

# TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

*Magazine*

SUMMER 2018



## State Champion!

Senior  
Anna Davis  
excels both  
on the field...  
and in the  
classroom

Governor Deal visit

Awards and recognition

College acceptances

Ladies Golf 3rd in State



# evening of the Arts

Each spring Tallulah Falls School sets aside one evening to celebrate our comprehensive arts program. On April 26 students, parents, faculty and staff filled the Circle Building lobby and theater to admire and enjoy our students' accomplishments. Here are a few images from our latest "Evening of the Arts."

## 2017-18 course offerings

Advanced Piano • Culinary Arts • Digital Photography • Drama  
 Drawing/Painting • Instrumental Music • Mixed Media & Printmaking  
 Pottery/Sculpture • TFS Ringers (Handbells) • TFS Singers (Chorus)  
 College Art 113 & 123



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ON THE COVER: Senior Anna Davis is pictured during her state championship winning performance at the GHSA Track & Field championships. See story on page 21. Photograph by Steven Eckhof of J and S Photography. Used with permission.

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 Larry A. Peevy

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Back in the Fall of 2011 a certain trio of middle schoolers - Grace Brewer, Anna Davis and Seth Johnson - were just beginning their middle school adventure at the newly-opened TFS middle school complex. Fast-forward seven years to now and you

will find these three young adults are ready for the challenges of college. For these three and their 55 classmates, TFS has become much more than a school; it has been an second family.

express

imagine

create

discover



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LARRY A. PEEVY



### The Light in the Mountains continues to shine

As I reflect on another completed chapter in the storied history of Tallulah Falls School, let me first extend a hearty congratulations to the Class of 2018.

Fifty-eight accomplished young people are now launched into the wide world beyond the mountains of Northeast Georgia.

This class collectively earned more than \$7 million in college scholarships and were accepted at more than 100 colleges and universities across the globe.

Among the close-knit group is a Gates Foundation Scholar, a National Merit Finalist, a writer heading to Yale for a prestigious writer's workshop and two student-athletes aiming for the next level of competition at the college level. There are future medical professionals, lawyers, scientists, engineers, educators, artists and many other dreams to celebrate.

The strong bond of this class is evident to all who know them – 18 of the graduates have been at TFS since the sixth grade. This core group of students holds close the values of friendship and shared experiences. This spilled over to impact the class as a whole in a positive way.

The 2018 commencement, with Gov. Nathan Deal delivering the keynote address, adds another fitting highlight to the legacy of excellence that marks this talented class.

Beyond our most recent alumni, the future is bright as we welcome the upcoming class of fresh-

men, newly graduated from eighth grade.

And our rising seniors are already accepting the mantle of leadership with two members of the Class of 2019 heading to Washington, D.C. for the Georgia EMC Youth Tour.

Looking ahead, our 540 students, fully immersed in a quality college-preparatory environment stand poised on the foundation of academic excellence.

Adding to the already thriving tradition of experiential learning, this fall we will expand our outdoor education program. The majority of our students and teachers agree that moving lessons outdoors adds depth and context to learning.

Collaborating with a talented team of educators passionate about our abundant natural resources makes sense as we thoughtfully plan how to enhance the TFS experience.

Also enriching the TFS community this fall will be expanded enrollment from even more countries, with students hailing from 15 nations. Cultural exchanges will be multiplied and our returning students can look forward to practicing warm TFS hospitality as we get to know our new friends from around the world.

This next academic year promises to be filled with more opportunities for our students to illuminate the future from the "Light in the Mountains."

Warmest regards,

Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School



### Governor Nathan Deal addresses graduates

Commencement 2018

Fifty-eight TFS seniors earned college preparatory diplomas on May 18, and their day was made even more special as Georgia Governor Nathan Deal provided the commencement address. TFS was one of only two high schools that the governor attended for commencement this year.

The governor flew into Tallulah Falls by helicopter for the occasion, adding a bit more excitement to the day. In his address, Deal cited a speech given by President Theodore Roosevelt, "Citizenship in a Republic" delivered in Paris in 1910.

"... spend your life in a worthy cause, be brave, be persistent, establish priorities that serve other people as well as yourself, but most of all fear only the un-lived life."

Deal told the graduates, "devote your lives to something worthwhile, and do not be afraid of failure."

"Put aside your fears, don't depend on your excuses, spend your life in a worthy cause, be brave, be persistent, establish priorities that serve other people as well as yourself, but most of all fear only the un-lived life."

"We were extremely proud to have the Governor here," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "It just made it that much more special that he would take time out of his extremely busy schedule to fly up here [today] and speak to our class."



From left: District 10 State Representative Terry Rogers, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Governor Nathan Deal, TFS Board Chair Amy Atkinson, Jim Weidner. Rogers and Weidner, both members of the TFS Board of Trustees, extended the invitation to Gov. Deal to speak at commencement.



Governor Deal was presented with a framed print by the late John Kollock (from left): Academic Dean Kim Popham, Board Chair Amy Atkinson and President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.





*Tallulah Falls School - The Class of 2018*

The Class of 2018 made its case for why it might be considered the strongest class in school history. This remarkable group of 58 graduates not only boasted of a strong list of college acceptances but it became the first class in school history to earn more than \$7 million dollars in college scholarship offers.

This impressive group of high achievers included a Gates Foundation Scholar (Michelle Thevenin) and a state track and field champion (Anna Davis), but that was only the beginning. The list of colleges and universities (pages eight and nine) that these graduates have been accepted to is truly impressive.

One of the truly gratifying aspects of the Class of 2018 was the love and affinity they held for each other. Eighteen of the 58 graduates attended TFS since their very first year at the school, which at the time was the sixth grade. These "lifers" grew extremely close as they experienced the thrills and challenges of middle school and high school. During the annual senior steak supper, held this year on the evening before the May 18 commencement, emotions spilled over as the reality of their final hours together set in.

Congratulations to the Class of 2018. Your hard work, commitment and character are evident to all. Go and do great things.



**Salutatorian and Valedictorian**

Olivia Little (left) was named the Salutatorian for the Class of 2018 and Anna Davis (right) was named Valedictorian. Both students are from Clarkesville and have been friends since pre-k. Little is the daughter of Doug and Hannah Little. She received an academic scholarship to attend Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina where she will major in biology and pre-med. Davis is the daughter of Ephraim and Lou Davis and will attend Davidson College in Davidson, North Carolina. Davis received an academic and athletic scholarship (track & field) and is leaning toward a biology/pre-med track as well. Little and Davis each gave an address at the commencement ceremony.



Kayley Pugh of Clarkesville shares a laugh with President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy as she crosses the stage to receive her diploma.

saluting the  
**Class of 2018**



We're outta here! In a celebratory salute to the successful culmination of four years of high school, graduates toss their mortarboards into the air.



Graduates express a wide range of emotions as they listen to Governor Nathan Deal's commencement address.



Amy Atkinson proudly shows off the beautiful custom TFS pendant she received at commencement as a token of appreciation for her four years as chair of the TFS Board of Trustees.



commencement  
**May 18**

Senior faculty member Linda Harris carries the TFS ceremonial mace at each commencement. Harris has been at the school for more than 40 years.



Graduating seniors sing the TFS Alma Mater, "Tallulah Song," for the final time as they near the end of the commencement ceremony.





Circle for Children scholarships

The Circle for Children has been a generous supporter of Tallulah Falls School for decades. Max Teems of Sautee-Nacoochee and Grace Brewer of Clarkesville were recipients of the most recent Circle scholarships. Presenting the awards is Circle for Children representative Elizabeth Cooper.



Clarkesville Kiwanis scholarship

Mei Lin Wu of China received the Ed Fenner Scholarship from the Clarkesville Kiwanis Club. Pictured with Wu is TFS English teacher Scott Davis and Clarkesville Kiwanis representative Hazel Cording.



Leadership + Character

Perry Gresham of Clarkesville was one of the big winners on Awards Day as she earned both the President's Leadership Award and the Outstanding Character Award. Pictured with Gresham is TFS Board Chair Amy Atkinson and President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.



# Pennant fever!

The applications were submitted months ago and members of the Class of 2018 have made their decisions. To see the colleges and universities that TFS graduates have been accepted to take a look at the map on the following pages.



H.M. Stewart Award

Anna Davis of Clarkesville received the H.M. Stewart award from Craig Beatty of South State Bank. This award goes to the TFS valedictorian each year.



Clayton Woman's Club

Sarah Catherine Fordham of Cornelia received the Clayton Woman's Club Award. Presenting the award is club representative Linda Johnson.



United Community Bank

Cindy Trusty of Mountain City received the United Community Bank Scholarship. Presenting the award is Kayla Pitts.

*record setting*

The Class of 2018 earned more than \$7 million in scholarship offers.



*saluting the best of Class of 2018*

Outstanding Boarding Student

Meilin Wu of China is pictured with Dean of Students Jimmy Franklin.



Outstanding Day Student

Cindy Trusty of Mountain City is pictured with Dean of Students Jimmy Franklin.



Habersham Rotary Club scholarships

Seven seniors were recipients of Habersham Rotary Club scholarships. Reece and Reagan Bates of Clarkesville, Cade Bramlett of Clarkesville, Eli Cloutre of Clarkesville, Shanna Lewallen of Cornelia and Clara Pence of Demorest were awarded scholarships in the amount of \$1,000. In addition, Grace Brewer of Clarkesville received \$1,000 for four years. The accomplished seniors were honored at the Rotary Club meeting on May 3. The awards are both merit- and need-based. "We are certainly proud of these students and appreciate our local Rotary Club's support of academic excellence," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "These young people are exemplary representatives of the Class of 2018."

Shown, from left, are Reagan Bates, Cade Bramlett, Grace Brewer, Eli Cloutre, Clara Pence, Shanna Lewallen and Reece Bates.



Extra Mile Award

Zixuan Jia of China is pictured with Dean of Students Jimmy Franklin.

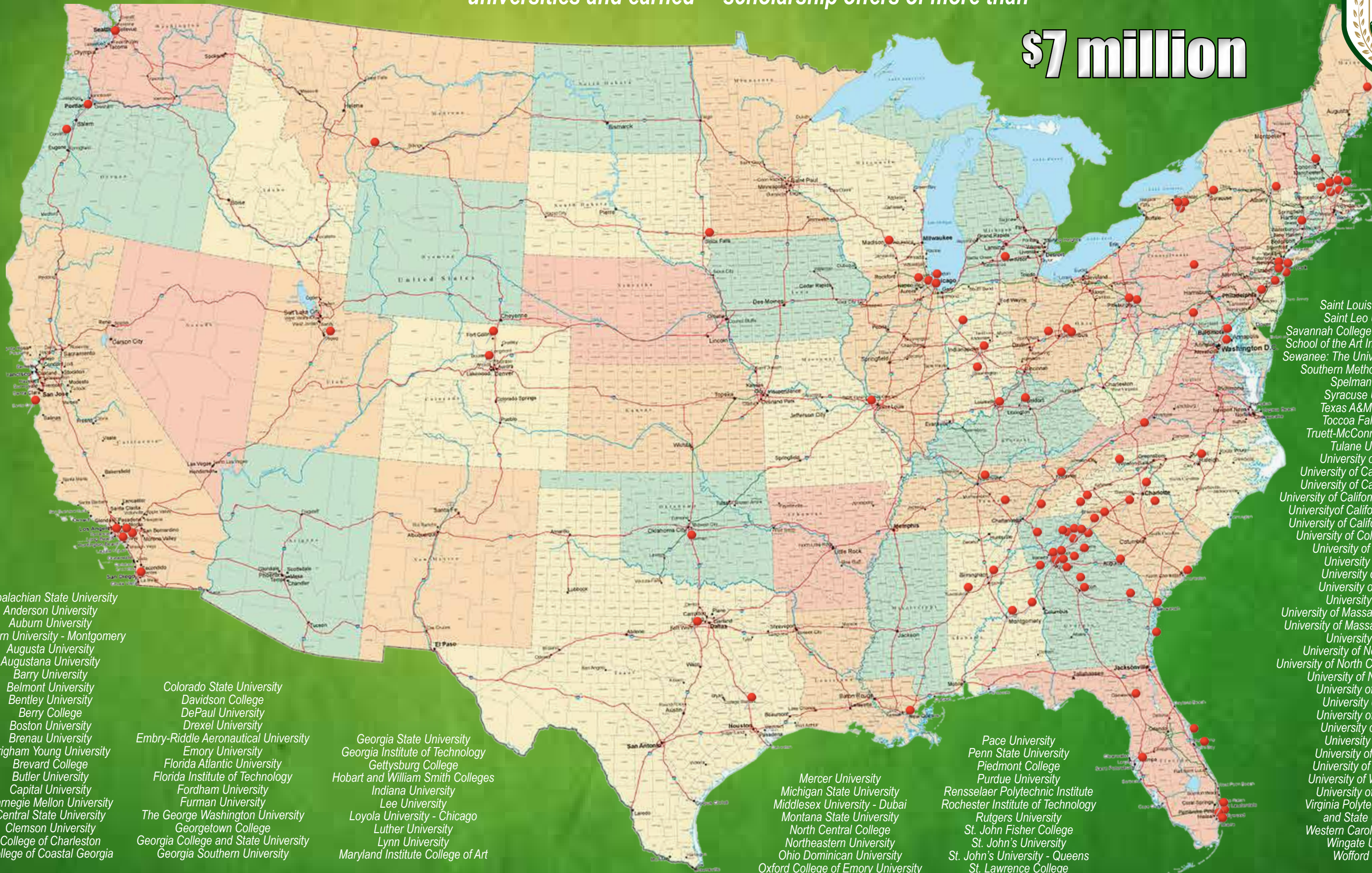
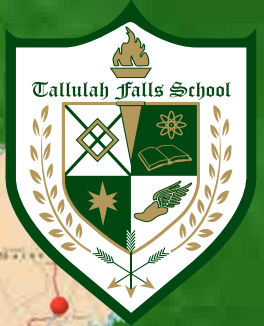
# Class of 2018 "Lifers"





Graduates from the Class of 2018 have been accepted to more than 100 outstanding colleges and universities and earned scholarship offers of more than

**\$7 million**



- Appalachian State University
- Anderson University
- Auburn University
- Auburn University - Montgomery
- Augusta University
- Augustana University
- Barry University
- Belmont University
- Bentley University
- Berry College
- Boston University
- Brenau University
- Brigham Young University
- Brevard College
- Butler University
- Capital University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Central State University
- Clemson University
- College of Charleston
- College of Coastal Georgia

- Colorado State University
- Davidson College
- DePaul University
- Drexel University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Emory University
- Florida Atlantic University
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Fordham University
- Furman University
- The George Washington University
- Georgetown College
- Georgia College and State University
- Georgia Southern University

- Georgia State University
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Gettysburg College
- Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Indiana University
- Lee University
- Loyola University - Chicago
- Luther University
- Lynn University
- Maryland Institute College of Art

- Mercer University
- Michigan State University
- Middlesex University - Dubai
- Montana State University
- North Central College
- Northeastern University
- Ohio Dominican University
- Oxford College of Emory University

- Pace University
- Penn State University
- Piedmont College
- Purdue University
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University
- St. John Fisher College
- St. John's University
- St. John's University - Queens
- St. Lawrence College

- Saint Louis University
- Saint Leo University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Seawanee: The University of the South
- Southern Methodist University
- Spelman College
- Syracuse University
- Texas A&M University
- Toccoa Falls College
- Truett-McConnell University
- Tulane University
- University of Alabama
- University of California - Davis
- University of California - Irvine
- University of California - Santa Barbara
- University of California - Santa Cruz
- University of California - San Diego
- University of Colorado - Boulder
- University of Connecticut
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Louisville
- University of Maine
- University of Massachusetts - Amherst
- University of Massachusetts - Boston
- University of Miami
- University of New Hampshire
- University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
- University of North Georgia
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Oregon
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Portland
- University of Tampa
- University of Tennessee
- University of Washington
- University of West Georgia
- University of Wisconsin
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Western Carolina University
- Wingate University
- Wofford College



## Michelle Thevenin receives prestigious Gates Foundation Scholarship

by E. Lane Gresham

### Joins elite group of scholarship recipients

**T**he Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has named Tallulah Falls School senior Michelle Thevenin of Lithonia a member of the 2018 Gates Scholarship class.

Thevenin is one of 300 individuals accepted from a nationwide applicant pool of 28,700. According to the acceptance letter, she is a “member of an elite group of young leaders – all of whom represent the very pinnacle of academic achievement and have also left indelible marks on their respective high school communities, for service and commitment.”

Thevenin applied last summer and was notified she was a semifinalist in November. “I was required to send in two teacher recommendations. I had Mrs. Kelli Bly and Coach Van Hooser complete the teacher recommendations for me,” Thevenin said. “I also had to answer four writing prompts by January. The essays were the most tedious and time-consuming part for me.”

An interview was the next step in the application process, she said. “On April 25, at 7:30 p.m. I was informed that I was chosen...,” she said. “When I saw the title message of the email that said ‘Congratulations!’ I was overwhelmed with joy. It almost felt as if I were dreaming. I immediately called my mom to tell her the good news.”

She will now have access to a network of scholars and other support services including mentoring, academic support, career and internship guidance, advice, internship and job opportunities and online courses.

“They [Gates Foundation] will help me prepare for professional life and add me to a network of fellow scholars and other distinguished individuals,” she said. “This will be useful for me when I try to find a job in electrical engineering.”

In addition to the benefits of being a part of this prestigious group, Thevenin will have access to funding for college defined as a “last-dollar” award. The funding assures that students have no other cost of attendance



Michelle Thevenin

beyond the Expected Family Contribution as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA]. This includes tuition, books, supplies, room and board, transportation and personal expenses.

“Since I won’t have to pay for my undergraduate years, I can start saving to pay for graduate school which I know will be expensive,” she said.

After graduating from TFS, Thevenin plans to attend Boston University to pursue a degree in electrical engineering. She was also accepted to Purdue University, Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia.

She is confident her foundation at TFS will serve her well as she takes the next step toward a successful future. She is grateful for the experience and to the faculty and staff.

“TFS has allowed me to prepare myself for college by teaching me how to effectively manage my time which will be very important in college,” she said. “Mrs. Bly has been very inspirational to me. She is always very caring toward everyone and always wants the best for her students. She did my recommendation for this scholarship and does not hesitate when I ask her to do anything for me. I will forever be

grateful to her for everything she has done for me these past two years. I would also like to thank Mrs. [Annette] Cochran for taking me on multiple engineering expeditions this year because I have learned a lot from them.”

continued on page 26

## Kate Gilmer - ready to soar

by E. Lane Gresham

### Talented writer chosen to participate in prestigious Yale Writer’s Workshop

**W**ith an ebony mop of hair framing a pair of curious eyes and a shy smile, 8-year-old Kate Gilmer slid a short stack of books across the counter at the local library. Eager to absorb the stories contained within the pages, she skipped to the car with her nana, Toccoa resident Artie Hellenga. Back then she didn’t have her own library card but checked out books in her grandmother’s name.

Now 18, the words she learned to read more than a decade ago formed the foundation for one of three passions that will direct her future. Gilmer, also of Toccoa, loves to write, travel and fly airplanes. And shortly after graduation from Tallulah Falls School, she will experience all three.

She applied for and was accepted into the Yale Writer’s Workshop, hosted by the prestigious Ivy League university. She’ll spend two weeks with 10 other writers from around the world, honing her craft with Yale faculty, leading authors, editors, agents and publishers.

Her mother, Lori Gilmer, told her about the workshop. “My dream is to become a writer,” Gilmer said. “[The workshop] looked pretty cool so I applied.”

Part of the appeal is to immerse herself in the Yale campus experience. “I’m going to work with accomplished writers to get their opinion on becoming a published writer and their best tips in doing so,” she said. “I’m hoping to get a feel for what it’s like to go there.”

Gilmer was modest when describing the application process. Required to submit 1,300 words, she asked English teacher Kelli Bly to proofread the submission.

“I didn’t tell her what it was for,” Gilmer said. “I dreamed about being accepted; I couldn’t stop smiling [after receiving the acceptance].”

The talented senior has already published online, writing in forums for fan fiction about characters from her favorite television series, *NCIS* and *Castle*. Her creative focus for the workshop is the murder-mystery genre. As part of the workshop, she’ll be paired with a published author. Gilmer hopes the connections there will expand her publishing opportunities.

Three days after she returns from New England, she’ll travel to China for an 11-day trip to visit with classmate Garbo Wu. Immersing herself in the culture with a native will en-

**Gilmer, of Toccoa, loves to write, travel and fly airplanes. And shortly after graduation from Tallulah Falls School, she will experience all three.**



Kate Gilmer

hance her language abilities, she said. Gilmer plans to minor in Chinese, Japanese or German.

To prepare for enrollment at Auburn University to study aviation, she aims to earn her private pilot’s license before she leaves home this fall. If she can accomplish this goal, it will eliminate some of the required course work, allowing her to teach flying her senior year at Auburn.

She’s a fourth generation pilot and flies with her father Tom Gilmer out of the Toccoa-Stephens County Airport. She currently holds a student license, with career dreams of becoming a commercial airline pilot.

She says the TFS experience has been pivotal in her academic success. “Tallulah Falls School has definitely affected me in a great way,” she said. “I don’t think I could have become who I am today without this school.”

Gilmer’s favorite author is Stephen King. As a nod to King, she applied and was accepted into the Honors College at the University of Maine, his alma mater. She was also accepted to Purdue University, Berry College, Furman University, University of

North Georgia and Lynn University.

Bly is confident Gilmer will realize her dreams.

“She seems to be a well-rounded young woman in many respects, and I am certain that whatever path she chooses, she will apply those attributes to ensure her success,” Bly said. “After teaching for 29 years, I feel like I have a sense about those students I’m certain will be successful; Kate is one of those students.” ■



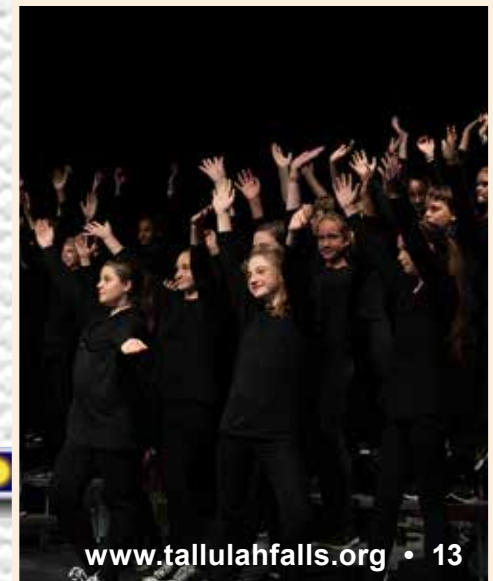
celebrating  
the creative  
spirit!

# 6th grade *Disney* REVIEW

Collaboration was key as the TFS sixth grade staged their first-ever musical featuring iconic Disney songs and characters.

The Disney Review was a true ensemble production - 48 members strong. The show was led by choral teacher Memrie Cox, art instructor Cat Schappach and technology instructor and choreographer Kerri Pugh.

According to Pugh, a dozen students created the props and served as stage crew, with the remainder of the sixth grade class performing onstage for one show only on May 15. The young performers outdid themselves as the packed house was absolutely thrilled with the production.



## Mark your calendar

TFS eighth grader's artwork selected to be featured on Southern Teachers Agency academic calendar



photo by Cat Schappach

When 2,000 copies of next year's academic calendar are released by the Southern Teachers Agency, a familiar building will light up the spring season.

An original watercolor by eighth-grader Allie Dalton of Baldwin featuring the Tallulah Falls School middle school has been selected to appear in the annual showcase for student art. The contest was open to students in grades eight-12.

"'Spring at Front Entrance' will appear in our 2018-19 academic year art calendar, which we distribute to over 2,000 independent schools around the country," said Carey Goodman, director with Southern Teachers Agency. Art teacher Cat Schappach said it was rare to see a middle school student

place in a contest dominated by high school winners.

"I was so excited as I know that for my wonderful academic dean David Chester, this was a bright spot," Schappach said. "All 10 students who entered did a phenomenal job."

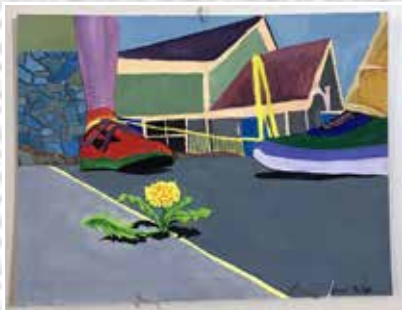
Chester said one of the goals at the middle school is to encourage an environment that promotes creativity.

"So many of our students thrive in Ms. Schappach's classes; our lobby is a rotating art gallery, filled with quality art throughout the year," Chester said.

Dalton will receive five copies of the calendar and a \$50 gift certificate to purchase art supplies.



Art lovers - you are invited to stop by the TFS middle school during the academic year and view student artwork on display in the lobby. Here are just a few featured pieces recently created by "Miss Cat's" middle school art students.







**T**he Class of 2022. Though it sounds far in the future, it's really just around the corner. This year's eighth graders - 62 strong - are headed for the upper school. Excitement and enthusiasm were in abundance as the middle school gathered on the evening of May 22 for the traditional awards night/eighth grade commencement program. A large crowd filled the Student

Activity Center to recognize and celebrate excellence and achievement in the awards portion of the assembly. After a short break it was time to formalize the transition between middle school and upper school as the Class of 2022 received certificates and made it official.

Congratulations to this exceptional group of young people, the newest members of the TFS upper school.

For the complete list of middle school awards visit [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org) and click on News and Announcements



**Outstanding 5th Grader - Chloe Erwin**  
presented by Chrissy Van Hooser, Dr. Tamara Griffis and Travis Mullis



**Outstanding 6th Grader - Kylie Krueger**  
presented by Annette Shirley and Maggie Van Cantfort



**Outstanding 8th Grader - Madison Perdue**  
presented by Carol Madden, Hannah Gibson, Killen Jensen and Zac Roland



**House of the Year: Charlie Cody and Briana Docsol** accept the award on behalf of the Wolves.



**Colton Augustine and Barrett Whitener** each delivered an eighth grade commencement address.



**Outstanding 7th Grader**  
Yixuan Wang  
(unavailable for photo on Awards Night)



The stuff of *Legends*

from left: Taylor Huling • Morgan Jones • Maggie Eavenson • Abby Hulsey • Meredith Church • Grace Brewer  
Sophie Alexander • Briana Docsol • Eva Wiggins • Sydney Metcalf • Shelby Day • Sidney Butikofer • Julia James

**T**he TFS yearbook - bigger, better and now the BEST! Yearbook Advisor Shelby Day's students recently received word that the 2017-18 *Legend* was chosen for the Walsworth Gallery of Excellence. "Out of all the yearbooks that Walsworth publishes ours is considered a superior example

of theme coverage, design, photography and writing. This year's book will be displayed at regional, state and national conventions and workshops as a distinguished example of student journalism. I am so proud of them." Above: The yearbook staff celebrates as final layouts head to the printer.



Fifth graders explore local WWII connection



submitted

TFS fifth graders recently visited the renowned Currahee Military Museum in Toccoa. The visit served to support a unit of study dealing with World War II.

"Our fifth graders saw many interesting exhibits, including the horse stable brought here from Aldbourne, England, that housed the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, American paratroopers during the war," said Travis Mullis, fifth grade history teacher. "Nearby Camp Toccoa was the home of the legendary 'band of brothers.'"

The Currahee Military Museum is located in the railroad depot in historic downtown Toccoa. During World War II troops arriving for paratrooper training would march five miles from the depot to Camp Toccoa to begin their training. More than 18,000 paratroopers trained at the camp prior to and after D-Day.

The students also enjoyed a number of local history exhibits including one on Toccoa-native Paul Anderson who was widely considered the strongest man in the world in the 1960s.



## Pair of rising seniors selected to participate in Washington D.C. Youth Tour

### Developing leadership

Two rising seniors have been selected to participate in the Washington D.C. Youth Tour this summer. Madeline McClurg of Clarkesville was selected by Habersham EMC and Caleb Griffis of Martin was selected by Hart EMC. The Youth Tour is an all-expenses-paid trip to the nation's capital held the week of June 7-14 and is sponsored by electric membership cooperatives throughout Georgia. For more than half a century the Washington D.C. Youth Tour has helped to develop promising student leaders into exceptional young adults.

McClurg and Griffis were selected by virtue of earning top combined scores on a written test and in a personal interview by a panel of judges. Griffis is the son of Stan and Tamara Griffis of Martin and McClurg is the daughter of Matt and Kim McClurg of Clarkesville.

According to Valerie Stamey, Washington Youth Tour Coordinator for Habersham EMC in Clarkesville, the Youth Tour was established to inspire the next generation of leaders.

The tour provides an opportunity for students to meet policy makers, participate in leadership experiences and tour local historic monuments while making new acquaintances from across Georgia and the nation. Participants are challenged



Madeline McClurg



Caleb Griffis

to think about the part they play in government, to become engaged as citizens and to learn about and consider careers in public service.

Both McClurg and Griffis competed for their spot as a delegate alongside hundreds of other highly successful students throughout their respective regions that included members of the National Honor Society, student-athletes and community volunteers.

The 112 student delegates gathered in Atlanta to kick-off the tour. They spent time getting to know one another before departing from Washington, D.C. on June 7. Georgia's delegation met with over 1,800 youth representing cooperatives from across the nation, providing them with an opportunity to meet and mingle with peers and exchange views on local and national issues.

Since 1965 more than 3,000 students from Georgia and more than 50,000 students nationwide have participated in this valuable experience.

## TFS trio victorious in Stock Market Game

For the third year in a row a team from TFS won the region competition in the annual Georgia Council for Economic Education (GCEE) Stock Market Game. The Stock Market Game gives students the opportunity to invest \$100,000 of "game money" in an exercise in experiential learning. Over the course of ten weeks students purchase stocks, diversify their portfolios and track current events, all with the goal of earning a hefty profit from their fictitious investments.

The Stock Market Game involves teams from across the state. The TFS senior class had 18 teams participating in this year's competition. Congratulations to the team of Chengxuan Huang, Jun Kwon and Rui Sun for not only being the region winners, but the Congressional District 9 winners as well.



From left: Chengxuan Huang, Jun Kwon, Kent Woerner (ably filling in for Dallas Barron while she is on maternity leave) and Rui Sun.



### Royalty for a night

Elegant Chota Falls was once again the site as juniors and seniors enjoyed Prom Night 2018. At the conclusion of the evening's "senior walk" two seniors were recognized by their peers as prom king and queen. William Shanks and Meredith Church, both of Clarkesville, were selected by their peers. The evening featured a wonderful buffet dinner, carriage rides, a huge bonfire and, of course, plenty of music and dancing. From left: TFS Board Chair Amy Atkinson, William Shanks, Meredith Church, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy pose for a photo before the traditional first dance.

### The ART of giving back

Following a recent successful fundraiser the National Art Honor Society voted to donate proceeds back to Tallulah Falls School. In April NAHS members presented President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy with a check for \$100 to go towards the Tallulah Fund which supports student scholarships at TFS. Shown on the front row with President Peevy, from left: NAHS officers Sophia Kawach, Morgan Jones, Rebekah Foor and Emily Wonders. The National Art Honor Society recognizes excellence and dedication in the visual arts by giving students an opportunity to be part of a larger community of young artists and creative thinkers. Students are nominated based on merit, grades and character.



### TFS earns campus safety certification

Tallulah Falls School continues to do everything possible to ensure that its students, faculty and staff have a safe and secure campus. David Shanks, Area 1 Homeland Security Coordinator for the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, recently conducted an extensive school safety program for TFS faculty and staff. Upon completion, Shanks presented TFS Director of Security Dustin Rogers (center) and President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy (right) with a certificate in recognition of the school's efforts to promote safety and to acknowledge that Tallulah Falls School's safety plan is in compliance with GEMA/HS requirements.





Faculty retirements

Several key members of the TFS community retired at the end of the 2017-18 academic year. We thank them for their combined decades of loyal, dedicated service and wish them many happy and successful years in the next phase of their lives.

Patsy Baker retires after 31 years of service to the TFS community as a nurse. She has served in the nursing profession for more than 45 years.

Killeen Jensen retires after 27 years at Tallulah Falls School. Jensen most recently has taught eighth grade history. In addition to her years at TFS she has also taught in Iowa, Wyoming and South Dakota.

Dr. Wanda Morris retires from TFS with five years at the school. Morris' entire career encompasses 41 years of teaching. Morris was recently named the 2018 STAR Teacher.

*Best wishes retirees!*



Patsy Baker  
31 years

Killeen Jensen  
27 years

Dr. Wanda Morris  
5 years

*"Educators are the only people who lose sleep over other people's children."*

*- Nicholas Ferroni*

Employee anniversaries

Nineteen members of the TFS faculty/staff celebrated employment milestones this year. Each was recognized during post-planning festivities by their supervisors and each received a certificate of appreciation along with a check. Congratulations to each of these dedicated and loyal employees for their continued hard work and dedication!

15

**Fifteen years**  
Brian Boyd  
Perry Bourlet

10

**Ten years**  
Mark Rasmussen  
Sara Roberts  
Annette Shirley  
Kelly Woodall

5

**Five years**  
Allie Audet  
Josh Brady  
Shelby Day  
Preston Fowler  
Jinny Hanifan-Wagner  
Stephen Hanifan-Wagner  
Elizabeth Kyle  
Wanda Morris  
Tracy Moss  
Hazel Talley  
Jim Van Hooser  
Ashley Walden  
Bobby Walden



From our family... to yours

Members of the TFS team - dining hall, plant services, boarding staff, administrative staff and faculty - gathered for a quick photo during the final frantic days before summer break. From all of us here at Tallulah Falls School - have a happy, safe summer. We'll see everyone in August.

Dr. Kenneth Franklin  
2018 Outstanding Former Student

Dr. Kenneth Franklin, a 1963 graduate of Tallulah Falls School and a resident of Turnerville, was named the 2018 Outstanding Former Student at the annual alumni homecoming luncheon, held April 21. Franklin accepted the award from TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

Following graduation in 1963 Franklin joined the U.S. Air Force where he served in a variety of capacities including a stint in combat security forces as a part of the Cold War. Afterwards, Franklin attended Coosa Valley Technical School and North Georgia Technical College in order to acquire a degree in electronics. He earned a Business Degree from Truett-McConnell College, graduating with honors. Dr. Franklin also earned a PhD in Philosophy in Christian Counseling Psychology. He holds a Masters in Metaphysics and is currently working on a PhD in Metaphysics.

Franklin acquired firefighter training from the Georgia Fire Academy and from the Texas Fireman's School at Texas A&M University. He has served locally in emergency response for many years and was a member of the Tallulah Falls Fire Department from 1974-89.

Franklin was employed by the Georgia Power Company for 38 years (1967-2005). His job responsibilities included hydro-power plant operator, power plant electrician and electric team leader.

The versatile Franklin was ordained as a Baptist minister in 1982. He has served as pastor in several churches including



Tallulah Falls Baptist Church where he has pastored since 2005. He also volunteers as chaplain for several local organizations.

Many local organizations have benefited from Franklin's generosity with his time and talents. He logs countless hours each year serving his community. He is a member of the American Legion, Volunteer Chaplains, past member of the Board of Associates of Tallulah Falls School, Citizens of Georgia Power, Tallulah Falls Chapter and the Georgia Egg Commission.

Franklin and his wife, Franchesca, have two grown children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"Kenneth has been a strong supporter of TFS for many years," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "I can think of no one that represents the values we attempt to teach our students better than Kenneth. I am proud to call him my friend."

Honoring our past

Campus history map unveiled at 2018 alumni homecoming

Interested in the fascinating history of Tallulah Falls School? You now have a new tool to help explore the school's colorful past. Thanks to the research skills of Doug Threlkeld '64 and TFS museum director Barney Rothgery, an 18" x 24" color map has been created to detail the history of the historic campus. Research from the pair included plotting the location of previous structures, historic sites and locating the corresponding photographs. The pair's research was turned over to Brian Boyd, TFS Director of Communications, who performed the layout and supervised production. The maps are available in the TFS museum and on the TFS website.



Barney Rothgery (left) and Doug Threlkeld



*Sportsmanship* - continuing the TFS tradition

Tallah Falls School continued to build on its tradition of excellence in sportsmanship as it garnered numerous year-end awards. TFS received 2017-18 GHSA Region 8-A Sportsmanship Awards in the following varsity sports: girls' cross country, boys' cross country, boys' basketball (tie), baseball (tie), boys' golf (tie), girls' golf (tie), girls' track & field (tie), boys' tennis (tie) and boys' track & field.

TFS middle school athletes were also recognized for outstanding sportsmanship. Tri-State Middle School Conference sportsmanship awards were given in: girls' cross country, boys' cross country, boys' basketball (tie) and boys' track & field.

"It is an honor for our athletes to be recognized by high school region and middle school conference coaches for a culture of sportsmanship within competitive encounters," said Scott Neal, TFS Athletic Director. "We are proud of our athletes and coaches who lead and demonstrate that the manner in which we develop a GREAT culture while fulfilling our mission to enhance character, competence, and competitiveness, to host GREAT events and to create a Season of Significance is what lasts in memory and legacy."



**Scott Neal**  
Athletic Director

*"We understand it is a privilege to participate in interscholastic sports as a TFS Indian and want to shine the light of Tallulah Falls School in every competitive endeavor."*

TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal and multi-sport athlete Perry Gresham have both been in the news lately, as evidenced by the stories on this page. In addition to the news items above and below, both were recently selected for inclusion into the 2017-18 class of Positive Athlete America, Northeast Georgia Region. This organization seeks to recognize athletes who have overcome difficult circumstances, given back to their schools and communities or manifest an infectious positive attitude.

Neal and Gresham both excel in the characteristics that are necessary for inclusion: an optimistic attitude, encouragement, servant leadership, a heart for others, admitting mistakes, giving 100% effort and putting team first. Congratulations to both of these outstanding members of the TFS community for this honor.



**Neal and Gresham named to 2017-18 class**

**Gresham signs with University of the South**



Senior multi-sport athlete Perry Gresham of Clarkesville recently signed a National Letter of Intent to compete in cross country and track & field at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Gresham was surrounded by family, friends and key members of the TFS family as she signed with the purple and gold Tigers of the University of the South on April 25.

"We really look forward to having Perry with us next year at Sewanee," said Coach Jeff Heitzenrater, Sewanee's head cross country/track & field coach. "It has been a pleasure getting to know her during the recruiting process and her solid academic and athletic talents will be a real asset to our program and to the university community."

Gresham holds school records in cross country, 1600m, 4x4 relay and the distance medley relay and qualified to compete at the state sectionals this season in the 1600m relay. She also qualified for state as a member of the 4x4 relay team.



Front row, from left: Joseph Gresham, E. Lane Gresham, Perry Gresham, Bill Gresham, Jackson Gresham. Back row, from left: assistant coach Herb Snedden, Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Athletic Director and coach Scott Neal, assistant cross country coach Jennifer Dunlap.

Senior standout cements legacy with **championship performance**

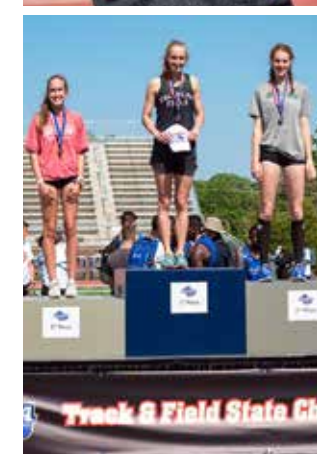
**TFS senior Anna Davis has had quite the**

senior year. Only a few months removed from signing a National Letter of Intent to compete in track & field at Davidson College, Davis entered the GHSA A-Private state championships as the most decorated female track & field athlete in school history. Davis went into the TFS record books yet again as she became the first female track & field athlete to win a state championship. In fact, she won two.

Davis won the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles at the championships which were held at Berry College in Rome. Davis also finished fourth in the long jump event with a personal record of 16'-11" and anchored the 4 x 400 team that finished seventh. For the championships Davis scored 25.5 points (a TFS record for a state meet) helping the team to a school-best finish of fifth in the competition.

The good news continued to come in for Davis as she was also honored as the Blitz Sports GA girls track & field athlete of the year, an honor that she shared with Penn State signee Rachel Gearing of White County.

"Anna Davis leaves a legacy of GREAT character, leadership and performance," said coach Scott Neal. "She is the top TFS state scorer of all time, the school record-holder in seven outdoor and seven indoor events, the first TFS female state champion and the only two-event state champion. She is the epitome of GREAT."



**TFS's first female state champion**



**2017-18 Athletic Awards**



**Indians of the Year**  
Anna Davis • Chris Geiger



**Scholar Athlete Award**  
Sarah Catherine Fordham • Caleb Griffith



**GREAT Athletic Character**  
Maja Trbovic • Marvin Thiennukul



**'I Am Tallulah' Award**  
Perry Gresham  
Lauren Brown (TFS trainer)



**GREAT Leadership Award**  
Sophie Burke



**Middle School Indians of the Year**  
Macy Murdock • Nelson Wilkinson  
Middle school AD Tim Corbett



**Middle School GREAT Athletic Character**  
Lucy Alexander • Tyler Popham  
Middle school AD Tim Corbett  
[www.tallahfalls.org](http://www.tallahfalls.org) • 21



## Baseball earns respect with solid campaign

Varsity baseball coach Mark Wilcox has seen a great deal of change over the last two years. The school opened the Higgins Baseball Complex last year and his squad has continued to improve and just posted the best record in school history while competing against a full varsity and region schedule. Wilcox's squad fought to a .500 record for the 2018 campaign - 12 wins and 12 losses. The fact that this record came against many larger and more established programs was a tremendous accomplishment.

"We will definitely miss our two departing seniors, Jun Kwon and Ben Griswold, but the program's future looks very bright," said coach Wilcox.

- Best Offensive Player Award - Davis Jennings**
- Best Defensive Player Award - Zach Corwin**
- Most Outstanding Player Award - Gage Webb**
- Coach's Award - Chathan Cloutre**

Coach Wilcox (right) and coach Brothers confer

## Two multi-year veterans bid adieu on senior night

Seniors Ben Griswold of Demorest and Jun Kwon of South Korea, both multi-year starters, were recognized for their contributions to the TFS baseball program on senior night. Pictured, from left; Loren Griswold; Kimberly Griswold; Ben Griswold; Dustin Rogers, Director of Security; Jun Kwon; Mark Wilcox, varsity head coach; Jeff Brothers, assistant coach.

## 8th graders power middle school squad to Tri-State Conference title



Front row, kneeling, from left: Hutson Eller, Tyler Farmer, Mason Dawe, Will Seaman, Tate Shaw, Bryson Halbrook, Dan Griswold. back row, standing, from left: Matt Cochran, Tyler Popham, Kylar Cloutre, Drayson Rumsey, Aiden Gragg, Drew Bates, head coach Dustin Rogers. Not pictured: assistant coach Lowell Hamilton.

TFS Director of Security Dustin Rogers took over the reigns of middle school baseball this season and powered by a group of talented eighth graders the team had a stellar season. Early season rain proved to be quite a challenge, keeping the team from valuable practice time. According to Rogers, the team responded with enthusiasm and determination while leveraging the modern indoor practice facility.

Their schedule included a number of historically strong, experienced teams. Early season losses against Lakeview and Rabun County helped the squad learn to play in adverse situations, according to Rogers.

"We saved our best ball for the final two games, both against Rabun Gap," said Rogers. "We outscored them 32-8 over both games to finish 8-5 and win the Tri-State middle school championship. The team showed GREAT spirit and sportsmanship."

Offensively the team was led by eighth-graders Tyler Popham and Drew Bates. Both players batted over .500 and led the team in runs scored and RBIs, while fellow eighth-grader Aiden Gragg finished the season with three wins and an ERA under three.



From left: Coach Allen Campbell, Maggie Jackson, Brinson Hall, Selah Anderson and Jiayi Wang hoist the Area 2-A trophy.

With a youthful squad featuring four-year state qualifier Jenny Wang and three eager freshmen, coach Allen Campbell wasn't sure what to expect from this year's varsity ladies' golf team. In addition to nine-hole play, Campbell scheduled challenging competition from higher classifications as well as 18 and 36-hole tournaments. The team played like veterans and by season's end they were crowned Area champions for the second time in three years, earning a third place finish in the GHSA Class A-Private classification. The ladies also completed their second consecutive undefeated regular season in head-to-head matches.

Freshman Brinson Hall led the team with a record-breaking 79 on the first day of the state finals followed by a solid 83 on the second day to finish the tournament with a school record 162 for 36 holes and ninth place out of 50 girls.

With three-quarters of this year's championship squad expected to return next year for their sophomore campaigns it will be great fun watching this team compete. Truly the sky is the limit for these talented young ladies.

### Ladies golf - Individual records set this year:

- 9-hole scoring record: 38 - Jenny Wang (State finals)
- 18-hole scoring record: 79 - Brinson Hall (State finals)
- 36-hole scoring record: 162 - Brinson Hall (State finals)

### Team records in two-score matches:

- 9 holes: 79 (Area finals)
- 18 holes: 163 (State finals)
- 36 holes: 331 (State finals)

### Team records in three-score matches:

- 9 holes: 120 (Area finals)
- 18 holes: 251 (State finals)
- 36 holes: 512 (State finals)

**Most Consistent - Brinson Hall • Most Valuable - Maggie Jackson**  
**Coach's Award - Jenny Wang • Most Improved - Selah Anderson**

## varsity boys' golf



Boys team, from left: head coach Allen Campbell, Will Jackson, Chaz Mullis, Andrew Wisniewski, Kale Corbett, Patton Strong, assistant coach Matt Heyl.

The TFS varsity boys' golf season was all about establishing the foundation for the future. Coach Campbell had a challenging task of fielding a team with only a handful of varsity players. The way the team stuck together through some tough matches was impressive.

"The team really gave it their all this year and showed great camaraderie throughout the season," said Campbell. "We were able to string together a few wins and the squad shows real promise for the future."

**Best Scoring Average - Kale Corbett**  
**Most Improved - Patton Strong**

## 3rd place finish in the State tournament, Area 2-A champs



Wang



Jackson

thank you to the Orchard Golf and Country Club for their continuing support of TFS golf!



Hall



Anderson





for additional track & field results visit [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org)



**Girls Varsity  
5th in state  
Class A-Private  
highest team finish  
in TFS history**

**2017-18 Awards**  
Team First  
Chance Bess  
Team First  
Madison Ball  
Top Performer  
Grey Bourlet

**Legacy of Excellence**  
Anna Davis  
**GREAT Leadership**  
Jesse Gulle  
**GREAT Leadership**  
Perry Gresham

Shown, front row, from left, are Anna Davis (captain), Sydney Spivey, Sarah Catherine Fordham, Sophie Alexander, Jenni Gallagher, Reid Kafsky, Santy Dembele, Mari Edwards (mgr.), Damali Danavall, Katy Corbett, Madison Ball (captain), Perry Gresham (captain), Raven Randall (mgr.), Cindy Trusty. Middle row, from left, are coach Herb Snedden, athletic trainer Lauren Brown, Baylee MacBeth, Collin Kelly, Caleb Carter, Joe Griswold, Zoeta Zigbuo, Patrick Pearce, Luis Rangel De Luna, Tomi Sofela, Maik Murenzi, Josh Shanks, Rey David Cruz, Chris Geiger, River Fox Nickelson, Jesse Gulle (captain). Back row, from left, coach Ephraim Davis, Grey Bourlet, Mohamed Kanu, Eli Sims, Julian Gober, Zac Smith, Ajani McIntosh, Chance Bess, Alfie Barnor, Aki Makevic, Riley Barron, Simeon Respress, David Woods, Caleb Griffis, coach Scott Neal, coach Tim Corbett.

**State Qualifiers**

**Madison Ball • Grey Bourlet • Damali Danavall • Anna Davis • Sarah Catherine Fordham  
Jenni Gallagher • Perry Gresham • Ajani McIntosh • Simeon Respress • Sydney Spivey • Cindy Trusty**



**middle school track & field**

**boys and girls -**

**2018 Tri-State champs!**

Shown, front row, from left, Colton Augustine, Lincoln Hall, Ikenna Uwakwe, Gavin Atkinson, Ethan Simmons, Joel Bourlet, Austin Ball, Keygan Antosiak, Mai Miyashita, Julianne Shirley; middle row, from left, Maya Pittman, Junyi Rick He, Nasha Dembele, Sammy Hartman, Lane Kafsky, Jayln Colston, Sophie Herrera, Brinna Docsol, Maggie Peacock, Allie Dalton, Carmen Sotunde, Macy Murdock, Henry Rickman, Lady Nassah; back row, from left, coach Scott Neal, Chris Bajomo, Jerry Sang, Zi Shrek Wang, Ethan Wannier, Bryan Cope, Nelson Wilkinson, Blair Moore, Tori Tilley, Barrett Whitener, Lucy Alexander, coach Tamara Griffis, coach Tim Corbett. Not pictured: CJ Augustine, Cassidy Hayes, Jingan Jason Sang, Ellie Southards.

**TFS Varsity and JV tennis squads**



**Varsity and JV Girls**

front row, kneeling, from left: Lillie Liu, Maggie Eavenson, Dasom Kim, Garbo Wu, Sophie Burke. Back row, standing, from left: assistant coach Scott Davis Gigi Welch, Taylor McAvoy, Jennifer Li, Jade Mitchell, Laurel Smith, Emily Wonders, Lilla Banki, head coach Randy Morris.



**Varsity and JV Boys**

Front row, from left: Alex Adams, Marvin Thiennukul, David Cheng, Gunn Thiennukul, Hanwu Fang, Simon Hu. Back row, standing, from left: head coach Randy Morris, Daniel Villa, Hagan Eubank, Joey DeKoskie, Jake Carver, Zhiyang Shu, Tom Fu, Tae Yoon Kim, Bobby Oklapek, Moshen Hu, Pengyue Wang, assistant coach Scott Davis.

**Coach's Award - Patricio Casamitjana • Most Improved - Taylor McAvoy  
Most Improved - Gunn Thiennukul • Most Valuable - Lilla Banki • Coach's Award - Sophie Burke**



**Lady Indians SOCCER**

youthful squad poised to compete in near future

There were many new faces on the soccer pitch this year for coach Whitney Calloway. Her 19-player roster featured mostly underclassmen. "The ladies fought hard all year, including two close heartbreaking losses early in the season," said Calloway. "The record wasn't indicative of the competitive nature of this squad. Most of our games were very close in play, but that wasn't always reflected in the score."

Many of the players worked hard in the offseason through their participation in the Performance Enhancement Program with Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist (CSCS) Tammie Rasmussen.

With nearly two-thirds of the roster being underclassmen, the team steadily improved throughout the season. The improvement was evident in the dramatic final game of the season as they were victorious on Senior Night over rival Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School.

The leading scorers this season were Honora Kahwach (seven goals), Sydney Coffey (three goals) and Grace Kim (two goals). Goalkeeper Maja Trbovic stopped 103 shots on the year.

**Most Improved - Kally Momoh  
Most Valuable - Maja Trbovic  
Coach's Award - Grace Kim**



Young players like eighth grader Honora Kahwach (above) and freshman Grace Kim (left) made major contributions to the program.



**Senior recognition**

The one and only senior on this year's ladies' soccer squad was honored on senior night during halftime of the final home game versus Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. Maja Trbovic, who hails from Serbia, was escorted by local guardians Jack and Kathy Molnar of Clarkesville. Trbovic played exceptionally well in her final home game, allowing only one goal in a 2-1 win. Shown, from left: Kathy Molnar, Maja Trbovic and Jack Molnar.

**Middle School golfers stress basics, fundamentals** by coach Cyndy Campbell



From left: Coach Cyndy Campbell, Brooke Hayes, Charis Anderson, Hannah Lundy, Trevor Bramlett, Tommy Crawford, Gabe Smith, Henry Bowman, Ben Rosenthal.

As a young and inexperienced team we learned much about rules, course etiquette and basic skills, so for our players it was a season of growth, giving, patience and perseverance. We took advantage of a GREAT opportunity by giving the high school teams a bag of goodies. Each middle school player introduced themselves and presented varsity and JV golfers with a gift. We were grateful for the opportunity to use the new Golf Performance Lab this year as well. We appreciate Apple Mountain's support for providing our middle schoolers with a prime place to play. The end-of-season social reflected the camaraderie that was so evident throughout the season.



# SPACE COAST ADVENTURE

by Jordan West, TFS dorm counselor

Seventh graders head to Florida coast for week of learning and discovery



TFS seventh-graders recently spent a fun-filled week in Florida exploring educational landmarks on the state's famed Space Coast. The students spent their first full day in Florida visiting the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral. There, they took a bus tour, explored interactive exhibits, rode the space shuttle simulator and had lunch with Thomas D. Jones, a former NASA astronaut.

"[The Kennedy Space Center] was really cool," said Emma Barrett of Clarkesville. "I've never really been intrigued by the technology and science of space, but this trip made me want to learn more."

The next day, the group made their way to St. Augustine, where they visited Marineland Dolphin Adventure. Students took a "Behind the Seas" tour of the marine animal habitats and experienced a dolphin interaction.

That afternoon, the group headed into historic St. Augustine. They toured the nation's oldest active city by trolley, explored Flagler Memorial Presbyterian Church and learned about the lives of prisoners at the Old Jail. The students learned about St. Augustine's history at a lecture in front of Castillo de San Marcos, the oldest masonry fort in the continental United States.

On the trip's last full day, the students visited the Marine Science Center (MSC) in Ponce Inlet. The MSC cares for many types of animals, and the students had an opportunity to attend a bird show, see the Turtle Hospital and learn about several other types of wildlife that are housed and rehabilitated there. The students were excited to spend their free time that afternoon at the beach and in the pool at their Daytona Beach condos.

"The seventh grade trip was so much fun and filled with so many great activities. It was good to spend time with my peers," said Benjamin Okoronkwo of Nigeria. "I'm glad I had a fun and academic week at the same time."

Gates Scholarship - continued from page 10

According to Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham, Thevenin has honed strong leadership skills in her engineering classes at TFS. "Michelle has been a wonderful mentor to her younger classmates," Popham said. "We are confident her leadership abilities will serve her well in the future."

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy confirmed Thevenin was the second student from Tallulah Falls School to receive support from the Gates Foundation. "We know from past experience the doors this opportunity will open for Michelle," Peevy said. "With her commitment to this program and her intelligence, drive and strong character, Michelle's future success is assured."

All Gates Scholars will gather in June for The Gates Scholarship Summer Institute to learn about the program and how it will impact the future. Several of Thevenin's teachers and her guidance counselor shared thoughts on her work ethic, drive and potential for success:

"Michelle has been a student of mine for two years (and a

guest in my home on several occasions)," said English teacher Kelli Bly. "I am so fortunate to have met her. She is an unassuming young woman, but it is quite evident that there is an enthusiasm, a dedication and a passion in place for everything she pursues and accomplishes."

Dr. Wanda Morris, science teacher said, "Michelle has been a joy to teach – intelligent, hardworking, dependable and well-rounded. She is focused and goal oriented. She will go far."

"Michelle is a bright young lady who is a pleasure to work with," said Beth Huebner, science teacher. "Her dedication and commitment to excellence will serve her well in the future."

Michelle Barron, college counselor said, "Michelle is an amazing young lady who is committed to excellence and exemplifies the attributes of academic achievement, leadership, service and character. She is quick to serve others and demonstrates an authentic regard for everyone. Michelle has made a positive impact on our campus and will undoubtedly continue to do so at Boston University. I am very proud of this amazing young lady." ■

Barbeque, barbecue or BBQ - they're all good!

## The Pit Vipers

TFS Pit Vipers, from left: Ty Tilley, Darren Fortner, Colton Meeks, Eli Clouatre, Will Shanks, Ian Carroll, Luke Johnson, Noah Metcalf, Rylee Hunter, Tom Tilley. Not shown: Cade Bramlett.



The newly-formed TFS barbecue club had quite the debut at their first competition at the Cornelia Apple Blossom Festival on April 21. The 10-member team earned \$250 in prize money for their efforts on the day. Hundreds of visitors filled the streets of downtown Cornelia at the seventh annual festival that was sanctioned by the Kansas City Barbeque Society. The event drew 32 teams - 27 professional teams and five "backyard" or amateur teams, including the TFS Pit Vipers.

TFS social studies teacher Tom Tilley is the sponsor of the club. Tilley, who is an avid barbecue aficionado, was shocked by the huge response he received when he announced the formation of the club last fall. Tilley said he is not aware of any other schools in Georgia that even have a barbeque club.

Tilley's team had a prime spot at the competition positioned at the front of a long row of competing teams.

His group stayed busy serving hungry members of the public who voted for their favorites throughout the daylong event.

"Our results were really a team effort. Colton Meeks was in charge of ribs, Cade Bramlett and Darren Fortner were in charge of pork and Rylee Hunter and Noah Metcalf were in charge of chicken. Luke Johnson was in charge of our timeline."

At the end of the day the Pit Vipers had made their first mark in the world of competition barbecue. In the Kansas City Barbeque Society the team placed fifth for chicken, second for ribs (\$100 prize) and fourth for pork.

In the People's Choice category the team placed ninth in the Anything Apple category (prepared by Will Shanks) and earned a coveted first place (\$150 prize) award in the Anything Chicken category (Ty Tilley). The team's brunswick stew (Eli Clouatre) and pulled pork (Darren Fortner) also finished in the top 15.

## Spring visits by GFWC-GA clubs



Atlanta Woman's Club



Heartland Woman's Club



Cartersville Woman's Club



Old Campbell County Woman's Club



Northside Woman's Club



Dahlonega Woman's Club





# Profiles in Leadership - TFS Board of Trustees



## Peggy Pruett

McDonough, GA

*Cornucopia Designs  
(residential and commercial  
interior design)  
McDonough, GA*

*TFS trustee: 2012-14  
2016-present*

**P**eggy Pruett is in her second term as a member of the TFS Board of Trustees. Pruett previously served for two years as a trustee, then one two-year term on the TFS Board of Associates. Pruett is now back on the Board of Trustees where she is in her second year of a six-year term.

By trade Pruett is a very successful interior designer. Her company, Cornucopia Designs, has been in business for nearly 25 years. Pruett entered interior design after working for Delta Airlines.

“After tiring of corporate America, I decided to follow my dream of my own Interior Design firm,” said Pruett. “I got my degree and was accepted into the American Society of Interior Designers after the required six years of full-time work.”

“I have been published several times and won seven state awards. I continue to love my work and making my clients happy.”

Pruett has been a member of the GFWC for 38 years. She had always been interested in the workings of the school, but credits President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy for encouraging her to become more involved and to make a difference.

“I am continually amazed at the heights to which our students rise,” she said. “I am so proud of the young men and women we are sending on to college to make their marks.”

“I am also very proud of our teachers and staff. You only have to watch the interaction of the kids with their administrators, teachers, coaches and fellow students to know that Tallulah Falls School is an amazing college preparatory school.”

“We are setting these students up for success in their college careers, professions and adult life issues.”



## Greg Brown

Clayton, GA

*Georgia Power Company  
(retired)*

*TFS trustee: 2012-present*

**G**reg Brown is a veteran member of the TFS Board of Trustees and is in his sixth year of service to the school. He recently retired from Georgia Power Company after a distinguished 38-year career.

Brown was hired by GPC in 1979 after graduating from the University of Georgia. His career included stops across the state in customer service in Atlanta (on three separate occasions), Macon, Thomson, Augusta and Columbus. Brown also worked in financial services at Plant Vogtle in Waynesboro and as Area Manager in Dublin and Clayton. As Clayton Area Manager Brown was responsible for distribution, customer service and external activities in Rabun, Habersham, White and Banks counties.

Brown said that while he had heard some good things about the school after moving to Rabun in 2005, he became aware of the significant growth and improvements made under President Larry Peevy’s leadership. “This took the school to a whole new level,” Brown said. “It was a true honor for me to be asked to serve on the Board of Trustees.”

“Several things really stand out to me since becoming a trustee,” Brown continued. “The growth of the school in terms of the number of students and the new facilities that have been added is remarkable. The quality of the students, faculty and administration is impressive and, of course, President Peevy’s leadership has been instrumental.”

Brown added, “I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the TFS Board of Trustees. A favorite personal memory of mine is when the graduating seniors attend our board meeting in the spring and share their college plans and career goals. I am always so impressed with their level of maturity and their accomplishments.”

## Dr. Judy Forbes

Clarkesville, GA

*Educational consultant*

*Former Superintendent  
of the Habersham County  
School System (retired)*

*TFS trustee: 2014-present*



**D**r. Judy Forbes has a heart for education and it is reflected in her lifelong pursuit of educational excellence. Forbes spent her educational career locally in the Habersham County School System. Her classroom experience is extensive.

Forbes taught English/language arts and special education at all grade levels from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Beyond the classroom Forbes has served as curriculum director, assistant superintendent and then as superintendent for the Habersham County School System for the last five years of her public school career. Though now retired from the public school sector, she remains actively involved in the education of young people and has founded her own consulting firm to work with schools and school systems

**Saluting individuals who offer their time and talents in order to make Tallulah Falls School the outstanding college preparatory school that it is today.**

in the pursuit of quality improvement and accreditation through AdvanceED/SACS.

Why does someone with a career in public education become involved in the governance of Tallulah Falls School? “I have three grandchildren attending TFS,” said Forbes. “I became interested in the school because of the level of quality instruction and academic rigor here.”

“Tallulah Falls School is committed to continually improving the educational experience for all its students,” Forbes continued. “I am very impressed with President and Head of School Larry Peevy’s leadership and the focus on this continual improvement.”

“It has been my distinct privilege to be involved with the TFS experience.”



The Tallulah Falls School Board of Trustees. Front row, from left: Carolyn Freidlander, Ellen Alderman, Gewene Womack, Lucy Willard, Cookie Noel, Gail Cantrell, Peggy Pruett, Dale Reddick, Karen Thomson. Standing, from left: Amy Atkinson (TFS Board Chair), Rev. James Turpen, Sr., Suzanne Ratliff, Elizabeth Wells, Donald Wells, Jim Weidner, Judy Forbes, Judy Taylor, Greg Brown, Mark Rasmussen (TFS Vice President), Larry A. Peevy (TFS President and Head of School). Not pictured: Elizabeth Chadwick, Donna Foland, Terry Rogers, Doris Alexander, Ida Dorvee, Sandy Ahearn.





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*A sincere and heartfelt*

**Thank you!**



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*Your gift makes a tremendous difference in the lives of our students. If you have not given yet, it’s not too late. Please take the time and do so today.*

*You may contact Sonya Smith, Executive Director for Advancement at (706) 839-2021 or email at [sonya.smith@tallahulahfalls.org](mailto:sonya.smith@tallahulahfalls.org).*

*Thanks again for your support.*

*Have a safe and happy summer!*

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