



August 29, 2022

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President's Perspective

We have had a great start to the academic year with Pioneer WOW, Opening Convocation, Night of Worship and classes. Fall sports seasons have begun, so we all have great opportunities to watch our athletically talented students crush the competition.

Opening Convocation reminded me how many talented and dedicated students and faculty we have. Our faculty have published important contributions to their academic fields, and our students have the privilege to learn from so many great scholars.

Take full advantage of the Tusculum experience by attending lectures from Israeli Mishi Neubach Thursday, Sept. 1, at 7 p.m.; Dr. Troy Goodale, Monday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m.; and Ukrainian Yaroslav Hnatusko, on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m. All presentations are in the Meen Center lecture hall. Also, be enriched by the theater production "Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons" later in September. Join one of the many student organizations.

The more involved you are and the more opportunities you seize, the better semester and Tusculum experience you will have.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President



The women's soccer team kicked off a great start to its season, winning their first two games – 7-0 against King University and 2-1 against Young Harris College. In this photo, senior defenseman Chayse Stonebraker, left, and senior midfielder Bailey Bylotas enjoy a moment on the field in earlier action. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Word of the Week

“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” – 2 Philipians 4:8 ESV

Photo of the Week



The PILLAR group from First Christian Church in Greeneville performed a terrific concert during the Night of Worship on campus Wednesday, Aug. 24, as part of Pioneer WOW. Leading the group was Tusculum junior David Bowlin, middle front. Photo by the Office of Communication 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.

Tusculum opened the Wellness Center today

The health and well-being of the Tusculum family will benefit considerably from today's opening of the Wellness Center in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons.

The Wellness Center, located on the first floor of the building and below Pioneer Arena, opened for 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 and gives all Tusculum family members a chance for a well-rounded workout. Dr. Suzanne Byrd, department chair and associate professor of sport science, has agreed to provide drop-in orientation sessions at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 7, and noon, Tuesday, Sept. 13. People can email her at sbyrd@tusculum.edu if they want to schedule a personal session on workout planning for a busy life.

Doug Jones, vice president of athletics and university initiatives, who has been the driving force behind the Wellness Center initiative, said the facility is valuable because it promotes wellness and good habits across campus. He said it is a perfect place for faculty and staff to engage in a workout before or after work. Students will also have an opportunity to schedule time around their classes.

The Office of Student Affairs will operate the Wellness Center and is available for any questions. The facility will be under 24-hour-a-day surveillance to ensure the safety of all Wellness Center users and protection of the equipment.

We are certain all Tusculum family members will enjoy our new Wellness Center!

The university will hold a grand opening ceremony Tuesday, Sept. 6, at 4:30 p.m. All Tusculum family members are invited to attend.



Doug Jones shows off some of the equipment in the Wellness Center. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Guide and former Israeli soldier speaking on campus this week

All Tusculum family members have a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Israel during a free presentation at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 1, in the Meen Center lecture hall.

Mishi Neubach, a former Israeli soldier who fought in the Six-day and Yom Kippur wars, will discuss the modern state of Israel throughout his life. 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. The two men have been friends for 24 years.

Neubach will also speak in Old Testament classes on campus Thursday, Sept. 1. In addition, he will have lunch in the Hurley Room of the cafeteria at noon, and faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend.

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

Former Israeli soldier Mishi Neubach visiting campus Thursday, September 1



Neubach will speak in the Meen Center lecture hall at 7 p.m.

He will also have lunch in the Hurley Room of the cafeteria at noon.

Faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend!

Excavation opportunities available in 2023 in Israel

If you were unable to participate in the tour of Israel in June, don't worry! You will have an opportunity to participate in another trip Dr. Hummel is planning for 2023.

After the Israel tour in June 2023, students and others interested in ancient history have the opportunity to excavate at Tel-Lachish for three weeks. Academic credit can be earned during the excavation through the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Those credits are transferable to Tusculum.

Faculty, staff, alumni, students and friends of the university are welcome to join the trip. Further details will be forthcoming, but we want to put this tour and excavation on your radar so you can begin your planning. To learn more, please email Dr. Hummel at president@tusculum.edu.

Chapel featured our new campus minister!

Dr. Chris Shumate, our campus minister, delivered the main message during chapel today at 3:30 p.m. in The Pioneer Perk. His topic was "What's so special about Jesus?"

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.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can participate virtually at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/89872872826?pwd=SzU1OTthWL0tuZThCOEFCVHpLcVRIUT09>.

We will have no chapel Monday, Sept. 5, due to the Labor Day holiday. We will return Monday, Sept. 12, with another message from Dr. Shumate and music from head women's soccer coach Mike Joy.

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



Dr. Chris Shumate

Prayer walk today!

If you seek an additional opportunity to engage in spiritual development, Tusculum will hold a prayer walk today at 5:30 p.m.

Friends from local churches will join Tusculum family members for a walk around the Greeneville campus. The prayer walk's purpose is to pray for God to bless the new academic year.

Everyone will assemble outside the Scott M. Niswonger Commons by 5:30. The walk will conclude by 6 p.m.

Join us for the Sweet Tooth Tuesday competition in September

The first-ever Sweet Tooth Tuesday competition 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 be akin to 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 considering their dessert creations and their themes!

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



Lecture about 9/11 coming to Tusculum

Dr. Troy Goodale, chair of the Social Sciences Department, will deliver a free lecture on 9/11 as part of Tusculum's Cicero Lecture Series Monday, Sept. 12, at 7 p.m. in the Meen Center lecture hall.

The presentation, "9/11: Numbers of Notoriety, Day of Infamy," was originally scheduled for September of 2021 but was postponed because of the state of the coronavirus in the region at that time.

In his lecture, Dr. Goodale, who also serves as professor of political science, will discuss some of the sinister acts in the years preceding that day, the rise of Al-Qaeda and the cumulative response by the United States. Specifically, 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 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.

Tusculum University's Cicero Lecture Series Presents:



With Troy Goodale, Ph.D., Professor of Political Science &
Chair of the Department of Social Sciences

Monday, September 12

7:00pm

in the Meen Center Lecture Hall at Tusculum University
Free Admission

For more information 423-798-1620



Play coming in September to Tusculum

Theatre-at Tusculum will hold six performances of "Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons" on campus in September, and all Tusculum family members are encouraged to attend!

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. 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 5.

“Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons, Lemons” features two characters. Bernadette is an ambitious attorney, and Oliver is a laid-back musician. A new law interrupts their love story by limiting the amount of words a citizen can speak to 140 per day.

The play by Sam Steiner 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. The cast features two Tusculum staff members – Steve Schultz and Erin Hensley Shultz. Frank Mengel will lead set design, and three students – Todd Wallin, Josie Norton and Gracie Weems – will run the show backstage.

Anyone with questions can call Tusculum Arts Outreach at 423-798-1620.

English professor named to serve as an endowed chair

Congratulations to Kelsey Trom, associate professor of English, for being selected as the Harriet Reaves Neff '21 Chair of Fine Arts. This is an endowed chair last held by Marilyn duBrisk when she served as our artist-in-residence.

Wayne Thomas, dean of the College of Civic and Liberal Arts, said the honor recognizes all of the ways Trom supports Tusculum.

“Kelsey is one of our most industrious and talented faculty members,” Thomas said. “She is devoted to her students and to her program, and her students are extremely devoted to her. There is no one more deserving to follow in the footsteps of the great Marilyn duBrisk for this honor.”

Trom also earned this selection for her leadership of Tusculum’s creative writing program. She has served as the writing program coordinator and editor of *The Tusculum Review*, the university’s international literary journal, since 2019. She also coordinated the Old Oak Festival workshops, geared toward high school students, for four years. During the 2021-22 academic year, she collaborated with students to create “Sit Lux,” a student-run publication featuring student and alumni writings.

In addition, she hosted the virtual Afrofuturism lecture series in the summer of 2020 and was instrumental in establishing our Black in Greene series.

“Endowed chairs or professorships are often considered the highest academic honor a university can confer on a faculty member, as they last as long as the university exists,” said Dr. Tricia Hunsader, provost and vice president of academic affairs. “Indeed, endowments are both an honor to the named faculty member and also to the donor who establishes it. We are pleased to highlight Kelsey’s excellence by naming her to this chair.”

Trom has served as a Tusculum faculty member since 2014.



Kelsey Trom

Beloved admission clerk selected for President's GEM Award

Matilda Green, operations clerk in the Office of Admission, has been named the President's GEM Award recipient for August.

Dr. Hummel announced Green's selection during the President's Coffee Friday, Aug. 23. As is customary, he summarized some of the comments made by those who nominated her. Check out the good things Green's Tusculum colleagues had to say about her!

"Matilda loves working for Tusculum University. The other day, I asked her when she was going to retire, and she said, 'They will have to drag me out of here!' Matilda knows so much information about the

admissions process, that I call her to get answers to my questions. She is definitely the light in Virginia Hall!”

“Matilda has worked for Tusculum for more than 10 years. She provides unmatched customer service to students and parents who are stressed about the college decision-making process. She is always positive and willing to go above and beyond. Everyone who knows Matilda loves Matilda. She embodies the pioneering spirit daily. When I started at Tusculum, Matilda made me feel so welcomed and valued. She is truly a team player.”

“She always goes above and beyond for not only current and future Pioneers but also those that she works beside every day. Her work behind the scenes is very appreciated and does not go unnoticed. She is meticulous and prompt in her work. She is very kind and encouraging as a friend and a peer. If you speak with her, she is sure to bring a smile to your face every day. She never forgets a person's birthday and will always make you feel celebrated. She is a gem!”

Nominations 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](#).



Matilda Green

Opening Convocation celebrated Tusculum's achievements

Opening Convocation's pageantry was on full display Tuesday, Aug. 23, and provided an inspirational start to the new academic year.

The ceremony reminded the Tusculum family about the excellence that permeates Tusculum and the opportunities that lie ahead. This motivating event will provide the backdrop for another successful year at Tusculum.

You can read more about Convocation in this [news release](#) and see some more photos in [this gallery](#).



Dr. Hummel, left, and Dr. Harold Branstrator, associate professor of management, gather prior to the start of Convocation. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Pioneer WOW concludes

New Tusculum students have a much more thorough of Tusculum and have met many more students, as well as faculty and staff, through their Pioneer WOW experience.

Although the pace of activity was lighter, we still provided plenty of ways for new students to expand on their connections at the university through a number of additional events during the remaining days

of Pioneer WOW. It was also an excellent method for our returning students to experience more of the fun Tusculum provides and meet our newest Pioneers.

You can see some photos in [this gallery](#) taken by the Office of Communications and Marketing, Library Director Kathy Higgs and the Office of Student Affairs.

The Office of Student Affairs has issued surveys seeking feedback about Pioneer WOW that will be taken into account as we begin planning for the 2024 edition. We thank our students, faculty and staff for a great Pioneer WOW experience!



Two of our students help make snow cones during one of the events. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Review and offer updates on updated campus directories

Directories of Tusculum faculty and staff members prepared by Rose Peedin, executive assistant to the president, are 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 rpeedin@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 is open 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.
- 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."
- 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. 29, 3:30 p.m., The Pioneer Perk and

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

Monday, Aug. 29, 5:30 p.m., starting in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons; **prayer walk**

Monday, Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m., Meen Center 300; **Breaking Bread**

Tuesday, Aug. 30, and Thursday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT fitness class**

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 7 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; **yoga**

Wednesday, Aug. 31, 11 a.m., in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons; **Hound Dogs food truck**

Wednesday, Aug. 31, 7 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; **yoga**

Thursday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m., Meen Center lecture hall; **presentation by former Israeli soldier Mishi Neubach**

Friday, Sept. 2, 12:30 p.m., Brights Zoo; **Student Support Services Kickoff**

Community

Saturday, Saturday, Sept. 3, 9 a.m., Doak House Museum; **Greenville Farmers Market**

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS Coming August 31: Hound Dogs

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 nradar@tusculum.edu
or call 423-636-0565.

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Athletics

Monday, Aug. 29, 5 p.m., Clayton State University; **men's soccer team vs. Clayton State**

Tuesday, Aug. 30, 6 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **women's volleyball team vs. Carson-Newman University**

Thursday, Sept. 1, 6 p.m., Pioneer Field; **football team vs. St. Augustine's University**

Friday, Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m. (women), 7:10 p.m. (men), Spartanburg, South Carolina; **men's and women's cross country teams at Eye Opener**

Friday, Sept. 2, 3:30 p.m., Pioneer Field; **women's soccer team Vs. University of West Alabama**

Friday, Sept. 2, 6 p.m., Tampa, Florida; **women's volleyball team vs. The University of Tampa at the Tampa Classic**

Friday, Sept. 2, 6 p.m., Pioneer Field; **men's soccer team vs. Lees McRae College**

Saturday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m., 11 a.m., Tampa, Florida; **women's volleyball team vs. Wheeling University at the Tampa Classic**

Saturday, Sept. 3, 5:30 p.m., Tampa, Florida; **women's volleyball team vs. Colorado Mesa University in the Tampa Classic**



Weeks of practice for the football team will lead to Thursday's season opener at Pioneer Field against St. Augustine's 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

- Monday, Aug. 29 – Jessica Biggers
- Thursday, Sept. 1 – Kevin Willis
- Saturday, Sept. 3 – Austin Collins
- Sunday, Sept. 4 – Steve Porter
- Sunday, Sept. 4 – Donald Townsend

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!