

# TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL ON CAMPUS

MAGAZINE

Bon Appetit

NOT YOUR AVERAGE

SCHOOL  
LUNCH

## WELCOME BACK

AFTER FIVE MONTHS, WE ARE  
FINALLY BACK TOGETHER.

*Inside cover*

## FALL SPORTS

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CELEBRATE AT STATE

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FALL 2020



# WELCOME BACK

Students took cautious but confident first steps into the new academic year at Tallulah Falls School on Aug. 24.

With enrollment for the 2020-21 academic year at 531 students – 423 day students and 108 boarding students, the Light in the Mountains remains bright.

Although face coverings masked smiles as students arrived on campus, sparkling eyes and muffled greetings to friends, teachers and other staff members delivered a hearty dose of positivity.

New students, greeted with welcoming words, made connections with peers while faculty and staff made sure everyone passed through health screening portals before entering academic buildings.

“We are pleased with the start of the new year,” said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. “We are optimistic the extensive preparations we put in place for our reopening will minimize the exposure to the virus; we are counting on the TFS family to partner with us when students are away from campus.”

As students return to classrooms and other areas, physical distancing is required and frequent hand-washing is encouraged throughout the school day.

Members of the class of 2021 arrived extra early to meet the sun and to savor biscuits with classmates before commencing with the business of preparing for graduation. Feedback from the seniors illuminated the determination of the group to live out the first month’s theme – “Better Together.”

If the first day of school is any indication of how the rest of the year goes, I’m excited for what’s to come!

*Grey Bourlet, Tallulah Falls*

I was pleasantly surprised though by how smoothly everything went on my first day, as everyone had to deal not only with COVID-19, but also with a new block schedule.

*Caleb Carter, Demorest*

My first day of school made me realize senior year is going to be very exciting and lots of fun. Although I have a few difficult classes, I can’t wait to experience senior year with friends! Since COVID-19 is still active, we are taking all precautions in school, and I think it will be effective in the long run. I can’t wait to see what my senior year holds!

*Rebekah Jennings, Clarkesville*

So, my first day of school was good. I was really happy to see my main friends in person rather than just talking to them on the phone. I was really glad to see my teachers and know that they are doing okay.

*Simeon Respress, Cornelia*

I haven’t been so happy to see so many beautiful happy faces in a while. The day went by fast but it was very enjoyable. There are a lot of changes that the students have to get used to but over time it will get better. This year will be hard but I feel that the TFS family can do it. This year will be full of surprises and changes, and it will be a year to remember.

*Trent Thomas, Bahamas*



## CLASS OF 2021



**TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL**  
PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF SCHOOL  
DR. LARRY A. PEEVY

TFS ADVANCEMENT TEAM

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FOR ADVANCEMENT  
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DIRECTOR OF  
CREATIVE SERVICES  
Brandi Wood

DIRECTOR OF  
SPORTS COMMUNICATION  
AND DIGITAL MEDIA  
Brian Carter

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Success comes in many forms. Here at Tallulah Falls School, we are celebrating a successful return to campus for in-person learning after a challenging spring and summer.

Preparations for this unprecedented start to the academic year truly showcase the dedication of the faculty and staff. And, because of a solid partnership with parents and guardians, we've maintained a safe and healthy school environment thus far.

With the majority of students working hard on campus, we are also joined by blended learners from across the globe, temporarily unable to join us in person. In the academic realm, students are off to a strong start, with last year's record-breaking number of presidential scholars honored recently with outdoor events featuring special menus and activities.

Despite necessary adjustments, student-athletes experienced continued success – the varsity girls' volleyball team made it to the Sweet 16, middle school boys' and girls' tennis teams won championships and the varsity cross country team competed at the state level.

Another highlight this fall was the return of the Twin Rivers Challenge, a premier cycling event benefiting student scholarships. Thanks to the steadfast support of community sponsors, the event raised more than \$65,000 and attracted a record number of riders eager to experience the beauty of Northeast Georgia during a peak leaf weekend.

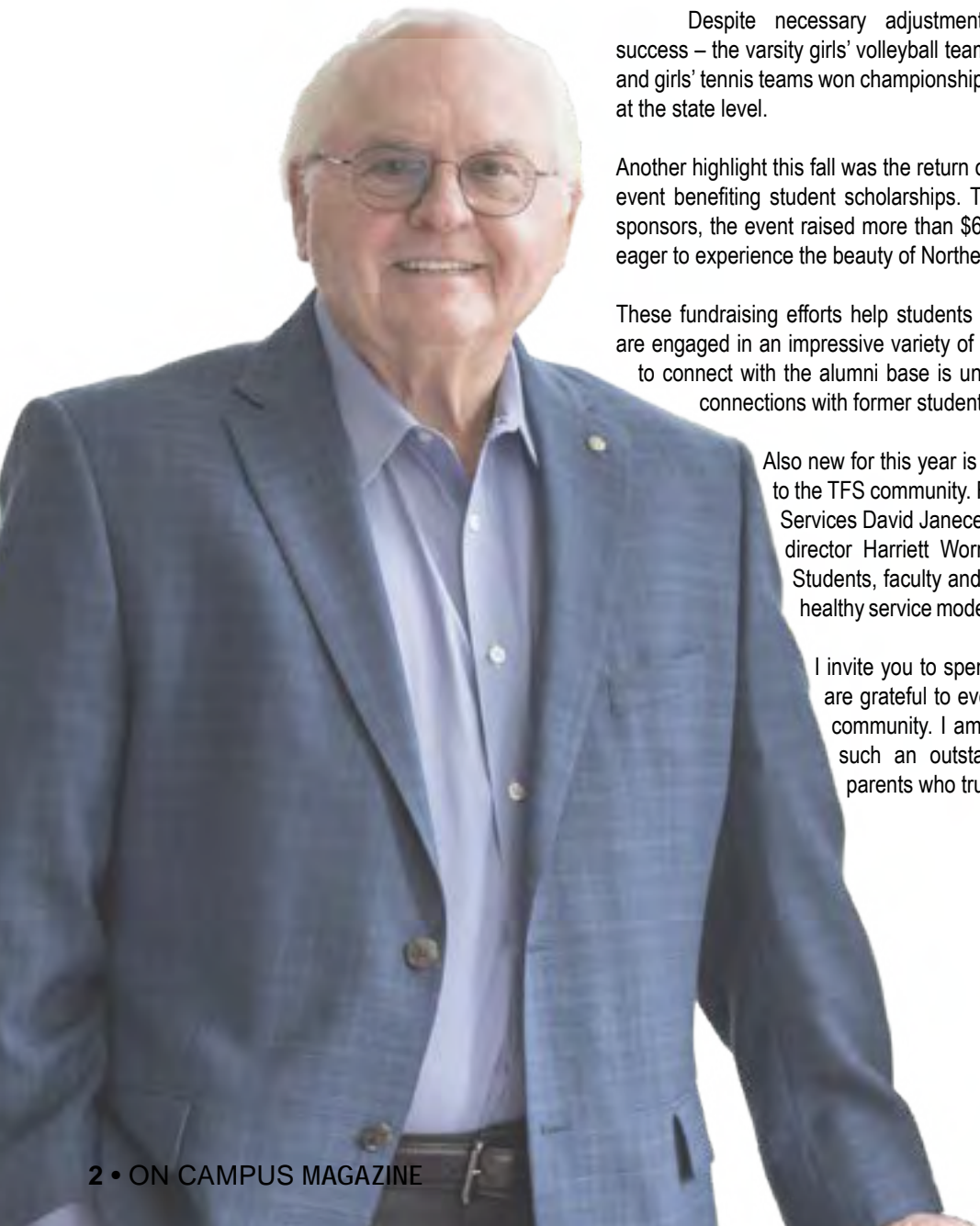
These fundraising efforts help students achieve success in life; many TFS graduates are engaged in an impressive variety of college and career endeavors. A new initiative to connect with the alumni base is underway with Mrs. Linda Harris reviving strong connections with former students.

Also new for this year is the addition of Flik Independent School Dining to the TFS community. Flik is under the leadership of Director of Dining Services David Janecek and Executive Chef Eric Mulville, with former director Harriett Worrell acting as a liaison during the transition. Students, faculty and staff are being introduced to an attractive and healthy service model, including new menu items and local favorites.

I invite you to spend time savoring this collection of stories – we are grateful to everyone for supporting this remarkable learning community. I am blessed to have the opportunity to work with such an outstanding group of students, faculty, staff and parents who truly believe in TFS.

*Larry A. Peevy*  
Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School

# SUCCESS AT TFS



## GEORGIA TREND 2020 LEGACY LEADER

Tallulah Falls School President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy has been named one of 15 Legacy Leaders in Georgia by *Georgia Trend* magazine.

Peevy was featured in the 35th-anniversary edition as the recognition highlights individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving lives across the state.

"My first reaction was surprise when I received the letter," he said. "I thought of the hundreds of strong legacy leaders across the state of Georgia and when I saw that I had been named, I felt both honored and humbled at being named one of the top 15."

Peevy's career in education spans multiple decades as he spent his first 35 years in top administrative roles at the University of Montevallo, Georgia College and State University and ending his college administrative career as vice president for enrollment and retention services at Georgia Military College, according to the *Georgia Trend* article.

In 2007, he joined Tallulah Falls School as president and head of school. Under his leadership, "the private five-12 day and boarding school has elevated its academic rigor, expanded its facilities and grown its student body to more than 500 students from seven states and 20 countries," the article states.

During his tenure at TFS, Peevy has also earned many awards and honors including serving as chairman of the Habersham County Chamber of Commerce and secretary of the board of directors for the Georgia Independent School Association. Peevy was named Best Administrator for six surrounding counties, was honored by the Habersham Chamber as the 2017 Habersham Countian of the Year and was named a 2020 Distinguished Citizen by the Northeast Georgia Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Peevy served 23 years in the U.S. Army Reserve Program, which included voluntarily enlisting as a private. He later received a direct commission as a captain and served on active duty during Operation Desert Storm.



Peevy was also asked about the important lessons he has learned during his time in education and the military.

Always be flexible. "No two days are alike and every day presents not only tremendous happiness but also a new set of challenges," he told *The Northeast Georgian*.

The second most important lesson, whether in the military, education or administrative area is to truly understand that you don't know everything nor do you have all the answers. Because of that, you have to learn to put your confidence in the people surrounding you. Also, when solving problems, don't look at them as major issues but rather a series of small problems that can easily be resolved.

"LEARN TO PUT  
YOUR CONFIDENCE IN  
THE PEOPLE  
THAT SURROUND  
YOU."

Give back to your community. The local chamber of commerce, Rotary Club and other clubs and organizations are a good place to start helping to build a better community.

Accomplish tasks by thinking things through thoroughly before taking action. Things should be done correctly...not just fast.

When asked about those who deeply influenced his career path, the first person that came to mind was his father, Aubrey

Peevy, who helped develop the guidance system for the Saturn Five Rocket; he was also highly involved in the launches of all the Apollo missions.

The second was Major General Peter Boylan, president of Georgia Military College while Peevy was vice president for enrollment and retention services.

"He was an extraordinary leader and a true American hero," Peevy said.

Members of the TFS Board of Trustees spoke to how Peevy has excelled at surrounding himself with the best-qualified people in his administration. His communication to the board was also highly praised. To commemorate Peevy's many contributions during his time at the school, the board in 2016 named the upper school academic complex in his honor.

TFS Board of Trustees member Judy Forbes said initiatives such as the school's character education program which focuses on student development and Peevy's leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic are just a few of the exemplary actions he has made.

Peevy appointed a Risk Management Committee when he first learned of the COVID-19 pandemic to analyze what challenges they faced and to develop a plan and methodology to solve each problem one by one. The school has since welcomed students back with successful in-person and blended online learning.

"They have done an excellent job developing a plan that I believe will continue functioning well for Tallulah Falls School as we meet the challenges of providing a quality education in a safe environment," Peevy said.

TFS Board Chair-elect Jim Weidner applauded Peevy as a bright leader that is dedicated to TFS and his position.

"He turned around that school. His imprint has made it what it is today," Weidner said of Peevy's legacy. "All of his efforts throughout the years have resulted in one of the finest preparatory schools in the nation."

*The article includes excerpts from The Northeast Georgian article by Eric Pereira.*





# TWIN RIVERS CHALLENGE

RIDES AGAIN

Held Oct. 24, the Twin Rivers Challenge proved once again to be a highlight for local and visiting riders, adding more than \$65,000 to the school's scholarship fund.

Ever-increasing support for the ride attracted more than 130 sponsors, eager to help the college-preparatory school's motivated students.

Positive feedback from riders echoed from previous years with many familiar faces sprinkled throughout the group at the start line.

First-time attendee Ellen Ressel of Cumming had a great ride. Ressel plans to return in 2021 and bring friends.

"[It was] the most beautiful course I have ever biked. I really enjoyed it and I look forward to next year," Ressel said. "Despite the rain at the start, it will rank as one of my toughest, yet favorite rides. Next year I will make sure that I am in a little better shape to get those extra miles in."

"We are delighted to hear that our guests continue to rave about this ride," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "We are proud of the growth and impact this event has on our ability to provide needed financial support for students."

Ron Cantrell Construction, Inc. covered all expenses, returning as the presenting sponsor, and Springer Mountain Farms sponsored the post-ride meal.

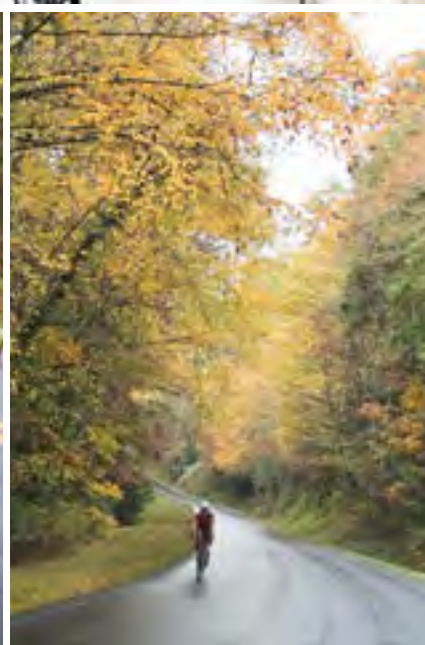
"This strong partnership with RCCI and Springer Mountain Farms allows all other sponsorships and rider registration fees to directly benefit our students," Peevy said. "Our volunteer scholarship committee shared the TFS story with the community – these passionate ambassadors coordinated the fundraising effort; we are grateful."

Community co-chairs for the event Judy Forbes and Joey Brown provide expertise in key areas. Forbes, a TFS board member, coordinates fundraising efforts on behalf of the board and cultivates community relations on behalf of the school. Brown, a local cyclist and parent of a TFS alum manages the cycling-related details.

"Whether the day is sunny or rainy, the Twin Rivers Challenge is always a great day for TFS students," Forbes said. "The ride draws bikers into our beautiful community for an event that ultimately provides scholarships for worthy students. Everyone wins. This year's event was no exception."

Brown said he continues to hear compliments about the experience from the cycling community.

"A near-perfect day for the sixth annual Twin Rivers Challenge with our largest number of riders yet and glorious fall color," Brown said. "Despite a little rain early the weather was outstanding for the remainder of the day. So many people commented on the sheer beauty of the routes. I'm already looking forward to 2021!"



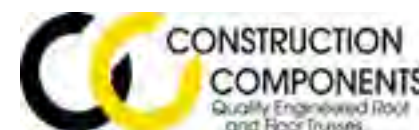
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Wilkinson Concrete  
Senator John Wilkinson



A new initiative designed to allow students to sample a potential career is now available for members of the Class of 2021.

The pilot Youth Apprenticeship program gives interested students a chance to delve deeper into an area of interest, according to Upper School Assistant Academic Dean Jim Van Hooser.

“This program is allowing our students to explore a potential career option which will help confirm what they are sincerely interested in pursuing post-graduate,” Van Hooser says. “This experience allows them to evaluate if this is a career they will pursue, thus potentially saving time, money and energy. From a school perspective, it allows us to build better community connections.”

Several local businesses are partnering with the school, offering a work schedule that ranges from two to five hours per week.

# APPRENTICE

# YOUTH



**SAM STAMEY**



Samantha Stamey of Clarkesville is working in the Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney's office in the area of victim assistance.

“I worked in the DA's office over the summer, so I've continued my internship into the school year,” Stamey says. “I thoroughly enjoy being immersed in all the information and experience this job has brought. I want others to know there is a lot more to the justice system than what meets the eye. Everyone in the office works so hard and that work ethic is driven by a need for justice.”

Charles Mullis of Sautee-Nacoochee, already an accomplished photographer, is interested in journalism. Mullis is assigned to the TFS Advancement Department and works closely with Director of Sports Communication and Digital Media Brian Carter.

He wants to get a feel for a journalism career, make new connections and to discover if journalism is something he will pursue as a course of study after graduation.

Lessons learned, Mullis says, include the importance of communication and the need to pay attention to deadlines.



**CHARLES MULLIS**



**GRANT BARRON & GISELLA WELCH**



Grant Barron of Clarkesville is learning about his family's funeral home business – his grandfather, the late Sam Tolbert, established Hillside Memorial Chapel & Gardens in Clarkesville in 1977. Barron is working with his uncle, Brent Tolbert.

“Growing up, I learned a lot about the funeral industry from [my grandfather],” Barron says. “Now, I now have the opportunity to learn from my Uncle Brent. Hillside is a family business; it is really special that he is taking time to teach me the same skills his father taught him many years ago. The Youth Apprenticeship program enables me to receive an education that is both academically challenging and relevant to employment in today's economy. It is a win-win situation for high school students.”

Joining Barron at Hillside is Gisella Welch of Gainesville. The pair are assisting with the administrative functions of a small-town funeral home.

“The three goals I have for my experience are to learn what it is like to be in a business leadership position, to better my communication skills while working with others and to care for those in our community who have recently lost a loved one,” Welch says.





# NEW TO THE TFS FAMILY



With construction nearing completion on the Tallulah Falls School natatorium, a newly hired aquatics professional is in place to launch the facility, slated to open in early 2021.

Effective Oct. 15, TR Santos joined the TFS staff as natatorium director.

Most recently based in Memphis, Tennessee, Santos brings to TFS the strong administrative skills and programming experience required to run a top-quality natatorium.

With a comprehensive background in pool operations, Santos has opened two aquatic facilities, hiring and training staff to ensure the highest level of professionalism for water safety and client service.

He earned both a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and a master's degree in Physical Education and Biomechanics from California State University.

"A certified pool operator with certifications in CPR, first aid and AED instruction, Santos is a good fit for running the natatorium," said Athletic Director Scott Neal.

"TR has an extensive aquatic background, significant qualifications, leadership experience and a strong

personality to begin our aquatic journey in the new natatorium," Neal said. "He is a good connector of people and an experienced creator of successful programs who seeks to provide first-class opportunities for all of our kids as well as the TFS community. He is the right fit at the right time!"

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy said the school conducted an extensive nationwide search for a talented, tested and creative person to fill this new position.

"TR Santos met every standard we were seeking and then some," Peevy said. "I look forward to watching the students as they begin using the beautiful 10-lane pool for competition swimming, PE classes, swimming lessons, SCUBA diving lessons, water safety certification, water polo, canoeing and many other exciting aquatic activities."

Santos will coordinate all TFS natatorium functions, create programming and ensure coordination of all aquatic usage.

"I am honored and privileged to be part of the Tallulah Falls School family," Santos said. "I am excited to introduce an array of aquatic programming that will have a big impact on students, faculty and staff."

# A SLICE OF HISTORY

Beneath a smiling midday sun shining down from the high blue skies of autumn, an enthusiastic crowd gathered to honor one young man's commitment to documenting community history.

An Eagle Scout project led by Tallulah Falls School ninth-grader Joseph McGahee of Clarkesville BSA Troop No. 5 is now in its final stages at the Old Clarkesville Cemetery.

McGahee constructed a display using a slice from a native hemlock tree stump to illustrate the story of the community and the country. Counting the rings from the long-downed tree from the cemetery, McGahee has estimated the age of the tree at 158-159 years.

Matching significant events in local and U.S. history to display alongside the heart of the tree, the scout is intent upon raising awareness of the cemetery's significance.

"I wanted to take this project and be able to show the beauty of Georgia's old hemlocks and to show the age of

these trees," McGahee said. "I also wanted to bring more awareness to the cemetery; it is a beautiful cemetery but few people know about it. I hope this project will make a great impact for the cemetery and more people will go to see its beauty."

An unveiling of "A Slice of History" took place on Sept. 23.

Still pending is the addition of signage documenting dates on the history timeline for Clarkesville and the United States to correlate with the rings of the tree.

Hemlocks are native to Northeast Georgia and are believed to be used as grave markers in the historic cemetery, established in 1831.

Supplies, construction expertise and labor donated through local vendors and individuals made the project possible, McGahee says, including McAllister Tree Service, Reeves Hardware, Jamie Ivester, Tim and Ethan Simmons, members of Troop No. 5 and Buz Stone, a Rabun County craftsman. Stone donated

specialty wood, other materials, shop space and hours of time over seven weekends thus far.

In addition to Stone, Historic Clarkesville Cemetery Preservation, Inc. Board Member Brooks Garcia helped McGahee plan and execute the project.

Garcia, who leads all botanical-related projects at the cemetery expressed appreciation on behalf of the cemetery board.

"This project has surpassed our wildest expectations," Garcia said. "It is a tremendous asset for the cemetery."

HCCP, Inc. Chair and Clarkesville Mayor Barrie Aycock was on hand for the unveiling.

"We are thrilled to have Joseph's project as a visible reminder of the cemetery's significance in the community," Aycock says. "We appreciate the community's ongoing support as we continue the important work of restoring and preserving this historic landmark."

The interpretive exhibit is located on the E. Morgan Street side of the cemetery, near the entrance arbor.

For more information about the Old Clarkesville Cemetery, visit [oldclarkesvillecemetery.com](http://oldclarkesvillecemetery.com).

1937  
Habersham Theatre  
constructed

1910  
Streetcar service begins  
in Clarkesville

1897  
Clarkesville  
incorporated as a city





# Mrs. Linda Harris

## MAKING ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



Long-time math teacher Linda Harris is donning a new hat for the 2020-21 academic year.

Besides teaching two math classes at the Upper School, Harris is working with the Advancement Team as the alumni relations coordinator. She's contacting former Tallulah Falls School students to update the school's mailing list but, more importantly, to reconnect with the alumni base.

Discovering what they are doing professionally and personally is a delight, Harris says.

Heavily invested in imparting lessons in mathematics to students over five decades, she has vast institutional knowledge.

She's living out what she tells her students – don't be afraid to learn new things. Mastering the LinkedIn platform in about 15 minutes, Harris is fast accumulating an impressive list of contacts. She spends her time reaching out via telephone and LinkedIn messenger.

Each telephone call brings a new story, Harris says.

"The messages they send back always make me smile," she says.

She says that it is a gift to be doing this work at this stage in her career.

"I've been given a great prize, which is to talk to my kiddos," she says. "Doing this has been so wonderful because, in essence, I am 'seeing' them again."

Harris is also putting together a list of alumni who can share insight and expertise with current students through a digital presentation or visiting the school in person once distancing restrictions are lifted.

Alumni shared why Mrs. Harris was an inspiration during their time at TFS.

Aida Roberts, class of 2017 is studying at the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia.

"She is strengthening the Alumni Association's interactions with current students at TFS so alumni can share their experiences to hopefully provide some insight and comfort as students transition to college," Roberts says.

"Thankfully, we live in a virtually connected society that allows us to collaborate when we must remain physically distant. I am grateful to Mrs. Harris for staying an active catalyst for students' well being and growth."

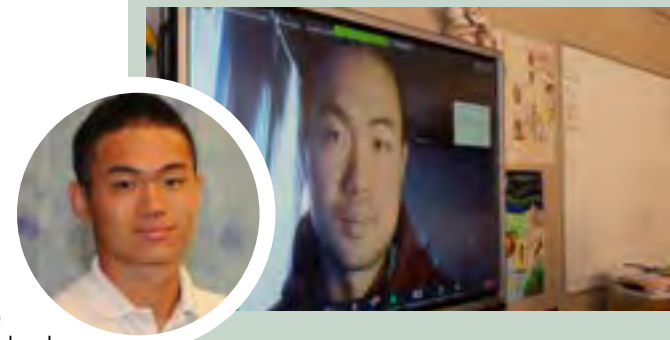
Max Teems, class of 2018, is studying Spanish and biochemistry and molecular biology, on a pre-med track at the University of Georgia.

"Reconnecting with Mrs. Harris made my day. She was one of my favorite teachers throughout my high school experience and whenever I see or can talk to any of them, it reminds me of how thankful I am for the preparation they gave me heading for college," Teems says. "She, along with my other TFS teachers, have been some of the most influential people in my life, and being able to thank them makes me very happy!"

Akin Akisanya, class of 2018, is studying computer engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

"Mrs. Harris was one of my favorite teachers from my time at TFS, so it was great hearing from her," Akisanya says. "I'm glad that the school is putting effort toward reconnecting with alumni."

Manolin Santana, class of 2019, is studying neuroscience and behavioral biology at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health.



"I always love reconnecting with TFS faculty and students. This is a difficult time right now. Because of our social health, it can be hard to connect with people. However, we are so lucky to live in an age with social media and our current technologies that allow us the privilege to stay in contact while being safe. Mrs. Harris is so kind and wise, so it is always a pleasure speaking with her; she makes me feel reassured. She reminds me of a time in my life when I thought that my academics and my social life could not get harder; now that I'm working and in college, I know that isn't true. With that being said, I know whatever I think is hard now is nothing that I can't overcome. Reconnecting with the staff doesn't just make me think of the hard times, it makes me reminisce of all the fond memories and relationships that I had at TFS. Being alumni at TFS is something special because no matter how much time passes, that family feeling is always still there."

Shengzhe (Vincent) Xu, class of 2014, earned a master's degree in business analytics from Brandeis University International Business School after earning a bachelor's degree in economics and business from Fordham University. Xu is a quantitative analyst at EverQuote.

"Mrs. Harris is amazing because she was able to teach the hardest classes on high school level in a very clear and fun way," Xu says. "She made all her students love to take on the challenges she gave them and feel achievement when they were able to tackle those challenges. No doubt that all of us were really proud to be in her class."

"Her calculus classes also made me grow enthusiasm in math and numbers and made me deeply believe in the power of them in business, economy and our day-to-day life. Although it has been six or seven years since I graduated from TFS, I still remember all the moments of her class, and I wish that I can sit in her class one more time with the passion to learn and to improve. You are the best, Mrs. Harris."

Xing Fan, Star Student, class of 2019, is studying mechanical engineering at Purdue University.

"I learned a lot from Mrs. Harris," Fan says, "I was in the math club for four years. When I became the math club president, Mrs. Harris helped to manage the club. She is always nice and willing to help which impacted me greatly on how I treated other people. I hope she keeps teaching and impacts more students."

Vanessa Lewis, class of 2016, is a 2020 graduate of the University of Georgia, earning a bachelor's degree in cellular biology. Lewis is currently working as a research assistant at the Yerkes Primate Research Center. Lewis said Harris was an important resource after school. Harris held "office hours" in the media center most days.

"She always was so complimentary about the plays that the theater department put on and she often would go out of her way to tell how much she enjoyed them," Lewis says.

Engineering students in Scott Davis' class heard from the real world this semester as Tallulah Falls School alumnus Lianjie "Jerry" Wei 2016 shared insight delivered via Zoom.

On Sept. 30, Wei, a first-year graduate student from the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences of Washington University in St. Louis, shared thoughts on the importance of the field of engineering to help biologists see and experiment on the microscopic world. He also discussed how the cell functions like a well-organized machine, particularly as it relates to the production of proteins and the reproduction of DNA, according to Davis.

Wei is the first of several former students contacted by math teacher Linda Harris who has agreed to share experiences with currently enrolled students.

Prior to becoming a graduate student, Wei graduated with distinction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2020, with a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry with the highest honor as well as a second degree in biology. During his time at UNC, he worked as an undergraduate researcher to understand the relationship between structural, biophysical and biochemical aspects of a gut microbial enzyme that is implicated in digestive tract side effects in chemotherapy. Now, as a graduate student undergoing laboratory rotations, he hopes to focus on protein biology-related questions on a cellular level.

Wei missed out on being back on campus but enjoyed reconnecting with his former teachers.

"He [Davis] gave me many pieces of advice on writing when I was in 10th grade, and I am still able to benefit from them to this date," Wei says. "So I'm glad to have this chance to say thanks to him now."

He was really excited to hear from Harris through LinkedIn and was eager to help with the request to speak to current students.

"I was quite excited to see Mrs. Harris reaching out to me and to other alumni because she is arguably the most respected member in the TFS community," Wei says. "Having her connecting us with the school made me feel that I'm back in her classroom, with many other alumni who were also taught by her. She was very warm and caring when she was my teacher, and it is very nice to have her as our liaison."







## Alumni Stories Frances Sosebee Young

*Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from an interview with Frances Sosebee Young, a member of the Tallulah Falls School Class of 1950 conducted by Dr. Judy Forbes during the summer of 2020. Forbes is a member of the TFS Board of Trustees and a grandparent to two current students and one recent alum. Forbes and Young are cousins; they reconnect annually at the family farm in the Sautee-Nacoochee Valley.*

Frances Sosebee Young enrolled at Tallulah Falls School at age 14. Young started there on a scholarship and attended the school for grades 10 and 11, graduating in 1950 at 16 years old. (High schools at that time ended at grade 11.) Frances grew up on a farm in the Sautee-Nacoochee Valley in Georgia.

Young's mother wanted her to go to TFS. A cousin from Atlanta also wanted to attend, so it was orchestrated by their parents they would go together. Frances says she "loved" the school the entire time she was there. It took her about a month to get used to being there and following the routine, but it was a very special time for her.

She lived in the dorm – Lipscomb Cottage – in an upstairs room. Students there lived four to a room with one bath on that level. There was another room for at least four downstairs with a bathroom. She remembers at least two other rooms in the building for boarding girls (one upstairs and one downstairs), and there were two areas referred to as "cubby holes." The cubbies each had room for one bed and Young lived in one of those her senior year.

The dorm had a housemother, Mrs. Wicks, who lived downstairs and who kept a close watch on all of the girls in her care. Every girl had to attend study hall each evening in the main living area in a casual setting. During that evening time, each girl had an assigned night to get a bath since there were only a couple of bathrooms in the building. Of course, they could "wash up," but the bath time was assigned so that each girl was able to bathe every couple of days. Those who were not assigned to bathe had some free time to visit with one another or the teacher who was assigned to supervise the study hall (who also lived in the building). She remembered the other teacher was a young woman who taught other classes or grades and that it was an enjoyable time.

When bedtime arrived, girls were supposed to be quiet. Mrs. Wicks called anyone down who was talking or making noise. There was also a teacher named Mrs. Sweat who lived on the first floor of the dorm. Another teacher lived directly above her on the second floor.

Young described classes, work assignments, special events and influential individuals, including Mrs. Fitzpatrick, a beloved headmistress.

The interview in its entirety can be found on the school website at [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org).

“

Young summed up the TFS experience as  
"a place of opportunities and experiences."

TFS did not put up with any foolishness, but the school provided a place where students could grow and learn without forgetting where they came from.

You were there to learn.

- Frances Sosebee Young



Dr. Judy Forbes  
TFS Board of Trustees

# ON CAMPUS

## SPOTLIGHT ON HAPPENINGS



Tallulah Falls School is partnering with StudentBridge, a virtual experience company from Atlanta that specializes in creating digital solutions for institutions to achieve their enrollment goals. StudentBridge is in the process of developing an interactive 3D campus map and video components that highlight TFS. The production crew was on campus in late October to interview staff and students for the video segments. The platform will roll out in early 2021.

"The virtual campus tour will provide families the opportunity to explore Tallulah Falls School from anywhere in the world," says Dean of Enrollment Management Kelly Woodall. "Offering families a unique insight into the amazing opportunities available for their students while hearing directly from our faculty, staff and students in videos throughout the tour. The interactive campus map will allow families to navigate through the campus and personally tour each of the buildings. We are truly excited to offer this new tool for prospective families."



*"I look forward to this every year."*

*Peavy said. "The questions are spontaneous; I'm eager to help our new students learn more about my role as the school leader but also as a strong student advocate."*

Fifth-grade students, divided into three groups, continued the tradition of visiting the president's office during the first month of the academic year.

An introduction to President and Head of School Larry A. Peavy is simply another step in learning more about the history of Tallulah Falls School. Peavy's Willet Building office is filled with mementos from a rich career serving others in his leadership positions in higher education and through his military and community service.

The youngest members of the TFS family travel from the middle school campus to the main campus for the informal meet and greet.



One Tallulah Falls School eighth-grader loves to create with LEGO. According to Fine Arts Teacher/Program Coordinator Jonathan Roberts, Jack Wiese of Alto was watching a LEGO Masters show this summer and wishing he could build a big project.

"So he did," Roberts says. The project is a scaled-down version of the TFS middle school, including the fireplace, classrooms, a minibus and the Student Activity Center. "This is exactly what we love to see from our students – taking school pride and creativity outside the classroom into their lives and experiences in the world at large. It's a wonderful feeling to see a student doing terrific things by their own volition. Jack is a very thought-filled kid!"

Starting in June, Wiese initially planned for the project to have two floors, but scaled back due to concern about cost overruns. "I've always wanted to say that I've made an accomplishment big enough to be recognized," Wiese says. "When I ordered the pieces mid-July, my dad ordered another 300 pieces for me, so that made the total cost of the pieces skyrocket to about \$250."

It took a long time for the tiny construction materials to show up, he says. "After four weeks of waiting for the pieces to come, they arrived in the most banged-up box I've ever seen," he says. After opening the box, he sorted the bricks by color before getting to work.

Starting with the Student Activity Center's floor pieces, he then built a single-brick-tall wall before moving on to recreating the drama room, breezeway and classrooms. Next to come to life were the lobby and lunchroom before adding more detail with LEGO figures, furniture and fixtures.

He delivered the completed model to the middle school lobby, where it is on display near the entrance.





# Bon appetit

NOT YOUR AVERAGE SCHOOL LUNCH

Good food fuels learning and the new academic year brings more focus to this crucial ingredient for academic success. When expanding young brains are appropriately nourished, educational excellence can soar.

Tallulah Falls School has a rich history of providing first-class, in-house dining services. The school's dining services staff has exceeded the learning community's ever-

growing expectations from daily meals to special events.

To continue this commitment, TFS welcomed Flik Independent School Dining for the 2020-21 academic year. A wellness-based specialty food services company, Flik Independent School Dining, serves only private schools.

The company operates under the philosophy of "Nourishing a Brighter Future," pledging to deliver its trademarked Platinum Service to TFS.

"This approach, inspired by the renowned Ritz-Carlton customer service model, has generated much excitement among the students and faculty," says President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "We have grown to a point where we needed to provide

additional options while maintaining the things we love about gathering for meals at TFS."

David Janecek is the new director of dining services, with Eric Mulville serving as executive chef. Harriett Worrell, long-time director of dining services, is acting as a liaison during the transition.

All of the existing TFS dining services staff joined the Flik family and made a smooth transition, Janecek says.

"They bought into the concept of serving exceptionally fresh, quality meals and learning how to cook them," he says. "They have learned a lot over the last few months and I am very proud of them."

Janecek is grateful for the warm welcome extended to him and Mulville during the first few months of training and bringing students back to campus.

"Everyone is sincerely helpful and polite; it truly is a family atmosphere," he says. "Probably the best place I have worked in my career; I love it here!"

Highlights, he says, include seeing guests enjoy the quality of the food produced by his staff.

"Chef Eric and I thrive on cooking great food and delivering it with hospitality. We have 70 years of foodservice experience between us and TFS is a great environment for us to perform," he says. "And, again, I can't say enough about my staff and how great they are."

The pandemic and the impact on typical foodservice delivery, Janecek says, has been quite the task.

"Working around the guidelines to keep everyone healthy and safe has been challenging, to say the least," he says. "We're doing our best and responding to the feedback we receive wherever possible."

Flik Independent School Dining is now serving three meals per day, with the majority of meals served midday on two campuses. Options at lunch include a hot entree with two sides, salad bar, sandwich bar, soup, fresh fruit, occasional dessert or ice cream and several beverages.

Menu design reflects the school community, Janecek says, including selections that honor the diverse cultures represented in the TFS student body.







## CREATING A BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

A Tallulah Falls School senior had quite the summer.

Nikolina Djermanovic of Novi Sad, Serbia participated in the Women Economic Forum, typically held in India, but was staged as a digital summit this year.

Hundreds of influential business people shared views on management, economy and challenges caused by the pandemic.

Speakers also shared their experiences on various topics including personal development and self-growth.

Djermanovic, described as a youth empowerment activist, shared her life tips with peers and was named an "Iconic Women Creating a Better World for All."

Her presentation, "How to live a meaningful life building the resilient you," outlined eight steps to infinity.

An excerpt is included below:

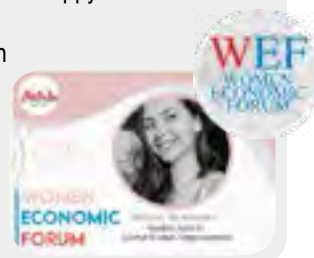
**Life is a struggle.** We have to do our best and to give our best to live the best life we can.

**Being a teenager in this hectic world is so harsh and challenging.** However, there are some things we could do to become the best version of ourselves.

These are my life hacks. Hope you'll find them useful.

- Gratitude
- Carpe diem – seize the day
- Love yourself and your body
- Small steps every day
- Power of words
- Find a reason to be happy
- Help someone
- Repeat all seven steps daily

To view the entire presentation, visit [www.tallulahfalls.org](http://www.tallulahfalls.org)



# ALUMNI MELODIES TAKING ON THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

It takes special talent and years upon years of practice to succeed in the music industry.

Tallulah Falls School alumnus Zhiyang Shu has honed his craft since he was a child and has recently begun to reveal his talent to the world under his alias, "ghostgirlsimp."

Shu graduated in the class of 2020. Like many other international students, the COVID-19 outbreak forced the senior to return to his home country of China.

While at home, he gained a thorough understanding of how music production works and released his first project: *Best of: Classical Piano Music*.

It wasn't until later Yang branded his work under "ghostgirlsimp."

"The name 'ghostgirlsimp' was suggested by my good friend Maggie Jackson," Shu says.

Jackson, a TFS senior, recalls the name was based on a dream Shu had about a mysterious girl he did not recognize. Shu's later projects lean into the genre of lo-fi, known for its calm electronic beats and synthesizers. Shu recalled he took inspiration from popular lo-fi producers, such as Jinsang and Idealism.

"I always listen to their music while doing work, and it helps me concentrate," Shu says. "When I was young, I dreamt of becoming a professional pianist, but as I grew up, I realized I lack the skills and dedication those pianists have. I decided to make my own music, so my piano skills would not be wasted. I love lo-fi music because it can be interpreted differently by everyone. It can be something to listen to when you're bored, sad or stressed."

While studying at TFS, Yang would frequently play the piano for various school events, whether it be for service every Sunday, International Day, accompanying the choir or even during lunch.

Shu says he enhanced his musical knowledge, thanks to teachers Curt Frederick, Jill Hunter and Randy Morris.

"I sincerely appreciate them and the opportunities they provided me with," Shu says.

Over the summer and early fall, Shu released two lo-fi albums: *Nyctophilia* and *Bones*.

Shu recalls the tedious process in which he created the two albums: "A major struggle I faced was making the melody for each song. There are so many combinations to choose from. The melody can be in different types of chords, scales, and tempo."

"It can be played on so many different instruments..."

Shu's favorites from *Nyctophilia* are "Stargazing" and "Sentiments" because of how relaxed they make him feel.

"My favorites from *Bones* would be 'Break of Day' because I really liked the guitar melody I came up with," he says. "I also like '320 km/h' a lot because it makes me feel like I'm actually on a train in Japan, and I like how the song fades out in the end."

"Currently, I have only made \$5 from music, with about 5,000 streams in total. However, I hope that one day, my music will be able to reach out to more people."



**Yang's future plans include building a larger audience and ultimately producing music for a living.**

Making music runs in Caleb Carter's family and he's happy to share the spotlight.

Carter started playing the piano when he was eight years old. As an eighth-grader, Carter and classmate Joe Griswold infused music into a career fair project.

Four years later, that "project" is still going strong.

Carter and Griswold have played for school concerts, chapels, at restaurants and at parties.

They don't have a group name, Carter says.

"We usually just go by our first names, he adds. "We play instrumental covers, and our sound draws influence from jazz and contemporary styles."

As for the start of the venture, Carter says the two were curious about the music business, creating the impetus for the middle school project.

# smooth SOUNDS

## SENIORS SHARE LOVE OF MUSIC



2016



2020

So far, Carter says a favorite gig was playing for the Woodmen of the World, where an upscale sound system amplified the smooth sounds created by the talented duo.

Recently, the pair played Sweet Breads, a restaurant in Demorest, a favorite spot for Griswold.

"My favorite gig has been when we played for Sweet Breads for the first time," Griswold says. "I like that one because it started a long chain of many gigs there and I always love going back and playing for them."

Griswold says the friends understand each other and that's why the musical synergy works.

"We both work together really well; we can learn songs together in no time," he says. "He also knows a lot about music theory and he'll give advice that really helps me."

# EQUESTRIAN

## PROGRAM DRIVING FORWARD

The TFS Equestrian program, which began competing in the Spring of 2019, performed their first show of the 2020-21 season on October 24 at the Currahee Horse Show. The team, which is led by award-winning horsewoman Dinah Peevy, consists of five TFS students — ninth grader Brooke Hayes, eighth graders Kylee Loudermilk and Victoria VerBerkmoes, seventh grader Isabella McClain, and sixth grader Kaitlyn Loudermilk.

The team's show included competing in halter, showmanship, obstacles, driving obstacle and driving.





# My Brother's Keeper



The saying goes, "Because I have a brother, I'll always have a friend." Anyone who has siblings knows this is not as easy as it sounds. While brothers don't often see eye to eye, they always see heart to heart. That rings true with tight-knit brothers Simeon and KC Respress, both day students at Tallulah Falls School.

Simeon and KC are entering pivotal years. The elder, Simeon, is set to pen his final chapter as a senior at TFS, while KC is an eighth grader ready to take his talents and abilities to the next level. KC, of Cornelia, is following in his brother's footsteps in many ways, but is his own person. Two things are evident about both — they have the same driving force and they are goal-oriented.

The driving force propelling both individuals is their mother Veronica Young, an assistant professor of mathematics at Truett McConnell University. Both simply point to mom as the greatest influencer in

their lives. Simeon, born in Dayton, Ohio, says he came to TFS for education. KC was a bit less subtle.

"Mom made me go," jokes KC on how he ended up at TFS. "My mother's encouragement and words of wisdom are my motivation," adds the four-sport star who competes in basketball, soccer, track and field and tennis.

Anyone who is motivated will obviously set goals and ambitions that stretch themselves in the process. KC believes it takes uncompromised determination to achieve big goals.

"Setting a sports relational goal is similar to setting a life goal," says KC. "Set a goal wholeheartedly by having focus and absolute effort."

There's no doubt KC is living out his self-proclaimed motivational quote, as is Simeon, who is a multi-sport athlete

in basketball and track and field. Their mother's encouragement has driven the pair to seek greatness in many forms. Ironically, they both desire to accomplish high-level success in academics and athletics.

"I plan to be a civil engineer and attend a college for track and field," states Simeon of his future goals.

Younger brother KC echoes those goals almost verbatim.

"I want to be an electrical engineer and I want to be an NBA all-star," says KC.

The Respress brothers dare you to scoff at the lofty dreams. So far, they've been determined to prove people wrong.

"A driving force for me is to show people around me what I am capable of doing," says Simeon.

**"Family is not an important thing. It's everything."**

- Michael J. Fox



Simeon & KC with their mom Veronica

The senior has excelled in track and field, going to state and placing fifth in high jump as just a freshman in 2018 with a 5-10 jump. He placed ninth as a sophomore at state in the same event. To date, he has set a personal best at 6-0 in the high jump and 19-2.75 in the long jump and has also competed in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dash as well. Of all his athletic accomplishments; however, it's what he has overcome off the field of play that impresses most.

Years ago, Simeon was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease called Alport's Syndrome. Within a year or two, his kidney function was diminishing quickly.

"Knowing this malady could take my life left me confused and broken as I didn't want to die," says Simeon. "But having my family with me and settling more in Georgia helped me realize there is nothing to be afraid of. However, I had to cling to life and stay with friends and family."

Simeon underwent dialysis, spending eight to nine hours nightly connected to a dialysis machine.

"Thankfully, on June 16, 2016, my biological father donated one of his kidneys which gave me a second chance at life and for that I am grateful," exclaims Simeon. "The kidney transplant made me stronger, resilient and grateful for God's grace. It showed me that I shall never give in to death's hand and to strive to live."

Simeon grew 6.5 inches in the year following his transplant. He reflects back on the long, painful process of dialysis, the many pills he had to take, getting blood drawn multiple times daily and being poked and prodded upwards of 20 times per day.

"It was frustrating not to be able to keep up with my peers," adds Simeon. "In

the midst of [it all], I continued to play basketball and run track for both my school and the local recreation club. Having opponents that I knew I could beat or seeing my best friends outrun me while I gasped for air was beyond embarrassing. But, what I have learned through these trials and tribulations from this disease was that my life is precious and I should not give up and should live out my dreams. After this ongoing disease and picking myself up each time, I started to look more closely at my goals by high school year."

Simeon is doing just that. He's not just interested in his own goals and dreams, but helping others accomplish theirs, including his brother.

"We both help each other with anything that we have troubles with in our life," says Simeon. "We both try to do the most that we can to help the other achieve our goals, but as an older brother, I feel like I should do the most I can to help my brother be better than me."

KC has also put his athleticism on display, as he recently helped guide the middle school boys soccer team to a tri-state championship for the first time in three years. He also has been a standout on the court in basketball.

The impact sports has had on Simeon and KC includes learning how to be more patient with people and learning how to manage their time to excel in the classroom as well as on the field of play. The brothers have also learned how to lead by example and spur others on around them, including each other.

"With stories like this one about the Respress brothers, hopes inspire, dreams take wings, goals become realities, and teams become family," says athletic director Scott Neal.



FAMILY STRONG





# TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL MS TENNIS

Webster's Dictionary defines "perfect" as follows - Brought to consummation or completeness; completed...without flaw, fault, or blemish; without error; whole...

Tallahulah Falls Middle School tennis exemplified that...well, perfectly. The boys and girls both returned much of last season's Southern Mountain League Championship teams, and took it a step further as both went undefeated in 2020.

The girls and boys teams both went 9-0 to complete their dream seasons, topped with back-to-back league titles. The boys never wavered, winning six of their matches in shutout fashion. The rest of the wins were by scores of 4-1. The girls only once were on the verge, winning one match 3-2 against Rabun County.

The boys defeated Habersham in the semifinals and the championship over Rabun County, while the girls earned wins similarly over Franklin County and Rabun Gap.

"I am very proud each year of all our boys and girls teams from the bottom to the top," adds coach Lisa Wilcox. "I teach and coach them hard, not just tennis, but how to value time, and people who give their time and what it means to have family support them in the things they love to do."

TFS focused on building character and also excelling on the court. Wins for the teams came over local programs such as Rabun County, Rabun Gap, Banks County, Habersham County and Franklin County.

## TOP PLAYERS

### Middle School No.1 Seed Girls and Boys Players for 2020 Season



"Landry Carnes battled for number No.1 singles the whole season and finally was able to keep the position in the last few playoff matches and championship. She dominated and showed her true tennis talent as she defeated Rabun Gap's No.1 seed for the championship with total ease. Landry loves the game of tennis. This is what it takes to be a competitor and I am proud for this young lady." - Coach Wilcox

Gap's No.1 seed for the championship with total ease. Landry loves the game of tennis. This is what it takes to be a competitor and I am proud for this young lady." - Coach Wilcox



"Tanner Davis started in the sixth grade almost being cut to No.3 singles, and then became the No.1 singles player both his seventh and eighth grade year. He lost only three of 20 matches in two years," states Lisa Wilcox. "I see him playing USTA tournament and quickly advancing to much higher levels from there." - Coach Wilcox

**BOYS SINGLE PLAYERS**  
 Tanner Davis (8-1 record)  
 TJ Cox (7-1)  
 Everett VanOrman (8-1)

**BOYS DOUBLES**  
 Aiden VanOrman & Jake Owensby (7-0)  
 Zach Carringer & KC Respress (9-0)  
 Rylee Smith (1-0)

**GIRLS SINGLE PLAYERS**  
 Landry Carnes (8-1)  
 Lizzie Huebner (9-0)  
 Madeline Martin (9-0)

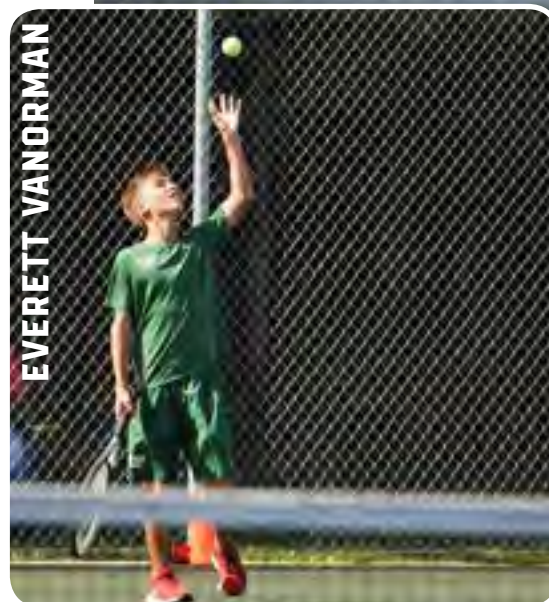
**GIRLS DOUBLES**  
 Jordan St. Germaine & Keira Webb (9-0)  
 Olivia Phillips & Agnes Hogan (5-4)  
 Sarah Wilkinson (1-0)



TANNER DAVIS



TJ COX



EVERETT VANORMAN



LANDRY CARNES



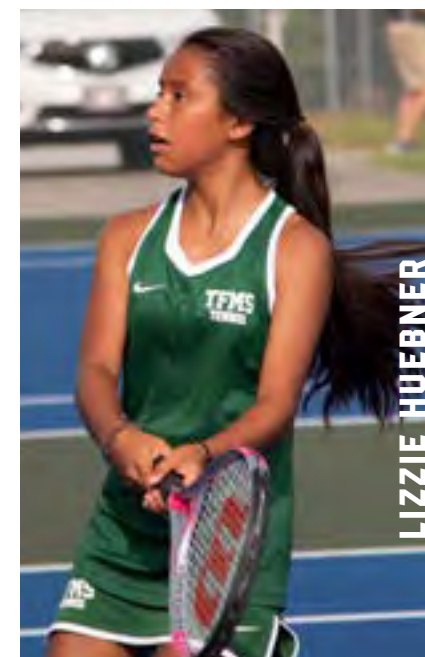
MADELINE MARTIN



AIDEN VANORMAN

JAKE OWENSBY

## MIDDLE SCHOOL TENNIS



LIZZIE HUEBNER

## 8TH GRADERS

The added cherry on top for both teams winning the title is that both did so on the home court at TFS. Carnes, Huebner, Martin and St. Germaine all move on next season to the Upper School, while the boys will also see Davis, Cox, the VanOrman brothers, Owensby, Carringer and Respress move up. This season is one that all the members will cherish, as well as Wilcox, who utilized her son and former TFS great Trey Wilcox as an assistant coach.

"Every year feels like an accomplishment whether a winning or losing season," adds Wilcox. "If one person comes out a better player and has learned more than just tennis, I feel I might have contributed in giving something that will be lifelong to another. God's gift to me is a gift that I hopefully can give to another."





ABBY CARLAN



TFS concluded the season with a 19-15 record that included a third straight region runner-up finish. Katy Corbett and Sarah Jennings earned 1st Team All-Region honors, while Abby Carlan made the 2nd Team and Rebekah Jennings was an Honorable Mention. Meanwhile, Katy Corbett and Barrett Whitener were named to the All-Tournament Team.

The future remains bright for this program, which has won nearly 100 games in the past four seasons, has made state six straight times, and made two Sweet 16 runs as well as finishing runner-up in region three consecutive times. TFS will return the majority of its roster, including current junior Alba Romanos Gracia, who was instrumental in the team's turnaround in 2020.

Corbett leaves TFS with a legacy that includes nearly 1,000 career kills, as she holds the career and single-season mark in that category as well as in digs (over 1,000 for her career).

Aside from Romanos Gracia, Whitener and Sarah Jennings, the Lady Indians will bring back key players Allie Dalton, Nancy Fisher, Evette Corwin, and up-and-comers Addy McCoy, Julianne Shirley and Layne Kafsky to name a few.

(L-R): Shelby Ann Brightwell (Manager), Sarah Jennings, Evette Corwin, Rebekah Jennings, Alba Romanos Gracia, Nancy Fisher, Katy Corbett, Barrett Whitener, Addy McCoy, Abby Carlan, Allie Dalton, Kat Williams (Manager), Matt Heyl (Coach)

### VARSITY VOLLEYBALL



Front Row (L-R):Ashlyn Yaskiewicz, Jaylan Garrison, Allie Phasavang, Reese Wilson, Rebecca Heyworth, Josie Garrison, Skylyn Yaskiewicz  
Back Row (L-R): Chichi Nwachukwu (Manager), Kyndal Anderson, Kitty Rodenas, Julianne Shirley, Carol Dunlap, Chloe Kahwach, Layne Kafsky, Claire Kelly, Marissa Gergeni, Tanisha Seymour (Manager), Matt Crotta (Coach)

### JUNIOR VARSITY VOLLEYBALL



Front row: Julia Smith, Rebecca Heyl, Caylin Tucker, Courtney Bard, Gracey Ash, Shelby Whisnant, Ryleigh Wilson, Lorelai Anders, Emma Barron, Isla Wagner  
Back row: Coach Whitney LaHayne, Manager Emma Rose Hunter, Karagan Branson, Mia Hamon, Gemma Farris, Caroline Smith, Brooklyn Reed, Chesney Tanksley, Manager Timothy Beck, Coach Hannah Satterfield

### MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL



REBEKAH JENNINGS

The 2020 season for the Lady Indians volleyball team was nothing short of amazing. At an early part of the season, the girls were a paltry 2-10 overall. That wasn't due to a lack of skill or desire to win - it was just a series of bad breaks, tough scheduling and some new varsity players getting their feet wet.

The Lady Indians fell in the Sweet 16 at St. Francis, coming up short in a 3-1 loss. Season highlights included a home tri-match on September 3, in which TFS' turnaround really began with wins over #9-ranked Rabun County and #6-ranked White County.



KATY CORBETT

The girls went on a tear from there, as head coach Matt Heyl led TFS back into the state playoffs for a sixth straight season and into the team's second-ever Sweet 16. Twice throughout the season, TFS went on a six-match win streak, tying a school record each time.

The turnaround happened in September, when the Lady Indians went 12-2 for the month to pull above .500 and gain the confidence they needed for the stretch run. That resulted in a strong showing in the region tournament, where TFS bested George Walton at home in the region semifinals. Athens Academy, who had lost only twice all season, won the region championship over Tallulah Falls School, but the girls had secured a home playoff match for the opening round of the GHSA Class 1A-Private tournament.

That led to a 3-0 shutout win at home over Mt. Vernon in the opening round of the state playoffs.



BARRETT WHITENER



SARAH JENNINGS

**2020 VARSITY  
SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

**2X**  
SWEET 16

**6**  
STRAIGHT STATE PLAYOFFS

**3**  
STRAIGHT RUNNER-UP  
IN REGION

**4X**  
ALL REGION HONOREES

**SCHOOL RECORD**  
6 STRAIGHT WINS 2X DURING  
2020 SEASON



# XC TRIATHLON

Cross country athletes readied their kayaks and eagerly awaited the approval to propel forward across the glistening waters of Tallulah Falls Lake. Paddles furiously gouged the water while the kayakers themselves slid smoothly across the surface. It marked the beginning of what has become a much-anticipated event for the athletes and their families. Runners kayaked, biked and ran in a Wednesday triathlon that Evan Prince won for a second straight year.

It looked a little different this time around, as it is usually held about a month earlier and typically contains middle school runners along with upper school runners. It also usually features a swimming stage, thus making it in a normal year a quadrathlon.

“The annual quadrathlon (tri this year) is one of the lasting memories team members remind us to make sure we keep as a tradition,” states coach Scott Neal.



*It was bittersweet for me crossing the finish line, knowing that it would be the last time I ever did a race like that with the school. I'm sure the other seniors on the team felt the same way, but I know we all had a fun time nonetheless."*

*-Chaz Mullis, TFS Senior*



## HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Front Row (L-R) Tate Shaw, Canon Brooks, Colton Augustine, Zhigao Henry Xiong, Austin Ball, Brit Shaw, Chaz Mullis  
Middle Row (L-R) Blair Moore, Captain Evan Prince, Caroline Ball, Captain Lucy Alexander, Dani Prince, Emma Jackson, Miranda Chapa, Manager Macy Murdock, Josh Jackson, Ethan Wanner

Back Row (L-R) Coach Scott Neal, Captain Collin Kelly, Walker Bailey, Eli Sims, Charlie Cody, Grey Bourlet, Henry Rickman, Athletic Trainer Lauren Brown, Coach Elisha Boggs, Coach Stephanie Witham. *Not Pictured:* Kate Trotter, Volunteer Coach Jennifer Walker, Jenna Chesser



## MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Front Row (L-R) Conner Spink, Bryson Freeman, DJ Broome, Roman Roberts, Dalton Blackwell, Josh Lander, Braden Freeman

Back Row (L-R) Coach Scott Neal, Coach Susan Nichols, Gavin Simmons, Clay Kafsky, Jason Bard, Ti Wright, Charlie Harris, Wyatt Fountain, Coach Tamara Griffis, Athletic Trainer Lauren Brown. *Not Pictured:* Coach Stephanie Witham



## MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

Front Row (L-R) Allison Bailey, Avery Keim, Adelaide Tatum, Jazzy Marshall, Lezita Miller, Laurel Blake Kafsky, Olivia Bonner, Halen McGugan, Olivia Henderson, Molly Rickman  
Back Row (L-R) Coach Scott Neal, Coach Susan Nichols, Josie Chesser, Megan Prince, Emily Shoemaker, Carsyn Griffis, Coach Tamara Griffis, Athletic Trainer Lauren Brown. *Not Pictured:* Coach Stephanie Witham

# CROSS COUNTRY

2020 SEASON RECAP

Tallulah Falls School Varsity boys placed third at the Region 8-A Private meet, qualifying to the state championships. Making the state meet back-to-back seasons is a first for the program.

Captain, junior, region champ and Meet of Champions invitee Evan Prince – ranked 24th of all Georgia runners – staggered across the finish line in 17th of 205 peers to lead the team to the Sweet 16 (15th of 32 teams). Captain Grey Bourlet, newcomer Charlie Cody, and Walker Bailey all finished in the top half, according to coach Scott Neal.

Following her inspiring third-place region finish, influential captain Lucy Alexander ran the third-best TFS state meet time ever to 24th place of 202, moving up from 51st early in the battle. The Lady Indians missed out on the state meet by one point at the region competition.

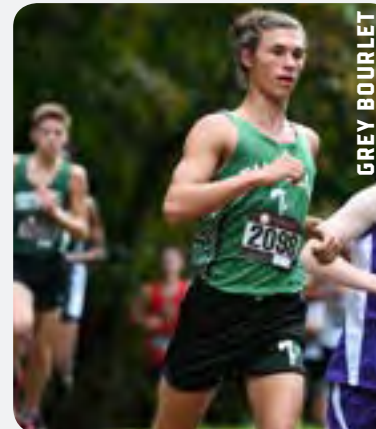
Though the season often looked bleak in the pandemic-stricken spring and summer, more runners trained together for the available six summer weeks than ever before.

Developing fortitude by being better together became a compelling connector,” Neal said. The team, with two Eagle Scouts (Prince and senior captain Collin Kelly) continued its impactful traditions of hosting themed meets and forging memories through special team bonding activities.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

TFS middle school teams completed the regular-season finale with every runner racing to a 3K personal record. At the Georgia Middle School State Championships, Allison Bailey finished 26th of 162 harriers and Clay Kafsky came across the line 35th of 178.

Bailey ended up third on both the 3K and 2-mile TFS MS XC Legacy List. Kafsky sits atop the 2-mile list and third on the 3K historical archive. Josie Chesser concluded her eighth-grade season No. 1 for the double mile and No. 2 for the 3K famed list.



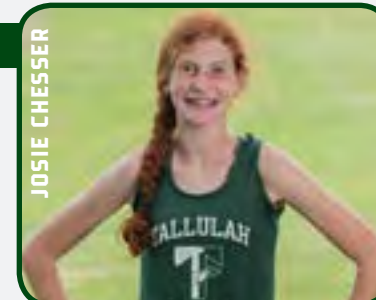
GREY BOURLET



LUCY ALEXANDER



ZHIGAO HENRY XIONG



JOSIE CHESSER



CHARLIE CODY

The four seniors (Bourlet, Kelly, Chaz Mullis, Eli Sims), with a combined 23 seasons of TFS cross country, fueled the motivating team quest to be the light in the mountains while running personal records and competing fiercely, even in the midst of uncertainty and improbability, Neal said.

“The returning Tribe harriers are compelled to lead TFS to an even more competitive state expectation and bring home a trophy,” Neal said.

## SPOTLIGHT ATHLETE

**EVAN PRINCE**  
JUNIOR, TEAM CAPTAIN

- REGION CHAMPION
- MEET OF CHAMPIONS INVITEE
- RANKED 24TH OF ALL GA RUNNERS





# MIDDLE SCHOOL

From fifth grade forward, Tallulah Falls School students are encouraged to investigate, develop, refine and communicate through personal expression.

Visual arts students are guided with the target of increased understanding of art – developed through critical and abstract thinking and the expression of personal style in different mediums. Courses include painting, sculpture, perspective and design, 3D projects and compositions.

Theater courses take aspects of stagecraft such as movement, voice, timing, teamwork, costumes and prop and set design to provide multiple opportunities for students to develop an interest in being a part of live production, either in front of an audience or behind the scenes as technical support.

Music classes are offered with the goal of teaching an understanding and appreciation of music through study and performance.

Digital arts, photography and intro to broadcasting round out the arts offerings at TFS middle school, providing extra areas for students to share learned skills and expressive notions.

# FINE ARTS



MACY MURDOCK



# UPPER SCHOOL

At the Upper School, TFS students build on the foundation introduced in middle school to deepen artistic expression through a variety of mediums.

In the visual arts, instructors employ the methodology of student choice-based, hands-on education. Students work in 2-D with drawing and painting with watercolor, acrylic and oils, printmaking, collage and mixed media. Ceramics is popular and includes wheel throwing, hand-building and clay sculpture. Other 3-D work includes paper mache, wire, recycled materials, etc.

Performing arts offers instrumental classes in both piano and guitar. Students who wish to pursue voice as their instrument can choose chorus as an elective.

Students who are enrolled in the theater class learn all aspects of the theater, from acting on stage to working behind the curtain.

Another outlet for creative expression is through an introduction to culinary arts, which starts by teaching students the basic knowledge and skills of kitchen safety and sanitation, nutrition, identification and use of kitchen tools and equipment, culinary measurement and math, knife skills and how to read and prepare recipes.



ISABELLA MCCAIN



LANDRY GARNES



PARKER SEAMAN



SAM STAMEY



JACKSON SAVAGE



MITCHELL MCGAHEE



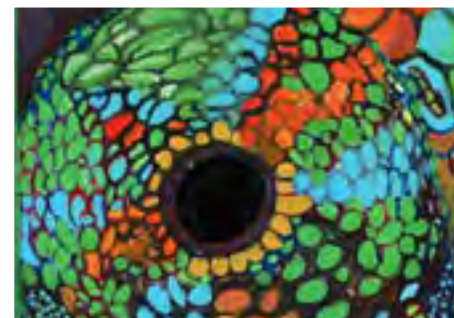
ACRYLIC: ELLA AKERS



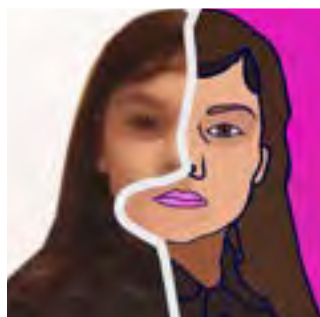
ACRYLIC: JORDAN ST.GERMAINE



ACRYLIC: KALLEIGH HARTZOG



ACRYLIC: REAGAN DUNCAN



MS DIGITAL ARTS: AVERY KEIM



MS DIGITAL ARTS: OLIVIA HENDERSON



MS DIGITAL ARTS: SHEPARD CRUMLEY



MS DIGITAL ARTS: ADELAIDE TATUM



BARRETT WHITENER



GEORGE KETCH





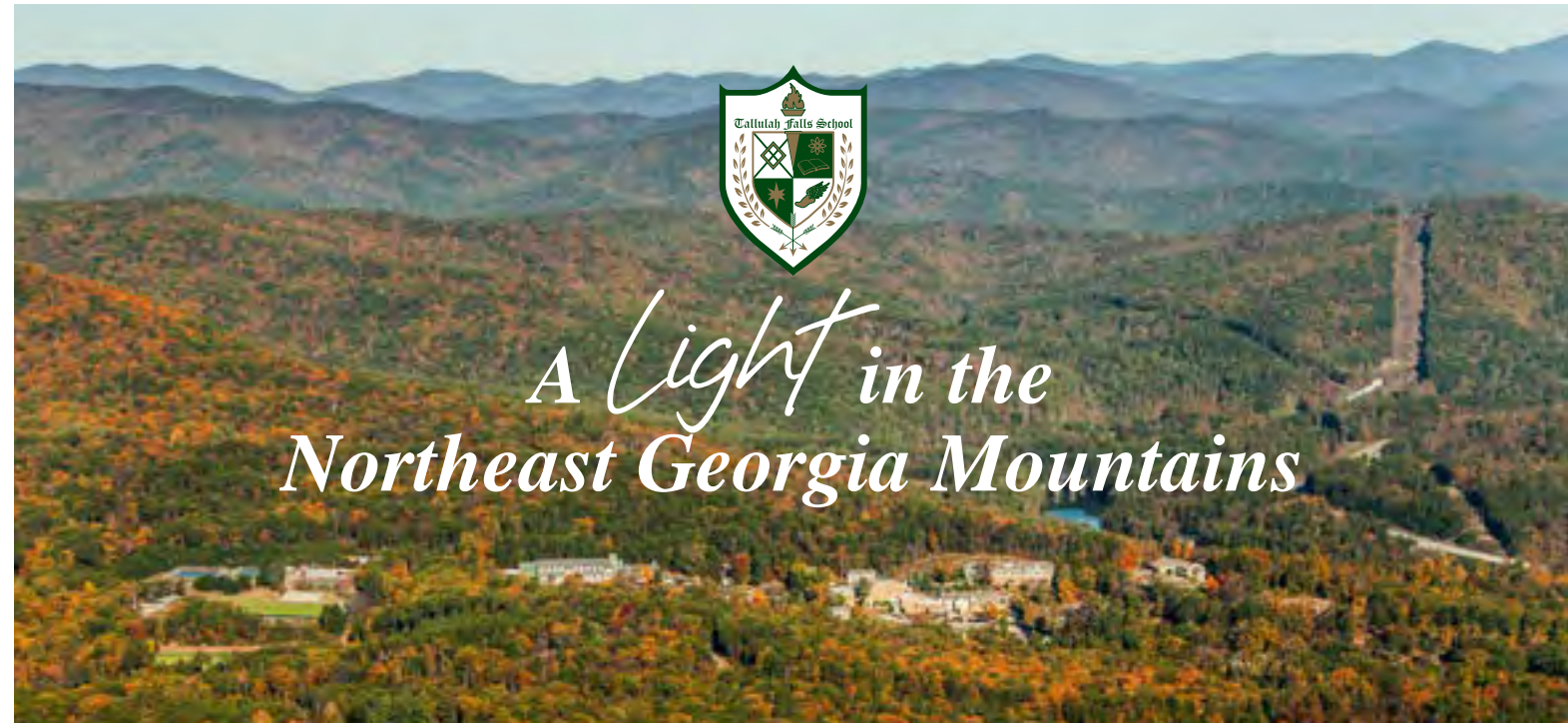
HORNETS  
OWLS  
RAVENS  
WOLVES



*Let the sorting  
begin...*

New middle school students at Tallulah Falls School celebrated membership in one of four houses on August 26 – the Grey Wolves, Black Ravens, Green Hornets and White Owls.

Similar to the process described in the literature series featuring a boy wizard, sorting involves taking turns drawing a slip of paper from a fanciful hat. Students new to the TFS community in each of four grades held a separate gathering to determine membership, with fifth-grade students representing the bulk of newly arrived students. The house system was developed to promote connections among students in all grades, as well as leadership opportunities. The houses provide the forum to get all students involved in community, collaboration and competition.



*A Light in the  
Northeast Georgia Mountains*



# BOARDER LIFE

FALL BREAK ADVENTURES  
OFF CAMPUS



During October Open Weekend, many boarding students chose to stay on campus to savor safe, socially distanced activities, gorgeous fall weather and local cuisine.

On Friday afternoon, students visited Goats on the Roof. Some of the students had never seen goats up close before; they were tickled to hand-feed the goats.

The group enjoyed a private dinner at Sunflower, where they feasted on a delicious Chinese buffet.

On Saturday, Fender's Diner opened early to accommodate the TFS students. They indulged in traditional diner fare, such as double cheeseburgers, fries covered in gravy and bacon and hand-spun milkshakes piled high with whipped cream.

In true Halloween spirit, the students loaded up to go to a haunted house for a spooktacular night.

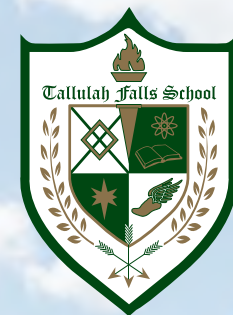
The students had lunch delivered to campus the next day as well - subs from Domino's Pizza and then headed to Franklin, N.C., for a private movie theater showing.

While waiting for dinner that night at Fresco's, students voted on who was the biggest chicken at the haunted house. The winners received a rubber chicken of their very own.

On Monday, the students got to experience a classic in southern culinary culture when the Waffle House food truck arrived. Each student got an All-Star Special, which consists of all the favorites, complete with an official Waffle House hat.

The other boarding students arrived back to campus that afternoon and they rounded out the weekend with pizza from A.J.'s Pizza.

– Jordan West



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# TALLULAH

# *fund*

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