

March 7, 2022

Dear Tusculum family,

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

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President's Perspective

I always enjoy traveling to other countries because I so love the richness of humanity and the multitude of cultures around the world.

My trip to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, last week, funded by another organization, was no exception. While visiting with the American University in Dubai, I had the pleasure of meeting students from 108

different countries. Each student was unique, different and similar in their passions, goals and ambitions.

Dubai is hosting the World Expo, which is a massive display of the variety and essential unity around the world. It was exhilarating and inspiring to walk through many of the pavilions built by 192 different countries with their seemingly endless diversity of languages, styles and foods.

A Tusculum University education is preparing students for more than just majors, minors and jobs, it is preparing them to live in and engage our wondrous world. Join us this summer in the Holy Land to experience other cultures and religions while glimpsing into Israel's past and our biblical heritage.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel President



Dr. Hummel stands near Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, located in Dubai.

Word of the Week

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." – John 3:16 NIV

Photo of the Week



Gorgeous weather arrived last week, and that provided even more reason to head outdoors. It was also the impetus for many students to wear more summer-like clothing. In this photo are, left to right, Allen Meza, Cameron Sanders, Jamichael Baxter, Jalen Hunt, Courvosey Howard, Jadon High and Russell Priest. To see other photos of students and staff enjoying the day, please visit this gallery. Photos by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Coronavirus update

No students and employees are positive.

Tusculum no longer universally requires faculty, staff, students and community members to wear face coverings indoors on campus. We still recommend that you wear one as a way to protect yourself and others from the coronavirus.

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 to 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.

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 visithttps://special.usps.com/testkits.

Deadline extended for the trip to the Holy Land!

You still have time to participate in a magnificent spiritual and cultural experience that will enrich your life. The deadline to register for the pilgrimage to the Holy Land has been extended to Monday, March 14.

Dr. Hummel is leading the trip to Israel, which will be held June 17-29. We strongly encourage you to join him and First Lady Starr Hummel as they visit many of the places detailed in the Bible. You will see fascinating sites every day, have a better understanding of the written word having been to the Holy Land yourself and grow exponentially in your faith.

We have gratefully 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. Students who participate in the trip are eligible to receive academic credit, or they can simply enjoy this trip to the Holy Land.

You can read about the itinerary by clicking here. 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 on this trip!

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



Do not miss the opportunity to join Dr. Hummel and First Lady Starr Hummel in the Holy Land! Photo from Dr. Hummel

Key schedule changes for Spring Break

No classes will take place this week due to Spring Break. Faculty members will be off all week, and staff members will not work Thursday or Friday. Here are a couple of other key pieces of information you might need to know during this period, when the number of people on campus will be greatly reduced:

- · Chapel will not be held today.
- The cafeteria is closed until dinner Sunday, March 13, and Chick-fil-A is closed until Monday, March 14.
- The Thomas J. Garland Library will be open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. today through Wednesday and then be closed until Monday, March 14.
- The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic will be closed all week and reopen Monday, March
- The bookstore will be closed Thursday and Friday.
- The Post Office on campus will be closed Thursday through Sunday.

In preparation for Spring Break, the Student Government Association voted to allocate \$500 to further stock the Food Pantry, which is located on the ground floor of the Meen Center across from the Center for Academic Success and Tutoring. Students who are staying on campus this week are encouraged to visit the food pantry and take any items they need.

Pantry sponsors are the Bonner Leader Program; the tutoring center; the Center for Civic Advancement; the College of Nursing; the College of Science, Technology and Mathematics; the Office of Student Affairs; faculty; and staff. The College of Nursing; the College of Science, Technology and Math; and the tutoring center started the pantry, and the CCA now stocks and manages it.



Lauren Johnson, left, coordinator of residence life and programming, and student Ben Gall, a Bonner Leader, stand in the Food Pantry. Photo from Ben Gall

Bonner Leaders are in North Carolina for Spring Break

Members of the Bonner Leader Program traveled Saturday, March 5, to North Carolina for an alternative Spring Break trip.

The group will be in that state until Wednesday, March 9. During their time there, Bonner Leaders will perform community service with Lord's Harvest for the Hungry in Mars Hill, North Carolina, and ReClaim Madison in Marshall, North Carolina. Bonner Leaders are coordinating with the Mars Hill University Bonner Leader Program.

In addition to service work, the Bonner Leaders will conduct various training and reflection exercises to build community within the program.



Bonner Leaders and Tusculum staff members work at ReClaim Madison. Left to right are Nicole Bailey, Tommy Delbridge, Amanda Delbridge, Ben Gall, Avery Carper, Maggie Vickers, Avonlea Knode, Estefania Juarez, Zurich Hudson and Isabelle Delbridge. Photo from Ben Gall.

Second round of focus groups scheduled for strategic plan

We are grateful to all Tusculum family members who participated in the first round of focus groups as we develop a new strategic plan for Tusculum University.

Your participation in the meetings has been helpful to the steering committee that is overseeing the strategic plan's development. The steering committee has examined all of the comments and drafted goals that it will present to you at the second round of focus groups.

We have scheduled five focus group meetings, all of which will be held via Zoom for your convenience. Unlike the first round, all sessions in the second round will be open to anyone, regardless whether you

are a faculty or staff member or a student. We do ask, however, that you only attend one of the sessions – whichever is most convenient for you – to ensure everyone's perspective is heard equally.

Here are the meeting dates, times and links:

- Thursday, March 17, 8-915 a.m.; https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/85907197261
- Thursday, March 17, 5-6:15 p.m.; https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/81703695556
- Friday, March 18, 10:30-11:45 a.m.; https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/84093326765
- Friday, March 18, noon-1:15 p.m.; https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/81777339447
- Monday, March 21, 12:30-1:45 p.m.; https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/82412380675

We were pleased to have 135 Tusculum family members participate in the first round, and we would like to see at least that many for the second round. If you were unable to contribute during the first round, that does not preclude you from joining us for this round.

As we shared earlier, the strategic plan we adopt will be grounded in our mission statement and will help us more effectively achieve it. The rewarding process in which we are now engaged will provide all Tusculum family members with a clear understanding of the direction the institution is heading and will benefit the university long term.

Thank you for your support of this initiative!

Food truck is a major success; weekly visits now scheduled

Our first food truck visit on campus last week was a huge hit, as students, faculty and staff embraced this new meal option!

We have great news! We have received a tremendous response from food truck vendors as well – so much so that we will have one here now every Wednesday through the end of May. In June and July, we will switch to having a vendor twice a month before resuming weekly visits in August.

On Wednesday, March 9, Kaufmann's Kitchen will be in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. We welcome you!

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

FOOD TRUCK WEDNESDAYS

Coming March 9: Kaufmann's Kitchen



No chapel this week; sports information leader speaking March 14

We will not have chapel today because of Spring Break. Chapel will return Monday, March 14, at 3:30 p.m. That day, Dom Donnelly, assistant athletic director for communications, will deliver the message.

The chapel link is:

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

Donnelly has served at Tusculum for 23 years and is responsible for all sports information needs of Tusculum's 24 intercollegiate sports. He is the primary media contact for baseball, football, men's and women's golf, men's basketball and men's and women's bowling.

He is a member of the College Sports Information Directors of America, the National Collegiate Baseball Writers of America and the CoSIDA Academic All-America® Selection Committee, where he serves as national coordinator for women's volleyball and women's at-large programs for NCAA Divisions I and II.

In 2009, Donnelly was the recipient of the Tusculum Sports Benefactor Award.



Dom Donnelly

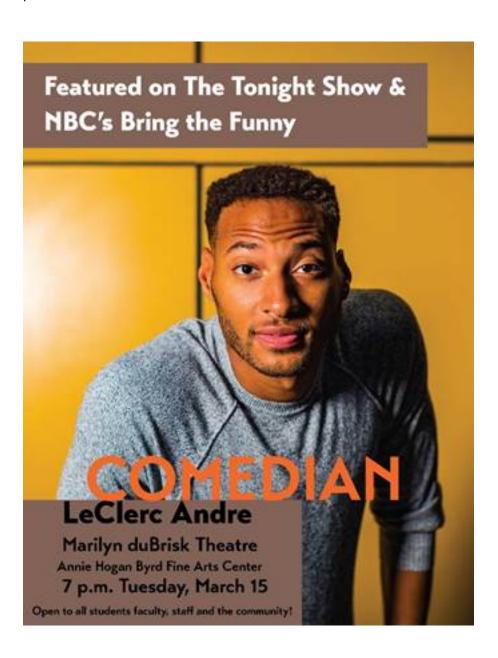
Another comedian coming to campus March 15

We are pleased to welcome comedian LeClerc Andre to the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center Tuesday, March 15.

Andre will perform at 7 p.m. The free event is open to all students, faculty, staff and community members. We encourage you to join us for what promises to be an entertaining show!

The comedian has appeared on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" and "Bring the Funny," both of which were on NBC. He was also invited in 2018 to the Just for Laughs comedy festival as a New Face of Comedy. He has performed at colleges and clubs in nearly every market.

We all need some time away from our daily routine, so we look forward to seeing you for Andre's performance!



The Chili Cook-Off is right around the corner!

There is no need to pack a lunch or find a restaurant for lunch Thursday, March 17, because chili will be the main item on the menu at Tusculum!

Faculty and staff members will compete in the Chili Cook-Off that day from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the PioneerArena lobby. This is one of the university's most popular events, with a variety of teams preparing their own version of chili. Newer members of the Tusculum family will experience the ambiance event, and those who have worked at the university for several years will remember how fun the Chili Cook-Off has been throughout its existence.

Students and employees who do not enter the Chili Cook-Off are invited to come that day and sample the chili! You might want to have plenty of water on hand because some teams might dial up the spices in their recipe!

And ... don't forget to cast your ballot as we will have first place and runner-up awards as well as the Best Showmanship Award. You can submit your ballot at the cash-your-ballot table.

Anyone who has questions can email Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, atnrader@tusculum.edu.



Prepare yourself for the fun!

With abstracts in, attention turns to in-person Academic Symposium

We are grateful to all of the students and alumni who submitted abstracts for this year's Academic Symposium and look forward to watching their presentations.

The symposium will be held in person Friday, April 29. The event will be held in the morning, but organizers are still determining the exact time. Dr. Conor Keitzer, associate professor of natural sciences, said the symposium will be held in various rooms in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons and probably in the Shulman Center.

During the symposium, students and alumni present their research and other academic achievements. To learn more about the symposium, please visit https://bit.ly/3ByS9kx. Anyone who has questions can email Dr. Keitzer at ckeitzer@tusculum.edu.

Reminder about registration for the fall semester

Starting today, students can review the courses available during the fall semester and start making plans with their advisor for that term. Students must meet with their advisor before they can choose their courses. Advisors will be happy to assist, so students should make contact as soon as possible.

We remind students that they should ensure they do not have a business office hold on their student account. Students will not be able to register for courses with a hold, so we urge them to take any steps necessary to resolve that. Representatives in the business office can help students with any questions.

Students will not be able to participate in the housing lottery the week of April 4 if they do not register for courses to be held in the fall.

Registration for the fall semester will be held the week of March 28. Here is the schedule when students can start registering that week.

- Monday, March 28 Adult and Online Studies program students and graduate students
- Tuesday, March 29 seniors, veterans and honors students
- Wednesday, March 30 juniors
- Thursday, March 31 sophomores
- · Friday, April 1 first-year students

Register now for summer classes

One of the best ways for students to expedite their path to graduation or ease their load in the fall or spring semester is to take courses during the summer. This is an optimal time to complete a course that could potentially be challenging.

Registration is underway for the summer terms through Anthology. We currently have three summer terms.

- Full May 16-Aug. 12
- · Early May 16-June 24
- · Late June 27-Aug. 12

As is the case with fall semester registration, students will not be able to register for the summer terms if they have a business hold. In addition, students need to meet with their advisor before starting the registration process.

The link to the Anthology portal is https://portal.tusculum.edu/CMCportal/. Instructions are attached to help you through the process while you consult with your advisor.

The students' login to the Student Portal is their Tusculum lab account. This is the same username and password that is used to log into Canvas.

The Old Oak Festival is coming!

Old Oak Festival committee members are knee-deep in preparations for this year's event, which will help celebrate the arrival of spring.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 23, and Sunday, April 24, for two days full of activities on the Tusculum campus. This year, the majority of activities will take place in the area between the Tusculum Arch, McCormick Hall, the Thomas J. Garland Library and Virginia Hall.

We will share the list of events as soon as it is finalized, but you can count on many traditional favorites such as craft and food vendors, authors' row and musicians, as well as a new event this time – a car show.

Good times ahead!



Interested in law school? Upcoming presentation to provide helpful information

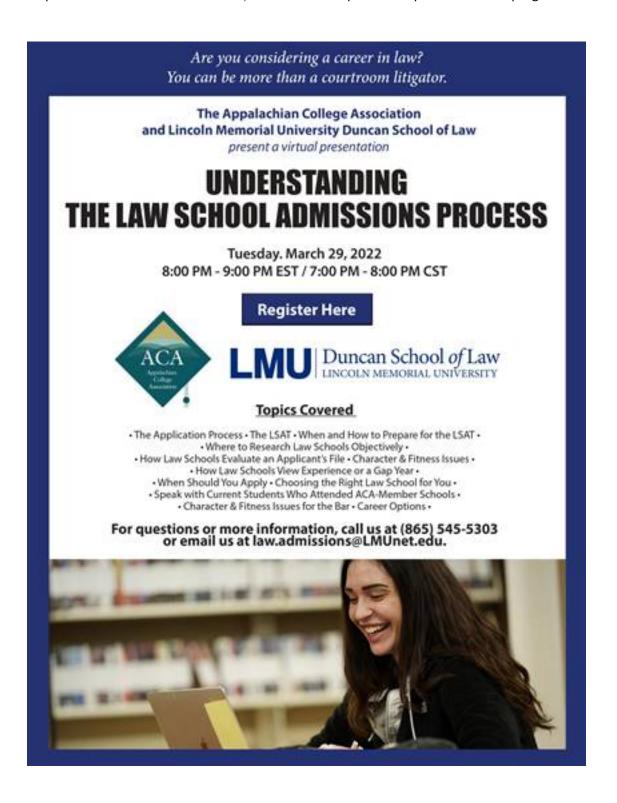
If you are considering applying to a law school, a presentation Tuesday, March 29, could help you successfully navigate the process. Dr. Troy Goodale, professor of political science, who serves as pre-law advisor at Tusculum, recommends it.

The Appalachian College Association and Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law will hold a webinar that day from 8-9 p.m. called "Understanding the Law School Admissions Process." Among the subjects to be covered are:

- · The Law School Admission Test
- · The application process
- The process law schools use to evaluate an applicant's file
- The time to apply

To register for the webinar, please click here. You can learn more about this event by calling the LMU law school at 865-545-5303 or emailing law.admissions@LMUnet.edu.

Another great resource for Tusculum students is Dr. Goodale. You can read more about the assistance he provides here. Tusculum offers a pre-law minor as part of the political science program.



Donations still needed for student Easter egg hunt

We recently shared that Tusculum plans to hold an Easter egg hunt for students the week of that holiday and needs assistance from faculty and staff members.

The Office of Institutional Advancement is still seeking donations of candy and money for this activity. The office has already obtained the plastic eggs.

The goal is to have eggs, filled with a treat or possibly cash, spread throughout campus each day between Monday, April 11, and Friday, April 15. Easter is Sunday, April 17.

Please direct donations and questions to Nicole Rader, director of alumni and community engagement, atnrader@tusculum.edu.



Tusculum Debate Team competes

Two Tusculum students who are members of the Debate Team recently competed at the Tennessee Valley Invitational, which was held at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville.

Sophomores Zurich Hudson, a communication major, and Josie Norton, a communication major, with a concentration in theater, competed against six teams in a round-robin tournament. Our Pioneers finished with a record of 2-2, and Hudson placed as an individual speaker.

Dr. Kurtis Miller, chair of the communication and Fine Arts Department and an assistant professor of communication, said the Debate Team was temporarily inactive during the global coronavirus pandemic because most of the debate circuit in East Tennessee was closed. This was the first major in-person tournament since the pandemic's onset, and it was nice to once again participate, he said.

The Debate Team is a student club that meets from 3:30-5 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays in Thomas J. Garland Library Room 105. Students can also choose to participate in debate for credit by enrolling in either COMM 120, Debate Team Practicum (one hour), or COMM 220, Argumentation and Debate (three hours). COMM 220 can be used to satisfy the general education program's COMM/SPCH requirement.

For more information about the team, please email Dr. Miller at kdmiller@tusculum.edu.



Zurich Hudson, left, and Josie Norton

Reading of the Gospels provided spiritual enrichment

We enjoyed the reading of the Gospels last week on campus.

Students, faculty and staff readers, as well representatives of local churches, served as readers. We were able to read all of Matthew, Mark and Luke in the allotted time, so Lauren Johnson, coordinator of residence life and programming, has scheduled a reading of the entirety of John from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 23. If you would like to read, please email Johnson at Iljohnson@tusculum.edu.

In addition to the photo below, you can see other readers from last week in this gallery. Photos by the Office of Communications and Marketing and the Office of Institutional Advancement.



Sophomore Hughston Burnheimer was one of the readers.

Reminders

- The university's Upward Bound program is accepting applications to serve as residential advisors 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.**
- A photographer from Johnson City Aerial Photography and Portraits will be on campus from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, March 16, and Wednesday, April 6, to take head shots of students. The photos will be taken by the fireplace in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons. Students will receive a digital file from the photographer. Students can choose to place their photo on résumés, curriculum vitae and social media platforms such as LinkedIn.
- The housing lottery for current students who seek university housing for the fall semester will be open every day from midnight until 5 p.m. from Monday, April 4, through Friday, April 8. Click herefor full details.
- The Tusculum University Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program offers free tax preparation services for faculty, staff and students, as well as the community. Services are available in Rooms 001 and 005 of the Meen Center as well as Westminster Presbyterian Church in Johnson City and the Washington County Library in Jonesborough. Please visit TUvita2202@: Tusculum VITA 2022 (signupgenius.com) or call Dr. Harold Branstrator, an associate professor of management at the university, at 423-636-7414 to register. No services are available this week due to Spring Break.
- The Office of Career Services is posting job opportunities and internships that are submitted to us by the local community on the UpperCampus app. UpperCampus is a free app designed to help college students become better informed about careers. If you need assistance, please email Dr. Heather Henson-Ramsey, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Math and coordinator of career services, at hhenson-ramsey@tusculum.edu.

Watching tennis on campus



When students are not in class or studying, a great way to enjoy campus life is to watch some of our athletic teams play. In this photo, Nicole Griffith and Celine McNally attend a women's tennis team's match. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Events and activities

All Tusculum family members

Monday, March 7, and Tuesday, March 8, 5:30 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; yoga

Wednesday, March 9, 11 a.m., in front of Scott M. Niswonger Commons; food truck (Kaufmann's Kitchen)

Faculty and staff

Tuesday, March 8, 6 p.m., Meen Center lecture hall; Upward Bound seminar

Community

Monday, March 7, 5:30 p.m., Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center; Great Literature Alive, Well, & Playing in Greeneville, Tennessee, class

Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m., Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center chapel; Greene County Community Band rehearsal

Friday, March 11, 7:30 a.m., Chalmers Conference Center; Greene County Partnership breakfast

Athletics



Sophomore Nemanja Subanovic shows off his backhand in the men's tennis team's victory last week at Nichols Tennis Center against Anderson University. The men's team has home matches today and Saturday. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Monday, March 7, and Tuesday, March 8, all day, Memphis; women's golf team at CBU Buccaneer Invitational

Monday, March 7, and Tuesday, March 8, all day, Greenwood, S.C.; men's golf team at Bearcat Invitational

Monday, March 7, 1 p.m., Nichols Tennis Center; men's and women's tennis teams vs. Bethel University Tuesday, March 8, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., King University; softball team vs. King University Wednesday, March 9, 9:30 a.m., Atlanta; beach volleyball team vs. Coastal Carolina University Wednesday, March 9, 11:30 a.m., Atlanta; beach volleyball team vs. Mercer University

Wednesday, March 9, 3:30 p.m. Atlanta; beach volleyball team vs. Georgia State University

Wednesday, March 9, 6 p.m., Pioneer Field; women's lacrosse team vs. Florida Institute of Technology

Thursday, March 10, 7 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's volleyball team vs. King University

Friday, March 11, time TBA, new Tusculum beach volleyball courts; beach volleyball team vs. Liberty University

Friday, March 11, 3 p.m. (Central), Pittsburg, Kansas; indoor track and field teams at NCAA Division II Indoor Championship

Friday, March 11, 6 p.m., Pioneer Park; baseball team vs. Lenoir-Rhyne University

Saturday, March 12, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m., Pioneer Park; baseball team vs. Lenoir-Rhyne University

Saturday, March 12, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., Red Edmonds Field; softball team vs. Lenoir-Rhyne University

Saturday, March 12, 2 p.m., Newberry College; women's lacrosse team vs. Newberry College

Saturday, March 12, 2 p.m., Nichols Tennis Center; men's and women's tennis teams vs. Lincoln Memorial University

Saturday, March 12, 5 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's volleyball team vs. Indiana Tech

Saturday, March 12, 5 p.m., Newberry College; men's lacrosse team vs. Newberry College

Saturday, March 12, 5:20 p.m. (Central), Pittsburg, Kansas; indoor track and field teams at NCAA Division II Indoor Championship

Sunday, March 13, all day, Sevierville; women's golf team at Bobby Nichols Intercollegiate



Freshman Leonie Floeth makes a return during the women's tennis team's victory last week at Nichols Tennis Center against Anderson University. The women's team will be in action on campus again today and Saturday. 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, March 7 – Todd Ireland

- Tuesday, March 8 Peter Barnes
- · Tuesday, March 8 Sydney Clendening
- · Thursday, March 10 Diana Clark
- · Thursday, March 10 Janice Rohr
- · Saturday, March 12 Judy Elliott
- · Saturday, March 12 Laura Battel
- · Saturday, March 12 Steve Schultz
- · Sunday, March 13 -- Cheri Flynn
- · Sunday, March 13 Casey Reagan
- · Sunday, March 13 Dr. Christi Sayles

Go Pioneers!