

TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL *Magazine*

SUMMER 2015

celebrating
SUCCESS

Record scholarship offerings

Amick Field dedication

Neal named AD of the Year

Peregrines at the Gorge

The Right Stuff



This has been a most successful year at TFS, with record-setting enrollment (425 students), record retention (96%), and a tremendous partnership with our students and parents who have embraced our dual mission of elevating intellect and developing character in our students. Our efforts have not gone unnoticed outside the confines of our region and state. An independent school survey which ranked the top 100 private schools in each of the 50 states ranked TFS as the 7th best private school in the state of Georgia. It is most rewarding to receive outside validation of what we are trying to accomplish for our students.

Our seniors are a special and talented group of young people who, like the seven original Mercury astronauts, truly possess “The Right Stuff” to thrive in college and in life. The Class of 2015 has earned more than \$6.7 million in scholarship offers from over 125 of the finest colleges and universities in the country. More than half of the 57 graduates are local day students from surrounding Habersham, Rabun, White, and Stephens Counties. Tallulah Falls School has come full circle and returned to our founders’ original mission: to provide a quality education to local mountain children and give them a promising, opportunity-filled future. These graduates are bright, confident, and caring leaders who will make their mark in the world.

A quality school is never a finished product, and as one school year ends, planning for the next year begins. We continue to implement our five-year Strategic Plan, and progress on the new \$4.3 million Middle School Gymnasium, which will include a gymnasium/auditorium as well as classrooms, dressing rooms, a walking track, and other features to enhance the middle school learning experience continues on schedule and on budget. Each day when I visit the middle school I see more progress on the facility, and I am confident that it will be finished and ready for occupancy in the fall of 2016.

This is a bittersweet time of year as our seniors have graduated and become our newest alumni. I know that a part of them will remain with us and a part of TFS will remain with them forever. My final bit of advice to our graduates comes from the great Southern writer William Faulkner, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature and two Pulitzer Prizes for Fiction. He said: “Don’t bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.” Seniors, you absolutely have within you “The Right Stuff” to accomplish your loftiest goals; never, ever, settle for less than your very best efforts in anything you do.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School



The Class of 2015 has made quite a name for itself by earning a record amount of scholarship offers. Read more about this impressive group of graduates beginning on page two.



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ON THE COVER: Valedictorian Linden Pederson of Clarkesville and Salutatorian Hannah Gulle of Sautee-Nacoochee pose for photographer E. Lane Gresham prior to graduation.

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Larry A. Peevy

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2015 In a CLASS by itself



Scholarships and college acceptances are just part of the story for this outstanding group of graduates

\$6.7 million*

The numbers tell a dramatic story. During his introductory remarks at the May 16 commencement, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy welcomed a large, enthusiastic crowd of family and friends with the news that this year's graduating class had been offered the largest dollar amount of scholarships in school history.

"We've had some tremendous classes over the last few years," Peevy said. "But the Class of 2015 is truly exceptional. They have earned over \$6.7 million in scholarship offers from over 125 of the finest colleges and universities in the country. They have truly raised the bar for the classes which will follow."

TFS Board Chairwoman Amy Atkinson delivered the senior address, telling the graduates that because of their hard work and perseverance they now have many options. "You have earned the opportunity to choose," Atkinson said. "You can now go anywhere. You may choose to attend an Ivy League school, go into the military, or you may even choose to work with your hands in a vocation. But you have the opportunity to choose."

In addition to the record amount of scholarship offers, the Class of 2015 also earned college acceptances to over 125 outstanding colleges and universities (see page 4). Best wishes to these outstanding young men and women as they embark on what promises to be bright future.

*Georgia residents who attend colleges and universities in-state may also qualify for Hope Scholarship funds.



Graduates Caleb Walden (right) and Jake Carmack share a warm embrace during commencement.
photo by E. Lane Gresham

Top Honor Graduates

Tallulah Falls School's top two graduates for the Class of 2015 are Linden Pederson and Hannah Gulle. Pederson was named valedictorian and Gulle was named salutatorian by virtue of attaining the two highest grade point averages from the Class of 2015.

Pederson is the daughter of Jami Pederson and Jon Mehlferber of Clarkesville. She attended TFS for seven years and her favorite subjects were calculus, chemistry, and art. She was a member of the National Honor Society and math club, as well as a three-sport letter winner.

Pederson will attend the University of Georgia in the fall where she will major in scientific illustration (illustrating for medical journals and biology textbooks). While at TFS Pederson took advantage of the college courses offered on campus and earned more than 40 college credit hours while attending high school.

Hannah Gulle is the daughter of Jeff and Sandy Gulle of Sautee-Nacoochee. Gulle has attended TFS since 9th grade. She is the founder and president of the school's creative writing club, president of the Tome Society, chaplain of the NHS chapter, and secretary of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

Gulle also took advantage of many of the college courses offered at TFS. She will begin college at Mercer University in the fall with 29 college credit hours. Gulle plans to major in biomedical engineering and physics.



E. Lane Gresham

Linden Pederson • Hannah Gulle

EXCELLENCE PERSONIFIED



Isabelle Almoyan

**PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP AWARD
and OUTSTANDING DAY STUDENT**
presented by President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy



Joseph Lancaster

OUTSTANDING BOARDING STUDENT
presented by Jimmy Franklin, Dean of Students
and Amy Atkinson, Chairwoman, Board of Trustees

TFS Graduates - the next step

colleges acceptances that fit our students to a "T"

Members of the Class of 2015 were accepted to over 125 outstanding college and universities



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

Agnes Scott College
Appalachian State University
Armstrong University
Auburn University
Belmont University
Berry College
Birmingham-Southern College
Boston College
Boston University -
Honors College
Brandeis University -
Honors College
Brenau University
Brevard College
Champlain College
Clayton State University
Clemson University
College of Coastal Georgia
Concordia University
Eckerd College
Elon College
Emory University
Flagler College
Florida Atlantic Univ.
Florida Inst. of Technology
Florida International University
Florida Southern College
Furman University
Gardner Webb University
Georgetown College
Georgia College -
Honors College
Georgia Inst. of Technology -
Honors College
Georgia Regents University

Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University -
Honors College
Hampden-Sydney -
Honors College
Hartwick College
High Point University
Hollins University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Johnson & Wales University
Kennesaw State University
La Verne University
Lee University
Liberty University
Lipscomb University
Louisiana State University
Manhattanville College
Mars Hill University
Mercer University -
Honors College
Mercy College
Michigan State University
Millsaps College
Mississippi State University
Morehouse University
Mount Saint Mary College
New York Inst. of Technology
North Georgia Technical College
Northeastern University
Nyack College
Oglethorpe University
Pennsylvania State University
Piedmont College
Purdue University
Randolph College
Reinhardt University

Rhodes College
Richard Bland College
Rochester Inst. of Technology
Rollins College
Rutgers University
Sage College of Albany
Saint Peter's University
Samford University
Santa Fe College
Santa Monica College
Savannah State University
Sewanee:
The University of the South
Shenandoah University
Shorter University
Spring Hill College
St. John's University
Stetson University
SUNY - Buffalo
SUNY - Potsdam
Toccoa Falls College
Transylvania University
Trinity College
Truett McConnell College
Unity College
University of Alabama -
Honors College
University of California - Irvine
University of Central Florida
University of Colorado -
Boulder
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Houston
University of Illinois -
Urbana Champaign

University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of La Verne
University of Massachusetts
University of Massachusetts -
Amherst - Honors College
University of Mississippi
University of Montevallo -
Honors College
University of Nevada - Reno
University of North Carolina -
Chapel Hill
University of North Georgia
University of North Georgia -
Cadet Program
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Alabama
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
Univ. of Southern Mississippi
University of Tampa
University of Tennessee
University of Washington
Valdosta State University -
Honors College
Vaughn College
Warren Wilson College
Washington & Lee University
Wentworth Inst. of Technology
West Virginia University
Western Carolina University
Western Carolina University -
Honors College
Winthrop University
Young Harris College



Seniors

Class of 2015



Keith HUFF

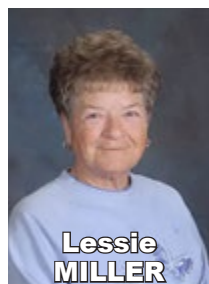
Harriett Worrell and Curt Frederick wish Keith Huff (center) a fond farewell at his retirement party in May.

bidding a fond farewell

faculty and staff announce retirements

It's time to say goodbye as several members of the TFS family enter into retirement. Leading the way at 35 years of service is Lessie Miller. Miller has worked tirelessly in the food services department and the school laundry. Keith Huff is retiring after 28 years in the boarding department where he has served as a dormitory counselor and most recently as the manager of the TFS student center. Two valuable members of the TFS faculty are also retiring effective May 2015. Bob Loder has been a member of the middle school faculty

for 20 years as a science teacher. John Fede is also retiring after 20 years of service. Fede has worn many hats at TFS, most recently teaching industrial arts, culinary arts classes, and coaching swimming.



Lessie MILLER



Bob LODER



John FEDE

Navy Chaplain and former SEAL featured baccalaureate speaker

Emphasizing service and honor, Captain Geoffrey E. Whitaker, former Navy SEAL officer and current National Guard chaplain, delivered the Baccalaureate message to Tallulah Falls School's graduating seniors during the annual service held May 15. Whitaker delivered a heartfelt message to the seniors challenging them to become goal setters, to pursue personal excellence, and to "always do the right thing." Whitaker stood at the very front of the platform for much of his address, looking directly into the faces of each senior as he shared inspirational words challenging each of them to live a life centered on service to others.

Whitaker is currently a member of the 170th Military Police Battalion. A 2000 graduate from Georgia Tech, Whitaker was a two-time NCWA All-American wrestler in college. After graduation Whitaker became an elite Navy SEAL officer then served as a Navy chaplain candidate until 2008. He has served tours in the Middle East as both a Navy SEAL and chaplain.

Whitaker is a 2008 graduate of Tennessee Temple University and holds three advanced degrees: Master of Ministry, Master of Divinity, and Master of Arts in Biblical Studies. After earning his advanced degrees he joined the Tennessee Temple University faculty where he served as a ministry instructor and head wrestling coach from 2009-10. Whitaker currently works full-time as a Spanish teacher and wrestling coach at Stockbridge High School.



Gymnasium construction

UPDATE



Construction proceeding on middle school gymnasium

The expansive middle school gymnasium project is proceeding smoothly and on-schedule. After assembling the huge steel skeleton through the late winter and early spring, construction workers recently poured the second floor walking track and completed the initial phase of the structure's massive roof system. In June the "face" of the building will be added as construction will commence on the main entrance. We will keep our readers updated on this exciting project which is scheduled to be completed before the start of the 2016-17 academic year.



Eighth graders eager to begin their high school experience



Eighth grade commencement, held May 21, marked the end of the middle school years for 55 students. Tallulah Falls School's newest crop of high school students include: Clarke Bailey, Madison Ball, Ara Belk, Steven Betka, Logan Bramlett, Sidney Butikofer, Jacob Carver, Qianyu Chen, Jung Yoon Choi, Olivia Clancy, Natalia Cornejo-Perez Vizcaya, Joseph DeKoskie, Yihan Fang, Isabella Foster, Jennings Gallagher, Caleb Griffis, Norah Griswold, Virginia Griswold, Yu Chen Gu, Cynthia Jackson, William Jackson, Julia James, Morgan Jones,

Sebastian Herrera-Long, Aaron Hughes, Taylor Huling, Sophia Kahwach, Iyana Lee, Nathan Lewis, Hongxi Liu, Xianwei Liu, Catherine Long, Clara Madigan, Madeline McClurg, Abigail McKenna, Kendall McShane, Jade Mitchell, Brelyn Moore, Abigale Mullins, River Fox Nicholson, Patrick Ifediba Nwegbo, Robert Oklapek, Ramsey Pack, Julia Raybon, Mary Ellen Smith, Sydney Spivey, Nicholas Stelmack, Robin Tamminga, Olivia Tarr, Trinity Townsend, Marly Welborn, Samuel Werling, Nathaniel Williams, Nyah Williams, and Emily Wonders.

Middle School - year end accolades

Outstanding Art Student - Sophia Kahwach

Outstanding Drama Student - Taylor Huling

Outstanding Music Student - Jade Mitchell

**Daughters of the American Revolution
Youth Citizenship Award**

Sixth grade - Margaret Jackson

Seventh grade - Laurel Smith

Eighth grade - Jenni Gallagher

**Outstanding Physical Education Student -
Caleb Griffis**

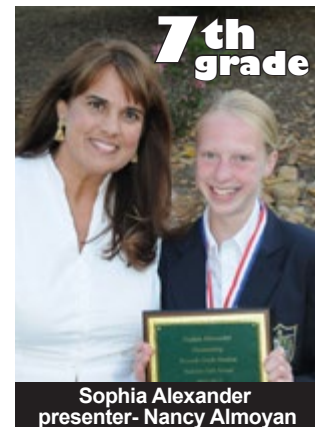
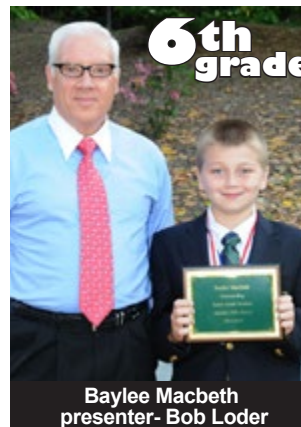
**Great Athletic Character Award -
John Nichols and Madison Ball**

**Scholar Athlete Award -
Will Jackson and Virginia Griswold**

**Indian Athletes of the Year -
Caleb Griffis and Natalia Cornejo Perez Vizcaya**

**Duke TIP Recognition -
Tatum Allen, Alia Bly, Stephen Bowman
Maggie Eavenson, Sarah Edwards, Chris Geiger,
Hannah Harkness, John Nichols**

Outstanding middle school students



Prom 2015
An evening of
endless elegance



above: prom queen Esther Adeyemi



Dr. Barron shows how it's done



photos by E. Lane Gresham



Ready. Set. Sew.

Proms are big business. Ask any parent who has forked out hundreds of dollars for their son or daughter to attend. But for one TFS senior vision, talent, and determination merged into an ambitious sewing project. Linden Pederson showed up at the 2015 TFS prom in a gown that she created herself.

The dress, described by its designer as a blend of 1920s and 1950s fashion, evolved from two patterns. Pederson altered the garment numerous times in the months leading up to the dance. Meticulous in her attention to detail, Pederson spent time in art class hand-beading the bodice of the organza and satin garment. Inspired by the floral, almost abstract patterns used by designers Elie Saab and Ziad Nakad, she spent countless hours on the project.

“I researched runway fashion designs,” she said. “I was looking at different dresses and piecing together parts...” She describes the color as “green, blue, gray or white, depending on the light.”

Pederson was pleased with peer comments on the final version. “A lot of people were really surprised I made it,” she says. “Teachers, too. I had a lot of teachers come up to me. I definitely got positive feedback from everyone. It was really nice.” To read Lane Gresham’s full story please visit the TFS website and scroll through *TFS News* for the May 4 story.



Tallulah Falls School's Field of Dreams

Dedication of the Hervey "Herb" Amick Athletic Field

The Tallulah Falls School athletic field, the site of hundreds of games, practices and other outdoor activities over the past 60 years, has a new name - the Hervey "Herb" Amick Athletic Field. In a ceremony held at the 2015 Homecoming celebration, a long overdue dedication service was held in the Gertrude Long Harris theater naming the field in honor of Tallulah Falls first full-time coach and the man responsible for putting Tallulah Falls School athletics on the map.

Amick died in September 2014 at the age of 88. He was employed at TFS from 1953 -57, but his career as an educator spanned 37 years. During that time he spent four years as an assistant principal, 16 years as a high school coach, and 17 years as principal at Forest Park Senior High School.

Rev. James E. Turpen, Sr., (Class of 1955) and former Dean of Students at TFS, learned many lessons under Herb Amick and was instrumental in having the field named in his honor. "Coach Amick, through his leadership and lifestyle, taught us that nothing is impossible if the determination is there," said Turpen. In four years, under coach Amick's leadership, the team earned a spot in a state playoff game. His motto was, 'It is not whether you win or lose, but how you play the game of life.'"

About a dozen members of Amick's family returned for the dedication. Amick's sons, David and Paul, were visibly touched by the outpouring of accolades for their late father, and shed several tears as they read from the replica of the plaque which now permanently resides on large rock overlooking the newly dedicated Hervey "Herb" Amick field.



Coach Hervey "Herb" Amick

"Coach Herb 'Red' Amick was the right person for the right job when he came to Tallulah Falls. I came in January 1955 after the death of my mother. My two younger brothers and I were getting by, but needed a 'home' back then where we could concentrate on learning and not just surviving. Coach Amick and his wife seemed to adopt all of us into their home and their life at a time when guidance was very important. Red Amick was a great influence on my life."

*Milt Gillespie
Class of 1957*

“Coach Herb Amick was not only an excellent coach, but my friend and mentor. Most importantly he knew how to inspire and encourage us to follow the rules, do our best, and win.”

*Roy L. Hand
Class of 1957*

“While at Tallulah Falls School I was lucky to meet and interact with a most unusual teacher and coach. His name - Herb Amick. He was the coach for all the sports at the school. Not only was he a coach and teacher, he also was a father figure to all the student body. He was an honest and caring person and inspired all who came in contact with him to be likewise. He was a guiding light to me then and now.”

*Hubert Blankenship
Class of 1956*

“Although I didn’t play under Coach Amick, I did experience the high regards that all of the faculty and students had for their coach. I remember when one of the players for Tallulah Falls was hurt and couldn’t get up from the mostly dirt field that we had at the times. Coach Amick ran to his player who was lying about the 20 yard line. He talked to him, checked him for injuries, and helped him to his feet. I was only a third grader at the time but I was standing near the side line and saw and listen to the act being carried out. That has stuck with me all these years. It is no wonder that everyone loved this man.”

*Kenneth Franklin
Class of 1963*

“Coach Amick was an exceptional coach and a better person. He was a role model and a friend to all the students of Tallulah Falls School. He was the offensive/defensive coach/trainer and equipment manager. He took a group of boys, most had never played football before, and coached us into a team that was respected (if not feared) by all the teams that we played in his time at Tallulah.”

*Harry Oliver
Class of 1957*

With only about 250 students spread among grades one through 12, there were precious few high school age football players to field a team. Many players had to play offense, defense, and special teams - almost unheard of today. TFS earned a reputation as a scrappy bunch that didn’t back down when facing schools with much larger teams.



Amick’s sons David and Paul react as the plaque honoring their late father is unveiled.



*Rev. James Turpen, Sr. stands by the recently installed plaque above Amick field. “Coach Amick ...taught us that nothing is impossible if the determination is there.”
photo credit Stuart Miller*



1955 TFS Indians

photos courtesy of the Amick family

TFS students explore the art of teaching at The Little School



TFS freshman Mackenzie Rainwater works with students at The Little School in Clarkesville as part of her Teaching as a Profession class. Photo credit Kerri Pugh

Teaching as a Profession is an elective at TFS that provides actual “hands on” time in the classroom for aspiring teachers. As part of the curriculum, students prepare a 15-20 minute lesson that is presented to students in one of the classrooms at The Little School in Clarkesville.

The course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the field of teaching through lessons shared monthly to TLS students in grades pre-k through fourth grade.

“We visit the school once a month so the TFS students can get hands on experience in the classroom,” said TFS teacher Kerri Pugh. “Each student has to write a lesson plan, based on Georgia Performance Standards, and plan and implement an activity. They were then graded by their cooperating teachers. All students did very well and The Little School teachers were very complimentary of our students’ hard work and interaction with their students.”

According to Wendy Jackson, Head of School at The Little School, this collaboration allows TLS students to spend time with talented, intelligent students.

“Our young students certainly admire the TFS students and anticipate spending time with them each month,” she said. “TLS faculty, both experienced and newly-graduated educators, are able to share real world experiences and advice with high school students.”

Kids R Kids teaches students positive interaction with young children

TFS eighth graders in the “Kids R Kids” elective class at Tallulah Falls School recently journeyed to Woodville Elementary School in Hollywood. Here the TFS middle school students spent time reading children’s books to their young hosts. Taught by veteran TFS instructor Killeen Jensen, Kids R Kids is a practical course designed to teach young people how to interact with children from infancy to five years of age.

As part of the elective, TFS eighth graders learn about the social, cognitive, physical, and emotional development of infants, toddlers, preschool children and kindergarten students. Students also explore topics including toys, games, crafts, food/nutrition, communication and safety for children of each age group.



Eighth grader Sydney Spivey of Demorest reads to a trio of appreciative students at Woodville Elementary School in Hollywood. Photo credit Killeen Jensen.

The TFS Tome Student Literary Society capped off a busy year filled with competitions and community service with a victory in the 2nd Annual Tome Society State Reading Bowl held May 2 at East Hall High School in Gainesville.

The club is sponsored by TFS Media Specialist Shelby Day. It focuses on multiple literacies such as technology, public speaking, digital citizenship, and community service. TFS students who competed included: seniors Bree Buffington, Sam Bond, and Hannah Gulle; junior Garrett Lane; sophomore Emma Peacock. Joining in the accolades were sophomore Rachel Richardson and eighth grader Olivia Tarr who won the state title for Best Book Review Blog.

Beyond the competition students met author Holly Lauren, attended writing, coding, and gaming workshops, and expressed their creative energies at a Maker Space craft station.

As their community service project, the students decided to offer their help to the Ferst Foundation of Rabun County. The Ferst Foundation is a Georgia non-profit that encourages childhood literacy by working to make sure that young children have books available in their home. In April a group of five TFS students helped raise over \$1700 at one of the Ferst Foundation's fund raisers by packing and delivering lunches to local Clayton businesses.

One for the books - TFS Tome Society wins state Reading Bowl



Photo credit Shelby Day

Emma Peacock: "Imagine a world full of your favorite book characters getting melded into the worlds created by their own imaginations. At the Tome State conference that is exactly what happens and it is beautiful."



Front row, from left: Stella Park, Rosalie Zhao, Linda Harris (sponsor), Grace Chung. Second row, from left: Jerry Hou, Mark Faingold, Lianjie Wei, Linden Pederson. Back: Jonathan Huang.

awards keep adding up for TFS math team

Go figure

The Tallulah Falls School mathematics team continued a strong record of success at the University of North Georgia (UNG) mathematics tournament earning a third place team finish in the annual competition among schools from across North Georgia. The tournament was held on March 13 at UNG's main campus in Dahlonega.

Outstanding individual performances included freshman Jonathan Huang who finished second in the freshman/sophomore division of the multiple choice test section, earning 32 out of 40 points. In the junior/senior division TFS junior Jerry Wei scored 31 of 40 and earned a second place finish.

The four-member TFS team of Linden Pederson, Mark Faingold, Jerry Hou and Rosalie Zhao placed third in the ciphering competition. In the problem-solving category, the four-member team of Jerry Wei, Jonathan Huang, Stella Park and Grace Chung earned a third place finish by earning 37 points of a possible 50.



photo credit: Dr. Robert Barron

“Caring - our way of life”

**TFS Key Club
- helping others while developing lifelong leadership skills**

In March, 11 members of the TFS Key Club traveled to the University of Georgia campus in Athens joining over 250 students from across the state for the 70th annual Georgia District Key Club convention. Joining the students were TFS Key Club advisors Ashley Bagley and Scott Davis.

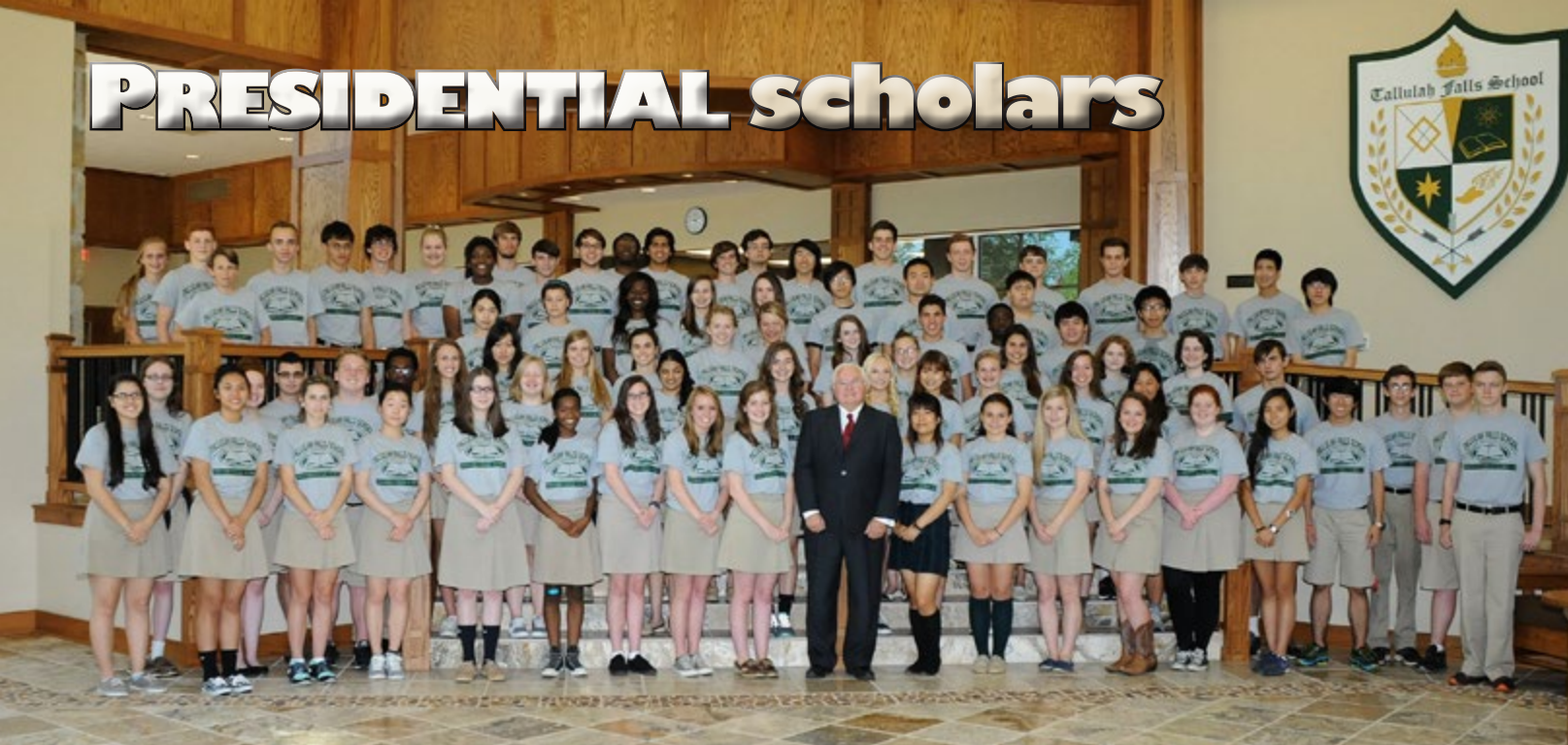
At this year’s district convention the TFS Key Club received honors in the annual achievement report (a listing of all club activities) earning a “Distinguished Club” banner patch; Second Place in the “Non-Traditional Scrapbook” category; and GSYH Fund Raising Recognition for meeting their club goal of \$400 and the District goal of \$15,000. Other accomplishments include assisting the district raise \$18,000 for the “Eliminate Project” (toward eliminating neonatal polio globally), and their service in the Dr. Robert Barron Outstanding Community Service Award.

The TFS Key Club is one of 150 clubs across the state of Georgia and currently has 81 members. This year the club contributed over \$500 to various agencies and recorded over 1,000 hours of service through projects such as the Linus Project, Clarkesville Zombie Fun Run, the United Way Family Funfest, Prevent Child Abuse Habersham Pinwheels for Prevention, AVITA Valentine Party, and the Circle of Hope Christmas party. The Key Club also partners with other service clubs on campus.

With over 260,000 members in over 5000 clubs across 32 countries around the world, Key Club aspires to teach its members leadership through service while assisting Kiwanis International in carrying out its mission to serve the children of the world. Each year Key Club members complete more than 12 million hours of service to their homes, schools, and communities while also teaming up to raise funds and awareness for Key Club’s partner organizations, including UNICEF, March of Dimes, Childrens’ Miracle Network, and the Georgia Sheriff’s Youth Homes. Key Club members learn and practice leadership skills by running meetings, planning projects, and holding elected leadership positions at club, district, and international levels.

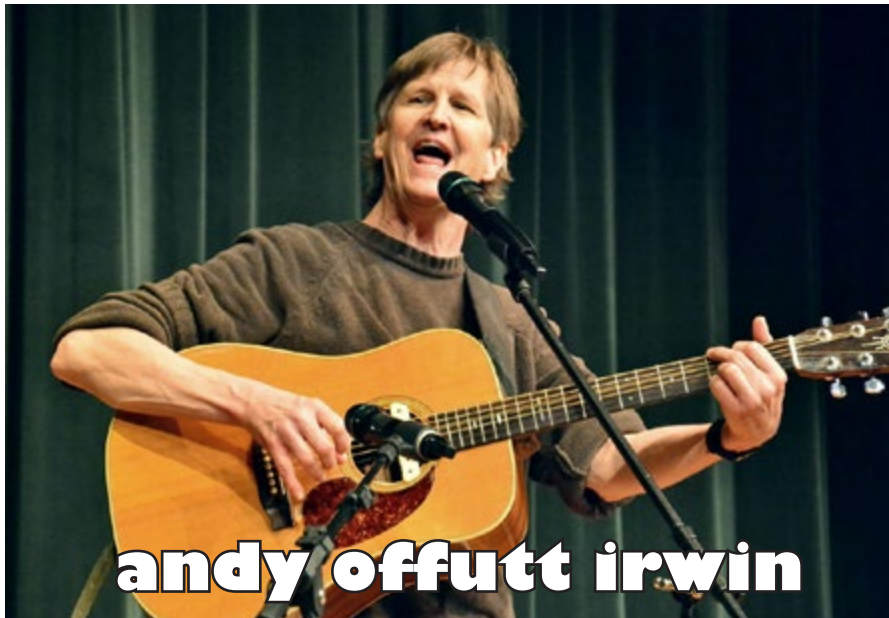
Grace Chung of Seoul, South Korea and Mark Faingold of St. Petersburg, Russia both serve on the Georgia District Board of Trustees. Faingold is the 2015-16 Key Club Georgia editor of the district publication *The Key Ring*. Chung is the appointed Lieutenant Governor of Division Six, which includes clubs around the Augusta area. In this role she serves as a liaison between the District Board and the Key Clubs in a division of clubs.

PRESIDENTIAL scholars



One of the great academic traditions at Tallahassee Falls School is the recognition of Presidential Commendation winners. At the end of each semester dozens of outstanding students are recognized who have achieved a 3.5 GPA or better with zero demerits and no missed homework. For the 2014-15 academic year, 188 TFS students received this honor.

Moving forward, the criteria for selection has been raised, and students who meet these increased academic standards will now be known as TFS *Presidential Scholars*. In honor of the change President Larry A. Peevy had t-shirts created proclaiming the new moniker and Presidential Scholar winners recently posed for a photo in their new shirts. Congratulations TFS Presidential Scholars!



Artist in residence



Storyteller, humorist, musician, educator, and whistler are just a few of the talents of Andy Offutt Irwin, who made a return engagement as artist-in-residence in mid-March. Irwin spent an entire week at the TFS middle school sharing his talents and skills in classes and advisory groups. Above, Irwin is shown performing for seventh graders as he teaches them about building character through benevolent leadership.

photos: E. Lane Gresham



Swan Song

**TFS Players’
foray into
comedy is
the final
high school
act for two
talented
senior
performers**

When the final curtain came down on the “The Game’s Afoot,” it was a bittersweet farewell for two TFS thespians that helped to build the foundation for today’s thriving drama program. Seniors Kyle Leineweber and Emma Fordham have played a key role in numerous productions over the last several years. The play starred Leineweber in the role of William Gillette. In the play, Gillette portrays an actor best known for his portrayal of the legendary sleuth, Sherlock Holmes.

Gillette is wounded following an attempt on his life while performing, and during his recovery invites a few friends over for a celebration at his posh mansion. Following a hilarious series of twists and turns involving a murder, Gillette is forced to use his “Sherlock Holmes” skills in an attempt to solve the crime.

“This was my last play with TFS so there is a lot of sentimentality with it,” said Leineweber. “It was the most fun as well as the most emotional. This show was definitely the most physical and ‘wordy’ play I have done,” said Leineweber. “It stretched me more than any other production I have done.”

“I learned so many things during my stay at Tallulah (six years),” said Leineweber, “but theater has taught me a lot about family. Drama requires you to spend a lot of time with the same people, so you have to learn to accept others.”

Fordham played the part of ‘Daria Chase,’ the whining, biting theater critic loathed by others. The part required Fordham to execute precise comedic timing and perform skilled physical comedy.

“Daria Chase was an exciting character to play,” said Fordham. “I had never gotten the opportunity to play the ‘mean’ character before this show. I enjoyed every minute of it. Daria’s death scene was my favorite scene to do; I was able to just let go and allow the character to carry the scene. I was originally afraid that I would lose my voice as a result of all the screaming, but thankfully it held out.”

TFS upper school drama teacher Georgann Lanich was extremely pleased with the outcome. “The shows went just great,” said Lanich. “It really could not have been better.”

“These roles demanded more of the students than anything we have done previously,” continued Lanich. “They delivered like the young professionals that they are. The actors in this show had to use all of the tools of the trade: voice, body language, timing, costume and make-up. All of this works together to create a character on stage.”

“I’ve been blessed to be a part of the TFS Players for the past three years, and I am going to miss everybody so much. The cast and crew truly is one big, talented family; I am so thankful for them.”

*Emma Fordham
graduating senior*

The tech crew was entirely run by students with Will Shanks on the sound board ‘calling’ all of the cues for the show. “It was truly a student production,” said Lanich. “In addition, this was the most challenging set to design and build that we have ever attempted. All parts were built by students. We had student leader Marcus Thompson and assistant Colton Meeks working with crews of students.”

Although the loss of seniors such as Leineweber, Fordham, and veteran TFS thespian Isabelle Almoyan leaves an immediate void in the program, there are many young students eager to assume leadership positions within the TFS Players.

Lanich was realistic in her appraisal of the impact of those departing: “We are a family type team in the theater and having family move away is always an adjustment. The seniors in our program have been here since we started three years ago. They are an exceptional bunch of young people that we will be hearing wonderful things about for years to come! We will miss them very much.”



“Playing dead was definitely a challenge,” said Emma Fordham (playing Daria Chase). “There are so many things that we take for granted - like breathing or blinking - that dead people don’t do. I had to learn to control my breathing and stay limp, even when I was being tossed around. The first few weeks were rough; I got dropped quite a bit. Once we nailed the death scenes down, though, they became the most fun parts of the show.”

“The Game’s Afoot”

“The intellectual level of the humor and skill needed by the actors was a higher level than we have done in the past,” said drama instructor Georgann Lanich. “Actors had to be on top of their timing to make the story work well.”

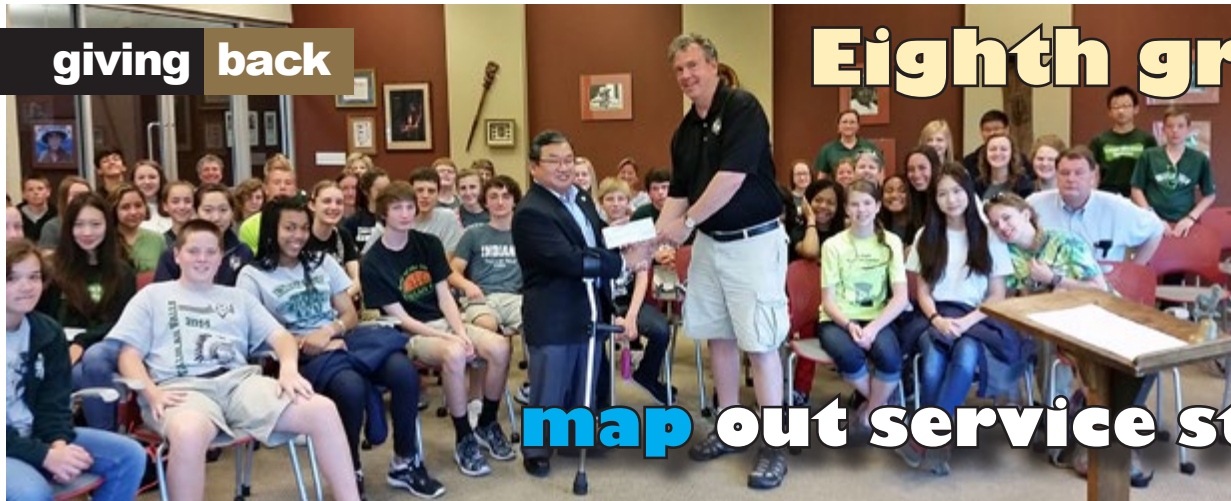


the CAST

Vanessa Lewis, Emma Fordham, Sam Griswold, Kyle Leineweber, Amy Betz, Emily Nguyen, Nathaniel Caudell, and Madison Fichtower.



photos: Brian A. Boyd



map out service strategy

Each year TFS eighth graders plan a service project to perform during their eighth grade trip to the Georgia Coast. This year a \$400 check from the sales of used TFS uniforms was presented by Jimmy Franklin, TFS Dean of Students, to Steve Stirling, President and CEO of MAP International. MI is a global Christian health organization that partners with people in poverty conditions. Their goal is to save lives and develop healthier families and communities.

Headquartered in Brunswick, MAP International responds to needs of those they serve with medicines, disease prevention, and promoting health in order to create real hope and lasting change. The organization supports com-

munities by providing them with training and equipment.

MAP International has created a system that allows hundreds of millions of dollars worth of essential medicines and supplies to be delivered to areas that lack access to these critical resources. Through their supply efforts and ongoing support, MAP International helps the poor take action to change the conditions they live in.

During their visit, the TFS eighth graders volunteered to help pack medical supplies and organize supplies donated to the organization. This is the second year that TFS eighth graders have made MAP International the recipient of their Georgia coastal trip service project.



What's

YOUR Cause?

Hosted by Tallulah Falls School's National Honor Society, "What's Your Cause?" provides a means to stage fundraisers for four student-selected causes. This year's causes were: Augusta Burn Center, Lupus Foundation of America, Wounded Warrior Project and Mothers against Drunk Driving (MADD).

According to faculty organizers Kelli Bly and Terri Bogan, the goal was "to educate, inspire, and ignite a passion for caring and to raise awareness for members of our society who face life-threatening and certainly life-changing issues highlighted by these organizations."

TFS Upper School Dean Kim Popham said the event is an important part of the school's mission to build character in its students. "Raising money for these causes is very personal for our students," Popham said. "Events like this enrich the student experience at TFS."

During the event, Popham shared her personal story of a serious burn accident involving her oldest son, Tyler, who was 20 months old at the time. Popham's son was treated at the Augusta Burn Center.

During the half-day schedule, students watched informative videos and experienced committee-created presentations. Other team-building activities were designed to build a sense of unity and purpose, reminding students that when everyone works together toward a shared goal, positive change can occur.

Fun events included having various teams compete in timed activities in an effort to "beat the clock" against other teams. Other fundraising initiatives included the sale of baked goods, small tokens, and Wounded Warrior Program bracelets. A faculty/student basketball game (another faculty/staff win), a TFS tradition, provided a final highlight.

Assistant AD Lowell Hamilton (left) soars and scores in the faculty/student game.

Coach Scott Neal

Region 8-A Athletic Director of the Year Class A Athletic Director of the Year

Tallulah Falls School Athletic Director Scott Neal has been selected as the Region 8-A Athletic Director of the Year and the Georgia Class A Athletic Director of the Year. Both awards were chosen by peer selection committees. Coach Neal is in his 16th year at Tallulah Falls School following 12 years at Albuquerque Academy in New Mexico. He is in his ninth year as TFS athletic director.

Neal's duties as AD involve directing the athletic programs for both the middle school and upper school. He currently supervises 25 coaches which include nine girls programs with 145 participants and eight boys programs with 150 participants.

During Neal's tenure a TFS team has received a region sportsmanship award 35 times and the overall Region 8-A sportsmanship award twice. His teams have also received the Tri-State Middle School sportsmanship award 26 times since its inception in 2010-11. The TFS middle school athletic program has also earned 18 Tri-State Conference championships under Neal's direction.

Neal also teaches two high school courses in strength and conditioning and serves as the head coach for the middle school and high school cross country teams as well as the middle and high school track and field teams.

Coach Neal responded to the award in his typical low-key manner by deflecting the praise to others. "There are many terrific administrators in our region and across the state, and to even be considered for these awards is a heartfelt honor," said Neal. "This honor would not have been possible without the increased and continued support of our president, Larry Peevy, the talents and consistent love displayed by our fantastic coaches, and the ownership by our athletes to our mission of developing GREAT character while creating a Season of Significance as well as hosting GREAT events."

"I think the committees recognized that we at TFS strive valiantly to be character and educationally-based and that athletics should be a tool for incredible memories, lasting impact, and creative tenacity towards excellence."

President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy was absolutely delighted with the committee's selection. Peevy said, "Coach Scott Neal is, without a doubt, the most deserving athletic director the state and region has ever had. His leadership inspires young people to perform not only at a high level athletically but at a higher level of character as well. I am so proud that a member of our TFS faculty and staff is the recipient of this high honor."

Coach Neal's Tallulah Falls School legacy includes a number of innovative projects begun under his direction. "We initiated our GREAT athletic character program," said Neal. "This includes *gratitude* leading to *generosity* of spirit; *respect* and *responsibility* leading to a ripple effect; enthusiastic *effort* leading to *excellence*; an *attitude* of *accountability* and ambition; and *thinking* that leads to being *trustworthy*."

Other recent projects include redesigning the school's athletic logo, upgrading the high school gym and locker room, concessions upgrades, and new and enhanced gymnasium signage.

"Part of our athletic mission is to structure for a Season of Significance in which participants, coaches, parents, and the community experience lasting

continued at bottom of next page



"To change the world one person, one day, one idea at a time while honoring God in all I do."

-Scott Neal
Athletic Director
personal mission statement





Bold strokes - the sky's the limit for TFS swimmer

Nichols to swim at the college level for Mars Hill

Tallulah Falls School multi-sport senior Rachel Nichols has made it official - she will swim at the college level for Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, N.C. Nichols is a four year-three sport (cross country, swimming, track and field) letter winner at TFS and played an integral role in the development of the swimming program at the school. She holds ten TFS girls' swim records and competed in the state swim championships all four years of her varsity career.

According to TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal, "Rachel consistently sets the example of GREAT character." Nichols was also the female Dooley Sportsmanship Award nominee for Tallulah Falls School this year.

"Rachel balances her academic course load with her sports and activities and clubs," Neal said. "She is a TFS President's Ambassador, National Honor Society member, member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and takes two college level classes (College English and College Chemistry). She is highly respected by her peers. Rachel is one of those rare student-athletes whose genuine concern for others is contagious and inspiring."

from left: Kim Popham, Upper School Academic Dean; Scott Neal, Athletic Director; Rachel Nichols; Larry A. Peevy, President and Head of School; John Fede, swim coach.



Neal named 8-A and Class A Athletic Director of the Year

continued from previous page

positive memories of a season interdependent upon each other," said Neal. "The other portion of our athletic mission is to host GREAT events. Each of our teams host contests that have a theme, service component, and leadership opportunity. Whether hosting contests or activities to benefit cancer, lupus, or soles4souls, to greet or host cookouts with opponents, or to help as a team in the local community, our sports program is committed to genuinely serving others."

"TFS has experienced a competitive year of athletics," said Neal. "Boys soccer had its second best record, volleyball continues to be highly competitive, girls basketball won the most games ever, boys basketball began a renewal, swimming sent more kids to state, boys tennis made it to the 'sweet sixteen,' girls golf went to state sectionals and, for the first time, a girl made it to the state finals; JV and MS baseball had winning records, and girls and boys track and field have highly-ranked athletes competing at the state championships."

With all that has accomplished at TFS, we believe that the best days are still ahead, Peevy said. Congratulations Coach Neal.

"Coach Scott Neal is, without a doubt, the most deserving Athletic Director the State and Region has ever had. His leadership inspires young people to perform not only at a high level athletically but at a higher level of character as well. I am so proud that a member of our TFS faculty and staff is the recipient of this high honor."

- Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School

State CHAMPION!



44th Georgia OLYMPICS

James Davis soars to all-classification state title in pole vault

TFS 1600 meter team earns 4th place in state competition

TFS boys track & field had a great showing in the 44th Georgia Olympics held May 14-16 in Jefferson. The team placed eighth of 25 scoring teams in the Class A-Private classification with 28 points.

The big winner of the day was junior James Davis of Clarkesville who set a Class A state record with a 15'-1" performance in the pole vault. Davis' jump was actually the top vault across all classifications. Davis also placed eighth in the 110 meter hurdles, fifth in the 300 meter hurdles, and led off for the fifth place TFS 400 meter relay team. Davis scored 16 points for the Indians for the meet.

In the pole vault competition held on Thursday, May 14, Davis cleared his initial height of 12', then proceeded to 13' where he was successful on his first attempt. The last four competitors were successful clearing 13' but failed at 13'-6". Davis then cleared 14' to secure the win, cleared 14'-8" to set the Class A record, and was then successful at 15'-1" to claim the all-classification title.

In other events, the boys' 1600 meter relay team placed fourth with a school record time of 3:27.81. The relay consisted of senior Jake Carmack of Demorest, senior Quincy Green Wright of Central Islip, N.Y., junior Ethen Besier of Tallulah Falls, and sophomore Zatrack Pearce of Decatur.

The versatile Besier also competed in the discus competition, finishing sixth with a throw of 128'-7". Pearce finished eighth in the 100 meter with an 11.47 second performance.

Coach Scott Neal said, "To describe the state meet experience justly is to highlight that there were three national leading performances this year; the competition in Georgia is incredible."

first place across all classifications



James DAVIS



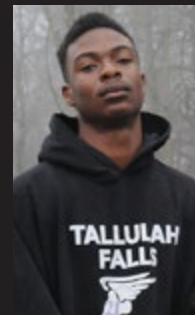
Ethen BESIER



Jake CARMACK



Quincy GREEN WRIGHT



Zatrack PEARCE

1600 meter relay team - 4th place in state - Class A Private classification

Youth Movement

Two TFS freshmen finish in top 10 at state track & field championship

TFS track and field coach Scott Neal is smiling a quite a bit these days. While he always fields a strong squad, this year's Lady Indians track & field team features an unusually strong group of freshmen. Two of his athletes, Gaby Ajibade and Anna Davis, capped off superlative freshman campaigns by finishing in the top 10 in their respective events at the 30th Girls State Track & Field Championships held May 8-9 in Albany.

Ajibade, who hails from Lawrenceville, placed fourth in the triple jump (34'-11-1/2") and sixth in the long jump (16'-2"). Davis, from Clarkesville, placed seventh in the 300 meter hurdles. Strong performances from these two young competitors helped TFS to place tied for 17th out of 27 scoring teams in the Class A - Private classification.

"Three hundred thirty-three teams and 1,559 athletes throughout seven classifications combined for 24 new state records, 532 national elite marks, a triple jump mark of 43'-5" that broke the existing all classification record by over a foot and a half, and the number one time in the nation in the 200 meter," said Neal. Neal also remarked that the ride back to campus from the meet was laced with conversation about how the two young competitors could excel, improve, and to stand atop the awards podium at next year's competition.



Gaby AJIBADE



Anna DAVIS

Track and Field



MS Track and Field delivers (another) Tri-State title

The TFS middle school track & field teams have brought home more Tri-State Conference hardware. Both the boys and girls won championships at the April 27 meet held at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. The victory came with the closest margin of victory since the inception of the competition.

"We were very proud of the poise the athletes showed during the competition and their togetherness throughout," said Athletic Director Scott Neal.

The girls were led by eighth grader Jenni Gallagher of Clarkesville (shot put and discus), seventh grader Sophie Alexander of Sautee-Nacoochee (800 meter and 1600 meter), seventh grader Brianna Docsol of Toccoa (200 meter), and seventh grader Reid Kafsky of Clarkesville (200 meter hurdles).

The boys were led by eighth grader Aaron Hughes of Demorest (discus and 800 meter), eighth grader Caleb Griffis of Clarkesville (400 meter), the 400 meter relay team (Kafsky, Docsol, Gallagher, Coffee), and 1600 meter relay team (Gallagher, eighth grader Virginia Griswold of Clarkesville, Alexander, and Docsol).



hoisting yet another Tri-State Conference banner

Seven **The** magnificent **7**

Seven TFS athletic teams recognized for outstanding sportsmanship

Seven TFS athletic teams earned Region 8-A sportsmanship awards for the 2014-15 season as determined by region coaches: boys cross country (tie), girls basketball, boys basketball (tie), girls tennis, boys tennis, girls track and field, and boys track and field.

“We appreciate the dedication and importance our coaches place on developing GREAT character as more than a philosophy but an integral foundation of living and performing.” said Athletic Director Scott Neal. “Our athletes ‘own’ the idea that character is action, that serving others – whether it be teammates, others in the school setting, or our community – is the very essence of any thriving society, especially their immediate team.”

Congratulations to Coaches Tom Tilley, Jim Van Hooser, and Randy Morris, along with their respective staffs and teams for carrying on this impressive TFS tradition.

Just in! The TFS middle school boys track and field squad has received the Tri-State Sportsmanship Award as well. Great job Indians!



Jenny WANG



Michael WEIDNER

Young stars carry TFS golf to new heights

The fledgling TFS golf program continues to make great strides. Coach Allen Campbell’s girls team placed third in the region and advanced to the state sectionals. The team was led by freshman Jenny Wang of China who shot a 52 on the front nine followed by a 48 on the back nine and advanced to the state championships. In the sectional competition Wang finished tied for 14th out of 30 participants. Wang and Park barely missed qualifying for the finals as a team.

The TFS boys golf team also had a very strong season, barely missing qualifying for the sectional round of the state tournament. Sophomore Michael Weidner was the team’s low medalist for the area tournament and the season.



Soccer seniors bid farewell

Six senior members of the Tallulah Falls School ladies soccer team were recognized at halftime of the April 14 game versus Highlands. The occasion was senior night, the last home game of the each player’s TFS career. Pictured above posing with coach Jane Shoemaker are, from left: Madeleine Tauber, Linden Pederson, head coach Jane Shoemaker, Taylor Hames, Addie Aycock, Jansen Cain, and Christina Iluma.

Alumni Profiles

**2015
Outstanding
Former Student**

Mariam Abdullah's work with inner city students garners national recognition

Mariam Abdullah came to Tallulah Falls School as a sixth grader in the fall of 2001. She immediately became involved in a wide variety of athletics and extracurricular activities including basketball, volleyball, and handbells. Although she found success in nearly everything she became involved in, it was her accomplishments as a member of the track & field team that she is most known for at TFS.

Abdullah became such a fixture at the school that she simply became known as "Mo" to everyone on campus. After graduation in 2008 Abdullah attended Winthrop University where she earned an undergraduate degree in business and took her considerable athletic talents to the track and field team where she competed as a sprinter and jumper.

After graduation Abdullah moved north to Milwaukee, Wisconsin to serve with the AmeriCorps organization City Year. Here she served as a mentor and tutor to inner city middle school students. As with most things she attempted, Abdullah won various spirit and dedication awards for her work with the organization.

Today Coach Mo continues her AmeriCorps career with the national non-profit Playworks where she serves as program coordinator. She implements a play-based program centered around making recess safe and inclusive for all students. She



was recently nominated for Playworks' Rookie Coach of the Year award.

Coach Mo's dedication to youth development inspired her to organize multiple enrichment events and off-campus learning opportunities for her students. She is also on the PTA administrative board and the anti-bullying committee at her school and assists with after-school activities. She aspires to open her own business one day and is driven by the motto, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

**2015
Outstanding
Former Student**

Frank Ferguson's TFS experience prepared him for a life of service

Tallulah Falls School was a real lifesaver for Frank Ferguson, his older brother, and three of his sisters. Ferguson was one of nine children in 1951 and his father had just died. The Ferguson family lived in Habersham County at the time and the children soon enrolled in Tallulah Falls School. Ferguson attended TFS from seventh grade through 10th grade. He graduated in 1958 from South Habersham High School.

After graduation Ferguson first worked for an apple orchard, then joined Habersham Metal. Next was a stint in the U.S. Army where he was deployed in Germany for 19 months. Ferguson rejoined Habersham Metal after his military service and worked there until opening his own company, Piedmont Metal, in Demorest in 1997. He has served two terms as a Habersham County commissioner (1976-1982). Ferguson is a member of Antioch Baptist Church and the Clarkesville Masonic Lodge #325.

Ferguson was married in 1968 and has two sons and seven grandchildren. In his nomination letter Frank's brother, James Ferguson (Class of 1955) says, "Frank has truly lived a life that exhibits those principles which are taught at Tallulah Falls School. He demonstrates a heart of compassion as he spends many hours serving humanity through his church, Masonic Lodge and also assisting many senior citizens by contributing his time and resources."





2015 Outstanding Former Student

Hubert Blankenship - advocate for TFS alumni involvement

“Hubert Blankenship has been a loyal supporter of Tallulah Falls School for all of the years since his graduation in 1956,” said June Westmoreland Parks, TFS alumnus and member of the Board of Trustees. “He has been instrumental through the years in getting information about TFS out to the older alumni and encouraging attendance for the yearly class reunions. He is almost always in attendance.”

Blankenship enrolled at TFS as a tenth grader in 1953. A native Atlantan, he attended along with both a brother and sister. One of his prime accomplishments as a student was being a member of the inaugural TFS football team.

After graduation, Blankenship was employed as an electrician’s helper before taking a job with Southern Bell. In 1959 Blankenship answered the call to military service. He joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Georgia. He returned to Southern Bell in 1961 and worked as a telephone installer, retiring from Southern Bell in 1996.

Blankenship and his wife live in Douglasville, and are active in the Methodist Church in Villa Rica. They have three children and five grandchildren.

TFS Alumni in the News

Ruth Riddle Thompson has a passion for helping adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities



Ruth Riddle Thompson was a 1971 graduate of Tallulah Falls School. Thompson journeyed far and wide following her time at TFS. After attending North Georgia College (now the University of North Georgia) Thompson lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico and Ft. Walton Beach, Florida before finally settling in Denver, Colorado. She lived in Denver for 30 years and raised her three children there. While living in Denver Thompson served as the Executive Director of an organization which provided services to families with loved ones with special needs.

Many people go through life searching for their passion. Thompson found hers in the faces of adults with special needs. After moving to McKinney, Texas (a suburb of Dallas) in 2004, Thompson applied for a management

position at a cooking school in a local upscale grocery.

In 2012 Thompson started Hugs Cafe, a non-profit, 501c3 organization providing food service training to adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities with the goal of opening a cafe providing employment. A location in old historic McKinney is currently being held until August 2015 providing Hugs Cafe with the time needed to raise funds for location #1.

Ruth Thompson is currently a member of the McKinney Morning Pride Lions Club and was recently named one of McKinney’s Top 25 Women in Business for 2015. Interested parties may follow Thompson’s dream of serving those who can’t help themselves at www.hugscafe.org or www.facebook.com/hugscafe.



Homecoming 2015

“Friday at the Field”

In an ongoing effort to create the best homecoming experience possible, a special “Friday Night at the Field” event was instituted. While alumni mingled and reminisced, TFS students played volleyball and other fun activities. Younger children enjoyed face painting and a bouncy house. The band “The Orange Constant” was on hand and provided a great backdrop to a wonderful evening of food and fun!

Tori Tilley has her face painted by junior Mena Nagy



TFS senior Betsy Bartholf digging some volleyball action

a youngster enjoys the bouncy-house



from left: alums Crystal Hitchcock, Jennifer Jeboda, Ebony Wilkinson, and Joelisa Hilario



“The Orange Constant” One of the members (at right) has a TFS connection: Nickalous Benson (guitar, keyboard, vocals) is the son of TFS dorm counselor Jon Benson.



FURY at the Farm



Light in the Mountains Road Race transforms into obstacle course challenge

According to the weather forecasters, Homecoming weekend 2015 was shaping up to be a washout, but Saturday morning's inaugural **Fury on the Farm 5K** obstacle course race caught a fortunate break in the heavy rain, much to the delight of the small but dedicated group of racers. The April 25 event kicked off a daylong celebration on the Tallulah Falls School campus.

Winners of the race were as follows: overall male, first, Michael Weidner, 16; second, Aaron Hughes, 14; third, Will Jackson, 14; overall female, first, Perry Gresham, 15; second, Madeleine Tauber, 17; third, Linden Pederson, 18; masters, male, first, Scott Compton, 52; second, Stuart Miller, 54; third Billy Moore, 59; masters, female, first, Jennifer Dunlap, 41; second, Sonia Flores, 50; third Katherine Kelly, 40.

Michael Weidner (top) of Clarkesville takes off strong and kept the lead throughout the race. To view more photographs from the race, visit the TFS Facebook page and scroll through the news items to late April.



race photos by E. Lane Gresham

Obituaries

John D. Palmour '56

John D. Palmour, age 76, of Cleveland, passed away on Sunday, March 29 at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. Palmour was a veteran of the U.S. Army and had a long history of service to the residents of Cleveland as a city council member for 36 consecutive years.

Palmour's work career included 20 years with Talon Zippers and numerous business endeavors including residential and commercial development and building, real estate, restaurants, and rental properties.

Palmour was named a TFS Outstanding Former Student in 2013. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Julia Ann Pitman Paulmour, one son, and one granddaughter.

Dan Vickers '73

Dan Vickers died of heart-related issues on June 1. Vickers was a resident of Young Harris. Vickers was a dentist who specialized in senior dental health and had practices in Blairsville and Commerce. He is survived by a brother and three children.

Angela Lynne Shannon '74

Angela Lynne Shannon, a graduate of the TFS Class of 1974, died on April 20. Shannon fought a long battle with cancer. Shannon had worked as a freelance artist. She lived in Murrell's Inlet, South Carolina and is survived by two sons.

John McGowan '76

John P. McGowan, 56, of Summerville, South Carolina, died recently following a recent series of health issues. McGowan was widely known around the Beaufort, S.C. area for his work with local charities. McGowan came to Tallulah Falls School as an 11th grader in 1974 and graduated in 1976.

McGowan worked with numerous charities around the Lowcountry, among them the United Way, the March of Dimes, and The American Cancer Society. McGowan worked as a real estate agent at HomeTown Realty of Beaufort from 2002 to 2012. He is survived by one brother.

Shannon Hodge Godsed '77

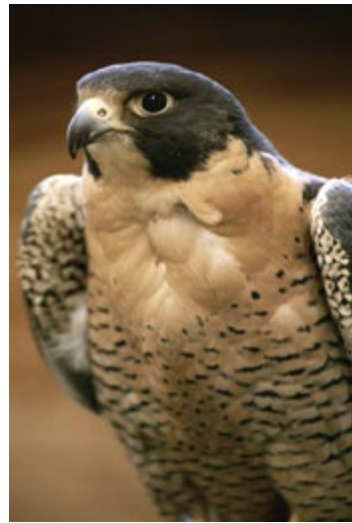
Shannon Hodge Godsed died on April 27 following a long bout with cancer. Godsed was a member of the TFS Class of 1977 and graduated from Clayton State College. Godsed lived in Buford. She is survived by her husband of 28 years, Jim, four children and five grandchildren.



Tallulah Falls plays host to an amazing natural event as rare Peregrine falcons nest at gorge

Brian A. Boyd

It was a sight not seen in Georgia in nearly 80 years. That's the last time that a rare peregrine falcon nest was found in the wild in the state of Georgia. A nest was discovered on the rocky sheer cliffs on the north side of the gorge in May after rock climbers noticed an adult peregrine falcon diving toward them as if trying to defend a nesting site. An investigation by Georgia Department of Natural Resources confirmed the discovery of a nest with two chicks. The last previous known nesting site in the wild was at Cloudland Canyon in northwest Georgia.



Peregrine falcons are believed to be the world's fastest bird and can reach speeds of up to an incredible 200 miles per hour when diving for prey. This beautiful species had a brush with extinction in the 1960s when pesticides such as DDT were proven to be harmful to their eggs.

Peregrine falcon nests, called eyries, are constructed high on sheer cliffs in order to

to protect their young. The eyrie at Tallulah Gorge was located on the north cliff face directly across the gorge from overlook #9 on the south rim trail.

Upon its discovery park personnel closed the cliffs to climbers in order to protect the eyrie. That's where TFS broadcasting instructor Kerri Pugh came in. Pugh spent dozens of hours along the gorge rim videotaping the nesting site. Over a few short weeks the chicks grew rapidly and their appearance changed drastically as they developed their darker feathers. They often emerged from the foliage on the rocky ledge to spread their wings and alternately jump and flap, much to the delight of park visitors who came to see the chicks. As of June 6 the young falcons have departed the nest, but thanks to Ms. Pugh we all have a chance to share in the spectacle.

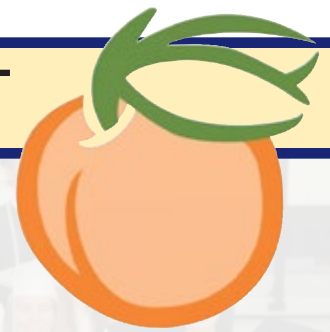
We sometimes take for granted the remarkable region that we call home. But every now and then we are reminded that Tallulah Falls is a very special place indeed. We'll be watching for an encore performance next spring.



These long range photos are just a teaser. Check out the series of short videos posted on the TFS website showing the growth of the chicks over a several week timespan.

www.tallulahfalls.org

GEORGIA GOAL - THE SECRET IS OUT



Across Georgia, taxpayers signed up in record numbers to designate their tax dollars to an eligible school. The \$58 million set aside by the State of Georgia for the education tax credit was eclipsed by \$90 million in requests. The entire allocation of tax credit money was depleted in just one day. The Georgia Department of Revenue responded by pro-rating all applications by 64% so that all applicants would receive at least a portion of their requested tax credit.

- Tallulah Falls School's Georgia GOAL donors applied for a record \$181,500 designated to the TFS scholarship program.
- After pro-ration the amount received by TFS fell to \$114,000.
- 120 donors targeted Tallulah Falls School with their Georgia GOAL donation.

Thank you to everyone who participated this year. We will need your help, and help from new donors as well, for 2016 in order to compensate for what we expect will be another year of very high demand for scarce education tax credit dollars.



PRE-REGISTRATION

As was the case last year, the Georgia GOAL office is allowing donors to pre-register. Registration is quick and easy at the GOAL website. It only takes minutes to complete the form and no payment is due until the Department of Revenue approves your application in early 2016. Use this convenient QR code which takes you directly to the Georgia GOAL registration site.

On behalf of the two dozen students who will receive scholarships through Georgia GOAL this year, we thank everyone who sent their 2015 tax dollars to Tallulah Falls School.

Paul and Nancy Almoyan	Mike Dale	Keith and Marie Huff	Rodney and Kerri Pugh
Benjamin and Delores Anderson	Lowell and Susan Davis	Richard and Teresa Ingwersen	Mark and Tammie Rasmussen
Christopher and Amy Atkinson	Seth and Shelby Day	Linda James	Stephen and Sara Roberts
Allison Audet	Wallace and Delorace Dodd	David and Killeen Jensen	Dustin and Amanda Rogers
Ashley Bagley	James and Jennifer Dunlap	Keith and Patricia Kleinert	Bryan and Tish Roller
Patsy Baker	Wanda Dunn	Gary and Elizabeth Kyle	Barney and Shari Rothgery
Janice Barden	Dwight and Angela Dyer	Georgann Lanich	Jamie Shabat and Lenka Novotna
Halimatu Barrie	Timothy and Jacqueline Earp	Cindy Laymon	Richard and LeAnna Shahan
Dewan and Dallas Barron	Wilma Erwin	Teri Lind	David and Annette Shirley
Dr. Robert and Nancy Barron	Jack Farley	Bob and Gail Loder	Jane Shoemaker
Jon Benson	Donna Foland	Ellis and Sheila Lovett	Richard and Anna Smith
Todd and Stacie Besier	Preston Fowler	Robby and Sarah Lowry	Babatunde and Uli Sotunde
Michael and Kelli Bly	Glenda Franklin	Patrick Mayfield	Jeffrey and Lisa Speed
John and Terri Bogan	Jimmy and Elizabeth Franklin	Paul McMurray	Richard and Jennifer Stein
Edward and Elizabeth Bond	Curtis and Sabrina Frederick	Stuart Miller	John and Jennifer Stelmack
John and Peggy Boozer	John and Irene Gray	Lessie Miller	Grover Stevenson
Perry Bourlet	William and Lane Gresham	Matthew and Joely Mixon	Michael and Deborah Stewart
Brian and Kay Boyd	Mary Griffin	Michael and Nancy Mixon	Thomas and Karen Thomson
Gregory and Bellmina Brown	Lowell and Adrianna Hamilton	Anne Moncus	Tommy and Tamela Tilley
Allen and Cyndy Campbell	David and Vicki Hammock	Randy and Tina Morris	Jim and Christine Van Hooser
Ron and Helen Cantrell	Bobby and Carol Hammond	Stanley and Wanda Morris	Pamela Vaughan
Christy Carpenter	Stephen and Jinny Hanifan-Wagner	Michael and Rebekah Nash	James and Susan Weidner
Christopher and Lisa Carter	Karl and Linda Harris	Scott and Diana Neal	Mark and Lisa Wilcox
Scott and Allison Carter	Albert and Sandra Hayes	Larry and Dinah Peevy	Lucy Willard
Stephen and Sharon Carter	James and Peggy Hegwood	Robert and Shala Phillips	Russell and Patty Williams
Jimmy and Angela Cash	Tim and Melody Henderson	Ray and Connie Pitts	Stephanie Witham
Tina Cheek	Catherine Hermes	Warren and Mary Jo Plowden	Kelly Woodall
David and Susan Chester	Erica Herrera	Bryan and Kim Popham	William and Harriett Worrell
Kathy Church	Christopher and Laura Higbie	Ronald and Peggy Pruet	Ryan and Brittany Yandell
Bill and Kelly Coldren	Eric and Jessica Hollifield	George and Patricia Pugh	Jason and Jennifer Young



TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL
P.O. Box 10
Tallahulah Falls, Georgia 30573
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

from the TFS family to yours...



Have a GREAT summer!

Many thanks to everyone who played a part in our incredible year

**We're looking forward the 2015-16 school year
which begins Monday, August 10**

www.tallahulahfalls.org

