



February 21, 2022

Dear Tusculum family,

We thank you for reading The Pioneer Press! If you would like to suggest content for a future edition, please email Jim Wozniak, director of communications and marketing, at jwozniak@tusculum.edu.

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President's Perspective

Today, as we celebrate Presidents' Day, I reflect upon the 46 individuals who have served our nation as president, including Greeneville's own, Andrew Johnson.

I enjoy reading historical biographies, so I have read numerous presidential biographies. I especially like reading about the different pathways taken by these presidents, the challenges they faced and leadership lessons gleaned from them. I learn from their mistakes as well as their successes. Sometimes we learn from them what to do and at other times what not to do. We don't have to align with their party, perspective or even values to learn from them.

Today, I also reflect on my tenure at Tusculum University because I began serving as your president two years ago on Presidents’ Day. As a first-generation Pell student, I could barely imagine graduating from college, much less one day teaching at one and then leading another. I have learned much from my challenges and nothing from my excuses.

The greatest blessings these past two years have come from interacting with students and having the opportunity to contribute to their Tusculum education. I am honored and humbled to be your president.

Some of you will become presidents, whether of a business, university or organization. Maybe one of you will become U.S. president. When you do, please donate to your alma mater, as President George Washington did. Your Tusculum education is preparing and equipping you to fulfill your calling and purpose.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President



Word of the Week

“The greatest among you will be your servant.” – Matthew 23:11 NIV

Photo of the Week



Left to right, Dexler Benjamin, Xavier Clemmons and Joslyn Mira braved the chilly temperatures to watch the women's lacrosse team defeat Chowan University 18-8 Saturday at Pioneer Field.

Changes in coronavirus procedures

Effective Tuesday, Feb. 22, Tusculum will no longer universally require faculty, staff, students and community members to wear face coverings indoors on campus. That same day, we will return to course delivery according to the originally published plan.

Faculty members will still have the flexibility to require students and guests in their classrooms to wear a face covering. In addition, individual offices have the option to require face coverings for their spaces.

Faculty members will communicate their face covering policy to their students via Canvas, and offices that will still require one should post signage to alert visitors. All Tusculum family members should have a face covering with them in case they enter a classroom, facility or office that requires one.

Although we are eliminating the universal indoor face covering requirement, we still recommend that people wear one as a way to protect themselves and others from the coronavirus.

As for course delivery, our modification means instruction will return to the method as it was originally designed before we provided flexibility in light of the coronavirus. Faculty will make clear the instruction method via Canvas. Students should check Canvas for instructions now so they can prepare for any potential changes.

We are adjusting procedures in light of a decline in local COVID-19 case counts, a decrease in hospitalizations occurring in the region, the reduced number of positive cases among students and no faculty and staff members testing positive for the coronavirus as of last week. We are pleased to see these developments and hope they continue in this positive direction.

You should continue taking appropriate safety measures, such as not coming to class in person or to work when ill. We strongly encourage everyone to be vaccinated and receive a booster against the coronavirus.

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.

Coronavirus update

One student is positive, and zero employees are positive. Seventy-nine percent of employees and 28 percent of students are protected.

Residential households in the United States can order one set of four free at-home coronavirus tests. The tests will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. To learn more, please visit <https://special.usps.com/testkits>.

We urge all Tusculum family members to complete the form at the following links about your status to help us successfully navigate the global coronavirus pandemic.

Employee survey

<https://go.tusculum.edu/forms/employee-covid-19-survey/>

Student survey

<https://go.tusculum.edu/forms/student-covid-19-survey/>

Note from the Tusculum Board of Trustees

Greetings Pioneers,

As you may know the Board of Trustees recently met. Along with our standard business, we heard updates for many campus issues. One area that stood out was Anthology, our new enterprise resource planning system.

After cutting over in October, there are still many issues to correct, and systems that were working continue to break. In my personal business experience, IT system cutovers are difficult, but this one seems to be even more challenging for a variety of reasons.

As a board, we know all of you who are involved in the new IT system have gone "above and beyond" to get it functioning correctly. More importantly, when the data systems are not working, you are finding ways to get the job done. This usually involves long days and weekends.

So to all of you who are putting in the extra hours to assure we can get the vital information our administration, faculty and, especially, our students need, the board and I want to say THANK YOU! We are exploring how we might get you some help, but it is appropriate to recognize the Pioneers among us who are keeping our processes running.

Dr. Greg Nelson
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Tusculum University



Dr. Greg Nelson

Tusculum music program embodying Tusculum's mission

In the fall, Tusculum University restarted the music program under the direction of Dr. David Gonzalez. He has hit the ground running with the initial core of students, who are enjoying an extra dimension of our active and experiential education.

The band added to the ambiance of the Farm to Table dinner at the Doak House Museum during Homecoming. The group also provided music during the reception prior to Dr. Hummel's inaugural dinner in October.

In December, the band joined forces with The Tusculum Review to hold “Songs and Stories” in Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center to celebrate the literary journal’s newest edition. The band’s members are also performing tomorrow with the Greene County Community Band, which Dr. Gonzalez is conducting.

In recent weeks, Dr. Gonzalez has assembled the Pep Band, which consists of the same students who have performed in the other venues. The Pep Band has played at home basketball games, including the men’s and women’s matchups two days ago against Coker University. Not only does the Pep Band play, it will chant “defense” repeatedly when the Pioneers’ opponent has the ball and hold newspapers in front of their faces when that team’s starting lineup is introduced.

The band members are Gracie Akins, Katelyn Brooks, Hughston Burnheimer, Avery Carper, Haley Gibson, Cole Robertsen and Jyclyn West.

We are grateful to Dr. Gonzalez, the band and the donors who helped us again incorporate the music program into campus life. If you are a student interested in joining the band or you know of a student who might want to be part of our music program, please email Dr. Gonzalez at dgonzalez@tusculum.edu or our Office of Admission at admission@tusculum.edu.

In addition to the photo below, you can visit [this gallery](#) to see the Pep Band in action Saturday.



The Pep Band: On the front row are, left to right, are Gracie Akins, Hughston Burnheimer, Jyclyn West and Avery Carper. On the back row, left to right, are Katelyn Brooks and Haley Gibson.

Missing: Cole Robertsen

Free concert Tuesday in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre

All Tusculum family members are invited to a free concert at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center.

The Greene County Community Band will perform a blend of classic and contemporary songs, including “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man’s Chest,” “West Side Story” and “Kentucky 1800.”

About 40 musicians will perform, including all seven students who are in the university’s band. Adult performers range in age from 18-71, and other participants are band members from Greeneville High School and West Greene High School. Dr. David Gonzalez, Tusculum’s director of bands, will conduct.

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



The Greene County Community Band practices in our chapel. Dr. Gonzalez is conducting. Photo by Jennifer Hollowell

Remember to establish your retirement account with Principal

If you are currently enrolled and participating in Tusculum's retirement plan, you need to set up your account **now** with [Principal](#), our new 403(b) plan carrier.

You also need to call the Human Resources Department to schedule time with Edward Jones, our new financial adviser, to transfer your funds from TIAA. This will ensure optimal fee savings and achieve minimal disruption in your retirement plan.

The first meetings were held last week, and we have appointments available Wednesday, Feb. 23, and Thursday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m. Edward Jones will help you contact TIAA and request balance transfers from TIAA to Principal.

Specific details about setting up your Principal account and transitioning your TIAA account to Principal are available [here](#). The switch to Principal has many benefits, and you can read more about them [here](#).

We converted from TIAA to Principal Tuesday, Feb. 1.

Please contact the Human Resources Department at humanresources@tusculum.edu or 423-636-7345 (campus extension 5345) if you have questions.

GEM nominations due by Wednesday

We encourage faculty and staff members to think about their colleagues and nominate one of them who is going beyond the call of duty for the President's GEM Award.

The deadline for nominations as the February recipient is noon Wednesday, Feb. 23. Dr. Hummel will announce the winner for this month during the President's Coffee, which will be held Friday, Feb. 25, via Zoom.

To nominate 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 person selected for February will succeed Carrie Maggert, director of financial services and operations. The Tusculum alumna was selected for January.

Academic Symposium returning

The Academic Symposium provides an excellent opportunity for Tusculum to highlight the outstanding work by students and alumni.

During this annual event, students and alumni present their research and other academic achievements, bringing to life our active and experiential education and demonstrating how they are career-ready. We had an excellent representation from the student body in 2021, and we are excited about what awaits at this year's symposium.

The symposium will be held via Zoom Friday, April 29. The symposium committee is now accepting abstracts from students and alumni. **The deadline for abstract submission is Friday, March 4.**

To learn more about the symposium and access the submission form, please visit <https://bit.ly/3ByS9kx>.

Anyone who has questions can email Dr. Conor Keitzer, assistant professor of natural sciences, at ckeitzer@tusculum.edu.

Take a deep dive into the gospels

As a faith-based institution, Tusculum will present another excellent opportunity for Tusculum family members to enhance their understanding of the Bible.

The Office of Student Affairs will host a reading of the gospels Wednesday, March 2, in the Quad between the Scott M. Niswonger Commons and McCormick Hall. The event will start at 10 a.m. and last until about 4 p.m.

During that time, faculty, staff and students will have an opportunity to read aloud from one of the gospels. Student Affairs is scheduling 30-minute time slots for individuals to read from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

If you are interested in reading, please email Lauren Johnson, coordinator of residence life and programming, at ljohnson@tusculum.edu.



Image from lifehopeandtruth.com

Meet the remaining candidate to serve as Tusculum's campus minister

The final candidate the search committee has identified to serve as our new campus minister will make his presentation Friday, Feb. 25, at 2:30 p.m.

Minister Jacob Shockey, campus minister and livestream coordinator at Kentucky Christian University in Grayson, Kentucky, will present his sermon in the chapel in Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center and take questions from the audience until 3:30 p.m. His cover letter and CV is attached for your review.

Shockey follows Dr. Chris Shumate, pastor of Oak Street Baptist Church in Elizabethton and the Rev. Dr. Barry Gaeddert, associate pastor of Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, who were on campus last week.

If you have questions or input after the sessions, you may direct them to Dr. Kevin Hill, search committee chair and an associate professor of management, at kmhill@tusculum.edu.

Deadline quickly approaching for trip to the Holy Land

The final day to register for the June 17-29 pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Dr. Hummel is Monday, March 7.

We are pleased to share that we have received \$4,000 in donations to help students travel to Israel. A single student is eligible for as much as \$2,000. The first ones to register are the first to be eligible for the reduced cost.

You can read about the itinerary by clicking [here](#). Also on that page is a button you can click that will take you to the registration page and provide more information about prices. All Tusculum family members, alumni, trustees and community members are invited.

Please email Dr. Hummel at shummel@tusculum.edu if you have questions.

Theologian-In-Residence session will continue in person Friday

Dr. Bennie Crockett, vice president for institutional effectiveness and planning and professor of religion and philosophy at William Carey University will deliver his final lecture for this year's Theologian-In-Residence series Friday, Feb. 25.

His presentation, "New Methods of Translation and the Abundance of English Bibles, 1900-2022," will again take place in Chalmers Conference Center. You can also participate via Zoom. If you prefer to connect virtually, please email Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, at nrader@tusculum.edu, who will register you and provide the Zoom link.

Even if you have been unable to attend the other sessions, it is not too late to join us Friday. We look forward to seeing you!



Dr. Bennie Crockett delivers his third lecture. Photo by Sydney Clendening

No chapel today because of the holiday

We will not have chapel today because it is President's Day. Kim Kidwell, associate vice president of institutional advancement, is scheduled to speak Feb. 28.

Kidwell has served on the Tusculum staff for 14 years and was promoted to associate vice president in 2020. She oversees the university's fundraising, alumni, grant writing, special events and development operations.

Previously, Kidwell served as managing director of institutional advancement and served in other roles in that office beforehand. She also spent four years as a payroll specialist in Tusculum's accounting department.

One of the more inspiring elements of her life story is her status as a cancer survivor, a battle she successfully fought in the last year.

Kidwell holds a Bachelor of Science in organizational management and a Master of Arts in education, with a concentration in talent development, from Tusculum.

You can join next Monday's session

at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/86025009185?pwd=dG9yMUdQL1MyZWJLRXROUllrZ2tZZz09>.



Kim Kidwell

Food trucks coming to Tusculum

Effective March 2, we are beginning a new initiative on campus, Food Truck Wednesdays, that will provide an additional meal option for all Tusculum family members.

We will have a food truck the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. The first one that will visit us is Project Waffle, which will set up in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons March 2.

We encourage you to join us and invite anyone from the community to participate as well! Be ready to feast on great food!

If you have questions, please contact Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, at nrader@tusculum.edu or 423-636-0565.

Reminders

- The university's Upward Bound program is accepting applications to serve as residential advisers during the annual summer program for high school students. To learn more and apply for a position, please click [here](#). The application deadline is Friday, March 11.
- The Chili Cook-Off for faculty and staff will be held Thursday, March 17, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Pioneer Arena lobby. The theme will be "Chili Around the World." Anyone who has questions can email Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, at nrader@tusculum.edu.
- The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic in Room 008 on the ground floor of the Meen Center is open 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.
- [Erwin Presbyterian Church](#), about 35 minutes from the Tusculum campus, is seeking an organist to play during the Sunday morning service and Wednesday evening choir practice. Anyone who is interested should contact Ellen Sewell, personnel committee chair for Erwin Presbyterian, at 423-220-9169 or smsdd57@gmail.com.

Events and activities

All Tusculum family members

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 5:30 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; yoga

Thursday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m., Meen Center Room 300; Breaking Bread

Friday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m., Zoom and Chalmers Conference Center; Theologian-In-Residence

Faculty and staff

Wednesday, Feb. 23, noon, Zoom; The Pioneer Pathway Task Force

Thursday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m., Zoom; Operation Success Committee

Students

Monday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m., Old Gym; intramural volleyball

Friday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m., Old Gym; intramural basketball

Community

Monday, Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m., Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center; Great Literature Alive, Well, & Playing in Greeneville, Tennessee, class

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m., Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center; Greene County Community Band concert

Friday, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m., Doak House Museum; Pickin' at the Doaks

Athletics



Justin Mitchell, a junior forward, dunks during the Pioneer's 82-72 defeat of Coker University Saturday in Pioneer Arena. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Monday, Feb. 21, and Tuesday, Feb. 22, all day, Dade City, Florida; men's golf team at Saint Leo Invitational

Monday, Feb. 21, 6:30 p.m., Limestone University; men's basketball team vs. Limestone University

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Red Edmonds Field; softball team vs. Emmanuel College

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 2 p.m., Lee University; men's and women's tennis teams vs. Lee University

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m., Pioneer Park; baseball team vs. Young Harris College

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 6 p.m., Emmanuel College; men's volleyball team vs. Emmanuel College

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 5:30 p.m., Pioneer Arena; women's basketball team vs. UVA Wise

Wednesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's basketball team vs. UVA Wise

Thursday, Feb. 24, 1 p.m., Newberry College; men's and women's tennis teams vs. Newberry College

Thursday, Feb. 24, 5:30 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's basketball team vs. Mars Hill University

Friday, Feb. 25; Saturday, Feb. 26; and Sunday, Feb. 27, all day, Greensboro, North Carolina; women's bowling team at Stallings Invitational

Friday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m., new beach volleyball courts at Tusculum; beach volleyball team vs. University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Friday, Feb. 25, 2 p.m., Queens University of Charlotte; baseball team vs. Queens University of Charlotte

Saturday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m., new beach volleyball courts at Tusculum; beach volleyball team vs. Carson-Newman University

Saturday, Feb. 26, 11 a.m., Red Edmonds Field; softball team vs. Lees-McRae College

Saturday, Feb. 26, noon and 3 p.m., Queens University of Charlotte; baseball team vs. Queens University of Charlotte

Saturday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m., new beach volleyball courts at Tusculum; beach volleyball team vs. Eastern Kentucky University

Saturday, Feb. 26, 1 p.m., Pioneer Field; men's lacrosse team vs. The University of Alabama in Huntsville

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m., Randolph-Macon College; men's volleyball team vs. Southern Virginia University

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2 p.m., Anderson University; women's basketball team vs. Anderson University

Saturday, Feb. 26, 3 p.m., Lees-McRae College; women's lacrosse team vs. Lees-McRae College

Saturday, Feb. 26, 4 p.m., Randolph-Macon College; men's volleyball team vs. Randolph-Macon College

Saturday, Feb. 26, 4 p.m., Anderson University; men's basketball team vs. Anderson University

Saturday, Feb. 26, 4 p.m., Winston-Salem, North Carolina; men's and women's indoor track and field teams at SAC Indoor Championship

Saturday, Feb. 26, 5 p.m., Red Edmonds Field; softball team vs. Young Harris College

Sunday, Feb. 27, 11 a.m., Winston-Salem, North Carolina; men's and women's indoor track and field teams at SAC Indoor Championship

Sunday, Feb. 27, noon, Red Edmonds Field; softball team vs. Young Harris College

Sunday, Feb. 27, 4 p.m., Red Edmonds Field; softball team vs. Lees-McRae College

Saturday, Feb. 26, 4 p.m., Winston-Salem, North Carolina; men's and women's indoor track and field teams at SAC Indoor Championship



Senior Emily Lawless, left, digs as senior Skyellar Hall watches during action Saturday on Tusculum's new beach volleyball courts. The Pioneers defeated Truett McConnell University 5-0 in both matches. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Athletic contests can change. Be sure to check the schedule on the [athletics website](#) for revisions.

Faculty and staff birthdays

- Wednesday, Feb. 16 – Dr. Tim Carter
- Tuesday, Feb. 22 – Mike Verna
- Thursday, Feb. 24 – Dr. Angela Keaton
- Friday, Feb. 25 – Laura Carr

· Saturday, Feb. 26 – T.J. Turner

Go Pioneers!