**A Message from Bill (Norton) Dunham ‘73**

Greetings from Northeast Tennessee, where spring is thinking about reawakening, and I’m recovering from the switch to Daylight Savings Time.

Like some of our Tusculum classmates, I could not escape the siren call of the southern Appalachians, particularly during the springtime. After working for the college for the first two years of my career, I moved north to D.C. and quickly discovered how much Tennessee had insinuated into my being. By 1978, I was back to the mountains for good!

Like many of us, I lost the connection with TC (now Tusculum University) for too long as my family and career took precedence. Thankfully, I’ve rectified this oversight throughout the past few years, and I’ve been pleasantly surprised at changes there at the corner of old 11E and Shiloh Road.

Let’s start with the “university” part, as some folks have gotten their noses out of joint over the name change. Simple fact: university indicates there are more than one college under the same institution. In our day we were a liberal arts college, period. Now Tusculum boasts colleges of nursing, business, education, and science, technology, and math. It’s an impressive array of fields of study compared to our days.

I could bloviate on about the campus, the faculty and administration (led by the dynamic Dr. Scott Hummel), the athletics, so on and so forth. However, there’s nothing better to reconnect with your “college forever” than setting foot on those breathtaking 140 acres, with the oaks and the wonderful old buildings and breathtaking views of Viking and Greene Mountains. And guess what – there are three (count ‘em, three) great opportunities to visit Tusculum and reconnect with the campus, the university, and our classmates.

**The Old Oak Folk Festival** is (like us) approaching 50 years since its start on campus, shortly after our graduation. It’s a celebration of the music, crafts, and art of Greene County and surrounding areas that draws alumni each Spring. It’s coming up next month on April 21st and 22nd. (Alas, I will not be in attendance, as there’s a wedding of my youngest for which I have been told that my presence is required.)

Too soon on your calendar? May I then suggest visiting during **Commencement Weekend** on May 5th and 6th, where we (the Class of ’73) will be celebrated as Golden Pioneers! (Good lord, I hate that designation as it conjures up images of canes and ear trumpets and whatnot. However, tradition dies hard around these parts, especially when you’re pushing 230 years in the education business.) You’ll even get a nifty gold cap and gown. (Seriously. Go to <https://web.tusculum.edu/alumni/golden-pioneers/> )

Still too short a window for travel? No problem. Mark your calendars for October 11th through 14th for **Homecoming Weekend**. (While spring is my favorite season around these parts, autumn does a pretty good job accounting for itself.) There are many opportunities to connect with old friends during this week: golf, dinner and dancing, even a football game. Seriously, did you ever think there would be Tusculum football back in the ‘70s? Neither did I!

So, let me offer a suggestion: if you’ve been slaving over a hot pandemic for the past few years, it would do your eyes, your soul, and your spirits good to visit Tusculum and reconnect. While Connie’s is gone, there’s a lovely new establishment within walking distance of the old science building, and Greeneville boasts such modern conveniences as a Walmart and a Publix. There’s even a Tusculum bypass. Who’d a thunk *that*?

For details on all three events, you can contact Belle Kemp, Director of Alumni & Community Engagement, at 423-636-0565, or [bkemp@tusculum.edu](mailto:bkemp@tusculum.edu).

Trust me, a visit would put a smile on your face, and, despite what some young men may have shouted out of their dorm windows many years ago, I believe you’ll find that you still love this place. Perhaps that’s as surprising as football, no?

Best wishes,

Bill (Norton) Dunham ‘73

(yes, *lots* of people still call me Norton)

for the Tusculum Alumni Executive Board

P.S. – If you are interested in checking your Rolodex (okay, that’s showing my age) to locate classmates with whom the university has lost contact, but you haven’t, email me at [norton423tn@gmail.com](mailto:norton423tn@gmail.com) or call my line (423-747-4889) and we can compare notes.