



**January 9, 2023**

**In this edition:**

- . President's Perspective
- . Word of the Week
- . Photo of the Week
- . Important calendar items
- . Registering for spring and summer classes
- . Purchasing textbooks for the spring semester
- . Airport shuttles for students
- . Cancer research project receives additional boost
- . Endowed scholarship created for students in music, band and theater
- . Cheerleading team holding National Showcase on campus Tuesday
- . The Tusculum Review's newest issue
- . Master of Arts in education graduates making their mark
- . Former board chairman passes away
- . Former students fondly remembering 30-year Tusculum faculty member
- . Remembering 100-year-old Tusculum alumna
- . Ceremony for Andrew Johnson Bank, recognition of Doug DeBusk
- . Employee donations
- . Participating in SSS and ARCHES
- . Tusculum family members performing in community band concert
- . COVID-19 procedures
- . Reminders
- . Events and activities
- . Faculty and staff birthdays

**President's Perspective**

This weekend I had the honor of attending the funerals of two men who enriched the legacy of Tusculum and positively impacted our students. They both left Tusculum stronger than they found it. Both men were incredible examples of dedication, service, and faith.

Robert Bailey graduated from Tusculum in 1948 and remained a lifelong supporter of Tusculum and served as the president of the Alumni Association and chair of our Board of Trustees. His Tusculum education prepared him well for his legal career dedicated service to his church and civic organizations.

Ron Conley served faithfully as a math professor at Tusculum for 30 years and retired in 2013. On social media, dozens of Tusculum alumni have commented on his effective teaching and godly service as he helped and equipped them.

You can read more about these men in this edition. The Tusculum family misses both of these men and continue to pray for their families. They were both good and faithful servants to Tusculum University and to God's Kingdom.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel  
President

## **Word of the Week**

"The memory of the righteous is a blessing." – Proverbs 10:7a (ESV)

## **Photo of the Week**



Tusculum's cheerleading team has a busy week ahead as it participates in a national competition and holds a show on campus Tuesday. More details about those items are below. Beforehand, though, the team demonstrated some of its skills during Saturday's men's basketball game. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Important calendar items**

- The university will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The cafeteria will be open.
- The cafeteria reopened today beginning with breakfast.
- The Thomas J. Garland Library will be open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday this week. Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 17, the library will resume its normal semester schedule. That is Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-midnight; Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 4 p.m.-midnight. The library is closed on Saturday.
- The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic 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.

### **Students should be sure they have registered for spring and summer courses!**

Students who have not registered for the spring and summer semesters should immediately take care of this important task! Completing registration will ensure they remain on track for their degree and do not find a class they want to take already filled. **Students 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 [registrartu@tusculum.edu](mailto:registrartu@tusculum.edu).

## **Students need to purchase their textbooks for the spring semester**

Students should ensure they have also purchased their textbooks online for the spring semester.

The process is simple. Students visit [tusculum.textbookx.com](http://tusculum.textbookx.com) and log in with their @lab account username and password.

The online bookstore is open.



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**

## **Airport shuttles are available**

Students who are enrolled at Tusculum for the spring semester are eligible to receive shuttle service to campus from 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.

Shuttle signups began 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 that time frame. 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](mailto: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

Jan. 10-17, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

**Athletes: Sign up with your coach**

**Nonathletes: Sign up with Student Affairs**



### Cancer research project on campus receives further support

Dr. Dennis Ashford, associate professor of chemistry, has received another fellowship from the Appalachian College Association that will enable him to spend more time on the anti-cancer drug research project conducted by Tusculum chemistry and biology students.

The fellowship will pay another instructor to teach one of Dr. Ashford's courses in the fall and spring semesters of the 2023-24 academic year. It is the second fellowship Dr. Ashford has earned from the ACA for this initiative.

"Having the fellowship frees up more of my time to mentor the research students when the largest number of them are on campus," Dr. Ashford said. "It also provides me with further capacity to assist with some of the research and take care of administrative issues pertaining to this project."

The research group is looking at potential medications that can be activated by light to kill cancerous cells. Dr. Ashford said current chemotherapy treatments are effective but are harsh on the body and can impact noncancerous cells. Tusculum's research is focused on creating a drug that will kill the cancer but provide much less severe side effects from treatment by distributing medicine solely to the cancerous portion of the body.

This team is making a lot of progress, and you can learn about it in this [news release](#).



Dr. Dennis Ashford works in one of the chemistry labs in the Meen Center. File photo

### **Endowed scholarship established for students in music, band and theater**

A Tusculum alumna remembered her alma mater with a planned gift that will support students participating in music, band and theater through a new endowment created by her family.

Janet Sell graduated from Tusculum in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in music and minor in chemistry and then taught music to first through sixth graders. She died in July, and her family recently created the Janet C. Sell '68 Endowed Scholarship.

Sell provided additional funds specifically to the band and to the Tusculum Fund, which assists the university as a whole. You can read more about her generosity and her family's actions in this [news release](#).

Her brother, Harvey; sister-in-law, Pam; and niece, Alison, came to campus in December and walked the grounds.



Janet Sell is on the left with her college roommate, Olinda Bruss Young, on graduation day in 1968. This photo is courtesy of Harvey Sell. A photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing of her family and Tusculum officials is available [here](#).

### **Cheerleading team holding National Showcase on campus Tuesday**

Tusculum's cheerleading team is participating in the Universal Cheerleaders Association College Nationals Friday, Jan. 13-Sunday, Jan. 15 in Orlando, Florida.

In preparation for this event, the team will hold a showcase Tuesday, Jan. 10, at 7 p.m. in Pioneer Arena. The event is free, and all Tusculum family members and the community are invited to attend.

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

# NATIONAL SHOWCASE

JANUARY 10 @  
7PM



## TUSCULUM SPIRIT SQUAD



FAMILY,  
FRIENDS, AND  
COMMUNITY  
WELCOMED

For more information  
follow us on  
instagram  
[@tusculumspirit](https://www.instagram.com/tusculumspirit)



Pioneer Arena  
60 Shiloh Road  
Greeneville, TN 37745



Newest edition of The Tusculum Review has been issued

The newest edition of The Tusculum Review, the university's international literary journal, has been published and is available for purchase.

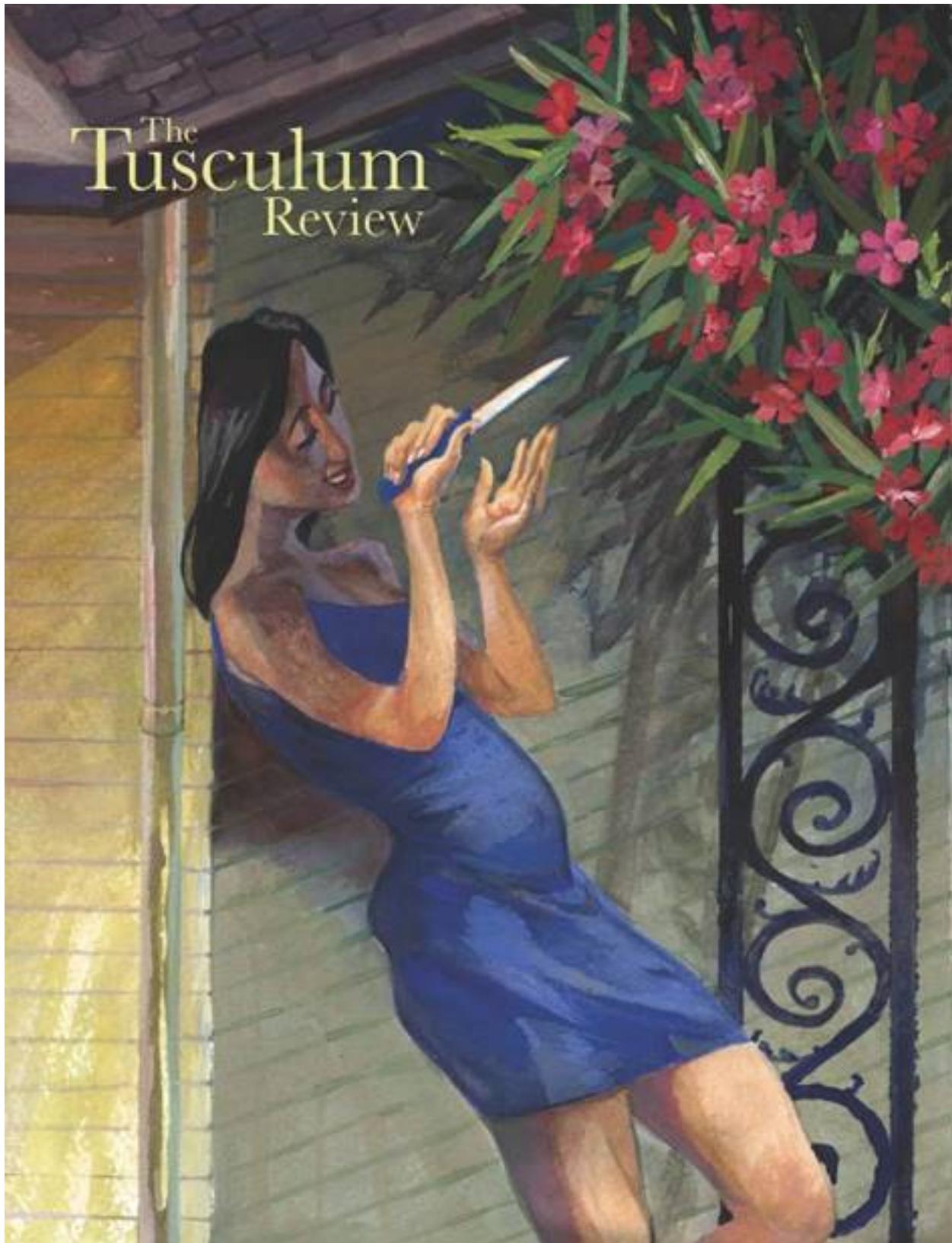
This is Volume 18 of the prestigious publication, and it continues our tradition of sharing outstanding literature from writers in multiple genres. Check out this edition for high-quality drama, essay, fiction and poetry from prominent and emerging writers.

The Tusculum Review is also a shining example of active and experiential learning for our students, whose experience in a variety of production elements and collaboration with the authors and illustrators helps equip them to be career-ready professionals. Those who participated in this edition are Rory Church, Tate Haugen, Mae Jones, Julene Kyle, Ethan Lau, Elizabeth Massengill, Caleb Moody, Abigail Painter, Grayson Patterson and Cole Robertsen.

They receive valuable mentoring from Kelsey Trom, associate professor of English and editor of The Tusculum Review, and Wayne Thomas, dean of the College of Civic and Liberal Arts, as well as other professionals. We commend Trom and Thomas for their leadership in creating high standards for The Tusculum Review and putting it among the elite publications in the industry.

A free copy of The Tusculum Review is available to faculty, staff and students. Anyone who is interested can go to the offices of Trom or Cindy Pippin, administrative assistant for the College of Civic and Liberal Arts, on the third floor of Virginia Hall. Copies of The Tusculum Review are available for purchase by those who do not work or study at Tusculum by visiting <https://ttr.tusculum.edu/gifts/>. You can read more about this issue of The Tusculum Review in this [news release](#).

The  
**Tusculum**  
Review



Here is the cover, designed by Cecilia Ford, of the newest volume of The Tusculum Review.

## **Master of Arts in education graduates making their mark**

Two of our Master of Arts in education graduates have earned recent recognition for their efforts to make their students career-ready professionals.

Alicia Keplinger has been named Teacher of the Year for kindergarten through fourth grade at Hunter Elementary School in Carter County! She is a third grade English language arts and social studies teacher. A story in the Elizabethton Star said she displays exceptional qualities inside and outside the classroom, including tutoring before and after school and maintaining a fun and engaging classroom.

Keplinger graduated from Tusculum University in 2019 with a Master of Arts in education, with a concentration in curriculum and instruction.

"Having a master's in curriculum and instruction has given me a deeper insight on the different teaching strategies I use in my classroom," she said. "It has allowed me to better understand my students and what they need to learn. I have been able to provide a better teaching environment that allows my students to think creatively and ask meaningful questions that support their education. It has been an overall positive impact on my career."

Keplinger speaks highly of Tusculum's College of Education faculty.

"Every professor I had was attentive and caring," she said. "They had time for me whenever I needed them. I could tell they were passionate about what they were teaching. I knew I would benefit in my classroom from each of their assignments."

In addition, the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association recently sent an email spotlighting Brian McLaughlin. He was the 2019-2020 Tennessee Teacher of the Year.

He taught at Morristown-Hamblen High School West for 13 years before he transitioned to work on the assessment team at the Tennessee Department of Education in fall 2021. He is TCAP development coordinator: math.



Alicia Keplinger



## Brian McLaughlin

Photo from TICUA

### Former Tusculum board chairman passes away

Tusculum University was saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Robert H. Bailey, a former chair of our Board of Trustees, who most recently served as a life trustee. However, we remember him fondly and appreciate all of his efforts to make a positive difference in the university and our students.

Dr. Bailey graduated from Tusculum in 1948 with a history degree. While he was a student, he was involved in the choir and theater. After graduation, he earned a law degree from the University of Tennessee and practiced law.

He gave back to Tusculum by establishing several endowed scholarships. He regularly attended Homecoming and other events at the university. Dr. Bailey served on our Board of Trustees from 1969-1979 and became a life trustee in 2011. He received the Distinguished Service Award in 2005 and the Pioneer Award in 2012. In 1984, Dr. Bailey earned an honorary Doctor of Laws from Tusculum.

When the board granted Dr. Bailey life trustee status, he was recognized for exemplifying Tusculum's civic arts ideals in his professional and civic life. He was active in the Ruritans. He served as district governor, national director and president of Ruritan National. Dr. Bailey was active in the Free and Accepted Masons, serving as the Potentate of the Knoxville Shriners in 1976 and in the Imperial Shrine for more than 40 years.

Dr. Bailey passed away Monday, Dec. 26. You can read his obituary [here](#). We extend our condolences to his family and everyone else who knew him.



Dr. Robert Bailey, right, poses with Claira Fowler, a recipient of one of the scholarships he created, in 2019. Fowler has since graduated from Tusculum. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Remembering a beloved 30-year faculty member**

Tusculum lost a highly regarded retired faculty member Tuesday, Jan. 3, with the passing of Ron Conley, and his former students are praising him for his work in the classroom.

Conley retired in 2013 as an associate professor of mathematics. In response to Tusculum sharing the news about his death on Facebook and Instagram, many alumni shared their memories and feelings about him. Here is a sample of the comments:

“Dr. Conley was an amazing professor. Math is my handicap, and he made it easy, relatable and understandable.” – Jennifer Pallotta Gaby

“My favorite professor at Tusculum. Always willing to provide help before and after class. Such an all-around good and down to earth person.” – Stefan Piercy

“Such a fantastic teacher! I remember any chance he could use an airplane example, he took it!” – Jessimine Renée Strauss

“This breaks my heart. Mr. Conley helped me pass that Trig class that had my frontal lobe split open every day.” – Dawn Bethel Cobbs

"He was a great professor, one of my favorites. He taught in down to earth commons sense terms that this old country boy could understand. I'm saddened to learn of his passing but feel extremely privileged to have known and been taught by him." – Danny Hopson

"My last class at Tusculum and one I had to pass. Thanks Mr. Conley!" – Mark Purifoy

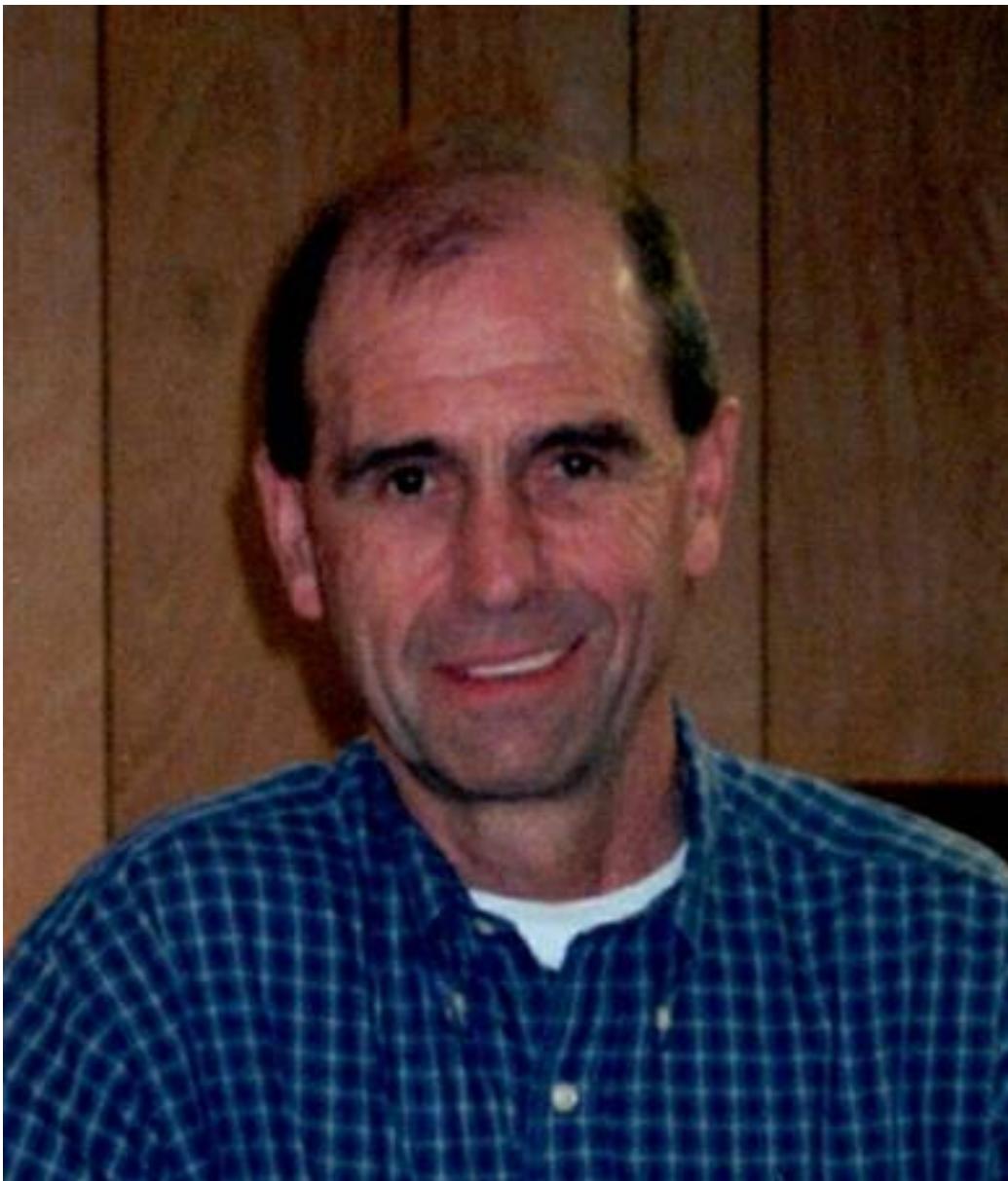
In addition to his stellar performance as a teacher, Conley contributed to Tusculum's success in other ways. He served on numerous governance committees, search committees and task forces and was Mathematics Department chair.

Lillian Burchnell, certification officer and advisor for the College of Education, shared some of her memories of Conley.

"Of the three musketeers that served together for over 100 years at Tusculum in Tredway Hall, Ron Conley was the most serious, God-fearing man you could ever hope to meet," she said. "On many occasions, we discussed the Bible and our families. His wisdom impacts me to this day, and I am sure many others share this view. He would spend long hours making sure that his students understand the math they needed to learn to be successful. Ron will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him."

To learn more about Conley, you can read his [obituary](#).

We express our condolences to Conley's family, his former students and those who worked with him. We are grateful he chose to teach at Tusculum and positively impacted so many students.



Ron Conley

### **100-year-old alumna held strong memories of Tusculum**

Tusculum University reflects with gratitude on the life of Jeanne Campbell Pflum, a 100-year-old alumna of our institution, who passed away in December.

She was a 1943 graduate of Tusculum who was born in Greeneville but was living in Wrentham, Massachusetts, when she died.

Pflum was a substitute teacher, a religious education teacher and a library assistant. She was also active in her church, serving as a lector and Eucharistic minister and delivering the Eucharist to the homebound and baptismal certificates to parishioners.

When Pflum was 96, her granddaughter, Elizabeth Ellwood-Hall, wrote to our Office of Alumni Relations shared her grandmother's reflections about Tusculum. Ellwood-Hall had bought "Tusculum College Tennessee: The College History Series" by Frank T. Wheeler and showed her grandmother some of the photos. Here were some of her reactions to some of the events and people in the photos:

- "Daddy Haynes - he was like a father to me. What a wonderful man!"
- "Professor Shanks! I'll never forget that face."
- "Ms. Stetson - it was hard to find a female scientist in those days. What an inspiration."
- "Oh! May Day! All of us from town went to the college and participated in the May Pole; I can just see all the colors and music."
- "Mountain Day! Good gad. That was such a climb, but it gave us such a feeling of independence. That's when I met your grandfather."



Jeanne Campbell Pflum is on the far right in this photo. A more recent photo can be viewed [here](#). Photos from her daughter, Amy Ellwood

### **Tusculum recognizes Andrew Johnson Bank, honors alumnus Doug DeBusk**

Spirits were high as Tusculum recognized Andrew Johnson Bank for its investment in the university's recent fitness, wellness and strength initiatives.

During a ceremony Wednesday, Dec. 14, Tusculum unveiled a plaque for the Andrew Johnson Bank Lobby outside the new athletic weight training area. The recognition was for the bank's support of that facility and the Wellness Center.

At the bank's request, the lobby was named in honor of Doug DeBusk, a 1995 Tusculum graduate, who serves as executive vice president and chief lending officer at the financial institution.

You can read more about the event in this [news release](#). Photos from the Office of Communications and Marketing from the event are available in [this gallery](#).



Left to right, Dr. Hummel, Doug DeBusk and Paige Hull, the bank's president and CEO, celebrate after the unveiling.

### **Faculty and staff donations to Tusculum easy to make**

With the onset of a new year, employees can enhance Tusculum's quality and services by submitting [a faculty and staff contribution form.](#)

We are grateful to 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 welcome seeing others join this initiative! As always, 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.

## **Consider participating in SSS and ARCHES**

Students who would be the first person in their family to earn a bachelor's degree or come from a low-income background have an outstanding resource to help them! Student Support Services for traditional students and the ARCHES (Adults Reaching Career Heights and Educational Success) for our Adult and Online program students are available simply by applying.

Both of these programs are free to those who qualify and help participants achieve the ultimate goal: graduation. These programs offer workshops, leadership opportunities, tutoring, scholarships, personal coaching and advising! Participants also have a lot of fun and learn on trips to fun places locally and in other parts of the country!

You can visit <https://site.tusculum.edu/.../academic.../first-gen/arches/> or <https://site.tusculum.edu/.../academic.../first-gen/sss/>, visit Room 412 in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons or call 423-798-1635 to learn more!



SSS and ARCHES participants visited the Birmingham Civil Rights Museum a few years ago. Photo from Rachael Barnett

### **Tusculum family members perform in community band concert**

As we neared the Christmas break, we were pleased to host the Tusculum University Community Band for its Christmas concert Tuesday, Dec. 13.

This was a wonderful event, which was enhanced by the presence of Tusculum professors, staff and students among the performers in addition to Dr. David Gonzalez, director of bands, serving as the conductor. This is a great way for them to demonstrate civic engagement but is also a wonderful outlet for our faculty and staff to have outside work.



Front row, left to right, Jyclyn West, Hannah Morgan and Honey Stanley. Back row, left to right, are Greg Fay, Dr. Kurtis Miller, Hughston Burnheimer and Derek Hatcher.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:humanresources@tusculum.edu) or 423-636-7345 (extension 5345 on campus) as well as their supervisor.

## **Reminder**

- 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, Jan. 10, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

### **Faculty and staff**

Thursday, Jan. 12, 9 a.m., Zoom; **Operation Success Committee**

### **Community**

Monday, Jan. 9, 4 p.m., Behan Arena Theatre; **Great Literature Alive Well Playing in Greeneville, Tennessee**

### **Athletics**



Senior guard Blayre Schultz, goes to the basket during the women's basketball team's 82-44 rout of Mars Hill University Saturday. She scored a career-high 28. The Pioneers are 14-2 on the season, including 5-1 in South Atlantic Conference play. You can learn more in this [news release](#). Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 5:30 p.m., Carson-Newman University; women's basketball team vs. Carson-Newman University

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m., Carson-Newman University; men's basketball team vs. Carson-Newman University

Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's volleyball team vs. University of Mount Olive

Friday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's volleyball team vs. Barton College

Saturday, Jan. 14, 10 a.m. Winston-Salem, North Carolina; indoor track and field teams at Mondo College Invitational

Saturday, Jan. 14, 2 p.m., Pioneer Arena; women's basketball team vs. Wingate University

Saturday, Jan. 14, 4 p.m., Pioneer Arena; men's basketball team vs. Wingate University



Junior guard Connor Jordan heads upcourt with the ball during the men's basketball team's 79-66 win Saturday against Mars Hill University. Jordan compiled 21 points after coming off the bench to help the Pioneers improve their record to 8-5 overall and 4-2 in the South Atlantic Conference. You can read more in this [news release](#). Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

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

## **Faculty and staff birthdays**

We have no faculty and staff birthdays this week.

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](mailto:jwozniak@tusculum.edu).

**Go Pioneers!**