

TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

Magazine SPRING 2018



Max Teems
STAR student

Dr. Wanda Morris
STAR teacher

College road trip

The Grandest Day

Precision Rifle arrives

Board profiles

International Day Celebrating the culture and contributions of TFS international students



The Bahamas
China
Georgia
Honduras
Hungary
Japan
Mexico
Nigeria
Rwanda
Serbia
South Korea
Thailand



On Nov. 19, 2017 the Tallulah Falls School community came together for the annual celebration of International Day. International Day is the culmination of a week-long focus on our international community.

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Character
is the real foundation
of all worthwhile success.

- John Hayes Hammond

ON THE COVER: Max Teems of Sautee Nacoochee was recently named the 2018 STAR student and the countywide STAR student. Teems selected Dr. Wanda Morris as the STAR teacher. See story on page 12.

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Larry A. Peevy

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LARRY A. PEEVY



Lessons in Leadership

Lessons in leadership are woven into everything we do at Tallulah Falls School. Our mission inspires students to cultivate significant life experiences with equal emphasis on academics and character. This focus on the mission is what produces a top academic student with impeccable character. Not only do our students graduate with academic accolades, they are prepared for success in college or any avenue they wish to pursue.

I invite you to reflect on the TFS mission:

“Preparing each student to thrive in life by elevating character and intellect in a challenging and diverse college-preparatory environment.”

Despite the challenges that sometimes come, we always work together to provide the best possible college-preparatory experience for our 509 students. We want every student to leave TFS with the strongest character they can possibly develop, so their decision-making is guided with integrity. With academic success and strong character, TFS students will lead and impact others in a positive way.

This issue illustrates leadership lessons with a wonderful collection of stories about the TFS community. Most notably, in the article about the class of 2019 touring six colleges and universities, several alumni currently enrolled in colleges and universities in Georgia share their thoughts about their time at TFS. Their feedback tells us we are getting it right – preparing students for the rigor at the next level of an academic career while instilling the importance of character and community.

And in highlighting our Grand Day, with the largest attendance ever, we are reminded of the wisdom shared through the generations. Our clubs are another source of leadership experience and this year’s Key Club continues to raise the bar in representing the school. The spotlight on several board of trustees members provides additional focus on the strong guidance provided by these community leaders.

Throughout these pages, we offer stories that exemplify our vision for student success – examples of TFS students giving their best possible effort. When you do your best – no matter the outcome – you’ve already won.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry A. Peevy". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School

Did you know?....

Tallulah Falls School students have the opportunity to earn 18 college credits before graduation? Many of our graduates head to college with an entire year’s worth of college credits, providing them with the opportunity to save thousands of dollars in tuition, housing and other college-related fees. In addition, those heading off to college with pre-earned credits have the opportunity to begin working in their careers early as well.

In the last five years...

TFS seniors have received more than \$20 million in college scholarship offers*

* this figure does not include Hope Scholarship amounts offered to qualifying Georgia graduates.

A tribute to Mrs. Lucy Willard - in the words of those who know her best

Lucy Willard's generosity has made a tremendous impact on the lives of countless students at Tallulah Falls School. Mrs. Willard has graciously given more than \$1 million dollars to the school over the years, and in 2012 the school honored her generosity by naming the middle school the Lucy A. Willard Middle School Academic Complex. To show our appreciation to Miss Lucy for her continued support, we invited several of her closest friends from the school to say a few words. We hope you will take a moment to read these heartfelt thoughts on one of Tallulah Falls School's greatest benefactors.

Gewene Womack - TFS Board of Trustees

Miss Lucy is a true gracious Southern lady - and my friend. I met her years ago when I went to Park Place to give her some pointers on reporting for the Federation. She gave me more pointers than I gave her. Miss Lucy loves to win. And she did win, the next go-round, at judging time. We became great friends and I love her still.

She is a most generous lady who gives freely of her love, time, talents and gifts. She actually loves Tallulah Falls School as an entity but the students are her true first love. The love is mutual; they all love her back.

Lucy has a great sense of humor which I learned from being her longtime chauffeur. I wondered why she liked to ride with me and it dawned on me that she enjoyed being pulled over by the state patrol just to see how we could get out of it. We have laughed a lot, the two of us.

She loves meetings, especially TFS Board meetings; no matter where they were, we went.

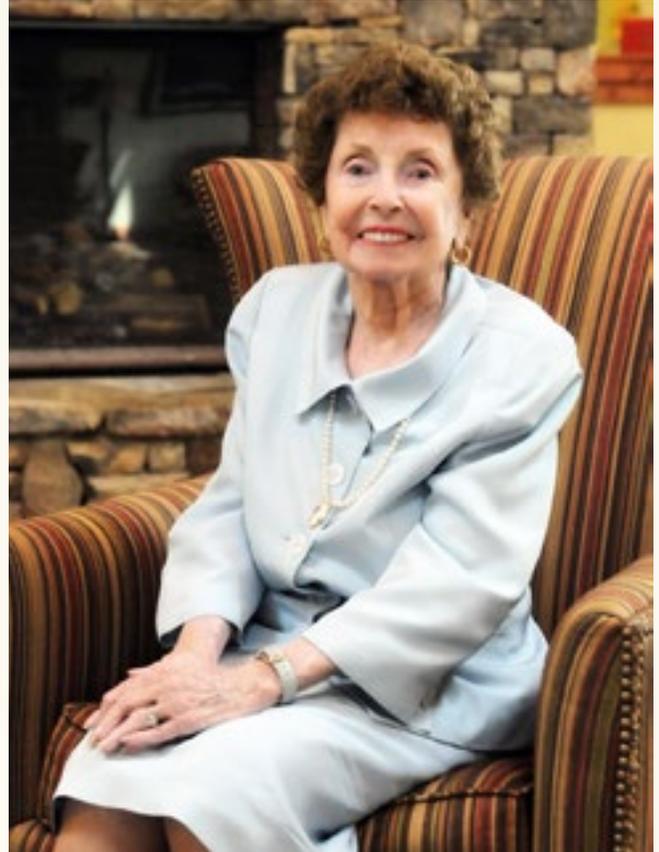
On a serious note, her heart is with the students of TFS, and not just with her giving. She will call and ask, "What project can I provide for the students?" She certainly provides in a big way by her love, presence and gifts. She will always be known as the gracious lady who came with the sweet smile and love and care for the students.

Amy Atkinson - Chairperson, Board of Trustees

I first met Miss Lucy more than 20 years ago at a GFWC GA convention. I had the pleasure of being seated at the same table with Miss Lucy and her sweet husband, Samuel.

Lucy Willard is a beautiful lady with a quiet way about her. She has a deep affection for every student at Tallulah Falls School. Miss Lucy always has a beautiful smile and a little blush comes to her face when she is interacting with our students.

Miss Lucy has greatly impacted the school through her involvement with the board and with her tremendous generosity. The legacy she has established is one of quiet support. She is a generous philanthropist and an accomplished business woman who has the spirit of a volunteer. Her continual support has helped shape Tallulah Falls School into the outstanding institution it is today.



Lucy Willard visits the TFS middle school. This photograph was used to create the beautiful portrait on display in the middle school lobby.

Larry A. Peevy, President and Head of School

I have known Lucy Willard for 11 years, and she is the most caring person I have ever met when it comes to Tallulah Falls School and its students.

Since the very first day I met her I have considered her a very special friend. While I seriously appreciate her for what she has done for the school, her greatest value to my wife, Dinah, and me is her personal friendship.

She has taken it on as her personal mission to make sure that special needs are met here at the school. That may vary from providing tremendous monetary support for major projects to bringing toothbrushes by for all the boarding students. Everything she does is because of her longtime love for the school and our mission to ensure that every student interested in receiving a college preparatory education experiences that dream.

Miss Lucy's legacy at Tallulah Falls School is the standard for caring she continues to exhibit. She is truly loved by the children and even has her name of the TFS middle school as a legacy that will last forever.

2018 college Road Trip

story and photos by E. Lane Gresham



Much like the college admissions process, it all starts with the numbers. Sixty-three juniors, eight chaperones, six colleges, three days and two bus drivers. These are the stats associated with a recent whirlwind tour of colleges for the Tallulah Falls School Class of 2019.

This group of motivated Tallulah Falls School students experienced the first-ever grand tour of several higher education options available in Georgia.

Colleges on the itinerary included Augusta University, Georgia Southern University, College of Coastal Georgia, Savannah College of Art and Design, Mercer University and Georgia College.

The goal of the trip was to introduce students to a variety of college options – small, large, private, public and specialty schools.

These students, along with their families, are already taking proactive steps toward a successful future by investing in the college preparatory program in place at TFS. This opportunity made tangible the variety of options well in advance of the fall of the senior year when college applications are first due.

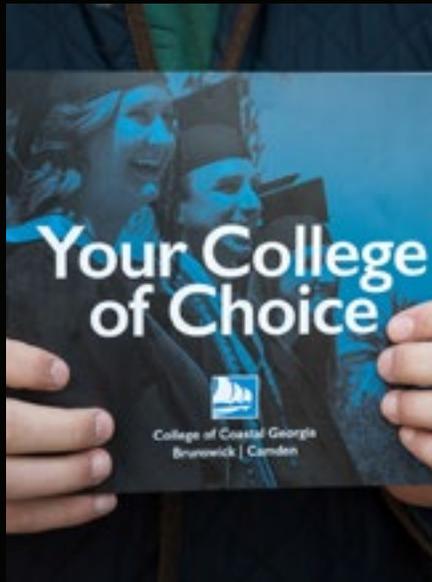
“Students were exposed to a wide variety of academic pursuits from STEM to the arts and everything in between,” said college counselor Bobby Hammond III. “The biggest take-away for me was the students’ growth and perception change over a very short period of time.”

Over the three days, the students, at first hesitant to personally interact with admissions reps, quickly warmed up to the chance to conduct on-site research.

In addition to tours, information sessions and free t-shirts, TFS alumni currently enrolled at several of the colleges greeted the buses with enthusiasm.

At the first stop, Zatrack Pearce, TFS Class of 2017, caught up with the group at the end of the tour. Pearce is a physics major at Augusta University and shared how the TFS experience prepared him for the college environment.

“College has been easy, because I learned how and when to study,” Pearce said. “TFS made time management a key factor and I’m thankful for that. I was also so well-prepared in my math class and was one of the few students that finished with an ‘A.’ Coach Van [Hooser] made this possible. The number one thing I won’t forget are the memories I made... TFS was truly a blessing.”





**Class of
2019
visits six
colleges
in three
days**



top: TFS dorm counselor Jon Benson, Zatrack Pearce '17, Kelli Bly, TFS English teacher and Bobby Hammond, TFS college counselor.

Middle: TFS alums stop by during the Mercer University visit. From left: Morgan Adams '13, Jordan Teng '17, Madeline Tauber '15, Alex Dubinsky '15, Emma Caldwell '17.

Bottom: Ingrid (Guiga) Kasabkojian '16 (left) poses for a photo with TFS junior Isabeau Keene during the visit to College of Coastal Georgia.



Jordan Teng, TFS Class of 2017, is one of several TFS alumni who attends Mercer University. Teng is studying bio-medical engineering and mechanical engineering.

“The rigor of TFS’ academics prepared me well for the courses here at Mercer,” Teng said. “Teachers like Dr. Barron and Dr. Morris have given me the ability to tutor my peers in Biology and Chemistry. In addition, the dual enrollment opportunities at TFS have allowed me to enter college as a sophomore. Another testament to the academics at TFS is their ACT/SAT Prep class. Because of that class, I was more prepared for the ACT. This preparation allowed me to earn a full-tuition scholarship to Mercer.

He also spoke of the family atmosphere at TFS, acknowledging the importance of personal connections.

“The family atmosphere at TFS showed me the value of close relationships with friends and faculty, which has driven me to make a new family at Mercer,” he said. “I have a group of close friends along with great relationships with all my professors. Due to a connection I made with a professor, I have been selected to travel to South Korea this summer to participate in a special engineering program. TFS has prepared me well for college and I will carry with me the experiences and lessons I learned over the six years I was at TFS.”

Ingrid (Guiga) Kasabkojian, TFS Class of 2016, plays tennis at College of Coastal Georgia in Brunswick. Kasabkojian is planning to transfer this fall to Savannah College of Art and Design to finish her bachelor’s degree in industrial design with a minor in marketing. She echoed the sentiments shared by Pearce and Teng, recalling the importance of learning in a family atmosphere.

“For me, a diploma from Tallulah Falls School is not just a piece of paper, but rather a family, experience and opportunity that I will forever be grateful for,” she said. “The family atmosphere provided by the faculty and staff at TFS helped me build relationships and great connections that I can count on even to this day. Mrs. Barron was not just my teacher, adviser and senior mentor, but was someone who inspired and guided me through my junior and senior years.”

“Life skills, a class taught by Mrs. Barron was one of the ways that TFS showed its interest in its students. Students learned not just the value of being book smart but the importance of knowing how to do daily things like pay rent and file taxes. Because of the small school atmosphere of TFS I was able to be really involved in clubs, organizations and athletics which taught me valuable lessons in time management, organization, communication and teamwork. These lessons and experiences were crucial for building my resume and opening doors for me to be a successful student athlete, tutor and student ambassador at the College of Coastal Georgia. With bigger plans for myself Tallulah Falls School was, without a doubt, the beginning of my successful journey.”

To view a gallery of photographs from the experience, visit our Facebook page. ■



college road trip

TFS juniors share their unique impressions from the trip:



Spivey

Sydney Spivey of Demorest –

“After touring these six very different schools, I am starting to grasp the idea of the type of college I would be interested in. When picking a college, I now know all the different factors that go into making the right decision whether it be the location, the residence halls, the majors they offer, the tuition or the student-to-faculty ratio. This trip has given me a sense of what I am looking for in my college experience, and I am excited to start searching for even more schools.”



McClurg

Madeline McClurg of Clarkesville -

“It really helped me to learn more about what living on a college campus might be like. It gave me a taste of what I am looking for in a college when I make my important decision and showed me that there are many unique options available for me.”



McIntosh

Ajani McIntosh of Sylva, NC -

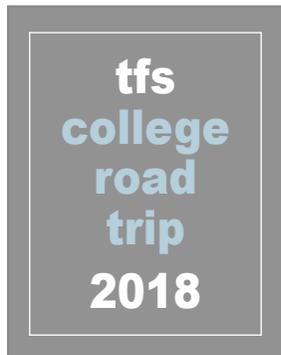
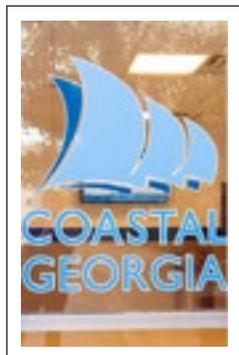
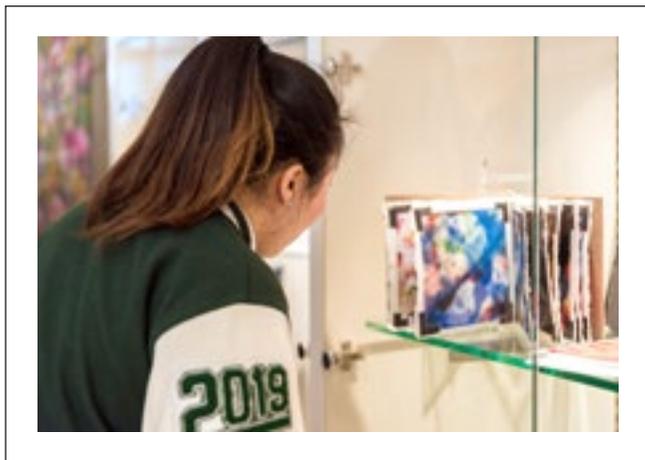
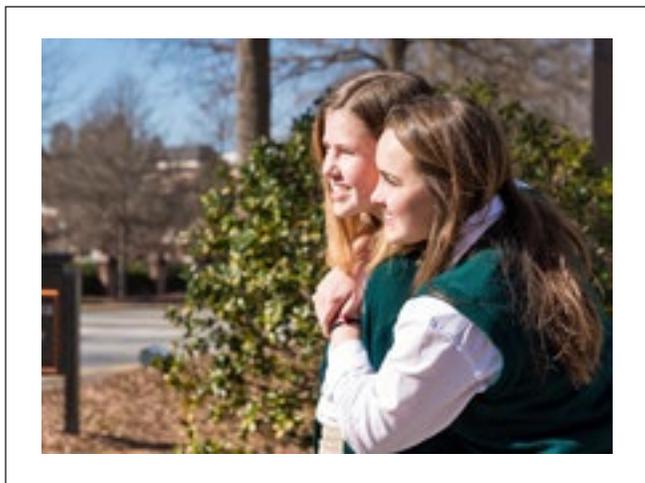
“The experience showed me what to look for in a college to make sure it fits you.”



Vargas

Rey Vargas of Durham, NC -

“I got more informed on what schools offer and what I can do to be successful while I am in college.”



—our GRANDEST day yet—



**With more than 400
in attendance the
2018 edition of
GRAND DAY
was the most
successful yet**

Grand Day has rapidly become one of the most highly anticipated days on the TFS middle school calendar. The most recent edition was held on Nov. 17, 2017 and more than 400 grandparents or grand pals joined their special middle school student(s) for a very special morning together. The 400 attendees was a record for the event. Many of the visitors were on campus for a return visit, but some of the growth reflects the middle school's record enrollment for the 2017-18 academic year.

The day began with a special assembly in the middle school's Student Activity Center featuring light breakfast fare and an opportunity for every visitor to have their photo taken with their special student. As part of the program, Judy Forbes, grandparent to three TFS students, talked about the importance of giving. She also invited the other guests to join her in supporting scholarships for students.

"It was a great day for grandparents and for our students," Forbes said. "All of us want what is best for our grandchildren, and it was reaffirming to look out and see so many there to support the students and the school. Each year the group increases in size, and the school responds by giving grandparents an opportunity to get an up-close look at the activities in which our students engage every day."

Guests were greeted by TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy who also gave a special recognition to veterans in the audience.

Middle School Academic Dean David Chester also welcomed guests and shared his thoughts on what makes the TFS middle school unique. Chester said that Grand Day is an opportunity for the school to recognize and honor extended family members that have great impact and influence in the lives of students.

"We look forward to seeing the smiles on grandparents' faces as they connect with their grandchildren over breakfast and tours of the building," Chester said. "Storytelling has been a theme at the middle school this year; we made it a point to encourage students to engage in conversations with their grandparents to learn more about 'their story.' Each grandparent or grand pal in attendance comes with a special story and we want each grandchild to be a part of it."

Following the assembly guests were dismissed for a variety of classroom activities. Exposure to the school's educational technology is always a favorite of Grand Day visitors. Some of the guests traveled to faraway destinations via Virtual Reality headsets, explored the zSpace lab and played various games via a web-based platform. Student artwork was also on display throughout the middle school building.

"Grand Day is definitely a highlight for our school community," Peevy said. "We truly enjoy welcoming these family members and special friends to campus to sample the Tallulah Falls School experience." ■

♥ Top right: Grandparents and grand pals are nearly always amazed at the technology available in today's 21st century classroom. A grandparent explores one of hundreds of destinations that may be "visited" via virtual-reality technology.



♥ Middle, left and right: The most popular Grand Day activity is venturing into the classrooms to get a taste of their grandchild's educational experience.



Left: A portion of the ♥ enormous crowd that made the trip to TFS to experience GRAND DAY.



Can World History actually be fun?

Exploring **ANCIENT HISTORY** through perspective writing

World History students in Nancy Almoyan's seventh grade class were given an unusual assignment recently. Each student was required to choose a figure from ancient history, thoroughly research that figure, then write about how their character might think or feel about an event in their life. The exercise is called *perspective writing*, and it is an innovative means for students to think and explore the lives of historical figures. Through the perspective writing process, students discover (unexpectedly, it seems) that this type of learning is actually fun.

After Almoyan's students researched various aspects of their chosen figure, they then used the information to write a short speech as if they were that person. The speeches served as the culmination of their learning process.

In the immortal words of Atticus Finch from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it."

Almoyan agrees that much can be learned from assuming the perspective of another, in this case a historical figure.

"In a practical sense students often don't really believe that the historical figures we study in World History ever existed, let alone experienced feelings, emotions, thoughts and had lives of their own," said Almoyan. "They don't think people from the distant past could possibly have something they could relate to in the 21st century. In the end, the class discovered that these were actually real people with real feelings. Not only that, but they each went out and changed the world."





BESIDES BECOMING EXPERTS ON HIS OR HER HISTORICAL FIGURE, IT SEEMS THAT AT LEAST ONE COMMON DENOMINATOR OF NEARLY EVERY STUDENT IS THEY REALLY ENJOYED THE PROJECT AND HAD FUN WHILE LEARNING.

Will Seaman -

"My character was the Babylonian King Hammurabi. I shared about his crazy laws and when he made them. I really liked this project."

Maddie Mullis -

"My character was Gorgo, the Queen of Sparta. I shared how she dreaded watching her husband, Leonidas, go off to war at Thermopylae. Leonidas died while at war and she ended up ruling Sparta alone."

Hannah Lundy -

"I did my perspective speech on Howard Carter. I truly enjoyed learning about how he discovered the tomb of King Tutankhamun. Carter studied the tomb and all of the artwork inside."

Benjamin Okoronkwo -

"My character was the Persian King Darius from Ancient Greece and the event was the Battle of Marathon between Persia and Greece. It was fun doing the research and coming up with costumes and props."

Lincoln Hall -

"My perspective speech was about the great Athenian general Miltiades. Gen. Miltiades was in a battle against the Persians who had three times more soldiers than he did, but that didn't stop him. He was victorious. It [the project] ended up being very fun and interesting."

Gavin Atkinson -

"From our study on the ancient Israelites, I chose to be David from the Old Testament. I made a homemade sling to go with my costume. The event I shared with the class was when David and Goliath had their fight. I also enjoyed sharing about his childhood living with four brothers."

Tyler Farmer -

"The character I chose for the perspective speech was Themistocles at the Battle of Thermopylae. I talked about what Themistocles might have said to the Spartan General Leonidas before he left the 300 Spartans to fight alone. The best part of the project was dressing up."





STAR

in the making

**Teems named TFS and Habersham
countywide STAR student**

**Selects science teacher
Wanda Morris as STAR teacher**

by Kimberly Brown
reprinted with permission of *The Northeast Georgian*

Max Teems serves as vice president of the National Honor Society and is a member of both the International Thespian Society and the National Art Honor Society. He also serves as a TFS Student ambassador and is a member of the varsity cross country team.

Intelligent, motivated, dependable and responsible are just a few of the words used to describe Maxwell Teems, this year's Tallulah Falls School STAR Student.

Teems, 18, of Sautee Nacoochee, selected TFS science teacher Wanda Morris as his STAR teacher.

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

Created by the Georgia Chamber of Commerce in 1958, the STAR program is celebrating its 60th year. It has honored nearly 26,000 high school seniors who have, in turn, chosen their STAR teachers to share their recognition. Every accredited high school in Georgia is eligible to participate.

Teems and Morris were honored during a Feb. 9 Habersham Rotary Club meeting. Teems, the son of Keith and April Teems, was also selected as the Haber-

sham countywide winner, and he will go on to compete at the state level. The overall winner is chosen based on SAT scores and grade point averages.

Teems has been a student at TFS since seventh grade. He serves as vice president of the National Honor Society; he is also an International Thespian Society and National Art Honor Society member. He serves as a TFS ambassador and he participates in varsity cross country.

TFS counselor Bobby Hammond said Teems will graduate from TFS with 40 semester hours of college credit in English, math, science, history and foreign language.

"Max is driven to be successful," Hammond said. "He's diligent in his studies and in everything else he does. He manages his time and he's organized. He sets goals, and without those things, you cannot accomplish what he's accomplished in his life."

TFS Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham said Teems is "an outstanding student" who is always willing to help.

“Whenever I ask for help, Max has always been the first one [to volunteer],” she said. “That’s an amazing quality.”

Teems will attend the University of Georgia, where he will major in chemistry and Spanish. He plans to take the pre-med track and become a physician.

Teems thanked his parents, and said, from a young age they taught him “to always be inquisitive, engage in my surroundings and learn how the world works.”

Teems said his favorite subject is science, and he said Morris was “especially challenging, encouraging and influential” to his learning. He was in her honors chemistry class last year, and he called her a role model and mentor.

“From helping us calculate multi-step thermo chemistry problems, to leading us through practical and exciting labs, Dr. Morris’ humor, methodical teaching and loving compassion for each and every one of us has made a lasting impact on my high school career,” Teems said.

Teems said it was believed Morris would be retiring at the end of last year, but to his “surprise and relief,” she stayed on another year “to help us learn one of the most challenging subjects among high school courses, out of the kindness of her heart and the concern that another teacher might not be able to teach us as well as she can.”

Morris lauded Teems as an “exceptional student,” and she credited his parents and his previous teachers.

“He’s intelligent, motivated, dependable and responsible,” she said. “He’s well-liked by his peers and his teachers.”

Morris said Teems is an independent thinker and learner who has the ability to assimilate information and problem solve, and who “doesn’t need constant affirmation.”

“How refreshing this is, in a self-indulgent world,” she added.

She said Teems listens and learns, and does not get frustrated with difficult material, but “welcomes the challenge.”

“Equally important is Max’s humanity,” she said. “He’s kind, he’s considerate and he’s patient with his peers. I often watch him helping them with their understanding. Especially when I’ve just gone over something in college chemistry, they usually turn to Max.”

Keith Teems told *The Northeast Georgian* his son has always been perceptive beyond his years.

“He continues to amaze us,” Keith Teems said. “He’s a very self-motivated and humble child. At five, on the way to preschool, he looked at me and said, ‘Daddy, tomorrow never comes, does it?’”

When Teems asked his preschool son what he meant, Max Teems said, “Well, by the time you get there, it’s today again.”

“He processed that at five,” Keith Teems said. “We knew he was special in a good way.” ■



Governor’s Honors Program semi-finalists named



Madeline McClurg



Nyah Williams



Xing Fan

Three high-achieving TFS juniors have been named as semi-finalists for the prestigious Georgia Governor’s Honors Program. Madeline McClurg of Clarkesville was nominated in dance, Xing Fan of the People’s Republic of China in mathematics and Nyah Williams of Cornelia received a nomination in science.

The trio of talented juniors participated in the state level interview/audition at Berry College in Rome on Feb. 24. The finalists expect to be notified by late March.

“It is a great honor just to be nominated,” said Upper School counselor Michelle Barron. “The Governor’s Honors Program represents Georgia’s best and brightest, academically and artistically talented and gifted students.”

The Governor’s Honors Program is scheduled to take place at Berry College from June 17-July 14, 2018. Students attend classes in the mornings and afternoons in specific areas of study, and they participate in a wide variety of social and instructional opportunities every evening.

The GHP offers instruction significantly different from the typical high school classroom and that is designed to provide students with academic, cultural and social enrichment necessary to become the next generation of global critical thinkers, innovators and leaders.

A total of five students were nominated at the school level for the summer enrichment program. Other TFS students nominated were Ara Belk in visual arts and Will Jackson in social studies.

Each year TFS middle school students battle it out to determine the TFS representative for the annual Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) Spelling Bee. This year 16 students gave it their all, tackling obscure words like “uncoquettish” in an elimination round held Jan. 24 in the middle school media center. Emerging as the winners: Eighth graders Nafis Rahman of Mt. Airy and Colton Augustine of Demorest.

Round one of the spelling competition was held Feb. 8 at McGinnis Wood Country Day School with students from approximately 25 schools competing. Colton Augustine finished in the top 10, earning a trip to The Atlanta Academy on Feb. 27 for the next round of the contest.

Round two consisted of a written spelling test containing numerous medical terms. Again Augustine rose to the occasion, spelling his way into the oral competition in round three. According to TFS English teacher Hannah Gibson, he displayed “great sportsmanship and courtesy” in the spotlight of the competition. Augustine survived for six rounds before being stumped by the word “novillero,” but his impressive performance was good enough to earn 9th place among all GISA spellers.

Augustine (left) and Rahman at the round one competition. Photo credit: Hannah Gibson

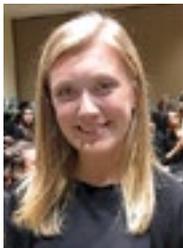


Music students perform in GMEA honor chorus

DEDICATION TO EXCELLENCE



Clarke Bailey



Sarah Catherine Fordham



Madeline McClurg

Five Tallulah Falls School students attended the recent Georgia Music Educators Association All-State Chorus event held Feb. 15-17 at the Classic Center in Athens. Three upper school music students - Clarke Bailey, Sarah Catherine Fordham and Madeline McClurg joined middle school music students Nancy Fisher and Emily Smith at the prestigious showcase. Bailey performed in the senior men’s chorus, while Fordham and McClurg performed in the senior mixed chorus.

Aspiring choral students are required to pass two demanding auditions before they are chosen. After approximately 15 hours of rehearsals the All-State Chorus culminated in a public concert under the direction of renowned conductor and composer Laura Farnell.

Eighth graders Emily Smith and Nancy Fisher are taught by middle school music teacher Memrie Cox, while senior Sarah Catherine Fordham and juniors Clarke Bailey and Madeline McClurg are under the instruction of upper school music instructor Curt Frederick. Fordham, Bailey and McClurg all have the distinction of participating in the honor chorus since they were first eligible in the seventh grade.



From left: Eighth graders Emily Smith and Nancy Fisher.



photos courtesy of Curt Frederick and Memrie Cox.

TFS students get lesson in state governance at Georgia General Assembly



Rep. Terry Rogers and A. J. Hayes



From left: Rep. Jesse Patrae, Emma Barrett, Anna Paige Barrett, Rep. Terry Rogers.



Aubrey Higgins, Rep. Terry Rogers, Maggie Peacock



Rep. Terry Rogers and Brinson Hall

Nine TFS students earned a front-row view of the inner workings of state government as they paged at the 2018 General Assembly in Atlanta.

Top left: Sophomore A. J. Hayes of Cornelia paged for District 10 Rep. Terry Rogers of Clarkesville.

Middle left: Ninth grader Brinson Hall of Mt. Airy paged for District 10 Rep. Terry Rogers.

Bottom left: Freshman Tate Whitefield of Cornelia paged for District 28 Rep. Dan Gasaway of Homer.

Top center: Seventh grader Emma Barrett of Clarkesville paged for District 166 Rep. Jesse Patrea while her sister, freshman Anna Paige Barrett, paged for Rep. Rogers.

Top right: Eighth graders Aubrey Higgins of Cornelia and Maggie Peacock of Clarkesville paged for Rep. Rogers.

Middle right: Seventh grader Hannah Lundy of Clarkesville was joined by her sister, fourth grader Sarah Lundy (a future TFS student), paging for Rep. Gasaway.

Bottom right: Ninth grader Jack Greene of Clarkesville paged for Rep. Dan Gasaway. Also pictured is Jack's mother, Sheila.



Rep. Dan Gasaway and Tate Whitfield



Hannah Lundy, Rep. Dan Gasaway, Sarah Lundy



Rep. Dan Gasaway, Jack Greene, Sheila Greene



GISA All-Select Middle School Chorus honors

The Georgia Independent School Association (GISA) All-Select Middle School Honor Chorus selected six TFS choral students for 2018. Front row, from left: Sarah Jennings, Cecily Tucker, Maya Pittman. Back row, from left: Henry Bowman, Nancy Fisher, Kaylee Taylor. The All-Select Chorus assembled Feb. 2-3 at Mount Pisgah Christian School in Johns Creek. The clinician for the session was Dr. Jamie Hillman, assistant professor of music at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts.



Lady Indians PLAY FOR PURPLE

Each year the TFS varsity Lady Indians basketball team plays for a cause. On Dec. 8 coach Tom Tilley's squad hosted the annual "Play for Purple" basketball game with Tilley's team selecting the local non-profit Richard's Kids as their beneficiary. Richard's Kids is a charitable organization based in Clayton that provides coats, clothing and shoes to children who have little and would otherwise receive few or no holiday gifts. Through their efforts the Lady Indians raised more than \$580. "Everyone wins when one player plays for others," said Tilley. Tilley is pictured with Richard Powers, founder of Richard's Kids.

Middle school students join in fight against hunger



TFS middle school students have really BIG hearts when it comes to community service. Recently a group of middle schoolers banded together to organize a food drive to benefit the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia (FBNG) in Clayton. The mission of the organization is to end hunger as part of an overall community effort to alleviate poverty. Shown, with FBNG Mountain Branch Director, James Brim, are (from left) Tillie Crumley, Emily Smith, Reagan Brode and Andrea Caudell.



TFS chef earns accolades at Top Chef competition

Tallulah Falls School has once again been named a winner at a local culinary competition. The 2018 edition of Prevent Child Abuse Habersham's (PCAH) Top Chef & Wine Tasting Competition proved what everyone at TFS already knows – the food service staff at the school is worthy of every accolade it receives.

TFS is a sponsor of the annual event which raised more than \$33,000 to benefit programs that serve the children and families of Northeast Georgia.

TFS chef Carolyn Welch, with the assistance of the dining hall staff, was named this year's Runner Up in the Critic's Choice category for the second time.

Welch was also recognized in the 2016 Top Chef competition. Her renowned pecan pie was evaluated in a blind taste test by area food and wine critics.

Welch said one of her highlights from this year's competition was meeting members of the Atlanta Gladiators hockey team who were in attendance. The players were her loudest cheerleaders when her name was announced as a winner. "One player ate five slices," Welch said.

"I would like to thank PCAH; it was an honor to represent TFS," Welch said. "To be able to help children is always a privilege."

Model Arab League competition strives for real-world solutions to centuries-old conflicts



photos by Jeff Brothers



GETTING INVOLVED

There are many ways to make a difference in the lives of people. Tallulah Falls School encourages its students to become involved, and a recent example of this is the participation of the TFS Debate club and the Model United Nations in the Jan. 18 Model Arab League competition at Marist School in Atlanta. The TFS contingent was under the direction of TFS history teacher Jeff Brothers. The competition included more than 20 public and private schools from the Greater Atlanta area.

Within the guidelines of the competition students assumed the roles of various Middle Eastern countries and were required to work together to pass resolutions to better their communities and their countries. TFS students represented the country of Oman in the competition and helped coordinate resolutions and amendments to match current Arab League procedures. Through their involvement TFS students have a better understanding of the problems in the region and will be better equipped to offer meaningful solutions.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

TFS recognizes outstanding students, faculty and staff for 2017

Tallulah Falls School recognized six outstanding members of the campus community with awards during a Dec. 14, 2017 assembly prior to being dismissed for the annual Christmas break.

Shown, front row, from left, are senior Sarah Catherine Fordham of Cornelia — outstanding upper school student of the year; eighth-grader Caroline Ball of Tiger — outstanding middle school student of the year; back row, from left, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy; Jennifer Dunlap — outstanding upper school teacher of the year; Jeremy Pirkle — Light in the Mountains honoree [outstanding senior staff member]; Cyndy Campbell — outstanding middle school teacher of the year and Lisa Wilcox — outstanding staff



member of the year. Each winner received a certificate and a monetary award.

“These individuals represent the high standards we strive for at Tallulah Falls School,” said Peevy. “I offer my congratulations to these deserving honorees for their dedication to our TFS community.”



TFS Key Club shines at district convention

SERVANT LEADERSHIP



Tallah Falls School's Key Club had a strong showing at the district convention (DCON) Feb. 23-25 in Macon. The convention provides an opportunity for clubs to showcase their service projects for the year and learn how to better serve local communities in the year to come. Twelve TFS Key Club members attended the convention, making the contingent one of the largest, according to club sponsor and TFS teacher Scott Davis. The TFS chapter brought home a number of awards that are shown below the photograph.

Tallah Falls School also continued the valued tradition of representation on the Georgia District Board of Trustees. Sophomore Alia Bly of Clayton was retired as District 10 Lt. Governor but graciously assumed the mantle of District Bulletin Editor for the upcoming year. This marks the third year that a member of the TFS Key Club has served at the district level.

DCON is all about charity and among those that were supported this year: Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, Project Eliminate, Project Thirst, Project Linus and the Circle of Hope.

- Single Service Award, 1st Place
- Distinguished Club - Diamond Level
- Outstanding Community Service Award - Dr. Robert Barron
- Traditional "Year-in-Review" Award, 2nd Place
- Non-Traditional "Year-in-Review" Award, 2nd Place
- Talent Show Award

'Early Action' delivers



good news to TFS seniors from UGA, Georgia Tech



Early Action acceptance from the University of Georgia is big news to these TFS seniors: front row, from left: Sarah Catherine Fordham of Cornelia, Anna Davis of Clarkesville, Mackenzie Rainwater of Clarkesville, Olivia Little of Clarkesville; back row, from left: Michelle Thevenin of Lithonia, Max Teems of Sautee Nacoochee.

This year 15,000 students applied for EA at UGA, with 8,000 offers extended. These students earned an average GPA of 4.11, an average ACT score of 32, an average SAT score of 1390. Georgia's flagship university is ranked as the 16th best public university in the United States, according to U.S. News & World Report.



Two TFS seniors received Early Action admission to the 2018 class at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Seniors Cade Bramlett of Clarkesville and Michelle Thevenin of Lithonia were among more than 18,000 students applying for EA admission. Only 4,600 were accepted.

Georgia Tech reports more than 35,600 students have applied for admission to Georgia Tech for fall of 2018 — a record high. Students applied from all 50 states, 137 countries and 121 counties in Georgia.

Attention TFS alums

We would LOVE to hear from you. Please send us an email with an update on where you live, where you work, any honors or awards you've received, family updates and anything else happening in your life you would like to share. We welcome the opportunity to share your news with all of our readers.

Michael Van Hooser '17

Michael Van Hooser (second from right), a 2017 TFS graduate and key member of last year's state playoff basketball team, is now a member of the Middle Tennessee State University basketball squad. MTSU is enjoying a tremendous season in Conference-USA. Van Hooser is shown reacting to a dramatic last-second victory in a recent MTSU contest.



Photo by Helen Comer
Daily News Journal/ Murfreesboro, TN

TFS athletes compete at the next level



Sanson Navarette '17

Sanson Navarette, a graduate of the Class of 2017, is a member of the University of Montevallo Falcons basketball team. Navarette is a walk on for coach Danny Young's squad.



used with the permission of the
University of Montevallo Athletic
Department

Attention Alums

Make your plans to join us April 21 for our annual

Alumni Homecoming Luncheon

Honoring the classes of: 1948 • 1958 • 1968 • 1978 • 1988 • 1998 • 2008

look for your personal invitation in the mail

Obituaries

Francis "Marion" Thompson

Coach Francis "Marion" Thompson, age 88, of Homer, GA, died on Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2018. Thompson was hired by Tallulah Falls School in 1958 as an eighth grade teacher and football coach. He spent approximately five years with the school. During his time at TFS he also served as a dormitory parent. Thompson came to TFS from Wagner High School in Wagner, SC, where he taught science and math.

Thompson was a 1954 graduate of Clemson Military Academy. He was also a teacher and coach with the Buford City School System retiring with 32 years of service.

Jennifer Wheatley '03

Jennifer Lauren Wheatley, 32, a graduate of the TFS Class of 2003, passed away on Oct. 18, 2017 in Greensboro, NC. Wheatley received her bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Cincinnati. She was employed as a social worker in Greensboro at the time of her death.

Wheatley was active in her community and volunteered in the soup kitchens in Greensboro feeding the homeless. She also participated in the Crop Walk for hunger and supported events that raised funds for babies and children. She served as a camp counselor for burn victims in Atlanta for several years. Wheatley was a member of Sigma Gamma Rho sorority.



Jennifer Wheatley

Ruby Madge Barksdale '30

Ruby Madge Barksdale died on October 6, 2017. Mrs. Barksdale was born in 1914 and was 103 years old at the time of her death. She was a graduate of the TFS Class of 1930 and received a bachelor's degree from Piedmont College. Mrs. Barksdale was a retired educator and loyal wife to her husband, the late Rev. Robert Barksdale. Mrs. Barksdale most recently resided in Warner Robins.

All-freshman team has impressive showing in inaugural season



Freshman Samantha Stamey of Batesville was the lone experienced member of the team in its first season of competition.



Freshman Baylor Carnes of Demorest takes aim.



Casey Barron



Tim Stamey

“Precision rifle benefits the individual by making the athlete concentrate and focus on such an extreme level. You can’t over think or under think, you have to bring your mind to a peaceful quiet place, which is a hard state of mind to get to.”

- Samantha Stamey

The newest competitive sport at Tallulah Falls School is really making a name for itself in year one. TFS joins 14 other schools in the GHSA Area 6 to field a precision riflery team. Practice began in August, 2017 and competition began in January, according to TFS staff member Casey Barron, who serves as the head coach for the squad. Barron has depended on the expertise of assistant coach Tim Stamey to get the program off the ground. Tim Stamey is a USA Shooting Level 3 Advanced Rifle coach and Certified Range/Match official.

Air rifle and small-bore are not just Olympic sports but are also NCAA sports with a growing number of colleges offering scholarships, in addition to the service academies, MIT and other schools. Georgia is the only state to have shooting as a high school athletic sport outside of Junior ROTC.

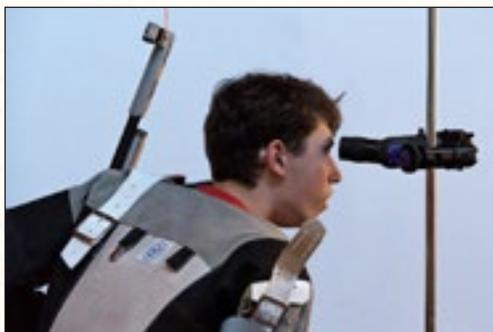
State high school rifle teams attend camps and clinics during the summer months and then under GHSA rules begin practice the first of August. Gaining a late entry into Area 6, the all-freshman team showed up determined and ready to train.

Only one member of the team has competed before - Samantha Stamey of Batesville. Last June Stamey finished 12th in the nation in her age group in the Three-Position Air Rifle Junior Olympic National Championships in Ohio. Stamey began shooting at age four. Stamey was named the No. 1 new shooter in the U.S. in Dec. 2016 after the Civilian Marksmanship Program Gary Anderson Invitational.

Sam Stamey realizes that the TFS team will only improve with experience. “With an all-freshman team we have more time to work together and improve to become an extremely competitive team before we graduate and to give guidance and wisdom of the sport to younger up-and-coming athletes.”

“Precision rifle benefits the individual by making the athlete concentrate and focus on such an extreme level. You can’t over think or under think, you have to bring your mind to a peaceful quiet place, which is a hard state of mind to get to,” Stamey said. “An athlete also has to be in tune with his or her body as well. Just something as small as a muscle twitch can turn a perfect ‘10’ shot into a seven or eight.”

continued - bottom of next page



Freshman Jack Greene of Clarkesville uses a spotting scope to check his results.



Shown, from left: Ben Fisher, Moshun Hu, Baylor Carnes, Samantha Stamey, Gabe Basso, Grant Barron, Jack Greene.





Loud, Proud, and Positive!

by Athletic Director Scott Neal

The TFS spirit cheerleading motto of *Loud, Proud, and Positive!* enhances the athletic mission of developing GREAT character, competence, and competitiveness, of hosting GREAT events, and of creating a Season of Significance. We have a foundational theme of *cheering for and not against* since we want to accentuate the vast positives of interscholastic athletics.

Our cheerleaders take great pride in helping create a loud environment, knowing their volume creates a noticeable buzz. There are specific cheers that are favorites of the students that incite a commanding roar and influential excitement from the crowd. It is most apparent when the opposing team also has cheerleaders. TFS spirit shines in those games because our girls take the challenge to bring volume and loud support to our players.



Junior varsity, from left: Alice Peng, Morgan Webb, Rachel Whitehouse, Mia Kwarteng, Alycia Morales.



Varsity. Front row, from left: Faith Mathewson, Michelle Theverin (kneeling), Marisa Sotunde, Sierra (mascot). Back row, standing, from left: head coach Jane Shoemaker, Alia Bly, Maggie Eavenson, Sophia Kahwach, Hannah Harkness, Jade Mitchell, assistant coach Sassy Hayes.



Middle school. Front row (seated), from left: Carmen Sotunde, Meredith Hill, Sierra (mascot), Brinna Docsol, Caroline Ball. Middle row (kneeling), from left: Maddie Cloutre, Julianne Shirley, Nasha Dembele, Abigail Hunter, Keelie Parks, Mai Miyashita, Isabella Jones, Piper Allen. Back row (standing), from left: head coach Jane Shoemaker, Cassidy Hayes, Ava Wehrstein, Meredith Anderson, Linda Wang, Naomi Barnor, Sophie Herrera, assistant coach Sassy Hayes.

Precision riflery - continued

“With all these attributes it helps the athlete to focus and concentrate in school and being in tune with your body helps with overall health.”

Area 6 Riflery is one of the toughest in the state, but in its first match against veteran powerhouse Riverside Military Academy the young team lost a narrow but competitive match. Four of the five TFS athletes shot better scores than they ever achieved in practice.

Against all odds, the young team achieved a fifth place finish in its inaugural campaign and participated in the Area 6 finals. Though the squad did not progress in the finals, it was nonetheless a fantastic first year for the fledgling program. ■

Visit www.tallulahfalls.org and scroll down to “news and announcements” for more information on the program and individual match results.

Swimmers take polar bear plunge

In December the TFS swim teams took part in the annual polar bear plunge. The quick dip into the icy waters of Tallulah Lake was a great bonding experience for the team. The team enjoyed a warm fire and s'mores afterwards.



TFS Athletics Basketball



“Run as One” Boys earn second consecutive state tournament berth

After graduating seven outstanding seniors from last year’s state tournament squad, coach Jim Van Hooser admitted it would have been easy to call this a rebuilding year, but the 12 young men on the 2017-18 team refused to accept that.

“The team worked extremely hard in the off-season to prepare,” said Van Hooser. “Our motto for the season was, ‘Run as One.’ This was a daily reminder that we can only reach our goals by helping others achieve their goals.”

In spite of their hard work, the challenge of playing varsity-level competition proved difficult at the beginning of the season as the team came out of the gate with an 0-5 record. Van Hooser’s squad began to come together as a team and finished the regular season winning 14 of their next 20 games. The strong finish earned an appearance in the GHSA state tournament for the second year in a row and only the fourth time in TFS history.

Senior Tahj Moss led the way in scoring with 17.2 points per game (ppg), followed by sophomore Matthew Weidner (16 ppg). The two All-Region players led the team with 33 points and 16 rebounds per game. Sophomore Hayden Johnson added 10.6 points per game. Another sophomore, Reeves Cody, came on strong after suffering an injury just before Christmas break and played solid defense for the team down the stretch. Junior point guard Jake Carver led the offense, which averaged 66 ppg, by dishing out 87 assists. Van Hooser also singled out sophomore Winston Davis, senior Akin Akisanya, junior Sebastian Herrera, junior Alfie Barnor, junior Clarke Bailey, junior Xing Fan and sophomore David Woods as contributing to the success of the team.

The team set several school records this season including the number of three-pointers made in a game with eight by Hayden Johnson in a game versus Commerce High School.

The team also continued the tradition of TRIBE Tellers where each of the varsity boys players helps TFS fifth graders by reading to them on a weekly basis and becoming role models and mentors.

“This season was really special. The team reached virtually all of its goals and exceeded the expectations of many,” said Van Hooser. With 10 players returning next season Van Hooser certainly has reason to be optimistic about the future of varsity boys basketball at TFS.



Tahj Moss



Matthew WEIDNER



Reeves CODY



Tahj Moss

Most Valuable Player
8-A All-Region First Team

Matthew Weidner
Best Post Player
8-A All Region
Honorable Mention

Hayden Johnson
Best Perimeter Player



Front row (seated), from left: Jihee Han (manager), Akin Akisanya, Jake Carver, Winston Davis, Hayden Johnson, Maddie Miller (manager). Back row (standing), from left: head coach Jim Van Hooser, Alfie Barnor, Matthew Weidner, Reeves Cody, Sebastian Herrera, Xing Fan, Tahj Moss, Clarke Bailey, David Woods, Isabeau Keene (manager).

Lady Indians finish strong for 2017-18



Girls earn No. 2 seed in region tournament

For the second consecutive year the varsity Lady Indians basketball team finished in second place in sub-region play. Tom Tilley's team played as the No. 2 seed in the region tournament, tying the school record for its highest tournament seeding in school history.

Our ladies' basketball program has come a long way. Five years ago we traditionally finished in last place in the region," Tilley said. "Our success is largely attributed to our team's ability to win the close games this year. We were 8-1 in close games."

"This is an amazing statistic," Tilley added. "Our girls just hated to lose the close ones. Watching this team improve from the first day of practice has been a real pleasure."

Tilley also praised the contributions of junior Nyah Williams, who is not only team captain but became the girl's career leader in scoring this year. Williams broke four TFS records this season. At season's end, Williams career scoring mark stands at 1,313 points. Williams also holds the highest season scoring average (19.5 points per game), the single game scoring record (36 points) and the record for points scored in a single season (488).

Tilley also graciously gave credit to his assistant coaches Brandy Corbett and Sharae Long for helping the team reach its potential for the season. The TFS varsity girls return a nice mix of talent and experience for what looks like a promising 2018-19 season next year.



Junior Nyah Williams became TFS's career scoring leader during her junior campaign.

- Nyah Williams**
Most Valuable Player
8-A All-Region First Team
- Mali Danavall**
Coachs'/Helmet Award
- Katy Corbett**
Leading Rebounder Award



Maja TRBOVIC



Brinson HALL



Katy CORBETT

Front row (seated), from left: Brinson Hall, Sophie Alexander, Maja Trbovic, Nyah Williams, Mia Myers, Taylor Bramlett. Back row (standing), from left: head coach Tom Tilley, Ty Tilley (manager), Maria Chiuz (manager), Daycee Smith (manager), Sydney Coffey, Abby Carlan, Morgan Alexander, Damali Danavall, Santara Dembele, Katy Corbett, Lillie Free, Raven Randall (manager), assistant coach Sharae Long, assistant coach Brandy Corbett.



2017-18 Lady Indians



SENIOR night

The basketball program recognized senior participants in a Feb. 2 ceremony between varsity games. From left: Cheering coach Jane Shoemaker, Michelle Thevenin, varsity boys basketball head coach Jim Van Hooser, Faith Mathewson, Raven Randall, Tahj Moss, Marisa Sotunde, Akin Akisanya, Maja Trbovic, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Morgan Alexander, varsity girls basketball head coach Tom Tilley.



The future is bright as the TFS junior varsity and middle school programs are developing a wealth of young talent. A special **shout out** to these young players as they prepare to make the jump to varsity over the next few years.



Junior varsity basketball

Front row (seated), from left: Chathan Clouatre, Kale Corbett, Cainan Yaskiewicz, Simeon Respress, Maik Murenzi, Zoeta Zigbuo. Back row (standing), from left: Head coach Matt Heyl, Julian Gober, Patrick Pearce, Paul Chambers, Luke Heyl, David Woods, Shawn Huebner, Khalisah Momoh (manager), Fendi Jean Louis (manager). Not pictured Tate Whitfield.

Middle school girls basketball

Front row (seated), from left: Chloe Kahwach, Jaylan Garrison, Claire Kelly, Maebree Holcolmb, Josie Garrison, Kyndal Anderson, Molly Mitchell, Keygan Antosiak. Back row (standing), from left: Lucy Alexander (manager), Carol Kate Dunlap, Jalyn Colston, Lady Nassah, Honora Kahwach, Ellie Southards, Bailey Aderholdt, Hannah Ferrier, Barrett Whitener, Macy Murdock, Charis Anderson, Tori Tilley (manager), coach Rick Hammock.



Middle school boys 'A' squad

Front row (seated), from left, Colton Hicks, Lincoln Hall, Tyler Popham, Charlie Cody, Drew Bates, Nelson Wilkinson. Back row (standing), from left, Coach Lowell Hamilton, Drayson Rumsey, Josh Jackson, Gabe Keene, Bryan Cope, Aiden Gragg, Ben Okoronkwo (manager), Nafis Rahman (manager), Luke Atwood (manager).



Middle school boys 'B' squad

Front row (seated), from left: Tyler Farmer, Austin Ball, Dan Griswold, Mason Dawe, Hutson Eller, Brit Shaw. Back row (standing), from left: Coach Scott Neal, Morgan Messer, Dallas Loonubon, Tate Shaw, Trevor Bramlett, Jesse Reames, Jake Wehrstein. Not Pictured: Tommy Crawford.



TFS varsity swimmers impress in competition against larger programs



TFS Swimming

Varsity swim coach Annette Cochran had one word to describe the 2018 season - *amazing*. Fourteen varsity swimmers competed with top swimmers in the state at the Feb. 2-3 state championships held at the McAuley Natatorium on the campus of Georgia Tech.

The meet follows a preliminaries/finals format where all qualifiers race in their respective events on Friday evening with the top 30 moving on to the finals which are raced on Saturday evening. TFS qualified in 16 events with nine student-athletes advancing to the finals.

The ladies' team placed 12th in a field of 46 teams in the A-AAA classification. The relay races were the highlight as four TFS swimmers - Virginia Griswold, Norah Griswold, Maggie Jackson and Reid Kafsky raced to a new school record time of 1:44.92 in the 200 freestyle relay, earning a fifth place finish. Other notable performances include the 400 freestyle relay team of Virginia Griswold, Norah Griswold, Gianna Diaz and Reid Kafsky finishing eighth, and Virginia Griswold following her relay performance with a strong performance in the butterfly for a seventh place finish. Reid Kafsky placed 12th in the 50 freestyle.

The varsity boys team placed 13th in the A-AAA division. Just as with the ladies, the boys did their best work in the relay events. The 'A' medley relay team of Nick Stelmack, Hunter Weyrich, John Nichols and Riley Barron set a school record during the preliminaries, then followed that with a seventh place finish during the finals. The 'A' relay team of John Nichols, Riley Barron, Caden Griffis and Hunter Weyrich placed seventh.

In individual events, Hunter Weyrich placed 14th in the 500-freestyle and 16th in the 200 individual medley. John Nichols placed 13th in the 50 freestyle.



The 2017-18 Tallulah Falls School swim teams are led by coaches Annette Cochran, Susan Nichols, Chris Kafsky, Wyatt Nicholson and Stephanie Nicholson. Front row, from left: Anna Waites, Camden Hughes, Kenya Wright, Perry Gresham, Maggie Jackson, Reid Kafsky, Gianna Diaz, Julia James, Taylor Huling.

Second row, from left: Levi, Loveless, Gabe Iluma, Sarah Edwards, Maria Whitson, Abby Mullins, Logan Huling, Stephan Bowman, Samuel Dunlap, AJ Hayes.

Third row, from left: Jack Greene, Daniel Villa, Norah Griswold, Virginia Griswold, Clara Madigan, Josh Shanks, Brenda Cochran, Cynthia Jackson, Luis Rangel de Luna, Deneeka Nelson.

Fourth row, from left: Hunter Weyrich, Sophie Bruke, Dasom Kim, Chris Geiger, Caden Griffis, Marvin Thiennukul, Jun Wookim.

Back row, from left: Nick Stelmack, Zac Smith, Shimug (Simon) Hu, Will Jackson, John Nichols, River Fox Nickelson, Gunn Thiennukul, Riley Barron, Tom Fu.

Seniors take the last lap



From left: Perry Gresham of Clarkesville, Sophie Burke of Chesterton, IN, Luis Rangel de Luna of Mexico and Deneeka Nelson of Loganville are recognized on senior night before taking the traditional farewell collective leap into the pool in front of cheering teammates.

**Virginia Griswold
Hunter Weyrich
Coaches' Award**

**Reid Kafsky
John Nichols
Most Valuable Award**

**Norah Griswold
Caden Griffis
Most Improved**

Middle school swim makes splash in GISA state meet



For the first time the TFS middle school swim team competed in the GISA state meet. The TFS girls placed fourth of 12 teams. The 'A' relay team of Emily Smith, Sammy Hartman, Karis Tatum and Layne Kafsky set a new middle school record and earned third place medals in the 200 freestyle relay. The same girls placed fourth in the 200 medley relay.

Sammy Hartman earned the most points for the girls with a third place finish in the 50 backstroke, setting a new middle school record. Sammy also placed sixth in the 100 freestyle and sixth in the 50 freestyle. Nearly every swimmer improved on their previous best times as they each raced in three individual races and up to two relays. Notable performances were also turned in by Emma Jackson and Layne Kafsky. Kafsky is now a member of the top 10 legacy list in the 50 freestyle.

The boys placed fifth of 17 teams. Nelson Wilkinson earned the most points for the team with a second place finish in the 50 freestyle, a fifth place finish in the 100 freestyle and a fifth place finish in the 100 individual medley. The 'A' relay team of Henry Rickman, Daniel Shin, Nelson Wilkinson and Matt Cochran finished fifth in the medley relay and fourth in the freestyle relay. Cochran swam strong races and earned team points with a 10% improvement in the breaststroke. Cochran's performance earned him a seventh place spot on the TFS middle school legacy list.



Front row, from left: Morgan Mullins, Trent Toler, Henry Rickman, Emily Smith, Xan Stallings, Layne Kafsky, Matt Cochran, Ben Rosenthal.

Middle row, from left: Hannah Hickox, Reagan Brode, Ruoyi Zhang, Maggie Peacock, Brooke Hayes, Emma Jackson, Kate Trotter, Karis Tatum, Sammi Hartman.

Back row, from left: Yao Tang, Jerry Sang, Shrek Wang, Daniel Shin, Nelson Wilkinson, Jason Sang, coach Susan Nichols.

ON TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Tallulah Falls School senior Anna Davis of Clarkesville signed a National Letter of Intent on Jan. 11 to compete in track & field for Davidson College, a member of the Atlantic 10 Conference in the NCAA's Division 1. Davidson College is located north of Charlotte, NC.

"The Davidson College women's track and field staff are very excited to welcome Anna to our Wildcat family," said Molly Jones, assistant track & field coach at Davidson. "Her versatility as a multi-sport athlete and her competitive drive will propel her to great success here at Davidson College."

"Anna defines the competitiveness and GREAT attitude we seek in our track and field program," said TFS track & field coach Scott Neal. "We are so proud of Anna and celebrate her signing."

Davis holds outdoor school records in all three hurdle races (100mh, 300mh, 400mh), four relays (400m, 800m, 1600m, 3200m) and the pole vault. She holds seven indoor school records.

Davis will join her brother, James (TFS Class of 2016) who also attends Davidson on a track scholarship.

Davis signs Letter of Intent to compete in track & field at Davidson College



Shown, back row, from left: Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham, President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, Athletic Director Scott Neal; front row, from left: James Davis, Lou Davis, Anna Davis, Ephraim Davis. Photo by TFS senior Grace Brewer.



Construction underway on TFS natatorium complex

Things are always bustling on the Tallulah Falls School campus, but over the last eight months it is obvious that something big is taking place. Since last summer the sound of explosions on the mountain high above the upper school academic building have echoed across the ridges and valleys of Tallulah Falls. A small fleet of earthmoving equipment, graders and dump trucks have logged countless miles moving tons of earth and rock in preparation for the school's spectacular new natatorium.

Guided by the expertise of Ron Cantrell Construction, Inc. of White County, construction crews have excavated thousands of cubic yards of earth and rock, hauling them to other locations on campus to use as fill. Expanded drainage systems have been installed and work is also underway reconfiguring the roads that access the upper portion of the campus.

The first tangible evidence of the natatorium recently appeared as crews poured foundation walls for the massive structure in February. Upon completion, the facility will become an integral component of the school's sports and recreational program. The competition-size pool will eventually feature bleacher seating for more than 200 spectators. The natatorium will also feature locker rooms, a concession area, a hospitality room and a beautiful entrance lobby. The facility will be used for physical education classes, swim team practice, swim meets and be open for recreational use for student, faculty and staff.

And the best part of all - due to the foresight and diligent governance of the school by the president and board of trustees, this magnificent facility is being constructed as funds are available and without debt. ■





Profiles in Leadership - TFS Board of Trustees

Terry Rogers

Clarkesville, GA

State Representative, District 10
Floor Leader for Gov. Nathan Deal

Owner and Managing Partner
Diversified Technologies

TFS trustee: 2014-2018



Rep. Terry Rogers is a successful businessman hailing from Habersham County, but he has established an important second career as a high-profile member of the Georgia legislature.

Rogers has graciously shared his time and talents as respected member of the TFS Board of Trustees since 2014.

“I currently wear two hats. I’m an owner and managing partner of Diversified Technologies, a recycled plastics brokerage firm, and I also represent District 10 in the Georgia House of Representatives as well as serving as Governor Nathan Deal’s Floor Leader in the House. Being a legislator is supposed to be part time; however, it hasn’t turned out that way!”

“I’ve always known about and admired Tallulah Falls School. However, it was not until I went on the board that I became actively involved. I’m blessed to work with great trustees, and I can’t say enough good things about the job Amy Atkinson and the officers do with the board leadership.”

“I come from a strong business and marketing background, so I tend to look at board decisions through that filter. Also, from the political side I have access to people who we’ve used as guest speakers so that our students get to hear from successful leaders. The political side also allows me to see when there’s room for compromise when necessary.”

“I was motivated to serve on the Board because of the tremendous vision and success of the school. I graduated from Berry College and Berry shares many of the same principles as TFS. Both schools teach their students a servant attitude, and if I can contribute to making TFS a more successful place, it’s a great sense of satisfaction.”

“I’m excited about the future of the school and look for even greater things ahead. Under the current leadership of President Peevy and the solid foundation that TFS has laid, there are no limits as to what can be accomplished.”

Donna Foland

Atlanta, GA

President and Owner
DGF Properties, Inc.
Property Asset & Estate
Management



TFS trustee: 2014-2018

Donna Foland is the President and Owner of DGF Properties, Inc., an asset and property management company located in Midtown Atlanta. DGF Properties, Inc. specializes in maximizing the options and possibilities within a client’s estate.

Foland is a longtime member of the Atlanta Woman’s Club and her relationship with the school began with her involvement in the club. She became a member of the TFS Board of Trustees in 2014.

Foland was recently asked why she became involved with the TFS Board of Trustees. “I felt led to become involved with the children and their education,” said Foland. “It is exciting to see the quality of the education that Tallulah Falls School offers its students and it is very rewarding to be a member of the board.”

“I also find it quite gratifying to see the extent of the community outreach by the students at TFS. They are having a tremendous impact on their communities.”

“I am very excited to see the school continuing to grow and expand. We are able to offer so much to our students. Seeing extra-curricular clubs form such as the bass fishing club and watching those club members attend tournaments throughout the state is very fulfilling.”

Foland was asked if there was anything else that stood out to her during her time on the board and was quick to give praise to President and Mrs. Peevy. “Both Larry and Dinah put the students first in everything they do. They have made a remarkable difference at Tallulah Falls School.”

Donald Wells

Marietta, GA

former CEO of
Emory University Hospital

former Chairman
of the Board of
Emory Johns Creek Hospital



TFS trustee: 2012-2018

Don Wells is an extremely gifted administrator with a very impressive list of accomplishments. Wells' career centered in the health care industry and his positions include serving as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Emory University Hospital and later as chairman of the board of Emory Johns Creek Hospital. In 2014 Wells received the Emory Johns Creek Hospital Legacy Award which goes to an individual who has made a significant impact on the care of countless Atlantans, hospital patients, staff and physicians.

With qualifications such as these, Wells was a perfect fit for the Tallulah Falls School Board of Trustees. He offered a few thoughts regarding his time as a TFS Trustee.

"My wife, Elizabeth, is a longtime member of the GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club," said Wells. "I had served on numerous local boards and Elizabeth, along with other members of the GFWC Georgia, encouraged me to serve on the TFS Board."

Saluting individuals who offer their time and talents in order to make Tallulah Falls School what it is today.

"I had extensive knowledge and experience in management with a non-profit organization operated by an educational institution, so it was a good fit. In my career I was a hands-on administrator, caring for all the employees and patients that came our way. In my view this is how TFS is managed as well and I believed I could contribute through my experience."

"There are a number of factors that bode well for the school's future. Tallulah Falls School has an excellent board of trustees and extremely competent administration. The school is showing positive growth, the expectations are high, and both student and faculty performance speak very well for the future."

"Under President Larry Peevy's leadership, Tallulah Falls School has developed into a comprehensive, cohesive college preparatory school. It's reputation is far-reaching. I am very appreciative of the opportunity I have to work with President Peevy, the board of trustees, the faculty and staff."



The Tallulah Falls School Board of Trustees. Front row, from left: Carolyn Freidlander, Ellen Alderman, Gewene Womack, Lucy Willard, Cookie Noel, Gail Cantrell, Peggy Pruet, Dale Reddick, Karen Thomson. Standing, from left: Amy Atkinson (TFS Board Chair), Rev. James Turpen, Sr., Suzanne Ratliff, Elizabeth Wells, Donald Wells, Jim Weidner, Judy Forbes, Judy Taylor, Greg Brown, Mark Rasmussen (TFS Vice President), Larry A. Peevy (TFS President and Head of School). Not pictured: Elizabeth Chadwick, Donna Foland, Terry Rogers, Doris Alexander, Ida Dorvee, Sandy Ahearn.



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Alumni Homecoming luncheon

Saturday, April 21, 2018

look for your personal invitation in the mail!

and we know you do, too!

Join us on
Saturday, April 21
as we celebrate together
**with a traditional
homecoming luncheon**

Honoring these classes:

**2008 • 1998 • 1988
1978 • 1968 • 1958
1948 • 1938**

- TFS museum open
- opportunity to visit with friends
and RECONNECT

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