



June 5, 2023

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President's Perspective

I like what I see on campus this summer.

The arrival of Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science students for the annual summer academy at Tusculum is exciting. I am seeing them walking around campus, learning and having fun and am looking forward to speaking with them at several points during their stay with us this month. Kudos to the TRIO team for its exceptional planning and to the faculty, staff, students and alumni who are participating.

It was also enjoyable to see younger children on campus last week for the Hand Tool Woodworking Camp at the Doak House Museum. Congratulations to Dr. Peter Noll and his team for their work on this camp. We have several other camps on the books for this summer, and I welcome the participation of children and thank all of the organizers for their efforts.

The Greeneville Flyboys kick off their season this week and have their home opener Wednesday. Appalachian League baseball is a lot of fun, and I encourage you to catch a game at least once during the summer.

Having our campus busy with multiple events during the summer is an important goal for the university. We are focused on growing the number of guests at Tusculum during the summer, and I will be thrilled to see the additional ideas that are developed and come to fruition.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel
President

Word of the Week

“And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets.” – Zechariah 8:5 ESV

Photo of the Week



Students in the Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science academy work on a project in a class taught by Dr. Susan Monteleone, associate professor of biology. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Students should register for fall courses

We urge our students who have not registered for their fall courses to complete that task as soon as possible.

Registering now will ensure students remain on track for graduation. Engaging in this process also increases the likelihood they will be able to receive the courses they desire.

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.



Registration for the late summer session still available

Students can still register for the late session, which runs from Jun 26-Aug. 11.

Taking classes in the summer potentially reduces students' course load in the fall or spring or helps our Pioneers graduate early.

Students 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.

Fall housing applications

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 receive housing if they have not registered for fall classes. They 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. The D room in the apartments is returning to a double space but will have a discounted rate.

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

Juneteenth to be a Tusculum holiday

Tusculum will now observe Juneteenth as a holiday. All Tusculum offices will be closed and no classes will be held Monday, June 19, in recognition of this federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

For your planning, Tusculum offices will also be closed Tuesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Classes will be on summer break that week.

The list of holidays for the remainder of this fiscal year and through May 2024 fiscal year is available [here](#).

Budget information for employees

Benita Bare, our chief financial officer, is sharing the following information with employees:

As we near the end of the fiscal year, we remind you of certain policies as you spend funds toward the end of the year.

- All amounts to be spent from your current (2022-23) budget must be submitted for payment **on or before** Thursday, June 22. Invoices for 2022-23 **will not** be accepted after June 22. If you are missing invoices for purchases made prior to June 22, you **must** contact the vendor and ask to have the invoice emailed to you immediately so the payment can be processed during that last check run for June. This policy also applies to Fund 2 (restricted) accounts.
- Any invoice submitted for payment after July 1, **must** come from the new budget for 2023-24. If an invoice is received with a date prior to June 30, it will be returned to you without being paid. You must then contact the vendor to have a new invoice submitted with a date after July 1. (Some will be reluctant to do that.)
- All budget managers are responsible for submitting the invoices in a timely manner for payment processing.
- New budgets for 2023-24 will be loaded the first week of July.

TRIO celebration is Tuesday

We encourage you to join us as we honor the 50th anniversary of the Upward Bound program and the 25th anniversary of Student Support Services.

The ceremony will be Tuesday, June 6, and feature leaders in our TRIO programs as well as alumni, Dr. Hummel and representatives from the federal government. To RSVP, please visit <https://www.cognitofirms.com/TusculumUniversity/TUTRIOCelebration>.

If you cannot attend in person but would like to watch the ceremony, you can view it at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/85404786776?pwd=b0xqQTNyeFhtZW5qZDcxb0JTVG0xdz09>. The video will be posted to TRIO web pages on the Tusculum website.

Further details about the event are in the graphic below. If you have questions, please email Rachael Barnett, SSS director, at rbarnett@tusculum.edu.



Summer academy off to a great start

The annual Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science summer academy kicked off Tuesday, May 30, on campus and is off to a fast start.

The academy has brought more than 100 local students to campus. They are attending classes on a variety of subjects in the morning, many of which are being taught by Tusculum faculty and staff members. Then, in the afternoon, the students have special activities, such as art, theater and dance. In the evening, the students are enjoying additional activities on campus, such as volleyball, and off campus to places such as Pigeon Forge.

Students are also able to experience college life by staying in our residence halls during the week and eating in the Tusculum cafeteria.

The academy provides outstanding active and experiential learning experience for the students. We commend the Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science teams for developing another excellent academy. We also thank the faculty and staff who are teaching the students and the Tusculum students and recent alumni who are serving as resident assistants and resident directors.

The students will be on campus for four more weeks and then have an opportunity to travel with our TRIO staff to New York City.



Students study before participating an evening activity. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Summer youth camps underway at Tusculum

Tusculum University's first summer youth camp was held last week! The Hand Tool Woodworking Camp took place on the Doak House Museum grounds.

In addition to using tools, they participated in lawn games. We enjoyed having these children on campus for this hands-on camp and look forward to seeing them at other events at Tusculum in the future!

The remaining camps are:

- Art and Design Camp, June 20-23
- Theatre Camp, June 26-30
- Theatre Camp, July 10-14
- Pioneer Skills Camp, July 10-14
- Creative Writing Workshop July 17-21

To register for the camps, please visit <https://tusculumuniversitycamps.totalcamps.com/About%20Us>.



Camp participants show off their tool boxes made on the last day of camp. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Gardening event at the library is Wednesday

You can put your gardening skills to use by helping the Thomas J. Garland Library staff repot and trim plants that are housed inside the building.

The repotting will take place on the lawn under the trees outside the library building from 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, June 7, weather permitting. Participants will trim dead growth, cut back roots and learn to mix their own potting soil. Clippers and gloves will be available.

Further details are in the graphic below. If you have questions, you can email library@tusculum.edu or call 423-636-7320.



Dorm Refresh campaign is in full swing

Tusculum's \$110,000 fundraising campaign to assist with refreshing the university's residence halls is well underway and producing good results. We invite you to join in this endeavor to enhance the student experience at the university.

The fundraiser seeks money for items such as new furniture, ceiling fans, new lighting and painting. The goal is to have some of the initial projects completed by the start of the fall semester.

Students such as Maggie Vickers and Lake Smith and alumni are helping promote the campaign.

If you want to discuss opportunities to donate, please contact Belle Kemp, director of alumni and community engagement, at 423-636-0565 or bkemp@tusculum.edu. You can learn more about our residence halls at <https://site.tusculum.edu/housing-2/>.



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.



Join us for the yard sale in support of the Dorm Refresh Campaign

We invite you to attend a yard sale conducted by our alumni in support of the Dorm Refresh Campaign.

The event will be held Saturday, July 22, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. outside the Welcome Center at the corner of the Erwin Highway and Gilland Street across from Tusculum Baptist Church.

Anyone who is interested in donating items for the sale can contact Belle Kemp, director of alumni and community engagement, at bkemp@tusculum.edu or 423-636-0565 to discuss a date and time for dropping them off. Please include a price for the item as a baseline Kemp can use. We will accept items through Thursday, July 20. We are not accepting any clothes for this sale, though.

We look forward to seeing you.



All proceeds benefit the Dorm Refresh Campaign!

**July 22
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Outside the Welcome Center
across the street from
Tusculum Baptist Church
775 Erwin Hwy,
Tusculum, TN 37745

WHERE FRIENDSHIPS ARE BUILT AND MEMORIES ARE MADE

Alumni Yard Sale!
to support the DORM REFRESH CAMPAIGN!

TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY
ESTABLISHED 1794

Action items from the Board of Trustees meeting

As we shared in the last edition of The Pioneer Press, our Board of Trustees held its regular May meeting on campus and accomplished many things.

Here is a list of the action items from the meeting:

- Approval of August graduates
- Approval of Faculty Constitution revisions
- Approval of Faculty Handbook revisions
- Approval of the 2023-2024 Nonacademic Code of Conduct and Policies
- Approval of the new Nonstudent Minors Policy
- Approval of the compliance audit for period ending June 30, 2022
- Review and approval of the 990 tax return: Tusculum Tomorrow Trust and 990 Return Tusculum University
- Review and approval of audit engagements
- Approval of the 2023-2024 operating preliminary budget
- Approval of the Performance Evaluations Policy (2.05)
- Approval of the Retirement Plan (6.03)
- Approval of the new Confined Spaces Policy
- Approval of affirmation of the mission statement

In addition, student Maggie Vickers and recent graduates Faith Robinette and Nathaniel Valentine attended the trustee and cabinet dinner and provided their testimonials. Student Andrew Cantrell was the guest speaker during the board meeting.

We thank the board for its support and guidance of the university and express our appreciation to the students who shared their inspiring stories. We are also grateful to Dr. Hummel and the cabinet for their administrative leadership of the university.



Dr. Walter Johnson, at the lectern, speaks during the Board of Trustees meeting. Others are, left to right, Dr. Hummel; Dr. Greg Nelson, board chair; Mark Williams, board secretary; and Kim Kidwell, executive assistant to the president. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Students, Dr. Hummel ready to embark on trips to Israel

Dr. Hummel and Starr Hummel, our first lady, will lead a group that consists of students, the chair of Tusculum's Board of Trustees, community members and others on a tour of Israel.

The group will travel to the Holy Land from June 22-July 2 and visit many of the sites discussed in the Bible, such as the Sea of Galilee and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In addition to the Hummels, the group includes Dr. Greg Nelson, chair of the trustees; and students David Bowlin, Caleb Brown, Amy Dall and Kevin Swanson.

Afterward, Bowlin will join fellow student Hughston Burnheimer and recent graduate Eirik Dahlgren for three weeks working at an excavation site. This trio will assist at Tel Lachish in Israel in the search of Iron Age fortifications. Tel Lachish is the site where the ruins of the ancient Canaanite and Judean cities of Lachish are located.

Some of the participants in these trips gathered Friday at the President's House for dinner and discussion of trip preparations. We hope the trips enriches the spiritual lives of all participants and provides excellent active and experiential learning opportunities for our students!



Participants in Friday's dinner stand outside the President's House. On the front row, are, left to right, Curt Henry, Linda Henry, Amy Dall, Hughston Burnheimer, Eirik Dahlgren and Kevin Watson. On the back row are, left to right, Caleb Brown, David Bowlin, Dr. Hummel and Starr Hummel. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

Free tickets available for Greeneville Flyboys games

The Greeneville Flyboys season starts this week, and the home opener is Wednesday, June 7. One of the great benefits Tusculum employees receive is complimentary tickets to the home baseball games at Pioneer Park on our campus.

If you are interested in attending a game, please send your request to the Facilities Management Department at tuwork@tusculum.edu. Facilities must receive the request before noon for a game that day.

Tusculum has a limited number of tickets available at no charge. Employees can reserve up to four tickets. If faculty and staff would like additional tickets, they should indicate that in the email. If any tickets are available after the deadline, it is possible the university will be able to accommodate the request.

Faculty and staff will receive a confirmation email stating that their tickets will be available at the will call window. Additional tickets can always be purchased from Greeneville Flyboys.

Information about the Flyboys and the schedule is available at <https://www.milb.com/greeneville/>. Let's support the Flyboys as they pursue an Appalachian League championship!



Dr. Hummel to throw out the first pitch at three ballparks

You can watch Dr. Hummel throw out the first pitch at three games during the Appalachian League season. They are:

- Wednesday, June 7, Pioneer Park on the Tusculum campus; Greeneville Flyboys vs. the Johnson City Doughboys

- Thursday, June 8, TVA Credit Union Ballpark in Johnson City; Johnson City Doughboys vs. the Princeton WhistlePigs
- Monday, July 10, Northeast Community Credit Union Ballpark, Elizabethton; Elizabethton River Riders vs. the Bristol State Liners

Tusculum has partnered with Boyd Sports and has purchased signs on the outfield wall in the Johnson City and Elizabethton parks as part of our enrollment recruitment efforts. The university also has an agreement with Boyd for the use of Pioneer Park by the Flyboys.



This is our sign on the outfield wall near the scoreboard at TVA Credit Union Ballpark. Photo from Boyd Sports

Conserve energy during the summer

Now that we have entered the summer work schedule, we encourage employees to practice good stewardship of energy resources.

When employees leave the office on Thursday, we ask they turn off their computers and reduce the air conditioning in their workspace. In addition, we request that they turn off the lights in their workspace, on their floors and in restrooms.

Energy consumption is a major expense for Tusculum, so assistance with eliminating unnecessary usage will be beneficial. These measures are also an excellent demonstration of caring for the environment.

Additional information on door signs now available

In response to requests, the Communications and Marketing Department is offering additional options for door signage.

Some employees have requested to have not only their names on the signs but also their titles. The department has added an option for that to the [branding request form](#).

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. For those who request the title, it is placed under the name.

The department will also honor special requests such as one sign with the name and another with the title for employees with multiple sign holders. If you have a special request, please put that in the details section of the branding request.

The door signs are free. Anyone who wants a holder for a sign should email Chad Grindstaff, director of the Facilities Management Department, at cgrindstaff@tusculum.edu.

Gaming and e-sports labs open this summer

Students who are on campus or living in the area and want to participate in gaming and e-sports can visit the labs on the second floor of COG North on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the summer.

The labs will be open both days from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Other times might be available by contacting alumnus Dakota Hammonds in the Office of Student Affairs.

Dr. Nick Davidson, chair of the Sport Management Department, and Dr. Harold Branstrator, associate professor of management, are pleased to offer continued use of the labs during the summer for this popular activity.



Students play in the gaming lab. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Reminders

- Here are some summer-long changes
 - The Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic is closed.
 - The cafeteria is closed except for those who are participating in camps.
 - The Pioneer Exchange is open by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, please email Dr. Shelby Ward, director of the Center for Civic Advancement, at ward@tusculum.edu or Amanda Delbridge, assistant director, at adelbridge@tusculum.edu.
- 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 placed cork strips in 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

Tuesday, June 6, 3:30 p.m., Chalmers Conference Center; **celebration of Upward Bound's 50th anniversary and Student Support Services' 25th anniversary**

Wednesday, June 7, 9 a.m., outside the Thomas J. Garland Library; **Gardening at the Library**

Faculty and staff

Thursday, June 15, 9 a.m., Zoom; **Operations Success Committee**

Friday, June 16, 9:30 a.m., Pioneer Field and other locations on campus: **Pioneer Quest**

Community

Thursday, June 8, 7:30 a.m., Scott M. Niswonger Commons Room 313 and the Hurley Room; Talent Search event "Mastering the Art of First Impressions"

Faculty and staff birthdays

Friday, June 9 – Makyla Wyatt

Monday, June 12 – Audrey Brackens

Tuesday, June 13 – Amy Franklin

Friday, June 16 – Amanda Kyker

Sunday, June 18 – Justin Chartrand

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!