



# The Exceptional

SUNY Geneseo Student Council for Exceptional Children Newsletter  
Volume I Issue I Fall 2003

## From the President

Hello, and welcome back, everyone! This year has gotten off to a very exciting start, with two new programs adding even more diversity to the many services we offer for individuals with exceptionalities.

The Council for Exceptional Children is an international organization committed to the advancement of the education provided for exceptional children. At our chapter in Geneseo, we've stretched our services to include programs for all ages, from preschool to adulthood. CEC at Geneseo also offers many valuable services to the community, and is also diverse enough that we can meet the needs of almost any volunteer.

If you think you might like to become involved, come to one of our meetings! The CEC executive board meets every Monday at 7:00 pm in Newton 204, and these meetings are open to anyone who is interested in learning more about us. We also hold large open meetings about once a month, featuring speakers, panels, and presentations concerning educational and practical subjects (implementing adventure programs in a classroom; making your professional portfolio).

I hope you take the opportunity to get involved while you're at Geneseo; we would love to have your help, and we are always looking for new members!

Amanda Wheeler, CEC President

## What is CEC?

CEC is a National Special Education Organization that has been in existence for over 75 years. The Council is committed to two primary purposes: (1) The advance of the education of exceptional children in the US and Canada, and (2) to establish and administer programs and activities for the education of its members. CEC offers members an opportunity to broaden their knowledge on current issues in the field through their journals, magazines and monthly newsletter. To become a member of National CEC, visit [www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org) and fill out an application.

## Project BAROMETER:

Behavior and Reading Observation to make Effective Teaching even Richer

By Danielle Marilees

This fall, several School of Education students and faculty members have begun work on Project BAROMETER, a research and teaching project being conducted with the Genesee Valley Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES). The project team will be headed by Dr. Michael Rozalski, an Assistant Professor of Special Education at SUNY Geneseo, and will include

parents, students, teachers, and administrators from the local area. Three current Geneseo students will also be assisting with this research project. These assistants are senior education majors, Jennifer Brehm, Kristin Lesandro and Danielle Merrilees. The goal of Project BAROMETER is to examine the relationship that exists between students' levels of success in reading and their in-school behaviors.

It is anticipated that the data collected from this research will reduce the limited view that currently exists about this topic (i.e. behavioral problems in schools are not strongly related to students' academic struggles). The team will also study how teachers' behaviors influence this relationship. The teachers and administrators involved in the project will work together with the Geneseo project team to improve teacher/student interactions.

Specifically, we hope to introduce alternative behavior management and instructional techniques. These alternative techniques will focus on eliminating students' problem behaviors by a) introducing them to positive replacement behaviors, and b) increasing their academic engagement.

If you are interested in learning more about the project, please contact Dr. Rozalski at [rozalski@geneseo.edu](mailto:rozalski@geneseo.edu).

## The Wonderful World of CEC Programs!!!

Look at all the ways to get involved...



### Special Olympics

This semester The Council for Exceptional Children is very excited about the Special Olympics practices that are designed to help the athletes get ready for competition. The practices will be held weekly from 6-9 pm on Thursday evenings in the Holcomb Gym. Volunteers will have the opportunity to work with the athletes anytime during these hours. We are planning on designing this program to fit the needs and schedules of as many volunteers as possible. If you are interested please look into this fulfilling program that has benefits for everyone involved. You can even go to the games and see your athletes in action!

### Let's Play to Grow

Let's Play to Grow is a program that provides mentors to pre-school age children at daycares that are within a half-hour of Geneseo. The mentors go to a daycare once a week for an hour, every week at the same time and day. They can do whatever the time allots and the teacher approves. The mentors can work, play, and/or read one-on-one or with a group. There are four daycares involved this semester; the newest is Geneseo's Children's Services, which has worked out very well for members without cars. Let's Play to Grow is the only CEC program that works with preschoolers.

### Autistic Family Support

The Autistic Family Support Group Program is a highly individualized volunteer program which offers adolescents and young adults with Autism the opportunity to engage in age appropriate recreational and daily life activities. This program meets approximately two Saturdays a month on campus. Volunteers have the opportunity to interact with and gain experience with individuals with autism. Because consistency is of such importance in this program, it is required for a volunteer to attend at least five of the six Saturday sessions.

### Geneseo Mentoring

This program will offer an opportunity for Geneseo University students to go to Geneseo Elementary School and work one on one with children there who need special attention. Mentors will meet with these students once a week to play games, do homework or just get to know their child. Anyone who is looking to form a special relationship with a child but can't offer that much of a time commitment should consider getting involved with this program!!

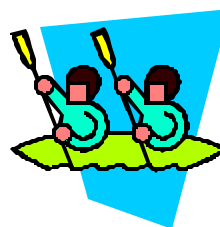
### START

START is a program of CEC that works with exceptional adults, primarily 16 years and above. With the intention of providing a recreational atmosphere to these individuals, this program combines ongoing activities, such as bowling with the ARC group every Tuesday at Livingston Lanes, with theme parties throughout the different seasons. All in all, the START program is about spending quality time with these adults, who don't normally receive such friendly attention from those other than their caretakers or house-mates. We try to provide this attention in a fun manner, by organizing different activities and helping out at the ARC's many annual activities they already have planned, such as a Halloween Party, Christmas Dinner/ Dance, and the famous Valentine's Dance and Talent Show.



The bowling program started around October of 2001. Ever since then, it has escalated into a wonderful weekly activity for us to engage in with these individuals. This has allowed us to get to know them a little better, as we would see these adults more frequently. We normally start the bowling activity in October and it runs through the middle of April. What we basically do at the bowling sessions is keep them on task, and encourage them for the most part. Occasionally, some of the teams will need physical help with some of their members to carry the ball and use the walker. But we are primarily rooting them on, and giving them encouragement. It's a fun and busy time every week.

This year, the ARC started a new program, called "Kid's Rec," where they take out kids between the ages of 8-18 and do lots of fun activities with them. START is very excited in helping out with this program as well, and we are looking forward to all these fun activities in the upcoming future!



### **Outdoor Adventure**

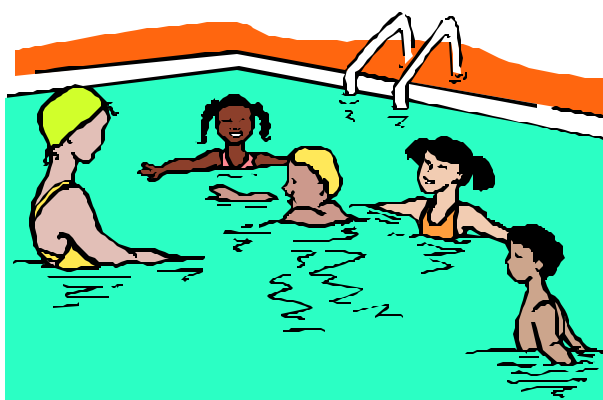
Colleges volunteers and educationally at risk students participate in activities such as:

- Kayaking
- Snowboarding
- Rock-climbing
- Orienteering
- High Ropes Course

The program helps students increase their achievement at school both academically and socially. Kids learn that new, difficult, experiences can be surprisingly fun. If they can complete the challenges we give them, they can apply the skills they learn to accomplish nearly anything!

### **Geneseo Tutoring**

Geneseo Tutoring is a great program to try if you do not have a whole lot of extra time, but still want to get involved. We look for dedicated college students who are willing to give up at least one hour a week to tutor local elementary through high school students. It is a great way to get involved in your local community and gain experience for yourself. We provide a tutoring orientation to prepare you for your sessions, and the children come right to our campus.



### **Swim Program**

In the swim program, we are hoping to meet twice a month, on Saturday afternoons in the Geneseo High School Pool. The athletes coming will most likely be of varying skill levels; some will be training to go onto the Special Olympics State Games, and others will be there for

pure recreation. We are hoping to improve the swimming skills of all participants, whether that be becoming comfortable in the water, or teaching them new strokes. The swim program has been inactive for a few years, but we are hoping to bring back that past success. Come to our meeting (time TBA) to find out what our plans are if you're interested, this is a great chance to have some interaction with people with special needs, as well as improve on your own swimming skills!

### Honeoye Tutoring Program

We are excited to be working on a new program with Honeoye Central School that will work with students in grades K-5 in a variety of areas. Our main goal is to give Honeoye students an opportunity two to three afternoons per week to spend time working on homework with tutoring/mentoring available, playing games, and reading through book clubs. Many of the details of this new program are still being worked out, but we hope to begin implementation by mid to late October in some fashion.



### Volunteer Coordinator

The **volunteer coordinator** serves as an information link between the volunteer center and CEC. The coordinator recruits CEC members and organizes the necessary resources for specific volunteer opportunities. Traditionally, CEC partakes in the Day of Caring during the fall, adopt-a-family during the holidays, and sibling weekend in the spring.



### CEC Conference

The Annual Student CEC conference is just what it sounds like - a conference. It is perhaps one of the most rewarding events an education major can attend on the Geneseo campus. Many speakers are invited to address the issues in today's education where future teachers come together to learn about different strategies and techniques; hence our conference theme, "Learning today, Leading Tomorrow." The CEC conference involves a lot of dedicated volunteers from the people on the executive board to speakers, community members, and people like you. Come join us on February 17-18th, 2004 and become a part of the 28th annual conference!



## EEM

Exceptional Experience Month (EEM) dedicates the month of February to raising awareness about exceptionalities. Throughout the month there are various events such as The Wheelchair Basketball Game, a book sale beneficial for education majors, and presenters who discuss an array of issues.

This year, EEM will join forces to make February an amazing month with the CEC Conference!

## Some Important Websites

Kappa Delta Pi

[www.geneseo.edu/~kdp/](http://www.geneseo.edu/~kdp/)

GODA

[www.geneseo.edu/~goda/](http://www.geneseo.edu/~goda/)

YCC

[www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)

ESEA

[www.geneseo.edu/esea/](http://www.geneseo.edu/esea/)

Xerox Center for Multicultural Education

[www.geneseo.edu/~xmete/](http://www.geneseo.edu/~xmete/)

## Some Inspirational Quotes

*“No one has yet fully realized the wealth of sympathy, kindness, and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure.”* - **Emma Golmam**

*“A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove . . . but the world maybe different because I was important in the life of a child.”* - **Kathy Davis**

*“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”* - **William Ward**

*“Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are endless.”* - **Mother Teresa**

For more information, we're on the web: [www.geneseo.edu/~cec](http://www.geneseo.edu/~cec) | [cec@geneseo.edu](mailto:cec@geneseo.edu)