



**August 28, 2023**

**In this edition:**

- [President's Perspective](#)
- [Word of the Week](#)
- [Photo of the Week](#)
- [Labor Day next Monday](#)
- [Excellent workplace achievement](#)
- [Free haircuts today for students](#)
- [Chapel begins today](#)
- [Tusculum family, community come together on Worship Night](#)
- [Health clinic now open](#)
- [Opening Convocation spotlights students and faculty](#)
- [Take email security seriously with these tips](#)
- [Director of advising earns President's GEM Award](#)
- [Tree dedication ceremonies provide trip down memory lane](#)
- [Library hours extended](#)
- [Shower and changing facilities for employee users of the Wellness Center](#)
- [Councils and committees set for this year](#)
- [Feedback needed on campus directories](#)
- [Register now for the Gaming Festival](#)
- [Cast and crew progressing in preparations for "The Glass Menagerie"](#)
- [Art Club sets meetings](#)
- [Refreshed pillars taking shape at Katherine Hall](#)
- [Pillar work happening at Annie Hogan Byrd](#)
- [Reminders](#)
- [Events and activities](#)
- [Faculty and staff birthdays](#)

**President's Perspective**

As we celebrated a successful first week of classes and the commencement of the new academic year, I was reminded of Tusculum's long legacy of outstanding faculty.

On Saturday, we recognized the extensive legacies of Dr. Donal Sexton and Ron Conley. While they taught different subjects, they both made lasting impressions on their students. Their impact was more than just academic because they inspired civic engagement, enriched the personal lives of their students

and they prepared career-ready professionals. Each left a legacy because they actively contributed to the transformation of thousands of Tusculum students.

Tusculum continues to have outstanding faculty who are creating their legacies in this current generation of students. I encourage each of our students to be fully engaged in their classes and glean as much as they can from such accomplished and dedicated faculty.

We have established a “Legacy of Learning” Scholarship which both recognizes and honors the legacy of our faculty and helps support the future of our students.

Go Pioneers!

Dr. Scott Hummel  
President

## **Word of the Week**

“He (Paul) said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, ... I served the Lord with great humility ... You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.” – Acts 20:18-20

## **Photo of the Week**



Students and the community came together to celebrate Night of Worship in the Library Bowl on Wednesday, Aug. 23. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

## **Labor Day is next Monday**

We will celebrate Labor Day Monday, Sept. 4. No classes will be held, and offices will be closed for the day.

We remind faculty and staff members to practice conservation measures when they leave the office for the final time this week for the break. Please turn off computers and reduce air conditioning for your area. 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.

## **Special achievement for Tusculum**

Today, Tusculum is pleased to have reached a wonderful milestone. We have gone 1,000 days without a workplace accident.

We commend all Tusculum employees for the care they take in their duties. Ensuring a safe work environment is top of mind for everyone at Tusculum.

## **Free haircuts today on campus for students!**

TaylorMade Grooming Lounge is providing free haircuts to students today from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The haircuts will take place in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons in TaylorMade's mobile unit, with any overflow being sent to the shop across the Erwin Highway from the Tusculum Arch.

Micah Taylor, the owner of TaylorMade, has provided this service multiple times since he opened his business next to the campus. He has also provided meals at Thanksgiving and a scholarship. We thank him for his generosity and example of giving back to those who support his business.



Micah Taylor, right, cuts a student's hair on campus in August 2022. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Chapel sessions start today**

Chapel sessions for the academic year begin today in the Pioneer Perk with a message from Dr. Chris Shumate, our campus minister. Tusculum student David Bowlin, fresh from his visit to the Holy Land this summer, will provide the music.

Sessions take place every Monday throughout the semester from 3:30-4 p.m. in the Pioneer Perk, which is located next to the Tusculum Campus Store in the Scott M. Niswonger Commons. Chapel is not held on holidays, during Finals Week, during semester breaks or during the summer. There will be no chapel Monday, Sept. 4, due to the Labor Day holiday.

The chapel theme for the fall semester is "Walking by Faith."

Those who cannot sessions in person can participate via Zoom  
at <https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/89872872826?pwd=SzU1OThWL0tuZThCOEFCVHpLcVRIUT09>.

We encourage everyone to start each week by attending chapel for additional spiritual development. Because of the importance of chapel, no other activities are scheduled on campus during the time reserved for chapel.





Dr. Chris Shumate will speak at chapel today. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Tusculum family and the community celebrate together at Night of Worship**

We had an excellent student turnout and many others from the community who came to the Library Bowl Wednesday, Aug. 23, for the Night of Worship.

This Pioneer WOW event featured terrific and inspiring music from Arrowhead Church and delicious ice cream from Creamy Cup. Dr. Chris Shumate, our campus minister, delivered a message halfway through the event, and Dr. Hummel closed the evening with a prayer.

You can view [this gallery](#) of photos to see the wonderful scene. We encourage you to take advantage of spiritual opportunities on campus. To learn more about how Tusculum offers, please visit the Campus Ministries [web page](#).



Students listen to the music during the Night of Worship. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Health clinic now open on campus**

We are pleased to share that the Tusculum University Ballad Health Clinic opened for the semester Wednesday, Aug. 23. The clinic is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, except on holidays or breaks. The hours are 8:30 a.m.-noon.



The clinic is available to students, faculty and staff, as well as immediate family members of employees. For now, Ballad Health will staff the clinic with a nurse, who will take care of preliminary care details and then connect patients with a virtual provider.

Patients can access services, such as:

- Treatment for colds and flu, including fever, sore throat and cough
- General dermatology care
- Care for Infections, such as those in the sinus, eye/ear and urinary tract
- Management of chronic conditions
- Preventive care
- Specialist referrals

The clinic is located in Room 008 on the ground floor of the Meen Center. No appointment is necessary. Patients can self-pay or use their health insurance. Students can apply for payment aid, if necessary.

The clinic provides easily accessible medical care on campus. We encourage all Tusculum family members to use this facility when they have medical needs.





Sandy Haynes and Beth Owen from Ballad Health prepare for patients in the Ballad Health Tusculum University Clinic. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

## **Opening Convocation enabled Tusculum to spotlight students and faculty**

We enjoyed highlighting the many successes of our students and faculty and introducing a new tradition when we held the Opening Convocation last week.

Dr. Tricia Hunsader, provost and vice president of academic affairs, shared in great detail the many ways students are becoming career-ready professionals as she listed their accomplishments during the 2022-23 academic year. Many of their achievements have come through active and experiential learning opportunities. In addition, faculty members continued to demonstrate their expertise and show leadership in their fields.

Dr. Hummel used his remarks to emphasize to students that they should take advantage of their time at Tusculum. Faculty and staff also enjoyed a new activity that showed their support for the students. They formed two lines through which the students entered on their way into Pioneer Arena. The idea for the lines came from Dr. Heather Henson-Ramsey, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Mathematics.

You can read more about the event in this [news release](#), see the list of accomplishments [here](#) and view this [photo gallery](#) from the event.



Students enter the Old Gym on their way to Pioneer Arena as faculty and staff clap. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

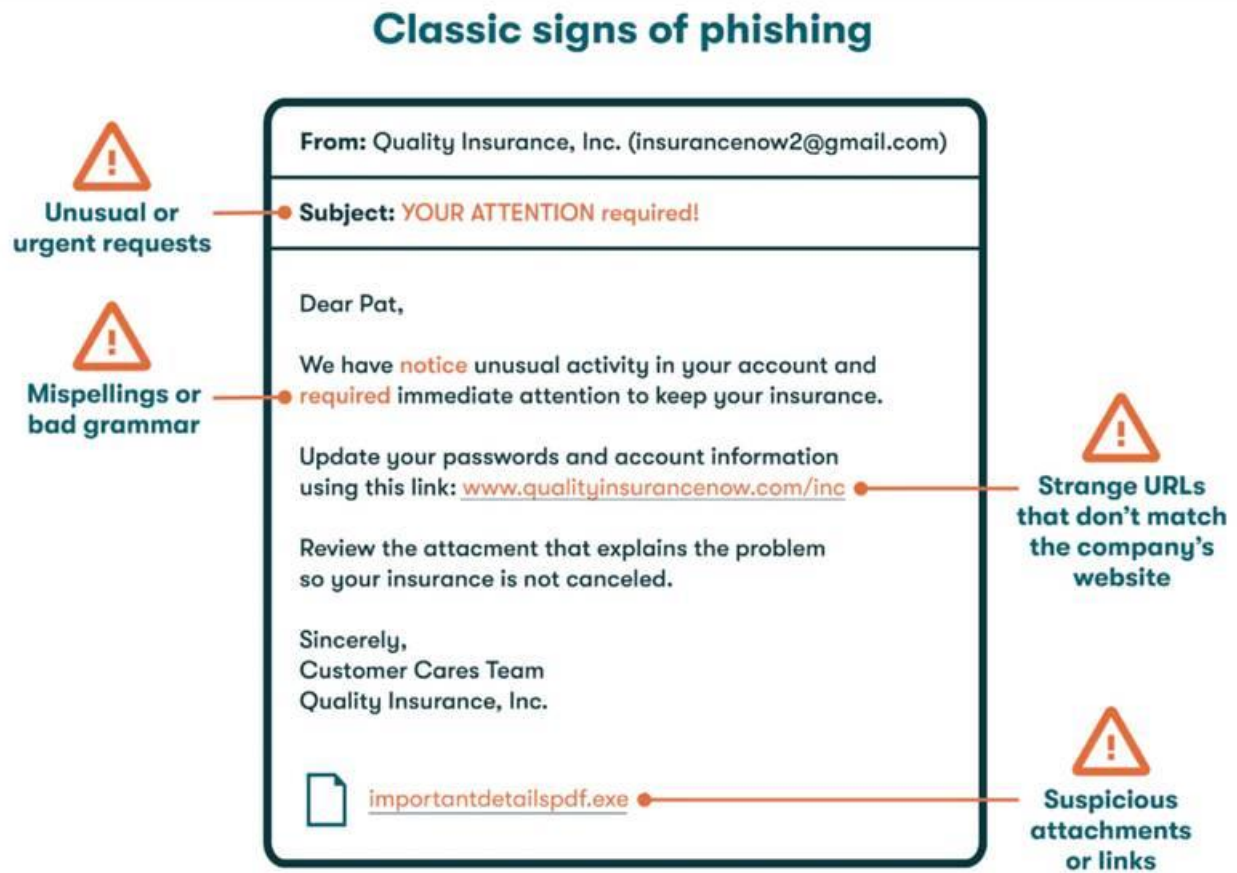
### **Take email security seriously with these tips from Information Systems**

The Tusculum Department of Information Systems wants to support the Tusculum family in their use of email.

Email security is more important than ever. With the prevalence of ransomware, phishing, and other malicious activities targeting email accounts, it is critical that all TU employees be vigilant and cautious when dealing with emails, attachments and links.

More than 90% of all cyber-attacks begin with a phishing email. Although our spam firewall blocks thousands of spam and malicious emails every day, some still get through. Our next line of defense is you.

You can read the entire message from TDIS [here](#).



## Director of advising earns President's GEM Award

Jill Oberfeiting, director of advising, earned the first President's GEM Award of this academic year. The longtime Tusculum employee and alumna is highly regarded, as is evident from the nominations of her that were submitted. She received the GEM Award during the President's Coffee Friday, Aug. 25

Here are some comments about Oberfeiting.

"She dedicates so much of herself to ensuring that students are on a path to success. I can always count on her to anticipate issues and raise the alarm early so we have time to address the issues."

"She works to create solutions where it seems there is no solution! Even when faced with difficult situations, she continues to persevere and seek viable solutions. She helps make this university run."

"There are so many tasks on her agenda, and most of us aren't even aware of all the things she does to keep the entire campus on track. She holds so much responsibility on this campus and is so dedicated to



Tusculum and its success. Her work is often well "behind the scenes," but so necessary. Most of all, she cares about Tusculum's students and wants to help them succeed."

"Even at her busiest times of year, she will drop what she is doing if it helps recruit a student to Tusculum. She has been working well beyond regular hours day after day to ensure that every international student's visa is taken care of and to register all new students. A former Tusculum student herself, she is dedicated to the university and to its students."



Jill Oberfeiting, right, celebrates her GEM Award with Dr. Hummel. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Plentiful memories at tree dedication ceremonies for two faculty members**

Tree dedication ceremonies for Dr. Donal Sexton, a history professor, and Ron Conley, a mathematics professor, Saturday, Aug. 26, was a pleasant trip down memory lane for current and former faculty and staff as well as alumni.

Former professors and alumni shared their recollections about the two men and gave valuable insight into their characters and lives. The families of Dr. Sexton and Professor Conley attended the event and were grateful for the ceremonies.

You can read more about the event in this [news release](#) and view more photos in [this gallery](#).





Daughter Allison Snyder, left, and grandson Tatum Snyder kneel by the tree for Dr. Donal Sexton.





Left to right, Michaela Conley Gandy, Myra Conley, Eleanor Conley, Lynn Conley and Albert Conley,

### **Library hours extended**

The Thomas J. Garland Library has extended its fall semester hours. They are now:

- Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m.-midnight
- Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Saturday: Closed
- Sunday: 4 p.m.-midnight

**Employees can use the Wellness Center and have a place to change or shower**

Tusculum has established a place for faculty and staff members who want to exercise in the Wellness Center this semester and need to change into workout clothes or shower before returning to the office.

For male faculty and staff, Niswonger 113, which is the coaches locker room, is available and unlocked at all times. This space has full-length lockers for personal belongings during a workout as well as showers and toilets. Employees are responsible for bringing their own towels, soap, shampoo and other toiletries.

For female faculty and staff, Niswonger 128, which is the visiting team's locker room across from the athletic weight room, is a similar space with lockers, showers and toilets. The log-in code is available from Dr. Suzanne Byrd, chair of the Sport Science Department, at [sbyrd@tusculum.edu](mailto:sbyrd@tusculum.edu).

These spaces are available at any time the wellness center is open except for home basketball and volleyball games and matches. On these days, the locker rooms will generally be closed at 4 p.m.

If you have any questions about these spaces or wish to be oriented to using the locker rooms or equipment in the Wellness Center, please email Dr. Byrd.

## **Committees and councils for this academic year**

We have attached two documents to this edition of The Pioneer Press. One is a list of the Tusculum councils and committees and the membership of each. In addition, we have provided the procedures for these councils and committees.

**An important note:** Those who have been selected to serve as chair of a council or committee need to contact their members to be sure they are aware they have been assigned.

## **Provide any feedback needed on the campus directories**

Also attached to this edition of The Pioneer Press are two directories for faculty and staff members to review.

One is an alphabetized listing of employees, and the other is an alphabetized list of departments and offices, with the faculty and staff members who work there.

Employees should review these documents and report any changes needed to Kim Collins, executive assistant to the president, at [kcollins@tusculum.edu](mailto:kcollins@tusculum.edu).

## **Register now for the Gaming Festival**

The Tusculum Gaming Festival is just around the corner, and we encourage all Tusculum family members to register and alert others about the event.

The event will be held from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16 in the lower level of the Tusculum library.

The festival will feature a Warhammer 40k Combat Patrol tournament and a 3-on-3 Rocket League tournament, each of which costs \$10 to join. Those who participate in those tournaments will not have to pay the \$5 entry fee for the event and will also have access to the university's gaming and e-sports labs on the second floor of COG North and local vendors who are scheduled to be on campus

Those who do not participate in the tournaments and pay the \$5 will have access to the e-sports and gaming labs and the vendors.

You can register by completing [this form](#) and can learn more by reading this [news release](#).



The event is open to all Tusculum family members as well as the community. Join us for a day of fun!



### **“The Glass Menagerie” cast and crew now rehearsing in the Behan**

After initial read-throughs in a classroom, the cast and crew of “The Glass Menagerie” have moved to the Behan Arena Theatre to further develop this play.

Performances will be Sept. 29, Sept. 30, Oct. 6 and Oct. 7 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 1 and Oct. 8 at 2 p.m. in the Behan, which is located on the lower level of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center. Faculty, staff and students are eligible for one free ticket. Go to <https://arts.tusculum.edu/> to obtain your ticket.

“The Glass Menagerie” by Tennessee Williams is a story of a Depression-Era family told in a dream-like and poetic way. This production will continue Tusculum’s tradition of outstanding theatrical performances!



The cast, director and others connected with the play rehearse last week in the Behan Arena Theatre. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

### **Art Club sets meetings**

Students with an interest in art are invited to join fellow enthusiasts in the Art Club.

The Art Club has set its meeting schedule for the year. The group will meet Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. in Room 106, the student lounge of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center.



### **Work progressing at Katherine Hall**

The pillars in front of Katherine Hall are starting to take shape. Crews are transforming their look and creating a more inviting atmosphere for students.

The work at Katherine Hall is part of the Dorm Refresh Campaign. Tusculum has a goal of raising \$110,000 to pay for items such as new furniture, flooring and ceiling fans as well as fresh paint and enhanced lighting in the residence halls. The university has received about \$90,000 so far.

You can help Tusculum achieve its goal by visiting [www.tusculum.edu/giving](http://www.tusculum.edu/giving).





The pillars at Katherine Hall are receiving the updated look. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

## Refreshing the pillars at Annie Hogan Byrd

The pillars at Katherine Hall are not the only ones on campus the university is addressing.

A crew is working to give a fresher look to the pillars in front of Annie Hogan Byrd Fine Arts Center next door. That will enhance the look of that facility as the Center for the Arts and academic programs seek to increase the amount of visitor traffic to that facility. We look forward to seeing the outcome!



Work is taking place at Annie Hogan Byrd. Photo by the Office of Communications and Marketing

## Reminders

- Registration is open for the Glow Run 5K & 1-Mile Fun Run to be held Thursday, Oct. 12, at 7:30 p.m. It is one of the early Homecoming activities. You can register [here](#).
- The Ballad Health Center for Early Learning, which will be housed in the Shulman Center, is compiling a preliminary tally for a waiting list. The facility's director will contact everyone on the list when registration opens. To be added to the list, please email Amy Doran, Ballad Health's corporate director of early childhood care and education, at [amy.doran@balladhealth.org](mailto:amy.doran@balladhealth.org). You need to provide the child's name, birth date, parent/guardian name and best phone number

and indicate that you are employed at Tusculum. The accepted age range for the children is six weeks to five years.

- The Thomas J. Garland Library has several popular board games available for checkout, and the staff invite all Tusculum family members to use them. The only qualifier is that the games cannot leave the library. Some of the games that are available are checkers, chess, Life, Jenga, Scrabble and Operation.
- The Office of Communications and Marketing offers several options for door signage outside employee and department offices. The sign identifies the occupant of an office with university branding. 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. In addition, the Office of Communications and Marketing will also provide signs that have just an office name.

## Events and activities

### Students

Monday, Aug. 28, 9 a.m., in front of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons; **free haircuts for students**

### Spiritual

Monday, Aug. 28, 3:30 p.m., Pioneer Perk and Zoom  
(<https://tusculum.zoom.us/j/89872872826?pwd=SzU1OThWL0tuZThCOEFCVHpLcVRIUT09>); **chapel**

Monday, Aug. 28, 8 p.m., Meen Center lecture hall; **Fellowship of Christian Athletes**

Tuesday, Aug. 29, 7 p.m. Meen Center lecture hall; **Arrowhead Church C+YA (College & Young Adults)**

Tuesday, Aug. 29, 7 p.m., First Christian Church; **PILLAR Young Adult Ministry**

Thursday, Aug. 31, 6 p.m. Meen Center Room 200; **Breaking Bead**

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2 p.m., Meen Center lecture hall; **service by Thrive Church**

### Community

Saturday, Sept. 2, 9 a.m., Doak House Museum; **Farmers Market**

### Athletics

Thursday, Aug. 31, 4 p.m., Lees-McRae College; men's soccer team vs. Lees-McRae College

Thursday, Aug. 31, 7 p.m., Kennesaw State University; football team vs. Kennesaw State University

Friday, Sept. 1, 10:30, Erskine College; women's indoor volleyball team vs. Erskine College at the Erskine Tournament

Friday, Sept. 1, noon; Pioneer Field; women's soccer team vs The University of West Alabama

Friday, Sept. 1, 3 p.m., Erskine College; women's indoor volleyball team vs. Lee University at the Erskine Tournament

Friday, Sept. 1, Friday, Sept. 1, 6:30 p.m. (women) and 7:10 p.m. (men); men's and women's cross country teams at the Eye Opener



Saturday, Sept. 2, 12:30 p.m., Erskine College; women's indoor volleyball team vs. Clark Atlanta University

Saturday, Sept. 2, 4 p.m., Barton College; men's soccer team vs. Barton College

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2 p.m., University of Alabama in Huntsville; women's soccer team vs. the University of Alabama in Huntsville

### **Faculty and staff birthdays**

Monday, Aug. 28 – Dr. David Smith

Tuesday, Aug. 29 – Jessica Biggers

Sunday, Sept. 3 – Austin Collins

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, at [jwozniak@tusculum.edu](mailto:jwozniak@tusculum.edu).

**Go Pioneers!**