



TUSCALOOSA ACADEMY

Fall Magazine 2022



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Tuscaloosa Academy is to provide a college-preparatory education in a supportive environment of intellectual freedom, to cultivate a love of learning, and to maximize each student's potential for academic achievement, character development, and readiness for life in a global environment.

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Accredited by the Southern Association of
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Association of Independent Schools (SAIS).

Tuscaloosa Academy is a member of the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA), and the Alabama
High School Athletic Association (AHSAA).



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Important Dates

September 9	Homecoming
September 13	Lower School Knight
October 24	Punkin' Knight
November 11	Veteran's Day Assembly
November 10	St. Martin Lantern Festival
December 11	German Christmas Market
February 16	Grandparents' Dinner
February 17	Grandparents' Day
March 3	Bake Sale
March 25	A Fool's Knight Out at the Casino
May 25	Graduation

Welcome!

From the Head of School and the Board President

Dear TA Family,

In the many conversations I have been fortunate to have since I began, what has out-shined every thread and topic is a pure passion and love each person holds for Tuscaloosa Academy. Our school holds academics in high regard while complimenting all student's unique gifts and talents on and off the field, court, or stage.

When one first walks onto campus, the trophy cases and plaques of decades of accolades hang proudly along the walls. These tell stories and highlight some of our Alumni's shining moments at TA, a true look into the history of what makes our school community so uniquely Tuscaloosa Academy.

Coupled with the stronghold on tradition and richness of the past is a community of Knights poised and ready to march forward, conquering the next chapter in the school's story. While I won't claim to know quite yet exactly what is written in these pages, I can share that I am honored and

humbled to link arms with each of you and get to work on being our best in all ways.

This school year will kick off the strategic planning process for our school and Board of Trustees. This process will deliver a detailed road map of success in an effort to prepare TA for decades to come. We will call upon all former and current Knights and their families to grasp hold of the traditions that make us TA and become visionary about who TA can become in the future. Let's join together in this journey towards continued success - an exciting adventure ahead!

Go Knights!
Beckie Share
Head of School

Dear TA community,

On behalf of the Tuscaloosa Academy Board of Trustees, I am excited to welcome our families back to campus. The start of a new school year is always an exciting time, and this is no exception. First and foremost, I want to formally welcome our new Head of School, Beckie Share, to TA. Our search last year allowed us to meet many different individuals with various backgrounds and degrees of experience. But, once we met Mrs. Share, it became very clear we had found the right person to lead our school. She has been on campus learning and observing since April, and is now in an excellent position to lead TA.

With Mrs. Share now "off and running", our next focus will be on creating the blueprint for Tuscaloosa Academy's future. We will strategically work to build this vision,

while also firmly embracing our past and those who built its solid foundation. Throughout this process, we plan to involve as many people as possible because ultimately this is "our school", and everyone's input will be vital to the success of this venture.

Lastly, I hope to see you this fall on Friday nights as we transition our athletics from the AISA to AHSAA. Having the ability to play schools within the Tuscaloosa area will bring many local families to our campus, and I can't think of a better way to show others the "best of who we are".

Reese Brooks
President of the Board



A Message From The Admissions Office

JULIA PHIFER

It brings me great joy to be back at my Alma Mater as the Director of Admissions and Enrollment. Although parts of campus have changed since 2007, the things that make TA special never will. Tuscaloosa Academy provided me with an education that went far beyond gaining admission to college. At TA, students learn how to succeed, how to care, how to interact, how to give back, and so much more. I believe many others share this sentiment - when you come on campus you will be surrounded by familiar faces! Whether it is a faculty member who has dedicated their career to TA or an alum who has returned to teach our youth, they all embody what we hold dear to our hearts: a safe place where students can learn, grow, and prepare for a life in college and beyond. If you would like to learn more about the Admissions process, you can reach me by phone or email. I look forward to hearing from you!

Go Knights!

Julia Phifer

205-758-4462 ext: 203

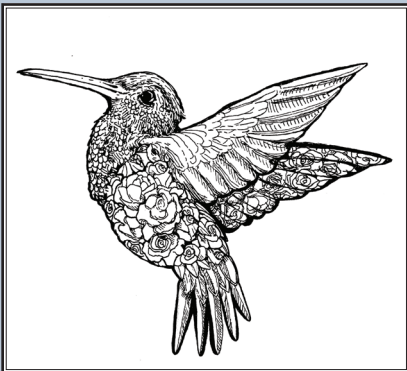
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In Memorium FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS

KAREN KNEER

For more than a decade, Karen Kneer created togetherness while providing a safe harbor for children who are navigating life in a new land. Since she and Wolfgang chose to raise their children in this inter-cultural place of being both German and American, she understood intimately the struggles and opportunities of this experience. She understood children. These young children, and often their parents, depended on her greatly in their early days, weeks, and months here in Alabama. Whether explaining how carpool works, or why the classrooms are so cold, or what the home and back folder means, she was



This ink drawing by Ms. Pruitt was commissioned by Oli Kneer in honor of his mother.

always present and prepared with an answer. Building togetherness. She remained a guide to these families throughout their time here at TA, in both the minutia and in more serious topics in life. Likewise, our teachers depended on Karen to come to a classroom at a moment's notice to comfort a homesick child, sometimes to translate a need, other times just to give her insight and wisdom into a dilemma. Always to share her warm smile. Karen loved TA, and we are so

fortunate to have been a recipient of that love.

In the early years of our TA-German partnership, Karen slowly issued in new traditions - the First Grade sugar cones, the Lantern Festival, St. Nicholas Day, and October Fest. What started as small ways to help make our German students feel togetherness blossomed into a school-wide togetherness based on these treasured events. The Lantern Festival, with St. Martin on his horse and the beautiful rainbow of lanterns swaying in the night's sky, now regularly is attended by crowds of American and German students alike singing "Lanterne, Lanterne," as we follow St. Martin around the school. It's a remarkable sight, and an event that made Frau Kneer proud. What you must understand is that Karen Kneer changed our community. She made us strong through togetherness. We are thankful for the beauty she brought to TA in big and small ways.

BROOKE PETERSON



SUSAN McCORQUODALE

I had the pleasure of working with Susan McCorquodale for over 11 years in middle school. We worked closely as a team of 5th and 6th-grade teachers, but Susan was more than a colleague; she was my dear friend. She was always a ray of sunshine, dressed immaculately and sporting her bright pink lipstick. Even today, as I walk upstairs to the middle school hallway, I expect to see that beautiful smile.

Susan worked in both TA's lower and middle school, teaching 5th and 6th graders History, which she loved. My two girls were privileged to be in her class, and she treated them with love and kindness as she treated all her students. Susan truly loved all her students like her own.

Mrs. McCorquodale retired the year after COVID and was fortunate enough to enjoy life to the fullest. She enjoyed traveling and especially loved spending more time with her children and grandchildren mentioning them often. I visited with Susan about a month before her passing. We laughed a lot, and I caught her up on the happenings of TA, students, and friends. I will always treasure that last visit. Susan was a fine example for all to follow, and I, along with all my TA colleagues, will miss her dearly.

SUZANNE ABERNATHY

COACH SCOTT BRENIZER

It is hard to put into words the impact Coach Brenizer had on Tuscaloosa Academy, but I'll attempt to do him justice with this paragraph. Coach demanded the best out of everyone, those who played for him and those that coached with him. When I attended TA, he was already very successful, but he never let any of that get to him. He always continued to push the next team to strive to achieve greatness, and get the most out of their potential.

He was tough and demanding, and I ran more 9's and 17's than I thought I could possibly do. I appreciated the "how" and the "why" things were done, and the attention to detail proved to be a deciding factor when we stepped onto the court. He fought for his players, and had our backs 100% of the time. I learned so much on the court from him, but just as much off of it. I don't think most of us realized what was happening around us at the time, and what he was doing to prepare us for the rest of our life in the midst of our high school years.

He loved us like we were his own children, and what he did for us, we could never properly repay him, except to pay it forward to those around us and to the next generation coming up. We love you Coach Brenizer, always and forever!

WILL CURTIS, CLASS OF 1995

Between 1977 and 2007, Coach Scott Brenizer amassed a phenomenal 665-97 record coaching Varsity Boys Basketball at Tuscaloosa Academy. During his tenure TA won 13 State Championships, winning three championships in a row twice ('90-'92, '95-'98) and four championships in a row between 1980-1984. He had seven undefeated seasons, a 100-game winning streak and a 55-game winning streak while at Tuscaloosa Academy. Winning was a by-product of a lot of long hard practices and years of experience. Coach Brenizer knew basketball but more

importantly he knew how to prepare young men to be the best versions of themselves. I was the last of three brothers to play for Coach Brenizer and by the time I was in Upper School, there was a very well-defined standard that was expected. Practices were challenging and exhausting but they paled in comparison to PRESEASON training. Coach was usually calm and almost stoic until he wasn't. I was on the receiving end of a good butt chewing a time or two. Most memorably though, my Junior and Senior years I got to see the lighter, funny side of Coach. He loved a good prank. He inspired an entire generation of young men at TA to be the best versions of themselves and for that, I will always be thankful.

BEN WILKIN, CLASS OF 1999



Retirees

Louise Gambrell retired this year after 43 years teaching at TA in various roles. Most recently, she has been in the position of Third Grade Teacher. Louise says she is most looking forward to spending time with her grand kids in retirement.



Tammy Atkins retired this year after 27 years teaching at TA for family and health reasons. She says she misses TA and the wonderful friends and students that she had the privilege to get to know over the years. She is looking forward to making new memories with family and friends.



50th Commencement

On May 19, 2022 at the 50th Commencement, Interim Head of School, Alan Barr, delivered a message to the Class of 2022 and their families. He spoke about wishing he had more time to spend with the seniors, as the song "Five More Minutes" goes, which was performed by Phillip Lancaster and Jack Standeffer during the ceremony. He lamented how COVID took a toll on the faculty and students in the TA community. Mr. Barr encouraged them to remember the good times and to learn from their struggles over the past years. "These memories and lessons will serve you well as you go forward in your very young lives."

This year the Valedictorian honor was awarded to Carson Claytor. He opened his address by thanking TA for helping him and his classmates learn from the unique adversity of the past two years. He applauded the uniqueness of the faculty

and how each member contributed to their education.

Carson spoke about the bond that exists between his classmates. How each looks after each other and "has one another's backs" in any situation. He spoke of how teachers, too, looked after them and often helped students out of tough situations.

Carson concluded with "The class of 2022 of Tuscaloosa Academy is a label that no one can take from us as a group, and it is a label that cannot be expanded. You all will forever be remembered by me as a group that represents leadership, diversity, and determination."



Co-Salutatorians Mary Alice Roe and Morgan Smith with Valedictorian, Carson Claytor

THE CLASS OF 2022

3

AP SCHOLARS

11

Seniors
30+ ACT
SCORE

NEARLY
\$1.6M

IN MERIT,
TALENT,
OR ATHLETIC
Scholarships
Offered





Class of 1982



Class of 1983



Class of 1978

TA GRAD

Through



Class of 1992



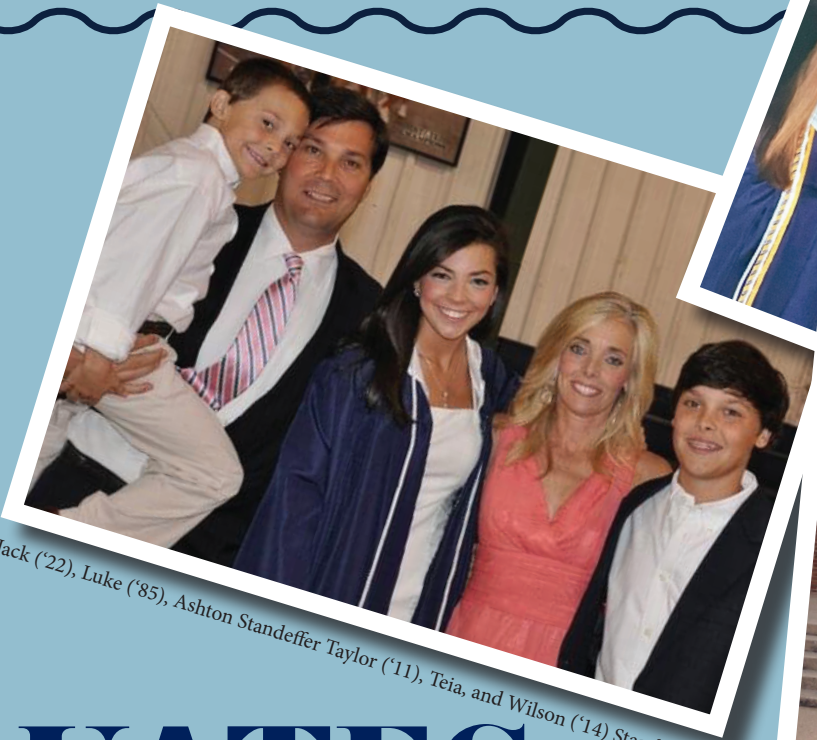
Class of 1979



Wright ('10), Mark ('81), Luke ('20), Suzy ('82) & Celia ('13) Gatewood.



Class of 2009



Jack ('22), Luke ('85), Ashton Standeffer Taylor ('11), Teia, and Wilson ('14) Standeffer.



Class of 2003



Tuscaloosa Academy

GRADUATES

the Years



Class of 2004



Class of 1975



Class of 2014



Class of 1993

We would love to have your class graduation photo! If you have one to share, please send them to alumni@tuscaloosaacademy.org



Exploring The World

JACLYN FOSTER

This summer, I was fortunate enough to embark on an adventure of a lifetime to the high Arctic of Svalbard and beyond as a Grosvenor Teacher Fellow with the National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions. I joined three other Grosvenor Teacher Fellows, National Geographic photographers, videographers, undersea specialists, glaciologists, polar bear guards, naturalists, and more onboard the National Geographic Resolution, which is one of only three expedition ships in the world that can break through the polar sea ice to explore where few have.

On the first morning, I was on the observation deck of the expedition ship when one of the

specialists spotted a polar bear gracefully walking on the sheets of ice ahead of us. We were not allowed to speak or make any noises that could scare the polar bear away. We observed through our camera lenses as the ship got closer and closer to the majestic animal. We were in complete awe and mesmerized as we watched the polar bear come closer into our view and slowly walk across the ice in front of us. Spotting a polar bear on day one of the expedition is a rare treat, so all the staff on board were thrilled. This excitement continued for the rest of the morning

as walrus were spotted sunbathing in a spot that would allow us to get off the ship via a Zodiac boat and come in close contact with the animals. The whole experience was extraordinary.

As we headed further north, cutting through large amounts of polar sea ice, the ship was met with calm water conditions in the Arctic Ocean. The specialist informed us that the Arctic was losing over 50 miles of sea ice a week due to the unusually hot weather for this time of year. This sad fact allowed us to do something that National Geographic has never done before: kayak in the Arctic Ocean north of the 80-degree latitude line. The North Pole is located 90 degrees north, so this was an extraordinary opportunity to kayak

literally on top of the world. This was by far my most memorable experience on this expedition. As we paddled around sea ice with polar bear guards surrounding us on high alert to keep us safe, I experienced something I never had before, complete and utter quietness, tranquillity, and peace. To be in a place where few people have gone, that hasn't been touched by human development, above a sun that never sets in the summer, without cell service or internet available, I was overwhelmed with emotion.



Walruses spotted on the Tundra.

After several days at sea, we got outside via Zodiac boats and hiked the tundra among icebergs, mountains, and Arctic animals. We spotted reindeer, Arctic foxes, bearded seals, whales, Arctic birds, and so much more. To breathe the fresh Arctic air and walk on solid land after being at sea was a welcoming break. The naturalist led us to many beautiful locations for the rest of the expedition and taught us about each area we visited. I spent the rest of the journey with the various educators and specialists, trying to come up with ways to bring this feeling and experience back to the classroom. I learned more than I ever imagined; I stepped outside my comfort zone, tried new things, met some fantastic professionals and educators, and have been utterly changed by this adventure of a lifetime.

I look forward to creating lesson plans, events, and multiple deliverables for educators worldwide as a part of a two-year leadership role with National Geographic and Lindblad Expeditions based on this expedition to the High Arctic as a Grosvenor Teacher Fellow.



Above: Images of Polar Sea ice and Mrs. Foster with a fellow explorer kayaking in the Arctic Ocean.



Above: Mrs. Foster after a hike through the Tundra. Below: A magnificent image from the Arctic.



Homecoming

2021

TUSCALOOSA ACADEMY V. MORGAN ACADEMY
TA 17-MA 7



Above: Jadyn Howard, Sherebiah Jones, Maliciah McKinney, and Tavion Sanders before the HOCO Dance.



Homecoming Court: Maids Allie Wagner, Megan Bonhaus, Taylor Wright; Homecoming Queen, Lucy Bonhaus; Maids Isabella Ellis, Ellen Sadler, Ellen Norris.



Above: Powderpuff Football Game.
Middle: Lydia Wright cheering on the Knights.



Pie in the Face Competition



Upper School girls dressing up for Jersey Day.



Boys Powderpuff Volleyball

Our Hearts Are Fuller



Fuller Goldsmith was a friend to all - he never met a stranger. He touched the life of every person he ever encountered. His everlasting impact on those around him, especially the Class of 2022, will never be forgotten. Fuller fought some of the toughest battles with such grace and determination, and he always seemed to do it with a smile on his face. Fuller absolutely loved his TA community, and we will always honor his life and legacy by remembering to "Live Life to the FULlest!"

Written by Lucy Bonhaus, Class of 2022



ACT 30+ CLUB

The 30+ Club recognizes students who have scored a minimum of 30 on the ACT. This score qualifies them for elite academic merit scholarships at numerous colleges and universities. Among these scholarships are Presidential Awards, Dean Awards, and University

Scholar Awards. The students' pictures are displayed in the school as an example to younger students and as a testament to the students' families of the hard work and dedication to academics that their student has achieved.



William Beeker
Class of 2022



Dawson Bielstein
Class of 2022



Lucy Bonhaus
Class of 2022



Megan Bonhaus
Class of 2022



Carson Claytor
Class of 2022



JB McAllister
Class of 2022



Izabella Melkonyan
Class of 2022



Mary Alice Roe
Class of 2022



Morgan Smith
Class of 2022
National Merit Finalist



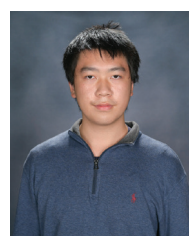
Trey Smith
Class of 2022



Haven Thompson
Class of 2022



Oliver Kneer
Class of 2023



Junqi Sun
Class of 2023



Isaiah Poston
Class of 2024

AMBASSADORS

The TA Student Ambassador program is a leadership organization for students in grades 5–12. Ambassadors assist the Admissions Office by giving tours to families and hosting visiting students while they are on campus. In turn, the Administration of Tuscaloosa Academy provides Ambassadors with opportunities to strengthen their leadership skills. We are proud of these students who exemplify the exceptional qualities of a TA Knight!

2021-2022 TA Ambassadors: Seated from L-R: Lily Abernathy, Eve Barnette, Lucy Bonhaus, Morgan Smith, Mary Alice Roe. Standing from L-R: Kate Thompson, Lucy Corder, Phillip Lancaster, Patton Turnipseed, Trey Smith, Brennan Young. On Stairs from L-R: Henry Foster, Ford Beeker, William Numnum, Cameron Avery-McGuire, Hinton Howell, Lily Carraway, Anna Claire Johnson, Sarah Miller, Sophie Messina, Libbi Stell, Anna Christian Beeker, and Peyton Stell.



Key Club Opens The Door

RENE MCNEAL

Key Club is the largest student-led organization in high school. The Club's focus is Service, Community and Leadership. During the 2021-2022 school year, Tuscaloosa Academy's Key Club was tasked with rebuilding components of student life that were lost during the pandemic along with once again supporting the community outside the walls of our school.

Members of the 2021-2022 Key Club instituted and extended new ways to be of service throughout the school year. In doing so, they exemplified the true heart of a Knight. Members became a rock for each other, fellow classmates, administration, teachers, and support staff. The positive vibe inside the walls of our school extended into the community. Members were eager to serve for the benefit of the community. Hurricane Ida, the Local Animal Shelter, the Food Bank, RISE, The Krispy Kreme Challenge with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Recycle for Care Africa are a few of the ways Key Club stepped in to assist in the community.

They gave of their time and energy to support and build several activities around the school. A few of these include peer tutoring, tailgating to support their fellow knights, events for administration, teachers and support staff, back-to-school social for new students, "You Matter" locker notes, candy for all middle school students, and assistance with various events including Punkin' Knight.



Service, Community, and Leadership form the rock of Key Club. These three components became a habit for our members which helped them to reshape and redefine goals. They were encouraged to serve, support, and lead. Overall, the Key Club Motto – "Caring—Our Way of Life," was manifested in the daily lives of our members, which in turn, helped with the social-emotional well-being of the entire student body.



Top: Key Club group picture: Above: Key Club members during one of the tailgating events. At Left: Donations for Hurricane Ida relief. Below: Walt Denney delivering lunch to Coach Wright.



Upper School

EXPLORATION COMES IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS

ALAN BARR

What is the exploration part of the TAUS education experience? It is the approach to learning that brings to life each person's curiosity and imagination.

Many of our students pursue opportunities to learn more and more beyond the classroom and the TA campus. Lucy Bonhaus, Class of '22, has always answered the call to lead and learn. As a junior, she chose to run for the AISA State SGA president. She won the contest and set about learning a whole new position while continuing to lead the TA SGA, play sports, and take a heavy course load.

Two members of the Class of 2022, Landon Stell and Trey Smith, both attended Boys State during the summer of 2021. Neither really knew what to expect but approached the experience with energy and a great attitude. They came away with an incredible experience in leadership, fellowship, and bonding. Both Landon and Trey said it was a positive and life changing experience.

Here in the Upper School, we believe in creating a robust learning environment that challenges students to explore many different paths to achieve their personal best. Students are challenged to come out of

their comfort zones and explore new ways to be leaders and mindful citizens. With the help of our faculty and staff, our students imagine, execute, and enjoy a broad array of student activities and organizations. These give them opportunities to explore their passions and support them as they navigate, lead, and manage their pursuits. Student athletes participate in the play, Esports compete at high levels of intellect, and students earn state and national recognition for taking risks and exploring ways to demonstrate their uniqueness.

But exploration isn't just for the students. In order to develop lifelong learners, our teachers are as committed to thinking outside the box as their students.

For example, Mrs. Lowery after much thinking and soul searching, chose to jump into administration and learn a whole new career. When some people are sitting back enjoying a slower pace of life, Mrs. Lowery charged ahead. She is always available for students and young teachers as a mentor. Now she can take those traits and spend full time working with them.

Great teachers are always improving and trying new ideas and approaches to

learning. Mrs. Outlaw chose to develop and teach two new history courses on Alabama History & Civil Rights in America while continuing to teach English. Her passion for this subject area fueled her research and development of these new courses.

Along with bringing in new faculty this year from strong academic backgrounds, the TAUS is poised for its greatest season yet. Our course catalog is full of challenging and thought-provoking curriculum and our faculty is committed to leading our students to a successful college education.



Tuscaloosa Academy's SGA Officers Jamison Duncan, Brennan Young, Lucy Bonhaus, Lily Abernathy, and Brilyn Hollyhand went to Montgomery for the AISA State SGA Convention. Lucy Bonhaus completed her tenure as AISA SGA State President and Lily Abernathy concluded her tenure as AISA SGA State Chaplain. Brennan Young was elected District 7 AISA SGA State Representative.



Trey Smith and Landon Stell at Alabama's Boys State in Montgomery, AL.



Mallie Tracy, Millie Mullin, Allie Wagner, and Elena Matos hanging out during Upper School Field Day.



Tyson Gardner painting his parking space before the start of the year.



Junior Varsity football players at their end-of-year banquet.



Michael Constantine with his award for a perfect score on the National French Exam.



Blake Henderson and Sara Chase McMullen working on a class project.



The Varsity Cheerleaders cheering on the Knights at one of the pep rallies.



Senior Drive Around is always an exciting day for all our students! Seniors dress up in amazingly creative costumes and throw candy to the student body as they drive around in decorated vehicles.

Middle School



The Adventure Continues

BROOKE PETERSON

We are hard-wired to learn by doing. We learn to tie a shoe by struggling through the twists and turns of a long shoelace; we learn to ride a bike by tentatively pushing off with our feet and zigging and zagging our way through a driveway; we learn how electricity works through that first lab where we power a light bulb through a 9-volt battery and a wire. This is true of the soft, relational skills of life as well - we learn about how to

be a good friend through the joys and sorrows of making and sustaining friendships. This year, we were glad to be back on the road again with field trips and large group events for all of our middle school students. Often, it is the experiences that differ from our typical day-to-day, that punctuate the ordinary and leave an impression on us for a lifetime.

Camp McDowell provided many opportunities for our fifth grade

students to connect in ways they may never have otherwise. They left their cellphone and other devices at home for the duration of the trip and were really able to take in the beautiful views and peaceful surroundings while at camp. It was incredible watching them disconnect from the daily grind and just get outside and be the young students they are. Their minds were working in ways never-before-seen in the classroom! When making nature art their creativity blossomed as they raced around looking for the perfect rock or flower, and students even gravitated toward new friends to partner up and create. Their pieces were intricate and they were surprised at what beautiful art could be made without any extra supplies! We also built shelters made out of sticks, leaves, and anything else that could be found. The students worked with what they had close by and used trial and error to build sound structures that actually held and fit their groups inside. It was watching new and organic friendships form outdoors that made this teacher's heart the happiest!

The sixth grade spent three days attending Space Camp. This is a new overnight trip for our students, and they loved it! This picture is of Bill David in the Simulation Module where he is serving as the Mission Control Contact, guiding the "astronauts" on what to do next! One of the overall highlights was how interested the kids were in everything. They loved learning about all of the different parts of space, but the Mission Control Simulation was probably the highlight for both groups! Through this simulation, they were able to play real parts of space exploration.

The seventh grade resumed its traditional trip to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Mobile Bay. This is easily one of the best, most unique educational camps in Alabama. Students spend three days living on a working professional sea lab, exploring the estuary, dissecting squids, creating and maneuvering Remote Operated Vehicles under water, mapping the path of hurricanes, and measuring the height of a wave. When not in class, they are forming friendships through walks along the beach, games of basketball, football, and frisbee, ping-pong tournaments in the dorm, and generally enjoying time together.



Bill David Wagner running EECOM at the US Space and Rocket Center.



Easton Donner and Mark Norris dissecting a squid at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

The culminating Middle School trip is the week-long trip to Washington, D.C. Visiting the Nation's capital gives students a real sense of how vast our country is. The branches of the government are on display with all of their majesty, and the complexity of our nation shines through the many museums and monuments. Some of the highlights of the trip include visiting many graves throughout Arlington Cemetery and honoring those who have loved and died for our country, the African American History museum, the ghost tour in Old Alexandria, and biking the monuments in the pouring down rain, which was one of their favorite parts of the trip. Outside of D.C., students were able to observe the pandas in the National Zoo and hear a natural organ

play in Luray Caverns, the second largest cave system in the United States! While the bus ride might seem long, it is all part of the bonding adventure.

Back at TA, we were also thankful our students were able to resume some of our signature student life events. One highlight was the spring middle school dance, where students never left the dance floor for three hours straight. A second was our middle school field day - always a hit! This year, students had fun competing in relay races with their grade level teams, playing capture-the-flag and spike ball in Castle groups, and enjoying four inflatable water slides to cool us off after a hot morning of competition!



Above: Eighth graders participating in cultural festival traditions. Right: Hinton Howell and Mia Mes competing in Middle School Field Day games.



8th Grade group having fun eating out at a restaurant in Washington, D.C.



Lower School



On The Road Again!

MARY MADGE CRAWFORD

The Lower School was on the road again in cars and buses to many places around Tuscaloosa and around the states of Alabama, Tennessee, and Florida! We were so happy to get out of our classrooms this year. Even if we sometimes had to have a mask on, it was great to go on field trips once again! Being able to travel is one of

the things that we all enjoy. It had been almost two years since we were able to get out, stretch our legs, and see the wonderful things we could learn in a classroom away from school.

Our preschoolers went to visit CHOM to learn about farming, transportation, and community helpers. They also visited a Pumpkin Patch and brought

home a pumpkin to decorate for the pumpkin decorating contest on Punkin' Knight.

The Kindergarteners and their Senior Buddies visited the Birmingham Zoo. They saw the animals, rode the train and carousel, and had a picnic together. The seniors had as much fun as the kindergarteners and were worn out by the end of the day!



Second Grade panning for gold at DeSoto Caverns.

WHERE LEARNING AND LIFE COME TOGETHER



First Grade at the Tennessee Aquarium.



Preschool learning about Native Americans at CHOM.



Third Grade girls at American Village in Montevallo, AL.



Kindergarten visiting The Barnyard.



First Grade visiting the Bama Theatre.



Fourth Grade exploring Disney World's Youth Education Program.

First Graders traveled to the Tennessee Aquarium and learned about ocean and river habitats and animals. Our Second Graders went to DeSoto Caverns and mined for gold after they explored the caves.

The Third Graders went to the American Village in Montevallo. They learned about our Presidents, dressed up in period attire, and saw how life was lived over 100 years ago. The Fourth Graders were back on the road seeing many sites in our state as part of their study of Alabama History. They

visited the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville and went to Montgomery to visit many historical sites. Some of the students also went to Disney World to participate in their educational program and had a blast in the Disney parks! While one group was at Disney, the others went to the McWane Center in Birmingham.

Not only were we able to get out more this year, but we were able to have many of our favorite activities inside the building that we have not had in the past two years due to crowds and COVID. We had our grade level class plays, our Preschool Thanksgiving Program and Feast, Trunk or Treat with the seniors, the Father/Daughter Dance, mini cheer clinic, and much more. Our parents were able to attend our special parties and events which made them that much more special.

As our community continues to get back to some place of normalcy, we hope to continue to have more events and trips next year. One of those events will be our traditional Veteran's Day Assembly on November 11 to honor our veterans. This has always been a special event for us, and we have missed not having it! Another event that we have missed is Grandparents Day. We are looking forward to having our grandparents on campus on February 16 and 17 as we expand our Grandparent's Day program with new activities!

It felt good to be out and about, seeing the sites, and building relationships with our classmates and teachers. We are looking forward to doing more of these things in the 2022-2023 school year!



At Left: Kindergarten Campout.



Above: Gingerbread House Vendor, Sarah Meyer von Bremen, with her kids.
At left and below: children creating Christmas crafts.
Below: TA parents, Mustafa and Esra Tukat, sharing Turkish sweets and savory treats with the community.

Weihnachtsmarkt - Bringing the Spirit of the Holidays Home

BROOKE PETERSON

All new adventures and big projects start with a dream and a small step. Creating a traditional German Christmas Market, one of the iconic German traditions held in countless cities, towns, and villages throughout Germany, here in Tuscaloosa was no small step. However, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our Germany community, and many other volunteers, we were able to pull together something very magical.

Highlights of the evening included a children's craft area, food from around the world, traditional German pretzels, bratwurst, and bread, German gingerbread houses, and crafts, jewelry, and artwork for all

walks of life. The TA football parking lot was converted to a marketplace with lively Christmas music, glittering lights, and yes, even some cool weather! We are already looking forward to when we can host this event again.



Visiting Deutschland

Beckie Share and I were fortunate to have a week to venture off to Germany this spring to explore the German education system and connect with past and future TA-German families and teachers. During the last week of May, we were able to connect with four schools, two former teachers, and five families. It felt great to be exploring a new culture, and we were overwhelmed by the warmth and hospitality of everyone we met. We learned a great deal about Germany's much more complex educational system and her rich culture. One small cultural difference we observed is that students as young as six travel to school in small groups or with siblings without their parents. School-age children arrive by foot, bike, train, bus, but rarely by car. In the schools, we had the opportunity to visit a bilingual Biology class, several English classes, and two German classes. We were impressed with the high quality of English many of the students spoke. Interestingly, one grade 12 English class was reading the American novel *Crooked Letter*, *Crooked Letter* by Tom Franklin, a native Alabamian! The trip helped us develop a better understanding of and appreciation for the German culture, language, and ultimately people. I was reminded of the



At the North Sea with former TA teacher, Manuela Heuthaler.



power of traveling to new cultures and experiencing new joy and hopes we can soon resume TA's long history of taking students on adventures abroad.

Some basic train travel tips learned the hard way...

- Learn how to read the maps at the train station that shows which platform area your assigned train wagon will arrive, or else you may be stuck dragging your luggage through 10 train wagons packed full of people.
- Be prepared that your train's arrival may suddenly switch platforms without much notice. In this case, be prepared to run or to rebook a train.
- Some trains are really two trains connected. And at some point during your journey, they will separate into two trains. So you better make sure you are on the correct part of the train!

Despite this, I am happy to report that we ended up where we needed to be every day. And we had a lot of laughter on the way!



Above: Visiting former parent, Sonja Paula in Stuttgart. Inset: Brooke Peterson, Svala and Merlin Rapheal, Beckie Share in Coburg.



Experiencing the beautiful town of Esslingen, just outside of Stuttgart.



Brooke and Beckie visiting with former TA parent, Anja Rapheal.



DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

SARA MARGARET CATES

The Tuscaloosa Academy Performing Arts are back! After COVID-19 changed our regular season and shows last year, The TA Players returned to a full and exciting year, live and in person!

Curiouser and Curiouser!

The fall play, *Alice in Wonderland*, was a roaring success, featuring more than 30 students in grades 5-12 in the much-

beloved roles of Alice, The Queen of Hearts, the White Rabbit, Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum - and, of course, the Mad Hatter! The script, drawing heavily from the original works by Lewis Carroll, also introduced students and audiences alike to a few lesser known characters, such as the White Queen and Red Queen, as well as the Duchess and her very loud household; all of it overseen by

the mysterious and elusive Cheshire Cat.

The Lower School class plays also made their triumphant return this year, with some amazing performances including *Lovin' Kindness*, *KidFlix*, *Disney Through the Decades*, and *Pirates! The Musical*. We are excited about the performances to come in the 2022-2023 season.



The TA Young Singers vocal ensemble successfully performed at Lower School Honors Day, upper school graduation, and the AISA Elementary Choral Festival this year, as well. Earning high marks and the praise of audiences.



Top: The TA Players with their awards from the Walter Trumbauer Festival. Above: Third Graders performed KidFlix.

Members of the upper school theatre class and the International Thespian Society (Theatre Honorary) competed in-person at the Walter Trumbauer State Theatre Festival, where they earned several superior scores, medals, and trophies, taking home Best in Show for their performance of *The Hotel Nowhere*, First Place in Group Acting (Alice in Wonderland's "Mad Tea Party"), Second Place in Duet Pantomime (John Brennan McAllister and Julius Kaiser), and many other awards. Additionally, the TA Players were ranked in the top five in the State of Alabama's theatre programs, competing against many illustrious programs in the public and private schools throughout our state. This is a huge accomplishment- way to go, TA Knights of the stage!

If you dropped by the school this summer, you may have heard the sounds of construction, as the TA Assembly Hall received a long-awaited makeover. We are thrilled at the anonymous donation that allowed this renovation to take place. This renovation includes



Second Grade performed *Lovin' Kindness*.

a brand new stage, new lighting and sound equipment, and increased storage space. This endeavor will help the TA Performing Arts Department continue to grow and recruit the best and brightest in Tuscaloosa to our program, and will help current students gain in-demand skills of theatre and music production. The department is looking forward to a very exciting season as we celebrate the new space! Make your plans to attend one (or all) of our shows this coming year!



Above Left: First Graders performed *Pirates! The Musical*. At Left: The TA Young Singers perform at the AISA State Elementary Choir Festival. Above: Ensemble members of the *Alice in Wonderland* cast.



FINE ART is a FINE ART!

JESSIE HARBIN
and MARY RUTH PRUITT

Where do we begin, when ahead of us lie any number of paths, opportunities, possibilities? This is the sentiment that many students feel when faced with a crisp new piece of paper. After all, this blank piece of paper could become anything. In Tuscaloosa Academy's art classes, students are given the tools to not just decide what they want to draw that day. Instead, students are given the tools to navigate the world outside the classroom.

Tuscaloosa Academy provides a challenging college preparatory curriculum across disciplines. The Art Department challenges students to deconstruct how they view the world. Each art class offers a variety of different skills, but one of the first skills students learn is observation. Observation of the world around them, seeing what is actually there and not just what they think is there, is at the heart of any student's fine art curriculum. The far reaching impact of learning to closely observe the world can be seen whether students are recreating the traditional TA "Fall Still Life" or when they are ultimately making a decision about which college will best suit their needs and goals.



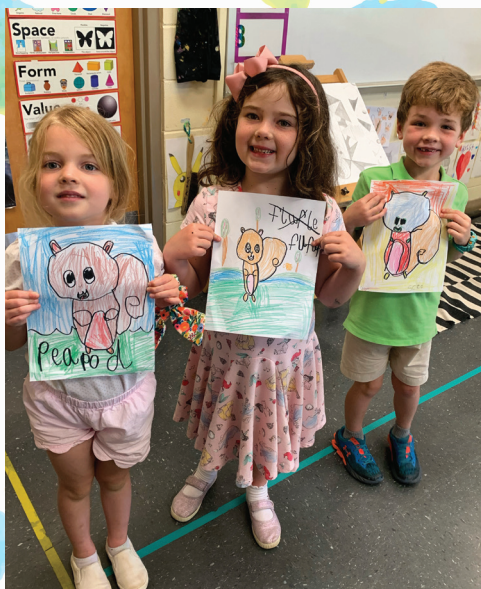
The Tuscaloosa Academy Art department knows that many paths, many decisions, lie ahead of their students. By the end of the first year of Art, students will no longer view a blank piece of paper with dread. Instead, they will know that they have an arsenal of techniques at their fingertips. A blank piece of paper will invite them to express themselves instead of doubt themselves. Where once a student may have doubted that they could make anything of merit, by the end of the first year of Art, that same student will be ingrained with confidence. By the final year of Art, students will not just be confident in making decisions about their art but they will be confident in making decisions about their futures. And like so many of their beautiful art works, their future will be so very bright!



Nora Lynch working on her art piece.



Lanterns decorated by Lower School students for the annual Lantern Festival.



Preschoolers with their artwork of crayon and marker squirrels.



Lane Bradford working diligently on her landscape.

Tuscaloosa Academy faculty are always looking for ways to help our students apply essential concepts such as problem solving, procedural thinking, and cooperative learning. Robotics can help with all of these concepts and more! Robotics can help students develop step-by-step strategies for solving problems. Using pattern recognition and algorithm designs, students have programmed robots to move, make noise, light up, and respond to commands. Younger students may also use magnetic robot blocks to practice sequencing skills.

ROBOTICS BECOME A WAY OF LIFE

REBECCA
HENDERSON

Robotics encourages innovation and creativity. The Wonder League Robotics competition has students solve a series of story-based challenges to advance to the next level. A group of TA fourth graders meet after school to complete missions which are STEM challenges that use the Dash and Dot robots, the Blockly coding app, and incorporate engineering design. Responses are submitted online and the competition reaches all corners of the globe. All Lower School classes have the opportunity to explore robotics during Tech class where they code, solve problems, and create with the robots.

TA Middle School students explore robotics during tech classes using Edison robots. They are given challenges to complete that stretch



Fourth Grade students working with Dash and Dot robots.



Above: Middle School students built robots and competed against one another in a robot showdown. Below: Grayson Kim, Garrison Coppock, and Henry Foster practicing their coding skills with the Edison Robots.



their innovation and allows them to practice their coding skills. Middle School also offered a Robotics Club. The Robotics Club met on Tuesdays during activity period. The main purpose of this club was to be a part of the First Lego League which challenges students to solve real world problems. This year's theme was "Cargo Connect". The goal was to focus on shipping things safely, effectively, and efficiently. Student groups had two and a half minutes to complete missions that involved programming the robot to either transport or move a piece of cargo made out of Legos. They also had to work as a team to develop a solution that was their own. Students had to create a presentation as well as a prototype for their idea.

The US Robotics Class used micro:bits to help sensors respond to a variety of stimuli. Students also used the Amazon Work Simulator to see how Amazon warehouses



The Lower School Robotics Team with Mrs. Henderson.

rely on robots to help with stocking, packing, and delivery of merchandise. The US Game Design class used Raspberry Pi controllers to power Google AIY Vision kits to build intelligent cameras that could recognize facial expressions, such as a smile or frown, and Google AIY Voice kits that used sensors to respond to sounds, such as clapping or voices.

They also created holograms as a precursor to a discussion about how Artificial Intelligence is working with the retail and hospitality industries to offer holographic projections that respond to customer expressions and voices.

Robotics offers students the opportunity to make mistakes in a safe environment. If it does not work right the first time, make some changes and try again! Many students find robotics intriguing and challenging. From Alexa to Roomba to Drones, robotics is both a current topic and a futuristic field for our students.

At left: The National Center for Women in Information Technology Banquet was held at the University of Alabama this spring. Lucy Bonhaus, Lily Abernathy, and Mary Baxter Hartzell represented TA. We had 17 young ladies recognized by NCWIT this year. Lucy Bonhaus is a National Honorable Mention recipient and will also be honored at the Alabama State Board of Education meeting. Below: Lower School students using their iPads and Dash and Dot robots.



TA Goes 1:1 with Apple Devices

TAMMY SCHIERING

As part of our never-ending effort to grow and remain current with technology, all students at TA in grades Kindergarten through 12th grade will be issued an Apple device. These devices allow students to access digital tools, communicate with teachers and other learners, build college and career readiness, and receive a personalized educational experience. The Device Lease Program offers our students a more consistent and effective technological learning environment. It also ensures an up-to-date device with built-in support structures and repairs of most issues for each student. The same type of device makes troubleshooting easier in the classroom and allows teachers to monitor and manage their classroom's tech time more effectively.

Lower School students use iPads with and without keyboards depending on their grade level. These are used in conjunction with the interactive panels that are installed in each Lower School room. Teachers can send projects to each iPad and students can perform research and create presentations!

Middle Schoolers use newer iPads with keyboards and greater storage capacity than the Lower School iPads. This allows for students to perform all of their classwork on their iPads and communicate effectively with their teachers.

Upper School students use Mac Book Air laptops. This allows for the maximum usefulness for research, writing, studying, and communication. The goal of this program is to provide our students with the best access to technology, research, and communication tools available.



A New Era Begins: TA Joins the AHSAA

BYRON ABSTON

The Tuscaloosa Academy Board of Trustees announced in October 2021 that the school had officially accepted an invitation to compete in the ranks of public school sports as a member of the Alabama High School Athletic Association (AHSAA). “Tuscaloosa Academy has been a long-standing member of the Alabama Independent School Association (AISA) for over forty years, so the decision to make this move was not taken lightly,” Board President Reese Brooks said in a statement the press. “Much like other AHSAA private schools, Tuscaloosa Academy will remain a member of the AISA for all other activities.” Our school will enter the AHSAA in Class 2A on a level field of competition with local schools, which will provide the opportunity to showcase the school’s athletic and coaching talent.

Leaving AISA as Champions

The final spring season in AISA was incredible. A total of five State Championship trophies were brought back to Tuscaloosa. Both Girls and Boys Soccer teams and both Girls and Boys Tennis teams won their respective titles. William Beeker won the individual State Championship in golf to cap off a phenomenal spring.

Boys Basketball

The TA Boys Basketball team compiled an overall record of 17-5 and finished its season in the Final Four of the AISA State Tournament. The Knights went undefeated in the area for the fourth year in a row, winning each game by at least 38 points. The boys won an exciting Elite 8 matchup against Glenwood before falling to eventual state champions, Pike Lib, in the Final Four (a rematch of the State Championship game from the previous two years.) The team was lead by first team All State Junior, Walker McKee. Three Knight players made the AISA All Star Game: Wilson King, Carson Claytor, and Landon Stell.

Girls Basketball

The TA Girls Basketball team compiled an overall record of 18-3 and finished as runner-up in the AISA State Tournament. The Lady Knights went undefeated in the area, winning each game by an average of 46 pts per game. The girls battled through some late-season injuries to avenge their only two losses in the regular season (Lee-Scott in the Elite 8 and Clarke Prep in the Final Four) on their way to the State Championship game, where they fell to Glenwood School by two points.

Cross Country

The Cross Country program at TA is in its developmental phase, with a

growing JV squad over the last few years. The trio of Naemi Henning Rojas, Nora Lynch, and Fiona Kolbmann (her family recently returned to Germany) always finished in the top five. Haven Thompson was also a top five finisher at every meet. When the JV girls added Sarah Johnson and Taylor Rayburn, they won team titles at the Southern Prep Ranger Invitational and BAXC Challenge. With this momentum, the Girls JV team won state with Naemi Hennig placing first overall, Fiona Kolbmann third overall, and an injured Nora Lynch, fifth overall. Haven Thompson placed second overall at states and was named the male MVP for the 2021 cross-country season by the Tuscaloosa News. Other strong finishes at the state meet included 'top ten' overall for Jack Kemp (boys JV) and 'top fifteen' overall by Scott Kemp.

Golf

The TA Golf Team has consistently shown growth over the last several years. Coach Scott Taylor has built the foundation of hard work and commitment that makes up this team. Regardless of results, his team fights for every swing. This season, they beat every team in the state during the course of the season--all but one at the State Championship. It's the first time in many years that any hardware came home from the final tournament. William Beeker, the lone senior on the team, has been an invaluable part of our team for the past 8 seasons and will be sorely missed and impossible to replace. "To see him play the best golf of his career in his last event at TA is probably my most gratifying experience in the 25 years I've coached. As good a golfer as he is, he's an even better person and I look forward to his continued development in golf and academics," says Taylor.

Football

Coach Wright's first season at Tuscaloosa Academy was one that tradition and character was founded upon. After

defeating Valiant Cross in round 1 and Lee Scott in round 2 of the AISA playoff games, Tuscaloosa Academy advanced to the AISA State Championship game in Montgomery, AL, and was runner up for the 2021 season. Assisting alongside Tuscaloosa Academy's Head Coach, Josh Wright, were Coach Stockton, Coach Kress, Coach Bradford, Coach Fuller, and Coach Parrish. We are especially looking forward to this year's football season that will see us playing more local schools and starting new traditions and rivalries in the AHSAA.

Soccer

The 2022 season was capped off with two State Championships as both Boys and Girls Soccer teams won in the final year of play in the Alabama Independent School Association. The Girls Soccer Team cruised through the season with only minor bumps in the road on its way to cruise to victory in the championship game. Seniors Morgan Smith, Macon Warr, Lucy Bonhaus, Mae Mae Ramey, and Louis Adair provided leadership (after a disappointing final game last year) to lead the underclassmen back to the championship game in 2022. The Lady Knights brought home the State Championship title in part with a goal by Morgan Smith and two goals by Avery Williams to defeat Lee-Scott Academy three to one. All-Tournament selections went to Annmarie Henderson, Margaret Sadler, Ava Mills, and Avery Williams.

The Boys Soccer Team had a perfect 2022 season. The Knights went undefeated for the year with 17 wins. The season was capped off with an exhilarating championship game. Springwood Academy proved to be a test for the unbeaten boys. The knights were down 2 -1, with only 10 players, late in the second half when Brock Abston scored to send the title game into a ten minute overtime. With only 45 seconds remaining in overtime, Abston sealed the championship title with a game winning

score. The TA boys soccer team is back to back state champs! Brock Abston, Dominic Hart, Blake Henderson, and Anton Schmidt made the All-Tournament team.

Both the Girls and Boys Soccer Teams left Montgomery's Emory Folmar Soccer Complex for the last time as champions. The Soccer Program at TA has collected six AISA Boys State Championships and four AISA Girls State Championships over the last two decades.

Tennis

The 2022 Boys' Tennis Team entered the State Championship undefeated while only dropping one court during the regular season. The dominance continued into the State Tournament, which was led by the Most Outstanding Player award recipient and No. 1 singles player, Jonni Kneer. Kneer did not lose a single game during the entire season or at the State Tournament.

The 2022 lineup proved to be one of the most dominant teams in TA history by winning 6 of the 7 positions. Jonni Kneer teamed up with the No. 2 singles State Champion, Walker McKee, to earn the #1 doubles State Championship. No. 3 singles State Champion Holman Bearden partnered with No. 4 singles State Champion Luke Kilgore to complete the doubles State Championship sweep at the No. 2 doubles position. Career Most Valuable Player and Team Captain Anderson Mercurio anchored the No. 5 singles position and earned the State Runner-Up spot.

The 2022 girls' season proved to be one of the most competitive and challenging State Championships in school history. The girls' team entered the State Tournament with one loss to rival Morgan Academy and had other tight wins over several talented and experienced teams. The Lady Knights were in a three-way tie going into the final day of the State Tournament and were led by

ATHLETICS

seniors Taylor Wright (No. 1 singles/ No. 1 doubles State Champion), Megan Bonhaus (No. 2 singles/No. 1 doubles State Champion) and Mary Alice Roe (No. 3 singles and No. 2 doubles State Runner-Up). In a critical moment, the No. 2 doubles team (Roe/Wagner) avenged a regular season loss to Fort Dale Academy to put us in a position where we controlled our own destiny. Going into the final match of the day, TA was in a first place tie with Lee-Scott Academy. Convincingly, the No. 1 doubles team (Wright/Bonhaus) used their experience and toughness to play their best tennis of the year during the last match of the tournament to solidify the State Championship!

Track

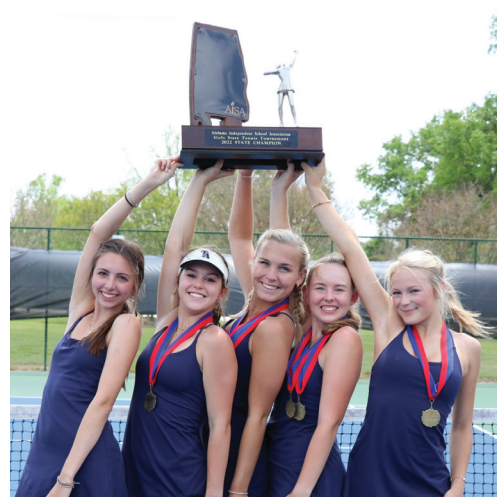
Tuscaloosa Academy had an incredible 2022 Track & Field season. Not only did they have the largest roster they've ever had, but they were also shattering the ceiling of personal records! The JV Boys Team came in 2nd and the JV Girls Team came in 1st place at the JV State Championship. At the Varsity State Championship, the boys' team finished 3rd overall with the 4x200m team setting a new AISA record. First place winners included Jack Standeffer in the 100m, Haven Thompson in the 1600m, Boys' 4x100m and 4x200m relays. The Varsity Girls Team finished 3rd overall with Harley McNeal coming in 1st and breaking three AISA records for the 100m, 200m, and the 400m. The girls also won 1st place in the 4x100m and 4x200m relays.

Volleyball

The TA Volleyball team finished the 2021 season with a 21-5 overall record and an appearance in the State Final Four. The Lady Knights went 5-1 in the area to clinch the area title for the first time in over ten years and had the opportunity to host the region tournament. They then defeated Fort Dale

and Morgan Academy to claim the Region 2 Championship and receive a 1-seed in the state tournament. After defeating Pike Liberal Arts in the Elite 8, the Lady Knights fell to Macon East in the Final Four of the state tournament.

Other highlights from the year included: Ellen Sadler placing 1st overall at the AISA State Weightlifting Competition, Basketball Coach Barry Sanderson reaching 100 wins as Head Basketball Coach, the Varsity Cheer squad taking third place overall for small squads at UCA Cheer Camp, and several athletes being named Tuscaloosa News Players of the Week in various sports.

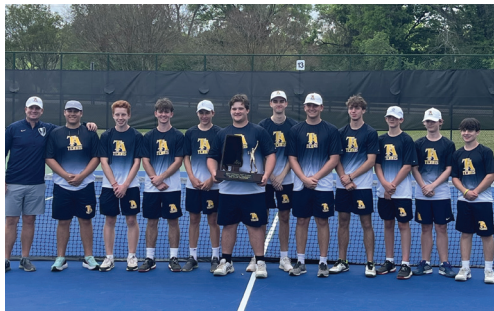


Above: Girls Tennis AISA State Champions.

Below: William Beeker AISA Golf Individual State Champion.



Cross Country Team with their trophy.



Above: Boys Tennis AISA State Champions.

Right: Varsity Cheer Squad.

Below: Varsity Football Team.



STUDENT ATHLETES AT THE NEXT LEVEL



REYNOLDS COLE

Southern Methodist University
Equestrian Scholarship

JORDAN EVANS

Shelton State Community College
Baseball Scholarship



TANNER SMITH

Faulkner University
Baseball Scholarship

JACK STANDEFFER

University of Alabama
Football Preferred Walk-On



2021-22 ATHLETIC AWARDS

AISA All-Stars

Lily Abernathy - Cheer
Eve Barnette - Volleyball
William Beeker - Golf
Carson Claytor - Basketball, Football
Jordan Evans - Baseball, Football
Wilson King - Football, Basketball
Phillip Lancaster - Football
Morgan Smith - Basketball
Jack Standefffer - Baseball, Football
Landon Stell - Basketball, Football
Taylor Wright - Volleyball

AISA All-Tournament

Brock Abston - Soccer
Alex Brownlee - Basketball
Lucy Corder - Volleyball
Rachel Harris - Basketball
Dominic Hart - Soccer
AnnMarie Henderson - Soccer
Blake Henderson - Soccer
Ava Mills - Soccer
Margaret Sadler - Soccer
Anton Schmidt - Soccer
Avery Williams - Soccer

ASWA All State Football Team - 1st Team

Wilson King, Phillip Lancaster, Jack Standefffer

ASWA All-State Basketball

Alex Brownlee - 1st Team Girls
Rachel Harris - 2nd Team Girls
Walker McKee - 1st Team Boys

ASWA All-State Baseball

Jordan Evans - 2nd Team

UCA All American All-Stars

Lily Abernathy, Jamison Duncan, Isabella Ellis,
Sarah Miller, Marion Norris, Taylor Wright

All-American Bowl

Phillip Lancaster, Jack Standefffer

Tuscaloosa News Coach of the Year

Clete Browder - Tennis
Scott Taylor - Golf
Josh Wright - Football

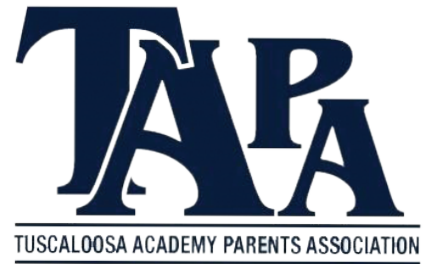
Tuscaloosa News Athlete of the Year

Taylor Wright - Tennis
Haven Thompson - Cross Country

Tuscaloosa News All-Area

Anna Christian Beeker - Golf
William Beeker - Golf
Megan Bonhaus - Tennis
Alex Brownlee - Basketball - 2nd Team
Lucy Corder - Volleyball - 2nd Team
Jordan Evans - Baseball - 2nd Team
Dominic Hart - Soccer - 2nd Team
Elena Hieber - Volleyball - 2nd Team
Carly King - Soccer - 2nd Team
Wilson King - Football - 1st Team
Jonni Kneer - Tennis
Oli Kneer - Soccer
Phillip Lancaster - Football - 1st Team
Walker McKee - Tennis, Basketball - 2nd Team
David McNeil - Football - Honorable Mention
Ava Mills - Soccer
Morgan Smith - Soccer - 2nd Team
Anton Schmidt - Soccer - 2nd Team
Saxon Skinner - Golf
Jack Standefffer - Football - 1st Team
Landon Stell - Football - Honorable Mention
Haven Thompson - Cross Country - 1st Team
Avery Williams - Soccer
Taylor Wright - Tennis, Volleyball

Ways to Get Involved!



At left: Kaila Phillips with her family, Porter, Asher, Sealy, and husband Lance. Above: TAPA's Annual Bake Sale.

TA Parents Association

Hello TA Friends! My name is Kaila Phillips and after serving within the Tuscaloosa Academy Parents Association (TAPA) in some capacity for many years now, I am excited to serve as your TAPA President for the 2022-2023 school year! I want to welcome all new and returning families to TA for a great year. I am a Tuscaloosa native and Tuscaloosa Academy alumni. My husband Lance and I have three children: Porter (5th grade), Asher (2nd grade) and Sealy (PreK). It is such a joy to have our family be a part of such an amazing school community!

So, what is the role of TAPA? Our role is to aid and serve our students and teachers here at TA. Through TAPA and our amazing parent volunteers we can organize events like Punkin' Knight, Bake Sale, teacher luncheons, and various events associated with teacher/student appreciation like "Dine with the Dean" and Duty Free Lunch. We host parent education seminars and also run the Knights Armour school store. In addition, we raise and contribute funds each year to help with various school improvements!

As TAPA continues to grow and evolve in our seventh year here at TA, we would love to have you be a part of it! Please consider signing up for a committee or helping with an event. No position is too big or too small and all help is much appreciated. Volunteering provides you wonderful opportunities to plug in and get to know

our administration and other TA students and families. We are always welcoming new faces and new ideas!

If I can answer any questions or be of any help this year, please don't hesitate to reach out! Contact me at tapa@tuscaloosaacademy.org. Don't forget to follow our TAPA pages on social media for all of the latest happenings.



Brennan Young, Sara Chase McMullen and Anne Reeves Skinner having fun at Punkin' Knight.



TA Knights Armour is the school store for Tuscaloosa Academy. Our mission is to provide affordable and functional TA merchandise that you enjoy and allows you to support TA. The Knights Armour is funded by the Tuscaloosa Academy Parents Association (TAPA). All proceeds

made by the store allows TAPA to fund their many projects/events such as meals and snacks for the faculty, Dine with the Dean for Lower School, and Student of the Quarter for Middle and Upper School, as well as many more activities.

The TA Knights Armour is located at the football pavilion. During store hours, it is open for walk-in shopping and pick-up for online orders. Be sure you follow the TA Knights Armour on social media (Facebook and Instagram) to keep up with new merchandise, "last call" for when there is only one item left of something, clearance and pop-up sales, pre-orders, and more.

If you have ideas of items that you would like to see offered in the Knights Armour, let us know. We are always looking for ways to make your TA experience more enjoyable whether it is by providing you with your favorite comfy t-shirt/sweatshirt, a hat/visor to wear while playing golf/tennis, a tumbler to use by the pool, a stadium seat to use at the game, or an umbrella for when it rains. Whatever the need, the Knights Armour has got you covered.

Leigh Hollyhand - TA Knights Armour Chair
Phone: 205-799-2428

E-mail: taknightsarmour@tuscaloosaacademy.org

Website: www.taknightsarmour.com

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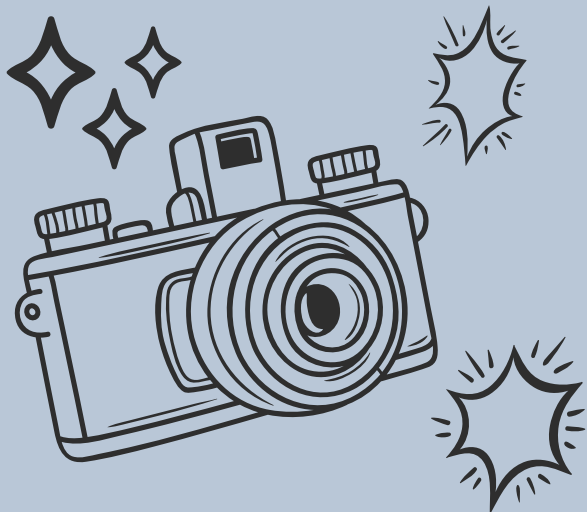
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PICTURE THIS!

Children of TA Alumni



Morrow Carlson
Class of 2034



Landry Carlson
Class of 2036



Henry Conger
Class of 2036



Vivian Conger
Class of 2034



Margot Bay Crawford
Class of 2035



Eliza Field
Class of 2035



Banks Hudson
Class of 2030



Beckham Hudson
Class of 2033



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Class of 2028



Harrison Hurd
Class of 2034



Geoffrey Love
Class of 2024



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Class of 2023



Leroy McAbee
Class of 2025



Mills Powell
Class of 2024



Hudson Powell
Class of 2026



Ellen Sadler
Class of 2023



Leon Sadler
Class of 2023



Margaret Sadler
Class of 2025



Harry Shumaker
Class of 2033



Jack Standeffer
Class of 2022



Kat Taylor
Class of 2026





Holman Bearden
Class of 2025



Wills Blakeney
Class of 2035



Gracie Brooks
Class of 2026



Reese Brooks
Class of 2023



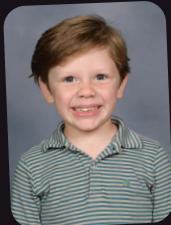
Spence Burchfield
Class of 2024



Tootsie Burchfield
Class of 2026



Vivi Burt
Class of 2035



Rett Godwin
Class of 2036



Scottie Godwin
Class of 2034



Campbell Hamner
Class of 2022



Ford Hinton
Class of 2024



Arey Howell
Class of 2028



Hinton Howell
Class of 2027



JB McAllister
Class of 2022



Sara Chase McMullen
Class of 2023



Ellen Norris
Class of 2025



Marion Norris
Class of 2023



Mark Norris
Class of 2027



Asher Phillips
Class of 2033



Porter Phillips
Class of 2030



Hudson Underwood
Class of 2028



Hill Warr
Class of 2023



Macon Warr
Class of 2022



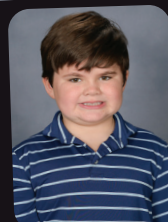
Jacob Wilkin
Class of 2030



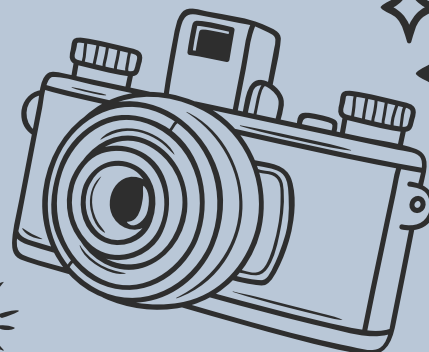
Ethan Wilkin
Class of 2032



Audrey Wright
Class of 2034



Jackson Wright
Class of 2032



Rob Northrup

1982

Rob is teaching AP World History for the 9th year, and 26th in the district. He no longer coaches swimming and now manages the Model UN team and the Ski Club. He enjoys spending summers in Chautauqua, NY and living the dream. Of his three kids, Andrew, 22, will graduate from Kettering University in Engineering; Elizabeth, 20, is in HR and rows for Mercyhurst University in Erie, PA (#2 in the nation last season) and Emma, 17, who plays lacrosse at Hudson High School as well as a Club team. He would love to see anyone who ventures that far north and thinks often about TA.



Meredith Diaz

1996

In May 2022, Meredith graduated from Belmont University College of Pharmacy, earning her Doctorate of Pharmacy. After graduation she will start a position at Monroe Carrel Jr Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt as a PGY-1 Pediatric Pharmacy Resident.



Nicole Barker Richardson

1997

The Richardsons relocated from Tuscaloosa to Chicago in 2020.



Patton Smith

1999

Patton is the Associate Creative Director at 22Squared. He is also the creative director on the Publix account, so don't fast-forward past those Publix commercials! He has a new baby, Rhodes, who just turned one.



Mary Lane Lewis Falkner

2003

Mary Lane (Lewis) Falkner accepted a position with The University of Alabama as a Planned Giving Officer. She is excited that her oldest child, William, will be starting at TA in the fall.



Kayla Terry MacNeil

2007

Kayla was recently promoted to the position of Director of Design at Harmony Venture Labs, a venture studio dedicated to launching startups, supporting SaaS entrepreneurs, and growing the tech ecosystem in Birmingham, AL. She and her husband, Steven, are proud dog parents to two Boston Terriers, Rudy and Sadie.



Tyler Barton

2008

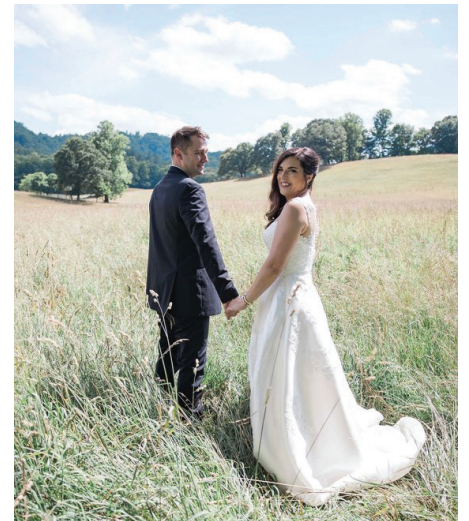
Tyler is living in New York City and working for the NFL League office. This past NFL season while working a game in Cleveland, he met up with Bryant Swindle ('08) after the game. Bryan lives in Cleveland and works for the Browns.



Jessie Hocutt & Sayres Harbin

2008

Jessie Hocutt and Sayres Harbin were married on June 11, 2022 in North Carolina. Sayres works as a sales rep for Sysco and Jessie is starting her 6th year teaching Art at Tuscaloosa Academy.



Bethany Holcomb Sexton

2008

Bethany and her husband, Chris, welcomed John Rhett Sexton into the world on March 17, 2022. He joins big sister Hudson (2).



Renita Daniels

2011

Renita Daniels graduated from UAB School of Medicine on May 14, 2022. She will be starting her residency training in combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at UAB Hospital System summer 2022.



Megan Rykaczewski Das

2011

Megan married Srikant Das December 2021 in Little Rock, AR. They live in Little Rock where Megan is a finance director for a large retailer and Sri is a pediatric cardiologist. They are expecting their first child, a girl, in October 2022.



Stuart Terry

2011

Stuart Terry graduated with his MBA from UAB in December 2021. Stuart now manages operations for Alabama Power's Substation and Transmission warehouses and was recently chosen by Southern Company Leadership to serve as a leader on the "PULSE of SCM" council for organizational improvement



Randa Simpson Hovater

2013

Randa was elected as the youngest ever City Councilwoman in the Shoals Area serving the City of Sheffield. She was tapped as the Shoals Young Professionals President, and in September, she accepted a job as the Director of Communications and Marketing for North Alabama Medical Center and North Alabama Shoals Hospital.



Will Atkinson

2013

Entering his second year at Lee University, Will was named Head Strength & Conditioning Coach in January 2022. He oversees the development of roughly 300 student-athletes while directly responsible for men's and women's basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball, women's soccer, track & field sprinters/jumpers, and lacrosse.



Robins Bonner

2016

Robins graduated from the University of Alabama in 2020 and has been working in Birmingham for Bruno Event Team/The World Games 2022 for two years.



Trey Hudson & Lele Goldsmith

2017 & 2018

Trey Hudson ('17) and Lele Goldsmith ('18) were married on June 4th in Tuscaloosa at First United Methodist Church and are now living happily in Nashville, TN!



Drew Scharfenburg

2019

Drew is a rising senior at Clemson University and is a Management major with minors in German and Geography. He is also in the Honors College. In the summer of 2021, he accepted a position as Resident Assistant in the Clemson Honors Residential College for the 2021-2022 academic year. He has greatly enjoyed getting to know the staff and residents, practicing leadership on a regular basis, and contributing to a fun and inclusive community. He is excited to return as an RA next year! He was elected President of Clemson Chapter of the YDSA in April 2022. Drew and his cousin created a podcast last year called "The Drew and Choddy Show".



Thank you to each alumni who contributed to this year's magazine. We love hearing the great things our alumni are accomplishing professionally and personally.

Be sure to join our Facebook group, Tuscaloosa Academy Alumni, to stay up to date with all things TA!

You can reach us by emailing alumni@tuscaloosaacademy.org

Annual Fund Report

PAIGE LANCASTER, Director of Development and Alumni Relations

The TA Annual Fund is the school's top priority in fundraising. Your participation and generosity in the campaign allows us to use your gifts solely towards campus wide improvements. Each year we focus on projects touching academics, arts, athletics, and grounds. We want TA to be at the top of other independent schools in every aspect. I encourage you to stop by campus and see the impressive upgrades that have been made possible due to your support. It takes everyone participating in the campaign to make this happen. Our goal is to have 100% participation with every TA family, faculty and staff, Board of Trustees, and grandparents. Any amount given, big or small, is greatly appreciated. Be a part of a growing tradition that will enhance your student's experience and success. We are looking forward to the fall 2022 Annual Fund Campaign which kicks off Monday, October 3!



JULIE SMITH, Development Committee Chair and Board of Trustees Secretary

The coming year is going to be an exciting time at Tuscaloosa Academy as we welcome a new Head of School to campus, officially join the AHSAA conference, implement a new technology program, and enjoy the many improvements made to campus over the summer through Annual Fund donations. Tuscaloosa Academy's commitment to maximizing each student's potential in academics, character development, and readiness for life is supported through projects funded by your donations. This year, our students will benefit from a theater renovation, lower school facility upgrades, several school-wide security updates, and many other enhancements to our athletic and academic facilities. The Board of Trustees is truly grateful to each and every one of our parents, alumni, faculty, and friends of the school who continue to support our school each year through the pledges that make these projects possible. You make a difference each day in helping us ensure that our students receive a superior, well-rounded education in a supportive environment.

The Annual Fund provides the financial support our school needs to make substantial improvements to our learning environment that cannot be met through tuition dollars alone. Each year, we strive for 100% participation from our parents. We are passionate about making sure Tuscaloosa Academy continues to provide an outstanding education, but we cannot do that without your support. I give to the Annual Fund each year to make sure students have the rewarding, enriching educational experience that my children have enjoyed at Tuscaloosa Academy. I'm grateful for the Tuscaloosa Academy family environment in which they have grown and for the lessons they have learned both inside and outside the classroom. I am truly excited about the coming year as we focus on providing the high-quality education our students deserve and making sure our school is equipped to provide it—now and into the future. Every gift is valued and important to our school, staff, and students. We hope you will join us this year in supporting the Annual Fund with your gift.

TA ANNUAL FUND

We are grateful to the donors listed below for their participation and generosity in helping us reach our goals for the 2021-2022 Annual Fund Campaign. The report period is October 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness of this list. We sincerely regret if we have made an error and ask that you contact Paige Lancaster at (205) 758-4462 or by email at plancaster@tuscaloosaacademy.org to report any corrections.

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TA ANNUAL FUND

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In Honor of Julie Pruitt Barrett ('04) & Mary Ruth Pruitt ('10)

Mary Ruth Pruitt ('10)
Mary Farley & Robert Poellnitz
Beth Pilgrim Ransom ('92)
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Lilli Reinmuth
Sarah Riches
Joan Robards
Adel Rodina
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Mary Ann Schroeter
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Jennifer ('03) & Nick Wright



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Contact Paige Lancaster, Director of Advancement and Alumni Relations
plancaster@tuscaloosaacademy.org

Or you can give online at
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