

TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

Magazine

SPRING 2016



tfs celebrates
**International
Day**

also inside:
adventures in
experiential learning

letters to Paris

2016 STAR student

basketball excels

I am Tallulah

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LARRY A. PEEVY

“I am Tallulah”



Spring has returned to the Tallulah Falls School campus. I see it in the greening fields and in the determined faces of TFS student athletes giving their all on tracks, diamonds, courts, and golf courses. I see it in the excitement and nervous anticipation of seniors, who are beginning to realize that in a few short months they will be leaving us to find success and fulfillment beyond our gates.

Spring is a season for new beginnings, rejuvenation, and reflection. My thoughts have been especially uplifted recently by the “I am Tallulah” campaign, part of The Tallulah Fund effort to raise money for need-based student scholarships (see page 20). The students, parents, grandparents, faculty and staff, and others featured in these vignettes tell the remarkable story of the Tallulah Falls School family. Each of them symbolically represents hundreds of others like them who have for more than 100 years come to The Light in the Mountains seeking knowledge and opportunity.

The “I am Tallulah” participants share a common appreciation for their Tallulah Falls School experiences. Sixth grader Lilly Johnson thinks that at TFS “It is good to be smart and everyone pushes each other to do better...The school is always filled with joy and spirit...I feel confident to try new things.” Seventh grader Andrew Kivett says that at TFS he has “learned the importance of managing my time” and that the school “has helped me in developing my character by respecting people more.” Senior international boarding student Mio Sugawara from Japan believes that “Teachers at TFS are passionate about their subject... Exciting classes and passionate teachers are helping me to achieve.”

Alumnus Tyler Boyd, now a sophomore at the University of Georgia, believes TFS provided him with “a strong foundation” that “taught me how to be a better student, a better leader, and a better person.” His twin sister Ashton, a TFS alumnae and also a UGA sophomore, says that TFS “gave me meaningful relationships, enriched me academically, and allowed me to pursue my extracurricular hobbies all while receiving a valuable education I will carry with me for the rest of my life.”

Johnny and Rhonda Bailey, parents of now ninth grade student Clarke Bailey, noticed a difference in their son from the moment he entered sixth grade at TFS: “He was excited to go to school every day. He loved the small class sizes. He started making new friends. The students were being given more freedom.” They also say that Clarke thrived in an atmosphere that fosters academic competition, diversity, a wide range of extracurricular activities, and the opportunity to participate in athletics and music, in which he excels. The Baileys are co-chairs of The Tallulah Fund this year: “I think people just need a gentle reminder about how fortunate we are to have a school like TFS in our community,” Mr. Bailey says.

Tallulah Falls School was founded on little more than faith and vision: the faith to believe in something that could not be seen, and the vision to see what was needed and make it real. As our school moves forward into the 21st century, I pray that we will continue to be guided by faith and vision and that we will always keep our students’ welfare and interests first in all that we do. The best is most definitely ahead. Yes, “We are Tallulah,” and I am thankful and proud that we have been so blessed.

Sincerely,

Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School

tfs magazine . contents

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There's nothing quite like a surprise snow to shake things up on campus. On Thursday, March 3 the forecast called for a cold rain but shortly after lunch huge snowflakes began to fall and by late afternoon the campus was transformed into a (shortlived) winter wonderland. Pictured above is Fitzpatrick Hall, the boys' dormitory, in all its snowy splendor.



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ON THE COVER: Senior Mio Sugawara of Japan performs a traditional Japanese fan dance at the annual International Day celebration. photo by E. Lane Gresham.

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Larry A. Peevy

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Beyond the classroom



middle school science takes a 'hands on' approach to learning

story and photos by E. Lane Gresham

TFS sixth and seventh graders are discovering a whole new world at their fingertips - literally. Zac Roland, who is in his first year at TFS and veteran teacher Randy Morris are taking experiential learning to new levels of student engagement this year.

A recent middle school open house showed parents a glimpse of what their students are doing both in the classroom and outside the school building.

"They already have an interest in a lot of this stuff. If nothing else, they have an interest in going outside," Roland says. "That's science. That's where it is." Roland told a group of parents that education has changed dramatically since he was in school.

"Science was always textbooks and vocabulary; learning words for the sake of learning words. I didn't like it," Roland says. "But in the last 15 years, it's changed a lot and there's been a lot of things that say 'maybe we shouldn't be doing it that way.'"

Projects, field trips, special guests and new ways to leverage technology are woven into everyday lessons. Examples include preparing documentaries for submission to Animal Planet, trips

top of page: Ben Fisher and Baylor Carnes get up close and personal with a large endangered eastern indigo snake during the Orianne Society visit. left: Sixth grader Sophie Daves watches a gopher tortoise as it explores the middle school lobby.

to Tallulah Gorge to observe erosion, water testing and species identification at the outdoor classroom and speakers from outside organizations.

One speaker, Chris Jenkins, CEO and executive director of the Orianne Society visited on March 2. Jenkins brought along a gopher tortoise, a Gila monster and two snakes, including an endangered Eastern Indigo snake. According to its website, the Orianne Society works to conserve reptiles and amphibians in the wild, as well as the habitats they need to persist. The organization works with a diverse group of partners to achieve success using science, education and applied conservation.

The lobby of the middle school served as an impromptu arena for the reptiles as Jenkins shared data and his own enthusiasm for the subject matter.

Students learned the gopher tortoise was the official reptile for the State of Georgia, about habitats for each of the reptiles and about the differences between snakes and lizards.

According to Roland, inviting speakers to visit is important because students get to see things they are interested in and that can become what they do with their lives.

"Also, there are people out there who have devoted their lives to the study of things that we spend a few short weeks exploring," Roland says.

"For us, this was a preview for our study on vertebrates," Roland says. "These special animals hopefully caught the interest of the students and will fuel them to find out more for themselves. For me, for a long time, these animals were what I wanted to work with. I caught snakes, alligators, turtles, frogs and salamanders to study."

Morris agrees it is beneficial for students to get out of the classroom to broaden and illustrate lesson plans. "They can see it, they can touch it, they can feel it," Morris says. "They will carry it home with them. They will remember it, I believe, longer."

"We are just trying to pour it in like a can of oil into their brain. We go out and we try to work in groups, they do field experiments...we are teaching them to think critically for themselves; to try to figure things out."

Anna Paige Barrett, seventh grader from Clarkesville loved being on the front row for the program. "The guy was amazing teaching us about the reptiles," Barrett said. "All the kids engaged in the study and just simply enjoyed hearing about them. He not only brought the reptiles for us to look at, but he let us touch some of them."



students handle a beautiful eastern indigo snake.

Zac Roland and a group of cautiously inquisitive students.





bringing the world to
Tallulah Falls School
celebrating
International!

International Day has become one of the most anticipated days of the TFS academic calendar. Held each February immediately preceding Winter Break, International Day is the culmination of an exciting week where the ongoing contribution of international students to the TFS community is recognized and celebrated.

Currently Tallulah Falls School enrolls students from 18 countries around the globe including China, United Arab Emirates, South Korea, the Republic of Georgia, Brazil, Japan, Spain, Nigeria, Liberia, Bahamas, Taiwan, Rwanda, Serbia, Germany, and Mexico. Each international student brings their own unique perspective on world events and become 'unofficial' members of American students' families.

Throughout the week leading up to International Day TFS students sample cuisine from other parts of the world; Asia day, Africa day, and Latin America day all provide a taste of life on other continents. Much of the food is prepared in the TFS dining hall while local dining establishments provide specialty dishes as well.

On Friday, international students perform in back-to-back shows for both middle and upper school students. The performances feature singing, dancing, skits, drama productions and demonstrations of cultural skills, but they all share one thing in common: they provide a glimpse into the fascinating background of Tallulah Falls School's international population.



photos by E. Lane Gresham

international profiles:

Christina Preuss
Germany



by Elizabeth Tench and Julia Nichols

Sophomore Christina Preuss is at Tallulah Falls for what she calls a 'break year.' Christina chose to take a break from her normal schooling in Germany to help improve her English-speaking skills. "It is really nice to have a break year and meet new people," she says.

Christina has seen many parts of the world including Thailand, Dubai, and Armenia. She chose to come to the U.S. over other countries, including Australia and England.

Here in the states, her guardians are like family, she says. "They help me see more of America," she says. Her guardians are now like her grandparents, she says.

Christina mentioned the letter 'W' when she talked about going home. "Leaving home

would be considered the first peak, because it's as if you are on top of the world. You begin to miss your home and you drop to the first bottom. Then you go home, which is considered the middle peak. Everything is back to normal, if not better, until you begin to fall in the same routine. Reaching another bottom, until you leave again and reach the next peak. This repeats itself for the rest of your life," she says. She learned this pattern from the time she spent a half year going to school in England.

Christina has not been home since school started in August, but talks to her parents about once every two weeks. She says she was counting down the days until she is back home moving to the next phase in her life.



photo credit: Julia Nichols

"I am looking at three colleges in Germany right now, and hoping to major in business."



photo credit: James Davis

"America really challenged me. Coming here made me more responsible. More focused on the future than the present."

international profiles:

Eric Murenzi
Rwanda



by James Davis and Rae Jones

At 6' 4" Eric Murenzi towers above most of his peers. Eric and his little brother Maik came to TFS from Rwanda after his older sister heard about TFS and told their parents. Eric says his experience as a boarder and as a student here at TFS has been incredibly positive. "Of course, I missed home but eventually I became very comfortable here and started to form habits."

"Compared to my old school TFS is nicer. The school has more money for activities and resources. Oh, and the food is way better, but you already know that," Eric says. "I was really surprised by the experience of boarding. I have always wanted to have a space that is my own, like an apartment or something, and this is almost that...the biggest difference is that I have

to share everything with other people, like my roommate."

Although he is getting more comfortable with life at TFS he thinks about home often. "Rwanda is very beautiful – some people have called it the 'Land of 1,000 Hills.' There are many beautiful landscapes."

"America really challenged me. Coming here made me more responsible. More focused on the future than the present. I took school and sports seriously. I realized everything you do impacts your future – every test or grade affects where you go. Small things matter...it's better to handle small things now because if you don't stuff will come up and it will get out of control."

international profiles:

Jessica Jiao
People's Republic of China

by Grace Brewer and Garrett Lane



TFS freshman Jessica Jiao started fresh in the Northeast Georgia mountains with new experiences, new memories and many new friends. According to Jiao, living in China and living in the U.S. are two very different experiences. School starts much earlier in the day in China and ends much later. She even attended school on the weekends to earn extra credits.

Jessica has much more free time at TFS to explore other interests like art and music. She is a member of the chorus, but is also trying her hand at the keyboard in Piano I and was a member of the varsity swim team. Even though she is enjoying her time in the U.S. she still misses many things from home. At the top of her list is family and food. She was surprised when TFS served Chinese food for lunch and offered fortune cookies - she had never seen a fortune cookie before she came to the U.S.

Dorm counselor Allie Audet is a favorite new mentor. "Ms. Audet got lanterns from China and hung them up in the dorms. I appreciate that. She also makes us dumplings," she says.



photo credit: Grace Brewer

from Tallulah, with Love



Shown, from left, are Joe Griswold, Brinson Hall, Agnes Saracouli, and Caleb Carter. photo by E. Lane Gresham.



On November 13, Paris was forever changed as a series of coordinated terrorist attacks killed 130 people and injured 368. Just a few weeks later a good will gesture was winging its way from Tallulah Falls School across the Atlantic Ocean to the famed 'city of lights.' This gesture came in the form of Christmas cards bearing messages of hope and support for seventh grade students at Marymount International School in Paris. Prompted by seventh grade teachers Nancy Almoyan, Linda James and Randy Morris, it served to connect TFS students here in the states with a school community affected by the tragedy.

"This little project has turned out to be very exciting. We have heard from the principal at Marymount International School in Paris and from both seventh grade teachers," Almoyan said. "They are completely...thrilled that our students would want to reach out to their children."

Compelled by the desire to extend a kind word, Almoyan said her students were happy to work on the special greetings. "I thought it was cool to send Christmas cards to a school in Paris," seventh grader Kally Momoh said. "It is nice because our school cares about the kids in Paris and this is a way for us to show them."

"It is really neat to be able to communicate with kids across the world and tell them that we are thinking of them," Collin Kelly said. "It would be amazing to get to know one of them."

Principal Sarah Thomas at Marymount acknowledged the sorrow felt by Paris residents. "While it has been a challenging time for the great city of Paris, it is heartening to receive the messages of support and solidarity."



photo by E. Lane Gresham

TFS chef earns accolades at recent benefit competition

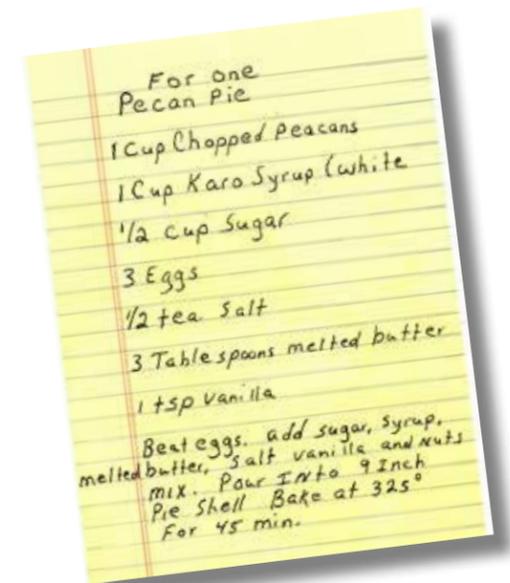
It's no secret to those of us who eat in the TFS dining hall on a weekly basis that we enjoy some of the finest cuisine to be found at any school. In addition to our campus regulars, there are now approximately 350 new fans of our dining hall as TFS pastry chef Caroline Welch was the runner-up for the *Critic's Choice* award at the recent 2nd Annual Top Chef and Wine Tasting Competition benefiting Prevent Child Abuse Habersham. Welch received the nod based on her scrumptious pecan pie.

Tallulah Falls School was a sponsor of the event and as such was in competition with some of the finest restaurants in the area. Yet Welch's pecan pie (she actually baked 40 pies for the event) was chosen by a national professional food critic to receive the runner-up award. Ever humble, Welch hesitated to take the stage when recognized and she received a thunderous ovation for her delicious creation. In the photo above Caroline is flanked by student ambassadors Edward Kivett and Perry Gresham.

Top Chef



PCA Executive Director Jennifer Stein presents Caroline Welch with the Critic's Choice runner-up award at the popular gala event.



Outstanding 2015 student, faculty and staff winners recognized

Congratulations to the 2015 Tallulah Falls School annual year-end award winners. Shown, front row, from left, are John Nichols, outstanding middle school student; Annette Shirley, outstanding middle school teacher; TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy; Mio Sugawara, outstanding upper school student; Kelli Bly, outstanding upper school teacher; back row, from left, Jonathan Roberts, outstanding staff member of the year; Brian Boyd, outstanding staff member of the year; Dustin Rogers, senior staff member of the year (Light in the Mountains award).



Jensen and Bogan recognized for 25 years of service

Two of Tallulah Falls School's finest educators were recently recognized for twenty-five years of outstanding service by GISA [Georgia Independent School Association]. Middle school Georgia History teacher Kelleen Jensen and upper school English teacher Terri Bogan were each presented GISA plaques by TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

"The recognition by GISA is one of distinction. I am proud of our team of educators at Tallulah Falls School," President Peevy said. "Killeen and Terri are wonderful examples of committed professionals who contribute in countless ways to the success of our students."



Garrett Lane named systemwide STAR student selects Dr. Robert Barron as STAR teacher

by Christina Santee/Special
Reprinted with permission of The Northeast Georgian



“I’ve often thought without Tallulah Falls [School], I wouldn’t be in the position I am,” Lane said. “I wouldn’t have had many wonderful teachers like Dr. Barron who were there to help support me along the way...”



E. Lane Gresham



“Forty-three-plus years teaching, that’s a long career, but in all those years of teaching, one individual has really caught my attention and that’s Garrett Lane.”

Tallulah Falls School senior Garrett Lane joins a legacy of 25,500 students acknowledged for their academic success by the PAGE Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) program. Since its inception, the STAR program has honored tens of thousands of students and the teachers selected as having the most influence on their academic achievements. To obtain the STAR nomination, graduating high school seniors must have the highest score on a single test date on the three-part SAT and be in the top-10 percent or top 10 students of their class based on GPA.

The Habersham County Chamber of Commerce recognized two students participating in the STAR program February 4 at the Habersham County Rotary Club’s regular meeting. “[Habersham County] Rotary [Club] and the Habersham County Chamber of Commerce have been the sponsors for this since the inception of the program, said Habersham County Chamber of Commerce President Judy Taylor. “It just thrills us to be recognizing excellence in education.”

Lane, son of Laura and Walter Lane, was named the system winner of the PAGE STAR program. “I will say I definitely think I have been blessed in Tallulah Falls School and Dr. [Robert] Barron’s classroom,” Lane said. Lane said he plans on studying computer science at the University of Georgia.

“I wish to be able to use that knowledge and that ability to create tools to help people and just make lives easier and support others,” he said.

Lane selected as STAR teacher Robert Barron, a biology teacher at TFS who also serves as vice chairman of the Habersham County Board of Education.

“I’ve often thought without Tallulah Falls [School], I wouldn’t be in the position I am,” Lane said. “I wouldn’t have had many wonderful teachers like Dr. Barron who were there to help support me along the way, along with my family, friends and my [Boy] Scout troop. ... I’m extremely grateful to have all those in my life.”

“This is a very humbling experience for me,” Barron said of the STAR teacher recognition. “Forty-three-plus years teaching, that’s a long career, but in all those years of teaching, one individual has really caught my attention and that’s Garrett Lane.” Barron said he first taught Lane in the 10th grade for honors biology.

“Without a doubt, this young man has done exceptionally well,” he continued. “Quiet, reserved, he was sitting back there [in the classroom], but he looked like he was a loaded pistol ready to take on any project, do anything that I asked the class to do. Without a doubt, Garrett would do everything to the greatest perfection.”

“He has been a wonderful student to teach,” Barron continued, who has had a great impact on his fellow peers and Boy Scout troop members. “Garrett’s just a great kid to be around, a great kid to have as a student,” he said.

STAR students who receive school system titles go on to compete for region honors. Region winners compete for the honor of being named State PAGE STAR Student. STAR teachers continue on with their STAR students at every level of the program.



Anna Davis

Sophomores get first-hand civics lesson paging at General Assembly

Tallulah Falls School sophomores Anna Davis and Perry Gresham of Clarkesville were able to witness the inner workings of the Georgia legislative process as each served as a legislative page during the recent session of the General Assembly at the state capitol in Atlanta. Davis and Gresham each paged for District 10 State Rep. Terry Rogers. Rogers is also a board of trustees member for Tallulah Falls School. Pictured with each student is Rogers (left) and Speaker of the House David Ralston (right).



Perry Gresham



Pengfei (Penni) Zhu

TFS senior earns U.S. citizenship

Pengfei (Penni) Zhu, a TFS senior originally from Shangpui, Henan Province, China, celebrated her American naturalization last month. Zhu has been a student at TFS since she was in seventh grade.

“Penni is the first student that has completed the naturalization process while enrolled at TFS,” says Jimmy Franklin, Dean of Students.

While at TFS, she has served as a mentor to new international students as they transition to the boarding school life at TFS. She is an active member of the TFS handbell choir and

she participates in the school’s annual International Day Program.

Zhu is also a Presidential Scholar with a 4.0 GPA and has received no demerits in the past five years. She is an excellent example of the TFS mission, Franklin adds. “Never one wanting to be in the limelight, Penni credits her teachers and friends for her success.”

“It is with great honor that we congratulate Penni for completing the naturalization process and we welcome her as one of the newest U.S. Citizens,” says President and Head of School Larry A. Peavy.

Interact Club receives volunteer award

The Tallulah Falls School Interact Club received the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2016, presented by the Cornelia Main Street & Downtown Development Authority. The club was recognized for their effort and time at the Big Red Apple Festival in the fall of 2015. Officers of Interact Club accepted the award. Shown, from left, are Kelly Woodall, TFS Dean of Enrollment Management; Draper Smith, club treasurer; Jeffery Teng, club secretary; Candace Woodward, club vice president; Riko Miyazaki, club president; and Dallas Barron, TFS faculty member and club sponsor.



Singers participate in All-Star chorus

Four highly talented TFS choral students participated in the Georgia All-State Chorus held in Athens on February 25-27. Organized and carried out by the Georgia Music Educators Association, this event allows select students an opportunity to work with other students of equal caliber

under the direction of highly-qualified conductors. The students were freshmen Madeline McClurg and Clarke Bailey, and sophomores Dylan Truong and Sarah Catherine Fordham.

According to music teacher Glenda E. Franklin, each student auditions on a statewide basis and is selected on merit when judged by professionals against all other applicants across the state. Selection to All-State is recognition of excellence in musical knowledge, technique, and interpretation.

Students who desire to participate in All-State Chorus undergo an intense audition process. The first audition consists of a prepared solo, scales, sight-reading, audiation, error detection, and vocabulary. Students who pass the first audition are assigned to a choir and begin preparation for the second audition. During the second audition, students must sing prepared music for the February event. They must know the music they have been assigned in order to pass this audition and be invited to participate in All-State chorus. Approximately 10,000 students across the state compete for the 1,550 singer positions.



Shown, from left, are student representing TFS, Madeline McClurg, Dylan Truong, Sarah Catherine Fordham and Clarke Bailey.

Statewide sixth grade honor chorus



The 2016 Statewide Sixth Grade Honor Chorus was held at the Classic Center in Athens on February 19-20. Students representing Tallulah Falls School were Ava Wehrstein, Maddie Cloutre, Aubrey Higgins, Nancy Fisher, and Sophie Daves.

The honor chorus is sponsored yearly by the choral division of the Georgia Music Educators Association as a means of bringing together the top sixth grade students from all over Georgia to spend a fun-filled weekend making music together.

Each school from across the state that has a sixth grade may select students for participation. Students are placed in one of two choirs consisting of approximately 250 singers each.

TFS junior plays violin in All-state Orchestra

Violinist Tianqi (Tim) Zhang of China, a TFS junior, recently played in the 2016 All-State 11th and 12th Grade String Orchestra concert. A group of friends from TFS traveled to the Classic Center in Athens to hear the concert, according to TFS music teacher Curt Frederick. The string orchestra played *Fantasia on a Thomas Tallis Theme* by R. Vaughan-Williams and *Frolicsome Finale*, a symphony by Benjamin Britten.

Last year, Zhang also passed two auditions and in February 2015, performed with the GMEA (Georgia Music Educators Association) All-State Orchestra. The talented and versatile Zhang also plays trumpet. For numerous functions, he has been asked to perform representing TFS. He has served as a violin soloist for presenting music at athletic banquets, a Chinese delegation of guests January 2014, a Musical Showcase in March 2014, a Rotary meeting, a 2015 Mayflower Society meeting, and the Star Spangled Banner for guests and at athletic events.



It's all

TFS students were beginning to think it wasn't meant to be. After being postponed (ironically due to snow in Tallulah Falls) the upper school and middle school were finally able to take their annual day trip to Cataloochee Ski area in North Carolina for a day of fun on the slopes. Enjoy this collection of images taken by Stacie Besier, Annette Cochran, and E. Lane Gresham.

DOWNHILL

from here

TFS celebrates Winter at Cataloochee



mugging for the cameras



8th grader Brianna Docsol



8th grader Stephen Bowman



all the essentials: gloves, a warm jacket, a GoPro, and a really weird hat



below: 8th graders Davis Jennings, Luke Johnson, and 7th grader Caroline Turpin



8th grader Lillie Free



sophomore Lucas Yi



Ebony Wilkinson
TFS Class of 2009
Winthrop University Class of 2015

Milestone Reached as First Winthrop Student Graduates With New Individualized Studies Major

reprinted with permission of Winthrop University

ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA – Ebony Wilkinson made a crucial decision during her senior year at Winthrop University that has changed the trajectory for her life's work. After talking with her advisor, Wilkinson opted to change her major from exercise science to individualized studies with an emphasis on women's issues.

Wilkinson, a New York City native and the daughter of West Indian parents, will graduate this month as the first Winthrop student to take advantage of the bachelor's degree in individualized studies. She spoke highly of the degree because it empowered her to design a major based on her passions and interests.

There is no program like this interdisciplinary degree at other universities in the region, according to Maria Clara Paulino, director of the Individualized Studies program.

Wilkinson put together a major based on women's studies, psychology, exercise science and public health. She then applied successfully for an internship at the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute in New York City where she spent three semesters working with social media, recruitment and fundraising.

The institute, named for the late U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug of New York, has worked with young women and girls since 2005, to inspire, mentor and train them to become leaders in creating positive social and economic change. This semester, Wilkinson participated in several events at the United Nations that brought in girls from all over the world.

Now, the institute has offered her a full-time job as a program associate to work with adolescent girls. "This degree has helped open up doors for me," Wilkinson said, "And has made me a more dynamic applicant."

She anticipates attending graduate school in the next few years so she can further study non-profit management and how it can be applied to women's issues.

Wilkinson, a 2009 TFS graduate, is the first Winthrop student to earn a bachelor's degree in individualized studies

Turpens donate valuable pottery to TFS

A massive handbuilt tureen and matching ladle created by noted North Carolina potter Kathy Triplett have been donated to Tallulah Falls School. The tureen and ladle are a gift of Rev. James Turpen, Sr. (TFS Class of 1955) and wife Catherine Dixon Turpen of Tallulah Falls.

"We are excited to receive this beautiful piece of pottery, especially given the local history of this wonderful work of art," said Larry A. Peevy, president and head of school.

Kathy Triplett, who was living in Tallulah Falls in 1980, was commissioned by Jo and Leland Nunn, longtime TFS employees who have since passed away, to create the tureen and ladle for the Turpens as an anniversary gift. The tureen and ladle have Mexican design element influences, a product of Triplett's study at the Universidad de las Americas in Cholula, Puebla, Mexico. Triplett received her BA from Agnes Scott College and has also honed her skills with studies in Italy, Tennessee, Colorado, and the architecture department at Georgia Tech.

It has been 35 years since Triplett created the tureen and ladle for the Turpens. Today Triplett is a highly respected and collected potter. She has authored two books, *Handbuilt Ceramics* and *Handbuilt Tableware*, which describe her technique of handbuilding with slabs and coils without the use of a wheel. She has exhibited throughout the United States, and her works are included in museum and private collections from Bolivia to Japan. Her Art Deco influenced teapots are especially prized by collectors. She is a member of Piedmont Craftsmen, Inc.,



President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy (center) is flanked by Rev. James Turpen, Sr. and his lovely wife, Catherine.

and the Southern Highland Craft Guild. She lives and works in North Carolina.

The Turpens have a home just outside the school's north gate. James graduated from TFS, both James and Catherine have worked at the school, and now James serves on the Tallulah Falls School Board of Trustees.

Why, after so many years, are the Turpens willing to part with the tureen now? "Catherine and I have enjoyed this tureen for a very, very long time. By giving this to Tallulah Falls School, we know that the tureen will be used and enjoyed by many more people for many years to come," Rev. Turpen said.

Run!
and climb,
and crawl...

and help TFS students at the same time

Saturday, April 16, 2016
10:00 a.m.
TFS farm • scenic loop

Alumni Homecoming

2016



Fury at the Farm 5K adventure/obstacle race
proceeds benefitting the students of TFS
www.active.com or walk-up registration available the day of the race

Alumni association hosts basketball alumni night

TFS graduates (from left) Eric Peacock and Jeanne Wallace Falgiano join Dayne and Irene Gray (all graduates of the Class of 1973) at the 2nd annual basketball alumni night held in January. Returning alumni were treated to a chili dinner before heading up to the TFS gymnasium to relive their past hardwood memories and enjoy a TFS varsity basketball game.

We hope you will plan to attend next year's alumni night which will be announced as soon as the dates are finalized. If you have an idea for an alumni reunion, give Mrs. Gray a call at (706) 839-2030.



Middle school students represent TFS in GISA spelling bee

Two Tallulah Falls School middle school spellers participated in the recent Georgia Independent School Association [GISA] spelling bee. TFS middle schoolers Mary Ellen Sanders, a seventh grader from Hartwell and Colton Augustine, a sixth grader from Demorest, traveled with Nancy Al-moyan, Spelling Bee coordinator, on February 11 to Mill Springs Academy in Alpharetta for Round No. 1 of the spelling bee. There were 60 students present and only 15 advanced to the second round. Sanders was one of the top 15.

On February 23, Rounds No. 2 and 3 three took place at The Atlanta Academy in Roswell. There were 48 students present for Round No. 2 and only 20 advanced to Round Three.

“Mary Ellen was successful in Round No. 2 and did very well in Round No. 3, but was not able to advance past that,” Al-moyan said. “We are very proud of Mary Ellen and Colton’s accomplishments and their strong TFS representation at this year’s Spelling Bee.” Congratulations to both of these young spellers and good luck in next year’s competition.



Omega Technology Group donates Smart TV for TFS conference center

TFS has a welcome new component for its newly-created conference center located in the historic Willet administration building. Omega Technology Group of Cornelia, a TFS vendor, recently donated a beautiful 70-inch LED Smart TV.

“This contribution to our conference center is very much

appreciated,” said Larry A. Peevy, President and Head of School. “Omega Technology is a valued business partner.”

From left: Bruce Coleman, Omega Technology Group principal; Amy Atkinson, Chairwoman, TFS Board of Trustees; Larry A. Peevy.

Interact Club helps tackle critical blood shortage

Tallulah Falls School hosted a successful blood drive benefiting the American Red Cross on Tuesday, February 2 in the school’s Lettie Pate Evans Student Center. The TFS Interact Club sponsored the event with faculty members Dallas Barron and Bill Coldren serving as sponsors. Twenty Interact Club members assisted with the registration of donors and served refreshments to participants upon completion of their blood donation. According to the American Red Cross, January was a time of critical need for blood donations and TFS students, faculty, staff, and members of the community did their part by donating 30 units of blood. This year’s drive marks the tenth consecutive year that TFS has hosted a drive with the American Red Cross. Shown above, TFS senior Aly Todd prepares for her donation.



TFS track & field standouts sign to compete at the college level



Two of Tallulah Falls School’s most renowned student-athletes, Ethen Besier and James Davis, are taking their athletic talents to the next level as both signed National Letters of Intent (NLI) to compete collegiately in track & field.

Tallulah Falls School senior Ethen Besier recently signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI) November 18 to compete in track and field with the Mavericks of Colorado Mesa University, located in Grand Junction, Colorado. Besier, whose forte is the discus, presently holds school records in both relays, competes in a variety of running and field events, and is a team captain. He plans on studying Exercise Science, with a concentration in Fitness and Health.

“I chose Colorado Mesa University because as soon as I stepped on campus I knew this was where I needed to be,” Besier said. “As I met with the team, the feeling I received from them solidified why I wanted to attend CMU.”

Besier has received various TFS track and field awards, is a member of the National Honor Society, is President of the President’s Ambassadors, placed fifth at the Junior Olympic Nationals, is a two-year team captain, is a TFS Presidential Scholar, works at Chick-fil-A, and is a third-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.



Ethen Besier, front row center, signs his National Letter of Intent to attend Colorado Mesa University. Flanking Besier are his parents, Todd and Stacie Besier. Back row, from left: TFS Upper School Dean Kim Popham, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal.

“Tallulah Falls School gave me the tools I needed to be more than just an athlete. It is because TFS worked to build me as a complete individual through coaches and teachers who truly cared that I became the best person I could be...”

- James Davis
TFS senior



TFS senior James Davis, center, will attend Davidson College also on a track & field scholarship. Flanking Davis are his parents, Ephraim and Lou Davis. Shown, back row, from left: TFS Upper School Dean Kim Popham, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, TFS Athletic Director Scott Neal and Davis’ sister, Anna Davis, a TFS sophomore.

Following Besier’s ceremony, James Davis signed a National Letter of Intent with Davidson college in Davidson, North Carolina. Davis is the 2015 Class A Georgia Olympics pole vault champion, Georgia Olympics pole vault Top Performer, Class A pole vault record holder, and recipient of the Northeast Georgia All-Area team as well as Field Event Athlete of the Year. Davis, a team captain, holds the TFS indoor and outdoor hurdle and pole vault records as well as the 400m relay school record.

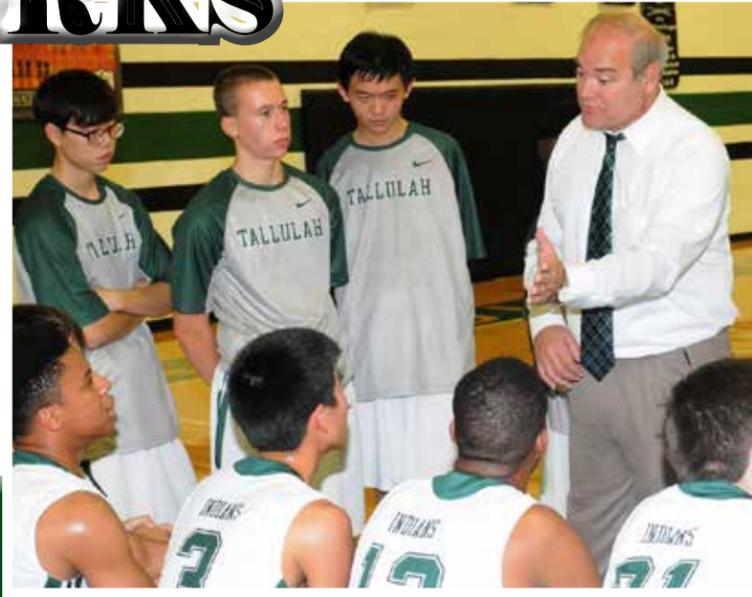
“Tallulah Falls School gave me the tools I needed to be more than just an athlete,” Davis said. “It is because TFS worked to build me as a complete individual through coaches and teachers who truly cared that I became the best person I could be.”

Davis is the Model U.N. Vice President, National Honor Society member, soccer captain, Boys State Honor Graduate, and yearbook staff editor. Davis has received numerous other awards while at TFS, including the Track and Field MVP twice and the U.S. Army Reserve Scholar Athlete Award.



teamWORKS

TFS basketball earned the respect of their opponents in the 2015-16 season, one that was record-setting for both boys and girls programs



Aida Roberts
All-Region team



Baker's dozen - Lady Indians exceed expectations in stellar season

Boys post best record in nine years



Michael Van Hooser
All-Region first team

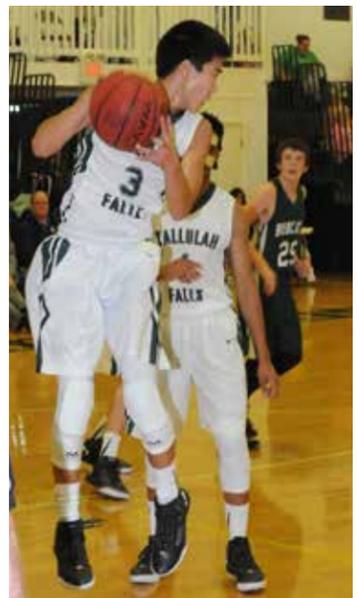
The TFS Indian boys basketball team had one of the best seasons in recent memory, finishing the season with a record of 13-12 before bowing out in the region tournament. The Indians played an exceptionally challenging schedule with contests against 12 teams going to the state tournament. Opponents ranged from A to AAAAAA with TFS earning victories against several of the teams from higher classifications. Coach Jim Van Hooser's squad finished the season with a 9-4 region record which was good enough for third in region standings. The team was ranked as high as 18th in the state in the 'A' classification at one point this year.

Only one player graduates - senior Denzel Green Wright. Green Wright earned Region 8-A Honorable Mention for his ability to run the team as point guard. Also earning All-Region Honorable Mention was junior Michael Weidner who had a 27-point game against region opponent Prince Avenue. Junior co-captains Michael Van Hooser and Josey Keene were named to the Region 8-A first team.

Van Hooser led the team in scoring with a 17.0 point-per-game average and 5.4 rebounds per game. Keene was second on the team in scoring averaging 14.3 points-per-game and averaging 2.5 blocks and steals per game. Juniors Thala Freeman, Sanson Navarrete, and Zatrack Pearce provided great defense as well as key contributions on the offensive side.

Incredibly, the boys team broke or tied 45 different school records this year, including having the aforementioned four players named to the All-Region team.

With five players returning next year for their senior seasons Van Hooser's club looks to be in excellent shape to contend in the region. "These young men carried themselves with class and worked extremely hard to achieve success and with only one senior graduating they are poised for a great year next year. We are excited about the depth of returning talent and can't wait for next season to get started," Van Hooser said.



Michael Weidner
All-Region team



Josey Keene
All-Region first team



Reece Bates

There were many question marks for Coach Tom Tilley and his Lady Indians coming into the 2015-16 varsity season. With the graduation of the program's all-time leading scorer, Isabelle Almoyan, Tilley knew he needed offensive firepower. Returning was an experienced point guard and a core of young talent. Twenty-five games later, it was a year for the record books.

The Lady Indians completed a school-best regular season by winning two of their final three games, improving their record to 13-11, the program's first-ever winning season. The Lady Indians 13 wins were a record for the program and earned the #3 seed in the Region 8A playoffs. Even more impressive, two of the Lady Indians victories this year came against AAA teams. A No. 3 seed is the highest seed ever obtained in TFS girls basketball.

Unfortunately, TFS was paired against George Walton Academy, a team that had played in the region championship for two consecutive years. Tilley's team played one of its best defensive games of the year and were actually up late in the game but fell by a score of 42-35.

The 2015-16 Lady Indians have broken or set six school team records: team steals, team defense (scoring), single game scoring, two all-region players, region wins, team free-throw percentage, and team three-point percentage. Coach Tilley summed up the reasons for this year's success: "This group of young ladies exemplified what it means to be a team. They really fought for each other and worked as a unit. They did everything I asked of them with an impeccable work ethic. I am proud of them and happy for their success."

- record for wins
- record for steals
- record for scoring
- record for defense
- number of region wins
- free-throw percentage
- 3-point shooting percentage
- All-region players

Freshman Nyah Williams (right) set a new single game scoring record with her incredible 34-point performance against Towns County.



Ashley Kemp



Nyah Williams
All-Region team



Left: the girls 200-yard relay team.
Below: Coach Susan Nichols with senior Savva Ivakin.

TFS swimmers shine at GHSA state meet

The Tallulah Falls School swim team concluded an impressive season by finishing in the top third (39th of 123 teams) at the GHSA [Georgia High School Association] swim meet held February 5-6 at the Herb McAuley Aquatic Center at Georgia Tech. Only the state's elite swimmers can participate in the event which includes competition from classifications 'A' through 'AAAAA'.

"Over the course of the high school swim season, fewer than one percent of the competitors achieve a time in an event which would qualify to compete at the state meet," said head coach Susan Nichols. "The state swim meet is conducted over two days. The first day, all state competitors race, vying for a top 20 position for racing on Saturday to swim against the very best swimmers in the state."

Leading the way for TFS on Friday was senior John Luke Gallagher, juniors Aaryan Bhagwat and Savva Ivakin, and freshman Nicholas Stelmack in the 200-yard medley. The quartet dropped more than two seconds from their previous best time, achieving a new school record of 1:48.50.

Gallagher and Ivakin both competed in the 50-yard free-



Senior John Luke Gallagher (center) was featured on the cover of this year's state meet program.



Some of the heated competition at the Herb McAuley Aquatic Center at Georgia Tech.

style event which, according to Nichols, is arguably the most fun event to watch at any meet. Both TFS swimmers qualified to race on Saturday, with Ivakin finishing 10th overall in the state (21.78 seconds), and Gallagher finishing 20th overall (22.41). Ivakin also placed 12th in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 48.27.

Junior Julia Nichols raced in the 50-yard freestyle finishing in a season's best time of 26.06 seconds. She also competed in the 100-yard butterfly event (1:05.88).

Gallagher, Stelmack, and freshman Virginia Griswold each raced in the 100-yard backstroke event. Gallagher broke the school record by finishing in 56.77 seconds, more than a second off his season best. Stelmack came in at 58.39. Despite her swim goggles breaking at the start of the race Griswold finished in 1:09.99.

The boys and girls 200-yard relay races both resulted in new TFS records. The boys team of Gallagher, Bhagwat, Stelmack, and Ivakin improved their time by two seconds (1:34.27). The girls team of Virginia Griswold, Sophie Burke, Norah Griswold, and Julia Nichols finished 1:51.76.



photos by Anne Edwards

MS girls take Tri-State crown...

The Tallulah Falls School middle school girls basketball captured their second Tri-State conference championship with a 33-26 victory over the Highlands Highlanders. The win gave the Lady Indians a 10-0 Tri-State conference record for the year. This is the second Tri-State championship for Randy Morris' team in the last three years. "I am extremely proud of the hard work that these girls put forth accomplishing an undefeated region record. They have represented TFS and our basketball program with great character."



... and the boys follow suit

Not to be outdone, the Tallulah Falls School middle school boys also claimed a Tri-State championship this season, their first ever. TFS faced off against conference foe Summit Charter School in the championship game and came away with a dominating 42-24 victory to claim their first conference crown. For the season Coach Lowell Hamilton's boys were 14-2 (10 Tri-State record). "This was truly an exciting time as our boys won their first ever Tri-State crown," Coach Lowell Hamilton said.

middle school swim team

The TFS middle school swim team enjoyed a successful season under the direction of Coaches Susan Nichols, Annette Cochran and Chris Kafsky. Front row, from left: Jordan Seamon, Emily Smith, Camden Hughes, Maggie Jackson, Sarah Edwards, Reid Kafsky, Reagan Brode, Tillie Crumley. Middle row, from left: Coach Susan Nichols, Timothy Brent, Chris Geiger, Ajani Knowles, John Nichols, Aubrey Higgins, Rodrigo Roa, William Cook, Coach Annette Cochran. Back row, from left: Jack Jia, Jack Greene, Riley Barron, Samuel Dunlap, Hunter Weyrich, Caden Griffis, Thomas Bartholf, Logan Huling & coach Chris Kafsky.



Middle school basketball cheerleaders create excitement

One of the contributing factors to the big year that both middle school basketball squads enjoyed was the spirit and enthusiasm fostered by the middle school cheering squad. The squad was under the direction of Coach Jen Franks. Center, kneeling: Brinna Docsol. Standing, from left: Katherine Tench, Ella Cantrell, Alia Bly, Coach Jen Franks, Mia Kwarteng, Allie Kate Campbell, Kally Momoh, Lilly Johnson.





"I am Tallulah"

Allie Audet - dorm counselor

"I feel like I am meant to be here. TFS is my family, it is my home and it is my joy in life. Being a dorm counselor, I am like a mom, teacher, friend, sister and coach to the girls. The sense of community here is just amazing."



Charlie Cody - 6th grader

"TFS has molded me as a student and a person. I'm learning to be a thoughtful leader and a hard-working student. The teachers teach me life lessons and skills by their own example of wisdom and kindness. TFS teaches us to be good students and good friends."



Sharon Shirley - food services

"There are so many benefits that I have reaped working with young people. Send us your young people; we promise to love them, educate them and then we will give them back."

2016 Tallulah Fund

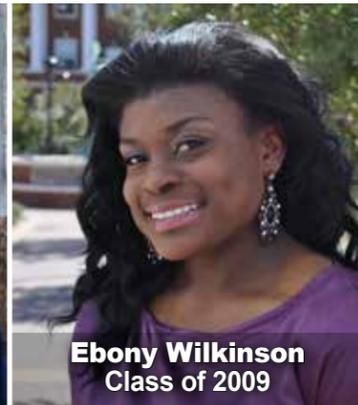


Strengthening the fabric of Tallulah Falls School



Grace Brewer - sophomore

"While attending TFS I have been pushed to excel in both academics and character. Each teacher has pushed me to do my best; consequently, I am sometimes surprised with my success. I have had the chance to become a leader."



**Ebony Wilkinson
Class of 2009**

"Looking back, it is quite fascinating to see how the lessons I learned at TFS have had an impact on my life. These lessons help me navigate through my everyday life. Tallulah Falls School will always have a special place in my heart and I will always call it my home away from home."



Tina Cheek - art teacher/alum

"Tallulah Falls School is more than an educational institution. It is a community, a superior educational facility, and a place to call home away from home, and make lifelong connections for students from the local area and around the world."

We invite you to partner with us in supporting our mission of developing intelligent, thoughtful, and well-prepared leaders.

"I am Tallulah"

Tallulah Falls School is a community of the exceptional. Each member of the TFS community has a unique story to tell, and the *I am Tallulah* campaign provides the means for students, faculty, staff, parents, grandparents and alumni to tell what Tallulah Falls School means to each.

By now, many of you have received a personal invitation to contribute to the 2016 Tallulah Fund. If you have not already made a donation, please consider supporting the fund at this time. By donating, you make scholarships and other worthy projects that enhance the student experience possible.

If you have already made a contribution please accept our sincere thanks. You have done your part to ensure that Tallulah Falls School remains exceptional. Participation is the key - your gift to the 2016 Tallulah Fund is evidence that you believe in our mission. Additionally, external funding sources such as foundations carefully consider donor support as a key indicator of whether a school deserves grant consideration.

Visit our Facebook page and website to read additional *I am Tallulah* stories. Thank you for your generous and faithful support.

To make a contribution, visit our website www.tallulahfalls.org and click on the Giving link or you may mail a check to: 2016 Tallulah Fund • P.O. Box 10 • Tallulah Falls, GA 30573



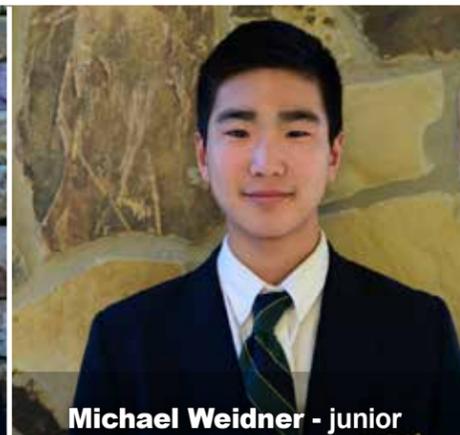
**Sara Roberts -
Class of 2004 - Spanish teacher**

"I am very happy to have returned to Tallulah Falls School for my career. I knew quickly after graduation that I wanted to return to the school that had given so much to me."



Anna Paige Barrett - eighth grade

"If you were to walk through the halls at TFS there is lots of smiling because all of the kids really enjoy being here. I have learned so much academically and personally about the person I want to be. Everyone at TFS wants you to succeed and they really care about you."



Michael Weidner - junior

"The environment and community have set me up for success. From the top positions of the school to the bottom, everyone has gone out of their way to help me succeed as a student and a person."

Show your TFS pride!

Contributors to the 2016 Tallulah Fund will receive a window decal declaring support for the students of Tallulah Falls School.





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IT'S ALMOST HERE!

Alumni Homecoming 2016

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Fun on the Field - 5-8 p.m.

Join your former TFS classmates on the soccer field for an evening of great music, delicious food and enjoyable recreational games and events.

- concessions including pizza from 'Louie's on the Lake'
- special appearance by superheroes group 'Heroes in Force'
- games on the field - cornhole, ladder toss, frisbee, volleyball, and soccer
- children's activities - bubbles, balls and hula-hoop

special music by:
**THE ORANGE
CONSTANT**



SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Classic TFS Homecoming celebration



- 10 a.m.
"Fury at the Farm" 5K obstacle/ adventure race at the TFS farm course
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Homecoming registration - Circle building lobby sales of old yearbooks, alumni t-shirts, race t-shirts, alumni cookbooks
- 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Art show - Circle building lobby; Museum open
- 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Homecoming luncheon - Federation Hall
- 3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
TFS items on sale - Circle building lobby

www.tallulahfalls.org