



**August 1, 2022**

**Editor's note:** The Pioneer Press has returned to weekly publication as we near the start of the academic year.

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**President's Perspective**

I recently read David McCullough's book, "The Pioneers," which describes the settlement of the Ohio territory.

Manasseh Cutler, a pastor, was influential in the passage of the Northwest Ordinance in 1787, which highlighted the importance of education and the prohibition of slavery in the Ohio territory. His son,

Ephraim Cutler (1767-1853), was one of the pioneers who settled in Marietta, Ohio, and helped ensure public education and the prohibition of slavery. Toward the end of his life, while reflecting upon the pioneers, he said, "The character ought to be known of these bold pioneers. ... From when did they spring? ... For what causes, under what circumstances and for what objects were difficulties met and overcome."

This quote is inspirational for Tusculum pioneers, as it speaks to character, innovation, resilience and hard-earned accomplishments. Reflect on this quote in light of our mission to build on a pioneering spirit and to inspire civic engagement. We are Pioneers.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel  
President

## Word of the Week

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." – Hebrews 12:2 NIV

## Photo of the Week



Pioneer Theatre Camp was a big success last week on the Tusculum campus! Here are some of the participants performing in the showcase. Forty-seven children attended the camp! Photo from Kristin Gorton

## College of Education receives praise from national organization

The College of Education recently received third-party validation of its efforts to help students of color become teachers.

The National Council on Teacher Quality named Tusculum as one of 89 education institutions in the United States that exhibit equity and excellence in licensure exam pass rates for aspiring teachers of color. Tusculum was the only institution in Tennessee and one of only 20 chosen across the country for also being less selective in its admissions decision-making but having alumni achieve high pass rates.

In a July report, the NCTQ said the 89 institutions have something in common. First, little or no disparity in pass rates exists between aspiring teachers of color and white aspiring teachers at the institution. Second, test takers of color achieve greater success on licensure exams compared to the average pass rate for everyone across the state.

Much more detail about this achievement is available in this [news release](#). We congratulate everyone in the College of Education!



## Campus cleanup is Tuesday!

We will hold our rescheduled Community Work Day Tuesday, Aug. 2. Faculty and staff will gather at 8:15 a.m. at the Scott M. Niswonger Commons sign to form groups that will complete various tasks. Our work will continue until 12:30 p.m. Then these volunteers can head to the Tusculum cafeteria for a free lunch!

This annual campus event is geared toward helping the Facilities Management Department make the campus look great when all students arrive for the fall semester. The deadline to register was Friday, July 29, so we could finalize the list of projects and give a head count to the cafeteria.

However, if you overlooked that date or a previous conflict no longer exists and you want to participate, please email Rose Peedin, executive assistant to the president, at [rpeedin@tusculum.edu](mailto:rpeedin@tusculum.edu) today.





Amanda Kyker performs landscaping during the 2021 Community Work Day. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

## **Volunteers, signups for food and softball needed for Tusculum Family Reunion**

Faculty and staff members who like to play softball, showcase their skills and have a great time should join us at noon Monday, Aug. 15, at Pioneer Park during the Tusculum Family Reunion.

At that time, we will hold a softball game, giving you an opportunity to demonstrate your aptitude for the sport and brag afterward about your exploits! To sign up for the softball game, please email Jessica Biggers, assistant director of athletic communications, at [jbiggers@tusculum.edu](mailto:jbiggers@tusculum.edu).

During the reunion, we will have a number of other activities, such as cornhole, a water balloon toss and mummy wrap. These will be great fun, but to make them successful, we need volunteers to help run them. If you can help, please email Rose Peedin, executive assistant to the president, at [rpeedin@tusculum.edu](mailto:rpeedin@tusculum.edu).

**Also, by noon Wednesday, Aug. 10, faculty and staff members must email Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, at [nrader@tusculum.edu](mailto:nrader@tusculum.edu) to provide their preference for one of the following meals:**

- A Chartwells boxed lunch with turkey and Boursin cheese on a baguette with cut fruit, chips and cookie
- A choice of regular jerk dinners, jerk chicken tacos, jerk chicken rice bowl or curry chicken rice bowl from Island Vibe Grill, with a vegan option available

We will have free water and popcorn at the concessions stand closest to the entrance.

As part of the email, employees should advise whether any of their family members plan to attend. Family members of employees are not eligible for the voucher but are welcome to purchase a meal from Island Vibe.

**The reunion will run from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in Pioneer Park!** Dress is casual. Faculty and staff members will receive their food voucher, ticket for door prizes and name tag when they enter the front gate of Pioneer Park.



Faculty and staff members might not be able to play as well as these ladies, but we will sure have fun trying at our softball game! Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

### **Volunteers still needed for shoe distribution event**

Samaritan's Feet, the Tweed Family Foundation and Tusculum family members involved in a shoe and sock distribution Saturday, Aug. 13, at the Indoor Practice Facility still welcome volunteers.

Organizers and volunteers will distribute 220 pairs of shoes to children from Greene County. Volunteers are needed from 1-6 p.m., but you do not need to stay for all five hours. The provision of shoes and socks will take place from 2-5 p.m.

You can learn more details, including how to register, in this [news release](#).





A girl sees her new shoes at another Samaritan's Feet distribution event. Photo from Samaritan's Feet

**Last Appalachian Environmental Studies series session next week!**

We hope you can join us for the second and final session of the Appalachian Environmental Studies program's summer lecture series Tuesday, Aug. 9, at 6 p.m. at Greene Technology Center. Remember: Delicious desserts will be served!

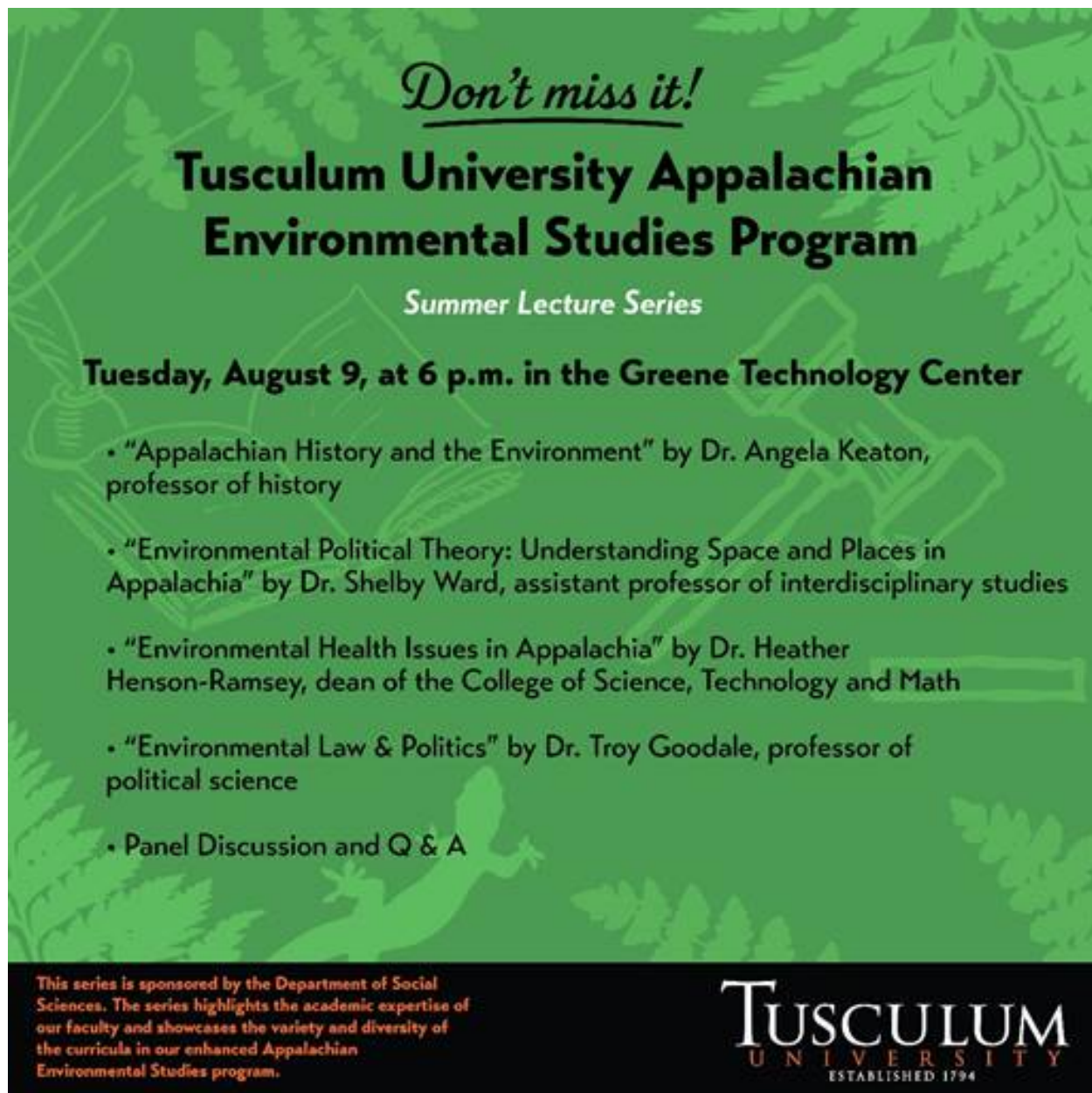
If you cannot come in person, the event is viewable at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/83145285352>.

Four expert Tusculum faculty members will give presentations. They are:

- Dr. Angela Keaton, professor of history, "Appalachian History and the Environment"
- Dr. Shelby Ward, assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies, "Environmental Political Theory: Understanding Space and Places in Appalachia"
- Dr. Heather Henson-Ramsey, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Mathematics, "Environmental Health Issues in Appalachia"
- Dr. Troy Goodale, professor of political science and chair of the Department of Social Sciences, "The Diversity of Appalachia"

Attendance is free and open to all Tusculum family members and the community. A panel discussion and questions from the audience will follow the talks. The event will last until about 7:30 p.m.



The poster has a green background with a pattern of various ferns and leaves. At the top, the text "Don't miss it!" is written in a black, cursive-style font and underlined. Below this, the title "Tusculum University Appalachian Environmental Studies Program" is centered in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Underneath the title, "Summer Lecture Series" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The date and time, "Tuesday, August 9, at 6 p.m. in the Greene Technology Center", are listed in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A bulleted list of five topics follows, each with the speaker's name and title. The bottom of the poster features a black horizontal band. On the left side of this band, white text describes the sponsorship by the Department of Social Sciences. On the right side, the Tusculum University logo is displayed, featuring the name "TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY" in a serif font with "ESTABLISHED 1794" underneath.

*Don't miss it!*

**Tusculum University Appalachian  
Environmental Studies Program**

**Summer Lecture Series**

**Tuesday, August 9, at 6 p.m. in the Greene Technology Center**

- "Appalachian History and the Environment" by Dr. Angela Keaton, professor of history
- "Environmental Political Theory: Understanding Space and Places in Appalachia" by Dr. Shelby Ward, assistant professor of interdisciplinary studies
- "Environmental Health Issues in Appalachia" by Dr. Heather Henson-Ramsey, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Math
- "Environmental Law & Politics" by Dr. Troy Goodale, professor of political science
- Panel Discussion and Q & A

This series is sponsored by the Department of Social Sciences. The series highlights the academic expertise of our faculty and showcases the variety and diversity of the curricula in our enhanced Appalachian Environmental Studies program.

**TUSCULUM**  
UNIVERSITY  
ESTABLISHED 1794

### **Remember summer residential students can use your assistance**

Some students have needed to stay in the residence halls this summer, and we can support them through a food drive led by the Bonner Leader Program.

To support this initiative, you can leave perishable food items in the bin by the Old Gym or at the Center for Civic Advancement in Room 401, both of which are in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons.

You can also donate money [here](#). Please select the food pantry in the drop-down menu.

### **Get ready for Pioneer WOW!**

We are just 17 days away from the arrival of all new students and the beginning of Pioneer WOW!

WOW is an acronym for Welcome Orientation Week, and it will be a great way to introduce our newest Pioneers to the campus and the Tusculum family. Many faculty and staff members will work directly with students and in other support roles to ensure Pioneer WOW helps new students have a great start to their collegiate experience.

We will have nonstop activities – we will sleep a little! – starting with move-in at 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 18, and continuing through the evening of Saturday, Aug. 20. Then we will transition to the rest of Pioneer WOW, which will incorporate returning students and have daily activities from Sunday, Aug. 21-Saturday, Aug. 27. The amount of activities will decrease due to the start of classes Monday, Aug. 22.

Check out the [Pioneer WOW web page](#), which has a link to the schedule and more details!



### **Free haircuts for students!**

TaylorMade Grooming Lounge, a neighbor and supporter of the university, will help our students look their best as the academic year starts. And it will be free for students!

The business' mobile unit will be in the Quad on the Greeneville campus from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 22, for any student who would like a haircut.

We are grateful to Micah Taylor, the lounge's owner, for once again helping us start off the semester in a meaningful way. It is his way of expressing appreciation for the business he receives from Tusculum. One of his repeat customers is Dr. Hummel!



Jahaud Russ, who graduated in May, received a haircut and trimmed beard during the inaugural event in 2021. Photo from Micah Taylor

### **Board games available to students**

Students who are looking to have some fun and want to take a break from their computers and phones can turn to the Thomas J. Garland for their entertainment!

The library now has board games students can borrow. Students are welcome to visit the library during normal business hours and play the games in the study rooms or Room 206.

Students who have questions can email [library@tusculum.edu](mailto:library@tusculum.edu) or call 423-636-7320.



## Tusculum representatives visit alumni in the Northeast

Last week, Dr. Hummel was joined by First Lady Starr Hummel and Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, on a trip to New York and New Jersey.



During their trip, they visited a number of alumni. One of those alumni was Kyle Cavanaugh, a 1980 graduate who now serves as vice president of administration for the National Basketball Association! We are proud of all of our alumni and thank them for their continuing interest in their alma mater!



Left to right, Starr Hummel, Dr. Hummel, Nicole Rader, Christie Cavanaugh and Kyle Cavanaugh pose at the NBA headquarters in New York. Photo from Dr. Hummel

## **New chair selected for the English and Languages Department**

Dr. Anne Acker, associate professor of English, has been named the new chair of Tusculum's English and Languages Department.

She has served Tusculum in a variety of teaching roles since 2005 and was promoted to associate professor in 2020. Dr. Acker teaches British Literature and World Literature and courses in research, mythology and Shakespeare. Outside the classroom, she has been a member of the university's General Education Committee since 2018 and vice chair since 2019. She has served as faculty advisor to the English Student Organization since 2017.

"It is no small honor to be chair of English and Languages at Tusculum," said Wayne Thomas, dean of the College of Civic and Liberal Arts. "These programs have produced some of our most impressive alumni in recent years. Dr. Acker has seen firsthand many exciting ventures in the English and Languages Department and other departments in the college. I know this exciting and healthy culture will continue under her leadership."

Dr. Acker, a Johnson City native, holds a bachelor's degree from Milligan College, a master's degree from East Tennessee State University and a doctorate from the University of Tennessee, all in English. Her concentration for her doctorate was in Renaissance Literature and rhetoric, and her dissertation was titled "Identity and Divinity: Self-Knowledge and Sanctification in 16th- and 17th-Century Literature."

To learn more about Dr. Acker, please read this [news release](#).



Dr. Anne Acker

### **Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has new leader**

We are also pleased to share that Dr. Faisal Al-khateeb, an associate professor of computer science, has been selected as the new chair of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department.

Dr. Al-khateeb has served at Tusculum since 2019. During his academic career, which has spanned about 22 years, Dr. Al-khateeb has taught a wide range of subjects, including cyber security, e-commerce and managing data communication and networks.

“I picked Dr. Al-khateeb as chair because he has experience in administration at other institutions,” said Dr. Heather Henson-Ramsey, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Mathematics. “Dr. Al-

khateeb is a strong academic, who puts student needs first and, as an instructor, challenges and engages them. He is respected by the department and will lead with thoughtfulness and fairness.”

Earlier in his career, Dr. Al-khateeb served as associate dean and executive director of the Assessment Department for the School of Management at the New York Institute of Technology in the United Arab Emirates and the Management Information Systems track chair for the College of Business and Economics at United Arab Emirates University.

“The Department of Math and Computer Science at Tusculum has several strengths, including being student service-oriented and trying our best to bring a practical and applied perspective to the classroom by bridging the gap between theory and real industry needs in the market,” Dr. Al-khateeb said. “Our faculty in the department put students first and individualize student learning by engaging them in different ways to personalize the educational material delivered.”

Dr. Al-khateeb has a doctorate in information systems decision sciences from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

You can learn more by reading this [news release](#).





Dr. Faisal Al-khateeb

### **Familiar face selected as our new grants and foundations manager**

Tusculum has a new grants and foundations manager, and she is a well-known person at the university. Robin Crabtree, who served at Tusculum for 22 years, returns in the part-time position to help us pursue foundations and grants.

In her role, Crabtree will work with faculty and staff members to learn their needs and research possible grants. She will approve the grants on the front end and follow up through the grant process and assist

with reporting. However, except in rare circumstances, faculty and staff members will write their own grants. Crabtree will also support the university's efforts with current and future foundations.

"Robin served in our office for eight years and is familiar with many of the foundations that provide funding to Tusculum and will adapt quickly back into that role," said Kim Kidwell, associate vice president for institutional advancement. "She will develop relationships with those foundations while researching and identifying additional foundation support. The staff in IA is excited to have her join our team as we value Robin's work ethic and her love for Tusculum and the students we serve."

Crabtree, who started her duties Monday, July 27, is excited to return to the office where she worked from 1999-2007.

"I look forward to providing support for current funding initiatives from grants and foundations, as well as identifying potential growth in these areas," she said. "Engagement with the Tusculum University family will be an important component to the success of this role."

Crabtree will continue to serve as well as the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief data specialist for Greeneville City Schools.

She lives in Chuckey with her husband, Travis, where they care for eight rescue cats and a rescue border collie. Each spring and summer, you will find their property full of large flower gardens in an effort to contribute to the care of earth's pollinators, a passion Crabtree has had for over a decade and hopes will inspire others. She has a bachelor's in English from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina, and a bachelor's in organizational management from Tusculum.



Robin Crabtree

### **Agenda available for the Pioneer Workshop**

The Pioneer Workshop for faculty and staff to be held from 8:30 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Aug. 16, in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center.

Organizers of the workshop, which provides important updates to faculty and staff as we prepare to embark on the academic year, are planning an informative event. Administrators as well as faculty and staff members will make a variety of presentations and be available afterward to answer questions.

The agenda is attached for your review.

If you have questions about the event, please email Dr. Tricia Hunsader, provost and vice president of academic affairs, at [thunsader@tusculum.edu](mailto:thunsader@tusculum.edu).

### **The class schedule on the day of Opening Convocation**

We share again below the class schedule for Tuesday, Aug. 23, when we hold the Opening Convocation. The convocation will be held at 10:30 a.m. in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center, and that has led to adjustments in class times throughout the day.

We look forward to seeing you at convocation!

Event	Regular Schedule	August 23 Schedule
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	8:00-9:20	8:00-9:00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	9:30-10:50	9:10-10:10
Convocation		10:30-11:30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	11:00-12:20	11:40-12:50
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	12:30-1:50	1:00-2:10
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	2:00-3:20	2:20-3:30
Labs	12:30-3:20	1:00-3:30
6 <sup>th</sup> Period	3:30-4:50	3:40-4:50

### **Time for employees to register vehicles and secure reserved parking spaces**

The start of the academic year also means it is time for all faculty and staff to register any vehicles they will park on campus and request reserved parking spaces that might interest them.

Faculty and staff members will not have to pay a registration fee for the first vehicle but must pay \$20 for each additional vehicle. To register their vehicle, they need to visit <https://www.permitsales.net/TusculumU>. Once they are registered, they can go to Campus Safety to pick up their sticker. The penalty for parking an unregistered vehicle is \$75 per citation.

Reserved spaces are available in the following lots:

- Meen Center
- Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center
- Virginia Hall
- McCormick Hall
- COG North
- Old College
- Haynes Hall south lot



- Scott M. Niswonger Commons

Anyone securing a reserved parking space will have exclusive access to it Monday-Friday from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. At all other times, faculty, staff and members of the public may use these spaces. Students are never allowed to park in yellow lined spaces regardless of the hours.

Those who reserved a space for the 2021-22 academic year can keep the same location or change it for the new academic year. They and those who are reserving a space for the first time need to sign up at <https://ws.tusculum.edu/forms/tu-reserved-parking-reservation-form/>. The cost for a reserved space is \$225.

Tusculum will allocate reserved spaces based on employees' lot preferences. Faculty and staff must provide their first and second preference for parking lots. If the number of first preferences for a lot exceeds available reserved spaces, service time at Tusculum will be the deciding factor.

Employees can pay for reserved spaces upfront or through payroll deduction.

We will strictly enforce the reserved parking space policy. If another vehicle is parked in your space during the reserved time, it will be towed. Campus Safety will issue no tickets or warnings except during the first two weeks of each semester.

## **Nominations being accepted for the President's GEM Award**

After taking a break during the summer terms, we are again accepting nominations for the President's GEM Award.

The deadline to recommend someone to the GEM committee is noon Wednesday, Aug. 24. The committee will forward its recommendation for Dr. Hummel, who will announce the recipient at the President's Coffee Friday, Aug. 26.

To suggest someone, please complete this [short form](#).

GEM is an acronym for Going the Extra Mile. Attributes to consider in a nominee are integrity, a positive attitude, a spirit of excellence and a dedication to Tusculum and its students. A faculty or staff member who goes beyond the call of duty, makes the Tusculum family stronger and contributes to the university's caring Christian environment is an ideal candidate. The nominee should exemplify the university's mission, vision and values.

The most recent recipient was Dom Donnelly, assistant athletic director for communications.

## **Don't wait! Register for fall courses now!**

The fall semester starts this month, and students should be sure they register for classes. They can review courses available during the fall semester by visiting the portal and submit [registration forms](#) to the Registrar's Office at [registrartu@tusculum.edu](mailto:registrartu@tusculum.edu).

Students need to remember:

- They must meet with their advisor before they can choose their courses.
- They must not have a business office hold on their student account because they will not be able to register for courses until they resolve it.



## Take care of housing now for the fall semester!

We are in the final stages of filling housing slots, so students who want to live in a residence hall or the apartments for the fall semester need to sign up now.

The application is available at <https://my.tusculum.edu/forms/housing-lottery-form/>.

Keep in mind these important reminders about housing registration:

- Students will not be able to participate in the housing lottery if they have not registered for courses to be held in the fall.
- Students need to complete a housing application on their Anthology accounts.
- Students who have a business office hold can submit their housing application, but it will not be processed until they register for classes for the fall.

*Have you signed up for **FALL HOUSING?***



**Get ahead!**



<https://my.tusculum.edu/forms/housing-lottery-form/>

### **You are invited to anniversary event for First Presbyterian in Elizabethton**

First Presbyterian Church in Elizabethton is celebrating the 240th anniversary of its founding in a special service at 11 a.m. Sunday, August 14, at Sycamore Shoals State Park, 1651 W Elk Ave, Elizabethton.

The service, to be held in the park's amphitheater, is open to the public. Afterward, attendees are invited to a free picnic lunch at the park's pavilions.

For planning purposes, lunch attendees should reserve meals by calling the church at 423-543-7737 and leaving a voicemail or emailing [info@fpcelizabethton.org](mailto:info@fpcelizabethton.org).



First Presbyterian Church in Elizabethton

## Reminders

- Faculty and staff members can receive free tickets for Greeneville Flyboys home games at Pioneer Park. Anyone who is interested should submit a request to [tuwork@tusculum.edu](mailto:tuwork@tusculum.edu) no later than noon on a game day or by noon on Friday for weekend games. Employees are eligible to reserve as many as four tickets while supplies last. If the university has not issued its total allotment of tickets as of the noon deadline, an employee can obtain additional ones. **Alumni Night will be held Wednesday, Aug. 3. For more details, please email Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, at [nrader@tusculum.edu](mailto:nrader@tusculum.edu).**
- Attached to this edition of The Pioneer Press is the updated email signature template, which incorporates the new Tusculum theme – “Be the Light.” Please review and use for your new signature.
- The most current edition of The Pioneer Press is now available through the Pioneer Portal. Simply go to the home page of the [Pioneer Portal](#) and see The Pioneer Press icon. Click on that to read The Pioneer Press.



- The bookstore is an excellent resource for office supplies, and some of them are now available for free. Visit the bookstore before placing an order with a vendor!
- If you are holding an event on campus, we need to be sure Tusculum family members are aware. One way is to submit a [branding request](#) to the Office of Communications and Marketing, which will post the event to the calendar on the Tusculum website. Another is for employees to work with the person designated in their office or department who has the ability to post items on the Events and Planning Calendar on Outlook. Access to items on that calendar is available to all employees.

## **Events and activities**

### **All Tusculum family members**

Thursday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; **REFIT fitness class**

### **Faculty and staff**

Tuesday, Aug. 2, 8:15 a.m.; Greeneville campus; **Community Work Day**

### **Community**

Saturday, Saturday, Aug. 7, 9 a.m., Doak House Museum; **Greeneville Farmers Market**

## **Faculty and staff birthdays**

- Tuesday, Aug. 2 – Dr. Tricia Hunsader
- Tuesday, Aug. 2 – Pamela Darnell
- Wednesday, Aug. 3 – Lindsey Self

We thank you for reading The Pioneer Press! To suggest content for a future edition or submit feature photos, please email Jim Wozniak, director of communications and marketing, at [jwozniak@tusculum.edu](mailto:jwozniak@tusculum.edu).

## **Go Pioneers!**