

LIVES Program News

Learning Independence, Vocation, and Education Skills at SUNY-Geneseo

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.

Congratulations 2016 LIVES Program Graduates



Congratulations to Tyler Bush, Robert Maplesden, Matthew Klein, Mark Mensinger, and Jonathan Kee for graduating from LIVES Program at SUNY-Geneseo. These graduates presented at four GREAT Day Presentations, three New York State Council for Exceptional Children Annual Conferences, as well as successfully audited classes in History, English, Interdisciplinary Studies, etc. and completed internships in the CAS, McVittie Union, and Milne Library. We wish them well in their new career paths.

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LIVES Program Mission Statement

To provide an opportunity for students with intellectual and/or other developmental disabilities to learn independence, vocational skills, and functional educational (academic) skills within an inclusive educational community supported by university students, educators, administrators, and community leaders.

A Pictorial Year in Review



The students took a field trip to the Livingston County Courthouse and Sheriff's office and were given badges for going.

Students participated in the Relay for Life again this year.



My First Year by Thomas C.

I wanted to come to Geneseo. I like to go to the Union with my friends to eat lunch. In fitness I like playing basketball and playing catch football.

We had a picnic to celebrate the end of the year. I played football and soccer.

I still don't like reading.

Goals Met! By James S.

My goals that I met was graduating from high school and coming to college. The memorable moment that I have is eating at MJ's and buying the sandwiches once in awhile. My favorite moment was walking around campus with my buddy Mark because I never got to walk around at my home school. The things that surprised me were that there are a lot of clubs to chose from here on campus. The good thing about being in the LIVES program is you can walk around campus without the teacher. There's really nothing bad or ugly about the LIVES program. I can't wait for next year to come.

Just one of the many research projects we do in school.



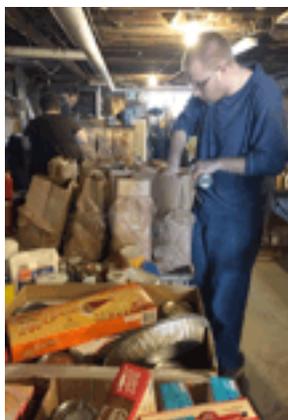
We learned about Research Projects.

- We created the questions to ask
- We surveyed participants
- We presented our research at GREAT Day and in other Geneseo Classes



Giving Back to the Community

For the past several years, students in the LIVES Program have given back to the community by helping a local food bank pack food bags for community members in need.



Internships are Important by Jesse C.

My second year here at the LIVES program is going good so far and I have done a lot more new things than last year. For the first portion of my school year, I took an audit class on writing with Mr. Sauters. His first assignment for me was that I had to write about the further evolution of the human race. My final essay to him was that I had to write about how I see college and what we can do to make it better.

My internship is going good so far this year too and I am working in the kitchen again just like I did last year, but it is at Letchworth dining hall this time. My jobs there include, peeling carrots and onions, washing the sinks, and cupping grapes and granola. The people I work with there are nice people and they often help me with my work and sometimes after I am done with one job, they ask me to do something else.

We also volunteered at a food drive for families who don't have any food for Christmas and we were packing the food for them. We were helping a lot of families with no food and it was the nicest thing I have ever done for anyone. This was one of many other volunteering events that people might attend if they wanted to.



Learning Life Skills Like Every Other College Student!

We attended a Geneseo Knights Hockey Game.

We went to Walmart and Wegmans to practice money and shopping skills, and had lunch while we were there.

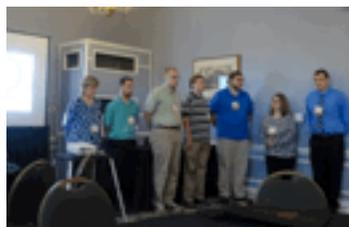


We learned to take the public bus system to Walmart and Wegmans.



New York Council For Exceptional Children Annual Conference, Saratoga Springs

Students in the LIVES Program presented in this year's NY Council for Exceptional Children's annual conference. After their presentation, they enjoyed some of the sights of Saratoga Springs.



GREAT DAY 2016

April 19th was the 10th anniversary of GREAT Day on Geneseo's campus. More than 120 people came to hear the LIVES Program students present their research.

- Freshman presented on: Strengths and Struggles - Similarities and Differences Between Students With and Without Disabilities
- Sophomores presented on: A Road Map: Where We Have Been And Where We Are Going
- Seniors presented on: The LIVES Program: How It Prepared Me for Life After College
- Jonathan presented a poster on: Leadership
- Matt presented a poster on: Why Sports Balls are Created Differently
- Taylor presented a poster on: Societal Viewpoints on Sexual Assaults



A Year in Review by Kaleb K.

I liked working with the volunteers like Grace, Esther, Gabby, Kara, and Julian. In math Grace helped me with all my math skills about spending money and other amazing stuff. Esther helped me with my science projects on all the diseases and she also helped me find the answers on the websites.

On Fridays Gabby helped me with my reading skills when I was struggling with reading. Julian was really funny when he helps me with my reading and discussing about the Civil War reenactment.

We rode a RTS Bus to Walmart and Wegmans and I showed my ID to the bus driver.

This year we went into two college classes and met two professors and a lot of different college students. At the beginning of the year we went into Mr. Galante's class and at the end of the year we went into Dr. O'Brien's class and did some fun activities with the students.

On GREAT Day April 19, 2016 I presented about my strengths and struggles and everybody in the audience loved my speech. After I did my presentation I went down to the union and took a look at Taylor's sexual assault poster and learned a lot about sexual assault.

We did a lot with food this year. I also did the food tasting in the union and tried new food. Some of the food I liked and some I did not but I tried everything. My least favorite moment is the food pantry around Christmas time at the church because I was so stressed about which food or item goes in each bag.

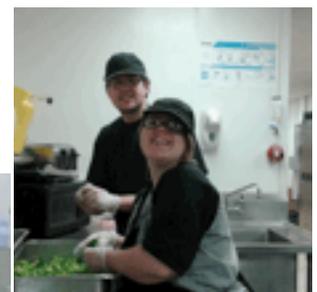
I also enjoyed my internship at the SUNY Geneseo fitness center as a cleaner. I had to clean all the machines after the students were done using them. What I'm comfortable doing is working in the fitness center because I like to clean all the machines in two different rooms. I gave Mr. Simmons a certificate for being such a nice supervisor while I was working in the fitness center.

In February 2016 we had some students and parents come in to talk about the LIVES Program just like a while ago just like when I came to check it out with my parents. At convocation I helped out at the LIVES Graduation by handing out books to the people and prizes to the graduates.

i am looking forward to coming back to Geneseo.

Internships

An important part of the LIVES Program is completing non-paid internships on campus. This year students worked in CAS, several dining halls, Milne Library, the Fitness Center, and the Corner Pocket to name a few places. Students learn basic workplace ethics, following directions, job skills, communication skills, and how to interact with others, and so much more.



Senior Year Reflections by Mark M.

The things I liked about this year:

- I learned math, science and social studies. Those are my favorite subjects. Fitness is what you have to do twice a week no matter what but you can walk, play basketball or go work out at the weight room.
- My internship was with Rick, the locksmith on campus. I learned new ideas and situations to be very successful in the work field like fixing doors and door knobs, making a lot of keys. I did not feel comfortable with Rick leaving me alone at the workshop, but that's something I overcame by helping him in the workshop by handling different situations. At the end of the year, he gave me a party because I graduated college.
- During GREAT Day, I was asked about how we do things here at the college how we handle different situations. I did a good job on my presentation and answered questions asked to us.
- The RTS bus is what we took to go on field trips to the stores like Walmart and Wegmans. We went to Walmart for our Christmas shopping and went to Subway to eat. We also went to Wegmans to get something for our moms for mother's Day.
- At the end of the year, I met with Dr. O'Brien's class. We had so much fun. We played a game called Move your Booty. The way you play this game is go to a seat you were not sitting in and then we had to say what other people might like. If you're last you now have to come up with something someone might like. The last game we played was to tell them something about yourself and what you like on campus and what school were from. We made bracelets from string. I met some interesting people like Hannah, Emily, and Dr. O'Brien herself. The part I liked best was that Jordan danced with someone from Dr. O'Brien's class. We played 'No' which is a card game. Mr. Laub was showing us how to do magic with the cards. We had some snacks and talked to the class about what we do or did in the L.I.V.E.S program that made us better or stronger.
- I learned a lot by coming to the LIVES Program and I am glad I came here.

Just Being College Students

Learning to dance the Bhangra, getting framed at Geneseo Family Weekend, waiting for the bus at McVittie Union, and enjoying the end of the year picnic at Highland Park.



My First Year in LIVES by Ian K.

The end of the year of Lives is coming, here's is my first end of the school year essay.

- My first job at Geneseo was the art gallery because Mr. Laub told me and James about the art center needed help.
- The people we met though out the year are the volunteers because they really helped all of us with our work.
- My first job outside of school is part-time at Darien Lake because Amber told me I need money for my apartment.
- The fitness we do at Geneseo is basketball or walking and I chose walking because I love walking.
- The bus we took at Wegmans and Walmart is bumper that school buses.
- My strengths are drawing, good listener, hard walker and good with people. Weaknesses are I don't like doing the same work over and over again, I get mad easily, wanted to work alone and don't like hanging out with people.
- The teachers at Geneseo are funny and helpful if the volunteers are busy.
- The lunch at Geneseo is really good because they almost have everything to eat.
- The challenge I still have is getting my apartment and... my YouTube equipment because I'm planning to make videos in my new apartment.
- My least favorite moment is walking around too much.
- The topics... well there's too much to choose from.
- Mr. Laub told me that summer is coming fast.
- My top favorite moment is... there's too much to choose from.



How Audit Classes Led to My GREAT Day Presentation by Taylor C.

I look back on this year and all I see is happiness, love, hardship, and success beyond what I could comprehend. August 2015 I started the year off on a positive note and I was ready to start new projects, new classes, activities, friendships, and fun.

I was accepted into my first audit class, Black Atlantic Studies with Dr. Maria Lima. The class was amazing from the moment I started reading the materials. Each book that we read had to do with fictional, or real stories about the history of African Americans. With receiving two 90's on my thesis papers, I am pleased to state that I finished out my semester with Dr. Lima on a great note.

The next class I took was Gender Studies in the spring and it was a challenge to me. Through the course, I found topics that really grabbed a hold of my heart strings. Mostly the ones about sexism in the media. GREAT day was coming up and I was amped to find a good subject to discuss. I dove deep into my gender studies class. The first week was hard. I felt like I wasn't gaining any knowledge from the discussions, until I started looking deeper into the assigned readings. One essay, had channeled my inquisitive feminist perspectives of how women are treated as the lower sex. The first week of my search, I started seeing less of a growth in my original project and my eagerness had dwindled. For a while, I was stuck in what could be missing? or what am I meant to talk about this year? When I was on my Facebook account, making my usual postings, I came across a news update about one of my favorite singers. Pop-star/ SONY recording artist, Kesha, filed a lawsuit against her record label and former producer, Dr. Luke (aka, Lukasz Sebastian Gottwald) for rape/sexual assault. In a New York City court, Kesha explained her case and how she had endured 10 years of Gottwald's abuse. She asked to be released from her contract with Gottwald, and to work with a new label. She said he felt her words fell on deaf ears. Later the judge delivered the verdict. Manhattan State Supreme Court Justice Shirley Werner Kornreich ruled Wednesday that the abuse claims can't go forward because they happened outside of New York and the statute of limitations expired. Kornreich ruling meant Kesha had to work within the SONY label with Luke Gottwald as her producer, for the next 6 years. (Cont. on next page.)

Continued from previous page Taylor C. article

She does not have to work with him physically, but virtually. Without SONY, Keshha's career, and herself would face irreparable harm.

That's when I saw my project. For three months, I broke my back in the computer lab to find every piece evidence of Keshha's case and sexual assault statistics to put into my project. I followed Keshha's twitter updates periodically, downloaded the wall street journal, visited and joined over two sexual assault awareness sites, and posted updates of Keshha's case on my Instagram, to keep my followers informed, and to join the protest. Mr. Laub, Ms. Wolcott, and I worked on my questions. In April, we finished my question and I distributed them to other college students.

The day of the presentation, my old college-buddy, Jenna Diskin came, her mom, and my mother were some of the people who came to see me present. My mom was in awe of my poster and how I was talking to people about the issues of assault, and what it has left on humanity and why we should fight it.

At Least 13 people stopped and asked questions. My mom was recording me on her camera-phone the entire time.

I guess what I take away from this year is success and happiness. Thank you for another great year at SUNY Geneseo.



What I Learned In LIVES by Matthew K.

This year in the L.I.V.E.S Program, I learned to keep an unbiased, open mind on the various places to eat for lunch every Friday on campus. For example, I tried Letchworth Dining Hall this year because it was easier to get to my internship after lunch at Corner Pocket. I also learned to walk away from certain situations that are not necessary for me to intervene. The last thing that I have learned this year was how to start a conversation with my peers at lunch time.

For my internship, I worked at Corner Pocket in the McVittie College Union. I had a very strong work ethic there. My social skills in the workforce have increased a lot because I have been talking to more college students this year than the last. There were actually no struggles for my internship this year. I am more confident in my skills as a result of coming to the LIVES Program.

This was my final presentation at GREAT Day! I had a great time at Geneseo and I will miss it here. Thank you for the opportunity!



Thank You Comments from the LIVES Students

Thank you to all the Volunteers who worked with the LIVES Program to make it successful this year! We could not have done it without you. You became our friends and challenged us. You taught us new ways to do our school work. We hope you come back again next year.

Thank you to the professors who let us audit your classes. You taught us that we can do so much more than we thought we could do. Even though the work was hard at times, you did not give up on us. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us and give us different work.

Thank you to our internship supervisors. You worked us hard! But we learned new job skills. We learned how to problem solve. You taught us that we can get jobs!

Thank you to our great teachers, Mr. Laub and Miss Zinone! You both are the best!

Thank you Dr. Hall and GENESEO for letting us come to college and making our dreams come true.

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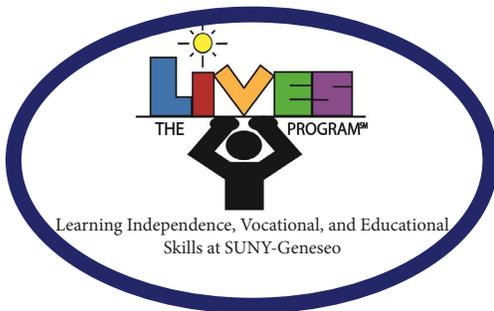
- Independent Living Skills to enhance success in the community and family life
- Vocational and Career Exploration Skills
- Functional Educational Skills in reading, mathematics, writing, and academic classes of interest to individual students
- Social Recreation and Leisure Skills
- Social Relationships

2016 - 2017 LIVES Program Preview and Information Days
February 7, 2017 10:00am - 1:30pm
April 2, 2017 10:00am - 1:30pm

To preregister for one of these dates, contact:

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