



**May 22, 2023**

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**President's Perspective**

Our mission statement is both descriptive (who we are) and aspirational (who we are trying to become). It is always easier to talk about our mission than it is to fulfill our mission.

During our Board of Trustees meeting last week, we witnessed solid evidence of fulfilling our mission. We highlight that we offer an active and experiential education, and the four students and recent graduates who spoke to the trustees demonstrated how their Tusculum studies have met that element of our mission.

Three recent graduates – Faith Robinette, Nathaniel Valentine and Andrew Cantrell – were chemistry majors and will be pursuing doctoral degrees in the fall. They were engaged in research most graduate students can only hope to experience.

Current student Maggie Vickers is a history and English major, the current Student Government Association president and a resident assistant. Similarly, she has been directly involved with research and scholarship typical of a graduate student. Part of her active and experiential education has also come outside of the classroom and through various student activities and residential life.

Outstanding professors who provide personal attention and involve students in research give our students a strong competitive advantage.

The trustees and I are proud of our students and graduates and the incredibly valuable education they receive at Tusculum.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel  
President



The Board of Trustees posed for a photo Thursday during its meeting Thursday. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing



## Word of the Week

“So that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God” – Colossians 1:10 NRS

## Photo of the Week



Here is the morning work crew reporting for duty during the campus work day Monday, May 15. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

## Experienced fundraiser named to lead the Office of Institutional Advancement

Edward Roberts, a 25-year fundraising veteran in higher education and other nonprofit organizations, has been named vice president for institutional advancement. He began his duties today and will work at the Welcome Center building at the corner of the Erwin Highway and Gilland Street.

He will team with Jolin Hawk, director of development; Belle Kemp, director of alumni and community engagement; Robin Crabtree, grants and foundation manager; and Susan Carson, advancement services specialist, to achieve the university's fundraising goals and enhance Tusculum's relationships with our former students.

One of Roberts' first initiatives will be to collaborate with Kemp to ensure the success of a recently launched \$110,000 Dorm Refresh Campaign, which is designed to enhance the look and comfort of Tusculum's residence halls. He will also be active in maintaining our relationships with current donors as well as cultivating new ones to meet our mission and strategic goals. He will also serve on the Executive Cabinet.

Roberts most recently served as vice president of institutional advancement at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. He is excited to be part of the Tusculum family and believes the university is positioned for growth. He also commended Kim Kidwell, who is transitioning from leading the Office of Institutional Advancement to serving as executive assistant to the president, for leaving the office in excellent shape.

Be sure to welcome Roberts when you see him on campus. You can learn more about him in this [news release](#).





Edward Roberts

### **Dorm Refresh campaign is in full swing**

Tusculum has launched the \$110,000 fundraising campaign to assist with refreshing the university's residence halls. We invite you to participate!

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. 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 to this campaign, please contact Belle Kemp, director of alumni and community engagement, at 423-636-0565 or [bkemp@tusculum.edu](mailto: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](http://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.**



Revised employee work schedule for the summer starts today



Beginning this week 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 work 10 hours a day Monday-Thursday and then be off 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.

The Registrar's Office will be open from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday. The office might periodically be open later Wednesday, but that is not guaranteed. Many staff members in the Registrar's Office will work remotely Friday, so email responses should be available that day.

The Thomas J. Garland Library will be open 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday.

## **Other summer schedule changes**

Here are some other 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 [sward@tusculum.edu](mailto:sward@tusculum.edu) or Amanda Delbridge, assistant director, at [adelbridge@tusculum.edu](mailto:adelbridge@tusculum.edu).

## **New commercials developed to promote enrollment**

As part of continuing efforts by everyone at Tusculum to increase enrollment, the Office of Communications and Marketing worked with WJHL, a local television station, to develop new commercials.

One commercial promotes traditional undergraduate enrollment, and the other spotlights our adult and online studies undergraduate and graduate programs. The commercials feature students, faculty, staff and alumni. We are grateful to everyone who participated!

The videos have been posted on our website and will be featured in social media posts and in other promotional venues. The AOS commercial is airing this week on WJHL, and the traditional student one will air in the near future.

You can click the photos below to watch the commercials. The first one, <https://youtu.be/4iLyGUorWc0>, discusses traditional students, and the second one, <https://youtu.be/LbYhpUAWMhQ>, addresses AOS.





## Pioneer Quest welcomed new students

We enjoyed having new Tusculum students with us Friday, May 19, for Pioneer Quest! They will begin their studies during the fall semester.

It was a great opportunity for them to talk to professors and deans about academic programs, speak with academic advisers and take care of financial aid, books and parking. They also had time to soak in the atmosphere on our gorgeous campus!

We are excited they are joining the Tusculum family!



Dr. Nick Davidson, right, chair of the Sport Management Department, speaks with new students. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Dr. Hummel visits Johnson City after-school program**

Dr. Hummel was the guest speaker Friday, May 12, at Rise Up!, an after-school and youth-mentoring program in Johnson City.

During his visit, Dr. Hummel was able to speak with students about the value of a college degree and the benefits of attending a smaller higher education institution. He was also able to talk about Tusculum's affordability, hosting students at the President's House, active and experiential learning and the challenges students face.



Joining Dr. Hummel was Bill Bledsoe, assistant professor of art and design, who helped unveil a Rise UP! mural that was created by three of his students – Juliana Flores, Gwen Gustafson and Morgan Webb – and children who come to the facility. Bledsoe and his wife, Jennifer, volunteered at Rise Up!

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



Rise Up! Participants look at the mural. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing.

### **Spring semester honors lists announced**

The Registrar's Office has compiled the spring semester honors lists, and you can view them [here](#).

We congratulate all of the students on the lists for their diligence and excellent performance and commend our faculty for working with these students to produce these outcomes. This combination makes our students career-ready professionals!





Dr. Faisal Al-khateeb teaches a computer science class. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Revisions to the Tusculum summer youth camps schedule**

The schedule for summer camps has been revised. We now have six camps that are available for signup at <https://site.tusculum.edu/camps/>.

We encourage your families to participate in these camps. If you know of other people who might be interested, please let them know.

# Enjoy summer youth camps at Tusculum!



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

TUSCULUM  
UNIVERSITY  
**CAMPS**

**HAND TOOL WOODWORKING**

**THEATRE  
PIONEER SKILLS  
ART AND DESIGN  
CREATIVE WRITING**

## Summer academy kicks off next week

We are thrilled to welcome local high school students to campus starting next week for the annual Upward Bound and Upward Bound Math and Science summer academy.

Students will move into residence halls on campus Monday, May 29, and will be with us for five weeks. Then, these students will have an opportunity to travel with our TRIO staff to New York to experience the culture of the nation's largest city.

We are thankful to our students who will serve as resident advisors and to our faculty and staff members who will teach classes. If you see the high school students on campus, please greet them and wish them the best during their time on campus. These students could be future Pioneers!



Dr. Hummel speaks with summer academy participants in 2023. Photo from TRIO.

### **TRIO celebration set for June 6**

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

Further details are in the graphic below.






### **Gardening event to be held at the library**

If you want to put your green thumb to good use, you can help 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 also be available.

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



Thomas J. Garland Library

# GARDENING AT THE LIBRARY

Need a break from the office?  
Enjoy gardening?

The library is looking for help re-  
potting many of their plants, June  
7th 9am to 11am. (Weather  
permitting)

If you would like any clippings from  
the plants, we will happily share!  
Refreshments will be provided.



## **Free tickets available for Greeneville Flyboys games**

The Greeneville Flyboys season is about to start, and you can be part of the action. One of the great benefits Tusculum employees receive is complimentary tickets to the home baseball games on our campus.

If you are interested in attending a game, please send your request to the Facilities Management Department at [tuwork@tusculum.edu](mailto: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.

For more information about the Flyboys and the schedule, please visit please visit <https://www.milb.com/greeneville/>. We wish the team great success this year!



### **Gaming and e-sports labs to be 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 Dakota Hammonds in the Office of Student Affairs.



Gaming and e-sports are a popular activity on campus. 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.



Students play in the e-sports lab. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing.

### **Summer sessions have begun**

The full and early summer sessions have begun, but 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 helping our Pioneers graduate early.

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.

## **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. 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](#).

## **Campus work day a big success**

We are grateful to the roughly 60 Tusculum family members who dedicated the morning or afternoon Monday, May 15, to helping us clean residence halls, pick up trash and perform landscaping in preparation for summer occupants.

Chad Grindstaff, our facilities management director, commended the help his department received and said, "We are truly blessed with good people here at TU."



This is the afternoon work crew. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Fun times creating paintings of the Doak House**

Tusculum's Center for the Arts celebrated the mothers in people's lives at a special painting event Thursday, May 11, at the Doak House Museum. The event was held in recognition of Mother's Day.

Many ladies came with their children, spouses, significant others and friends to the Doak House Museum for this pre-Mother's Day event. We had others from the community as well. With guidance from Bill Bledsoe, assistant professor of art and design, who is an accomplished local artist for 45 years, they created a painting of the Doak House.



It was a delightful evening, and we are thankful to everyone who joined us. We also appreciate local bluegrass band Strings of Green for providing terrific music during the event.



Dr. Angela Keaton and her daughter, Emma, participated in the event. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Welcoming our new women's basketball coach**

We were thrilled to formally welcome Roger Hodge to campus as our new women's basketball coach during a news conference held by the athletic department Monday, May 8.

During the event, Hodge expressed his excitement to be at Tusculum and shared that God led him to Tusculum. He noted how apparent it became during the process how closely aligned Tusculum and everyone at the university were with his coaching philosophy and values.

You can watch the news conference at <https://www.youtube.com/live/heOWJvimX30?feature=share>.



Roger Hodge speaks at the news conference. Photo from the Office of Athletic Communications

## 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](mailto: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 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

### Faculty and staff

Thursday, June 1, 9 a.m., Zoom; **Operations Success Committee**

### Community

Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.; Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center lobby area; **Talent Search meeting**

### Athletics

Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m. and 8:25 p.m., Pueblo, Colorado; **men's outdoor track and field team at the NCAA Division II National Championship**

Saturday, May 27, 7:20 p.m. and 8:45 p.m., Pueblo, Colorado; **men's outdoor track and field team at the NCAA Division II National Championship**



The Tusculum 4x100-meter relay of senior Jarvis Barber Jr., junior Tyrell Edwards, senior Marquel Pittman and junior Jordan Taylor will compete at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championship. Edwards and Taylor are also entered in the 100-meter dash. You can learn more in



this [news release](#) from the Office of Athletic Communications. Graphic from the Office of Athletic Communications

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

## **Faculty and staff birthdays**

Tuesday, May 23 – Dr. Kellen Myers

Wednesday, May 24 – Richard Miller

Friday, May 26 – Greg Fay

Saturday, May 27 – Malik Goodman

Sunday, May 28 – Joel Shelton

Monday, May 29 – Chad Grindstaff

Saturday, June 3 – Dr. Rhonda Fawbush

Sunday, June 4 – Susan Carson

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!**