

# TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

## Magazine

WINTER 2020



**Paws and Refresh**  
Students welcome  
special visitors during exams

*Classroom Clips*

*Pool Update*

*Ski Day Gallery*

*Scout's Honor*

# CELEBRATING OUR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

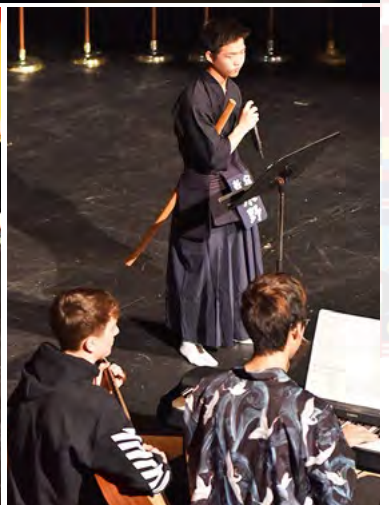
20 countries • 94 students • limitless opportunities

**T**allulah Falls School's annual International Day was held on January 20 and coincided with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday and the upper school's community service day.

Students gathered in the morning for cultural classroom presentations and colorful international stage performances with 20 countries represented. Following the show, TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy told the international students their role in the school community was an important one.

"These accomplished students are on the way to leadership roles as they move toward graduation," Peevy said. "Sharing their cultures through the International Day experience is a wonderful way to build a global community."

**Bahamas • Cambodia • Cayman Islands • China • Finland • Hungary • Japan  
Kazakhstan • Liberia • Mexico • Montenegro • Nigeria • Russia • Rwanda •  
Serbia • Singapore • South Korea • Spain • United Kingdom • Vietnam**



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## TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

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## ON THE COVER:



Junior Anna Paige Barrett of Clarkesville shares a sweet moment with a shelter dog from Rabun PAWS For Life during final exams. Photo by E. Lane Gresham

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. LARRY A. PEEVY



# TFS - a global community

As we envision the new year, it is with an ever-expanding worldview. Tallulah Falls School is truly a global community with students from 20 countries living, working and growing together.

In January, we celebrated the many cultures represented in the school community during the International Day program. Still, it is the everyday exchanges that provide a more profound understanding of the future. It is that daily contact with individuals from other places and backgrounds that add value to the TFS experience.

Discussion is the beginning point of understanding – that's why I have pushed for 13 years to develop not only a motivated and academically prepared student body but also a diverse student body.

It doesn't matter where students are from – Tallulah Falls, Georgia or Montenegro – TFS students are being exposed to the world. How we learn to accept other people's values in a positive way is the key to cross-cultural

communication. This cultural change is the most significant value of having cultural enrichment on a campus with 20 countries represented.

Illustrated through the close collaboration between the 2020 STAR Student and STAR Teacher is a true global

partnership. Jihee Han of South Korea depends on science teacher Beth Huebner of Clarkesville to establish a foundation for future academic success. This invested student and teacher pair reminds us of the TFS educational legacy and its worldwide impact.

Also featured are stories about classroom activities, campus service projects with

a global impact, the importance of honoring family at Grand Day, spirited performances through various fine arts programs, career exploration provided by local professionals, recognition of outstanding students, faculty and staff, Veterans Day, student leadership and athletic superlatives.

Thank you for your continued support of the TFS experience.



Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry A. Peevy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry A. Peevy  
President and Head of School



One of the most anticipated highlights of the Tallulah Falls School academic year is the announcement of the STAR Student and Teacher.

Senior Jihee Han of South Korea earned the highest score on the SAT test and is currently in the top 10% for this year's class and selected upper school science teacher Beth Huebner of Clarkesville as the STAR teacher

According to Han, Huebner sparked her interest in science.

"I was never really interested in science before, but after taking her classes, I got interested in science and actually came to consider it as one of my possible majors in college," Han said. "She cares about her students and tries hard to help everyone. I admire and love Mrs. Huebner and I will miss her so much when I go to college.

Huebner's affection for her high-achieving student is evident.

"Jihee is an outstanding student who is truly the whole package in terms of TFS ideals. She has a natural ability in mathematics and the sciences. Combining that ability with her high standards and strong work ethic, her success is most deserved," Huebner said. "I always know she will be prepared and able to defend her position as well as be able to help others who are struggling. She has amazing reasoning skills and a desire to go beyond the basics and truly understand what is going on. Her character also shines and sets her apart as a person. She is dependable and committed to the highest quality of work."

The Student-Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program honors Georgia's highest-achieving high school seniors and the teachers who have been most instrumental in their academic development, according to the PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) Foundation.



## STAR Student Jihee Han

## STAR Teacher Beth Huebner

"Jihee is an outstanding student who is truly the whole package in terms of TFS ideals. She has a natural ability in mathematics and the sciences. Combining that ability with her high standards and strong work ethic, her success is most deserved."

-Beth Huebner  
2019 STAR Teacher

"She (Mrs. Huebner) cares about her students and tries hard to help everyone. I admire and love Mrs. Huebner and I will miss her so much when I go to college. "

-Jihee Han  
2019 STAR Student

# CLASSROOM CLIPS

## Lessons in Brand Building

by Brandi Wood and E. Lane Gresham

While most middle schoolers are asking their peers “which filter should I use?” on the latest smartphone app, the trend in photography is shifting for future generations to less emphasis on image quality.

To the typical 13-year-old, a name-brand digital camera is something that only adults know how to use and poses more of a challenge when attempting to capture a quality selfie.

Students in the eighth-grade photography class at Tallulah Falls School are falling in love with the art of composition and lighting techniques while being challenged to think creatively, according to teacher Brandi Wood.

In Term 3 of Photography, students were invited to become creative partners with a local business to capture images for their menu, display boards and social media campaigns.

Crossroads Cafe, in Clarkesville, presented its rebranding initiative to the class in January. For two weeks, students collaborated to learn how to make images in manual mode on a DSLR camera and to properly light for prop photography.

On Feb. 10, the class traveled to the restaurant to create images of the breakfast, lunch, catering and dessert stations.

“This was an incredible opportunity for students to work together to capture quality images while maintaining the integrity of the Crossroads Cafe brand,” Wood said.

Business owner Tammie Fleming said it was a pleasure working with the students.

“We met with the class to discuss our rebrand at Crossroads Cafe and the updated look and feel

we are trying to achieve at our new-to-us cafe,” Fleming said. “When we discussed the ideas, we knew we wanted to support students in the arts so teaming up with Mrs. Wood’s class just felt right – we’re so glad we did! The students listened to our needs; they went above and beyond in their work. We were so impressed by their work, attention to detail, willingness to learn and professionalism when they came to the cafe for shoot day! We look forward to having their friends and families stop by to see their hard work on display!”

Reese Wilson of Alto liked the idea as presented but was a little nervous about the quality of the images required for the project.

“I liked it when Crossroads Cafe came in and told us the theme they were looking for and what they wanted because it gave us an idea as to what to be prepared for on shoot day,” Wilson said.

On shoot day, Wilson made “top-down” pictures of breakfast foods, using negative space as a composition element and to allow for flexibility with the final product.

“I liked how we all knew what we had to get done but we had a little bit of freedom as to how we wanted to do it,” she said. “The most challenging part of this project was trying not to get in anyone’s way or mess up their pictures.”

Morgan Mullins of Demorest was excited to learn more about commercial photography.

“Having the client come to speak to us was a great experience to learn what kind of photographs they needed,” Mullins said. “What I found most challenging was trying to figure out the lighting – trying to figure out how to make the food look delicious.”





Ava Wehrstein, Caroline Ball, Maggie Peacock

# SKI DAY



Yuza Mizuno, Jeremy Stille

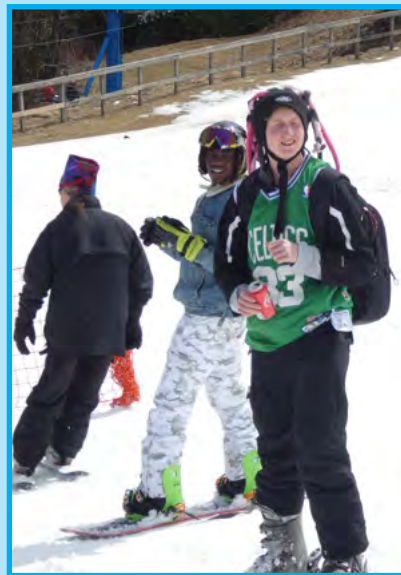


Matt Cochran

## Upper school students savor the snow at Cataloochee



Emma Jackson, Charles Aarington Brown, Ella Kovalchik



Kale Corbett



Cecily Tucker

# Career guidance

**Innovative program puts TFS seniors up close and personal with community and business leaders regarding career options.**



**Judge Brian R. Rickman**  
Georgia Court of Appeals

TFS upper school students have access to a wide variety of resources when it comes to career guidance. One of these resources comes in the form of face-to-face visits with local professionals. Successful professionals representing a wide variety of vocations are regularly invited to campus to meet with interested upper school students in a casual setting that fosters open discussion, personal interaction and personal discovery.

Many of these professionals participate in Lunch & Learn, a program that provides the opportunity for students to spend their lunch period discussing various career fields. The program has proved invaluable as students consider the myriad of career options available to them beyond college. Students are learning that it is never too early to explore career paths. Others, including Georgia Court of Appeals Judge Brian R. Rickman shared insight with students in a classroom setting.

“As students, we don’t always have a career path set in mind, so this program is beneficial for us because people specializing in their field get to share with us what it’s like to work in their profession.”  
– freshman Mei Hui De Velasco of Toccoa



**State Rep. Terry Rogers**  
Georgia House of Representatives

**On Sept. 26,** Heather Burke Cody, a certified nurse practitioner affiliated with the Longstreet Clinic, joined students for the lunchtime series.

Cody provided an overview of her college and career path, encouraging students to trust the journey. Her first dream was to be a writer and a missionary but she was encouraged to seek a more lucrative career path.

She enrolled in the University of Georgia, declaring a pre-med major. After completing her undergraduate degree, she enrolled in nursing school and spent 16 years in a hospital setting before heading back to school to complete her course work to be a certified nurse practitioner.

She told students to remain faithful that there was a higher purpose at work in their lives.

“There is a real something or someone working for your good,” she said. “Be encouraged by that.”

**On Oct. 23,** District 10 State Representative Terry Rogers, also a member of the TFS Board of Trustees, joined students to provide an overview of the legislative process and answered questions about his educational and career path. He told students you can learn something from everyone you meet in life and to strive always to be kind to others.

“After talking with this group of students, I realized how driven and focused many of them were. I’ve gone all across the state with the Rural Development Council and heard about the lack of soft skills in our emerging workforce,” Rogers said. “That’s certainly not the case with the students at TFS. I was so impressed with their



**Matt McClurg**  
Vice President/Loan Office  
South State Bank



communication and soft skills; it's obvious that TFS instills a strong work ethic. It's unusual to speak with young people so focused on the future. One thing became abundantly clear; I wish we could clone these young people all across the state."

**On Nov. 20**, Georgia Court of Appeals Court Judge Brian R. Rickman spoke to two classes of seniors in the school's chapel.

Judge Rickman shared his thoughts about the legal profession, telling students he was initially interested in pursuing a career in criminal justice, perhaps working as a Georgia Bureau of Investigation agent.

"Speaking to seniors at TFS has become a highlight that I look forward to," Rickman said. "This year, I was particularly impressed with the depth of the questions the students asked, which reflected an excellent

"I enjoyed getting to see the personal side of a judge... Although Judge Rickman has witnessed the absolute worst in people, he continues to be accepting and joyful."

– senior Josh Shanks of Clarkesville

McClurg included a discussion of the educational requirements following high school for students interested in a career in this area.

"The students who attended were very attentive," McClurg said. "They asked good questions. I certainly hope they were able to take away some good input about a potential career field in business banking."

"When the school brings in different people to speak to us, it opens new doors. Mr. McClurg did an amazing job talking with us about finance and more. I will forever be thankful for everything that Tallulah Falls School offers us."

– sophomore Emma Barrett of Clarkesville

understanding of the role of the judiciary in the legal system."

**On Nov. 20**, TFS parent Christopher Whitson, an anesthesiologist with Anesthesia Associates of Gainesville, talked with interested students over lunch. Whitson provided keen insights into the demanding educational requirements of his field as well as an outlook into the future of the profession.

"It was truly a pleasure to speak to the students informally during their lunch. I found them courteous, bright and asking great questions relating

Smith provided an overview of the engineering field, including a discussion of the educational requirements following high school graduation for students interested in pursuing a career within the discipline.

"What impressed me is they were most interested in how they can utilize skills related to engineering to better the world around them. The students were interested in how engineering fields corresponded with one another and how each of the sub-disciplines could be brought together to solve a complex problem."

to the topics at hand. I hope it was helpful to the students in considering their future goals and career aspirations."

**On Jan. 22**, South State Bank Vice President Matt McClurg spoke with TFS students about a career in banking and finance. As with other visiting professionals,



**Heather Burke Cody**  
Certified Nurse Practitioner  
Longstreet Clinic



**Jason Smith**  
Professional Engineer  
JM Smith Engineering

**On Feb. 12**, Jason Smith, a Professional Engineer with JM Smith Engineering, LLC in Cornelia, visited students over the lunch hour.



**Dr. Christopher Whitson**  
Anesthesiologist  
Anesthesia Assoc. of Gainesville

# A learning exercise for **ALL THE MARBLES**



by Doug Vermilya  
TFS middle school science teacher

## ‘Outside the box’ project requires teamwork and collaboration

**M**y philosophy about teaching science is that you can't teach students to think outside the box if everything you teach comes from a box. With that in mind I am always searching for non-box ways to connect students with science concepts. So why not use boxes to think outside of boxes?

The challenge was clear and precise: build a marble run wherein the marble takes exactly 33 seconds from beginning to end, no more, no less. Each second was worth three points. Thirty seconds x three points = 90; however, if the marble took 35 seconds I multiply the two extra seconds and subtract it from 100. ( $2 \times 3 = 6$ ,  $100 - 6 = 94$ ).

This was a way to use problem solving and critical thinking within the framework of teams of four. All projects were completed in class. We spent about eight class periods from start to finish.

Watching the team dynamics and

the way they identified problems and solved them will be some of my fondest teaching memories.

Teams that were able to pull together were successful and teams that couldn't find unity suffered greatly! Follow-up questions revealed that teamwork or the lack of it was a major component.

Julianne Shirley said, "Collaboration in this project taught me that everyone has good ideas and together we can make a masterpiece."

Jana Shanks said, "The most difficult part of this project was when our group began to bicker with one another."

When asked about design Anna Grant said, "I would have made a clearer plan and determined jobs for everybody to do according to their talents."

Putting more time into preplanning and preliminary drawings was a huge consensus among most students.

The deadline and the fact that it was

a test grade really added to the stress component in the final stretch. That was intentional on my part to make this as real life as possible.

Most groups were successful. The few groups that were not as successful were allowed to rethink their project, ask for assistance from a team that was successful and modify the project. In the end everybody walked away feeling pretty good about what was accomplished.

This project allowed me to apply several science concepts: Law of Conservation of Energy, Newton's Laws, friction, rate, slope, acceleration, geometry, engineering, to name a few.

Some students felt confined within the literal parameters of their cardboard base but soon realized that they could extend beyond that cardboard in any direction needed to solve the problem. They were figuratively and literally thinking outside of the box.

Problem solved.

A

fter the devastating losses caused by Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas, two Tallulah Falls School students hailing from the Bahamas decided to find a way to help. Leading the charge to assist their fellow countrymen recover from the natural disaster were senior Winston Davis and junior

Trent Thomas.

By coordinating the collection of supplies and money to send to their country, the pair have learned a great deal in the process. Guiding the process with the students, Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham said the *All In* committee took on the task of collecting and distributing the items.

“We agreed that we would send the supplies, and check in with our parents that are in the Bahamas and see if we need to continue,” said Popham. “The main thing the kids asked for is clothing. Some of the other organizations were not really doing clothes drives. We started collecting items in September.”

On the receiving end, the items were sent to the Atlanta office of the Consulate General of the Bahamas where they were then shipped to the island. Based in Nassau, Winston Davis’ father Philip Davis has provided valuable advice on areas of greatest need.

“Eighty percent of the homes were damaged and a lot of them did not have insurance to rebuild, so you can imagine the state that those people are in,” Philip Davis said. “My guess is it will take them at least two years before they are back on track; it was a rough one.”

Trent Thomas is cited to help his country in any way he can.

“This fundraiser is very special to me because I am helping out and giving back to the people I grew up and went to school with,” said Thomas. Working on this project showed me I should always be thankful for what I have because someone has less than what you have, and to always have a warm heart towards those in need.”

His classmate helping lead the charge on this project hopes this project will both help the Bahamas and help the TFS community grow.

“My favorite part has been getting the community involved and getting them to contribute to the greater cause of helping the Bahamas get back on its feet. I hope we can all grow from this as a community,” said Winston Davis. “Not everyone can do it by themselves. Everybody needs help in some type of way. We need help in the Bahamas and we need help up here. I’m just hoping that everyone can come together in that sense, and can contribute to something bigger.”

Philip Davis said the aid TFS is providing is greatly needed and appreciated.

“On behalf of the people of Grand Bahama and Abaco, I would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to the caring staff, faculty and its wonderful students and parents at Tallulah Falls School,” said Philip Davis. “[The TFS] contribution will definitely make a difference in the lives of the residents of these islands.”

# Winds of Hope

by Nate Roys

TFS Advancement Intern

## TFS students lead the charge to assist Bahamian victims of Hurricane Dorian



“Working on this project showed me I should always be thankful for what I have because someone has less than what you have, and to always have a warm heart towards those in need.”

-Trent Thomas, TFS junior



Shown, back row, from left, are, sophomore Joel Miller, sophomore Malique Charlton, senior Winston Davis, junior Trent Thomas, junior Sammy Davis, junior Henrik Wieberg, freshman Anfernee Hanna, freshman Devonté Allen, freshman Frankey Moree; front row, from left, are, eighth-grader Tahj Charlton, freshman Tanisha Seymour, freshman Veronaye Charlton, Philip Davis, Susan Davis, Larry A. Peevy, freshman Sammeka Hepburn, freshman Miracle Bain. Not shown is Tamia Moss.

# Grand Day 2019

Grand Day continues to be one of the most popular events of the academic year. The 2019 celebration of grand-friends and grand-pals was held on the last Friday before Thanksgiving break. Several hundred attendees enjoyed student performances and a special speakers before adjourning to the middle school classrooms where they were able to meet students and teachers and experience a variety of cutting-edge learning tools such as zSpace and virtual reality in their grandchildren's 21st century classroom.



# Madrigal madness



In only its second year, the Madrigal celebration has quickly become a highlight of the middle school year. In early December, the Student Activity Center was transformed into a colorful medieval banquet hall. Students and faculty donned Renaissance dress and treated the audience to songs, dance, swordplay and jousting as well as playful, spirited banter among the performers. Spectators were treated to a wonderful dinner while soaking in the rich ambiance of the evening.



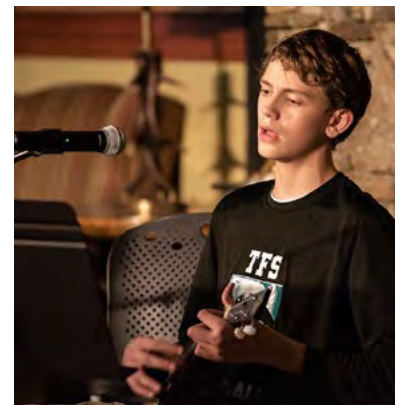
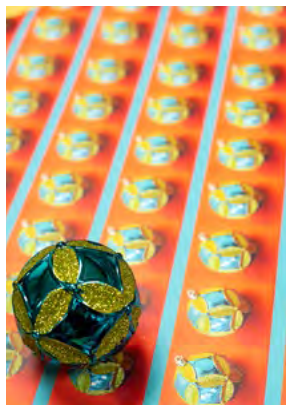
# celebrating creativity

To really grasp the scope of the arts program at TFS, one must experience the sights and sounds of student creativity in person. Middle school Art Night was held just prior to Christmas break and provided an opportunity for students, faculty, staff and parents to enjoy the full spectrum of student creativity.

The sounds of students performing piano and ukulele mingled with vibrant colors of artwork from a wide variety of mediums.



Visual Art • Music • Drama • Photography





Winners at the school level, shown, from left, are eighth-graders Camden Elrod of Clermont and Henry Rickman of Tiger represent Tallulah Falls School at the Georgia Independent School Association bee. Dani Prince of Demorest earned third-place honors.

## Eighth-graders sting competition at annual spelling bee

On Jan. 8, 11 brave individuals delivered their best – spelling and defining 39 bizarre, perplexing words like ‘cannonade’ and ‘therapeutic.’

“I am so proud of every student who participated!” said English teacher Hannah Gibson. Eighth-graders Henry Rickman of Tiger and Camden Elrod of Clermont earned the top two scores and were crowned champions for the school bee while Dani Prince of Demorest came in a close third place.

“Dani diligently prepared for the next round of the bee if either Rickman or Elrod were

unable to compete,” Gibson said.

McGinnis Wood Country Day School hosted Round No. 1 of the Georgia Independent School Association Spelling Bee on February 10.

“The boys represented the school well, competing in a written test with 118 words, assessing both spelling and vocabulary,” Gibson said. “Although they didn’t progress to the second round, they did their best and proudly walked away from a great experience.”



## GeoBee tests knowledge of culture and geography



Winners at the school level are shown, from left, Caroline Smith, second place; Jedd Thomas, first place and Gabe Smith, third place. Thomas will move up to compete at the state level.

Tallulah Falls School hosted the National Geographic GeoBee competition on Jan. 28, with 10 students competing in sixth through eighth grade.

Seventh-grader Jedd Thomas of Cleveland finished first, with seventh-grader Caroline Smith of Cleveland placing second and eighth-grader Gabe Smith of Sautee-Nacoochee finishing in third place.

Thomas is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2020 National Geographic GeoBee State Competition.

According to Amanda Rogers, sixth-grade world geography teacher, this is Thomas’ second year as a school-level champion.

“As our world becomes

more connected, it is important for students to learn about world cultures and geography,” Rogers said. “I am proud of these students for choosing to participate in this competition.”

The school competition is the first round in the annual National Geographic GeoBee, a geography competition designed to inspire and reward students’ curiosity about the world.

The winners of the state GeoBees receive an all-expenses-paid trip to participate in the GeoBee national championship. Students will be competing for cash prizes, scholarships and an all-expenses-paid Lindblad expedition to the Galápagos Islands aboard the National Geographic *Endeavour II*. Learn more at [www.natgeobee.org](http://www.natgeobee.org).



## GISA Day at the Georgia General Assembly

Shown, from left: seniors Jihee Han of South Korea, Chris Geiger of Sautee Nacoochee, Winston Davis of the Bahamas, Sarah Edwards of Sautee Nacoochee, District 10 State Rep. Terry Rogers, TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy and Dean of Students Jimmy Franklin.

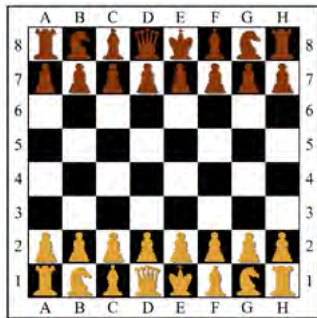
Photo courtesy of the Georgia House of Representatives.

A quartet of TFS seniors accompanied TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy to serve as ambassadors during a recent networking day at the 2020 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

More than 100 students and heads of school, representing the 173 member schools of the Georgia Independent School Association attended the GISA Day at the Capitol, according to President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

Legislators recognized independent schools during sessions held on Jan. 29 and students heard about the legislative process from a number of legislators including District 10 State Rep. Terry Rogers, who also serves on the TFS Board of Trustees.

“Our group enjoyed meeting legislators from across the state,” Peevy said. “We were especially grateful for the introductions, information and personal time provided by Rep. Rogers.”



Chess is the newest addition to a growing list of TFS clubs and organizations. Under the direction of upper school faculty members Beth Huebner and Susie Burton, TFS chess players enjoy a number of scientifically proven benefits from learning and playing the game.

According to numerous studies, chess players actually raise their IQ while increasing their problem-solving skills and improving memory. Chess players exercise both sides of their brain while building confidence and developing creativity.

## Chess club ready to make their move



Front row, kneeling, pictured from left: Madysin Ramey, Keathan McKinley, Emery Sims, Samuel McAllister, Collin Kelly, Mei Hui De Velasco.

Back row, standing, from left: Heron Eaton, Maik Murenzi, Colton Augustine, Peyton Gunn, Grey Bourlet, Eli Sims, Caleb Carter, Maggie Jackson.

Not shown: Baylee MacBeth, Joseph Griswold.

## OUTSTANDING STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

### 2019's Best-of-the-best

Outstanding members of the campus community were recognized during assembly prior to students being dismissed for the Christmas break on Dec. 19.



photos by E. Lane Gresham

Shown, from left, are Whit Fordham, Michael Rogers, Travis Mullis, Ethan Simmons, Larry A. Peevy, Whitney Calloway, Steve Hanifan-Wagner.

This year's award-winners were: eighth-grader Ethan Simmons of Demorest, outstanding middle school student of the year; music teacher Travis Mullis, outstanding middle school faculty member of the year; senior Whit Fordham of Cornelia, outstanding upper school student of the year; culinary arts teacher Whitney Calloway, outstanding upper school faculty member of the year; Athletics facilities/grounds manager Steve Hanifan-Wagner, outstanding staff member of the year and Director of Plant Services Michael Rogers, Light in the Mountains honoree [outstanding senior staff member of the year].

"It is my pleasure to recognize excellence through these annual awards," said President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy. "I offer my congratulations to these deserving honorees for their dedication to our TFS community."

### Christmas card art winners

Also during the assembly, winners of the annual Christmas card art contest were announced.

The winning card for the upper school was designed by sophomore Emily Smith of Cleveland with the winning card for the middle school card was designed by eighth-grader Joseph McGahee of Clarkesville.

Second place for the middle school card contest was seventh-grader Miah Gragg of Clarkesville and third place was seventh-grader Julia Smith of Cornelia.

Second place for the upper school card contest was sophomore Trevor Bramlett of Clarkesville and third place was sophomore Qiyue Zeng of China.



From left: Upper school art teacher Georgann Lanich, Emily Smith, Trevor Bramlett, Qiyue Zeng, upper school art teacher Tina Cheek.



From left: Joseph McGahee, Julia Smith, Miah Gragg.



First place, upper school: Emily Smith



First place, middle school: Joseph McGahee



## GISA recognizes Rogers for 25 years of service

TFS Director of Security Dustin Rogers (right) accepts an award from the Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) recognizing 25 years of distinguished service. Shown presenting the award to Rogers is President and Head of School Larry Peevy. Rogers was recognized during a Dec. 19 assembly for his milestone accomplishment. In addition to his duties as Director of Campus Security, Rogers also serves as the Assistant Dean of Students.



## Veterans Day tribute

Former members of the U.S. Armed Services were honored during a special assembly held on the TFS upper school campus on Veterans Day in November.

Retired U.S. Air Force MSgt. Tim Stamey shared remarks about patriotism, telling students to strive for common ground in interactions with others. Stamey is the head coach of the school's precision rifle team. In a moving tribute, Stamey was introduced by his daughter, Samantha, a TFS junior.

TFS staff members with prior and/or current military service honored at the event include: President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy [U.S. Army]; Director of Security Dustin Rogers [U.S. Marines, U.S. Army National Guard]; Director of Communications Brian Boyd [U.S. Air Force]; Student Center Assistant Manager Rick Smith [U.S. Army]; Maintenance Manager Toby Hunter [U.S. Marine Corps.]; grandfather of freshman Henry Bowman, Norman Foster [U.S. Army].

The TFS Chorus performed *America the Beautiful*, the *Armed Service Medley* and the *National Anthem*.



## TFS students establish new OCC record



"Operation Christmas Child perfectly complements our Tallulah 12 character program. It gives our students an opportunity to give back to those less fortunate. Our students answered the call by filling their boxes and praying over them as they make their way all over the world."

-Cyndy Campbell, TFS physical education teacher

TFS students contributed a record number of shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child, a global ministry of Samaritan's Purse. TFS middle school students filled more than 110 shoe boxes packed with toys, school and hygiene items (see photo). TFS upper school students, led by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the National Art Honor Society, added more than 100 shoe boxes to the total. The boxes were delivered to a Samaritan's Purse distribution center before Thanksgiving break and shipped to children in need around the globe.



## TFS senior receives scholarship surprise

In a carefully orchestrated surprise, Jillian Bolak, regional admissions counselor for Georgia College was on campus Dec. 13 to present senior Sarah Edwards of Sautee Nacoochee with a prestigious Trustee Scholarship.

The Trustee Scholarship is the highest scholarship given by Georgia College, Bolak said, with a \$6,000 four-year renewable award. A study-abroad stipend and admissions to the Honors Program are also included. The selection process is highly competitive with a minimum GPA of 3.5, a minimum score of 1310 on the SAT and a 28 on the ACT required to submit an extensive application and be invited to campus for a personal interview.

Edwards expressed appreciation upon hearing the news.

“I am so grateful for the incredible generosity of Georgia College,” Edwards said. “It is an amazing opportunity and I am excited to see where this could lead.”

Top photo: Sarah Edwards receives the good news from Jillian Bolak, regional admissions counselor for Georgia College.

Bottom: A family celebration, from left: Millie Edwards, Sarah Edwards, Chuck Edwards and TFS alumna Anne Edwards.

## Welch named Governor’s Honors semifinalist



Junior Gigi Welch of Gainesville has been named as a semi-finalist for the prestigious Georgia Governor’s Honor Program. Welch was selected in the area of World Languages.

Welch participated in the state-level interview/audition at Berry College in late February and the finalists will be notified in early April. The 2020 Governor’s Honors Program will take place at Berry College in Rome, GA from June 14-July 11.



Gigi **Welch**

## GMEA Honor Chorus a note-able achievement



Jake Owensby



Yixuan Linda Wang



Caroline Smith



Samuel McAllister

Four TFS students participated in the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) All-State Chorus in February. Middle school students Caroline Smith of Cleveland and Jake Owensby of Cornelia, and upper school students Linda Wang of China and Samuel McAllister of Mt. Airy passed a series of two auditions to earn spots in the coveted chorus.

The selection process for the All-State Chorus is quite demanding. From among the 14 GMEA districts across the state between 100-120 students are accepted into All-State Chorus for each district. According to TFS upper school music instructor Jill Hunter, it is a huge accomplishment to be named, and one student, Linda Wang, actually achieved a perfect score in her auditions.

Tails wagged and students smiled as a new level of community engagement unfolded on the floor of the upper school lobby. Staff members from Rabun Paws 4 Life, a nonprofit animal shelter, visited Tallulah Falls School during finals week to offer cheer in the form of two shelter dogs. Everett Lampros and Kylie Wells accompanied Fancy and Lake and staked a claim to a corner of the lobby so students could stop by on their way to and from lunch.

National Honor Society students are volunteers at the shelter and the semi-annual vaccination clinic, according to TFS English teacher Kelli Bly, who helped to coordinate the special visit with Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham.

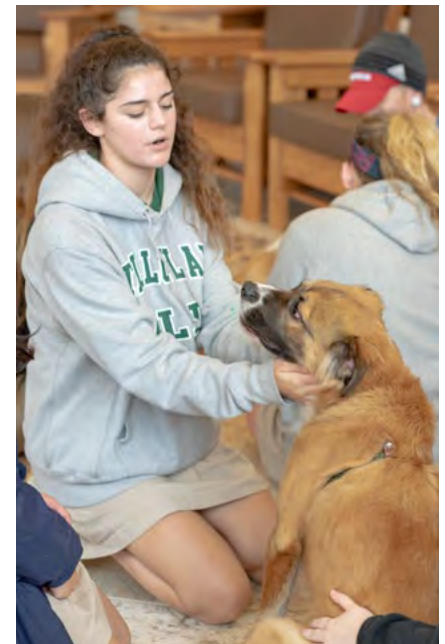
“The students came back from Thanksgiving break and told me they would do better on their final exams if they had dogs to love on during finals week,” Popham said. “Mrs. Bly offered to contact Paws for Life to see if they could assist us with this request. Because of this community partnership, students were able to relax with the dogs.”

NHS students love to support Paws 4 Life as it offers such an excellent service to our local community, Bly said.

“The staff members are always so appreciative of our help and frequently say how impressed they are of our students, their friendliness, and their willingness to serve,” Bly said. “This semester, NHS, along with the help of the junior and senior class, donated a \$400 check and more than \$400 worth of pet supplies, food and toys to Paws 4 Life.”

*“Being able to pet the dogs relieved a ton of stress. I not only enjoyed petting the dogs, but I also liked being able to talk more about Paws 4 Life and their mission.”*

*- Anna Paige Barrett*



Chloe Kahwach of Cleveland took advantage of the respite in the middle of the busy exam week.

## CHECK this out

With a dramatic flourish, school leadership celebrated the pay-off of outstanding debt incurred in 2002 for dorm renovations at Tallulah Falls School. The school retired the \$3 million loan for Westmoreland Hall and Fitzpatrick Hall as of Dec. 17, 2019.

Peevy invited the current board chair and four former board of trustees chairs to join him to mark the milestone at the Jan. 15 board meeting as they ripped apart a commemorative check marked “Paid in Full.”

“As we celebrate the retirement of this debt today, I wanted you to have the privilege with me of making history by tearing this up,” Peevy said. “This is a great day for Tallulah Falls School!”



Shown, from left, are, former Tallulah Falls School Board of Trustees chairwomen Amy Atkinson, Ellen Alderman, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, former board chairwomen Carolyn Friedlander, Gewene Womack and current board chair Gail Cantrell.

# The BIG DIG

## Natatorium project progressing

Work on the beautiful TFS natatorium complex continues at a dizzying pace. In February construction crews were busy excavating the pool in the center of the massive structure.

The completed facility will feature a 10-lane competition-sized pool with bleacher seating for 240 spectators. A Spring 2021 grand opening is planned.

Ron Cantrell Construction of White County is leading the project, working with architect/designer George Hlavenka of Hawaii.

In addition to the swim team, the facility will be used for physical education classes, including SCUBA, boating and water-related safety courses and will also be open for recreational use for students, faculty and staff.

## Scheduled Opening Spring 2021



## New Natatorium

## Fact-finding mission focused on aquatic

Due diligence continues as faculty and staff members research the highest and best use of the new natatorium.

February road trip took the athletic director, head swim coach, plant services director and director of community relations through three states and four pool facilities over two days – three in Tennessee including the McCallie School in



Athletics Director Scott Neal takes notes as Sewanee Head Swim and Diving Coach Max Obermiller speaks about the program and facility at The University of the South.

Chattanooga, Ensworth School in Nashville and the University of the South in Sewanee.

A final stop at The Darlington School in Rome, Georgia delivered tons of data and information about best practices for facility usage and pool maintenance.

“Visiting numerous aquatic centers with a range of functions allows us to strengthen aquatic health and safety protocol, research policies and how they affect facilities and people, explore a myriad of pool operation opportunities besides just swimming, see in person the impact of certain day-to-day operations and to hear directly from aquatic directors what has proven successful over decades as well as what areas to steer clear,” Neal said. “By visiting other facilities, we are seeing what has worked and what hasn’t.”



Head swim coach Rachel Nichols and Plant Services Director Michael Rogers tour the aquatics center at The Darlington School on Feb. 18.

## Second class inducted into Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor



The newest inductees into the TFS Athletics Legends Hall of Honor are flanked by TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, left and Athletic Director Scott Neal, right.

*RALPH DANIEL ♦ MIKE KEMP ♦ CHRIS PIC*

The Hall of Honor was created to honor former TFS athletes and coaches who left an impactful legacy for others to follow and emulate.

Friday, Dec. 13 was a big day for three former Tallulah Falls School athletes as they became the newest inductees into the school's Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor. The three 2019 inductees were Ralph Daniel, Mike Kemp and Chris Pic.

According to TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal, the Athletic Legends/Hall of Honor was created to honor former TFS athletes and coaches who left an impactful legacy for others to follow and emulate.

"These three TFS athletic legends have contributed immensely to TFS athletics and have been role models of GREAT character while exhibiting professional

excellence," Neal said. "We are thrilled and privileged to celebrate TFS athletic legends Ralph Daniel, Mike Kemp and Chris Pic for demonstrating GREAT character, distinct competitive excellence, and significant contributions in their communities and careers.

Each have represented TFS athletics as distinguished role models and are worthy of being inducted into our second annual Athletic Legends Hall of Honor. We truly appreciate them and what they have accomplished and the positive standards of service and excellence throughout their life. Ralph, Mike, and Chris all leave a legacy worth emulating."

# Ralph Daniel - Class of 1967

**R**alph Daniel enrolled at TFS as a sophomore following a random meeting between his father and then TFS superintendent Kermit Harris.

Publications from that time period listed Daniel as 6'2" and 240 lbs. which definitely made him a "big man on campus" during that era of play. His coach, Lorry Cain said "Ralph Daniel is the best lineman I've ever coached."

After graduation Daniel continued his storied football career at Clemson University, where he earned a full scholarship. Daniel played on the freshman team in 1967 and red-shirted in 1968. He then became a starting tackle for the team, playing for legendary Clemson coach Frank Howard in 1969, 1970 and 1971. He was a member of the Block C Letterman's Club and earned his degree in Recreation and Parks Administration.

Daniel worked in the special needs field for six years before transitioning into the nursery and landscaping business where he enjoyed a successful 35-year career.



*Ralph Daniel*



Daniel was an accomplished athlete during his three-year TFS tenure, lettering in football all three years, earning All-State Honorable Mention his sophomore year and All-State First Team his junior and senior years. As a senior, #77 wreaked havoc on opposing teams and was named the Class C Lineman of the Year.

*Athletic Legends Hall of Honor*

# Mike Kemp - Class of 1969



*Mike Kemp*



Mike Kemp was the first athlete to letter in three different sports at Tallulah Falls School. He was named to the Class C All-State Football team in 1967 and 1968, and was selected as the Class C Lineman/End of the Year and the GHS *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Back of the Week (Oct 4) in 1968. He was also named the TFS Most Outstanding Football Player in 1968.

**M**ike Kemp was a four-year football letter recipient who served two years as the captain of the football team. Kemp received accolades throughout his gridiron career and was notable for having scored five touchdowns in one game five different ways versus Dawson County in the 1968 season.

Kemp's team had a four-year record of 27-6-1 while scoring 1065 points and surrendering only 312. He was also a state qualifier/placer in track and field in 1968 on a team that finished fifth in state and a state competitor in cross country in 1968. His #15 jersey was retired on Mike Kemp night in October, 1968. Kemp graduated from TFS with honors.

Kemp went on to earn an AA Degree in Political Science from Gainesville Jr. College and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Georgia. Kemp's motto of giving your best effort and respecting others led him to success in his career beyond athletics including surveying, interior decoration, law firm clerk, sales and construction.

*Athletic Legends Hall of Honor*

# Chris Pic - Class of 1988

*Athletic Legends Hall of Honor*

*Chris Pic*



*"All of the training, nurturing, and expectations I received at TFS helped me navigate college and professional life. The structure, loving staff, expected respect, and the many opportunities that TFS provided me impacted my life and helped me in world travels, professional cycling, and various occupations relating with diverse people and cultures." – Chris Pic*

Chris Pic is a TFS 'lifer,' having attended from the 6th through the 12th grades. In his seven years as a student Pic crafted an impressive resume both athletically and academically. Pic set an impressive standard as cross country region runner-up in 1985 and 1986 and was region champion in 1987. The 1987 team finished 6th in the state. The team won 10 of 1 dual meets over a two year period. Pic's 5K record time of 16:41 stood for 32 years. His individual performances earned a 9th place finish in 1985, 3 d place finish in 1986 and 14th place finish in 1987. n track & field, ic is a former 3200 meter TFS record holder and state placer.

Pic excelled academically as well as athletically while attending TFS. He was the 1988 TFS Salutatorian.

Following graduation Pic studied mechanical engineering at Southern Polytechnic State and graduated in 1994 from Georgia State University with a B.S. in Kinesiology/Exercise Science. In a move that would foreshadow future accomplishments, Pic initiated the move that transitioned the GSU cycling club to a fully funded sport where he became the collegiate cycling club runner-up.

Pic raced professionally from 1992-2004 and participated in the Olympic cycling trials in 1992, 1996, 2000 and 2004.

His career endeavors have included home health care, product development for Blue Cycles, Demand Planner for SCOTT Sports and Products/Projects Manager for DIVERSCO Supply, an international SCUBA supply company.

## Congratulations to the 2019 Athletic Legends Hall of Honor inductees



*An appreciative crowd in attendance at Alumni Night honored the newest Athletic Legends Hall of Honor inductees. Shown, from left, are Athletic Director Scott Neal, Ralph Daniel, Mike Kemp, Chris Pic and TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.*

### MS Girls Squad - Tri State Champions



Shown, front row, from left, are Chesney Tanksley, Emma Arden, Molly Mitchell, Maggie Shelton, Keygan Antosiak, Bree Wood; back row, standing, from left, are Kyndal Anderson, Kaylin Pickett, Ana Harris, Maebree Holcomb, Millie Holcomb, Allie Phasavang, Haygen James, coach Sharea Long.

Excitement bubbled over to mark a milestone day for the Tallulah Falls School middle school girls' basketball team after winning the Tri-State Conference title against Towns County on Feb. 1, with a final score of 35-25.

"It took commitment, dedication, and determination to win a championship," said coach Sharea Long. "A team that was overlooked early in the season persevered and ended the season 13-1. Every girl played a huge role in the success of this team."

## CELEBRATION



Eighth-grader Allie Phasavang of Clarkesville led the team in rebounds averaging 9.3 per game, Long said.

Seventh-grader Haygen James of Demorest led the team on the offensive end, averaging 10.4 points per game and eighth-grader Molly Mitchell of Cornelia led the team with an outstanding 7.8 assists per game, she added.

"What an amazing season for such a great group of girls," Long said.

## middle school swimming

### Middle school swim team celebrates strong season

The middle school swim team finished the 2019-20 season on Jan. 18 at the Georgia Independent Schools Association middle school state championship at Georgia Tech's McAuley Aquatic Center in Atlanta.

Eighth-grader Henry Rickman of Tiger swam to top-eight finishes in all three of his individual events (100-yard individual medley, 50-yard fly, and 100-yard freestyle).

Sixth-grader Jack Thomson, seventh-grader Clay Kafsky, eighth-grader Carter Miller, seventh-grader Cole Borchers, and seventh-grader Jedd Thomas all swam to personal best times in their individual events.

The boys' team placed ninth overall at the meet, said head coach Rachel Nichols.

For the girls team, sixth-grader Carsyn Griffis eighth-grader Brooke Hayes, seventh-grader Skylar Dixon and seventh-grader Mia Hamon all swam to personal best times in their individual events.



Shown, front row, from left, are Wyatt Nicholson (assistant coach), Frankie Pribyl, Charlie Harris, Jack Thomson, Clay Kafsky, Jessica Cook, Molly Rickman, Stephanie Nicholson (assistant coach); middle row, from left, are Brooke Hayes, Carsyn Griffis, Mia Hamon, Lily Desta, Lily Turpin, Landon Miller, Jedd Thomas, Skylar Dixon, Rachel Nichols (head coach); back row, from left, are Kim Griswold (assistant coach), Carter Miller, Henry Rickman, Cole Borchers, Chris Kafsky (assistant coach).



### MS Boys A Squad



Shown, front row, from left, are KC Respress, Tanner Davis, Clay Kafsky, Eli Damron, Tyler Brown; back row, standing, from left, are assistant coach Anthony Cox, Jake Wehrstein (manager), Teryk Tilley, Marc Crotta, Jackson Carlan, Sam Ketch, Zach Carringer, head coach Tom Tilley.

The “A” team finished with a 10-4 season record, including an appearance in the Tri-State Conference championship game.

“Offensively, they averaged 35 points per game (6 minute quarters) and averaged 12 offensive rebounds per game. Defensively, we averaged 13 steals per game and 6 deflections per game” said coach Tom Tilley

The “B” team gained valuable experience playing a handful of competitive games and participating in dozens of practices, according to coach Anthony Cox.

“The MS boys basketball B team is so important to the foundation of our basketball program. It affords our younger and more inexperienced players the opportunity to develop their individual fundamental skill,” Cox said. “This year’s team was no exception, and the character and hard-work displayed all season makes me proud to be a coach and parent to TFS student-athletes.

### MS Boys B Squad

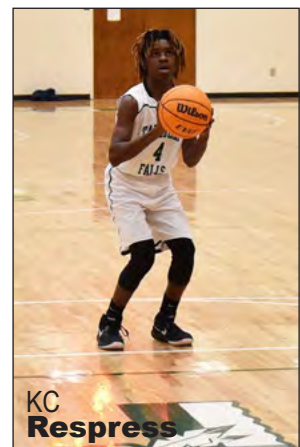
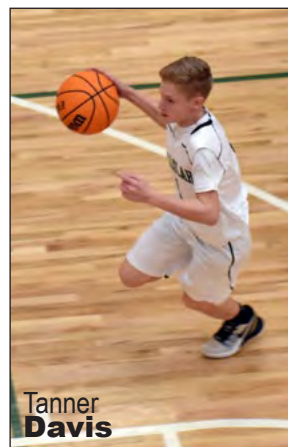


Shown, front row, from left, are Merrick Carnes, Wyatt Franks, Noah Page, Chase Pollock, Jackson Savage; back row, standing, from left, are Jake Wehrstein (manager), Kaden Hunter, Rylee Smith, Zach Freeman, Tate Turpin, TJ Cox, Anthony Cox (head coach). Not pictured: Elijah Baker.

### MS Cheerleaders



Shown, front row, from left, are Audrey Dillard, Jace Ibemere, Josie Plaisted, Lizzy Wanner, Susie Sivheng, Brooklyn Reed; back row, from left, are Julianne Shirley, Sarah Wilkinson, Landry Carnes, Tessa Foor, Mallory Higgins, Piper Allen, Sassy Hayes (head coach).





**Veronaye Charlton**



**Katy Corbett**

The Lady Indians basketball team continued to show marked progress throughout their 2019-2020 campaign as the team finished with a record of 17-8.

Although the Lady Indians only returned six players from the 2018-2019 season, they stepped on the court in late October with the addition of assistant coach Brianna Webb, and seven new faces, six of whom were freshmen.

The Lady Indians had the highest winning percentage in program history, surrendered only 43.8 points per contest, and averaged 52.4 points per game. For the second season in a row, the Lady Indians won their first game in the GHSA Class A Private Girls State Basketball Championship tournament and made a consecutive appearance in the Sweet Sixteen.

At the conclusion of the



**senior night**

Front row, kneeling, from left: Alice Peng, Lily Cranford, Kate Blackburn, Vjera Radovic. Second row, from left: Alycia Morales, Jihee Han, Jade Ye, Sophia Alexander, Lillie Free. Back row, standing, from left: Hayden Johnson, David Woods, Reeves Cody, Matthew Weidner, Juan Bachiller Mateo, Winston Davis.

season, both Katy Corbett and Denika Lightbourne earned Region 8A Second Team honors and BLITZ Player of the Year

nominations, and Lillie Free and Veronaye Charlton were voted to the Region 8A Honorable Mention Team.



**AWARDS BANQUET**

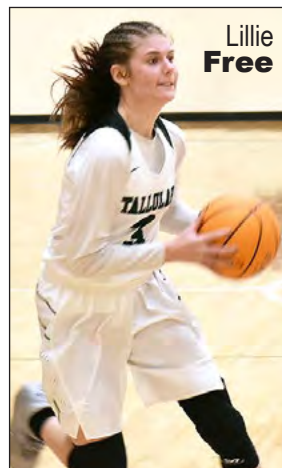
Shown, from left, are freshman Denika Lightbourne of the Bahamas, Greatest Gains Award; senior Lillie Free of Demorest, Senior Captain Award, senior Sophie Alexander of Sautee-Nacoochee, Senior Captain Award; Katy Corbett of Lakemont, Lady Indian Leadership Award; freshman Veronaye Charlton of the Bahamas, Grit Award.



**Varsity Girls**

Shown, from left: Lady Nassah, Macy Murdock, Sophie Alexander, Lillie Free, Veronaye Charlton, Miracle Bain; back row, from left, Jihee Han (manager), Jesse Reames (manager), Brianna Webb (assistant coach), Kailyn Neal, Sammeka Hepburn, Abby Carlan, Iray Adeleke, Tanisha Seymour, Katy Corbett, Denika Lightbourne, Barrett Whitener, Brandy Corbett (head coach), Lucy Alexander (manager), Jade Ye (manager). Not Pictured: Christy Hulsey (manager).

**SWEET 16!**



**Lillie Free**



**Denika Lightbourne**

The Tallulah Falls boys' basketball team enjoyed a season of success in 2019-20.

Throughout the year, the team accomplished many goals and achieved some new benchmarks for the program, according to first-year head coach Cody Coleman.

"While the season was still young, TFS was able to come out on top against several key opponents," Coleman said. "A tough schedule early helped prepare the Indians for intense region action later in the year."

As the regular season came to a close, TFS was ranked as one of the top 24 single A private schools in the state. Being ranked in the top 24 punched TFS's ticket into the state tournament.

The team consisted of a variety of seasoned players and talented newcomers to create a global mix eager to work together to be GREAT.



Shown, front row, from left, are Simeon Respress, Devonte Allen, Anfernee Hanna, Kale Corbett, Charlie Cody, David Moreno Rodriguez; back row, are Matt Crotta (coach), Cody Coleman (coach), Sydney Murdock (manager), Juan Mateo Bachiller, Hayden Johnson, Reeves Cody, Matthew Weidner, Samuel Davis, David Woods, Winston Davis, Vjera Radovic (manager), Lowell Hamilton (coach).



Shown, from left, are seniors Hayden Johnson of Demorest, Most Improved Award; Matthew Weidner of Demorest, Most Valuable Player; Reeves Cody of Cornelia, Teammate Award. Weidner was also recognized for being named to the All-Region 8-A Second Team with Johnson lauded for All-Region 8-A Honorable Mention Team honors. Dean of Enrollment Management Kelly Woodall presented Weidner with a Georgia House of Representatives resolution for his record-breaking basketball career at TFS. Weidner completed his senior basketball season with 1,390 total points.



Weidner possesses a formidable combination of size, basketball smarts and athleticism.

## celebrating a GRAND career

TFS senior Matthew Weidner of Demorest scored his 1,000th career point in a 65-58 home win over White County High School in the first game of the season back in late November.

"Scoring 1,000 points is a great accomplishment and I'm in good company along with the few players in TFS history who have accomplished it. I'm grateful that God has allowed me to achieve such a great feat and I'm very glad that I have teammates and coaches who have entrusted me through the years to score."



Weidner with varsity boys coach Cody Coleman. Photo by Nate Roys.

## Weidner joins elite 1,000 point club

### JV Boys Basketball



Shown, front row, from left, are Josh Jackson, Tyler Popham, Charlie Cody, Lincoln Hall, Will Seaman, Diego Crotta; back row, from left, are Matthew Crotta (coach), Kate Blackburn (manager), Devonte Allen, Anfernee Hanna, Colton Hicks, Bryan Cope, Alvaro Fernandez Urzay, Evan Dumaine, George Ketch, Tomas Fernandez, Lowell Hamilton (coach).



Shown, from left, are Tyler Popham, Teammate Award and Anfernee Hanna, Most Valuable Player.



### AWARDS BANQUET

Varsity Cheer • shown, from left, are junior Allie Kate Campbell of Cleveland, Toughest Cheerleader Award; senior Alycia Morales of Ridgewood, NY, Coach's Award; junior Morgan Webb of Demorest, Most Improved Award. Not pictured: senior Lily Cranford of Mt. Airy, Most Spirited Award.



### Varsity Cheerleaders

Shown, from left, are freshman Leah Desta of Lawrenceville, freshman Cassidy Haynes of Cornelia, senior Alice Peng of China, senior Lily Cranford of Mt. Airy, sophomore Ava Wehrstein of Demorest, junior Mia Kwarteng of Lawrenceville, senior Alycia Morales of Ridgewood, NY, junior Allie Kate Campbell of Cleveland, sophomore Caroline Ball of Tiger, sophomore Shelby Brightwell of Montgomery, AL, junior Morgan Webb of Demorest, freshman Linda Wang of China, coach Amanda Rogers.



### AWARDS BANQUET

JV Cheer • shown, from left, are freshman Madisyn Ramey of Lakemont, Most Spirited Award and freshman Isabella Jones of Cleveland, Coach's Award. Not pictured: freshman Mackenzie Johnson of Lula, Most Improved Award.



### JV Cheerleaders

Shown, from left, are freshman Ruichen (Sarah) Zhang from China, freshman Abigail Hunter from Tallulah Falls, junior Hannah Hunt from Toccoa, freshman Mackenzie Johnson from Lula, freshman Isabella Jones from Cleveland, freshman Madisyn Ramey from Lakemont, coach Amanda Rogers.



Shown, front row, from left, are Kim Griswold (assistant coach), Reid Kafsky, Emily Wolfe, Layne Kafsky, Emma Jackson, Tillie Crumley, Halle Weyrich, Rachel Nichols (head coach); second row, from left, are Dan Griswold, Tamia Moss, Karis Tatum, Kate Trotter, Hannah Hickox, Sammy Hartman, Stephanie Nicholson (assistant coach); third row, from left, are Seagan Mckibben, Stephen Bowman, Hunter Weyrich, Chris Geiger, Logan Huling, Gabe Iluma; back row, from left, are Andrew Woodworth, Caden Griffis, Nelson Wilkinson, Riley Barron, John Nichols, Chris Kafsky (assistant coach). Not pictured: Matt Cochran, Camden Hughes.

This year Tallulah Falls School varsity and middle school swimming programs dove in headfirst to the season in October.

With 16 middle school swimmers and 26 varsity participants, the teams saw success both in the pool and out of the water.

“This season we saw the beginnings of a culture shift within the program,” said head coach Rachel Nichols. A competitive mindset is beginning to form among our swimmers along with a love for the sport itself.”

The season kicked off with a cookout, organized by team captains, filled with a team jeopardy game, food, and fellowship.

Camaraderie grew

as swim meets filled November, December, and January. The team continued to bond with other events such as a team spaghetti dinner and movie night and the annual polar bear plunge in Tallulah Lake.

The season concluded with a successful showing at the state competition. Fourteen swimmers qualified for state competition where student-athletes set six new school records and many swimmers saw personal best times.

Varsity boys placed seventh out of 32 scoring teams, the highest place in TFS history.

TFS had four members to earn a place on the 1A-3A All-State team.

## A-AAA All-State Swimmers



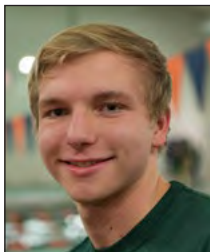
Riley  
**Barron**  
3rd Team



Caden  
**Griffi**  
3rd Team



John  
**Nichols**  
2nd Team



Hunter  
**Weyrich**  
3rd Team



Shown, from left, are freshman Sammi Hartman of Clermont, Most Valuable; freshman Kate Trotter of Demorest, Most Improved Award; senior Reid Kafsky, Coach's Award; senior John Nichols, Most Valuable; senior manager Stephen Bowman of Cornelia, Coach's Award; freshman Nelson Wilkinson of Cleveland, Most Improved Award.



## BLITZ volleyball player of the year

Multi-sport standout Katy Corbett of Lakemont was selected as the BLITZ volleyball player of the year as she put up some very impressive numbers for the 2019 season. Corbett was a key part of the team that earned a fourth straight trip to the state playoffs and a No. 7 state ranking.

**2019 By the numbers:**  
**350 kills (avg. 8.3 per game)\***  
**20 kills (most in a game)\***  
**370 digs (avg 8.8 per game)**  
**92.9% serve pct. • 40 aces**  
 \* TFS record



Katy **Corbett**

## XC record-holder Prince competes at Foot Locker race



Evan **Prince**

After a stellar season in which he finished fifth in the GHSA A Private meet, TFS sophomore Evan Prince of Demorest placed 142nd of 403 elite runners in the championship boys division of the Foot Locker South Region cross country race on Nov. 30. This is the first time TFS has sent a cross country runner to the Foot Locker event since Alex Hubbard represented TFS in 2002.

Prince overcame adversity after losing his shoe in the race and ran his most strategic race of the year to make up for lost time, according to TFS athletic director Scott Neal.

“Around the 1k mark, he had to stop and put on his shoe with the timing chip because it had been clipped off by another runner,” Neal said. “He combined poise with patient competitiveness to move up 67 spots from the place he held at the one-mile mark, 209th.”

Prince’s time ranked him 193rd of 1623 high school entrants among all races, placing him in the top 12 percent of all runners. He also beat other runners who had defeated him earlier this season.



## Cloutre named to All-State preseason team

Junior Chathan Cloutre of Toccoa has been selected for Class A Private all state preseason baseball team for the upcoming season. Last year Cloutre earned 8-A All Region honors as a sophomore while leading coach Mark Wilcox’s team with a .423 batting average.



Chathan **Cloutre**



# Scout's Honor

A special honor bestowed upon Tallulah Falls School President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy came from the Northeast Georgia Council of the Boy Scouts of America on March 12.

The American Values Dinner honored the 2020 Class of Distinguished Citizens including Peevy, Billy Shaw and Josh Garrett, MD.

David Baker, President & CEO of the Pro Football Hall of Fame delivered an inspirational talk at the annual event that also serves as a fundraiser for the council.

Held at Piedmont College in Demorest, the event is a much-anticipated community-centered evening.

Dr. Judy Forbes, a member of the TFS Board Trustees introduced Peevy.

“When I think of the Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen, I think of key words that are associated with the award. Leader, champion, faithful advocate. From my world as an educator, the word that best describes the individual I am introducing tonight, however, is HERO.”

She shared his background – career and service to his country and community – with those gathered, summing up his contributions with these meaningful words.

“The ultimate assessment of the work of Larry Peevy came when I talked to some of my favorite TFS students. One of them summed it up by saying, ‘Dr. Peevy is always there to listen when we want to talk about something the school needs



Peevy and Forbes

or something we would like to see happen. And he always tries to act on what we suggest. He is often in our classes, and we can count on him to be there for our sports activities, too.’ Dr. Peevy places a strong emphasis on academic excellence for all students, but he supports our students in their extracurricular activities because he believes in a well-rounded student. The staff and students recognize Larry Peevy as a HERO.”

Peevy expressed his appreciation about the honor.

“I was truly humbled to be recognized by the boy scouts organization,” he said. “And to my friend, Judy, I am grateful for her support of the mission of TFS and for her outstanding introduction.



The Northeast Georgia Council of the Boys Scouts of America honored President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy at its American Values Dinner on March 12. Shown, from left, are Peevy, Billy Shaw Pro Football Hall of Fame Member, Ashley Peevy Hall and Dinah Peevy.



Shown, from left, with Peevy, center, are local scouts Matthew Wolfe, Mitchell McGahee, Collin Kelly, Joseph McGahee, all TFS students.

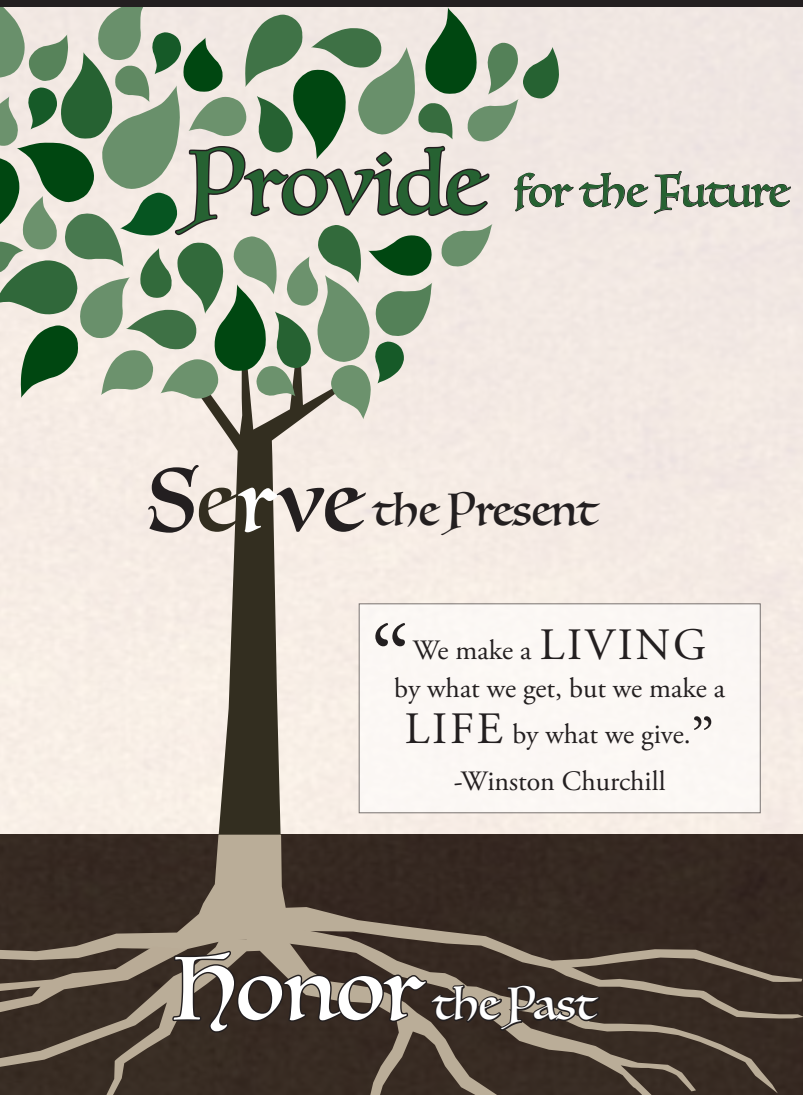


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Tallulah Falls School has a rich history of investing in the success of young people. From its founding in 1909 with 21 students to today’s vibrant, diverse group of more than 500 students in grades five-12, that focus remains steadfast.

The investment we make today pays dividends – generations deep – far into the future.

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