

TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

Magazine

SUMMER 2019



Valedictorian
Virginia Griswold
and
Salutatorian
Nyah Williams

Class of 2019

Record scholarship offers

SAIS Reaccreditation

Harris 50 years at TFS

Shiver me timbers!

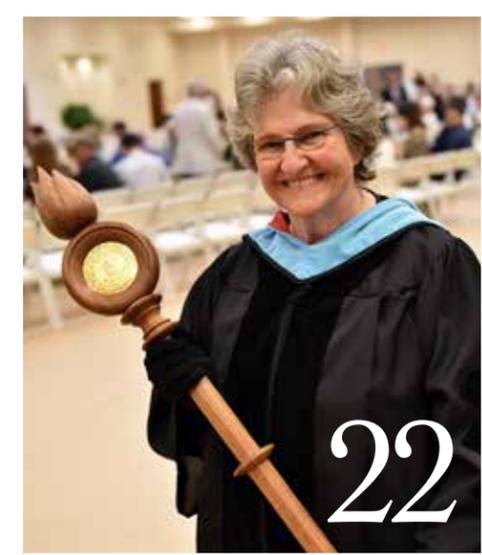
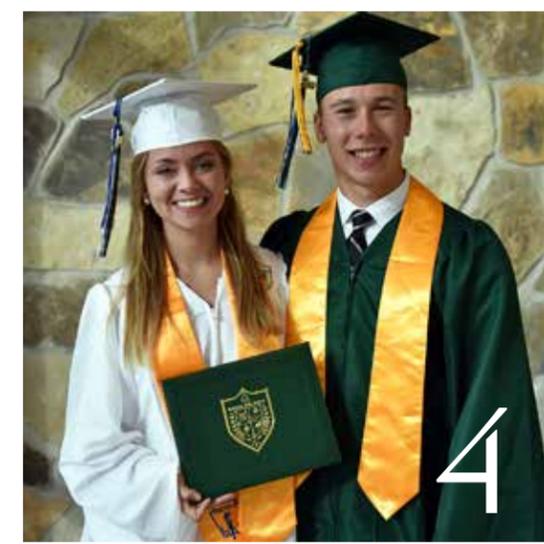
A gang of cutthroat pirates took over the TFS middle school Student Activity Center on April 5 as the 7th Grade Spectacular wowed spectators with swashbuckling action, pithy songs, exotic dances and an exciting array of colorful costumes and sets. Congratulations to the seventh graders for all their hard work and to teachers and staff members Carrie Pugh, Memrie Cox, Cat Hermes and Jonathan Roberts for bringing this exciting production to life.

Middle school drama - the good kind -



contents

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TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL
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ON THE COVER:
 Valedictorian Virginia
 Griswold of Clarkesville
 (left) and salutatorian
 Nyah Williams of
 Cornelia.
 See page 5 for additional
 information about these
 two outstanding students.
 Photo by E. Lane
 Gresham.

Tallulah Falls School is an equal opportunity school and does not discriminate based on race, color or national or ethnic origin.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. LARRY A. PEEVY

Chasing perfection



“We will chase perfection, and we will chase it relentlessly, knowing all the while we can never attain it. But along the way, we shall catch excellence.”
-Vince Lombardi

Tis the season to savor the culmination of another successful academic year – and what a year it was!

But the accomplishments of 530 students illustrate more than simply success.

This has been a year of significance.

In addressing the Class of 2019 and the eighth-grade graduates – the Class of 2023 – I told both groups they have already achieved success, but most often success is a personal accomplishment. I urged them to strive to be a person who actually makes a major difference in the lives of others – to be significant.

Recently, the school earned the SAIS/AdvancEd accreditation that every faculty and staff member and many others in the TFS family played a role to attain. Once again, SAIS/AdvancedEd representatives extended the highest praise – that’s significant.

Our seniors are now on the way to making a difference through a variety of planned career paths, earning a record-setting \$9.25 million in college scholarship offers to more than 120 colleges and universities – that’s significant.

At the middle school, students demonstrated daily the values imparted through the Tallulah 12 program – that’s significant.

At the upper school, students committed to being “All In” this year, implementing a new way of thinking and performing as a united academic community – that’s significant.

TFS is the school that wins awards for sportsmanship year after year – that’s significant.

For 50 years Linda Harris has shared her love of math with students at TFS – that’s significant.

2019 Outstanding Former Student Pankaj Bhargava mastered life lessons at TFS that translated into a dynamic career as the owner of three companies. He traveled from India in April to say thank you to the teachers who impacted his life in a positive way – that’s significant.

These significant contributions to our school story tell us who we are and who we strive to be.

Thank you for your continued support of a school that continues to transform the lives of students and families for future generations.

Warmest regards,

Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School

Campus Improvements

Tallulah Falls School continues to improve the student and visitor experience, carefully crafting a campus with an eye on future needs. Construction is progressing on the beautiful natatorium complex on the upper school campus but other projects enhance our beautiful school on a regular basis.

Top right, pictured from left: Micah McCrackin, owner of Highlander Construction Co., President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy, and Director of Plant Services Michael Rogers stand beside the new concession building above the TFS soccer field.

Middle: The new gazebo, firepit and recreational lawn located between the boys and girls dormitories was made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Gewene Womack, Chairman of the TFS Board of Trustees 2006-10.

Below: A massive crane hoists steel posts into place as the infrastructure for the natatorium complex begins to take shape. The 10-lane competition swimming pool is scheduled for completion in 2020.





Tallulah Falls School - Class of 2019

It has become a familiar refrain, one that we hear literally every year. The latest group of graduates - the Class of 2019 - has made their case for why they should be considered the most successful class in school history. This outstanding group of graduates - 70 strong - had a list of college acceptances totaling more than 120 outstanding colleges and universities, both in the U.S. and around the world.

The Class of 2019 also set a new benchmark in terms of college scholarship offers. Scholarship offers surged beyond \$9.25 million and this astounding figure does not include HOPE Scholarships which are available to qualified Georgia

residents who choose to attend colleges and universities within the state of Georgia.

Yet another record fell as the number of TFS "Lifers" continues to grow. This year 24 students who began their TFS experience in the sixth grade graduated as members of the Class of 2019. This number represents more than one-third of the graduating class and is the highest number in modern school history.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019. You have truly raised the bar for those who will follow.



VALEDICTORIAN SALUTATORIAN

Virginia Griswold of Clarkesville (left), daughter of Kimberly Griswold of Clarkesville and the late Milton Griswold, was named valedictorian of the Class of 2019. Griswold will attend Smith College in Northhampton, Massachusetts where she plans to pursue a degree in environmental science.

Nyah Williams, daughter of Pam Williams of Cornelia and John Williams of Jonesboro, was named salutatorian. Williams will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall where she plans to pursue a degree in communications, marketing or law.

COMMENCEMENT 2019



Graduate Chance Bess of Tampa, Florida is greeted by faculty member Tina Cheek with a gift from the Tallulah Falls School Alumni Association.

Senior faculty member Linda Harris leads the faculty processional, followed by President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

Eric Spivey, DMin
Invocation and Inspiration

Major General Thomas Carden
Adjutant General -
Georgia Department of Defense
Graduation Address

Gail Cantrell
Chairman, TFS Board of Trustees



Class of 2019 Individual Awards

presented at Upper School Awards assembly



H. M. Stewart Award

Virginia Griswold
presented to the top honor graduate
presented by Kim Popham
Upper School Academic Dean



President's Leadership Award

Madeline McClurg
presented by President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy
pictured from left: TFS Board Chairman Gail Cantrell, Kim
McClurg, Madeline McClurg, Matt McClurg, Dr. Larry A. Peevy



Outstanding Upper School Day Student Award

**Nyah
Williams**

presented by
Jimmy Franklin
Dean of Students



Outstanding Upper School Boarding Student Award

**Manolin
"Mandy"
Santana**

presented by
Jimmy Franklin
Dean of Students



Outstanding Character Award

Virginia Griswold

presented by TFS Board Chairman Gail Cantrell
from left: Gail Cantrell, Griswold, Dr. Larry A. Peevy

Congratulations seniors!



The Class of 2019 college collage



DESTINATION:
COLLEGE

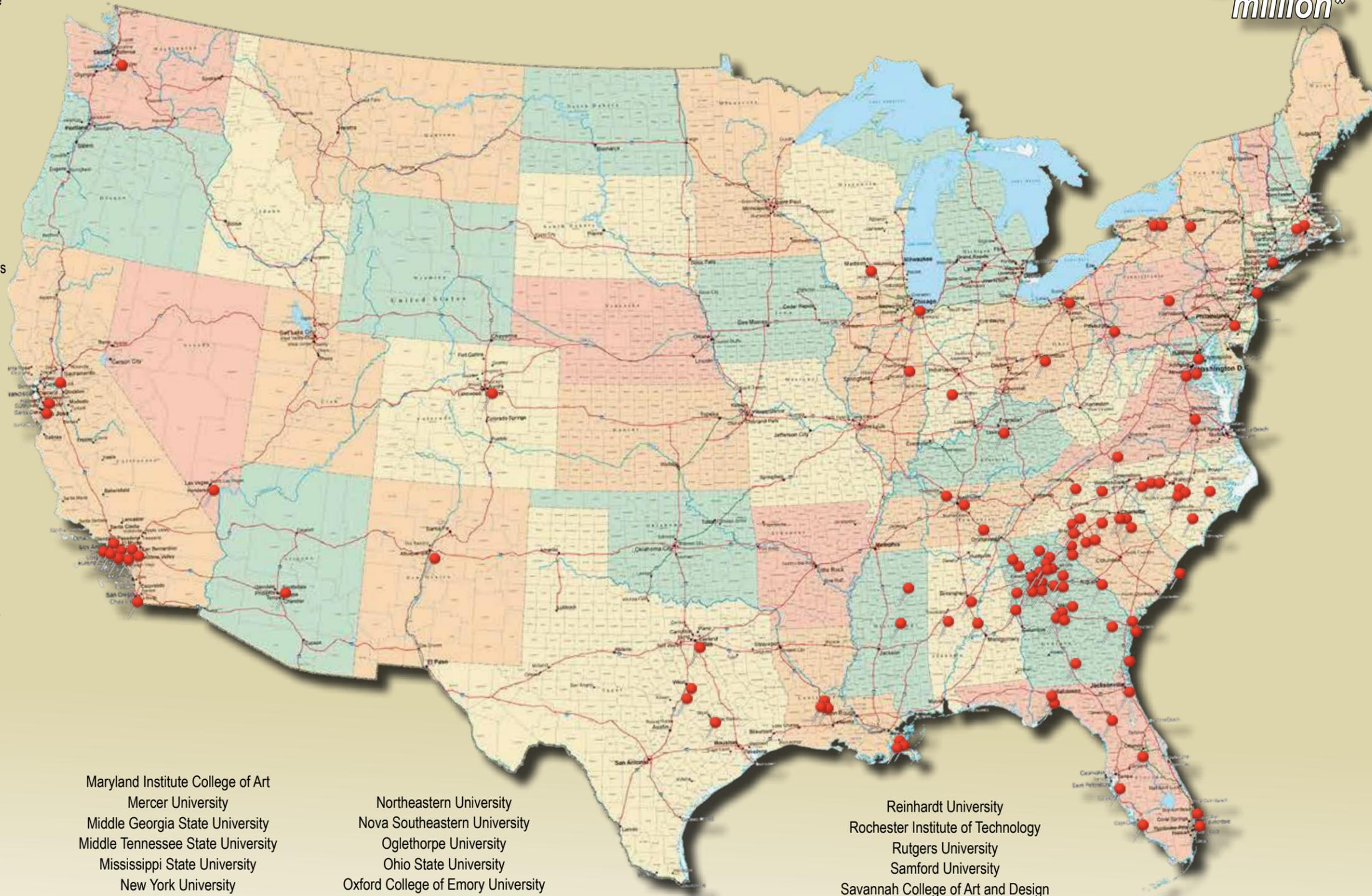


2019 graduates were accepted to more than 120 outstanding colleges and universities earning scholarship offers of more than

\$9.25
million*



- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Agnes Scott College
- Appalachian State University
- Auburn University
- Augusta University
- Austin Peay State University
- Baylor University
- Belmont University
- Berry College
- Boston College
- Brenau University
- Brevard College
- California State University, Fullerton
- California State University, Los Angeles
- Case Western Reserve University
- Chulalongkorn University
- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Coastal Georgia
- East Carolina University
- East Tennessee State University
- Elon University
- Emory University
- Florida A&M University
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- Florida Southern College
- Florida State University
- Furman University
- Gardner-Webb University
- George Mason University
- Georgia College and State University
- Georgia Gwinnett College
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia State University
- Grand Canyon University
- Guilford College
- Howard University
- IE University - Madrid Campus
- Indiana University Bloomington
- Indiana Wesleyan University
- Jacksonville University
- Kennesaw State University
- Louisiana College
- Louisiana State University of Alexandria
- Louisiana Technical Community College—Alexandria Campus
- Lynn University



- Maryland Institute College of Art
- Mercer University
- Middle Georgia State University
- Middle Tennessee State University
- Mississippi State University
- New York University
- North Carolina A&T State University
- North Carolina Central University
- North Carolina State University
- North Georgia Technical College

- Northeastern University
- Nova Southeastern University
- Oglethorpe University
- Ohio State University
- Oxford College of Emory University
- Penn State University
- Pepperdine University
- Piedmont College
- Purdue University

- Reinhardt University
- Rochester Institute of Technology
- Rutgers University
- Samford University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Savannah State University
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Smith College
- Syracuse University

- Texas A&M University
- Tri-County Technical College
- Tulane University
- University of Alabama

- University of California, Davis
- University of California, Irvine
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of California, Riverside
- University of California, San Diego
- University of California, Santa Barbara
- University of California, Santa Cruz
- University of Dallas
- University of Denver
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Kentucky
- University of Mary Hardin-Baylor
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Mississippi
- University of Montevallo
- University of Mount Olive
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of New Mexico
- University of New Orleans
- University of North Carolina Asheville
- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina Charlotte
- University of North Georgia
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of Rochester
- University of South Florida
- University of the South: Sewanee
- University of Washington
- University of West Georgia
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
- Wesleyan University
- Western Carolina University
- Wingate University
- Wofford College
- Xavier University of Louisiana
- Young Harris College

* This figure does not include Hope Scholarship awards earned by Georgia students attending qualifying in-state colleges and universities.



Moving up

The Class of '23 is ready to make its mark

Sixty-five eighth graders made it official as they marched across the Student Activity Center stage on May 21 and received diplomas, marking the end of their TFS middle school journey.

These newly minted upper school students have spent much of their middle school years building the solid foundation that will become critical as they construct academic resumes for college and beyond. In four short years they will walk across the same stage, only then as 17 and 18-year old graduates on the verge of taking their first steps into the demanding world of college and beyond.

Chasing perfection, catching

Excellence

Middle School Awards Day



Outstanding 5th grader - Elijah Barker
presented by Chrissy Van Hooser and Dr. Tamara Griffis

Outstanding 6th grader - Elizabeth Wanner
Presented by Annette Shirley

Outstanding 7th grader - Ethan Simmons
Presented by Nancy Almojan

Outstanding 8th grader - Benjamin Okoronkwo
Presented by Hannah Gibson



← Duke TIP Program (Talent Identification Program) honorees, pictured from left: Joseph McGahee, Kylie Krueger, Tessa Foor, Camden Elrod, Elliott Schroer, middle school counselor Elizabeth Kyle, Emma Wanner. Not pictured: Aubrey Harbst.



Top left: Eighth graders gather prior to commencement for the last group photo as middle schoolers.

Left: Benjamin Okoronkwo and Cecily Tucker each deliver a commencement address to the audience.

eighth graders:
impressional friendly
WARM determined **FUN**
helpful HUMOROUS enthusiastic
zealous kind caring influential



It's official! Cell phones snap away as a group of eighth grade boys gather on the bleachers following commencement.



Emma Barrett of Clarksville proudly displays her eighth grade diploma.



Middle School Academic Dean David Chester addresses the eighth graders before they receive their diplomas.



Middle School Boarding Student of the Year - Lois Ibeh
presented by Dean of Students Jimmy Franklin



← TFS Scholar Athletes of the Year
Seungwook Shin
Ellesen Eubank
presented by middle school Athletic Director Tim Corbett

→ In one of the most highly anticipated moments of the middle school awards ceremony, administrative assistant Jonathan Roberts announces the winner of the House of the Year Award which went to - The Owls!

For a complete listing of Middle School Awards Day winners go to www.tallulahfalls.org and visit the News and Announcements section.

STEM science • technology • engineering • math

story and photos by E. Lane Gresham

Upper school students plan, prepare and teach STEM concepts to eager middle schoolers

TFS upper school students took the lead demonstrating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) concepts for fifth and sixth grade students in April. Select science and engineering students taught 20-minute workshops on a variety of fascinating topics which included electromagnetics, pressure, speed, sound, music, circuits, centripetal force and robotics.

According to science teacher Annette Cochran, 95% of the content was developed and/or designed by the students with teacher approval on the final presentation and 100% of the workshops were student-led.

“These outstanding high schoolers did an amazing job teaching these concepts,” Cochran said. “It felt great to hear positive feedback from the faculty and staff. The middle school students were engaged and had a great time.”

“The STEM Workshop was a huge success and all the parties involved learned a lot,” Cochran said. “We are so blessed to work with such amazing young people.”

Middle school students who took part in the workshops were asked to complete a course evaluation at the end of the session. Their comments provided confirmation that the process was not only educational but highly enjoyable as well.



“I think the STEM workshop showed us how math, science, engineering and technology are important to learn.”
- from a student survey

CAPSTONE PROJECT

Preparing seniors for life in the college and professional world



Maria Chiuz Escobar



Joey Dekoskie

One of the requirements for graduation at TFS is a senior elective known as Capstone. As juniors students select a research topic and then spend their senior year researching the topic. Throughout their senior year students also complete job shadowing and service hours, solicit and collect letters of recommendation and learn to successfully complete an employment application.

Seniors also learn and practice valuable life skills including interviewing (employment, college and scholarship), managing finances, professional greetings, dressing for success and other valuable topics to prepare them for the college and professional worlds. They also receive guidance and are provided with time during this class period to work on college and scholarship applications, research careers, consult with their college counselor and meet with college representatives.

In the spring the Capstone experience culminates as students present their research and experiences to their peers, teachers and evaluators at an event known as the Capstone Fair. Several of the seniors are pictured here discussing their projects with students, staff and visitors to the event.



Taylor Huling

Marshall Harrelson

CAPSTONE FAIR



YEARBOOK RECOGNIZED (AGAIN)

The TFS yearbook, *Legend*, has been inducted into the Walsworth Gallery of Excellence for the second year in a row. According to yearbook advisor and media specialist Shelby Day, the yearbook was chosen for its quality of theme, coverage, design, photography and copywriting.

“The 2019 *Legend* will be featured in workshops and shared at regional, state and national conventions as a model of exceptional student journalism,” Day said.

Staff members include Sophia Alexander, Emily Church, Evette Corwin, Camden Hughes, Collin Kelly, Chaz Mullis, Madi Perdue, Nafis Rahman and Ava Wehrstein.

Pictured: Junior Sophia Alexander, editor-in-chief of the 2019 *Legend* accepts a Gallery of Excellence award from Walsworth representative Julie Week.



Engineering students are

MAKING WAVES



TFS Engineering I, II and III students learned several *extremely* practical lessons recently as they participated in the annual cardboard boat regatta held in early May on (and in) the chilly waters of Tallulah Lake.

Under the direction of instructor Annette Cochran, students were charged with designing and building “seaworthy” boats from cardboard, duct tape and paint with only one coat of waterproof sealer permitted. Some students succeeded in building a seaworthy craft. Some did not. But in the end everyone developed a solid grasp on the design and engineering concepts involved as well as related relevant topics such as buoyancy and displacement.

D Day (pictured middle right) created by senior Marshall Harrelson of Clarkesville, junior Stephen Bowman of Cleveland and junior Chris Geiger of Sautee-Nacoochee, won the day as it reached the far shore of Lake Tallulah before navigating back to its launching spot high and dry, eventually succumbing to the watery elements after an extended run on the lake.



To see how everyone did on the day and view additional photos visit the news and announcements portion of the TFS website: www.tallulahfalls.org.

2018-19 Upper School Presidential Scholars



At TFS high achievement translates to good grades, acceptance into a top-quality college or university and the personal satisfaction of a job well done. And it doesn't hurt that you get a really cool T-shirt as a result. TFS students earn a position on the Presidential Scholar list by maintaining a 4.0-grade point average, having no major discipline issues and by accruing fewer than 15 demerits for each semester and fewer than 30 demerits for the academic year. 2018-19 TFS Upper School Presidential Scholars are shown above with President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy.

RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE

ride for SCHOLARSHIPS ramping up for fall

It's that time again. It's the season to begin planning for the Twin Rivers Challenge, a cycling event to benefit student scholarships at Tallulah Falls School. This is the fifth year for the successful fundraiser set for the last Saturday in October, which this year is October 26.

Scholarship committee co-chairs Dr. Judy Forbes and Joey Brown introduced the concept to school leadership after President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy charged the board of trustees with implementing new fundraising ideas.

Forbes, a TFS trustee, and Brown, an avid cyclist and at the time a TFS parent, were at a local restaurant when they started chatting across the table. When Forbes told Brown about the board's task, he shared his wish to launch a cycling event. History was made in that moment of community connection.

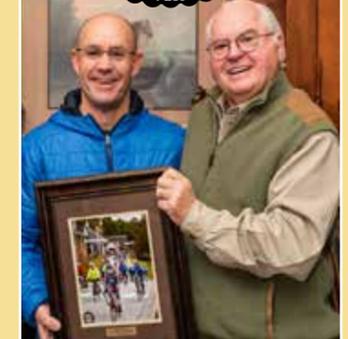
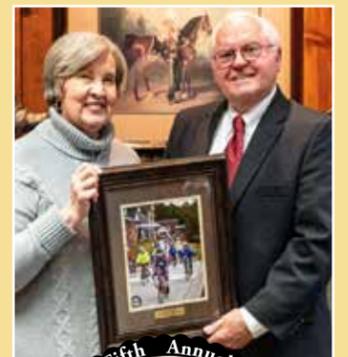
Forbes' support for the school through her experience as a grandparent of three TFS students helped to share the TFS story with potential corporate and individual sponsors. The total amount raised since 2015 is more than \$150,000.

This helps the more than 70 percent of TFS students experience a quality college-preparatory education because of the school's generous financial aid policies.

The ride has evolved into a high-profile, much-anticipated destination ride for cyclists throughout the Southeast. It also serves as a showcase for the school, with students, faculty and staff stepping up to volunteer on ride day.

Dr. Judy Forbes (top photo) and Joey Brown (bottom photo) are pictured with President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy as he presents a commemorative photo from last year's event to each co-chair for their work in making the event a huge success for TFS students.

Registration is open through active.com and sponsorship packages are available.



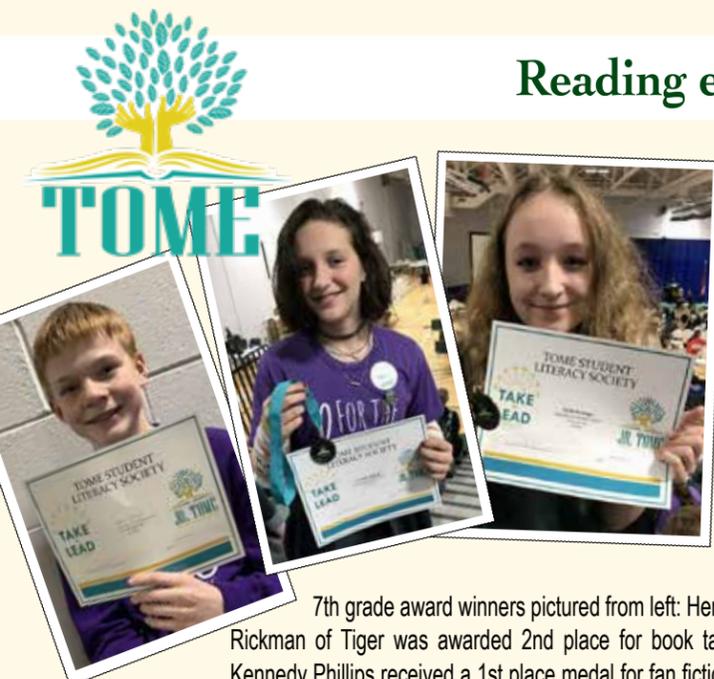
Reading enthusiasts flock to TomeCon 2019

Middle and upper school students possessing a passion for reading must have felt like they were in heaven for a day as they attended TomeCon 2019 held at the University of North Georgia in Gainesville in March. TomeCon is an exciting day of concurrent sessions based on all facets of literacy for students in grades 3-12. The event is conducted by the Tome Student Literary Society.

Session topics included reading, writing, technology, engineering, art, music and more. Authors from across the U.S. visit with students and instructors at the conference. Students also receive awards for their participation in Tome competitions throughout the year.

Seventh grade English teacher Kim McClurg accompanied the group for the TomeCon experience.

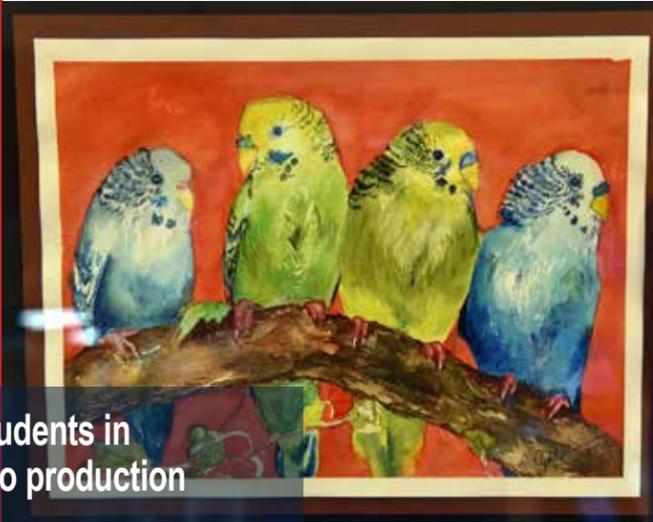
“I'm super proud of my kids who placed because this is truly a state award. There were 2,100 students there from all over the state, so it's very competitive.”



7th grade award winners pictured from left: Henry Rickman of Tiger was awarded 2nd place for book talk; Kennedy Phillips received a 1st place medal for fan fiction; Kylie Drueger received a 1st place medal for fan art.

Evening of the ARTS

celebrating the accomplishments of TFS students in visual arts • culinary arts - music • drama • video production



inspired



innovative



Passionate

IMAGINATIVE

EXPRESSIVE

Tallulah Falls School celebrated its creative side on May 2 as it observed the fifth annual Evening of the Arts. This exciting fine arts showcase features student creations in culinary arts, visual arts, music, drama, chorus and video production. An enthusiastic crowd filled the lobby of the Larry A. Peevy Academic Complex to view a remarkable collection of drawings, paintings and sculptures created by creative TFS art students over the course of the 2018-19 academic year.

Larry A. Peevy Academic Complex lobby:

- student artwork on display
- culinary arts samples
- music performances

Gertrude Long Harris Theater:

- dramatic production of *Standing By* about the effects of bullying in schools.
- performances by the TFS Singers and the TFS Pep Band.

Turn the game of *Clue* into a play and you have the lavishly entertaining *Murder's in the Heir*. Nearly every character in this hilarious murder mystery has the motive, weapon and opportunity to kill the tyrannical billionaire Simon Starkweather before he can change his will. Sure enough, Starkweather turns up dead and with the help of detective Mike Davis (and the audience, via ballot) the killer's identity is revealed. The TFS Players, under the direction of drama instructor Carrie Layer, presented this full-length play May 3-6 in the Gertrude Long Harris Theater.

The TFS Players present



MURDER'S IN THE HEIR



- Top left: a creative sculpture by Samantha Stamey garners a first-place ribbon.
- Top right: a portion of the TFS Singers
- Middle right: senior Rachel Whitehouse pictured from the short play *Standing By*.
- Several members of the TFS Pep Band are pictured performing
- Bottom: Culinary Arts students offer their creations to visitors in the upper school lobby.

? who done it ?
? ? it ?

www.tallulahfalls.org • 17

Front row seat for the Georgia General Assembly



Eighth grader **Tommy Crawford** of Mt. Airy served as a legislative page during the 2019 session of the Georgia General Assembly. Crawford paged for Dist. 10 State Rep. Terry Rogers. Crawford is pictured above with Rep. Rogers (left) and Gov. Brian Kemp.

Sophomore **Brinson Hall** and brother eighth-grader **Lincoln Hall** of Mt. Airy served as legislative pages with Dist. 50 State Sen. John Wilkinson. Pictured from left are Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, Lincoln Hall, Brinson Hall and Wilkinson.

photos submitted

Junior spearheads TFS efforts to combat global water crisis



Alia Bly



COMBATING THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

Junior **Alia Bly** of Clayton was recently recognized at a school-wide assembly by Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham for her efforts with the Thirst Project, an initiative to end the global water crisis. Bly became aware of the initiative through her role in Key Club and was instrumental as it was woven into the TFS upper school's All In program for the 2018-19 academic year. TFS raised more than \$1500 for the project this year. According to the organization's website, the Thirst Project has conducted more than 3,000 projects in 13 countries, primarily in Africa, that have served more than 400,000 people and raised more than \$10 million for this global cause.

TFS has strong showing at UNG math tournament



Jingyi Sang

Another year, another strong showing for the TFS math team at the annual University of North Georgia math tournament. This year's competition was held March 8 with seven area schools in attendance. A strong group of TFS math students made the trek under the direction of veteran TFS math teacher Linda Harris.

Each TFS math club member participated in the competition which included multiple choice, problem-solving, data science, ciphering and game and logic competitions.

Freshman **Jingyi Sang** of China won 1st place in the Games and Logic competition. Seniors **Xing Fan** and **Jialu Sheng** of China won 3rd place in Team Problem Solving.

TFS math club members include Xing Fan (president), Jialu Sheng, Haokun Cheng, Jihee Han, Jingyi Sang, Jingan Sang, Moshen Hu, Ming Tang and Dahyun Kim.

On Eagles wings - Scouting's ultimate achievement



Tallulah Falls School is honored to have four students who have attained the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in scouting. To earn the Eagle ranking, a scout must have been a Life Scout for at least six months, earned a minimum of 21 merit badges and demonstrate leadership within their troop. Additionally each scout must plan, develop and lead an Eagle Project that illustrates both leadership and a commitment to duty. The final step requires the scout to successfully complete an Eagle Scout board of review.

TFS Eagle Scouts, pictured from left: junior Hunter Weyrich of Alto, senior Marshall Harrelson of Clarkesville and junior A.J. Hayes of Cornelia. Not pictured: senior Chance Bess of Tampa, Florida.

D.C.-bound for Washington Youth Tour

Local electrical cooperative Habersham EMC (HEMC) has selected rising seniors **Sarah Edwards** and **Chris Geiger**, both of Sautee, as delegates for the 54th annual Washington Youth Tour which will take place June 13-20. Edwards and Geiger were chosen after a thorough application process which included a written test and an interview.

Student delegates explore government on both the local and national level before meeting in Atlanta and departing for Washington, D.C. Once in the nation's capital delegates have the opportunity to meet with elected officials to discuss important local issues.



Chris Geiger



Sarah Edwards



The pair will join more than 1,700 delegates representing electric cooperatives from across the nation.

Since 1965, the Washington Youth Tour has given more than 3,000 students from Georgia and more than 50,000 nationwide the opportunity to take part in this unique experience.

PROM-inent pair named King and Queen

Seniors **Xing Fan** of China and **Nyah Williams** of Cornelia were named the King and Queen of the 2019 prom. The gala event, themed "Enchanted Forest" was held April 6 at Chota Falls in Clayton. Shown with Fan and Williams are TFS Board of Trustees Chairman Gail Cantrell (left) and President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy (right). The king and queen are selected via secret ballot by members of the senior class.





Tallulah Falls School REACCREDITED through 2024

SAIS/AdvancED visiting team reviews school's self-study, standards compliance and adherence to mission.

Tallulah Falls School (TFS) was recently reaccredited by the SAIS/AdvancED for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2019 and extending through June 2024.

To earn accreditation, TFS was required to comply with quality standards, be evaluated by an outside group of peer professionals and implement a school plan focused on strategic improvement and student performance in accordance with the school's mission – "preparing each student to thrive in life by elevating character and intellect in a challenging and diverse college preparatory environment."

A team representing SAIS/AdvancED conducted an on-site visit in March to review the school's self-study, standards compliance and its adherence to its mission. The visiting team was comprised of diverse educational leaders from some of the finest institutions in the Southeast. One of the main responsibilities of the visiting team was to provide answers to critical questions the school asked of itself in its self-study.

In today's world of accountability in education, accreditation serves as a critical component of a school's demonstrated effectiveness and ability to provide successful schooling for children. A school that is able to achieve accreditation demonstrates a commitment to a process that requires the school to meet a set of rigorous standards; to engage in a program of continuous school improvement and to demonstrate quality assurance to its stakeholders through self

evaluation and peer review.

Accreditation provides TFS with access to an integrated network of services and technical assistance that supports the school's ability to identify and meet its goals for improving the teaching and learning process and mission-focused outcomes for students.

SAIS/AdvancED accredited member schools are part of an international network of accredited schools that have demonstrated success in educating children. As such, this accreditation is recognized throughout the world as a symbol of quality in education for students and teachers. The mission of SAIS/AdvancED is to provide leadership, accreditation services and professional development resources that will strengthen member schools as they fulfill their missions.

Tallulah Falls School was founded in 1909 by Mary Ann Lipscomb in order to provide a quality education for the mountain children of Tallulah Falls and the northeast Georgia region. Today, more than 530 students in grades five through 12 receive a quality college preparatory education at Tallulah Falls School.

TFS is truly international in its scope with students from 17 countries represented. Special emphasis is given to the character education of each student through academics, extracurricular activities, athletics and boarding. TFS is a national leader in providing scholarships and need-based financial aid making the school an affordable option for families of all income levels.

"Going through the reaccreditation process gives everyone involved the opportunity to see the school at a deeper level. It also strengthens their sense of ownership as they have been involved in the self-study and helped to create the TFS 'Blueprint for Success.'"

- President and Head of School Dr. Larry A. Peevy

Five years. From left: Bill Worrell, Jennifer Dunlap, Ephraim Davis, E. Lane Gresham, Darilee Sims, Annette Sanders, Lowell Hamilton



15 years - Scott Davis

celebrating DEDICATION



Ten years. From left: Kelli Bly, Curt Frederick, Rebecca Cook, Nancy Almoyan, Amanda Rogers



Twenty years. From left: JoAnn Church, Kim Popham, Scott Neal



Thirty-five years. Allen and Cyndy Campbell

Employee anniversaries

50

50 years
Linda Harris
(see next page)

35

35 years
Allen Campbell
Cyndy Campbell

25

25 years
Irene Gray

20

20 years
JoAnn Church
Scott Neal
Kim Popham

15

15 years
Scott Davis

10

Ten years
Nancy Almoyan
Kelli Bly
Rebecca Cook
Curt Frederick
Amanda Rogers
Pamela Vaughan

5

Five years
Ephraim Davis
Deland Docsol
Jennifer Dunlap
E. Lane Gresham
Lowell Hamilton
Thomas Nations
Annette Sanders
Darilee Sims
Bill Worrell

Twenty-three members of the TFS faculty/staff celebrated employment milestones this year. Congratulations to each of these dedicated and loyal employees for their continued hard work and dedication!





As senior faculty member, Linda Harris leads the commencement processional each May holding the TFS mace, the official symbol of Tallulah Falls School.

Linda Harris

a Tallulah Treasure celebrates

50 years

by freshman Madison Perdue from an interview for the 2019 TFS yearbook

Dedication is defined as “being committed to a task or purpose.” It is also what has perpetuated math teacher Linda Harris’s career into its 50th year as of 2019. Whether she is acting as a great mind inspiring others in her calculus class or displaying a friendly face as she checks out books to students in the media center, Harris is adamant about getting her job done and getting it done right. “I think my impact has just been maybe the example of being here... but maybe just being an example of someone who’s very dependable and who believes ‘if it is to be, it’s up to me’.”

After 11 years, Harris took a three-year hiatus from teaching high school during which time she wrote a manual and instructed bank tellers in the way of training, but she knew this was just not the job for her.

“I decided that I did like teaching,” she said. “And I had rather be teaching young people than adults... with adults, nobody misbehaved, nobody was trying to entertain me by changing the subject and getting me off topic, and, you know, it’s just not as much fun working with adults as it is with young people.”

Harris may be the one teaching, but she also learns from her students. “I think the thing that I have learned the most from students is that as our culture changes, students change and, therefore, I can’t stay the same way I was the first few years that I taught. I have got to be more flexible and accepting of their differences. They teach me so much!”

“I love being around young people. They are, as a group and individually, uniquely different each year. They make me laugh at their youthful exuberances. They make me cry with their adversities and temptations. They inspire me with their achievements in academics, athletics and in living their lives. They give me hope for the future because I see more young people now who profess faith in God. They give me a reason to try to be positive, as cheerful, and as helpful as I can be as their teacher.”

-Linda Harris from a 2004 interview



In an image of Linda Harris taken during a TFS fire drill, she is seen pruning a crepe myrtle. The ever-industrious educator is known on campus as “the plant whisperer” and is always nurturing plants in some way - just as she does with her students.



One thing that has remained constant about Linda Harris is her beautiful smile.

Gray retires after a distinguished 25-year career

One of the mainstays of the TFS community has announced her retirement effective June 30. Irene Gray, who currently serves as the TFS registrar, will retire after 25 years of loyal service to her alma mater.



Gray joined the school in 1994. Her first job was typing the 10-year SACS review for accreditation. She worked in the boarding office as a secretary on a substitute basis and eventually took a position in the school’s admissions office. Shortly thereafter the secretary in the academic office left for a teaching position in another school and Gray stepped in. There was no looking back and she has been employed in the TFS academic office since that time.

Gray’s TFS experience spans nearly 50 years. She and her twin sister, Susan, first came to TFS in January, 1970 as ninth-grade boarding students from St. Simons Island. Irene Henry spent three plus years at TFS, graduating in 1973. She then enrolled in Wesleyan College, graduating in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in social work.

“I ALWAYS DREAMED OF MOVING TO TALLULAH FALLS AND WORKING FOR THE SCHOOL. DAYNE AND I ARE VERY BLESSED TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN A RURAL AREA AND WORK FIVE MINUTES FROM HOME AND BOTH HAVE GREAT JOBS.”

She married her TFS sweetheart, Dayne, immediately after college graduation. In the fall of 1980 she reestablished her TFS connection as she joined the Cartersville Woman’s Club and began working with Gewene Womack, who now serves on the TFS Board of Trustees.

When Gray’s husband, an electrical engineer with Georgia Power, was transferred to Tallulah Falls in 1992, she felt it was inevitable that she would come back to her alma mater in some capacity.

For years Gray’s voice was the one students heard every day for morning announcements and she has led TFS students in the Pledge of Allegiance thousands of times. She was front and center in the academic office for more than two decades and became personally acquainted with hundreds of students.

She has also been a driving force of the TFS Alumni Committee since 1996.

Gray has two sons, Matthew and John. John enrolled in TFS in the ninth grade and graduated in 2003. The couple currently have three grandchildren - ages five to 13.

Gray did not hesitate when asked about her future plans. “We plan to travel throughout the U.S. and spend more time with the family.”

Thank you Irene for 25 years of loyal service to TFS!

The R-word (retirement)

Where you can have your cake and eat it too!

Two of Tallulah Falls School’s most beloved employees have decided that it is time to test the waters of retirement. Irene Gray, TFS registrar (see above article) and Tammie Rasmussen, Admissions Associate, shared the first scrumptious slices of a beautiful retirement cake during a post-planning meeting of the faculty and staff. Gray recently celebrated 25 years with the school while Rasmussen just completed her ninth year. Best of luck with your future endeavours and thank you both for all you did for our students and campus community.



Retirement is like cake - it’s great no matter how you slice it.

April 27, 2019

Pankah Bhargava

Jaipur, India

Pankah Bhargava of Jaipur, India was named the Outstanding Former Student at April's Alumni Homecoming luncheon. Bhargava was a graduate of the TFS Class of 1999.

Bhargava's experience at Tallulah Falls School was pivotal in his success in life, he said. This included teachers, coaches, dorm counselors and staff who all invested themselves in him.

Bhargava was thrilled when he heard that he had been named this year's Outstanding Former Student from TFS registrar Irene Gray and did not hesitate to accept the invitation to trek across the globe all the way back to Tallulah Falls to accept the award.

"I immediately booked my tickets from India. TFS holds that special place in my heart that cannot be explained in words," Bhargava said.

"Not to forget the years were tough for me but they instilled one very important quality in me – that is discipline," he said. "Today I manage multiple businesses with ease. It's only because these multitasking skills were inculcated here."

Bhargava gave a poignant tribute to former TFS mathematics teacher Dr. Martha Cantrell. Cantrell attended the event to honor her former student.

"My mathematics teacher back then...A beautiful soul. I always miss her," he said. "She was a wonderful teacher not just for me but for all."

Cantrell also served as the mentor for the National Honor Society (NHS), adding another layer of connection with the accomplished alumnus and his classmates.

"I have immense love for her – thank you ma'am," he said. "Today I feel that I am back home. I can't explain my feelings at the moment but I am extremely overjoyed to be back here again," he added.

Bhargava is a successful businessman and owns three companies in India – a construction firm specializing in high end, luxury bungalows; an interior design firm that redesigns, renovates and restructures private and commercial properties; and a pharmaceutical company that manufactures and trades leading generic medicines.

He also serves as secretary of the Resident Welfare Association, an organization that works toward the maintenance of registered residential societies, environmental preservation and infrastructure development.

While at TFS, Bhargava served as a Student Life Assistant in the dorm, was a member of NHS and earned MVP status in tennis for two years.

After graduation, he attended Southern Polytechnic State University. Bhargava and his wife, Pooja, have one daughter.



Pankah Bhargava and Dr. Martha Cantrell. Student and teacher reunited after 20 years.



"Today I feel that I am back home. I can't explain my feelings at the moment but I am extremely overjoyed to be back here again."

Pankah Bhargava
2019 Outstanding Former Student

Alumni deaths April 1, 2018 - April 30, 2019

Shauna Colley - Class of 2009
died April 29, 2019

Edith Shedd Hollifield - Class of 1942
died December 28, 2018

John Andrew Pitts - Class of 1957
died April 13, 2019

Herman David Dyer - Class of 1948
died January 8, 2019

Henry Edward Ivester - Class of 1949
died February 27, 2019

Vella Mae Potts - Class of 1940
died April 2, 2018

Ivey Williams Eberly - Class of 1998
died August 13, 2018

Irma Lou Stewart Long
died April 3, 2018

James L. Roper III - Class of 1938
died July 1, 2018

Raymond Duncan Franklin, Sr. - Class of 1945
died July 22, 2018

Doris Jayne Murphy - Class of 1945
died February 4, 2019

Mary Carolyn Philyaw
died August 24, 2018

Ernest Pete Gunn - Class of 1966
died April 2, 2018

JoAnn Franklin Walker - Class of 1950
died August 23, 2018

POSITIVELY EXCELLENT!

Sydney Spivey, a senior from Demorest, has been selected as a member of the 2018-19 class of Positive Athlete America. Spivey was honored by the organization for the Northeast Georgia region. Positive Athlete America, started by former UGA football player and Super Bowl XL MVP Hines Ward, awards scholarships to high school student-athletes based more on their character than their athletic performance.

The organization seeks to recognize athletes who have overcome difficult circumstances, given back to their schools and communities or manifest an infectious positive attitude. Positive Athlete America has to-date awarded more

"Sydney Spivey cares about the big picture; she sees the world beyond herself and seeks, with purpose, to make that world a better place for those people she can help."

-Coach Scott Neal

than \$100,000 in college scholarships. Spivey was nominated by TFS athletic director and track & field coach Scott Neal.

"Sydney's heart for the displaced, the downtrodden, the negatively affected was evident when she coordinated the 2018 *Change for the Smokies*, an event for our team and others to bring in coins that would be given to those affected by the wildfires in the Gatlinburg and Sevier County area," Neal said.

"Sydney was one of many girls vying for four spots on our 4x4 relay team," he said. "Sydney worked diligently, would give up a hurdle race if it was needed for the relay team to score more points, and did the 'little things' like work additional block starts, do extra drills, etc. I was satisfied as a coach to see someone whose commitment to the 'we' both overshadowed personal goals and lit a fire for improved preparation."

Tallulah Falls School was recently recognized by conference coaches with sportsmanship awards for more than a dozen teams. TFS varsity teams received 2018-19 Georgia High School Association (GHSA) Region 8A sportsmanship awards in girls basketball, baseball, girls track & field, boys track & field, girls golf, boys golf (tie), girls cross country (tie) and boys cross country (tie).

Five TFS middle school athletic teams received sportsmanship awards from Tri-State Conference coaches. These teams included girls cross country, boys cross country, girls soccer, boys soccer and boys track & field.

Athletic Director Scott Neal stresses the fundamentals of sportsmanship throughout every facet of the TFS athletic program.

"We are honored to be recognized by peer high school region and middle school conference coaches for a culture that trains to win and competes fiercely. We strive to demonstrate GREAT character, host GREAT events and create impactful Seasons of Significance while serving others in a manner that enhances our community and shines the light of Tallulah Falls School."



Scott NEAL
Athletic Director

Peer coaches recognize TFS for outstanding SPORTSMANSHIP



The Seven Traits of a Positive Athlete:

1. Has an Optimistic Attitude
2. Encourages Teammates
3. Is a Servant Leader
4. Has a Heart for Others
5. Admits Imperfections
6. Always Gives 100%
7. Puts Team First



Sydney Spivey



Grey Bourlet



Chance Bess



Emily Gay



Ladies 4x1 relay - 7th place
Macy Murdock, Reid Kafsky, Damali Danavall, Sydney Spivey
(set school record 51.13 in prelims)

TFS EXCELS at state meet

Pole vault
Emily Gay - 3rd place
9' 6" ties TFS record

110m hurdles
Grey Bourlet - 3rd place
14.97 seconds
sets new TFS record

300m hurdles
Grey Bourlet - 3rd place

100m hurdles
Sydney Spivey - 3rd place

Discus
Chance Bess - 6th place
142' 11"
(four throws beyond previous personal record)

Pole vault
Grey Bourlet - 6th place

Varsity track & field athletes save their best for last at the GHSA state meet held May 9-11 at Berry College



Ladies 4x4 relay - 6th place
from left: Madison Ball, Sydney Spivey, Macy Murdock, Laurel Smith
(4:16.45 personal record)



Middle school track & field dominates at championships

Girls champions

Julianne Shirley
200m/400m
high jump

Sammy Hartman
100m/300m hurdles

Ellie Southards
discus
shot put

Layne Kafsky
100m

4x1 relay
Jace Ibemere, Julianne Shirley, Layne Kafsky, Ellie Southards

4x4 relay
Emma Jackson, Julianne Shirley, Ellie Southards, Kate Trotter

Boys champions

Nelson Wilkinson
200m
discus

Colton Hicks
1600m

Lincoln Hall
long jump

4x4 relay (tie)
Austin Ball, Dallas Loonubon, KC Respress, Nelson Wilkinson



Tri-State CHAMPIONS

Both middle school track & field squads brought home Tri-State championship banners from the season-ending competition held at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. The 20-member girls squad won 10 of 14 events while the boys were victorious in five events. TFS has won the championship nearly every year of the nine years the conference has been in existence.



Brinson Hall
1st Team All-State
Class A-Private
1st Team All-Area

Selah Anderson
2nd Team All-Area

Maggie Jackson
1st Team All-State
Class A-Private
1st Team All-Area

AREA 2A CHAMPS 3 OF THE LAST 4 YEARS

The Lady Indians golf team continued their dominant run as they recently won their third GHSA Area 2A-Private championship in the last four years. The tournament was held on May 1 at the Georgia Club in Statham. This is the second consecutive year the ladies have won the competition.

The TFS trio finished in three of the top five spots. "The two-score total of 157 beat Athens Academy by one shot," said Head Coach Allen Campbell. "the lead went back and forth all day with Brinson making a three-foot putt to clinch the win on the 18th hole."



Maggie Jackson



4th PLACE STATE FINISH Class A-Private

The TFS ladies also had an impressive showing at the state tournament held May 20-21 at the Green Island Country Club in Columbus.

The girls finished the two-day competition against the best high school golfers in the state placing fourth in the Class A-Private division. Sophomore Maggie Jackson was the low medalist for the TFS squad with a two-day total of 161. Sophomore Brinson Hall was right on her heels with a two-day total of 163.



Brinson Hall

Varsity Mens Golf awards



Tyler Popham - Tribe Award
Kale Corbett - Most Valuable Player

SPRING SPORTS BANQUET

The final word on ladies' basketball



Due to the Lady Indians record-setting run into the state playoffs, individual girls basketball awards were not given until the Spring banquet. Pictured from left:

Katy Corbett - Greatest Gains Award, Region 8A-2nd Team
Lillie Free - Grit Award
Nyah Williams - Award of Excellence, Region 8A-1st Team



2018-19 ATHLETIC AWARDS



Indian of the Year

Damali Danavall Grey Bourlet



GREAT Character

Marvin Thiennukul Isabeau Keene



Georgia Athletic Directors Association Scholarship Finalist

Caleb Griffis



Wendy's High School Heisman Nominees

Jenni Gallagher Ajani McIntosh



I Am Tallulah

Sydney Spivey Jake Carver



Scholar Athlete

Sophie Alexander Sebastian Herrera



GREAT Leadership

Reid Kafsky Caleb Griffis



Vincent J. Dooley Award TFS Nominees

Sydney Spivey Marvin Thiennukul



Three Season Participants

Mai CiCi Miyashita Karis Tatum Abby Carlan Kale Corbett



Three Season Letter Award

Will Jackson Damali Danavall Sophie Alexander Lucy Alexander Marvin Thiennukul

"NOBODY WHO EVER
GAVE THEIR BEST
REGRETTED IT"

George Halas



Chathan Clouatre
First Team Nathan Lewis
Honorable Mention

8-A ALL-REGION

Chathan Clouatre
Region 8-A First Team
.439 average - team leader
14 RBIs - team leader
10 walks - team leader
.958 fielding average

Nathan Lewis
Region 8-A
Honorable Mention
.426 average
scored 12 runs
6 RBIs

Varsity Mens Baseball standouts



2019 varsity baseball awards (from left): Cainan Yaskiewicz - Coach's Award; Oliver Foster - Coach's Award; Nathan Lewis - Best Offensive Player; Chathan Clouatre - Most Outstanding Player; Trent Thomas - Mister Baseball.



SPRING SPORTS
BANQUET

2019 Ladies Soccer standouts



SPRING SPORTS BANQUET



2019 awards
(pictured from left):
Abby Peacock
Coach's Award
Cynthia Jackson
Most Valuable Player
Caroline Ball
Most Improved.

2019 SOCCER SENIORS



Julia James Rachel Whitehouse
Cynthia Jackson Taylor Huling

COMPETING at the
COLLEGE LEVEL

KEENE DIVES IN WITH FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY

Senior Isabeau Keene of Demorest signed a letter of intent to compete in diving for Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida. Keene competed this season as a first-year diver. According to TFS swimming coach Annette Cochran, Keene improved her scores at each meet and by season's end placed third overall in the Class A-5A division at the state diving championships.

"We are thrilled to welcome 'Beau' into the FGCU Family," said Head FGCU swim coach Dave Rollins. "Her incredible personality and work ethic will only continue to push her further and further in her sport. We are thankful to her family for trusting us, and excited to get her to campus this fall."



Isabeau Keene with her parents,
Francie and Keith Keene.

Varsity Mens and Ladies

Tennis standouts



Zhiyang Shu

Emily Wonders

2019 Awards (pictured from left):

Marvin Thiennukul
Coach's Award
Emily Wonders
Most Valuable Player
Jake Carver
Most Improved
Zhiyang Shu
Most Valuable Player
Taylor McAvoy
Coach's Award
Gigi Welch
Most Improved



SPRING SPORTS BANQUET

WILLIAMS SIGNS LOI WITH EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Junior Marshall Williams of Toccoa will join the Emmanuel College Lions as a member of the school's bass fishing team. Williams signed a letter of intent on May 7 and will join the team for the 2020-21 academic year.

"We at Emmanuel are excited to have Marshall as a part of our bass fishing team," said new head coach Pam Martin-Wells. "With Marshall's experience, passion and love of fishing I know he will be a great asset to Emmanuel College. With his leadership qualities and Christian values, he brings the kind of individual characteristics that Emmanuel is looking for."



From left: Patty Williams, **Marshall Williams**, TFS team captain Russell Williams,
Emmanuel College bass fishing coach Pam Martin-Wells.

Junior division anglers make history with first-place finish in Lanier tournament

A pair of TFS middle school anglers are first-time female team winners of a Georgia BASS Nation High School tournament. Sixth grader Haygen James and seventh grader Molly Mitchell, both of Cornelia, weighed in with a 13.36 pound bag to secure the top spot in the junior division at the April 13 event. This also marks the third Lake Lanier tournament in a row with a TFS team coming in first place.



Haygen James (left) and Molly Mitchell

Precision Rifle team competes at nine-state regional competition



"I have coached many rifle shooters with several shooting at military academies and colleges but I've never been blessed with a team as GREAT as this one. They are courteous and helpful to everyone they meet. Their maturity, ability and graciousness amazed coaches and parents who asked me about this young team and our school. They exemplify the very best of TFS."

-Tim Stamey (MSG Ret) precision rifle coach

The TFS precision rifle team continues to make a name for itself around the region. Earlier this season the team qualified for the 2019 Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) South East Regional 3 Position Air Rifle championship. This competition featured teams from nine states. The team, comprised of sophomore Sam Stamey (team captain) and freshmen Madi Perdue, Andrew Erwin and Aiden Gragg, traveled to Anniston, AL for the regional championship the first week of April.

On Friday, the first day of competition, Madi Perdue of Clayton shot a personal record in the kneeling position, scoring 192 of a possible 200. The team's match score for the day was 2163 out of a possible 2400.

On Saturday it was obvious to the TFS supporters in attendance that it would be a special day when all four team members assumed the prone position and shot bullseyes on their first recorded shot. Spectators from other schools cheered as team captain Sam Stamey scored a perfect 200 followed by Madi Perdue with a personal record score of 197. Stamey then shot a personal record of 188 in the standing position. Perdue shot a personal record 3x20 match score of 553 out of 600 and Stamey set a new TFS match record with a 576. The second day team match score of 2220 put TFS in the 10th place position in the Southeastern U.S.

The team's stellar performance could result in an invitation to the National 3 Position Championship at Camp Perry, Ohio in July, according to head coach Tim Stamey.



TIME to COAST

Tallahassee School specializes in creative learning opportunities. For seventh grade students at the TFS middle school that means heading south each spring to enjoy a week on the Florida coast where learning opportunities abound.

Whether it is a day at the Kennedy Space Center to meet with an astronaut, a visit to Marineland to interact with an amazing array of marine life, or a stroll through historic St. Augustine to discover the fascinating history of America's oldest city, TFS students learn first-hand that learning can be fun. And no trip to the Sunshine State is complete without some fun on the beach.



Year-end awards, from left: Madi Perdue - Coach's Award, Samantha Stamey - Most Valuable Shooter, Andrew Erwin - Most Improved.



photos courtesy of Kim McClurg and Annette Shirley



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Walk of HONOR

Join us as we honor special members of the TFS family by purchasing a commemorative brick which will be placed in the TFS Walk of Honor.

The Walk of Honor will be located at the entrance to the new TFS natatorium which is currently under construction.

Become a part of the rich and colorful legacy of Tallulah Falls School as you support the mission by purchasing a brick paver for the Walk of Honor.

- Remember a loved one
- Recognize a special graduate
- Recall a meaningful event or team
- Pay tribute to a favorite faculty or staff member
- Express gratitude to a special GFWC-GA club or member

A special portion of the Walk of Honor will be set aside to honor U.S. military veterans and first responders.



For more information call Sonya E. Smith at (706) 839-2021 or email sonya.smith@tallulahfalls.org



Access a brick order form at www.tallulahfalls.org/bricks