



[Make a Gift](#)



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



Thirty years ago, my wife and I were dorm parents at the Edna Gladney Center for Adoption. (I have actually lived with 300 pregnant women.) Thousands of pictures lined the halls of the adoption agency. Each represented a life. I sometimes wonder about those babies and what they became and accomplished. Each is special, immensely valuable, and called for a purpose.



Dr. Scott Hummel

You may have heard of one of my favorite modern Christmas songs, "Mary Did You Know." It ponders if Mary knows what Jesus would become and accomplish. Luke 1 describes the birth of John the Baptist before it describes the birth of Jesus in Luke 2. In Luke 1 the Angel Gabriel tells John's parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, that John will "be great before the Lord," "will turn many ... to the Lord," and will "make ready for the Lord a people prepared." When John was born the people asked "What then will this child be?" Both John and Jesus were born for a purpose.

Tusculum's annual theme is "Called for a Purpose." It reminds us that each of our students and alumni were called for a purpose. Our honor as a university is to prepare and equip our students to fulfill their purpose.

As you consider **Christmas giving or your end of year giving**, consider Tusculum University and our students who have been "called for a purpose." Your gifts allow us to serve and equip our students.

Go Pioneers!

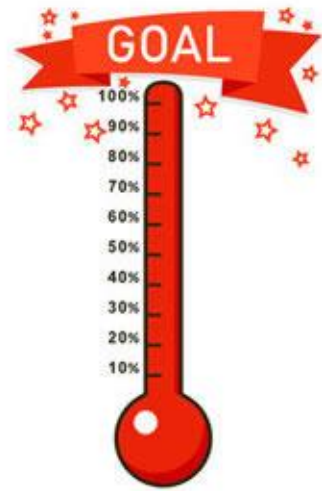
Scott Hummel, Ph.D.

"Called for a Purpose" – Isaiah 42:6

The fundraising goal for the Dorm Refresh Campaign was exceeded!!!

Because of you and your donations, we were able to raise...drum roll please.... a total of **\$121,240.00**.

Those dollars came from 80 donors and totaled 104 gifts. Thank you for making this campaign successful!





"I love Tusculum because of the quality education I receive tuition free thanks to our wonderful donors who helped fund my institutional scholarship. Also, Tusculum has a beautiful campus, which I love."

Thanks for your Support!

Thank you for your continued support of our beloved Tusculum University! Your donations really do make all the difference in the lives of our students! Be on the lookout for our year end letter from Dr. Hummel, email, or you can simply scan the QR code below to make a quick easy gift!





Can't make it to campus in person? No problem! Take a "Virtual Tour" by clicking the "You are Here" icon. You will feel like you have been transported to campus. Please feel free to share with family, friends, and potential students.

KEEP YOUR INFORMATION
UP TO
DATE

WE DON'T WANT YOU
TO MISS OUT!



It is important that Tusculum alumni provide us with current contact information so we can keep you up to date on all things regarding the university!

[Update your info online!](#)

PIONEER-OWNED BUSINESSES



Are you an alumnus, alumna, TU employee, student, or trustee who owns his or her own business? Let us know! We want to partner with you and celebrate your accomplishments!

The Office of Alumni Relations wants to learn more about our alumni entrepreneurs so that we can support them whenever possible.

We also want to help each business owner embrace their entrepreneurial spirit and showcase their TU pride. Once you register your business with our office, we will send you a free "TU Pioneer-owned Business" decal to display your pride.

If you are a graduate, student, employee, or trustee of TU and would like your company or business to appear in the Pioneer-Owned Business Directory, please email alumni@tusculum.edu to provide us with information about your business!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON FACEBOOK

Follow the **Tusculum Alumni Facebook page** to stay up to date on alumni-related events, news, and happenings both on and off campus!

See and follow our page at: www.facebook.com/tusculumalumni/



Serina Marshall '21

Serina Marshall is a Kingsport, TN native and graduate of Tusculum University with a Bachelors in English and a concentration in Communications/Public Relations.

Her work can be found in news publications across the Tri-Cities and the nation, including Kingsport Times News, Johnson City Press, Greeneville Sun, Jonesborough Herald and Tribune (where she was associate editor), Soap Central, Soaps in Depth, Soap Opera Digest, and VIPSEEN Magazine. She is currently the communications manager for Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA. In addition to her work appearing in news outlets, Serina is a best-selling author. Her children's book on adoption, "Handpicked" reached #1 new release in its first week, along with hitting two best seller's lists.



Serina Marshall '21

She is also featured in "Witches of the Wood," a horror anthology.

Serina has written blogs for travel companies in New York, San Francisco, Boston and Dallas, as well as Blue Emu and Tri-Cities Airport. And, been featured in the online publication, Thought

Catalog several times. Her theatrical background begins at a young age, as her brother, Rick Marshall, was the theatre instructor at Dobyns-Bennett High School when she was a child.

Serina went on to be a part of several productions on stage and backstage, including "And they Dance Real Slow in Jackson," "Our Town" and "Noises Off," but found her real love in music directing, and was even nominated for a Broadway World Orlando Award for music direction of "The Producers" at Osceola Arts in 2016.

She has also recorded a piano instrumental score titled, "Introspective," which can be found in the movie HOLIDAY IN THE HAMPTONS, as well as written a short-play titled BPM, which was performed at Tusculum's 5x5 Plays Festival.

Serina currently is a publicist for Gemelli Films, and as written press releases for Beverley Mitchell (7th Heaven), Eric Roberts (Suits), Naomi Matsuda (The Bold and the Beautiful), and Alicia Minshew (All my Children.)

You can find more about what Serina is doing on one of her sites:

<https://serinamarshall.godaddysites.com/>

<https://serinamarshall48.wixsite.com/ssmarshall>

<https://serinamarshall.com/>



Woody Meredith '71

In the Fall of 1967, a young man from Pennsylvania set foot on the Tusculum (College) University campus. This turned out to be a life-changing experience.

Marwood "Woody" Meredith '71 has often said, "I came to Tusculum a 17-year-old boy and graduated a 21-year-old man heading to seminary. It was on that campus that I grew up and laid the foundation for my calling



Woody Meredith '71 on left.

as a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA)". Forty-eight years later that foundation has served him well and is as strong as ever. Upon graduating from TU in 1971 Woody went on to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary where he graduated with a Master of Divinity Degree and completed the course work for a Doctor of Ministry Degree. Over the next twenty years he served two churches in the Philadelphia area, one in Northeast Philadelphia for five years and one in Ridley Park, PA as Senior Pastor for fifteen years.

Woody then found himself back on the Tusculum campus serving as Director of Planned Giving and Church Relations for the next five years. He then went back to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as Vice President of Development, followed by serving in the same capacity at Brite Divinity School on the campus of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas.

Woody has served as a member of or chaired numerous committees at all levels of the Presbyterian Church from Presbytery to the General Assembly. He is currently serving as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Athens, TX and is President of the Board of the Athens Christian Preparatory Academy, a position he has held for seven years.

"Tusculum set the stage and provided the necessary education for a lifetime of service in the Church and the communities in which I have lived. There is not a day that goes by that I don't thank God for my time of the campus of Tusculum (College) University."

Tusculum University is so grateful for Woody and his continued engagement and financial support

of his beloved alma mater. We are so proud of his accomplishments and believe he is wonderful example of an alumnus who continues to live out the mission of Tusculum University.



John Rose to head economic development group NETNHub



John Rose will serve as NETNHub's executive director beginning December 4. (Photo: WJHL)

John Rose

has been named executive director for economic development group NETNHub.

"We're going to work on a strategic plan based on input from the communities in the region to evaluate needs and how can we help them, and we will develop our planning strategy based on input from private industry, private businesses and meeting with elected leaders," Rose said.

[Read the full story on WJHL.com](https://www.wjhl.com)

Dee Alford, of the Atlanta Falcons, celebrated birthday on game day



Dee Alford. (Photo from Homegrown)

Dee Alford's 26th birthday fell on a game day in 2023. It was the Falcons Week 9 matchup with the Minnesota Vikings. That's why his family and close friends took up nearly an entire row of a section in Mercedes-Benz Stadium. They were ready to celebrate one way or another, in a win or loss.

Friends made their way to their seats as kickoff loomed. A handful of them were former teammates of Alford's from his days at Tusculum University. Some of those guys woke up at three o'clock in the morning to make the hours-long drive to Atlanta. A party for Alford's birthday was set to begin once the Falcons game ended.

[Read the full story on AtlantaFalcons.com](https://atlantafalcons.com)

Tusculum leader Claire Hensley selected to this year's class of 40 Under Forty sponsored by a local business magazine

Claire Hensley has distinguished herself with her leadership of Tusculum University's Office of Student Affairs and her commitment to civic engagement, attributes that have resulted in her selection as one of the top young professionals in the region.

The Business Journal of Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia selected Hensley, associate vice president of student affairs and retention, for its 40 Under Forty class for 2023. She and her classmates were honored Friday, Nov. 3, at an awards presentation event at the Johnson City Country Club. They will be featured in the December issue of the magazine.



Claire Hensley, middle, is joined by Chuck Sutton, dean of students, left, and Katie Odoms, coordinator of housing and student records. Photo by the Office of Communications

Dr. Hummel gets pied to support the Student Government Association



Maggie Vickers put the pie to Dr. Hummel's face. Photo by the Office of Communications

Dr.

Hummel graciously took a pie to the face for the Student Government Association to raise additional funds for the group.

The SGA hosted the fundraiser Saturday, Nov. 11, at the Tusculum football game. Four Tusculum family members agreed to play the role if they received the most donations from faculty, staff and students. The most money was contributed to the box set aside for Dr. Hummel.

We thank Dr. Hummel for being a good sport helping the students in another way. We also express our gratitude to the other three who agreed to participate – Dr. Peter Noll, professor of public history and museum studies; Chuck Sutton, dean of students; and Jim Wozniak, director of communications.

Maggie Vickers, the SGA's president, who applied the pie to Dr. Hummel's face, said the donated funds can be used to support clubs, SGA-sponsored events or any of the group's other activities. She said the amount collected in this fundraiser is enough to cover one club's allotment.

Omega Psi Phi members spread joy on campus

Graduate student Dexler Benjamin and undergraduate student Trejen Fox-Birdwell, members of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity, spread joy on campus.

Stationed outside the Office of Student Affairs, the two gave roses to people who were in that part of the Scott M. Niswonger Commons. Their act of kindness was in celebration of the anniversary of the fraternity's founding.

"We're just giving back to people and doing what we always preach, which is service," Fox-Birdwell said. "Toward the end of the semester, everybody needs a little pick-me-up."

Benjamin said each card the two handed out had words of affirmation.



Left to right are Olivia Browne, Trejen Fox-Birdwell, Dexler Benjamin and Morgan Browne.
Photo by the Office of Communications

Mark your calendars for January (NOT February like in the past) Theologian-In-Residence sessions



Emily Morrell

We encourage you to place 10 a.m. January 12, Jan. 19 and Jan. 26 on your calendar to be in Chalmers Conference Center for the three presentations of the Theologian-In-Residence series.

The presentations, held on Fridays, will last about two hours, after which attendees are invited for lunch in the cafeteria.

Emily Morrell, who is pursuing a doctorate in religious studies, with a field of study of religion in the Americas, at Princeton University, will be the presenter. She has adopted the theme "Religion in Appalachia: Faith in the Mountains in the Past, Present, and Future." The topics for each discussion are:

- Session 1: "The Mountains and Religion"
- Session 2: "The Nitty Gritty of Bread and Justice: The Story of CORA (Commission on Religion in Appalachia)"
- Session 3: "Pittston and Moss 3: A Case Study in Solidarity"

You can read more about the presentations and details of Theologian-In-Residence in this [news release](#).

You can register for the sessions at <https://site.tusculum.edu/theologian-in-residence-registration/>.

Morrell is a Greene County native who presented a program in 2022 at Tusculum. After graduating from Greeneville High School, Morrell earned a bachelor's degree in religion and history at Centre College, master's degrees in divinity and the arts from Columbia Theological Seminary and a master's degree in history from West Virginia University.



Kappa Delta Pi Induction Ceremony: We have reached the conclusion of the fall 2023 semester, and this has been a wonderful semester with new relationships building with our students and the joy of watching our COE fall 2023 graduates walk across the graduation stage. Graduation ceremonies, for the COE faculty and staff, are one of the most rewarding reasons we do what we do. We experience great pleasure sharing pride for our students' achievements as we congratulate and honor our students for their perseverance and dedication to the pursuance of their learning with a focus on career goals. "May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed" (Psalm 20:4).

The College of Education inducted eight new Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) members into TU's Alpha Iota Zeta chapter (Grace Cochran, Stephanie Dirmeyer, Atlas Fagundes, Shay Hess, Kaylee Hubbard, Eric Langford, Katherine McLamb, Sarah Overton). Kappa Delta Pi is the International Honor Society in Education. TU's Alpha Iota Zeta chapter members keep good company with notable KDP members known for their outstanding contributions to the development of professional education,

such as Albert Einstein, George Washington Carver, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Margaret Mead. The mission of KDP is to sustain an honored community of diverse educators by promoting excellence and advancing scholarship, leadership, and service.

Our fall 2023 induction ceremony was held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, November 8th in the Brotherton Boardroom in the Meen Center. The first event of the evening was the formal induction of our eight new members led by two of the chapter's current student administration: Rebecca Kidwell (Secretary) and Lisa Corum (Treasurer). Following our induction ceremony, the inductees, COE faculty and staff, along with inductees' friends and family enjoyed a delicious meal to celebrate this milestone. An Alpha Iota Zeta chapter meeting was held after dinner to elect new student chapter administrators because our current president, secretary, and treasurer are graduating in December 2023. The new Alpha Iota Zeta chapter student administrators are Shay Hess (president), Katherine McLamb (secretary), and Atlas Fagundes (treasurer).

Fall 2023 Virtual COE Honor Awards Convocation: The College of Education celebrated the academic excellence of students in our COE programs at the fall 2023 Virtual Honor Awards Convocation held at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 15th. President Hummel offered welcoming remarks to this celebration of student achievement and dedication. Provost Hunsader provided closing remarks of congratulations and encouraged award recipients to continue their lifelong learning. COE faculty and staff, with family and friends of award recipients, were thrilled to present awards to five outstanding students:

Outstanding Teacher Education Undergraduate Student Award (presented by Dr. Peggy Rochelle) - Lisa Corum

Outstanding Master of Arts in Teaching Student Award (presented by Michelle DeFord) – Celeste Trott

Outstanding Master of Arts in Education Student, the Dr. Shirley Beck Award(presented by Dexter Lim) – Cory Swinney

Outstanding Master of Arts in Organizational Training and Performance Management Student Award (presented by Dr. Jeff Burleson) – Kayla White

Sport Science Tennessee Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (TAHPERD), the James E. Ward, Future Professional Honor Award (presented by Dr.

Suzanne Byrd) – Helena Walts. The COE heartily congratulates these students and their accomplishments.



Visit the Official Home of Tusculum Athletics at www.tusculumpioneers.com to stay up-to-date on Tusculum Pioneers athletics news and information!

The site offers a **full schedule** of any upcoming athletic events.

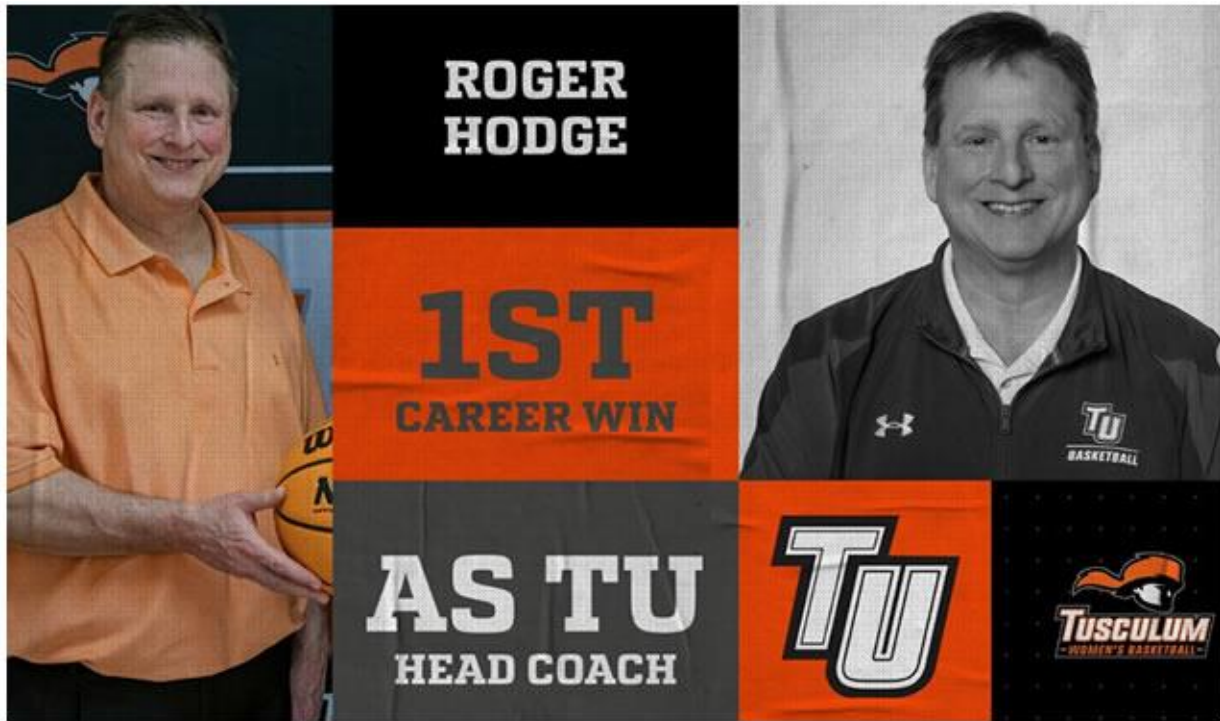
Tusculum wins first SAC Tournament Championship in program history

The third-seeded Tusculum women's volleyball team stunned Wingate, the top team in the region, to secure the program's first South Atlantic Conference Tournament title.



Congratulate Roger Hodge on first win as Pioneer coach

Please join us in congratulating Roger Hodge on the first of many wins!



ALUMNI TRAVEL & UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the Date Homecoming will be October 12, 2024!

We will keep you updated as more information becomes available!

*******SAVE THE DATE*******



Give your used sneakers to a good cause!

Do you have old sneakers you no longer need? Bring them to the Center for Civic Advancement, which is partnering with the Greenville Lions Club.



Donate
Shoes
to
Niswonger
403

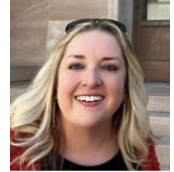


TU CENTER FOR
CIVIC ADVANCEMENT

ALUMNI & FRIENDS MEMORIALS

If you know of other memorials, announcements or other information about Alumni and Friends of Tusculum University, please email us at: alumni@tusculum.edu

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



Jolin Hawk '05 '11

Dear Alumni and Friends!

With the holiday season in full swing, I just want to take a second to express my gratitude. I feel very blessed to work in higher education with core Christian values at its center, especially this time of year. Recently, I was able to enjoy my first Vespers Service here at Tusculum with my family. To me, after God, of course, family is the most important blessing of all. May this Christmas bring joy into our homes and Jesus into our hearts. Let us all remember the “reason for the season”.

As busy schedules become even busier, I plan to purposefully take time to be present. There is nothing quite so special as Christmas through the eyes of children. Watching them give and do for others makes my mamma heart happy. Making a mess in the kitchen while creating yummy treats and special memories together, decorating the Christmas tree, watching all the Christmas movies together while huddled under a blanket on the couch, driving around admiring neighborhood lights, sipping hot cocoa from Christmas mugs, and photos with Santa Clause are just a few of my favorite traditions. However fun they might be, they pale in comparison to the birth of our savior!



MERRY CHRISTMAS from my family to yours!



Please feel free to email me at jhawk@tusculum.edu or call at 423.636.7407.

Go Pioneers!

All my best,

Jolin Hawk '05 '11

Senior Director of Development and Alumni Services



Are you good at trivia? Test your Tusculum knowledge here with us.

If you are the first person to submit the CORRECT answer to alumni@tusculum.edu, you will receive a prize.

Once the email with the correct answer is received, you will receive a response email stating YOU HAVE WON. In this same email, you will be asked to verify your mailing address so we can mail your prize to you. Prizes could include a percentage off of an item on the TU website, an alumni sticker, and other alumni related gifts.

Alumni Trivia Question

This month's question:

Beginning in 1907 and extending into the 1970's, students were loaded into open-air trucks beds once every fall and driven into the mountains. What was the name of the annual holiday?



Last Month's Question

Question:

What was the first year Tusculum participated in intercollegiate athletic contests?



Answer:

The 1903-04 academic year. The football team was 1-1 that year, and the season was cut short by a smallpox epidemic

TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

Building on a rich Presbyterian heritage and a pioneering spirit, Tusculum University provides an active and experiential education within a caring Christian environment to inspire civic engagement, enrich personal lives and equip career-ready professionals.

STAY IN TOUCH

Share news about new jobs, promotions, graduate school success, weddings and births with your fellow alumni by submitting a Class Note through the Alumni pages on the Tusculum website.



Check out Tusculum's employment opportunities:

<http://www3.tusculum.edu/hr/employment-opportunities/>

You may also submit Class Notes and Contact Information by clicking here:

Submit Alumni Class Notes

Update Contact Information