



August 22, 2022

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President's Perspective

Seeing all of our new students last week at Pioneer WOW laughing and competing in a friendly way, connecting with each other at a variety of activities and learning about Tusculum University and college life was heartwarming.

That is the essence of the value of Pioneer WOW. Becoming a college student is a monumental step in a person's life, and Tusculum is committed to making that experience as optimal as possible. Students can be excited about going to college, but they can also be extremely nervous and potentially scared. PioneerWOW can make that transition so much smoother.

Now that our new students have experienced a few days on campus and witnessed much of what Tusculum offers them, I hope they seize the moment and use their college years to study, have a great time and become civically engaged, career-ready professionals when they walk across the stage at graduation. Remember, everyone is here to support these students, as was demonstrated by all of the faculty, staff and current students who participated in Pioneer WOW.

I am grateful to everyone who has contributed to the success so far of Pioneer WOW. I hope our new and returning students have a fantastic semester!

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President

Word of the Week

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” – 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Photo of the Week



Pioneer WOW is definitely a cause for celebration, as these new students demonstrated last week. Photo by the Office of Communication and Marketing

COVID-19 protocols updated

In light of recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are modifying a protocol pertaining to contacts. Please see the updated points below. The change is in the fourth bullet.

- Face coverings are generally not required, but Tusculum family members are welcome to wear one if they choose.
- Residential students who test positive will be encouraged to return home, but if that is not possible, they will be isolated in another part of campus.
- All Tusculum family members who test positive must isolate for at least five days. On Day 6, they will be allowed to return to work or come out of isolation housing if they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours and are not experiencing other major symptoms. However, they must wear a face covering except when they are in their room or office through Day 10. They do not have to wear a face covering outdoors but should have one with them in case they come into contact with others. Student-athletes should notify their athletic trainer for further guidance.
- Contacts do not have to quarantine unless they experience symptoms, but they should take a coronavirus test after five days if they are not symptomatic and earlier if they are symptomatic. Contacts must wear a face covering indoors through Day 5 but can forego that covering starting on Day 6 if they test negative. Students must provide a copy of the negative test to the Office of Student Affairs and include their name and date of test.
- Facilities management staff will continue to spray classrooms at least once a day to kill potential viruses.
- We will hold in-person classes, but faculty members will work with students who are positive or a contact and cannot come to class.
- Community members and relatives of Tusculum faculty, staff and students should not come to campus if they are sick, feeling symptoms of the coronavirus or have been diagnosed. They should also not come to campus if they are not fully vaccinated and boosted and are a contact.

We encourage Tusculum family members to practice important measures to help protect themselves and others against the coronavirus, such as frequent hand washing and coughing into the crook of their arm. They should also not come to class in person or to the office if they have been diagnosed with the coronavirus or are experiencing symptoms that are not typical of their everyday experiences. It is particularly important that they stay home if their temperature exceeds 100.4 degrees.

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.

Pioneer WOW prepares new students for the joy of studying at Tusculum!

From moving into residence halls, to games, group sessions, service work and TikTok compilations, our newest Pioneers packed a lot of activity into one weekend. We are thrilled to have these students in the Tusculum family and know they are already impacting their surroundings.

Dr. Travis Williams, professor of religion spoke at Trinity United Methodist Church in Greeneville Sunday and listened to the pastor brag on the new students who served their Saturday. She expressed to him her appreciation for all of the students' work.

We have now entered into the second phase of Pioneer WOW, which will incorporate activities for all students. Key events this week are:

Here are key remaining activities:

- Contra dancing Monday, Aug. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Old Gym
- Bonfire Tuesday, Aug. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Apartment Quad
- Night of Worship Wednesday, Aug. 24, at 7 p.m. in the Library Bowl (The Pioneer Perk in case of rain)
- Outdoor water games Thursday, Aug. 25, at 3 p.m. in the Library Bowl
- Lawn games Friday, Aug. 26, at 3 p.m. in the Apartment Quad
- Hiking Saturday, Aug. 27, at 10 a.m. in various trails (meet in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons parking lot)

Night of Worship and the hiking excursions are open to all Tusculum family members.

Be sure to visit the [Pioneer_WOW web page](#)! In addition to the photo below, you can view [this gallery](#) for additional photos taken by a variety of Tusculum family members. Other photos are available on [Tusculum's Facebook page](#).



Delana DeBusk tries her luck at walking with an egg on the bowl of a spoon that was extending from her mouth during the Pioneer Showdown. Photo from the Office of Communications and Marketing

Chapel resumes today!

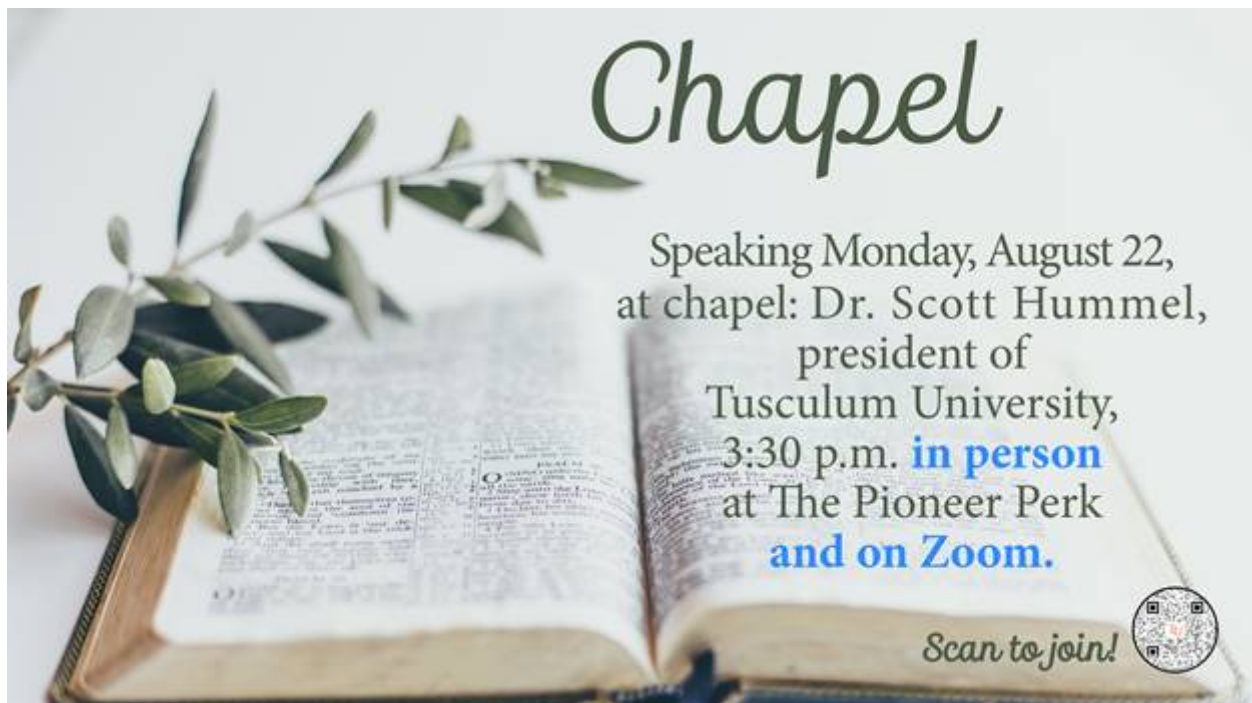
Voluntary chapel sessions resume Monday, Aug. 22, at 3:30 p.m. in The Pioneer Perk. If you are unable to be present in person, you can participate virtually at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/89872872826?pwd=SzU1OThWLOtuZThCOEFCVHpLcVRIUT09>.

Dr. Hummel will speak during the 30-minute service, and local worship leader Brooks Gray is scheduled to lead a song.

The sessions will 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 weekly chapel so they can experience spiritual growth. Chapel is a wonderful example of our caring Christian environment in action.

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



Opening Convocation is Tuesday

The Opening Convocation will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 23, in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center. We have adjusted class times throughout the day to enable all Tusculum family members to attend.

This ceremony is an important and traditional part of the start of the academic year that celebrates the university and the outstanding education we deliver at Tennessee's first higher education institution. We look forward to seeing you there.

Here is the updated class schedule:

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

AUGUST 23, 2022 – CONVOCATION DAY

EVENT	Regular Schedule	August 23, 2022 Schedule
1st Period	8:00 - 9:20 a.m.	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
2nd Period	9:30 - 10:50 a.m.	9:10 - 10:10 a.m.
Convocation		10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
3rd Period	11:00 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.	11:40 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.
4th Period	12:30 - 1:50 p.m.	1:00 - 2:10 p.m.
5th Period	2:00 - 3:20 p.m.	2:20 - 3:30 p.m.
Labs	12:30 - 3:20 p.m.	1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
6th Period	3:30 - 4:50 p.m.	3:40 - 4:50 p.m.

Students need to purchase their textbooks

We hope all students have purchased their textbooks for the fall semester. If that has not taken place, we urge them to take that step immediately so they can stay on track in their courses.

Remember, all textbooks must be purchased online, as the campus bookstore no longer sells them. To order your textbooks online, please log into the system at <https://tusculum.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. You log in using your Anthology/bookstore username (the @lab.tusculum.edu) and Canvas password.

Your list of courses and textbooks should auto-populate. The only exception is if your course schedule changed Friday or afterward. Those revisions will not be reflected in the online bookstore. In those instances, you will need to order texts as a guest and manually search for each course and section.

If you need your account information or password reset, please contact Tusculum's Information Systems help desk at tdis@tusculum.edu or 423-636-7346.

Assisting the residents of Eastern Kentucky

We encourage you to support the residents of Eastern Kentucky, who are experiencing challenging times following major flooding.

Tusculum University began its campaign to assist these residents at the Tusculum Family Reunion and will continue to collect items through Friday, Aug. 26. Donations can be brought to the office of Chris Shumate, our campus minister, in Room 405 of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons.

Those affected by the floods are in need of the following items:

- Baby food
- Diapers
- Dog food
- Cat food
- Cleaning supplies

Nominations being accepted for the President's GEM Award

The deadline for faculty and staff members to nominate a colleague to be this month's recipient of the President's GEM Award is noon Wednesday, Aug. 24. 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 President's Coffee will be held at 9 a.m. in Chalmers Conference Center and virtually at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/88589868103?pwd=cEJ0WDdJSWsvai9WRnVRdUI1R1d6Zz09>.

Deadline this week for discount on reserved parking spaces!

A 10 percent discount is available for faculty and staff members who reserve parking spaces and pay the \$225 cost upfront by Friday, Aug. 26. Faculty and staff members who chose to pay through payroll deduction do not qualify for this discount.

For more details about reserved parking spaces and registration of vehicles, please click [here](#).

Terrific music Wednesday at the Night of Worship

Great spiritual music for the whole Tusculum family will be available on campus Wednesday, Aug. 24, during Night of Worship.

The PILLAR Band from First Christian Church in Greeneville will play music that will strengthen your relationship with God. The event will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Library Bowl. If it rains, the event will move to The Pioneer Perk.

Night of Worship is also part of our Pioneer WOW activities for the students.

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

Breaking Bread ministry returns!

The Breaking Bread ministry on campus is back for the 2022-23 academic year with a few revisions.

The group's name has changed to Breaking Bread Ecumenical Campus Ministry now that local church leaders from the United Methodist Church and Presbyterian USA have become involved. Leaders from the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will continue to support this ministry.

Meetings this fall will now be held Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in Meen 300. The first meeting date will be Aug. 29.

Breaking Bread participants gather for discussion, food and fellowship. Students pick the discussion topic at the beginning of the semester. People of any faith tradition, those who are struggling with their beliefs and others who are not practicing any faith system are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The ministry is open to all Tusculum family members. Anyone with questions can email Jordan Baker, assistant professor of biology and Breaking Bread's faculty advisor, at jbaker@tusculum.edu.

Israeli friend of Dr. Hummel speaking at Tusculum

Mishi Neubach, a former Israeli soldier who fought in the Six-day and Yom Kippur wars, will speak in Old Testament classes on campus Thursday, Sept. 1, and conduct a free talk that evening in the Meen Center lecture hall.

He is a tour guide, who Dr. Hummel has used for all of his trips to Israel, including the visit this summer. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where Dr. Hummel also studied.

During his visit to Tusculum, Neubach will have dinner Wednesday, Aug. 31, at the President's House with all of the people who traveled to Israel in June. On Sept. 1, after speaking to the Old Testament classes, he will have lunch in the Hurley Room of the cafeteria at noon. Faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend.

The lecture at the Meen Center will be held at 7 p.m. and address the life of the modern state of Israel through his life



Mishi Neubach is shown in this photo provided by Dr. Hummel.

Coming soon! The opening of the Wellness Center

After lots of planning and months of work, we are nearing the opening of the Wellness Center on the first floor of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons.

Crews from the equipment supplier installed much of the new equipment last week and are scheduled to apply the finishing touches this week. We currently plan to open the facility to faculty, staff and students Monday, Aug. 29.

The Wellness Center is located one floor below the Pioneer Arena lobby. It was previously the weight room for our student-athletes, but they now have a new facility constructed where the pool used to be in the building.

Complete details about the Wellness Center, including operating hours, will be available in next Monday's edition of The Pioneer Press. In the meantime, employees and students can start envisioning themselves as consumers of our new Wellness Center. In the meantime, the photo below will give you a taste of the Wellness Center's offerings.



Here is a photo of the Wellness Center. Photo from Doug Jones

Theme established for this year's Homecoming

Tusculum is adding a special element to our annual Homecoming celebration this year – a theme.

“There’s No Place Like Homecoming” will serve as the theme for the event, which will be held 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/>.

We encourage Tusculum family members to put Homecoming on their calendars and participate in as many of the events as possible. Homecoming is not just for alumni. Faculty, staff and students can find plenty to enjoy as well.

We will share the exciting news about our theme with the community soon, but we wanted to give you a sneak peek. Further details will be forthcoming.



Two Student Support Services participants achieve honors for their research

Two Tusculum students who are participants in Student Support Services – Mirna Jacinto-Ramirez and Angela Masiello – completed prestigious McNair program internships.

For eight weeks, these Pioneers engaged in hours of research and seminars to emerge as McNair Scholars. The pair presented their summer research projects at the 18th annual East Tennessee State University Ronald E. McNair Research Symposium.

Jacinto-Ramirez, an environmental science major, presented her research project “Microplastic Polystyrene: Developmental Effects on Large Mouth Bass,” winning third place in the oral presentations. Masiello, a human and behavioral psychology major, achieved second place in the oral presentations and first place in the poster presentations with her research project “The Hidden Opponent: A Phenomenological Study of Stress and Support of Injured Collegiate Athletes.”

The Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program is named in honor of Ronald E. McNair, a Black American astronaut killed in the Challenger Space Shuttle explosion in 1986.

The McNair program’s goal is to increase the attainment of graduate degrees, particularly doctorates, by students from underrepresented segments of society. These include students from low-income and first-generation backgrounds or from ethnic minorities underrepresented in graduate programs.



Angela Masiello, left, and Mirna Jacinto-Ramirez, right, recently completed the McNair program. Photo from Meagan Stark

Services for Dr. Donal Sexton

Any Tusculum family member who wants to pay their respects to Dr. Donal Sexton, a retired Tusculum history professor, who passed away Saturday, Aug. 13, can attend the visitation and memorial service Friday, Aug. 26, and the graveside service Saturday, Aug. 27.

Dr. Sexton's family will receive friends Friday from 4-7 p.m. at Jeffers Funeral Service, 208 N. College St. in Greeneville. The memorial service will follow at 7, with the Rev. Todd Jenkins, pastor of First

Presbyterian Church, officiating. The graveside service will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at Graceland Memorial Gardens.

Dr. Sexton served at Tusculum for 40 years and held the Janet Anderson Lunstedt Professorship and co-authoring the bicentennial university history "Glimpses of Tusculum" in 1994. At the time of his passing, he was professor emeritus at Tusculum.

You can learn more by reading his [obituary](#) and [last week's story](#) in The Pioneer Press.



Dr. Donal Sexton

Longevity awards presented to employees

During the Pioneer Workshop Tuesday, Aug. 16, 27 employees were recognized for their service to Tusculum.

The university provided certificates to these faculty and staff members in five-year anniversary increments. The employee with the most years at Tusculum was Chris Summey, director of the Information Services Department.

You can review the list of recipients [here](#).



Chris Summey, left, receives a certificate from Dr. Hummel in recognition of 35 years of service to Tusculum.

Another exciting event coming in September

The inaugural Sweet Tooth Tuesday will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20 around the living room of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons.

This event will resemble the Chili Cook-Off but will focus on desserts instead! 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. They should be thinking of their dessert creations and their themes!

Employees with questions should email Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, at atnrader@tusculum.edu.



Great time at the Tusculum Family Reunion

Some faculty and staff members emerged sore after playing in the softball game, but everyone emerged from the Tusculum Family Reunion with a smile on their face.

The reunion was filled with fun games, terrific food and wonderful fellowship. Our timing was perfect because the rain came after we finished playing softball and the other games.

To see some of the fun, please check out [this gallery](#). You can also visit our [Facebook page](#) to see other photos.

Review updated campus directories

Directories of Tusculum faculty and staff members prepared by Rose Peedin, executive assistant to the president, are now available for review.

One of the directories is by department, and the other is alphabetical by employee. They are attached, and faculty and staff members should carefully review them and email any changes to Peedin at atrpeedin@tusculum.edu.

In addition, employees should review their listing in the campus directory, as well as college and department pages, on the Tusculum website. Please report any changes needed by completing a [branding request](#). The Office of Communications and Marketing will make the revisions to the web pages.

Reminders

- The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic located in Room 008 of the Meen Center opens today for medical care. The clinic will see 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.
- Tusculum is doubling its available bandwidth. Starting in early September, we will launch better and faster speeds for Wi-Fi and Ethernet connections. And after careful consideration, we will discontinue cable service on campus effective Wednesday, Aug. 31, due to changing viewership patterns. You can learn more about both developments [here](#).
- 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, Aug. 22, 3:30 p.m., The Pioneer Perk and
Zoom <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/89872872826?pwd=SzU10ThWL0tuZThCOEFCVHpLcVRIUT09>; **chapel**

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 10:30 a.m., Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center; **Opening Convocation**

Tuesday, Aug. 23, and Thursday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT fitness class**

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 11 a.m., in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons; **Trucky Cheese food truck**

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m., Library Bowl (rain location: The Pioneer Perk); **Night of Worship**

Saturday, Aug. 27, 10 a.m., various trails; **hiking**

Faculty and staff

Wednesday, Aug. 24, noon, Zoom; **The Pioneer Pathway Task Force**

Thursday, Aug. 25, 9 a.m., Zoom; **Operation Success Committee**

Friday, Aug. 26, 9 a.m., Chalmers Conference Center and Zoom
(<https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/88589868103?pwd=cEJ0WDdJSWsvai9WRnVRdUI1R1d6Zz09>); **President's Coffee**

Students

Monday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m., Quad; **free haircuts**

Monday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **contra dance**

Tuesday, Aug. 23, 7 p.m., Apartment Quad; **bonfire**

Wednesday, Aug. 24, 7 p.m., Library Bowl (rain location: The Pioneer Perk); **Night of Worship**

Thursday, Aug. 25, 3 p.m., Library Bowl; **outdoor water games**

Friday, Aug. 26, 3 p.m., Apartment Quad; **lawn games**

Saturday, Aug. 27, 10 a.m., various trails; **hiking**

Community

Saturday, Saturday, Aug. 13, 9 a.m., Doak House Museum; **Greeneville Farmers Market**

Athletics

Thursday, Aug. 25, 4 p.m., King University; **women's soccer team vs. King University**

Friday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m., Pioneer Field; **men's soccer team vs. Spring Hill College**

Sunday, Aug. 28, 2 p.m., Young Harris College; **women's soccer team vs. Young Harris College**

Please visit the schedule on the athletics website for potential changes with games.

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS

Coming August 24: Trucky Cheese



11 a.m. - 3 p.m.



On Wednesdays, Tusculum will host a food truck on campus. Join us!



Everyone invited!

Quad in front of Niswonger Commons
60 Shiloh Road, Greeneville, TN 37745

Questions? Email nrader@tusculum.edu
or call 423-636-0565.

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Faculty and staff birthdays

- Saturday, Aug. 27 – Zack Beckham
- Saturday, Aug. 27 – Jill Robinette
- Saturday, Aug. 27 – Heather Tunnell
- Sunday, Aug. 28 – Dr. David Smith

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!