



May 1, 2023

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President's Perspective

I hope you will excuse me for "geeking out." Since the State of Israel will celebrate its 75th anniversary Sunday, May 14, I recently read Israel's Declaration of Independence.

To my surprise, I noticed it spoke of those who had returned to the land as “pioneers” (*ma’apilim*), who had made the desert bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built towns and economy and created communities and a thriving culture.

Reading the word “pioneers” made me think of our own Pioneers who came to Tusculum and have accomplished so much in their preparation. It also made me think of our Pioneers who will soon graduate and accomplish great things in their careers, communities and families.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President

Word of the Week

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” – Psalm 1:2-3 NIV

Photo of the Week



Jules Aiken, left, and Matthew Palazzo were ready for the Midnight Breakfast. You can see other photos on the Tusculum [Facebook page](#). You can also watch [this story](#) on WVLT, a television station in Knoxville. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Graduation is Saturday

All Tusculum family members are invited to the spring graduation ceremony Saturday, May 6, at 10 a.m. in Pioneer Arena.

Graduates can invite as many guests as they would like, and tickets are not required. The doors to the arena will open an hour before the ceremony.

Those who cannot attend graduation in person can watch a livestream of the ceremony at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvN_XM1h9Zw. They can also watch it at their convenience after commencement ends by clicking the same link.

We congratulate our graduates and are excited to celebrate this special milestone in their lives!



Grace Garrett, right, receives congratulations from Dr. Hummel during the December ceremony.

Graduating seniors need to ensure they have paid all costs

We remind students who are graduating in May that all outstanding charges must be paid in full to participate in the graduation ceremony. Students with balances owed to the university will not be allowed to walk the stage Saturday, May 6.

We encourage students to address any balances by calling the Business Office at 423-636-7300, ext. 5061, emailing business@tusculum.edu or visiting the office on the first floor of McCormick Hall.

Lantern Festival is Wednesday

Students graduating Saturday, May 6, or walking across the stage during that ceremony are invited to participate in the Lantern Festival Wednesday, May 3, at 6 p.m. in Chalmers Conference Center.

This is one of Tusculum's most treasured traditions. Graduating students will pass a lantern to an underclassman they believe will carry on the Tusculum tradition and give pins to faculty and staff members who have been particularly meaningful to them.

The Lantern Festival is an emotional and meaningful event, and we urge students to participate.



The poster features a dark background with a starry pattern. At the top, it says 'TU | STUDENT AFFAIRS' in white. Below that, a large orange banner reads '2023 LANTERN FESTIVAL' in black, serif font. On the left, a white lantern icon is surrounded by radiating lines. Text next to it says 'ATTENTION: SPRING 2023 GRADUATES!' and 'WEDNESDAY, MAY 3RD 6PM @ CHALMERS'. To the right, two orange boxes contain text: 'The Lantern Festival is a Tusculum tradition where graduating students honor up to two faculty or staff members that have positively impacted their TU experience and one student to carry on their legacy. Reception will follow the ceremony.' and 'Graduates can RSVP by using QR Code or by emailing chensley@tusculum.edu. Please RSVP by Monday, May 1st 2023.' A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

Chorus concert taking place tonight

All Tusculum family members are welcome to attend a free concert of the Tusculum University Community Chorus tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre.

The concert will last about an hour and feature a nice variety of songs. You can see the list [here](#). A few of the songs that will be performed will also be sung by some chorus members during a trip to Costa Rica in June.

If you attend tonight, you can even see a couple of Tusculum family members sing in the chorus – Bobbie Clarkston and Jacqueline d'Entremont.

The concert is free, but donations are welcome.



The chorus rehearses last week. Photo from Rouja Green

More music on Tuesday!

After you see the chorus Monday, we encourage you to return Tuesday, May 2, for the Tusculum University Community Band performance in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre.

The band, which includes several Tusculum students, will take the stage at 6 p.m. This concert is also free, but the university welcomes donations.

A nice component of this concert will be two students – freshman Derek Hatcher and senior Jyclyn West – conducting the band for a song each. Hatcher and West are taking on that task as students in the Conducting 310 class. In addition, the concert will feature a flute concerto by Dr. Phil Thompson and a xylophone solo by Jay Oberfeiting. The two men are adjunct music faculty members at Tusculum and members of the community band.

You can learn more in this [news release](#).



Derek Hatcher conducts during a recent rehearsal. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Checkout procedures for the spring semester

The Office of Student Affairs wants to alert students about proper checkout procedures to avoid charges. **Students who decide to check out before the end of the semester need to understand they are voluntarily terminating their housing contract and will not be refunded.**

Please review these [checkout steps](#).

Students may check out with a resident assistant from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. each day at Student Affairs. If they need to check out between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m., they need to see their RA for a pre-checkout and understand that any damages or cleaning needs that arise afterward will be charged to their account.

Nongraduating students are required to complete this checkout by Friday, May 5, at 5 p.m. Graduating students are required to complete the checkout by Sunday, May 7, at noon. Anyone who needs to stay past this date must receive approval from Student Affairs.

Students who have questions can contact the Office of Student Affairs at 423-636-7315 or studentaffairs@tusculum.edu.

Library hours for Finals Week

The Thomas J. Garland Library has modified its hours for Finals Week. Please see the graphic below for details.



Library Hours for Finals Week!

**Saturday, April 29th: 3pm to
1am**

**Sunday, April 30th: 3pm to
1am**

**Monday and Tuesday, May
1st & 2nd: 8am to 1am**

**Wednesday through Friday
May 3rd - 5th: 8am to 5pm**

Health clinic's last day for the semester was today

The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic, located in Meen Center 008 on the ground floor will be closed after Monday, May 1, until the start of the fall semester.

We are pleased to have served students, faculty and staff at the clinic and thank the providers who have delivered excellent care.

Cafeteria closes after Friday

The cafeteria will close after lunch Friday, May 5, and will reopen to faculty, staff and students for the fall semester.

During the summer, the cafeteria will be reserved for participants in camps.

Pioneer Exchange availability altering after this week

The Pioneer Exchange, located in Room 403 of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons, will be open through Friday, May 5, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Beginning next week, the facility will be open by appointment only until the fall semester.

To schedule an appointment, please email Dr. Shelby Ward, director of the Center for Civic Advancement, at sward@tusculum.edu or Amanda Delbridge, assistant director, at adelbridge@tusculum.edu.

The Px 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.

TRIO celebration set for June 6

We encourage you to join us for a special ceremony as we honor the 50th anniversary of the Upward Bound program and the 25th anniversary of Student Support Services. This event, taking place Tuesday, June 6, will feature leaders in our TRIO programs, alumni and representatives from the federal government.

Further details are in the graphic below.



Funds being raised for Dorm Refresh campaign

Tusculum is embarking on a \$110,000 fundraising campaign to assist with refreshing the university's residence halls, with the goal of seeing some of the initial projects completed by the start of the fall semester.

Belle Kemp, director of alumni and community engagement, is leading the campaign. The fundraiser will seek money for items such as new furniture, ceiling fans, new lighting and painting. This campaign is not viewed as a renovation, which would involve much more extensive work.

Students and alumni are helping promote the campaign.

If you want to discuss opportunities to donate to this campaign, please contact Kemp at 423-636-7303 or orbkemp@tusculum.edu.



Jarrod Lockhart stands in the lobby of Welty-Craig Hall. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Summer and fall registration continues

Students can still register for summer and fall classes. We encourage anyone who has not completed the registration process to take care of this matter as soon as possible.

Taking classes in the summer makes life easier, potentially reducing students' course load in the fall or spring or helping our Pioneers graduate early. Registering for the fall as quickly as possible ensures students have a better chance of enrolling in the classes they want and need.

Here are the summer sessions:

- Full – May 15-Aug. 11
- Early – May 15-June 23
- Late – June 26-Aug. 11

Students cannot register for housing in the fall until they have registered for classes. Also, they will not be able to register for courses if they have a business office hold on their student account. In addition, they must meet with their advisor before they can choose their courses.

Obtaining housing for the fall

Returning students who have not applied for fall housing need to complete that task as soon as possible by visiting <https://my.tusculum.edu/forms/housing-lottery-form/>.

Students cannot participate in the housing lottery if they have not registered for fall classes. Students must ensure they are cleared with all other offices, including business, financial aid and the registrar. Those who are not cleared with any of these offices will need to resolve the hold and will not be housed until it is removed.

When students select their first, second and third preferences, they cannot pick the same location more than once. Due to the high number of requests for the apartments, the D room will return to a double space. It will also be priced at a discounted rate.

You can learn more about Tusculum's housing [here](#).

Tusculum student recognized by national organization

Estefania Juarez, who will graduate Saturday with a bachelor's degree in political science and a minor in gender studies, has been recognized as part of the 2023 ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll.

The ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll awards college students performing outstanding work to advance nonpartisan democratic engagement at participating campuses. Juarez joins a group of 175 students recognized for their voter registration, education and turnout efforts ahead of the 2022 midterm elections.

Juarez led the 2022 voter registration effort on campus and has been involved in voter registration activities on campus for three years. In November, ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge selected Tusculum for its inaugural Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting recognition.

Juarez said in November that students wanted to focus on voter education in the fall. In particular, they sought to convey that mid-term elections and local elections deserve a citizen's attention. She noted that voters in these elections can be the difference in a candidate winning or losing an election in their congressional district or in a city or county race.

"We got a lot of people registered on campus that were not previously registered," Juarez said. "If they were new voters, we encouraged conversations about local issues and especially the four amendments that were proposed to the Tennessee constitution."

We congratulate Juarez on this impressive honor!



Estefania Juarez, left, participates in voter registration activities.

College of Civic and Liberal Arts holds awards ceremony

The College of Civic and Liberal Arts held its annual awards ceremony last week to mark the end of the academic year, and the list of honorees was extensive! You can read the list [here](#).

In his introductory remarks at the ceremony, Wayne Thomas, the college's dean, argued that the current generation of Tusculum teachers is the best ever. He tied it to the massive influx of new technology in the last 20 years, the No Child Left Behind law, the pandemic and ChatGPT.

"To ease your worried minds, all I can say is, no matter how hard or mysterious the work before us is, you know at the end of the day, the day is ours," Thomas told faculty members. "It'll be OK. We figured out smartphones and Wikipedia and a pandemic. You got this, too. You are, after all, the greatest generation of teachers to have ever lived, because you've faced these obstacles and produced these amazing students."

Then he spoke to the students.

"A university degree – especially one in the humanities, fine arts, or social sciences – is meant to prepare you for any job," Thomas said. "You are prepared to think for yourselves, and you're consequently prepared to navigate the unknown, just like you did during the pandemic. Students, we are so proud of you. We are proud of your art, your publications, your scholarship, your internships, your jobs, your

graduate and professional schools. Mostly, we're proud that we had some hand in shaping who you've become."



Dr. Shelby Ward, left, presents the Student Excellence in Scholarship Award to Rory Church. Photo from Rouja Green

Alumna addresses students and faculty members

Tusculum was graced with the presence of one of its alumni, Erika Witt, who delivered the keynote address Wednesday during the College of Civic and Liberal Arts awards ceremony. Later, Witt gave a lively and interactive presentation in the Meen Center.

Witt is coordinator of public services for the Leonard S. Washington Memorial Library and Curator for the Southern University at New Orleans Museum of Art. She also teaches Principles of Museology there. Witt has developed numerous art and history exhibitions and programs and cared for various collections in Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Virginia.

Witt received a bachelor's degree in museum studies with a concentration in history from Tusculum in 2012 and then earned a master's degree from Southern University in New Orleans and is now pursuing her doctorate at Louisiana State University.

As part of her message, Witt highlighted how a Tusculum education can take students places.

“You can get anywhere in the world from 60 Shiloh Road,” she told student. “Had it not been for the teachers that poured into me, I wouldn’t have been even remotely connected to any of the objects you see here. I wouldn’t have been able to go to Egypt or Ghana or even have the job that I have now. Thank your professors. You may not appreciate them right because you’re right in the thick of the problems. However, later on down the line, you will appreciate them, and these are going to be some of the best years of your life.”



Erika Witt, center, poses with, left to right, Dr. David Smith, Dr. Joel Van Amberg, Dr. Angela Keaton and Dr. Peter Noll. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Dr. Kate Smith named the GEM Award recipient

Dr. Kate Smith, associate professor of psychology and co-chair of the recent Academic Symposium, was named the President’s GEM Award winner for April. Dr. Hummel announced her selection during the President’s Coffee Friday.

Here are comments Dr. Hummel shared about Dr. Smith:

“She’s awesome. She is a pleasure to work with and does a lot. She is an excellent example of the importance of engaged faculty in the lives of our students. She is always willing to go the extra mile for her students.”

“She is well loved by her students. She has been a great professor, advisor and an inspiration. She is also an effective and encouraging educator. She constantly gives students opportunities to enrich our education and does all she can to support us along the way, whether it’s research opportunities, internships, club memberships (Psi Chi and Psychology Club) or symposia.”

“She mentors Ledford scholars, teaches and overload, helps students apply for external funding, co-chaired the Academic Symposium. She is a huge advocate for student research, including taking five students to Puerto Rico to present at a psychology research conference.”

“Outside of all she does for Tusculum and our students she leads a Girl Scout group.”



Dr. Kate Smith stands in front of the Meen Center. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Tusculum summer youth camps start this month on campus!

Tusculum has scheduled multiple summer youth camps. The first one starts May 29. If you have family members who qualify, you can sign up by visiting <https://site.tusculum.edu/camps/>. If you know of others who might be interested, please let them know.

We thank Greg Fay, director of camps and continuing education, and the faculty and staff members who collaborated with him to create a robust list of camps for this summer.

Enjoy summer youth camps at Tusculum!



<https://site.tusculum.edu/camps/>
to learn more and register.

TUSCULUM
UNIVERSITY
CAMPS

MUSIC
THEATRE
FORENSICS
PIONEER SKILLS
ART AND DESIGN
CREATIVE WRITING
MEDICAL PROFESSIONS
HAND TOOL WOODWORKING

College of Education inducts new honor society members

Five students in our College of Education are now members of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education. They are Kaylee Enloe, Kaitlyn Greenwell, Melvin Hopewell, Rebecca Kidwell and

Carla Pratt. Greenwell and Enloe participated in the initiation ceremony held Wednesday, April 26, in the Meen Center.

Tusculum's Alpha Iota Zeta chapter was installed in 2017.

Membership in Kappa Delta Pi implies fostering the high ideals of the education profession by assuming trusteeship of a rich professional legacy. The ideals that guide members of the society are fidelity to humanity, science, service and toil.

Leading Wednesday's ceremony were Dr. Miriam Stroder, dean of the College of Education; Jennifer Spezia, chapter president; and Chelsea Daugherty, chapter secretary/treasurer. Dr. Peggy Rochelle, associate professor of education, guided the inductees during the signing portion of the ceremony.



Left to right are Chelsea Daugherty, Kaylee Enloe, Dr. Peggy Goodson-Rochelle, Jennifer Spezia, Kaitlyn Greenwell and Dr. Miriam Stroder. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Black Student Union holds end-of-year event

Celebrating the end of the academic year, the Black Student Union held a Soul Food Sunday Cooking Competition featuring fried chicken and macaroni and cheese. The winners were Team Chicken for the chicken, Soul Food Soldiers for the macaroni and cheese and Afro Rasta Blastas for overall best team.

The BSU has achieved tremendous growth in the three years since it became active again. We congratulate the group on this success and are confident will continue during the 2023-24 academic year. We are excited to see what the future brings!



Black Student Union members gather for a photo during the event. They are joined by Dr. Katherine Everhart and Steve Anderson, the co-advisers. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Door signs now available from the Office of Communications and Marketing

The Office of Communications and Marketing has developed a new door sign for faculty and staff members who do not work in the Athletic Department. Since we announced this initiative last week, several faculty and staff members have requested a sign. Join the list!

The sign identifies the occupant of an office with university branding. It features the “TU” logo followed by a vertical line and then the office occupant’s name. This follows the convention used for colleges and programs that is a variation of the university logo. These signs build further brand recognition and pride in the university and enables Tusculum to have consistency in the look of door signs.

You can request a door name by completing the [branding request form](#). There is no cost for the door signs. Anyone who wants a holder for the sign should email Chad Grindstaff, director of the Facilities Management Department, at cgrindstaff@tusculum.edu.

Spreading the word about the “5 X 10 Plays”

The “5 X 10 Plays” have concluded for this year, and we congratulate the writers, the directors and the cast for producing excellent results that brought enthusiastic responses from the audiences.

As part of promoting the plays, Rouja Green, director of Tusculum’s Center for the Arts, and student Gracie Weems, who directed “Swept Under the Rug” were interviewed on Daytime Tri-Cities, a show on local station WJHL. You can see the interview [here](#).



Rouja Green, center, speaks as Gracie Weems, left, and co-host Chris McIntosh listen. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Reminders

- Beginning the week of May 22 and concluding the week of July 24, offices on campus will be closed on Fridays. Employees can work with their supervisors to determine how they will complete their 40 hours each week during that period.
- Tusculum wants to be sure everyone is aware of the policy on posting and distributing materials on campus. Materials may not be posted on any undesignated areas, including wood or painted surfaces, doors, glass, walls, car windshields, or over previously posted materials. Tile or cement walls may be permissive but must be checked with the facility manager." The university will add cork strips in all elevators on campus and add a bulletin board near the Center for Academic

Success and Tutoring on the ground floor of the Meen Center to assist with the information dissemination process.

- Student Support Services and ARCHES have provided free webinars for faculty and staff members related to supporting first-generation college students. The remaining one for the spring is Monday, May, 15, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The webinar, available through Zoom, is a pre-recorded presentation from a higher education expert. You can learn the names, Zoom links and details of the presentation [here](#). If you have additional questions, please email Rachael Barnett, SSS director, at rbarnett@tusculum.edu.
- The key audit by the Facilities Management Department continues. Remaining departments and offices will be notified when facilities management will visit. Employees who have keys they were not assigned will need to complete paperwork to properly document possession.
- Students can schedule a counseling appointment with Tommy Delbridge, a licensed clinical social worker, or Stephanie Edwards, a licensed professional counselor. They can request an appointment by visiting <https://my.tusculum.edu/forms/request-an-appointment/> or emailing counseling@tusculum.edu. Delbridge and Edwards meet with students in person in Rooms 230 and 233 of the Thomas J. Garland Library and conduct virtual sessions.

Events and activities

All Tusculum family members

Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m., Pioneer Arena; **graduation**

Students

Wednesday, May 3, 6 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; **Lantern Festival**

Spiritual

Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m. Meen Center lecture hall; **Arrowhead Church C+YA (College & Young Adults)**

Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m., First Christian Church; **PILLAR Young Adult Ministry**

Community

Monday, May 1, 4 p.m., Behan Arena Theatre; **Great Literature Alive Well Playing in Greeneville, Tennessee**

Monday, May 1, 7:30 p.m. Marilyn duBrisk Theatre; **Tusculum University Community Choir concert**

Tuesday, May 2, 6 p.m., Marilyn duBrisk Theatre; **Tusculum University Community Band concert**

Athletics

Monday, May 1, 3 p.m., Dahlonega, Georgia; women's tennis team vs. Columbus State University in the NCAA Division II Southeast Regional

Wednesday, May 3, 10 a.m., Anderson, South Carolina; outdoor track and field teams at the SAC Championship

Thursday, May 4, 11 a.m., Anderson, South Carolina; outdoor track and field teams at the SAC Championship



Junior sprinter Tyrell Edwards and his teammates will compete in the SAC Championship Wednesday and Thursday. He recently set the Tusculum University school record in the men's 100 meters. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

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

Faculty and staff birthdays

Monday, May 1 – Dr. Kurtis Miller

Monday, May 1 – Lelia Dykes

Wednesday, May 3 – April Lane

Saturday, May 6 – Kathy Hipps

Saturday, May 6 – Allen Vital

Saturday, May 6 – Todd Hertel

Sunday, May 7 – Angel Wright

Sunday, May 7 – Brian Steinberg

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!