



May 8, 2023

Important note: Following this edition, we will convert to our summer schedule in which The Pioneer Press is distributed every other Monday. Please take that into account when you request items to be included in upcoming editions. Weekly editions will resume in August.

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President's Perspective

Graduation was fantastic! I loved seeing a full house bursting with proud families and excited graduates.

Inviting our Golden Pioneers is a great Tusculum tradition. The Golden Pioneers who returned for the 50th anniversary of their graduation acknowledged how much the university meant to them and what they were able to accomplish with their Tusculum education. I am grateful they set a good example for our newest graduates to remain engaged and to pay it forward to the following classes of Pioneers.

The inspiring message from Dionté Grey, a 2012 graduate, to keep the Pioneer spirit, combined with our students' impressive achievements and bright futures, left us overflowing with Pioneer Pride.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President



Here is the large crowd that attended graduation. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Word of the Week

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” – Romans 12:12 ESV

Photo of the Week



Left to right, Cameron Quinn, Jackson Krauss, Angela Masiello, Colton Edwards, Megan Page and Dustyn Smith enjoy some free time before the start of the graduation ceremony. You can view more graduation photos on Tusculum's [Facebook page](#). Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Campus work day next Monday

Tusculum will hold a campus work day Monday, May 15, for faculty and staff members to help the Facilities Management Department prepare residence halls for summer occupants.

Employees can choose to either work from 8:30-11:30 a.m. or 12:30-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided from 11:30-12:30 for faculty and staff members who work either shift.

Employees should meet in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons to receive their assignments. Lunch will be served in the Quad between Haynes Hall and Welty-Craig Hall.

If you are interested in helping, please email Jenni Bowman with facilities management at jbowman@tusculum.edu with your preferred shift.

We are grateful for any assistance in creating a nice living environment for students and guests.



Jackson Miller, left, and Jennifer Fincher clean a room in Katherine Hall in 2021. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Funds being raised for Dorm Refresh campaign

Tusculum has begun 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.

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 Belle Kemp, director of alumni and community engagement, at 423-636-0565 or bkemp@tusculum.edu.



Refreshing our residence halls

Help us enhance the campus experience for our residential students by participating in the:

DORM REFRESH CAMPAIGN!

\$110,000 GOAL

- ✓ New Furniture
- ✓ Ceiling Fans
- ✓ New Lighting
- ✓ Painting

Scan the QR code or visit
www.tusculum.edu/giving
to make your donation!



Visit <https://site.tusculum.edu/dorm-refresh/> to learn more.

Name a lobby!
Share your experience!
Get your roommates to give!



**WHERE FRIENDSHIPS
ARE BUILT AND
MEMORIES ARE MADE.**



Summer schedule changes

Now that the spring semester has concluded, we will have some changes in schedules on campus until the start of the fall semester. Among them are:

- The Thomas J. Garland Library will be open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday and from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday. The library will be closed on Fridays during the altered work schedule period (story below).
- The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic will be closed.
- The cafeteria will be closed except for those who are participating in camps.
- The Pioneer Exchange will be open by appointment only. 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.

Reminder about employees' revised work schedule during the summer

To provide some flexibility during the summer, employees will be able to complete their 40-hour work week differently.

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.

For example, supervisors can approve a schedule in which their direct reports can work 10 hours a day Monday-Thursday and then not work on Fridays. Employees are also eligible, with approval from their supervisor, to work eight-hour days in the office Monday-Thursday and then complete their eight hours remotely on Fridays. Employees who would experience difficulty working a 40-hour week in a revised manner can request their supervisor to approve the use of PTO for unworked hours.

We are pleased to provide this revised summer schedule for this year to reduce employee travel expenses while helping the university conserve energy resources.

Tusculum summer youth camps start this month on campus!

Tusculum abundant summer youth camps start 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. You can also learn more by reading this [news release](#).

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

Summer course sessions start next week

Summer sessions start next week, and it is not too late to register. Taking classes in the summer makes life easier, potentially reducing students' course load in the fall or spring or helping our Pioneers graduate early.

Here are the summer sessions:

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

Registration for fall courses is also still available. Completing this process as quickly as possible ensures students have a better chance of enrolling in the classes they want and need.

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.

Welcome our new women's basketball coach

The Athletic Department will hold a news conference today at 1:30 p.m. to introduce Roger Hodge as our new women's basketball coach.

The event will be held in Chalmers Conference Center, and all Tusculum family members are invited to attend.

If you cannot be present in person, you can watch the event at <https://youtube.com/live/heOWJvimX30?feature=share>.



TUSCULUM
— ATHLETICS —

ROGER
HODGE

HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

Painting event in honor of mothers being held at the Doak House

If you are looking for a way to celebrate the mothers in your lives, the Doak House Museum is the place to be Thursday, May 11, at 6 p.m.

The Center for the Arts will hold an en plain air painting event on the Doak House grounds. Participants will create a painting of the Doak House and incorporate flowers native to the area that are in bloom at this time of year. The cost is \$40 per station. Full details are in the flyer below and in this [news release](#).

TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR THE ARTS PRESENTS

Painting with the Masters Series

MOTHER'S DAY PAINTING EVENT

Fun outdoor painting workshop
live music | food truck | tour of
the Doak House Museum & more!

Thursday | May 11 | 2023 | 6 PM

At the Doak House Museum

690 Erwin Hwy | Tusculum | TN

Featuring artist William Bledsoe & "The Strings of Green" band.
Painting stations are \$40 and include up to 3 people per station.
Food truck on site at additional cost.

Create some unforgettable memories!

TUSCULUM
— CENTER FOR THE ARTS —

SCAN QR CODE
FOR TICKETS



Guests on campus Friday could impact parking

The Greeneville and Greene County school systems will hold Field Day on campus Friday, May 12. Many members of the community will be present and parking in our lots. All spaces on campus will be available to the community.

From 8 a.m.-2 p.m., you should expect parking lots to be fuller than normal. Please make plans to arrive earlier or to potentially seek an alternative parking location. We are grateful for everyone's patience and understanding.

Reflections from students made for a memorable Lantern Festival

Emotions flowed freely, from tears to laughter, during the Lantern Festival Wednesday, May 3.

We had a huge turnout in Chalmers Conference Center as graduating students passed lanterns to other undergraduates they felt would carry on the Tusculum tradition and gave pins to faculty and staff members who have been meaningful to them.



Left to right are Dr. Robert Gall, Ken Brewer, McKayla Willey and Emiah Burrowes. You can see more photos from the event on Tusculum's [Facebook page](#). Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Applying for fall housing

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 hosts Congressional Art Competition

We were pleased Friday, May 5, to serve as the host of the Congressional Art Competition for Tennessee's 1st District.

Art prepared by high school students in the district hung in Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center. During the ceremony later in the morning, Bill Bledsoe, assistant professor of art and design, emphasized the importance of drawing and painting in securing a degree in art.

Dr. Hummel was able to talk about the university's strengths. He talked about the students who designed a custom graphics package for the Ford Mustang in 2021 and a student who helped design the branding for a university vehicle. He also highlighted Tusculum's affordability.

Afterward, Laura King, executive director of traditional admission, joined Congresswoman Diana Harshbarger at Dobyens-Bennett High School in Kingsport and presented certificates for scholarships to two students there who earned awards in the competition.



A student explains her art to Dr. Hummel. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Dr. Byrd interviewed about the new wilderness experience program

Dr. Suzanne Byrd, chair of the Sport Science Department, was interviewed by WJHL, a local television station, Friday about the new wilderness experience program. You can see the story [here](#).

Tusculum is starting the wilderness experience program in the fall, and it will include an opportunity for students to earn a minor in that subject. In addition, the university is encouraging community members to take some of the courses via audit. A certificate is available for fewer credit hours than the minor. Dr. Byrd is serving as the program coordinator.

The wilderness experience program is a great way for the university to take advantage of the abundant natural resources in East Tennessee and on campus and provide active and experiential learning for our students and the community. We are excited to launch the program.



Dr. Suzanne Byrd during her interview

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 as well as alumni and representatives from the federal government. To RSVP, please visit <https://www.cognitofrms.com/TusculumUniversity/TUTRIOCelebration>.

Further details are in the graphic below.



Final webinar about first-generation students next week

The final free webinar for faculty and staff members, provided by Student Support Services and ARCHES, related to supporting first-generation college students will be Tuesday, May, 16, from 11 a.m.-noon. This was originally scheduled for Monday, May 15, but SSS and ARCHES needed to revise the date.

The webinar, available through Zoom, is a pre-recorded presentation from a higher education expert. The title is "Traversing new territory as low-income first-generation students of color."

The presentation examines how institutional values of independence ignore the familial commitments of low-income, first-generation students of color and consequently undermine their well-being and performance, especially during the transition to college. The presenter will discuss how such cultural

mismatches manifested before the COVID-19 pandemic and explore preliminary research on the ways in which shifts to remote learning exacerbated these mismatches.

The Zoom link

is <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/85378809865?pwd=ME96R1B2cmIrMnVRWDcyRnhFMkYrUT09>.

If you have additional questions, please email Rachael Barnett, SSS director, at rbarnett@tusculum.edu.

SSS and ARCHES participants take trip to New Orleans

Participants in the Student Support Services program for traditional students and ARCHES program for adult and online studies students, hit the road Sunday for a trip that has taken them to New Orleans.

The group consists of 19 SSS participants, seven ARCHES participants and four staff members. They visited the University of Alabama on the way. They will also visit Southern University at New Orleans, where they will spend time with Tusculum alumna Erika Witt, coordinator of public services for the Leonard S. Washington Memorial Library and curator for the Museum of Art at that higher education institution.

Students and staff will also experience a swamp tour, cooking demonstration, ghost tour and the National World War II Museum.



Here are the students and staff in Alabama Sunday on their way to New Orleans. Photo from Rachael Barnett

Chorus concert hit the right note for the audience

Magnificent singing filled the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre Monday, May 1, when the Tusculum University Community Chorus took the stage. The group performed a wonderful selection of songs that brought enjoyment to the audience.

If you are interested in becoming a chorus member, please contact Rouja Green, director of Tusculum's Center for the Arts, at rgreen@tusculum.edu or chorus director Kathy May at kmay@tusculum.edu.



The Tusculum University Community Chorus performs its spring concert. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Another delightful concert by the Tusculum University Community Band

Enriching personal lives further, the Tusculum University Community Band followed up the chorus' concert with its own performance Tuesday, May 2, in the Marilyn duBrisk Theatre.

The concert provided the opportunity for students Jyclyn West, who graduated Saturday, and Derek Hatcher to conduct a song each as part of a class they took. They also played instruments in the band. In addition, Dr. Phil Thompson and Jay Oberfeiting, band members and adjunct faculty members, performed a flute concerto and a xylophone solo, respectively.

Interested in joining the community band? You can email Dr. David Gonzalez, Tusculum's director of bands, at dgonzalez@tusculum.edu.



Students Hughston Burnheimer, second from left, and Derek Hatcher, third from left, and adjunct faculty member Jay Oberfeiting, far right, play during the concert. Photo by student Ashley Howell

Reminders

- New door signs are available for faculty and staff members. 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. You can request a door name by completing the [branding request form](#). The door signs are free. Anyone who wants a holder for the sign should email Chad Grindstaff, director of the Facilities Management Department, at cgrindstaff@tusculum.edu.
- 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 has ordered cork strips for all elevators on campus and will add a bulletin board near the Center for Academic Success and Tutoring on the ground floor of the Meen Center.
- 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.

Events and activities

All Tusculum family members

Monday, May 8, 1:30 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; **news conference for new women’s basketball coach**

Tuesday, May 9, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Thursday, May 11, 6 p.m., Doak House Museum grounds: **en plain air painting**

Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Tuesday, May 16, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Thursday, May 18, 7 p.m., Old Gym; **REFIT exercise class**

Faculty and staff

Friday, May 19, 9:30 a.m.; **Pioneer Quest**

Community

Tuesday, May 16, Marilyn duBrisk Theatre; **Talent Search event**

Athletics

Saturday, May 13, 9 a.m., Cleveland, Tennessee; **outdoor track and field team at Lee Last Chance Meet**



Thirteen Pioneers earned medals last week at the SAC Outdoor Track and Field Championships. You can learn more about the performance by the men and women in this [news release](#). Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

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

Faculty and staff birthdays

Tuesday, May 9 – Dr. Susan Monteleone

Thursday, May 11 – Jenna Agostino

Saturday, May 13 – Candace Hagie

Sunday, May 14 – Deborah Davis

Sunday, May 14 – Alice Lawson

Sunday, May 14 – Brandon Steele

Sunday, May 14 – Dr. Robert Gall

Saturday, May 20 – Mary Stryk

Sunday, May 21 – Dr. Miriam Stroder

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!