

# The LIVES Program

## News and Updates

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

FALL 2012

THE LIVES PROGRAM  
ATA SUNY GENESEO

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

Mr Laub Wins NY  
Special Education  
Teacher of the  
Year

Students Present at  
NYS CEC Annual  
Conference

Students Give Back  
to the Community

Students Host a  
Game Night and  
Attend a Hockey  
Game

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### Mr. Jeff Laub Receives New York State

### Special Education Teacher of the Year Award

Congratulations to Jeff Laub, a Genesee Valley Educational Partnership Special Education teacher. Laub was presented with the Excellence in Teaching Award at the New York State Council for Exceptional Children's Annual Conference. Laub is a 32-year veteran teacher who leads the Learning Independence, Vocational and Educational Skills (LIVES) Program, a transitional and post-secondary program for students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. It is a collaborative program with the Genesee Valley Educational Partnership, SUNY Geneseo, Hilltop Industries (a division of The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming) and Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Services Office.

Chuck DiPasquale is the Principal for Special Education and Alternative Education for the Partnership and oversees the LIVES program. He explained how Laub's contributions have made this program a success

"The LIVES program gives each student the chance to study alongside their peers as they take part in college life,

gain hands-on work experience, and discover new interests, all while following their Individual Education Plan (IEP) and educational goals. Through Jeff's leadership, the program has grown. Students have graduated and are successfully employed. He encourages and fosters students to go beyond what they think is possible," DiPasquale explained.

Elizabeth W. Hall, Ph.D., directs the LIVES Program at the college and is the Director of the Childhood/Special Education Program, Division Coordinator at SUNY Geneseo.

"These students have made tremendous progress in their academics, independent living skills, in their vocational goals. Last year, the group presented to an audience of over 100 on their strengths and struggles, strategies for being a successful college students, and how to search for a job. All of this growth can be attributed to Jeff's guidance," Hall explained.

Pictured are: (left to right) Marcy Andrews, LIVES teaching assistant; Tyler Geraci, LIVES student; Jeff Laub, LIVES teacher; Ellen Beisheim, LIVES student, Keith Holmes, LIVES student, and Lauren Daly, LIVES student.



## LIVES Program Students Present at NYS CEC Conference

20012-2013

**LIVES Program**

**Teachers  
and Staff**

Teachers

**Mr. Jeff Laub,**

**School Age**

**Mr. Brendan Crowley,**

**Adult Age**

**Mrs. Heather Terhune-**

**Wasisang**

**Adult Age**

Teaching Assistants

**Ms. Marcy Andrews,**

**School Age**

**Ms. Viki Kellogg, Adult**

**Age (Soph—Srs.)**

**Ms. Jennifer Buchwald,**

**Adult Age (Freshman)**

Day Habilitation Coordinator

**Mrs. Mary Coniglio**

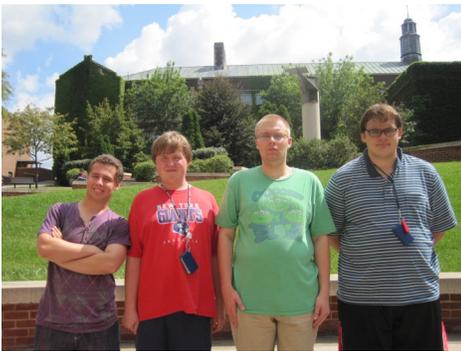
November 2-3, 2012, fifteen students from SUNY -Geneseo's *L.I.V.E.S. Program* traveled to Saratoga Springs, NY to present at the New York Federation of the Council for Exceptional Children's (NYSCEC) Annual Conference. The sophomores in the *L.I.V.E.S. Program* wanted to know how and if they were similar and different from Geneseo's college students. They developed a list of questions and surveyed Geneseo college students about their strengths and weaknesses, likes and dis-likes. Juniors surveyed Geneseo college students to see what study skills and note taking tips or strategies they used to be successful in college classes. From the tips/strategies collected, students in the LIVES Program developed a list of suggested tips/strategies to be successful learners. Seniors interviewed their internship employers to determine what skills and qualities they were look-

ing for in employees. The students tabulated their results and made a list of dos and don'ts for future employees. Having presented at the NYSCEC Conference for the past three years, the students in the *L.I.V.E.S. Program* were accepted to present their research findings again this year. More than fifteen conference

attendees attended their session. Prior to and following their presentation, the students practiced independence skills by touring Saratoga Springs. Below the students are seen after their registration for the conference and are relaxing after their presentation.



# Making New Friends and New Things by Jon K.



Hello, my name is Jonathan and I'm a freshman in the LIVES program. I have made several new friends here in LIVES. We have had many good laughs and talks about our weekends. Our teachers, Mr. Crowley and Ms. Buchwald, are a lot of fun to have around. They are very funny and usually give us a good laugh, too.

There are four other freshmen in our class. One of the friends that I have made here is Matt.

He is a smart guy and very good with history. He and I always talk about history and our opinions on government and current events in history. Another friend that I've made here is Krista. She is funny, smart, and nice. Krista is fun to talk to and share a good laugh with. Robert, whom we usually call Bob or Bobby, is another friend that I've made here. He's a hard worker, a good sport, and a genuinely nice person. On Tuesdays, our class goes to the gym and plays basketball. Bobby and I are always on different teams because we are about the same height. Lastly, Tyler is another friend that I've made here. Tyler is very smart and really good at reading.

So far this year, we have worked on several different projects,

and made PowerPoint presentations to go along with them. One of our projects was to research the culture of a particular country and look up information such as their particular customs, traditions, population, economic status, and much more. The country that I researched was Japan. Japan is a very interesting place to learn about.

There are also clubs that we have joined and they are run by Dr. Hall's college students. We choose one club to participate in for four weeks at a time. Each club has a different time that it starts and ends. The first one that I joined was the Lawn Games Club. In the Lawn Games Club we played bocce, kickball, and badminton. Each of the games was fun to play. I am going to be joining Dance Club for the second session and I am looking forward to starting that as well.

## Dance Club by Mariely V.

I like to dance. On Monday I go to Dance Club. I like to go to Dance Club because I meet new college students.

In Dance Club we learned different dances. I learned to dance salsa and Zumba. The Bomba is my favorite dance I like to listen to music. My favorite music is Spanish.

## I'm A Sophomore Now!

By Andrew S.



This is my second year in the LIVES Program. I've had to find all new classrooms and get used to my new teacher. I have to take and audit class this year. I didn't take one last year as a freshman. I've made new friends in my first audit class. Dr. Hall is my professor.

# Being an Interior Firefighter

by Dustin F.



Back when I was 14 years old I joined the Wayland Fire Department in the summer of 2002. That was when I started out as a junior firefighter. When being a junior firefighter, you can't really do much but you can still observe and help out at the fire hall, that way you can get a head start on learning how to be a full-fledged firefighter before you actually become one.

When I turned 18 in the summer of 2006 I became a full-fledged firefighter. I still had a whole lot to learn though. In the fall of 2006 I took a Firefighter 1 class that went on until spring of

2007. When I graduated from Firefighter 1 I became an interior firefighter. In 2009 I took Firefighter Survival at the same place that I took Firefighter 1. It was a one day class. When being an interior firefighter I'm certified to put on the air pack and mask. If you're not certified to do that, you're exterior.

The most intense call that I've been on was going to a big structure fire. A house that was up for sale was in flames. I got to be at the nozzle of the hose spraying at the house while two other guys were right behind me. I could feel the heat from the flames. We even had a

couple departments to help us out.

We were there from 5am to noon. I also got to be at the nozzle when I was putting out a small brush fire all by myself (but there was a driver/another firefighter to turn the water on for me) and putting out a pile of tires that were on fire. For that one I had a partner right behind me. I even got to help out with the ambulance once. That was only to help out on lifting a heavy patient on the back board. We don't only help out on putting out fires; we also help by pulling people out safely out of an MVA

and putting them in an ambulance or call for mercy flight. We even train on doing water/ice rescue. We never had a water rescue call or even an ice rescue call the whole time I was in the department. We also train for "Search and Rescue". Thank God that we NEVER had a situation where someone was still inside (as far as I know). We also help out with draining out basements that are flooded. We even investigate buildings with carbon monoxide detectors going off, smoke alarms going off, and the smell of gas.



## Dance Club

by Keith H.

Dr. Hall's students invited the L.I.V.E.S. students to see what clubs we would be interested in joining. We each picked which two clubs we were interested in joining. Then we picked the one club that worked with our schedule. We emailed the students who are in charge of the clubs to tell them what club we were interested in joining. I chose dance club. There we learn how to Irish and Bongra dancing. At the end of each class, we exercised as a group and then we'd have free dance where we could do any kind of dance. The first session we had ten people in the group. In the second group we had a lot more students than expected. I was very surprised when I saw all the new students. I am glad to have joined the dance club.

# LIVES Students Host a Game Night and Attend a Hockey Game



# LIVES Students Give Back to the Community—Helping with Operation Turkey



# My Internship by Andrew M.

One morning Mr. Laub and I went down to the fitness center for my interview about an internship in the fitness center. Mr. Laub and I met with Mr. Simmons, he is the boss of the fitness center. I asked him some questions from my paper. My seven questions

were: When do you want me to work, What do you want me to do, Where are the cleaning supplies, Who will be working with me, How do I mop the floor, Who should ask if or I get confused, and Do I have to signed in or out. When Mr. Laub and I were done talking, with

Mr. Simmons, I learned that I got my internship and I would work every Tuesday and Thursday. I have to sign students in and out. On the job, I have to wear a uniform and I clean the machines inside the fitness center. I like the cleaning detail.



# New Friends by Emily C.

This year I made lots of new friends. Their names are Ellen, Jenna, Keith, Tyler, Bea, Lauren and Andrew. We get along very well and like to walk to MJ's (it's short for Mary Jemison's Dining Hall) for lunch. My two new close friends are Ellen and Jenna; we've gotten to know each other for a while.

Now since I started at the Geneseo Lives Program, most of my friends go to Craft Club with me

and we really enjoy doing that together. We've been doing that for 4 weeks and we really love and enjoy doing it! Jenna and I are actually going to continue going there because we really enjoyed making cool projects there the first time that we did together. We really love going there also because it's a good opportunity to make new friends. I hope that we get to do lots of cool new projects

together and continue to have a good time.

Our favorite classes are... Writing, Budgeting, American History, Health, Math, Personal Social, Occupational Guidance, and Reading, We also like to do our ticket to leave in our journals at the end of the day and we enjoy that the most. I hope that we get to be with each other for the rest of the experience at Geneseo.



# Ghana, Africa the Place to Explore by Bea R.

There are so many things about Ghana, Africa that I learned about. The people of Ghana go to church and everybody wants to believe in the Lord. Ghana represented Africa in the 2012 Olympics in London, England but Ghana lost to the United States. Ghana is in short supply of food because the ground is dry and the weather is hot and can cause wildfires during the dry season. Ghana, Africa has many floods that can damage their homes and cause the wood rot in the rainy season. There are two waterfalls in

Ghana, Kintampo Waterfalls and Tagbo Waterfalls is in the rain forest. There is a national park for birds. It is called Atewa Range Forest Reserve and there is the Keta Lagoon. There is hospital that was named after a princess. Her name was Princess Marie Louise and the hospital is in Ghana's capital, Accra.

I dedicate this article to the Ghana African Dance and Drum Group because I went and saw the Ghana Africa Drum and Dance group

at Geneseo. I got to play the drums, bells, and other African instruments. Saviour, who is from Ghana, taught me to play the drums and bells and I really liked it.



# Milne Library and Me by Ellen B.



I am talking about my internship at the library. I had my interview in September with Tim; we talked about what I could do in Milne Library.

I asked Tim questions like what time I

should start working there and how to use the scanner. I was given a new ID and a shirt to wear when I work. He told me I got an internship and I would be working there on Tuesday, Thursday from 9:00-11:00am.

I met one of my coworkers, her name is Coleen and she showed me where the bathroom was

and where to get a drink. Then she helped me fix my ID. She helped me with alphabetizing books, scanning books, CDs and DVDs. She showed me how to use the scanner then she introduced me to new people at the library. One day we had a birthday treat and I got to go to it.

# Welcome New Students by Jenna D.

Welcome first year students to Geneseo! I know you must be happy, nervous, scared or all of the above. Let me tell you a little something, I was a little nervous too. I will tell you some things you will learn at Geneseo.

First, your schedule. Your teacher will tell you the things you will have to do. You can put some

things like OT, counseling and speech in your calendar or schedule.

Second, the school. Your teacher will give you a map to the school because you may get lost. The map will help you learn the hallways and to get you where you want to go.

Third, school supplies. On my first day my teacher told me I needed to bring a

binder and some other things. You will need some pencils, a wallet and a cell phone. Now you now know about a few things about Geneseo and I hope you enjoy your first year in the LIVES Program. Who knows... maybe you will make some friends or maybe some math, reading and history will be easy. Either way Geneseo will be fun, you'll see.

## My Life in a New Class by Krista C.

Hi everybody, my name is Krista . This is my first year in the Arc LIVES Freshman class. I was part of the LIVES Program the last two years in the BOCES class with Mr. Laub. I was really excited when I received a letter from Dr. Hall this summer announcing that

I had been accepted into the LIVES Arc 21-older program.

Our first day of school was August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012. I was really nervous at first, and didn't know what to expect on the first day. I was really happy when I learned I was going to have Mr. Crowley for a teacher. Last year, when I was in Mr. Laub's class, we interviewed Mr. Crowley

and he worked with our class as a college volunteer.

I have met new friends in my class this year. I met Jonathan, Robert, Tyler, and Matt. My classmates and teachers have made me feel welcome, and have accepted me for who I am. I'm doing very well in Mr. Crowley's class so far. It's a lot of fun making new friends in the LIVES program.



## My Internship by Melissa P.

Hi my name is Melissa Price and I am a junior in the L.I.V.E.S. program. This year I am very excited to be working an internship at Milne Library. I am mainly working at the circulation service desk area on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9am to 11:30am. I am learning lots of skills while working at my internship at the library. The following are many

examples of skills while working as part of the service desk area.

While at my internship, I help other college students either get reserve text books, items from information delivery service, or items on our chart that is display for the college students. Also I take textbooks or movies from the shelving room and put them onto a book cart then properly shelved



them by code. Also I am learning to use the cash register located behind the computers within the circulation service desk area using math skills. Some days, I even exchange and update newspapers for the Books n' Bytes café. So far while at my internship, I am always learning something new every day and enjoyed it as well.

## Keeping an Open Mind: “Flexibility Is Our Middle Name” by Matt K.

Hello, my name is Matthew. I am currently a Freshman in the LIVES Program at SUNY Geneseo. One of our mottos is, “Flexibility is our middle name.” It means to keep an open mind, and to be accepting of others. In order to adapt to the college environment, my classmates and I have had to experiment with different changes to our schedules, which is all part of our learning process. At first, I had no idea what was going

on. However, as time went on, I became more comfortable with my schedule.

One of the many benefits of keeping an open mind is that I have gotten more fully aware of other cultures. For example, I recently learned how to play the African drums. We learned how to do several African dances, such as the Adowa and the Agbaja. Our class also completed a cultural research project. My country was Sweden.

I absolutely love the LIVES Program so far. It has never ceased to amaze me! My classmates, my teachers, and I are getting along with each other very well. We are also tolerant and polite to people who have been interviewed by us. It would be a complete honor if you visited the LIVES Program to find out what campus life at SUNY Geneseo is like. Well, I must get on with my daily activities here in LIVES! See you soon!

## My College Life at SUNY-Geneseo by Robert M.

Hello, my name is Robert Maplesden and this is my first year in the LIVES Program at SUNY Geneseo. So far, I have met many new teachers and students in our program. The Geneseo campus is very nice, and I enjoy being here on campus.

Our first week, we started off with a tour of the college led by Mr. Crowley and Ms. Buchwald. We saw many different buildings such as the College Union, South Hall, Welles Hall, Fraser Hall, Newton Hall, Sturges Hall,

Milne Library, M.J. Dining Hall, Merrit Athletic Center, the ISC, and the residence halls. We also went to Blake Hall to get our student ID and campus cash cards. I saw the Dr. Seuss tree and the Greek tree right in the middle of campus. Both trees are very cool, and one has different colors on its trunk.

We have a very busy schedule this year. Our class usually goes to M.J. Dining Hall for lunch, and then tries different Main Street Restaurants on Fridays. Every Tuesday and Thursday, we go to the gym and fitness center for

an hour. We play basketball and use the workout room. Dr. Hall also gave us the option to join different clubs like Dance, Crafts, Lawn Games, Culinary, and Book Club. I am doing Lawn Games first session, and Culinary Second Session.

My classrooms are in Fraser Hall, Newton Hall, ISC, Sturges Hall, and the ISC. Our home-room, which we call the “fishbowl”, is Fraser 208. We have done a few interviews with college volunteers in there. This has been my experience at SUNY Geneseo so far.

# Music Around the World by Lauren D.



In my audit class, we used to sit in the street class because we learn how different and play music for watch YouTube videos countries have differ- money. They would and I am learning ent music because play a violin or a banjo about music from oth- they speak a differ- and they would play er countries. The language. Other coun- music from that coun- teacher is nice and fun try. We watch videos try. We watch videos and I like learning about the instruments. that we on YouTube about mu- I'm going to make my s- have in the US. For sic from different own instrument and ex- example, the water drum countries. In class, we make it out of a card- board box with rubber from India can have circle around a pre- different sounds when tend fire so that we and the banjo. People can imagine how it fire grow. I like this



# Always Learning by John F.

Hi my name is John Feidner I am at SUNY Geneseo and I am a senior. This is my seventh semester or fourth year in the LIVES Program. I am taking class in English 142: Short Fiction. I am learning how to read short stories such as *The Sun The Moon and The Stars*. My professor taught me how to look up words on the computer if I don't understand them so I can get more out of book. I have learned it takes time to read a story and I need to rip the book

apart to find answers from questions the professor gave me.

My all time favorite class was American Politics. I liked this class because it was awesome and I got really involved in it. I talked to my classmates and my teacher about politics. Everyone listened to what I had to say. My professor did a really cool activity in class. It was about what happens if a boat crashes on an island and your classmates are on the boat. How would you create a society and make it fair to everyone. In class we also talked about Dem-

ocrats, Republicans, Communists, Anarchy, and Liberals. Communism is like boom, I got you and I own everything. Anarchy means no law, its just okay. I can do whatever I want and not get in trouble, anarchy chaos.

I am a member of the craft club this semester. We carved pumpkins and learned how to make origami. We made hemp bracelets. They were awesome to make. I liked going to craft club because I get to see a lot of other people making the same stuff as me and see how it comes out.

# About Me in the LIVES Program by Fred Y.



Independence on the College Campus: taking classes, taking the LATS bus to different places, and borrowing stuff from the library

Advocating for Myself: I chose to come to come to the LIVES Program so I can bet more education

Positive Experiences: Taking classes and meeting new people

Barriers and Challenges While in the LIVES Program: Socializing with people on campus

Overcoming Those Barriers/Challenges: I went

to the speech clinic  
Accomplishments in the LIVES Program: Presenting at GREAT Day and at the CEC Conference

Where I Want To Be in Three Years: I want to be working at the

Genesee County Museum or to go to a community college to get a degree.

## How I've Become More Confident within My Four Years in the LIVES Program



by Jewley S.

I am talking about my When I first came to the program, I was very shy to meet new people and now I have come out of my shell. I am no longer shy around others. I meet new people every day in the mailroom where I work. I have worked there for

two years because my supervisor liked me and my work that she asked me to come back for a second year. Throughout the years, I've become more confident by standing up for myself and advocating for myself. This year, I helped organize the LIVES Pro-

gram students when they went to Saratoga Springs for the CEC Conference. I also help my classmates when they practiced their presentation. I am very proud of myself to have come this far with the help of my friends and family.

## My Senior Year



My favorite thing about being a junior is going up to Main Street for lunch. I can't wait until next year. I am looking forward to graduating next year so I can go on with my goals in life. This year I am auditing the Childhood Films class and I am working at

## by Chris S.

the Sundance bookstore for my internship. My favorite thing about being in the L.I.V.E.S. Program is doing math. In November, I wen to Saratoga Springs for the CEC Conference. I have fun being with my friends.

# Lawn Games Club

by Tyler B.

This year we have joined clubs that are run by Dr. Hall's college students. Dr. Hall's class gave us presentations on the different club options. Some of the options were Theater, Dance, Culinary Arts or Book Club. The first club I joined was Lawn Games. We played bocce, badminton, & kickball. I played Lawn

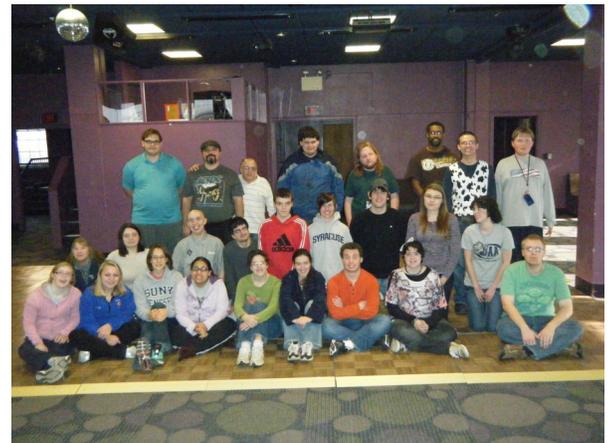
Games with Matt, Jon, Krista, and Bob. My favorite Lawn Game was kickball. I am also going to join Dance club because I like to dance. It's on Mondays for 8 weeks.



# The Craft Club and One of Their Projects



# The Culinary Art Club and One of Their Activities



## The Club Where You Can Eat Your Work by Tyler G

The Culinary Club is a club that was started by students in Dr. Hall's class. Dr. Hall is the head of the L.I.V.E.S. program, there were other clubs the other students did, like book club, dance club, theatre club and lawn games club. But I chose the *Culinary* Club. The clubs meet an hour a week for four weeks. After four weeks we can either chose another club or continue the same club for another four weeks. We just finished the first four weeks and I had so much fun in the club and I am definitely signing up for the next 4 weeks so I can have some more fun.

On the first day of Culinary Club, we talked about what we would be making/ learning about in the club. We learned that we would be making a couple of no back deserts. We would be having a cook off the fourth week of the club. And that we would be learning about how to eat healthier and about the food plate. With the food plate

we would learn about how much of each category of food we had to eat a day and how the categories are important to be healthy.

One the second day of the club we all tried a date which is like a Fig Newton. It was really good and for some of the people in the club it was their first time trying one. We also made a no back cookie using the date, peanut butter and oatmeal. It was really good and chewy. We then made our own parfait with bananas, oranges, granola and grapes. We got to choose the flavor of yogurt we wanted to us between plan vanilla or Greek which isn't that good because it is bitter. At the end, we got an assignment to bring in a recipe with a Protein and a side dish,

One the third day we all went down to Mary Jemison dining hall to make a dish using left over food. In the recipe we used chicken, peanut butter, sour sauce and this one mix that looked like pasta mixed with rice and a bag of frozen veggies. At the end we tasted the food

and it was bad because of the textures of the food didn't blend together. And at the end we got another assignment to bring in a mystery ingredient for the cook off.

On the fourth day we all took out our mystery ingredient and there were interesting ingredients like chocolate chips which I brought in, cheese, carrots, celery, guacamole and peppers. In the beginning, it started off as a competition to see who could make the best thing with the ingredients, but then it turned into a "make and eat" whatever you want. So I made 3 things. One was a chocolate chip, cereal and bananas on top of celery. The second one was a cashew and cheese on top of celery. And the third thing was chocolate chips mixed in cheese and it tasted better than it sounds. It was really fun and I can't wait to start the next four weeks.





### The LIVES Program @ SUNY Geneseo

SUNY-Geneseo: LIVES Program

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Learning Independence Vocation and Education Skills

The *LIVES Program* is a four-year transition program located on the campus of the State University of New York - College at Geneseo. The *LIVES Program* provides students with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities the opportunity to learn independence, vocational, and educational skills within an inclusive community.

The *LIVES Program* is an educational and vocational initiative funded through a collaborative partnership with SUNY-Geneseo, Genesee Valley Educational Partnership (GVEP), Hilltop Industries (a Division of The Arc of Livingston-Wyoming), and Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Services Office.



## The 2012-2013 *LIVES Program* Students and Staff

