political arena. Previous to his work with Assemblyman Burling, Scott worked for his family trucking business and then for Assembly Minority Leader Tom Reynolds. Scott is a Major in the United States Air Force Auxiliary - Civil Air Patrol and has received the 2004 Civil Air Patrol NY Wing Public Affairs Officer of the Year; NY Wing Commander's Commendation in 2008 and has been honored with various awards for aerospace achievement and leadership. He is a standout in the local community as a Red Cross Board Member, Wyoming Foundation Board Member, and a member of GCC's Paralegal Advisory Board. Scott is a graduate of Warsaw Central School and is currently attending SUNY Empire State College.



Scott Gardner

15 Questions with Scott Gardner:

- Fondest memory of Genesee Community College:** Developing close friendships with classmates and staff at the college.
- Favorite professor, instructor or coach:** Catherine Johns
- Favorite class or experience:** Constitutional Law and the ability to debate.
- Family members attend GCC?** My brother and sister-in-law attended, as well as a cousin.
- Travels:** Caribbean, Mexico, multiple US States.
- Favorite movie:** Star Wars (episodes I-VI)
- Favorite book:** The Holy Bible
- Favorite band or musician:** Frank Sinatra
- Favorite color:** Navy Blue
- Favorite food:** Lasagna
- Favorite beverage:** Gewurztraminer (German white wine)
- Best vacation ever:** Summers camping in Letchworth State Park
- Favorite restaurant:** The National Hotel in Cuylerville, NY
- Hobbies and interests:** Reading, theology, movies, flying, technology and science. Riding my Harley-Davidson!
- Lunch date with anyone, living or dead:** The Apostle Peter. He is a fascinating biblical and historical person - and he walked on water. I want to know what that felt like!

Sports Corner

New Sports: *Three new intercollegiate sports have been added at Genesee.*

Men's & Women's Cheer Team

New this fall was a Men's and Women's Cheer team for varsity and club sports consisting of 35 highly energized and spirited members. The squad cheers at all of the home basketball games and select sporting events throughout the year. Members of the team are recognized as true spirit leaders on campus and are highly visible throughout the year at athletic events, campus programs and volunteer events in the community. They are coached by Jennifer Newell, who brings an assortment of knowledge and professional experience as Dean of Students at Genesee.



Women's Lacrosse

In the spring of 2010 a Women's Lacrosse Club Team, consisting of about 20 members, will be formed. Dave Hoover will be the men's and women's coordinator. He brings nearly 30 years of experience as a coach at all levels, as well as a player. Assisting Dave is his son, Derek Hoover. Derek has been with Genesee lacrosse program for four years as the offensive coordinator of the men's team, while also having the responsibility of recruiting for the Cougars. In spring 2011, the College should have approval to upgrade the Women's Lacrosse Club Team to a NJCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Team.

Men's & Women's Golf

A golf team was added to the list of intercollegiate sports in fall of 2009, competes in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region III level, and is a member of the Western New York Athletic Conference. The program is being developed by head coach Tom Tucker who brings a wealth of experience to GCC. Coach Tucker is a certified Golf Teaching Professional through the Professional Golf Teachers of America (PGTCA), as well as through the United States Golf Teachers Federation (USGTF).



Golf Head Coach Tom Tucker

Alumni Soccer Game: On October 24, 2009, a hearty group of Genesee Soccer Alumni from 1988 to 2007 took to the wind-swept field and played the first Alumni Soccer Game—odd years competing against even years for an invigorating score of 5-3 (discounting any off-sides calls). The game included 17 Genesee soccer alumni, Coach Ken Gavin and Jim Cody, assistant men's soccer coach and the College's senior manager of Technical Services. With grey clouds bearing cold drizzle, the older, seasoned Genesee Cougars were reminded how Genesee's original field was like being "on top of the world" and not the easiest to compete on. The chill and drizzle did not dampen the enthusiasm for a rematch for all Cougar soccer alumni in 2010 when the College's new outdoor, turf field featuring lights and bleachers will be available. Players from near and from far, both men and women await that game with great anticipation.



New Facilities: The College has recently installed a state-of-the-art, full-size all weather turf athletic field which will be ready for use this spring by the Men's and Women's Soccer and Lacrosse teams. The field boasts new lights, bleachers, score board, and of course, beautiful all-weather turf with a massive GCC Cougar logo at center field. Other outdoor athletic upgrades include new dugouts and field resurfacing on the baseball and softball fields. These are the first upgrades to the athletic facilities since the Batavia Campus was built in the early 1970s, and will serve GCC students for future generations. Indoor upgrades include a brand new gym floor in the Anthony T. Zambito gym, as well as a new sound system, scoreboard, and bleachers. Upgrades to Men's and Women's locker rooms will also be complete for the spring 2010 semester.

Encore 2009

More than 300 area residents attended Encore 2009, Genesee Community College Foundation's annual holiday fundraising event. The December gala continued the tradition of a fun and festive evening with new and old friends coming together in the spirit of raising funds for the College's numerous scholarship programs. Todd Bender '89, and his wife Kathy '90, chaired Encore 2009. The evening began with a gourmet reception in the Batavia Campus' William W. Stuart Forum. Guests then proceeded to the Stuart Steiner Theatre for a holiday pops concert with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, and then afterward enjoyed delectable desserts in the College's Forum. Contributions totaled more than \$55,000 and are still coming in, said Foundation executive director Richard Ensman. "In these difficult and economically challenging times, these contributions should be a source of pride to everyone who worked to make the event possible," he said. The Foundation would also like to thank Five Star Bank, the lead corporate benefactor, for their continued support of Encore.



Alumni Legacy Scholarship



The Alumni Legacy Scholarship is available to children or parents of graduates who are enrolled in the College fulltime. The recipients are selected by a committee on the basis of grade point average, scholastic merit and community service. Visit the link below to apply, and don't forget to include your essay!

www.genesee.edu/financial_aid/scholarships



Joseph Andreano, '99 Artist – Joe Andreano, a builder, mason, World War II Veteran, college graduate, now also claims the title of artist—discovering a new passion and talent when he was an octogenarian. Retiring from his job at the City of Rochester, Joe decided to take the plunge and go back to school. He enrolled at Genesee in 1996 and graduated in 1999 at the age of 80. Joe started taking art classes because he needed the college credits and was surprised that he not only could draw, but he excelled at painting. He continued his education, earned a Bachelor's degree from SUNY Brockport—all while fostering his love for the arts. He recently coordinated his first solo exhibition at The Shirt Factory in Medina, NY, featuring some of his favorite paintings that include scenes from nature. Joe also loves to read, especially about the history and background of artists.

Joe's paintings evoke a specific emotion, such as sense of feeling of tranquility in his landscape paintings that illustrate mountains, glaciers, or ice. When drawing people "on the move" he gives the feeling of vibrancy to the scene. As Joe points out, "you can bring the people alive in your paintings."

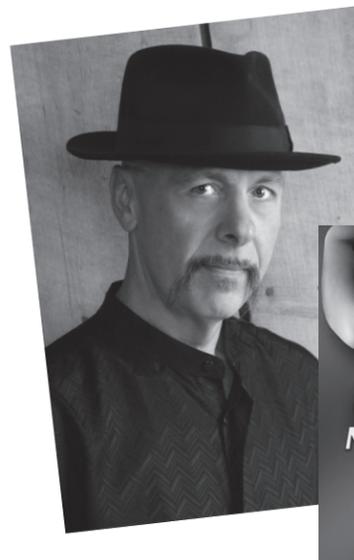
Tricia Griffith, '91 Artist/Photographer— Tricia Griffith has lived all over the United States after graduating from Genesee in 1991 with an Advertising/Visual Art degree. Her work ranges from fairies and dragons alongside wolves and house pets, as well as unique visionary pieces inspired by her dreams and imagination. Her artwork evolved into a creative mix of graphite wildlife, fantasy and nature watercolor, visionary abstract acrylic paintings and fantasy colored pencil work. Most recently, she began using egg tempera paint for pleasing results.

She works part time as a veterinarian's assistant, which gives her inspiration for much of her artwork. She enjoys drawing and painting animals and wildlife especially when she works from photographs she has taken herself. Her photography consists of nature and wildlife around New York State and some of the places she has traveled.

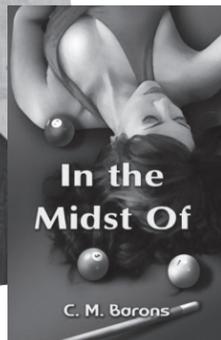
Tricia also experiments with children's portraits and fantasy and visionary art. "Most of my fantasy/visionary images are pictures that just 'pop' into my head. I don't use a photo for reference, just my imagination!" she notes. Reproductions of all of her works are for sale. Visit www.triciagriffith.com for more information.



Photo by Tricia Griffith



Chris Baron's, '74 Author— Chris, better known as C.M. Barons, continued his education at SUNY New Paltz after graduating with a degree in Liberal Arts from Genesee. His background includes newspaper writing, political activism, educational technology and live-sound production. A resident of Bergen, NY he pursues interests in history, religion, politics and Egyptology. His first novel, *In the Midst Of*, summons the generation that defined the 1970s. In the novel, Brian, a college sophomore, connects with an offbeat mentor named Hollis in a lopsided relationship. When Hollis at last moves on, Brian wanders through jungles of myth, love and rich language in search of his lost friend. His novel has been referred to as "...refreshingly original, highly ambitious in scope and totally offbeat," by Bill Chinaski of *Alternative Reel*. For further information visit www.inthemidstof.info or to purchase a copy of *In the Midst Of* visit www.amazon.com.



Alumni Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

Alumni Hall of Fame Nominations Sought: The Foundation is seeking nominations for its Alumni Hall of Fame, which recognizes those alumni who have achieved outstanding success and made a lasting impact on the community. The Foundation will induct its fourth group of honorees in a ceremony on March 24, 2010 at the Batavia campus. The criteria for nominating an individual to the College Alumni Hall of Fame are based on the individual's contributions to his or her profession, distinguished service to the community and/or service to Genesee Community College. Nomination forms can be downloaded from Genesee's alumni website www.genesee.edu/alumnihalloffame and emailed or sent to the Alumni Office.

Nominations may be submitted by the nominee or by friends, family, work associates or other colleagues who are familiar with the nominee. All nominations received by **February 1, 2010** will be considered by the Selection Committee. New inductees will be honored at the March reception, and their photo and a short biography will be featured on a plaque displayed in the Alumni Hall of Fame, located on the second floor of the Conable Technology Building.



President Steiner is joined by three new Alumni Hall of Fame inductees: George Schaefer, Wanda Frank, and Paula Miller Schaefer

Physical Therapist Assistant program 20th Anniversary



Physical Therapist Assistant program 20th Anniversary Celebration: Genesee's PTA program will celebrate the program's 20th anniversary in the fall 2010 semester. On September 18, 2010 alumni, faculty and friends of the PTA program will gather in the Forum at the Batavia Campus from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. with a dinner at 6:00 p.m. Further information will be forthcoming, or contact Peggy Kerr, director of the Physical Therapist Assistant program at 585-343-0055 x6366.

FUN FACT: Graduates of Genesee's PTA program have the Highest Ultimate Pass Rate for the National Licensing Exam among all PTA programs in New York State! The PTA program at Genesee has a Weighted Average Ultimate Pass Rate for 2005-2007 of 95.12% which is listed as the highest pass rate among all 11 PTA programs across the state.

Genesee Alumni Career Network

Join the Alumni Career Network and play a major role in guiding students toward being successful both academically and professionally. Many times a student will choose a field they are unfamiliar with. They might have limited knowledge or lack of hands-on-experience of the day-to-day routine, successes, and challenges of the chosen field. You can guide students in understanding their field of interest through the Career Network. We will match you with a Genesee student who has similar academic interests, career goals, personal interests and hobbies for the purpose of encouraging, supporting, advising and motivating. Some of the mentoring sessions will be done in person, but many can be done through email, phone, shadowing opportunities, or even an internship. If you would like to consider being a mentor to a student, go to the Alumni site and fill out the application. The first mentoring session will begin in fall semester 2010 and end with a final dinner in April 2011. For more information call (585) 343-0055 ext. 6265 or email jkchristenson@genesee.edu

Come celebrate the 2010 **Cool Kids EcoFest** and Earth Day Art Contest

5th Annual CoolKids ECO-Fest at GCC, Saturday, April 17, 2010, 10a.m. - 2p.m. at the Batavia Campus. 'Get your green on' and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day featuring dozens of green-themed activities for the whole family plus opportunities to recycle electronics, sneakers, and old paperback books.

GCC TRAIL BLAZERS: REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIRST CLASS

Class of 1969

It was 1969. Men were walking on the moon. Nixon was president. And bell bottom jeans were all the rage. The class of 1969 was the first class to graduate from Genesee Community College and they were 'trail blazers.' During their years at Genesee, they established the Student Government Association (SGA), the Cougar mascot, and they named the first student newspaper the "GeneSee Oriel" – a spoof on the fact that Genesee's first facility had no windows. The College's first home was the Valu Discount Store on West Main Street in Batavia, and beside classes students organized mixers, guest speakers, fundraisers and concerts including Bob Seger System and Alvin Ailey Dancers.

Alfred C. O'Connell was president in 1969, and Pat Easton recalls: "Stu Steiner was the dean of Students. You could always find kids hanging out in his office. Sometimes on purpose, and sometimes to just shoot the breeze."

She also recalled, "Report cards were always stressful. Not because we worried about what parents would say about grades, but we were in the middle of the draft and the Viet Nam War. If a guy flunked out of college, he was on his way to the 'university' of Saigon. Lots of our friends left for the war and most came back changed in one way or another."

While cause of report card stress might have changed over the years, most Genesee grads generally agree about their favorite aspect of attending the College. It was and continues to be the relationships they established with caring and inspiring faculty and staff, as noted by the following quotes from a student today and from 40 years ago.

"All the teachers I have had classes with have been very passionate, knowledgeable, and extremely encouraging of their students. They love teaching and it's inspirational to students. The small class sizes allow for discussion and more individualized attention to each student making you feel like you matter and are not just a number in the system," Jennifer Bryant '09 said.

"The professors were very personable and you could always talk with them. They supported us and they would go the extra mile to make you sure would be successful," Pam (Allein) Whitcombe '69 said.

The trail blazers from the Class of 1969 not only founded very important student groups and organizations, but they walked away with the College's first diplomas while creating countless memories, funny stories, lifelong friendships and even marriages. A new column called "Met My Mate" (see next page) reveals a few of special unions that started at Genesee and continued on for the long term.

"We were THE FIRST! We organized all the clubs, we all started with clean slates, we made our own decisions about which professors were the best or the hardest, the fairest or the most demanding. We even lost a favorite Math teacher -Mr. Hammer- and learned a lesson about life and death. We created the foundation for what is now GCC. And I think we did a pretty good job," Pat (Sanowski) Easton '69 said.

From the inaugural first class of approximately 600 students who enrolled in 1969, to more than 7,000 students who came to Genesee this past fall—we wholeheartedly agree. If you have memories you'd like to share about a favorite professor or person, a mate or marriage, or playing ping pong with the president, we encourage you to write to Jackie Christenson, your Alumni Coordinator.

A compilation of memories by Patricia (Sanowski) Easton '69, Pam (Allein) Whitcombe '69 and John DeWitt '69

Sidebar Stats: 1969

- Richard Nixon was inaugurated as the 37th president of the United States.
- The lunar module Eagle lands on the moon's surface and the world watches in awe as Neil Armstrong takes his historic first steps on the Moon.
- The cost of a first class stamp was \$.06.
- The Grammy for Record of the Year went to Simon and Garfunkel for "Mrs. Robinson."
- The music festival "Woodstock" took place that summer.
- Sesame Street premiered on the National Television Education Network.
- Troops began to be withdrawn from the Vietnam War.

Class of 1969 Fast Facts:

- Favorite Professors- John Stork, Bernie Holbert and Sydney Bender
- Favorite Places to Eat- The Checkerboard and The Turkey Kitchen
- Favorite Staff Members- Libby Zarenski (Cafeteria), Dorothy Edgerton (Dr. Steiner's Secretary) and Eva Bohn (Dr. O'Connell's Secretary)

'Met My Mate' at Genesee

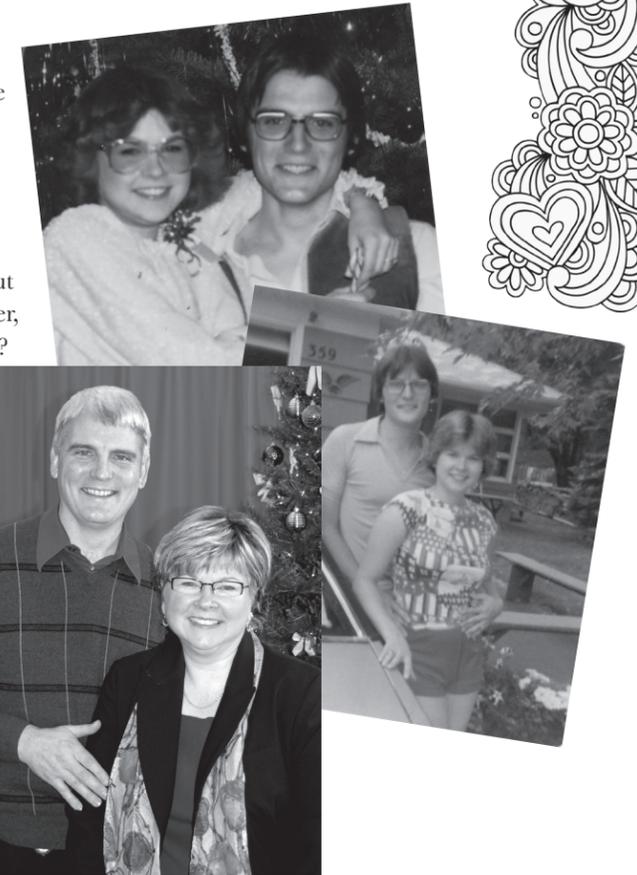
Chris Resig and Sue (Quick) Resig

"As a result of the 1979 Student Government election, I found myself the new SG secretary and the proud owner of a desk in an office! That desk was why I ran for office; it gave me someplace to park my things for the day. Chris Resig who ran for SG treasurer had his desk right behind me.

"It didn't take long, working side by side in our handy office, for Chris and me to become fast friends. When Chris asked me "officially" to go out with him the answer was no, I didn't want to settle down just yet. However, did we ever see anyone else? Did we ever go anywhere without the other? We became known around campus as "chrisandsue" just because you would never find one without the other. By graduation we skipped "going out" and went straight for engagement!

"So much and yet so little has changed in 30 years. There is no such thing as a perfect life or a perfect marriage, but we have three terrific sons and you still won't find one of us without the other. When we drive along the thruway and pass GCC we can't help but smile at ourselves and the memories." –Sue (Quick) Resig

Chris is an architect for Stantec Inc. and Sue Quick Resig works for Roberts Wesleyan College, both in Rochester; they graduated from GCC in 1980 and Buffalo State College 1982.



Dave Easton and Pat (Sarnowski) Easton

Dave Easton and Pat (Sarnowski) Easton were members of the first class of GCC in '67-'68. They attended classes in the converted commercial building (formerly Valu Hardware) on West Main Street. Pat was one of the first members of the staff of the GCC newspaper, the *Genesee Oriel*. She explains that the newspaper's title was a joke considering the College's first home had no windows and oriel is a synonym for window. Dave was a business student who often helped Dr. Steiner set up for mixers. After GCC, Dave and Pat were engaged and then

married when Pat graduated from SUNY Geneseo. They have been married for 37 years and have one son, Bryan. Currently they live in Saint Peters, MO, where Dave is a regional vice president for Family Dollar Stores.

