

TALLULAH FALLS SCHOOL

Magazine

SUMMER 2016



Sweep!

TFS middle school spring sports earn five Tri-State Conference titles

Sixth grader Aubrey Higgins leads middle school baseball to a win in the Tri-State title game

The Class of 2016

Continuing the mission

Words of wisdom

New TFS website

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

LARRY A. PEEVY



A highly successful year

I want to personally thank our students, parents and grandparents, faculty and staff, Board of Trustees, alumni, and other school supporters who have made 2015-16 a highly successful year at Tallulah Falls School. Academically, our students are topping the charts in achievement, and we are excited that next year, as we have partnered with a second local college, we will be able to offer 21 dual-enrollment college credit courses on campus. Athletically, students are learning the value of teamwork and sportsmanship, and their success on the playing field has been exceptional. The entire school community has embraced our college-preparatory dual mission of elevating intellect and developing character in our students.

In terms of facilities, our new \$4.5 million Middle School multipurpose gymnasium complex is on time and on budget for completion in August 2016, and it has been constructed in a pay-as-we-go fashion without incurring a penny of debt. On the lower level, the gymnasium will be used for middle school basketball and volleyball contests and some upper school contests as well as physical education classes. A portable stage on the lower level will be used for middle school theater performances, concerts, guest speakers, assemblies, and graduation. The lobby will include concessions, restrooms, and three television monitors with live streaming of the game in progress. Four fully-equipped locker rooms will accommodate two home and two visiting teams for athletic contests. Upper level features include two separate classrooms that will house middle school music and drama classes and a fitness center that will include a walking track encompassing the entire upper level perimeter. A 70-foot long, 10-foot high traverse climbing wall will allow students to climb without harnesses.

No doubt one group that will take full advantage of the climbing wall will be our new fifth grade class. TFS has not offered fifth grade in more than 40 years, and we are excited to welcome these young, enthusiastic, and eager learners to our school community. Middle School Academic Dean David Chester has devised a unique program for these pre-teen students that will challenge them, energize them, and make them feel very much at home and connected to their new school. Community response to this new grade offering has been tremendous as two full classes of fifth grade have been filled. As a result, next year's enrollment will set yet another record as we grow from 430 students this year to around 470 students next year.

Last but not least, I want to commend our newest alumni, the members of the Class of 2016, for their leadership in the classroom, on the athletic field, in service to the local community, and for their willingness to mentor and serve as role models for TFS underclassmen. True to their millennial heritage, they have been confident, team-oriented, achieving, respectful, and structured. They have been accepted by some of the finest colleges and universities in the country and have received millions of dollars in college scholarship offers. As you carry your torch from The Light in the Mountains out into the world, I leave you with the words of Mark Twain, the great American writer who gave us such memorable characters as Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn: "Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."

To each of you I wish a safe and fulfilling journey.

Sincerely,

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

Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School

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Tallulah Falls School is an equal opportunity school and does not discriminate based on race, color or national or ethnic origin.



You've seen the 'official' championship photos - dignified poses, perfect posture, emotions in check. In reality, the shot that's rarely used is like this one, capturing the sheer joy of the moment for Coach Lisa Wilcox and the TFS middle school tennis team. For the 'official' photo please turn to page 22.



ON THE COVER: Sixth grader Aubrey Higgins provided the pitching as TFS defeated Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School in the Tri-State Conference championship game by a score of 13-3. Photo credit Brian Boyd.

PRESIDENT and HEAD of SCHOOL
Larry A. Peevy

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Class Act – Commencement 2016



Sixty-one extraordinary seniors received their college-preparatory diplomas in commencement ceremonies held Sunday, May 15, 2016. These students have left an impressive legacy of academic and athletic achievement. They embark on their individual journeys with the best wishes and full confidence of the TFS community.

The Class of 2016

Kun Ao
 Taylor Storm Asman
 Samuel Ryan Alexander
 * Clare Grace Barry
 * Ethen Todd Besier
 * Amy Grace Betz
 Aaryan Bhagwat
 * Joshua Raymond Brown
 Nathaniel Caudell
 * Haeun Chung
 Kaitlyn Marie Crosby
 * James Ephraim Davis
 * Whitney Siler Fox
 * John Luke Gallagher
 Denzel Olutoye Green Wright
 Zhexi He
 Madison Elaine Hightower
 Jialu Hou
 Ryan Christine Hughes
 Oluwatise Sarah Ifidon

* Ethan Bennett Johnson
 Ingrid Peinado Kasabkojian
 * Ashley Brianna Kemp
 Salome Charlotte Khelashvili
 Jenifer Mechelle Kulow
 * Garrett Tyson Lane
 * Da Young Lee
 * Miles Andrew Lewis
 * Vanessa Renee Lewis
 Carlise Elizabeth Link
 Shelby Vanessa McNally
 Logan Michael Meeks
 * Angela Korkor Mensah
 Riko Miyazaki
 Mena Amber Nagy
 Min Jeong Namkung
 Jayson Lamont Newson
 Emily Victoria Nguyen
 Daniel Okechukwu Onyemehukwe
 Tianqi Pan
 Seth Alan Pourbaix

* Amelia Grace Provine
 * Laura Ramos Barrau
 Trenton Rex Rothwell
 * Joshua Curtis Speed
 * Brittany Lee Stein
 Mio Sugawara
 Emily Grace Taylor
 Elizabeth Wesley Tench
 Cody Lane Thomas
 Morgan Alyxandrya Todd
 Taylor Nicole Trimiar
 Andrew Patrick Walker
 Jack Harrison Wasserman
 Maci Breanna Watts
 * Lianjie Wei
 Matthew Chalmers Williams
 Candace Rae Woodward
 Jianbing Xiong
 Jiwhan Yoon
 Pengfei Zhu

* denotes NHS member

E. Lane Gresham



Ashley Kemp of Clarkesville gets assistance from a classmate with her honors regalia.



Seconds after leaving the stage and receiving her diploma, graduate Maci Watts of Clarkesville is greeted by TFS Alumni Association president Todd Besier. Besier presented an invitation to stay in touch with the school and become an active member of the association.

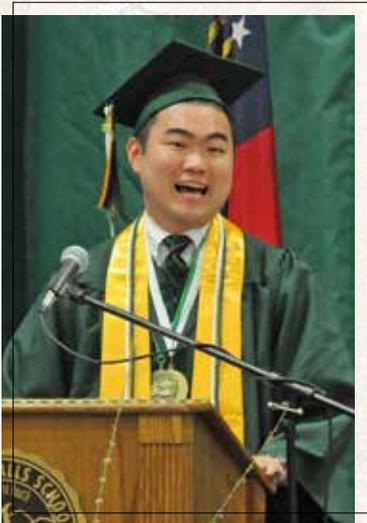
*Commencement
2016*



a day for smiles...



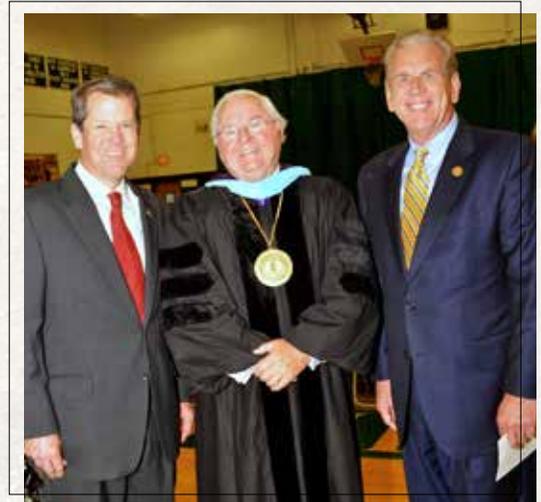
...and one last photo with your departing classmates



Lianjie (Jerry) Wei of the People's Republic of China was the Valedictorian for the Class of 2016. Wei will attend the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.



John Luke Gallagher delivered the Salutatorian address. Gallagher has received an appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.



President and Head of School Larry A. Peavy (center) is flanked by Secretary of State Brian Kemp (left) and State Rep. Terry Rogers.

Kimberly Brown - The Northeast Georgian

The Next Step



- Academy of Art University
- Agnes Scott College
- Albany University
- Albion College
- Aquinas College
- Arcadia University
- Art Institute Orange County
- Auburn University
- Avila University
- Barry University
- Berry College
- Boston University
- Brenau University
- Center University
- College of Charleston
- College of Coastal Georgia
- College of Southern Maryland
- Colorado Mesa University
- Columbia College Chicago
- Cornerstone University
- Davidson College
- DePaul University
- Florida Southern College
- Fort Lewis College
- George Washington University
- Georgia College and State University
- Georgia Southern University
- Georgia Southwestern State University
- Georgia State University
- Guilford College
- High Point University
- Hoffstra University
- Indiana University-Bloomington
- Johnson and Wales University
- Kendall College
- Kennesaw State University
- Knox College
- Lasell College
- Lehigh University
- LIU Brooklyn
- Los Angeles Film School
- Maryland Institute College of Art
- Massachusetts College of Art and Design
- Mercer University
- Miami University (Ohio)
- Michigan State University
- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- Montclair University
- New York University
- North Carolina State University
- North Georgia Technical College
- Nyack College
- Oglethorpe University
- Ohio State University
- Pennsylvania State University
- Piedmont College
- Presbyterian College



John Luke Gallagher received an appointment to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Presented by Jim Curland, U.S.M.M.A. alumni.



Ashley Kemp and Garrett Lane were presented scholarships by the Circle for Children. Lane received the Lamar Trotti scholarship which provides funds for a TFS student attending the University of Georgia. Presented by Janie Kissling (left) and Diane Miller.

TFS graduates from the Class of 2016 were accepted to more than 100 outstanding colleges and universities

\$3+ million* in college scholarship offers

- Purdue University
- Queens University of Charlotte
- Reinhardt University
- Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- San Diego State University
- Savannah College of Art and Design
- Savannah State University
- St. John's University
- St. Louis University
- St. Thomas Aquinas College
- State University of New York-Stony Brook
- State University of New York at Buffalo
- Stony Brook University
- Suffolk University
- Temple University
- Texas Tech University
- Toccoa Falls College
- Towson University
- United States Merchant Marine Academy
- University at Buffalo
- University of California-Irvine
- University of California-Riverside
- University of California-San Diego
- University of California-Santa Cruz
- University of Central Florida
- University of Delaware
- University of Florida
- University of Georgia
- University of Illinois
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Kansas
- University of Maryland
- University of Massachusetts-Amherst
- University of Massachusetts-Boston
- University of Michigan
- University of Mississippi
- University of Minnesota
- University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
- University of North Carolina-Greensboro
- University of North Georgia
- University of San Diego
- University of South Florida
- University of Toledo
- University of Wisconsin
- University of Virginia
- Utah State University
- Valdosta State University
- Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology
- Virginia Commonwealth Univ. School of the Arts
- Virginia Tech
- Wake Forest University
- Washington College
- Wesleyan College
- Western Carolina University
- Western State Colorado University
- Winthrop University



Taylor Trimiar was awarded a scholarship by Habersham EMC. Presented by Brenda Hunt.



Clarkesville Kiwanis Club Key Club scholarships went to Guiga Kasabkojian (left) and Jenifer Kulow. Presented by Hazel Cording.



Garrett Lane received a Woodmen Life scholarship. Presented by Emma Chastain.



A University of North Georgia AROTC scholarship was awarded to Sam Ausburn. Presented by TFS faculty/staff member Todd Besier.



Five Tallulah Falls School seniors were awarded scholarships by the Habersham Rotary Club on April 28. Award amounts ranged from \$500 to \$1,000. Shown, from left, are Upper School Academic Dean Kim Popham, Ashley Kemp, Vanessa Lewis, Amellia Provine, Taylor Asman, Whitney Fox and President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

submitted

* Georgia residents who attend colleges and universities in the state of Georgia may also qualify for Hope Scholarship funds in addition to the total listed above.

Preparation and Opportunity

continuing the mission

by Larry A. Peevy
President and Head of School



Mary Ann Lipscomb
Tallulah Falls School founder

M

ary Ann Lipscomb and the early members of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs who established Tallulah Falls School in 1909 were great visionaries. They provided the mountain children who attended Tallulah Falls School with the means to become successful and productive people, opening new doors and new opportunities to them. At a time before statewide public schools existed, these women knew that education was the key to preparing these eager young learners to achieve their greatest potential in life.



The first class - July 12, 1909. Miss Annie Thrasher of Watkinsville instructs 21 boys and girls.

Preparation for life in the early days of the school resulted in a unique curriculum that included both traditional academic pursuits (reading, writing, and arithmetic) and the learning of practical work skills that students could put to use either back at their mountain homes or in the world beyond. Students became skilled at farming and the raising of livestock. They became experts at basketry, crocheting, weaving, and woodworking, and their handiworks were sold as far away as Washington, D.C., bringing needed money and notoriety to the school.

Statewide local tax laws enacted in 1919 meant all Georgia counties would be able to provide their own schools, and in 1920 the state school superintendent recommended "the separation of the public school at Tallulah Falls from the Georgia Federation's School." The "leading men of Rabun County" insisted they did not want a school of their own and asked for the privilege of continuing to send their children from Rabun to the school, and offered to pay \$75 a month (about \$1 per child) for the privilege. Their request was granted, and Tallulah Falls School continued to be both a public and private institution for 50 more years (until 1970, when it became totally private).

The first graduation at Tallulah Falls School took place in 1928. Imagine the excitement as those 10 students walked across the stage to receive their State of Georgia authorized high school diplomas from Miss Anne C. Davis, principal. They were the very first alumni of TFS, and in the intervening decades many hundreds of other graduates have followed in their footsteps. The mission of the school could be summed up simply as preparation for life: preparing graduates for success after TFS, whether they chose to pursue higher education, work, marriage, or other endeavors. From the very beginning, character—the lifelong balancing act of service, social interaction, faith, and work ethic—was emphasized. Character is one of the dual pillars of today’s college-preparatory school mission, which seeks to elevate intellect and develop character in each of our students.

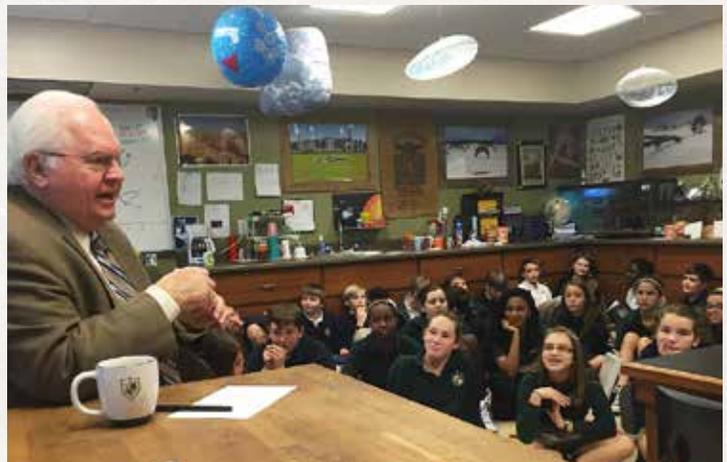


TFS students gather for a photograph in the 1920s.

The world has changed tremendously since that first TFS graduation in 1928. Advances in transportation, communication, technology and science have created a close-knit world and an interdependent global community. Over the years Tallulah Falls School has evolved as well, and has recently come full circle and returned to our initial mission of serving area children in addition to students from throughout the nation and 18 foreign countries. Despite of our best efforts, the school will never be a finished product. What is cutting edge today will be obsolete tomorrow. As we have changed, the school has kept the very best traditions upon which it was founded: a nurturing family atmosphere, small classes and personal attention, an emphasis on character and service, and education as preparation for life.

“Over the years Tallulah Falls School has evolved as well, and has recently come full circle and returned to our initial mission of serving local children in addition to students from throughout the nation and 18 foreign countries. Despite of our best efforts, the school will never be a finished product.”

The 61 seniors comprising the Class of 2016, while mostly from Georgia, hail from five states and 10 foreign countries, and their diversity is a major component of our school community’s strength. As they walked across the stage on May 15th to become our newest alumni, I challenged them to go far above and beyond the necessary to achieve the extraordinary. We as a school have, in partnership with their parents and guardians, guided and supported them as they prepare to live meaningful lives with a higher purpose than self. The education these graduates have received at Tallulah Falls School has given them two invaluable gifts: preparation and opportunity. I am confident they will be good stewards of both of these gifts.



President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy shares the school’s history with an inquisitive group of middle school students comprised primarily of children from local communities.

TFS Class of 2020



Middle school awards night and eighth grade commencement

The TFS middle school recognized excellence, achievement and character during the annual awards night/eighth grade commencement held on May 18 in the Dorman gymnasium. Sixty-one eighth graders received graduation certificates and their next stop is the TFS upper school just across the highway. Below is a list of middle school awards presented:

**Daughters of the American Revolution,
Tomochichi Chapter, Good Citizen Award:**

Andrew Erwin (6th), Allie Campbell (7th),
Laurel Smith (8th)

Duke University TIP 7th grade Talent Search:

Jacob Boling*, Caleb Carter, Sydney Coffey, Jack Greene*,
Payton Gunn, Brinson Hall, Camden Hughes*, Baylee MacBeth*,
Charles Mullis, Mary Ellen Sanders*, Caroline Turpen,
Morgan Webb, John (Tate) Whitfield*.

*denotes additional recognition at the state level

Indians of the Year: John Nichols, Ashley Crosby

GREAT Athletic Character: Hayden Johnson, Sarah Edwards

TFS Scholar Athletes: Christopher Geiger, Khadijat Kokumo

Boarding Student of the Year: Rodrigo Roa

Physical Education Student of the Year: John Nichols

Music Student of the Year: Josh Shanks

Art Student of the Year: Stephen Bowman

Drama Student of the Year: Rylan Pugh



Outstanding middle school students of the year
Reagan **Brode** • Brinson **Hall** • Sarah **Edwards**
6th grade 7th grade 8th grade

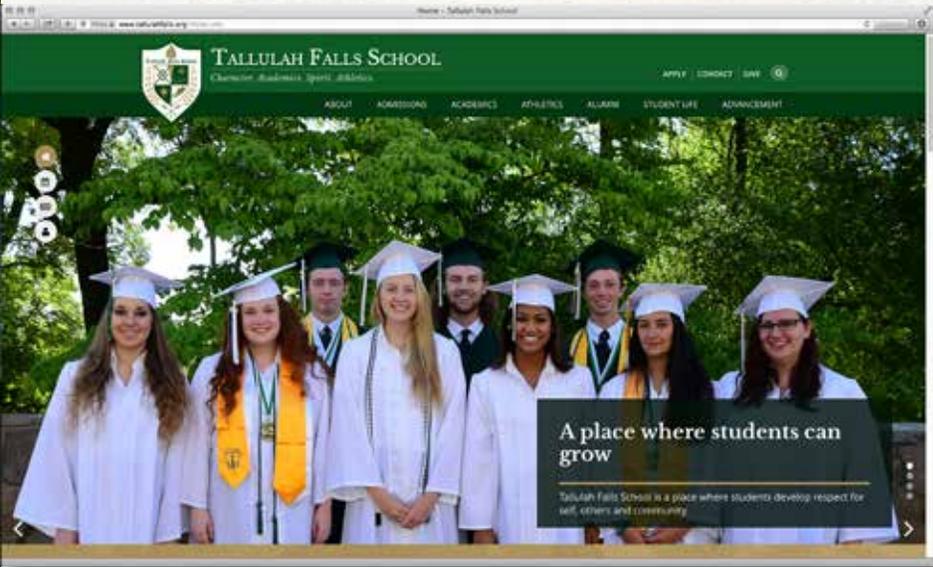


Alia **Bly**



Rylan **Pugh**

Each year two eighth grade students are chosen to speak at eighth grade commencement exercises. This year Alia Bly of Clayton and Rylan Pugh of Clarkesville delivered the eighth grade address.



Redesigned website introduces major enhancements for students, parents, faculty and visitors

- Easier navigation
- Enhanced graphics
- Enhanced photo galleries
- Integrated with social media platforms



If you have not already noticed, Tallulah Falls School's website has a new look, and the changes go well beyond just cosmetic. The entire website has been professionally redesigned in order to make it easier to navigate, more efficient, and provide more information at the touch of your fingertips (or mouse). Whether a student, parent, faculty, staff, or even a prospective student, the new TFS website will allow easier navigation and provide more information in a more appealing format. Please take a few moments to visit www.tallulahfalls.org and explore our new electronic gateway.



Civic Woman's Club of Milledgeville
(with recent TFS graduates Vanessa Lewis (l) and Ashley Kemp)

GaFWC Club visits this Spring



Chickamauga Woman's Club

Representing and honoring the founders of Tallulah Falls School



Heartland Woman's Club



Atlanta Woman's Club



Northside Woman's Club



Stone Mountain Woman's Club

Words of Wisdom

by E. Lane Gresham

Alumni letters impart wisdom to Killeen Jensen's eighth grade English students



Ella Cantrell (left) and Taylor McAvoy are joined by L.B. Allman for lunch. Photo credit: Mike Dale

Connecting with alumni mentors was a highlight for Mrs. Killeen Jensen's eighth grade English students this year. At the start of the school year, students were asked to write a letter to individuals who graduated from Tallulah Falls School.

The exercise in communication was broadened to ask alumni pen pals to share a character trait that served as a guide for life. Many of the alumni wrote pages of advice and shared experiences of attending school at TFS.

"Some of these alumni just went overboard," Jensen says. "They took it seriously. And the kids took it seriously."

According to Jensen, students were required to journal each month, and then write another letter letting their mentor

know how the advice was applied. Several of the alumni came to school to meet in person and to eat lunch, Jensen says.

L.B. Allman of South Carolina was paired with Ella Cantrell. Her assigned character word was *humble*. In his letter, Allman shared highlights of his business and service career. He prevailed in life despite a difficult childhood that resulted in being left homeless as a teenager.

"I excelled in all the work experience I mentioned..." Allman states. "I am not telling you this to brag as I tend to be a humble person. I'm letting you know what a teen who is homeless and hungry can do."

A few edited samples of student feedback on the project are included below. To read more about this project, visit www.tallulahfalls.org.

Hard-working

"I used to not pay much attention to my work, but now I am doing a much better job and I always try to give 100% in anything I do. The example I'm most proud of is winning our regional championship in basketball. I set many goals for myself before this school year started, and because of my character trait and willingness to improve, I think I have met and/or exceeded almost all of them."

- Reeves Cody

Words to live by

Patience

"I've used patience to develop new friendships among the other 8th graders and the younger classmates, and I've also grown to be more open minded. Throughout the year, I've made a conscious effort to give people a chance, even if they'd been rude or obnoxious to me in the past."

- Alia Bly

Independent

To achieve independence, I asked questions, studied more, and I tried to finish most of my homework in my free time... I would always go home and review the pages we learned in class that day. I did this to make sure I understood what we were learning. This helped me so much when it came time to study for the test because I already knew the chapter. The last thing I did was I tried to finish my entire homework during tutorial.

- Sarah Edwards

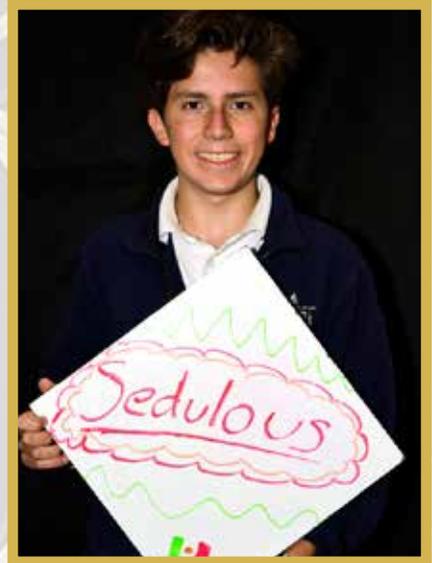
incorporating concepts that lead to success



Sarah **Edwards**



Alia **Bly**



Rodrigo **Roa**



Maggie **Eavenson**



Sophie **Alexander**



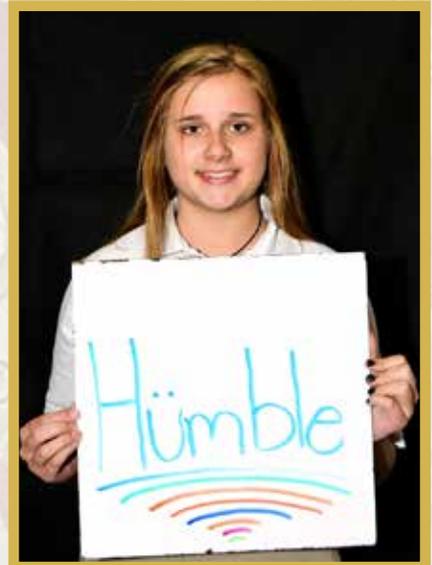
Reeves **Cody**



Taylor **McAvoy**



Matthew **Weidner**



Ella **Cantrell**

Photo credit: E. Lane Gresham

'Partnership between the Falls'



Front row, from left: Bryan Shelton, TFC Provost; Larry A. Peevy, TFS President and Head of School. Back row, from left: Bobby Hammond, Jr., TFS college counselor; Brittany Schenck, TFS Dual Enrollment Coordinator; Jamie Zugelder, TFC Vice President for Enrollment Management; Kim Popham, TFS Upper School Academic Dean.

In what has been coined, "The Partnership between the Falls," Tallulah Falls School and Toccoa Falls College have signed a Memorandum of Agreement for dual-enrolled courses between the two institutions.

"I am pleased to be partnering with Toccoa Falls College as TFS expands its on-campus, college level courses," said TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy.

"Dual-enrolled" means certain high school courses demonstrate the strategic rigor to count for college courses of the same topic, so students at TFS receive both high school and college credit in one class. The select TFS faculty members are approved as TFC adjunct faculty and the students are both TFS and TFC students at the same time for these select courses. Additionally, Toccoa Falls College will be providing its own faculty members to teach classes on the Tallulah Falls School campus. The result is these college-preparatory high school students are even more prepared for college. This fall semester, courses in Latin and History have already been approved, with courses in Spanish and Art being prepared for dual-enrollment.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with such a growing and reputable institution who is our neighbor," said TFC President Robert Myers.



Fluently excellent

TFS students bring home the hardware at UNG's Modern Language Day

Tallulah Falls School modern language students had an impressive day as they competed against six other area high schools at the annual Modern Language Day at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. The day is meant as a celebration of non-English speaking cultures, with attendees participating in a variety of activities and competitions.

Spanish III and Chinese II students attended along with Spanish faculty member Sara Roberts and Chinese teacher Zijun Xu. TFS student Sarah Catherine Fordham sang a beautiful Spanish solo, while TFS Mandarin Chinese students sang as a class and demonstrated Chinese calligraphy to the audience in attendance. Helen Lee, Cusai Alfred-Igbokwe, Tori Sesam and Sarah Catherine Fordham competed in the Language Bowl trivia game.

Tallulah Falls School brought home a first-place Best in Show award for projects and exhibits. In the Models category (Day of the Dead project): Kaitlyn Crosby - first place; Mena Nagy - second place; Ryan Hughes - honorable mention. Handicrafts (piñatas): Emma Caldwell - first place; Simmren Naik, Grace Chung - second place; Kaitlyn Crosby, Mena Nagy and Katelyn Ao - third place. Graphics (posters/books): Renayre Forbes and Garbo Wu - first place; Rachel Richardson and Helen Lee - second place; Jonathan Huang and Garbo Wu - third place. Creative Writing (children's books): Sarah Catherine Fordham - second place. Performing Arts: Chinese class song - second place.



faculty and staff milestones

employment anniversaries

retirements



l to r: Harriet Worrell 40 years
Killeen Jensen - 25 years
Jackie Crosby - 15 years
not pictured: Sharon Shirley - 30 years

TFS said goodbye to three dedicated members of the campus community during a meeting of the faculty and staff on May 23. Retirement is the next stop for Mike Dale, Director of Giving (38 years), Glenda Franklin, middle school music teacher (23 years) and middle school English teacher Linda James (10 years). Best wishes to these three outstanding members of the TFS family. Thank you for your years of service.



l to r: Glenda Franklin - 23 years
Mike Dale - 38 years
Linda James - 10 years



Rick Story
Archway Professional
Habersham County

Special guests inspire students at baccalaureate, commencement

Two distinguished public figures addressed the senior class at baccalaureate and commencement services. Brian Kemp, Georgia Secretary of State, and Rick Story, Archway Professional for Habersham County, conveyed stories of inspiration to the seniors as they prepared to graduate and embark on their college careers.

Story was the featured speaker at this year's baccalaureate service. Story is currently the UGA Archway Professional in Habersham County and his career highlights include working closely with high profile public figures such as then-Rep. Newt Gingrich, then-Rep. Nathan Deal, Rev. Franklin Graham and the Dr. Billy Graham.

Kemp addressed TFS seniors at commencement. Kemp has served as Georgia's Secretary of State since 2010. Among his wide ranging responsibilities are conducting secure, fair and accessible elections, the registering of corporations and the administration of professional license holders.



Brian Kemp
Georgia Secretary of State

Vive Les

TFS celebrates



ARTS

'An Evening of the Arts'

Artistic creativity across a wide variety of genres was enthusiastically celebrated as Tallulah Falls School students hosted 'An Evening of the Arts' on Thursday, April 14 in the school's Gertrude Long Harris theater. TFS students from drama, culinary arts, video broadcasting, chorus and instrumental music displayed an impressive array of projects and talents.

During the opening portion of the event TFS instrumental musicians performed on the piano, clarinet, alto sax and violin, and about a dozen video projects created by Kerri Pugh's video broadcasting students were displayed on large monitors in the lobby.

Next up were the TFS Players with an excerpt from their latest drama production *Midsummer Jersey*, followed by the talented TFS Ringers, the school's renowned handbell choir. The Ringers performed *Sing a Rainbow*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *You Raise me Up*, and *Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel*. The Ringers train and perform under the direction of TFS music instructor Curt Frederick.

"An Evening of the Arts" concluded with six choral numbers performed by the TFS Singers. Performances ranged from a trio to the full twenty-member chorus and the selections included, *I Will Be There to See*, *My Girl*, *One Voice*, *Nightingale*, *Wade in the Water* and *Homeward Bound*.

▲ The TFS Singers perform at *An Evening of the Arts*.

▼ During the intermission members of the audience enjoyed delicious desserts prepared by TFS Culinary arts students under the direction of instructor Whitney Denham.



musical ARTS



▲ “An Evening of the Arts” concluded with six choral numbers performed by the TFS Singers. Performances ranged from a trio to the full twenty-member chorus and the selections included, *I Will Be There to See*, *My Girl*, *One Voice*, *Nightingale*, *Wade in the Water* and *Homeward Bound*.

▼ Attendees admire the collection of student artwork.



▲ Colorful drawings, paintings, pottery and other artistic items created under the tutelage of instructors Tina Cheek and Georgann Lanich were on display in the theater lobby.

▼ On the main theater stage The TFS Players, under the direction of drama instructor Georgann Lanich, performed an excerpt from their recent Spring production, *Midsummer Jersey*. Left to right: Taylor Huling, Amy Betz and Max Teems.



TFS an evening of the ARTS

dramatic ARTS



Sesam to participate in Washington Youth Tour

Victoria Sesam, a TFS junior, has been chosen to participate in the 51st annual Washington Youth Tour (WYT), an all-expense-paid leadership experience sponsored by electric membership cooperatives around the state. Sesam will represent the Clarkesville-based Habersham EMC on the tour. This year's Youth Tour will take place June 9-16.

Sesam is the daughter of Mary and Gus Sesam of Sautee in White County. She is an accomplished singer and participates in community theater. Sesam also speaks both German and Chinese. She enjoys computer science as well as writing and has won several writing competitions at both the state and national levels.

Sesam is a member of the National Honor Society, Model U.N., a junior member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs-Georgia, and is a TFS Student Ambassador. Following graduation she plans to attend college and major in either bio-chemistry or pre-med.

The Youth Tour was established in order to inspire future leaders. As they experience the nation's capital and its many monuments and memorials, students are able to better understand the sacrifices necessary to live in a free society.



Victoria Sesam

In the past 50 years over 3,000 Georgia students have participated in this unique program.

B.A.S.S. Club out to lure new members

by E. Lane Gresham



Marshall (Williams) and Marshall (Harrelson) display their catch at a recent successful tournament. submitted photo

A new fishing club is charting unexplored waters at Tallulah Falls School. Members of the Tallulah Falls School Bass Fishing Club, Marshall Williams of Homer and his fishing partner Marshall Harrelson of Clarkesville are already placing in the top 10 in local and regional bass fishing tournaments. Williams is a rising TFS freshman and Harrelson will join the student body as a sophomore for the 2016-17 school year. The club will be sponsored officially by TFS, with the angling duo sporting TFS-logo attire and hats. It will be affiliated with the Georgia B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society) National High School network which "connects young anglers with the outdoors; helping develop responsible champions of our natural resources through the sport of fishing."

According to President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy, the club is an answer to a simple request by a student. "Sponsoring a fishing club is another way to present a positive image of the school through a connection with a quality organization," Peevy says.

The club members will compete in sanctioned fishing tournaments through the B.A.S.S. organization. Russell Williams, Marshall Williams' father says the connection to the school will help offset tournament costs but also raise the team's stature.

"The corporate world can make donations to the school to support the team." Williams says the sport is open to both males and female and it is growing rapidly. There are college teams with scholarships available for skilled anglers, he says.

Marshall Williams enjoys the sport and says environmental stewardship and boating safety are built into the experience of tournament fishing. The pair of friends are ramping up a solid record of success this tournament season.

In a May 14 tournament at Lake Sinclair, the team finished seventh with 12.24 pounds in a 57-boat field. The season runs January through June with national competition set for July. Look for more information on the club after schools starts in August.

TWO RECENT TFS GRADUATES
ARE INDUCTEES INTO MERCER
UNIVERSITY'S INAUGURAL CLASS OF
PHI BETA KAPPA



Two Tallulah Falls School graduates have been inducted into Mercer University's newly established chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society. Min Oh and Soowhan Yoon both graduated from Tallulah Falls School in 2012. Oh and Yoon join 24 other distinguished students in the inaugural Phi Beta Kappa chapter.

Mercer is only the third Georgia research university to establish a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter, joining UGA and Emory with the distinction. According to the *Mercerian*, students who qualify must 'excel in a rigorous liberal arts curriculum with coursework in foreign languages and quantitative reasoning and show good character. Students ranked exceptional among their peers in the junior and senior classes will be considered for membership, and they will be selected by the Phi Beta Kappa members of Mercer's faculty.'

Yoon enrolled at Mercer on a partial scholarship while Oh received a Mercer Presidential Scholarship and additionally she was named a Mercer Stamps Foundation Scholar, a highly prestigious and competitive award featuring an all-inclusive scholarship covering the entire cost of a Mercer education. Oh's list of impressive accomplishments also includes a recent acceptance into the Harvard University graduate School of Education.



Min **Oh**



Soowhan **Yoon**

Mercer University
PHI BETA KAPPA
Zeta Chapter of Georgia

Nichols ('15) setting records at Mars Hill



Rachel **Nichols**

Rachel Nichols (Class of 2015) broke three school records for the Mars Hill University swim team this year. Nichols now holds school records for the 100 yard butterfly, 200 yard medley relay and the 400 yard medley relay. Nichols was named the Appalachian Conference Swimmer of the Week for November 18, 2015 and was also named to the Appalachian Swimming Conference All-Conference team.

Thomas Hand ('12) graduates from the U.S. Naval Academy



Ensign Thomas **Hand**

Thomas Hand (Class of 2012) graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering. The graduation and commissioning ceremonies took place on May 27, 2016. Hand will be stationed at Pensacola, Florida to begin training as a Naval Aviator.

Boyd ('09) earns Masters from Georgia Tech



Joseph **Boyd**

Joseph Boyd (Class of '09) recently received his Masters in City and Regional Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Boyd is a 2013 graduate of the University of Georgia and is employed with the Gainesville-Hall Metropolitan Planning Organization as a transportation planner.



photo credit: Mike Dale

Wilkinson and Byrd selected as Outstanding Alumni for 2016

Andrew Byrd - Class of 1989 Outstanding Alumni

Andrew Byrd graduated from Tallulah Falls School in 1989 and followed his TFS experience with a year of volunteer service with Up With People, a global humanitarian program with music at its core. He then attended college where he studied broadcasting, journalism and business.

His love and appreciation of the music industry eventually took him in a different direction and he soon launched a career as a musician and radio personality. In addition, he has been a professional emcee, entertainer, producer, director and entrepreneur.

Andrew is now employed in the wedding and corporate events industry as well as being President & CEO of eight self-established LLC's. He is also involved with a host of civic and humanitarian organizations and charities including the Georgia Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

He is the recipient of numerous service awards including a three-time winner of the Visionary of the Year award from Athens Wedding Professionals. His accomplishments have been featured in *Modern Bride Magazine*, *Southern Distinction Magazine*, *Athens Magazine*, and *Athens Banner Herald*.

Andrew speaks highly of his experiences at Tallulah Falls School and how his education here helped him to be focused and prepared for life in many ways. He has returned to TFS to speak to students at Career Day and was the Baccalaureate speaker in 2014. He has said that his favorite visits are when he gets a chance to just drive through campus and reminisce about his days here as a student.

The TFS Alumni Association will accept nominations for Outstanding Alumni in the fall. We will alert our readers in an upcoming edition of the TFS Magazine and provide the necessary details.

Ebony Wilkinson - Class of 2009 Outstanding Young Alumni

After graduating from Tallulah Falls School in May 2009, New York native Ebony Wilkinson enrolled at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. There she became the first scholar to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Individualized/Interdisciplinary Studies in the region. Wilkinson completed her degree in December 2015.

Wilkinson's focus was in research on Body Confidence and Self Esteem for young women. She has been accepted into Fordham University's Masters in Nonprofit Leadership program. She is also working on writing, illustrating and publishing a children's book.

Wilkinson recently returned home to New York City to join the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute (BALI) where she works with young women to motivate them to become leaders and advocate for causes they feel passionately about. She also enjoys volunteering with her church and annually with the United Nation's International Day of the Girl celebrations. She has remained in close connection with Tallulah Falls School and many of her classmates since her graduation.

Congratulations to Ebony Wilkinson as the Outstanding Young Alumni (34 and younger) for 2016.

Alumni passings

Bradford Bates ('84)

Bradford E. Bates, TFS Class of 1984, passed away on January 13, 2016. Bates was a retired driver for Velstar Medical Transportation and lived in Norwood, Georgia.

Larry Earle, Sr.

Former student Larry Williams Earl, Sr. passed away on February 3, 2016. Earl played football during his time at Tallulah Falls School. A native of Martin, Georgia, Earl was the retired owner of a welding business.

Dylan Gunby

Former TFS student Dylan MacKenzie Gunby, age 18, of Clarkesville passed away on March 9, 2016. Gunby attended TFS from the sixth through ninth grades (2008-2012). Gunby was the daughter of Harold Gunby, Jr. and Cassandra Lee Gunby of Clarkesville.

Thomas Smith ('64)

Thomas David Smith, a graduate of the TFS class of 1964, passed away on April 22, 2016. Smith was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and was employed with Georgia Power Company for 39 years. Internment was held at Yonah Memorial Gardens with full military honors.

If you have alumni information that you would like to have published in the TFS magazine please contact Brian Boyd, Director of Communications: brian.boyd@tallulahfalls.org



Ms. Milam Kocina, a graduate of the Class of 1934, was the oldest alumni attendee at this year's homecoming celebration.

Homecoming HIGHLIGHTS

Dozens of former students returned to the TFS campus for two days of renewing relationships and reliving their favorite memories...

Kenneth Nicholson (Class of 1970) and Walt Cox, former TFS faculty member, pose for a photograph with senior faculty member Linda Harris in the TFS museum.



Just part of Friday night's homecoming 'Fun on the Field' celebration activities.

'The Orange Constant' was in fine form as it reprised its 2015 homecoming appearance at Friday's 'Fun on the Field' celebration.



photos by E. Lane Gresham

ON HOMECOMING WEEKEND...
ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE



Fury at the Farm

Obstacle/Adventure Race draws record number of participants

The thrill of victory. The agony of defeat. A record number of participants experienced it all on a magnificent spring day as more than 50 competitors accepted the challenge of Fury at the Farm, held April 16. Sponsored by the TFS Alumni Association and benefiting the students of Tallulah Falls School, this year's edition was energized by an added category of competition based on the combined times of individual students and their participating parent.

According to Todd Besier, President of the TFS Alumni Committee, even more obstacles were added to the nearly 3-mile course this year, making it the most challenging ever. Fury on the Farm is the successor to The Light in the Mountains 5K Road Race which was traditionally held each year on TFS Alumni Homecoming weekend. The alumni committee will be working hard to make the 2017 edition even better, so make plans to be a part of next year's Fury at the Farm.

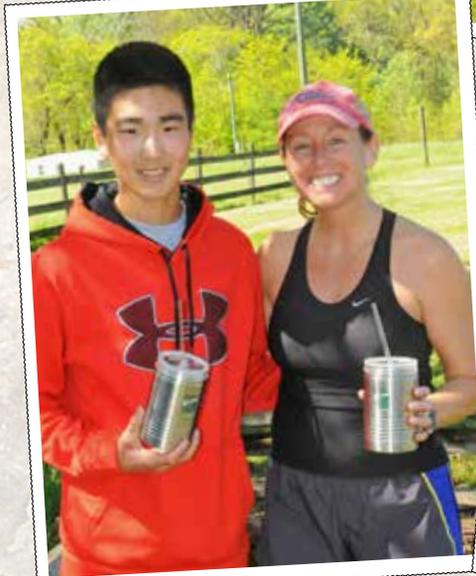




Middle school phys ed teacher Cyndy Campbell (left) and upper school Spanish teacher Sara Roberts tackle one of the obstacles along the challenging course.



*“NOTE TO SELF:
TRAIN HARDER
NEXT YEAR”*



Overall male and female winners: TFS junior Michael Weidner (left) and TFS faculty member Jennifer Dunlap.



Best combined parent-student winners: Ken Johnson (left) and eighth grader Hayden Johnson.



Five titles!



Baseball leads the way as middle school sports claim five conference titles

Tallulah Falls School was host to the Middle School Tri-State Conference baseball championship on Tuesday, April 26th. TFS defeated conference foe Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School 13-3 to win its first-ever Tri-State Conference championship. Coach Rick Hammock expressed tremendous pride in his young and talented TFS team. Sixth grader Aubrey Higgins from Cornelia pitched five strong innings striking out seven and surrendering only two earned runs in the championship game. Eighth grader Davis Jennings had two hits and drove in four runs to lead the offensive attack. TFS finished the season with a perfect 3-0 record in Tri-State Conference competition.

Netters dominate in championship match

Tallulah Falls School claimed another Tri-State tennis title with a 4-1 victory over rival Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School. Number one singles player Pablo Mexsen led the way defeating his opponent 8-5. Stephen Hoag was victorious at the #2 singles position 8-5 and the #3 singles player Hayden Johnson dominated with an 8-0 win. In doubles play the #1 team of Ashley Crosby and Luke Johnson played well but came up short 3-8. The #2 doubles team of Caroline Turpin and Caden Griffis won 8-3. Coach Lisa Wilcox was justifiably proud of her squad, not only for claiming the Tri-State title, but for playing with heart and character throughout the year.



Boys and girls track & field capture Tri-State championship banners

Coach Scott Neal's middle school boys and girls track & field squads capped off another successful season by capturing the Tri-State championship at Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School on April 26. The girls team won decisively earning 110 points with second place Highlands earning 26. Girls winners included Eva Wiggins (shot), Khadijat Kokumo (discus), Brianna Docsol (100 meters, 200 meters, long jump and both relays), Reid Kafsky (triple jump, both relays), and Brianna Docsol (both relays, both hurdles).

In a much tighter competition the TFS boys (76 points) defeated second place Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School (64 points). The boys were led by Matthew Weidner (shot, discus, 400 meters, both relays), Grey Bourlet (triple jump, 300 meter hurdles, both relays) and John Nichols (200 meters, both relays).

Thirteen members of the team participated in the state championships at Parkview High School on April 22-23. The TFS boys placed 20th of the 84 teams. Seventh grader Grey Bourlet of Tallulah Falls vaulted 9'-5" to be state runner-up, a Top 3 TFS middle school Legacy List vault. Eighth grader John Nichols of Clarkesville placed eighth with a height of 8'-7".



for title #5 see middle school golf team pic on page 26.

TRACK & FIELD

Season marked by outstanding individual and team performances

The Tallulah Falls School track & field program had a season to remember in 2016 with an impressive number of stellar individual and team performances. Head coach Scott Neal added a few personal thoughts about the year saying, “our leadership was stellar, our relationships solidified, and the culture of GREAT-ness was strengthened more than ever before. We also hosted our first-ever home meet this year.”

The TFS boys team finished seventh of 28 scoring Class A-Private schools at the 45th annual Georgia Olympics, the state boys track & field championships held at Jefferson Memorial Stadium.

James Davis led the way by finishing second in the 300 meter hurdles and sixth in the 110 meter hurdles. Junior Zatrack Pearce finished fifth in the 100 meter and fourth in the 200 meters. Senior Ethen Besier turned in a strong performance as well finishing fifth in the pole vault and ninth in the discus. The 4x4 relay team of James Davis, Ethen Besier, Thala Freeman and Zatrack Pearce set a school record while placing third.

The TFS girls had their strongest season ever, placing third in Area 2-A Private with 106.5 points, placing seventh of 30 scoring schools at the State Championships with 34.5 points, setting five outdoor and seven indoor school records (plus tying another indoor and outdoor record). Sophomores Anna Davis and Gaby Ajibade were area champions. Eight girls advanced from Area to Sectionals and four advanced to the state finals with seven entries. The girls also won the Cook Holliday Relays at Winder-Barrow, defeating various high classification schools in the process. And by the way, the girls - as did the boys - received the Region 8-A Sportsmanship Award.



Zatrack **Pearce**

Brother and sister pair making news on the track



James **Davis**

With a vault of 14' 4-3/4" departing senior James Davis placed third at the inaugural Meet of Champions, an all-classification high school All-Star meet held at Marietta High School comprised of state champions and select qualifying, invitation only athletes sponsored by USA Track and Field.

By placing third, Davis was selected to the USATF All-State team while finishing with a season best performance.

Davis finished his high school career as the most decorated TFS male track and field athlete in school history, and holds numerous indoor and outdoor school records, holds the Class A state pole vault record, and is now off to further his education and athletic career at Davidson College.



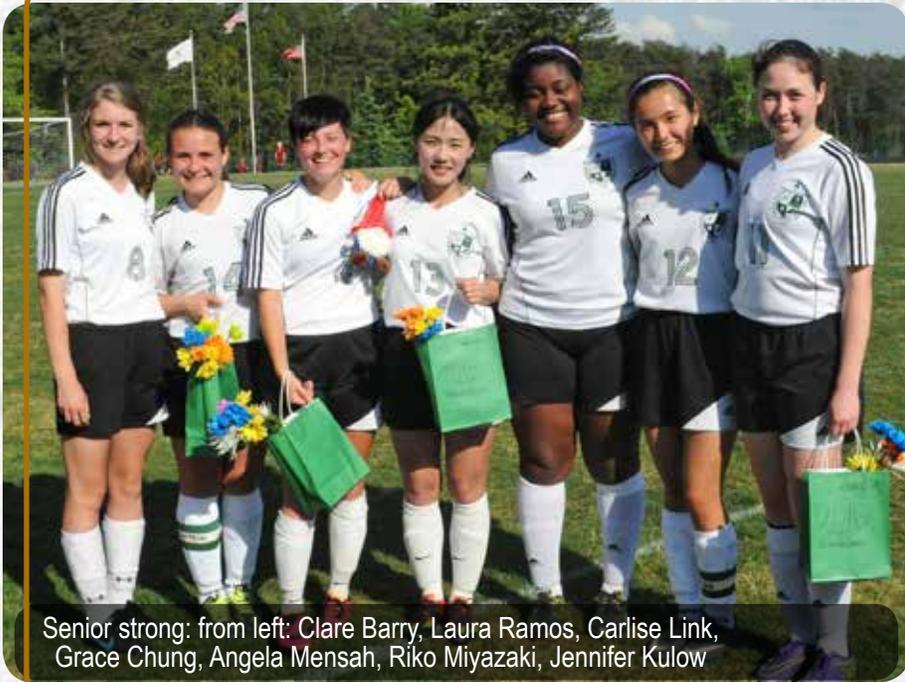
Anna **Davis**

James and Anna Davis were named one of the ga.milesplit.com track athletes of the week for their performances at the Area 2-A championships. The brother-sister combo were named the 1-A Private Region Meet 'Athletes of the Week.' James was also named the High Point Athlete of the Meet (see photo at left).

Anna was in the top two of point scorers in multiple meets, scored 28 points at the Area meet, 14.5 points at state, and now holds three indoor and five outdoor TFS event records.

SOCCER

Ladies soccer led by strong core of seniors



Senior strong: from left: Clare Barry, Laura Ramos, Carlise Link, Grace Chung, Angela Mensah, Riko Miyazaki, Jennifer Kulow

The Tallulah Falls School ladies soccer team enjoyed a stellar season. While Coach Jane Shoemaker's squad did not enjoy its best season in terms of wins and losses, it was, according to Shoemaker, a season of significance.

Shoemaker stressed that this year's squad featured the largest group of seniors since the team was established six years ago. With a strong group of seniors, bringing the younger players along in the system was made much easier.

Everything Shoemaker's squad did was done with the team in mind. Starting with a preseason cleaning of the field house, painting the field house, weeks of practice, games to the end of the season pool party, the season reflected the strong bonds developed among the players.

"This was a very special group of ladies, and they leave a legacy of playing everyone fearlessly. They took on even the toughest teams on the schedule with *no fear*. They always played to the best of their ability and walked off the field knowing they gave it their best. It has been such an honor and privilege to coach this incredible group of young ladies."



Hollen **Vitale**



Wendy **Portillo** & Grace **Chung**



Carlise **Link**

Middle school cheering omission



Morgan **Webb**

Middle school cheerleader Morgan Webb's name was inadvertently omitted from beneath the team photo in the Spring TFS Magazine. Our apologies for the omission.

B A S E B A L L

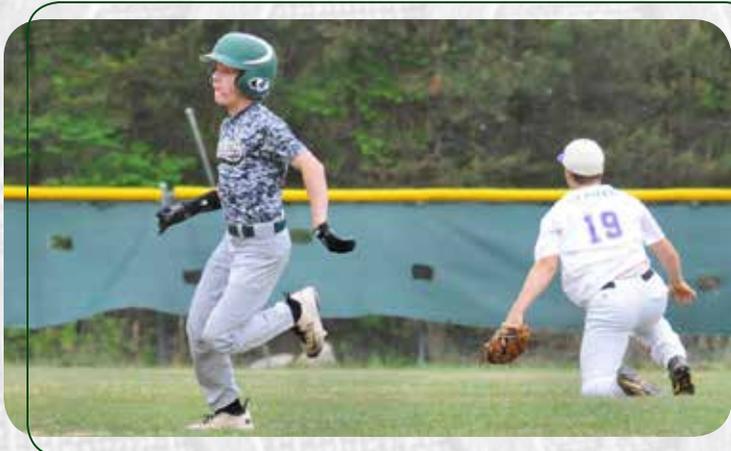


Gage **Webb**



Cody **Thomas**

young team gaining momentum



The 2016 edition of the diamond Indians refused to be outworked by any other team. According to Assistant Coach Ashley Bagley, the team gave up every Saturday during the month of March to participate in Diamond Days, an event where multiple teams came to TFS for an entire day's worth of baseball. This total immersion in baseball allowed even the younger players to gain valuable experience.

One of the year's highlights occurred early in the season for the TFS junior varsity team as they defeated rival Towns County Indians 7-5 with a late inning comeback. Another highlight was freshman Gage Webb's 13 strikeout performance in an outing against the Atlanta Jewish Academy Jaguars.

With the close of the season the team bids adieu to three seniors: Cody Thomas, Denzel Green Wright and Jayson Newson. Coach Ashley Bagley said, "Jayson was new to the program this year but his hard work was simply inspiring. Cody and Denzel have been a part of the program since ninth grade. They both played multiple positions with the team and truly played a major role in helping the program to grow competitively."

"These seniors will be missed, said assistant coach Ashley Bagley, "but their legacy will live on through their hard work and dedication. The future of the program is bright, however. We have some tremendous talent moving up from the middle school and underclassmen."



Senior night, from left: Coach Ashley Bagley, Coach Patrick Mayfield, Candace Woodward, Jayson Newson, Cody Thomas, Denzel Green Wright

TFS GOLF



*TFS golf
makes a name for
itself in 2016*

on the right COURSE



Area **CHAMPIONS**
Grace **Brewer** • Chloe **Turpin**
Jenny **Wang** • Julia **Nichols**

Coach Allen Campbell's varsity boys and girls golf teams had their best season in their relatively short existences. The boys team finished 6-8 while setting numerous individual and team records. They finished fifth of nine schools at the State Sectionals and missed going to state by one place. However, the boys team score of 362 set a new TFS school record.

Junior Michael Weidner's score of 82 qualified him for a trip to the sectionals at the UGA golf course in Athens where he then shot an impressive 71. The 71 broke his own personal best in tournament play and sent him to the State Finals in Augusta on May 16. Weidner made TFS proud by finishing 22nd of 52 competitors at the finals.

The girls team also had a successful season winning its first ever Area Championship by shooting a team low score of 213 at the Orchard golf course. The entire ladies squad qualified for a trip to the finals. Jenny Wang also earned a trip to the state finals with her performance and followed it up with a top 10 finish (ninth place). The TFS ladies finished sixth of eight teams at the state competition.



Michael Weidner (center) poses with coach Allen Campbell (left) and his father, TFS board member Jim Weidner, after his record round of 71 at the sectionals held at the UGA golf course. In the photo at top left Weidner is shown at a match earlier in the season.



Jenny **Wang**

middle school golf



Tri-State champs!

Though only a small number of Tri-State Conference schools have middle school golf, the TFS team took home that crown as well. Coach Cyndy Campbell is in charge of developing the next generation of TFS golfers. Be on the lookout for these young players.

TENNIS

An abundance of young talent has TFS netters looking to the future

The 2016 TFS Lady Indians were led by departing seniors Michelle Namkung and Guiga Kasabkojian. According to Coach Randy Morris, both co-captains displayed tremendous leadership qualities throughout the season. Kasabkojian (see below) recently signed to play at the college level with Coastal College of Georgia. Kasabkojian's 9-4 season record was a bit misleading, according to Morris, as three of her losses came against opponents from region teams that progressed to the final eight in the state playoffs.

Morris said, "The level of competition in the region is intense. The team that eliminated our ladies actually advanced to the semi-finals in state play. In other matches the team went toe-to-toe in a number of contests that could have gone either way. I told them that they were 'top ten' in my book."

The men's team was led by junior co-captains Mark Faingold and John Oklapeck. Morris stated, "Mark would work with the younger players to increase their overall skills and enhance the depth of the team."

"We have the luxury of having all our players return for next year. We should have a strong team to compete in what is always a tough Area."



Michelle **Namkung**



Guiga **Kasabkojian**

Kasabkojian to play at next level with Coastal Georgia College

TFS senior Ingrid Guiga Kasabkojian has signed to play tennis for the Mariners of Coastal College of Georgia in Brunswick. Kasabkojian was under the guidance of head tennis coach Randy Morris in her two years at TFS.

Coastal College of Georgia tennis coach Kemper Baker said, "We are extremely excited for Guiga to join our tennis program. She exemplifies all that we look for in a student athlete and anticipate her contributions to the culture of the Mariners tennis program and to the college as a whole."

TFS President and Head of School Larry A. Peevy said, "I am so proud of Guiga. She is a very talented tennis player and a very strong academic student. I look forward to reading about her success at Coastal College of Georgia."



Mark **Faingold**



John **Oklapeck**



*Strengthening
the fabric of
Tallulah Falls School*

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