

December 12, 2022

Editor's note:

Due to the Christmas break, the next edition of The Pioneer Press will not be published until Monday, Jan. 9.

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President's Perspective

As much as I enjoy the commencement ceremony and awarding degrees to our newest graduates, I actually appreciate more visiting with our students beforehand and with their families afterward.

Before the ceremony, the students are gathered in the cafeteria dressed in their regalia. They are visiting with their friends and talking about the great times they had at Tusculum. The atmosphere is a mix of relief of finishing, pride in accomplishment and excitement for what follows. As I visit with the students I ask them what is next, and they tell me about their jobs, promotions and graduate school plans. Without a doubt, they are now career-ready professionals, and their Tusculum education has opened doors of opportunity for them.

After the ceremony, I talk to parents and children of those who walked the stage, and they express boundless pride in their graduate. I can see in the eyes of graduates' children that they have been inspired by their parents' example of hard work and accomplishment. Our first-generation students have paved the way for their next generation. While I talk with the families I also discover how many obstacles and challenges our students overcame to complete and graduate. That is inspiring!

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President



Dr. Hummel, top left, takes a photo after the ceremony with sisters DeQuisha Sherles and Darnesha Sherles and their family members, some of whom wore specially made T-shirts for the occasion. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Word of the Week

"For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example. We were not idle when we were with you." – 2 Thessalonians 3:7 (NIV)

Photo of the Week



The pre-commencement ceremony gathering in the cafeteria is always a great time for our graduating students to spend time with their friends and teammates. Left to right are Tre Trawick and Tyler Ajiero

in the first row; Xavier Clemons, Tyler Forde and Houston Johnson in the second row; and Cordell Dzara, Will Shellenback and John Smith in the back row. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Remember tonight's community band Christmas concert

Another great way to enter the Christmas break is with the sounds of the Tusculum University Community Band. The group will hold a free Christmas concert tonight in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center.

Dr. David Gonzalez, Tusculum's director of bands, will conduct the ensemble, which will play Christmas classics and other songs applicable to the season. Tusculum students who are part of the university's band will perform as part of this group.

You can read more about the performance in this [news release](#).



Be sure to catch the Tusculum University Community Band concert. Photo of a February concert by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Join us as we honor a key donor

Andrew Johnson Bank has been a tremendous supporter of Tusculum University through the years, and the financial institution's gifts have been a key factor in helping us achieve our mission.

Most recently, the bank was an important contributor to the support of fitness and wellness initiatives on the lower floor of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons. This included the wellness center at the bottom of the steps as well as the athletic training area where the pool used to be located. These enhanced facilities have significantly enhanced the health, well-being and strength of students, faculty and staff.

On Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 4 p.m., we will honor the bank for its generosity. We will name the area outside the athletic training area the Andrew Johnson Bank Lobby.

We invite all Tusculum family members to join us and help us thank the bank for its philanthropy.

If you have questions, please contact Kim Kidwell, associate vice president of institutional advancement, at kkidwell@tusculum.edu or 423-636-7303.



Andrew Johnson Bank

Take stock of many exciting developments at Tusculum in the fall semester!

Now that we are out of the day-to-day busyness of the fall semester, we can take time to look back at some of the many positive developments that occurred.

The following is not an all-encompassing list but a snapshot that reminds us how much happens at the university.

- [Tusculum's SACSCOC accreditation reaffirmed through 2030, building further momentum as the university serves students](#)
- [Tusculum University family members purchase gifts for more than 100 children in the Angel Tree program](#)
- [Esports and gaming quickly growing at Tusculum, now have designated spaces for play on campus](#)
- [New honor society for biology and environmental science students at Tusculum will enable them to enhance their skills](#)
- [Tusculum earns honors from a national organization for student-led efforts to increase participation in elections](#)
- [Five Tusculum students who were selected as Ledford Scholars present research conducted during the summer](#)
- [Tusculum University produces a \\$58 million annual economic impact on Greene County and other parts of the region](#)
- [Tusculum band members appear in taping of “Holiday Baking Championship” episode on the Food Network](#)
- [Tusculum expands services that promote faculty, staff and student health with the opening of the Wellness Center](#)



Newly inducted members of Tusculum's Kappa Delta Eta chapter of Beta Beta Beta gather after the ceremony. Photo from Dr. Susan Monteleone

The Christmas break schedule for offices

The university will observe a Christmas break from Saturday, Dec. 17-Sunday, Jan. 1.

During that time, some offices will be open on a limited schedule. They are:

- Admission: each weekday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Enrollment processing: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Business Office: Monday, Dec. 19-Tuesday, Dec. 20, and Thursday, Dec. 29-Friday, Dec. 30 – 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Institutional Advancement: Monday, Dec. 19-Tuesday, Dec. 20, and Monday, Dec. 27-Thursday, Dec. 30 – 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Post Office: Mondays and Wednesdays – 2-4 p.m.

The Office of Campus Safety will operate 24/7 throughout the break.

The cafeteria schedule between semesters

The cafeteria will reopen Monday, Jan. 9, beginning with breakfast.

If students need meals during the time the university is closed, please contact Dean Zoch, general manager of Tusculum University Dining, at Dean.Zoch@compass-usa.com.

Library hours for the rest of the calendar year

Below are the hours of the Thomas J. Garland Library for the remainder of the calendar year. The special hours on Thursday are to accommodate a Christmas breakfast for the library staff.

- Tuesday, Dec. 13-Wednesday, Dec. 14 –8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 15 – 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 16 – 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 17-Sunday, Jan. 1 – closed

Health clinic is closed until the spring semester

The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic is closed for the fall semester and will reopen Wednesday, Jan. 18.

The clinic is located in Room 008 of the Meen Center No appointment is necessary. Patients can self-pay or use their health insurance. Students can apply for payment aid, if necessary.

Conserve energy during the break

Before leaving for the Christmas break, faculty and staff members should remember to conserve energy by taking the following steps:

- Turn off your computers, monitors, printers, space heaters and lights
- Reduce the temperature in your work area when you leave for the day

Even offices that will operate should take these measure during the hours when they will not operate. This conservation mindset will help us reduce our energy consumption while employees are away from the office.

Airport shuttles are available

Students who plan to fly end of the fall semester are eligible to receive shuttle service from the Greeneville campus. Tusculum provides shuttles to the Tri-Cities and Knoxville airports in Tennessee and the Asheville, North Carolina, airport.

Student-athletes need to sign up with their coaches, and all other students should sign up in the Office of Student Affairs. Shuttles will be available through Wednesday, Dec 14, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

For the spring semester, shuttle signups will begin Monday, Jan. 3. Shuttles will be available from Tuesday, Jan. 10-Tuesday, Jan 17. Shuttles will run from 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. We encourage students to book flights that meet these periods, as shuttles may not be available outside these windows. If students arrive after the 7 p.m. shuttle, they should plan for overnight lodging and utilize the next morning's shuttle.

Students who are not athletes need to email studentaffairs@tusculum.edu to schedule and confirm a shuttle time.

Students will be charged \$25 to use the shuttle service. The cost will be added to their student account. Students do not need to pay the shuttle driver.

AIRPORT SHUTTLES AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS

Knoxville, Tri-Cities, Asheville airports

Dec. 6-14, Jan. 10-17, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

 Athletes: Sign up with your coach

Nonathletes: Sign up with Student Affairs



Register for spring and summer courses!

Students who have not registered for the spring and summer semesters should allocate time as soon as possible during the Christmas break to take care of this important task! This will ensure they remain on track for their degree and do not find a class they want to take already filled. **Students need to register via [Self Service](#).**

Students need to remember:

- They must meet with their advisor before they can choose their courses.
- They must not have a business office hold on their student account because they will not be able to register for courses until they resolve it.

Students with questions can email the Registrar's Office at registrar@tusculum.edu.

Students should take care of their book purchases for the spring semester

Another important task for students to complete during the break is to purchase their textbooks online for the spring semester.

The process is simple. Students visit tusculum.textbookx.com and log in with their @lab account username and password.

The online bookstore is now open.



**GET YOUR TEXTBOOKS
100% ONLINE**



1. Log in using your @lab username and password



2. Select from new, used, e-book or rental textbooks.



3. Check out

4. Receive your books at home or at school

TUSCULUM.TEXTBOOKX.COM

Special feature

New director of the Center for the Arts at Tusculum already busy

Rouja Green, a professional with 13 years of experience running a music and art school, was recently selected to serve as director of Tusculum's Center for the Arts, and she has hit the ground running.

You might have met Green if you have visited Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center for one or more of the events recently held there. She has already demonstrated her talent and know-how by enhancing the ambience at some of these events.

She has also begun partnering with the leaders and faculty members associated with Tusculum's arts programs as well as working with the Communications and Marketing Department to spread the word about the many exciting events that have taken place in the latter stages of the fall semester.

Green will ensure all fine arts programming presented by Tusculum is logically sound. She will share and build on the strengths of these initiatives through fundraising, marketing, communication, presentation, design, teaching and advocacy in collaboration with others at the university.

The Center for the Arts is already heavily engaged in planning for the 2023 calendar year and has some exciting activities coming. Further information about these events will be shared later. In the interim, you might want to learn more about the broad array of skills Green brings to the table, including 13 years of experience running a music and art school.

Green has also worked as an entrepreneur for nine years and has experience in team-building, leadership training, public speaking and coaching. She has organized and presented at multiple events on the East Coast and West Coast and in Europe.

Please read this [news release](#) about Green and welcome her when you see her on campus!



Rouja Green

Graduation provided another chance to celebrate being Pioneers

We rejoiced Saturday, Dec. 10, as 139 students earned degrees from our university during graduation. The event was the culmination of a lot of work by our students and their faculty to become career-ready professionals.

Some of these students have now earned multiple degrees from Tusculum and will have an additional selling point as they enter the workforce or seek to advance in their current employment or pursue new opportunities.

We thank these alumni for choosing Tusculum and encourage them to return often and stay in touch with their alma mater.

You can read more about graduation in this [news release](#) and [watch the ceremony](#) if you were unable to attend. Photos from the event, taken by the Office of Communications and Marketing and student Ashley Howell, are available on Tusculum's [Facebook page](#). The Communications and Marketing Department has also prepared a [short video](#) about the event.



Master's degree recipients within the College of Education celebrate with Stephanie Kirby and Michelle DeFord, third and fourth from the left, respectively. The graduates received a Master of Arts in teaching. They are Katherine Lewis, far left; Abby Rase, second from left; Ellie Phillips, fifth from the left; and Tiffany Allen, far right. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Desk and door decorating and ugly sweater contest winners

We thank all faculty and staff members who entered the Desk and Door Decorating and Ugly Sweater contests. We loved your creativity and resourcefulness and thank you for your participation.

Desk and Door Decorating Contest winners

- Elegant – Audrey Brackens
- Creative – Cindy Pippin

- Bah Humbug – Wayne Thomas
- Tacky – Chelsea White and the RegistRAR's office (The name is a play off the decoration.)

Ugly Sweater Contest winner

- Lelia Dykes

These faculty and staff members should visit Rose Peedin, executive assistant to the president, in McCormick Hall as soon as possible and select their gifts!

We thank the following businesses for their generous donations of prizes:

- Creamy Cup
- Gondolier Italian Restaurant
- Tractor Supply
- Publix
- Flowers by Tammy
- Dunkin' Donuts
- Fatz Cafe
- Christian Book & Gift Shop
- Aubrey's restaurant
- Broyles General Store and Garden Emporium
- Ace Hardware Store
- Burlap Bunny
- Lowe's
- Dairy Queen
- Zaxby's

Contest photos in addition to the one below are available [here](#). The photos are from Dr. Hummel and the Office of Communications and Marketing.



Audrey Brackens certainly brought elegance to her office space in the College of Science, Technology and Mathematics!

Goodie bag drive-through offered fun and fellowship!

It was wonderful to see the faculty and staff members who joined us Monday, Dec. 12, for the goodie bag drive-through.

Whether they came by vehicle or walked up to the table in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons, we enjoyed sharing some neat treats and great conversation as we near the Christmas break. We are grateful to all of our servers who handed out the goodies and appreciate Chartwells for making some of the items.

In addition to the photo below, you can see other photos from the event in [this gallery](#).



Left to right, Dee Roby, Sonya Campbell, Lindsey Self and Angel Wright enjoy the goodie bag drive-through. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Spirit Squad visits the President's House

Dr. Hummel and First Lady Starr Hummel hosted the spirit squad and its coaches for a Christmas party at the President's House Monday, Dec. 5.

The group enjoyed a delicious dinner and opened presents as well as participated in delightful conversation. As a special treat, Mrs. Hummel taught the team how to decorate Christmas cookies!



The spirit squad assembled at the President's House. Photo from Dr. Hummel

Faculty and staff donations to Tusculum easy to make

Through the completion of a [faculty and staff contribution form](#), employees can demonstrate in another tangible way their support of the university.

We appreciate the nine offices, departments and groups that have reached 100 percent giving! They are:

- Executive Cabinet
- Human Resources Department
- Office of Admission
- Office of Financial Aid
- Office of Communications and Marketing
- President's Office
- Office of Institutional Advancement
- Office of Institutional Effectiveness
- Thomas J. Garland Library

We encourage other offices and departments to join the list! Remember, no amount is too small!

Employees can also find the contribution form on the faculty and staff portal of the Pioneer Portal. The Office of Institutional Advancement is available at 423-636-7303 to answer questions.

Reliving the Midnight Breakfast through a television station

After the President's Midnight Breakfast on May 4, we sent photos of the event to television stations in the Tri-Cities and Knoxville markets in case they wanted to broadcast a story about it.

WVLT, a station in Knoxville, liked the idea. You can watch the story at <https://www.wvlt.tv/video/2022/12/05/tusculum-university-hosts-annual-midnight-breakfast/>.



Hungry students stand in line at President's Midnight Breakfast. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

COVID-19 procedures

You can read all of our coronavirus 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.

Reminders

- The Office of Financial Aid said some students still have to submit financial aid paperwork for this semester. If these students do not address this matter, they could receive a large bill in the future, so they should resolve it as soon as possible. Students with questions can contact the Office of Financial Aid at financialaid@tusculum.edu or 423-636-7377.
- The Pioneer Exchange is a combination of the food pantry and clothing closet. Students can obtain groceries, residence hall supplies, textbooks, school supplies, hygiene products and clothes at no cost. The Px is located in Room 403 of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons and is open Mondays-Fridays from 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Events and activities

All Tusculum family members

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Marilyn duBrisk Theatre of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center; **Tusculum University Community Band concert**

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Thursday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Faculty and staff

Wednesday, Dec. 14, noon, Zoom; **The Pioneer Pathway Task Force**

Thursday, Dec. 15, 9 a.m., Zoom; **Operation Success Committee**

Athletics



Junior forward Inady Legiste had a big week last week. He scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in an 87-76 Pioneers victory over Mars Hill University Saturday. He also posted 22 points and 12 rebounds

in a 64-61 win against UVA Wise. The men's basketball team has begun the season with a sparkling 5-1 record. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **women's basketball team vs. Emory & Henry College**

Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **men's basketball team vs. Emory & Henry College**

Friday, Dec. 16, 5:30 p.m., Daytona Beach, Florida; **men's basketball team vs. Davis & Elkins College in the Embry-Riddle Holiday Classic**

Saturday, Dec. 17, 2 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **women's basketball team vs. Southern Wesleyan University**

Saturday, Dec. 17, 5:30 p.m., Daytona Beach, Florida; **men's basketball team vs. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in the Embry-Riddle Holiday Classic**

Saturday, Dec. 31, 10:15 a.m., St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; **men's basketball team vs. Livingstone College**

Saturday, Dec. 31, 2 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **women's basketball team vs. Milligan University**

Sunday, Jan. 1, time TBA, St. Thomas Virgin Islands; **men's basketball team vs. opponent TBA**

Monday, Jan. 2, time TBA, St. Thomas Virgin Islands; **men's basketball team vs. opponent TBA**

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 5:30 p.m., Limestone University; **women's basketball team vs. Limestone University**

Thursday, Jan. 5, 4 p.m., Limestone University; **men's basketball team vs. Limestone University**

Friday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m., Erskine College; **men's volleyball team vs. Erskine College**

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2 p.m., Emmanuel College; **men's volleyball team vs. Emmanuel College**

Saturday, Jan. 7, 2 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **women's basketball team vs. Mars Hill University**

Saturday, Jan. 7, 4 p.m., Pioneer Arena; **men's basketball team vs. Mars Hill University**



Jami Tham scored a career-high 31 points and snagged 15 rebounds in the women's basketball team's 80-68 victory against Mars Hill University Saturday. She also scored 18 points and collected 16 rebounds in Wednesday's 75-59 win against UVA Wise. With a 15-point, 11-rebound performance Monday against Brescia University, she now has 11 consecutive double-double games. The Pioneers are on fire with a 10-1 record. Photo from the Office of Communications and Marketing

Please visit the schedule on the [athletics website](#) for potential changes with games.

Faculty and staff birthdays

- Wednesday, Dec. 14 – Michael Hensley
- Wednesday, Dec. 14 – Steveland Anderson
- Wednesday, Dec. 14 – Dr. Jeffrey Perry
- Thursday, Dec. 15 – Kameron Andrews
- Monday, Dec. 19 – Connie Stanton
- Tuesday, Dec. 20 – Jared Rowland
- Wednesday, Dec. 21 – Lauren Duncan
- Friday, Dec. 23 – Benjamin Jones
- Saturday, Dec. 24 – Dr. Dennis Ashford
- Sunday, Dec. 25 – Jill Oberfeitinger
- Friday, Dec. 30 – Sidney Warren
- Sunday, Jan. 1 – Mark McKnight
- Tuesday, Jan. 3 – Julie Martin
- Friday, Jan. 6 – Lynette Britton
- Sunday, Jan. 8 – Dr. Kerri Boggs

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!