



January 31, 2022

Dear Tusculum family,

We are grateful to you for reading The Pioneer Press!

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President's Perspective

As we prepare to flip the calendar from January to February, we will hopefully see a reduction in one of the challenging numbers we have faced during the start of this semester – a rise in coronavirus cases within the Tusculum family.

I encourage all of you to remain vigilant about protecting yourself during this period when the omicron variant is producing a resurgence of cases across the nation. The coronavirus continues to be a factor in our everyday lives, so we need to be diligent about practicing commonsense measures such as washing our hands and wearing face coverings indoors.

Hopefully, this variant will soon fade, and we will begin to see a permanent drop in the numbers. Taking good care of yourself, however, will always serve you well.

I am also aware some Tusculum family members are experiencing other illnesses with themselves and their families. A few have also unfortunately had family members pass. The rest of the Tusculum family

and I grieve for you and pray that you will experience comfort and peace. I urge you to lean on the Lord and us as a source of solace and strength to help you.

In time, the sun will shine for you, and the memories you hold dear will not only sustain you but also inspire you in the future.

Dr. Scott Hummel
President

Word of the Week

“Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.” – 1 Peter 5:7 NIV

Photo of the Week



Last week, Jalia Arnwine, a graduate student and guard for the women's basketball team, added one more accomplishment to her impressive Tusculum resume when she notched her 1,000th point in a game against Anderson University. Arnwine has also made a difference off the court, playing an integral role in the creation of the African American studies minor and implementation of one of its courses – Race and Ethnic Relations – and helping lead the development of the Black Student Union. She received the President's Award in May when she graduated with her bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Coronavirus update

Thirty-one students and five employees are positive. Seventy-nine percent of employees and 28 percent of students are protected.

All individuals must wear face coverings indoors in our buildings when physical distancing cannot be guaranteed. Faculty and staff members who are alone in their office are not required to wear a face covering, but they should have one with them at all times. We look forward to conditions improving with the coronavirus so we can remove this face covering requirement.

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/>

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

W-2 forms available at McCormick until the afternoon

Tusculum employees who are eligible to receive a W-2 from the university for the 2021 tax return can collect theirs from Nicki Ellenburg, payroll specialist, until 2 p.m. today.

The university will send the W-2 form by U.S. Mail to anyone who does not arrive by that time.

Ellenburg's office is located in McCormick Hall.

Student responses to survey needed

As we have shared with via individual email and The Pioneer Press, Tusculum University is developing a strategic plan, grounded in our mission, that will guide our institution. This is an important document, and student input is vital to the success of this initiative.

To assist the steering committee overseeing the development of the strategic plan, we have developed the following student satisfaction survey from HEDS: <https://tinyurl.com/tuscstusat>. We ask students to take a few minutes to complete the survey

We thank students for agreeing to participate! This survey asks how satisfied students are with different parts of their experience at Tusculum. It should take 5-10 minutes to complete. We want to know more about your experience so we can ensure we are needs most effectively.

Survey results will be shared with a handful of people at Tusculum who work to help students succeed and improve the institution. Anyone who has access to students' responses is legally obligated to keep them confidential.

To make this request even easier to accommodate, you can use the following QR code:



Additional information available about Celebrating Diversity Week

With a week to go before the start of Celebrating Diversity Week, the College of Civic and Liberal Arts has confirmed additional details about this five-day celebration, which will incorporate speakers, delicious food, a docuseries and a special performance.

Here is the list of events, which are free and open to all Tusculum family members:

- Monday, Feb. 7, 6 p.m., Doak House Museum; “In the Presence of Your Ancestors: African American Foodways”
- Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m., Meen Center lecture hall and Zoom; “An Evening with Anup Kaphle”
- Wednesday, Feb. 9, 10:30 a.m., Scott M. Niswonger Commons living room and Zoom; “National African American Read-In”
- Thursday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., Marilyn duBrisk Theatre; “Of Ebony Embers, Vignettes of the Harlem Renaissance”

- Friday, Feb. 11, 11 a.m., Behan Arena Theatre; “Find Your People, Find Yourself” presentation by Dr. Katy Ross

Throughout the week, clubs and organizations on campus that support diversity will have booths and tables in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons.

More extensive information from the College of Civic and Liberal Arts about each event is available [here](#). Please review, mark your calendars and participate throughout the week!



Anup Kaphle (Photo credit: George Etheredge for Rest of World)

African American traveling museum coming to Tusculum

Student Support Services and the Office of Student Affairs will sponsor Sankofa, an African American traveling museum, from noon-5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, in the Old Gym.

This is the second time Sankofa has come to Tusculum, and we encourage all Tusculum family members to visit this fascinating museum. It examines the history and experience of African Americans in North America from 1860 to the present and contains artifacts and memorabilia. Visitors also have an opportunity to read information about African American history.

Angela Jennings has run the museum since 1995.

As we prepare to enter Black History Month, we encourage you to spend time learning more about the African American experience.



Angela Jennings

Dr. Hummel will return today as chapel speaker

Due to illness, Dr. Travis Williams, associate professor of religion at Tusculum, will be unable to serve as the speaker at chapel today at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. Dr. Hummel will pinch-it, and we will try to reset Dr. Williams' talk for another chapel session.

You can join today's session by clicking the following link:

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

Chapel is held at the same time every Monday throughout the semester, except during holidays, Spring Break and finals week. The sessions last 30 minutes.

Dr. David Smith, pastor of Tusculum Baptist Church, is scheduled to be the speaker Feb. 7.

Theologian-In-Residence starts this week

We remind you that Theologian-In-Residence, an important part of our faith-based education and civic engagement, will start Friday, Feb. 4. The series will continue Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25. All sessions are held at 10 a.m. and run until about noon.

Dr. Bennie Crockett, vice president for institutional effectiveness and planning and professor of religion and philosophy at William Carey University will lead thoughtful presentations, which are tied into this year's Theologian-In-Residence theme "Translation Opens a Window – Key Developments in English Bible History."

The topic for Dr. Crockett this Friday will be "Selected English Bible Texts During the Age of Manuscripts, ca. 700-1500." This session will be held via Zoom.

To register for Theologian-In-Residence, please email Nicole Rader, director of alumni engagement and special events at nrader@tusculum.edu. She will send registrants the Zoom link.

More information about Theologian-In-Residence is available by reading this [news release](#)!



Dr. Bennie Crockett

Deadline approaching to register for Holy Land pilgrimage

Those who are interested in joining Dr. Hummel and Starr Hummel, Tusculum's first lady, on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land should start finalizing plans soon. The deadline to register for the trip is Monday, March 7.

The excursion is a fantastic opportunity to deepen your faith and learn more about places you have read in the Bible, heard discussed in church or discovered through other avenues.

The trip will take place June 17-29. 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.

If you have questions about the trip, you can email Dr. Hummel at shummel@tusculum.edu. The pilgrimage is open to all Tusculum family members, alumni, trustees and community members.



The cross is affixed to a dome of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem. Photo from Dr. Hummel

Auditions this week for “School House Rock Live, JR”!

They were entertaining educational pieces when they aired in the midst of Saturday morning cartoon shows in the 1970s, and now Tusculum is bringing them to the Behan Arena Theatre!

“School House Rock” featured classic songs such as “I’m Just a Bill” and “Conjunction Junction” in multiple segments as a neat way to reinforce and supplement many lessons young students learned in the classroom. These great short stories will once again take the spotlight in the spring when Theatre-at-Tusculum presents “School House Rock Live, JR.”

Theatre-at-Tusculum will hold auditions for performers Tuesday, Feb. 1, and Wednesday, Feb. 2 in the Behan. Children ages 8-17 are invited to demonstrate their skill and potentially secure a place in the show. Registration is at 5:30 p.m., with auditions starting at 6 p.m. Participants do not need to prepare any audition pieces.

Aspirants should come either Monday or Tuesday, with possible callbacks Thursday, Feb. 3.

Performance dates are April 21, 22, 24, 28, 29 and 30 and May 1.

For more information, please email Jennifer Hollowell, director of Tusculum's Center for the Arts, at jhollowell@tusculum.edu.

Theatre-at-Tusculum announces

AUDITIONS



Tuesday, Feb. 1, or Wednesday, Feb. 2
(one or the other, not both) possible callbacks on Thurs. Feb. 3

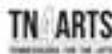
Registration @ 5:30 p.m., Auditions begin at 6:00 p.m.
Behan Arena Theatre, Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Building
(lower level, parking lot side of building)

For youth ages 8-17 years old
No prepared audition pieces required

Performance Dates:

April 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 30, May 1 (No show on April 23)

For more information: 423.798.1620, jhollowell@tusculum.edu



Work underway on pedestrian enhancements

The university is partnering with the City of Tusculum to make improvements for pedestrians walking between the Nichols Tennis Center and the Scott M. Niswonger Commons as part of our commitment to safety on campus.

The university is installing sidewalks on the Niswonger side of Shiloh Road to support students who walk to the other side of Shiloh at the crosswalk after coming from the Indoor Practice Facility parking lot and athletic fields in that part of campus.

In addition, the university will extend a sidewalk from the steps near the tennis courts that will bring pedestrians to the asphalt basketball courts and the crosswalk near Katherine Hall and the beach volleyball courts. To enhance safety, the university will install fencing and bushes on the tennis courts side of Shiloh to ensure people do not cross Shiloh except at a crosswalk.

The city will assist by enhancing the crosswalk from the IPF parking lot and installing flashing signs to warn motorists a pedestrian is crossing Shiloh. The pedestrian will activate the signal by pushing a button.

Tusculum is pleased to undertake this work to assist our students who walk in that area.



Chad Grindstaff, left, and Bill Fitzpatrick work on a newly constructed section of sidewalk.

Reminder about study abroad opportunity for students

The deadline for sophomores and juniors to apply for the Irish American Scholars program through the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities is quickly approaching.

This initiative provides a tuition-free opportunity for qualified students at one of five higher education institutions in Northern Ireland for one or two semesters. The institutions are:

- [Belfast Metropolitan College](#)
- [Queens University](#)
- [St. Mary's University College](#)
- [Stranmillis University College](#)
- [Ulster University](#)

Sophomore and juniors at participating APCU schools, such as Tusculum, can apply to study in Northern Ireland in the following academic year. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.2 and submit an application packet prior to Thursday, Feb. 10.

More information about the program is available [here](#). Students can also email Dr. Jacob Fait, dean of Tusculum's College of Business, with questions at jfait@tusculum.edu.



Business Office leader selected at GEM recipient for January

Carrie Maggert, director of financial services and operations and a Tusculum alumna, is a dedicated member of the Tusculum family. She is a well-known leader at the university, and her hard work to advance Tusculum has earned her a new distinction – President’s GEM Award recipient for January.

Dr. Hummel announced Maggert as the winner during the President’s Coffee Friday, Jan. 28. She succeeds Nicole Rader, director of alumni engagement and special events, who was selected for December.

Here are some of the comments people made about her.

“Carrie has dedicated 20 exceptional years of service to the institution and provides a perfect example of the type of individual Tusculum is so proud to call an alum. She always goes above and beyond expectations and always has the institution’s best interests at heart.”

A couple of specific examples of her efforts on Tusculum’s behalf are the conversion to Anthology and her work with the facilities management team and Chartwells, Tusculum’s food service provider.

“She has been instrumental in the conversion process from Colleague to Anthology, and is responsible for getting into place the business side of the student system. She has worked tireless hours and burned the midnight oil more than she will probably admit. She continues to work on that project to perfect the system for the benefit of our students and the institution with improved electronic features. Carrie also works very closely with our facilities department and Chartwells to enhance our campus infrastructure and to improve services to our students.”

And here is another comment:

“She is always working long hours and always willing to help others. She is a huge asset and very deserving of this award.”

Maggert earned a Bachelor of Science in organizational management, with a concentration in human resources, in 2002 and a Master of Business Administration in 2020, both from Tusculum.

Faculty and staff members can submit nominations for the February GEM Award until Wednesday, Feb. 23, via this [short form](#). Dr. Hummel will announce the recipient at the President’s Coffee Friday, Feb. 25.



Carrie Maggert

Reminders

- The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program offers free tax preparation services for faculty, staff and students starting in February. The initiative is also available to the community. To learn more, please read this [news release](#). Please call Dr. Harold Branstrator, associate professor of management, at 423-636-7414 or visit <https://web.tusculum.edu/vita/> to sign up.
- Textbooks and digital courseware are now purchased through the [Tusculum online bookstore](#). They are no longer available for purchase at the bookstore in the Niswonger Commons. Students receive physical textbooks by mail and digital courseware by email after placing their

orders at <https://tusculum.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. Your username for the online bookstore is the same as your Anthology username (yourusername@lab.tusculum.edu – note the word "lab"), and you use your Canvas/Anthology/bookstore password.

- The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic is open Mondays and Wednesday 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.
- Faculty and staff members who are interested in joining the Tusculum Band should contact Dr. David Gonzalez, Tusculum's director of bands, at dgonzalez@tusculum.edu.
- The Office of Communications and Marketing is updating the [campus directory](#) on the Tusculum website. If you see someone in the directory who is no longer a university employee or a current employee who is not listed, please submit a [branding request](#). Faculty and staff members should also review their own listing and submit a branding request with any needed changes.
- Students who are interested in being a Student Support Services or ARCHES participant and faculty and staff members who know of a student who would qualify for these programs can email sss@tusculum.edu or ARCHES@tusculum.edu.

Events and activities

All Tusculum family members

Monday, Jan. 31, 3:30 p.m., Zoom; chapel

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

Monday, Jan. 31, and Tuesday, Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; yoga

Wednesday, Feb. 2, noon, Old Gym; Sankofa, an African American traveling museum

Thursday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m., Meen Center Room 300; Breaking Bread

Friday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m., Zoom; Theologian-In-Residence

Faculty and staff

Wednesday, Feb. 2, noon, Zoom; The Pioneer Pathway Task Force

Community

Monday, Jan. 24, 5:30 p.m., Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center; Great Literature Alive, Well, & Playing in Greeneville, Tennessee, class

Athletics



The women's bowling team is scheduled to participate in the Railsplitter Classic this weekend. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Monday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m., Erskine College; men's volleyball team vs. Erskine College

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., North Greenville University; men's volleyball team vs. North Greenville University

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 5:30 p.m., Carson-Newman University; women's basketball team vs. Carson-Newman University

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m., Young Harris College; men's lacrosse team vs. Young Harris College

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m., Carson-Newman University; men's basketball team vs. Carson-Newman University

Friday, Feb. 4; Saturday, Feb. 5; and Sunday, Feb. 6, Harrogate; women's bowling at Railsplitter Classic

Friday, Feb. 4, 10:30 a.m., East Tennessee State University; indoor track and field teams at Buccaneer Invitational

Friday, Feb. 4, 3 p.m., Western Carolina University; women's tennis team vs. Western Carolina University

Friday, Feb. 4, 6 p.m., Barry University; baseball team vs. Barry University

Friday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's volleyball team vs. Alderson Broaddus University

Saturday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m., East Tennessee State University; indoor track and field teams at Buccaneer Invitational

Saturday, Feb. 5, 11 a.m., Nichols Tennis Center; men's and women's tennis vs. University of North Georgia

Saturday, Feb. 5, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., University of South Carolina Aiken; softball team vs. University of South Carolina Aiken

Saturday, Feb. 5, 2 p.m., Newberry College; women's basketball team vs. Newberry College

Saturday, Feb. 5, 2 p.m., Palm Beach Atlantic University; baseball team vs. Palm Beach Atlantic University

Saturday, Feb. 5, 4 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's volleyball team vs. Erskine College

Saturday, Feb. 5, 4 p.m., Newberry College; men's basketball team vs. Newberry College

Sunday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m., Lynn University; baseball team vs. Lynn University

Sunday, Feb. 6, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Claflin University; softball team vs. Claflin University



Lorenz Brown, foreground, a graduate midfielder, is in action last season. The men's lacrosse team is scheduled to begin its season Wednesday. 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

- Monday, Jan. 31 – Jimmie Flores
- Tuesday, Feb. 1 – Stacey McGill
- Thursday, Feb. 3 – Sandra Taylor
- Sunday, Feb. 6 – Dr. Scott Hummel

Go Pioneers!