



09/12/2022

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President's Perspective

How do you respond to problems, challenges, difficulties and even crises? Our responses reveal much about ourselves. I have seen some respond with excuses and blaming others, but I have never seen those responses lead to success. I have seen others respond with resilience and adaptation, and I have seen many of those overcome and succeed.

Challenges and trials also shape and build our character. Paul and James both describe trials that produce endurance, which builds character, which develops maturity. It is not a matter if you will face academic, athletic, relational and personal challenges of many kinds but how you will respond to them.

Twenty-one years ago, our nation was attacked on 9/11, and understandably the initial reactions were ones of shock, loss and anger. However, when seeing the needs of others, many also responded with unity, resolve and service.

One of the ways we still respond to 9/11 is through a day of service. At Tusculum our response and civic engagement are partially expressed through Nettie Day. Let me encourage you to be fully involved and serve during Nettie Day. Let me also encourage you to attend the Cicero lecture Dr. Troy Goodale will give about 9/11 and Yaro Hnatusko's presentation on the war in Ukraine and potential ways to help.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President

Word of the Week

"Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." – Romans 12:17-18 ESV

Photo of the Week



Lars Schutrups, a junior, gives his muscles a workout in the Wellness Center. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

COVID-19 procedures

We have modified a few coronavirus procedures in light of recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. You can read all of the protocols [here](#).

Should you develop coronavirus symptoms, be diagnosed or be identified as a contact, you must immediately inform the appropriate group at Tusculum.

- Students need to email the Office of Student Affairs at studentaffairs@tusculum.edu or call the COVID-19 hotline at 423-636-0500. They should also alert their professors.

- Employees must contact the Human Resources Department at humanresources@tusculum.edu or 423-636-7345 (extension 5345 on campus) as well as their supervisor.

Beloved Nettie Day observation is Friday

Are you ready to participate in [Nettie Fowler McCormick Service Day](#), one of Tusculum's most beloved and well-known traditions?

Nettie Day will be held Friday, Sept. 16. All participants who register should plan to arrive in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons at the time indicated for their particular project when they sign up. At Niswonger, group leaders will have signs for each project, and volunteers should gather accordingly. Each group's participants will leave together by foot or provided transportation.

Nettie Day honors one of our earliest benefactors. It provides an opportunity for the Tusculum family to head into the community and spend time on campus completing service work. Nettie Day is an outstanding way to demonstrate the civic engagement component of our mission.

To register for Nettie Day, you can visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/org/cca#/> or scan the QR code below. For further information, you can email cca@tusculum.edu.

Nettie Day is sponsored by AmeriCorps and is a part of that organization's 9/11 Day of Service.

TU | CENTER FOR
CIVIC ADVANCEMENT

#NETTIEDAY2022







Students make jump rope dog toys during Nettie Day in 2021.

9/11 presentation by Dr. Goodale tonight in the Meen Center

Tonight at 7 p.m., Dr. Troy Goodale, chair of the Social Sciences Department, will give a free talk “9/11: Numbers of Notoriety, Day of Infamy” in the Meen Center lecture hall as part of Tusculum’s Cicero Lecture Series.

Dr. Goodale will discuss some of the evil acts in the years preceding that day, the rise of Al-Qaeda and the cumulative response by the United States. He will provide background information about Al-Qaeda – its origins and its activities throughout the 1990s, including the USS Cole attack and the attack on the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi; the organization’s declaration of war on America; and the nation’s underestimation of the threat the group posed.

Dr. Goodale, who also serves as professor of political science, will review the events of 9/11 in detail and Al-Qaeda’s preparation for the multiple attacks. In addition, he will examine the aftermath of 9/11 in U.S. foreign policy, including the nation’s entry into the war in Afghanistan and the withdrawal of American troops from that country.

We invite you to attend the lecture and learn more about these subjects. You can read more about the presentation in this [news release](#). Please email Dr. Goodale at tgoodale@tusculum.edu should you have questions.



Dr. Goodale took this photo of the 9/11 Memorial.

Hear firsthand about the plight of Ukraine from a native of that country

Remember, you can hear directly from a man born and raised in Ukraine about Russia's invasion of that country. Yaro Hnatusko, co-founder and executive director of Restore Ukraine, will speak at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15, in the Meen Center.

The talk is free and will help all Tusculum family members understand the situation in Ukraine in greater detail.

Restore Ukraine has converted warehouses into shelters, utilized a corporate restaurant as a food bank and distributed food for displaced citizens of Ukraine. The organization has distributed more than 500,000 pounds of food supplies in the most bombed city of Ukraine.

You can read more about the lecture in this [news release](#). You can read more about Restore Ukraine's efforts in this [Johnson City Press story](#).

Real life story of a Ukrainian about the war and his nonprofit



Real story about the aggressive and brutal war Russia took against Ukraine in 2022.

Hear about Ukrainians who fight for their freedom, rights and life.

Explore ways to help suffering families immediately.

Yaroslav Hnatusko,
Executive Director and
Co-founder of
Restore Ukraine NGO

SEPTEMBER 15, 2022
7 PM, LECTURE HALL
OF TUSCULUM
UNIVERSITY



For more details
scan Restore Ukraine QR-code

Our campus minister and women's soccer coach highlight this week's chapel

A message from Dr. Chris Shumate, our campus minister, and music from Mike Joy, head women's soccer coach, will be the main features of chapel today at 3:30 p.m. in The Pioneer Perk.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can participate virtually at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/89872872826?pwd=SzU1OTdWLD0tuZThCOEFCVHpLcVRIUT09>.

Chapel sessions take place from 3:30-4 p.m. every Monday during the fall semester when classes are in session. Every week, we will address common questions about Christianity. All Tusculum family members are invited to attend.

For more information, please email Dr. Shumate at cshumate@tusculum.edu.



Dr. Chris Shumate



Mike Joy

Additional budget meeting available this week with the Business Office

If you have a role with a budget at Tusculum and were unable to attend last week's sessions, the Business Office has scheduled another one for Friday, Sept. 16, at 11 a.m. in Chalmers Conference Center.

Among the discussion points will be changes in accounts and processes for this fiscal year.

Anyone who works with or oversees a budget should plan to attend. The meeting should last no more than 90 minutes.

Funny and contemplative play starting Sept. 23 in Behan Arena Theatre

Imagine a world in which you can only speak 140 words a day. That is the main theme of "Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons," a dark romantic comedy, coming to Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center. We urge you to catch a show!

The play will be held Sept. 23, Sept. 24, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 at 2 p.m. in the Behan Arena Theatre on the lower level of Annie Hogan Byrd. All students, faculty and staff are eligible for one free ticket. Additional tickets cost \$15 for anyone 12-59 years old, \$12 for anyone 60 or older and \$5 for children younger than 12.

The cast features two Tusculum staff members – Steve Schultz, director of admission operations, and Erin Hensley Schultz, costume director. Steve Schultz plays Oliver, a laid-back musician, and Erin Schultz plays Bernadette, an ambitious attorney. Frank Mengel will lead set design, and three students – Todd Wallin, Josie Norton and Gracie Weems – will run the show backstage.

Sam Steiner’s play considers a world in which people must say less. It contemplates what people say and how they say it. This production also touches on activism, eye contact and what people can hear in silence. You can learn more in this [news release](#).

To reserve a free seat, please click [here](#). Select the show you want to attend and look for the link that says, “Have a passcode.” Click that and enter your Tusculum ID number.

In addition to the one below, you can see photos of rehearsal, taken by the Office of Communications and Marketing, in [this gallery](#).



Steve Schultz, left, and Erin Schultz rehearse a scene in “Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons.”

Reminder about the Sweet Tooth Tuesday competition next week

Prepare your recipes and tummies for something tasty and sweet! The first-ever Sweet Tooth Tuesday competition is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, around the living room of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons.

This event will utilize the same approach as the Chili Cook-Off – but with a focus on desserts! Teams can form to create their best treats, with voters determining who earns the different honors.

Sweet Tooth Tuesday is for faculty and staff members. Employees should put the last touches on their recipes and themes if work still remains on their delicious creations!

Faculty and staff members with questions should email Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, at nrader@tusculum.edu.



Alumni student-athlete showcasing his skills with the Atlanta Falcons

We are pleased to share the success of one of our alumni student-athletes, who was recently featured on Sports Illustrated's website.

Former Tusculum Pioneer standout Dee Alford is making a mark on the National Football League on the gridiron. Now playing for the Atlanta Falcons, Alford amassed eight tackles and an interception in his team's 27-23 preseason victory over the Detroit Lions. Tusculum's Office of Athletic Communications highlighted this success and reflected on his play from 2016-19 as a Pioneer in this [news release](#).

Then last week, the feature on Sports Illustrated's website about the cornerback appeared. This story reflected on his rise, including playing in the Canadian Football League, and his longtime connections

with Jerry Odom, Tusculum's head football coach. Odom is one of the people singing Alford's praises in the story.

You can read the story [here](#).

Congratulations to Alford!



Dee Alford is showing the NFL what this former Pioneer can do!

Celebrating the opening of our Wellness Center

With members of the Tusculum family and the community on hand, we held the ceremonial grand opening for the Wellness Center Tuesday, Sept. 6.

This represented a special moment to honor the newest step in our efforts to enhance the Tusculum family's health. We are grateful to everyone who attended.

The Wellness Center is open to all students, faculty and staff. Operating hours are 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and 1-7 p.m. Sunday.

The facility contains treadmills, elliptical machines and weight machines. **Dr. Suzanne Byrd, department chair and associate professor of sport science, will have her second drop-in orientation session at noon Tuesday, Sept. 13.** You can email her at sbyrd@tusculum.edu if you want to schedule a personal session on workout planning for a busy life.

You can read more in this [news release](#) and see photos, in addition to the one below from the Office of Communications and Marketing, in [this gallery](#).



Senior Gabrielle Rambo demonstrates her skill with weights as she performs a squat in the new Wellness Center.

Supporting the university financially

The momentum continues with faculty and staff giving to the university for this fiscal year! We now have five offices and departments that have reached 100 percent giving! They are:

- Human Resources Department
- Offices of Admission/Financial Aid/Communications and Marketing
- President's Office
- Office of Institutional Advancement
- Thomas J. Garland Library

We encourage our employees to complete a [Faculty and Staff Contribution Form](#). Employees can also find it on the Faculty and Staff Portal of the Pioneer Portal.

We thank everyone who makes a gift! No amount is too small!

If you have questions, please call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 423-636-7303.

Special event coming to the Tusculum University Campus Store

With the move to online textbook sales and the opening of The Pioneer Perk, Tusculum's bookstore in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons has been revamped, including receiving a new name.

The merchandise section is now called the Tusculum University Campus Store. New items that have been purchased include hoodies, hats, jewelry, cups/drinkware, shorts and socks. In addition, we have an expanded school supplies section.

This supplements other items we continue to offer: hats; sports facility needs such as blankets, seat cushions, pompoms, decals, basic electronic needs, a pet section, lanyards and keychains, and license plates and frames

The store is open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, but Tusculum will also have a grand reopening of this space Monday, Sept. 19-Friday, Sept. 23. Through that week, customers are automatically entered into a drawing for one lucky person to win a Tusculum tailgate chair with any \$10 purchase!

In addition, we will have the following promotions that week:

- Monday: Buy any hoodie and get any T-shirt for 25% off.
- Tuesday: With any purchase of \$40 or more, receive a free Tritan Tusculum Pioneers water bottle.
- Wednesday: Buy two items at full price and get the third for half off (cheaper of the 3 items).
- Thursday (Team Spirit Thursday): Purchase TU Tailgate Chairs for \$43 and TU seat cushion and stadium blanket for \$30 and TU Beaded Game Day Necklace for \$7.
- Friday (Fishbowl Friday): Draw from the fish bowl for additional percentages off your purchase or for free prizes.

Snacks and soft drinks do not qualify for discounts.

For more information about the campus store, please call 423-636-7307.



April Grindstaff, manager of the Tusculum University Campus Store, shows some of the popular new merchandise. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Be careful about scammers in connection with student loan forgiveness

The Office of Financial Aid is urging students to be careful about potential scammers who might contact them about student loan forgiveness.

In response to President Biden's announcement pertaining to student loans, scammers are trying to get students to pay money or provide their social security number, said Melissa White, our financial aid director. But she said Biden and the U.S. Department of Education have not indicated how they plan to implement student loan forgiveness.

White offers the following tips to students:

- When in doubt about who is calling you, say you have a call on the other line and will have to call back. Do not call back the same phone number. Either go to studentaid.gov and call the general Department of Education number and/or login to your account and call your loan lender directly at the number it provided on your StudentAid dashboard.
- Never give your social security number to anyone that calls you.
- Never provide your debit and/or credit card information to someone that calls you.
- When in doubt, assume it is a scam. The Department of Education is not known to call or text students. Any email from the DOE will contain a studentaid.gov address. Emails from loan

servicers will end with their servicer's information. For example, Great Lakes will end with mygreatlakes.org.

- Most communication from the Department of Education will come via mail or email. Historically, mail has been the most popular unless something has been submitted through the StudentAid portal. Then email is likely.

Constitution Day celebration to feature showing of "Hamilton"

The Center for Civic Advancement will celebrate Constitution Day Monday, Sept. 19, with a showing of the movie "Hamilton."

The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Apartment Quad. Should there be rain, the event will be moved to Meen Center Room 117. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket.

Constitution Day is an annual observance the CCA holds in the fall. Anyone with questions can email cca@tusculum.edu. We look forward to seeing you!



A fun way to greet potential new students

As potential new students come to Virginia Hall to begin their campus tour, they have a new visual way to show they are at Tusculum.

Last week, a new sign went on the wall near the patio entrance to Virginia Hall. It welcomes visitors to Tusculum and features the mountains for which East Tennessee is so well known. Lilli Gall, a junior who is double majoring in studio art as well as visual communication and design, designed the sign during her internship in the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Those who are taking a tour are encouraged to snap their photo and share it on social media. The photo is not limited to prospective new students, though. Any Tusculum family member is welcome to take a photo in front of the sign.

In fact, Jordan Baker, assistant professor of biology, and his wife, Kathy, were on campus after the installation and took this photo of their son Tobias in front of the sign.



Additional outreach for student recruitment

Our admission team has found a fun new way to convey the message that Tusculum is affordable and the right choice for a college student's studies.

The Office of Admission sent a cookie cake to all high schools in Tennessee and asked counselors to take a photo of themselves with it and text it to us. Many have received the cake and sent their photos, with some including their students and others in them.

The cake was designed by Lilli Gall, a Tusculum junior who also created the Virginia Hall sign. It contains the Tusculum logo followed by the message "FULL PELL + HOPE = FREE TUITION."

This is one of the many ways we are using a pioneering spirit to bring additional students to Tusculum!



Two recipients from Westmoreland High School enjoy their cookie!

Serve as a tnAchieves mentor!

An excellent civic engagement opportunity for faculty and staff members and students who are at least 21 years old is to serve as a mentor for tnAchieves in support of the Tennessee Promise class of 2023.

All tnAchieves mentors complete a 30-minute virtual training and are provided with a comprehensive handbook guide to the program. The time commitment for a mentor is just one hour a month, but it can have a significant impact on a student's future. This year's program will include earlier access to students and an in-person meeting in December or January.

The deadline to apply to serve as a mentor is Friday, Oct. 21. To apply or learn more, please visit <https://tnAchieves.org/mentors>.

Reminders

- The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic located in Room 008 of the Meen Center is open for medical care. The clinic sees patients Mondays and Wednesdays from 8-11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 1-3:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Patients can self-pay or use their health insurance. Students can apply for payment aid, if necessary.
- Homecoming is Wednesday, Oct. 19-Sunday, Oct. 23. You can learn more about this can't miss event and see the schedule by visiting <https://go.tusculum.edu/homecoming/>. The theme for this year is "There's No Place Like Homecoming."
- Nominations of faculty and staff members for the President's GEM Award in September are now being accepted. The deadline is noon Wednesday, Sept. 28. Dr. Hummel will announce the recipient at the President's Coffee Friday, Sept. 30. To suggest someone, please complete this [short form](#).
- 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

Monday, Sept. 12, 3:30 p.m., Pioneer Perk and Zoom

(<https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/89872872826?pwd=SzU1OThWL0tuZThCOEFCVHpLcVRIUT09>); chapel

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m., Meen Center lecture hall; **presentation by Dr. Troy Goodale "9/11: Numbers of Notoriety, Day of Infamy"**

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m., in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons; **Hillbilly Hibachi food truck**

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; **yoga**

Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Thursday, Sept. 15, 8 p.m., Old Gym; **yoga**

Friday, Sept. 16, 8:15 a.m., all over campus; **Nettie Fowler McCormick Service Day**

Faculty and staff events

Thursday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; **Upward Bound Back-to-School Bash**

Community

Saturday, Sept. 17, 9 a.m., Doak House Museum; **Greeneville Farmers Market**

Athletics

Tuesday, Sept. 13; 7 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **women's indoor volleyball team vs. Lincoln Memorial University**

Wednesday, Sept. 14, 5 p.m.; Pioneer Field; **women's soccer team vs. The University of Alabama in Huntsville**

Friday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **women's indoor volleyball team vs. Limestone University**

Saturday, Sept. 17, 12:30 p.m., **Coker University; women's soccer team vs. Coker University**

Saturday, Sept. 17, 3 p.m., **Coker University; men's soccer team vs. Coker University**

Saturday, Sept. 17, 6 p.m., Pioneer Field; **football team vs. Wingate University**



The men's soccer team, including sophomore midfielder Cristobal Morales, will be in action Saturday at Coker University. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Please visit the schedule on the [athletics website](#) for potential changes with games.

Faculty and staff birthdays

- Wednesday, Sept. 14 – Justine Shaw
- Friday, Sept. 16 – Shawn Flanary
- Friday, Sept. 16 – Raegan Goodson
- Saturday, Sept. 17 – Dr. Faisal Al-khateeb
- Sunday, Sept. 18 – Nicole Rader
- Sunday, Sept. 18 – Kayla Yates

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.

Go Pioneers!