

CONNECTIONS



The Christian College of Georgia // The College of Georgia



Stay Up To Date With TFC News



Connect With Us

 @ToccoaFallsCollege

 @ToccoaFallsCollege

 @ToccoaFallsCollege

 @ToccoaFalls

 @ToccoaFalls

2025-2026

PRESIDENT:

Dr. Robert M. Myers

CABINET MEMBERS:

- Dr. Kieran Clements
Vice President for Academic Affairs
- Emily Kerr
Executive Director for Strategic Partnerships
- Dr. Dee Mooney
Vice President for Finance
- Merlin Schenck
Associate Vice President for Operations
- Ronnie Stewart
Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing
- Andrew Thorne
Vice President for Distance Education
- Katie Thorne
Vice President for Student Affairs

CONTRIBUTORS:

Jennifer Ham
Dr. Desmond Ikegwuonu
Dr. Robert Myers
Jason Pope
Ronnie Stewart
Joshua Taylor
Alisa Thomas
Andrew Thorne
Kelly Vickers

EDITOR:

Jennifer Ham
Director of Communication & Public Relations

DESIGNER:

Ritchey Creative, LLC

PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Khawl Nu
Hello Jude Photography, LLC
Reagan Turner Photography
TFC Marketing Team

Table of Contents

4 President’s Letter

5 Faith and Stewardship:
Toccoa Falls College Reaches
Debt-Free Milestone

6 A Place to Stand

8 The Sound of Purpose:
Dr. Desmond Ikegwuonu

10 Commencement Reflection

11 Forrest Hall
Construction Update

12 Introducing Dining Updates

14 Career Services Spotlight

15 TFC Leads State as Largest
Private Dual
Enrollment Program

16 Master of Arts
in Theology

17 Introducing
Environmental Science
& Sustainability

18 Equipping Generations:
The Heart and Ministry
of Dr. Rich Griffith

20 Athletics
Department Update

22 Alumni Spotlight: Where
Are They Now?

24 Meet the New Student
Government Association

26 Historical Documents
Framed and
Commissioned by
Local Studio

27 Faculty Devotional:
Cultivating Joy in
Ordinary Days



A Letter From THE PRESIDENT

Written by
Dr. Robert Myers, DBA
President



What a joy it is to share with you the highlights of such a wonderful year at Toccoa Falls College. God's faithfulness has been evident as we've continued to grow and prepare students for service in the kingdom.

We are pleased to announce that the college is now debt-free. More details on this amazing accomplishment in the next article.

Financially, we completed our thirteenth consecutive year in the black. We made significant infrastructure upgrades this year. The second wing and lobby of our Forrest renovations were completed. It is beautiful, and students will be living in the two newly renovated wings this fall. As part of the renovations, Forrest Hall now has an elevator!

Construction began on the third and final wing of Forrest Hall this summer. By spring, renovations for the entire building will be complete, and the Forrest Hall renovation project will be complete as well. Thank you for all the financial help many of you have provided to make this project a success.

The college also completed many significant upgrades to buildings throughout campus, including renovations to the dining hall, new flooring for the Athletic Center and Timms Hall, a new roof for Fant Hall, and the list could go on. We are thrilled to provide a quality residential experience for our students.

This year's commencement was a wonderful time of celebration. One hundred and eighty-three students graduated in the spring. Our commencement speaker was Dr. Kelvin Cochran, the former Fire Chief for the City of Atlanta, who provided a tremendous charge to the graduates. It was wonderful to see the smiles and witness the many hugs as our graduates left TFC to go out and change the world.

We have already scheduled our commencement speaker for next year, Dr. Gary Chapman. As many of you know, Dr. Chapman is the author of *The Five Love Languages*. Dr. Chapman has also become involved in the life of TFC. As a result of this involvement, the TFC graduate school was named The Gary and Karolyn Chapman School for Graduate Studies. We are excited to have Dr. Chapman on campus next spring.

Our dual enrollment program continues to grow in remarkable ways. TFC provides dual enrollment education to more students than any other private college in the State of Georgia. You can read more about this later in this issue.

We have so many wonderful things happening at TFC; far too many things to talk about in this letter. We are celebrating another new master's program, faculty being highlighted nationally, wonderful accomplishments by our student athletes, and much more. You will be able to read about all of these things as you page through this magazine.

Thank you for all you do to support TFC. God continues to do remarkable things for the college, students, faculty, and staff. Please keep praying for all of us!

Dr. Robert M. Myers, DBA
President

Faith and Stewardship: Toccoa Falls College Reaches Debt-Free Milestone

October of 2000 was an exciting time for everyone at Toccoa Falls College. What the college had been anticipating was finally complete. The Grace Alford Performing Arts Center was finally built and ready for use. Those of us on campus refer to this building as "The Chapel."

This beautiful building is home to the TFC music department, faculty offices, and, of course, the 1,500-seat auditorium. The auditorium is where the campus holds chapel services, special events, and even commencement ceremonies.

While there was great excitement for the completion of the building twenty-five years ago, the construction of the building left the college with a ten-million-dollar loan to repay. Over the course of these years, the college faithfully paid down this debt. However, within the past decade, the college had a great desire to pay it off completely and allow the college to be debt-free.

To help make this happen, the college refinanced the loan, tremendously reducing the loan interest rate. Additionally, the college made extra payments to reduce the loan balance.

We are so happy to report that the college has now repaid the entire loan and is now totally debt-free! The college has no other loans outstanding and truly can celebrate.

Authorizing the construction of the chapel so many years ago was a great gift to the college. Think back to the times when you attended chapel in this building and the many times the Spirit of God was in that place and touched your life. Over the course of twenty-five years, thousands of students were able to worship in this place.

Thank you to those of you who helped pay off this debt. We are very grateful to you and the impact you had on TFC.

Celebrate with us the great gift of being debt-free and the great financial release on Toccoa Falls College.



Written by
Dr. Robert M. Myers, DBA
President



A Place to Stand

Due to the nature of my work, I often think about Christian higher education. I reflect on its place in the broader landscape of higher education sector, musing on faith and learning, character and intellect. Due to my daily proximity to a Christian college campus, it's not difficult for me to see its value in the lives of students. I get to participate in and witness the flourishing of faculty, staff, and students who crave an academic institution that also serves as a character-building enterprise and spiritual formation community, all integrated into a unique way of life. A way of life that seems distant, yet not disconnected, from a culture marked by polarization, secularization, and fragmentation. The cultural issues of our time raise all sorts of questions that students and families must consider during their college search. How much more for those students and families who identify with Christ? In general, cultural issues that are antithetical to the way of Jesus are not unique to our generation of students. Nor is the idea that biblically integrated, Christian higher education is of critical importance. Martin Luther had some strong thoughts on the matter,

I should advise no one to send his child where the Holy Scriptures are not supreme. Every institution that does not unceasingly pursue the study of God's word becomes corrupt...I fear the universities, unless they teach the Holy Scriptures diligently and impress them on their young students, are wide gates to hell.¹

Luther was never one to mince words. That is quite the statement. One that may evoke strong reactions, either in support or disagreement. I'm not here to condemn any parents for sending their child to a non-Christian college or university, nor a student for making the choice. However, I am encouraging followers of Jesus to strongly consider their options in Christian higher education. We have mentioned the cultural issues at play, but ultimately, I am urging students to consider the question, "Who am I becoming?" Much of the discourse surrounding college in the United States centers on career outcomes. Can this college help me get the job I want? How much money will I earn upon graduation? I don't mean to discount such questions – they are important, especially considering the landscape we find ourselves in. However, we have lost sight of the purpose of higher education along



the way. Like in so many other ways, we have become transactional. Higher education is meant to address this question related to becoming, a more transformative approach to education.

Not only are Christian higher education institutions seeking to invest in this transformative question by means of the unique way of life I mentioned earlier, but also for the purpose of contributing to the flourishing of the world. Joldersma and Stronks² suggest that the framing goal for Christian higher education is to promote shalom, "to energize students for a certain way of being in the world here and now." To respond to the "wounds of humanity" and to "change the world by making it a place of human flourishing." Nicholas Wolterstorff inspired these ideas, and he puts it this way when discussing the aim of the Christian college:

¹Luther, M. (2007) *Selected Writings of Martin Luther*, ed. Theodore G. Tappert (Minneapolis: Fortress), 520.

²Wolterstorff, N., Joldersma, C. W., &Stronks, G. G. (2004). *Educating for shalom: Essays on Christian higher education*. W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.

The Christian college is a project of and for Christian community... if the Christian community is to share in God's work of renewal by being witness, servant, and evidence, its young members will need an education pointed toward equipping them to contribute to that calling...The graduate who prays and struggles for the incursion of justice and shalom into our glorious but fallen world, celebrating its presence and mourning its absence – that is the graduate the Christian college must seek to produce.³

This is God's biblical vision for humanity, and Christian higher education is charged with fostering a space for the next generation to engage thought and culture and prepare for this Kingdom work. Our responsibility within Christian higher education is to contribute to the world's flourishing – to prepare graduates to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God (Micah 6:8). We believe this is done by promoting this vision of human flourishing on our campuses here and now. This involves intentional spiritual formation and a steadfast commitment to the way of Jesus amid a culture that seemingly demands bending on values.

So, why Christian higher education? Why should students eagerly embrace this vision? I believe that students are longing for something more in their educational experience. Some are more cognizant of this longing than others. I believe this longing is rooted in a desire to live an undivided, integrated life. Great spiritual writers like Parker Palmer⁴ and Jeff Crosby⁵ have unpacked this concept. The idea is that living a divided, disintegrated life is like having a wall between our inner life and our outer life. Allow me to apply this concept to our discussion on why students and their families should consider Christian colleges and universities. I would argue that education broadly has become disintegrated, and Christian higher education is aiming to bring about greater congruity through the integration of faith and learning, character and intellect. We are whole beings, and we are always being formed, one way or another. Christian higher education is founded in and operates out of that assumption, and it functions in a way that is meant to prepare students personally, professionally, and spiritually to live a life of service to the kingdom of God. This question of formation is not just for students and families to wrestle with, it is also one the Church must engage.

I am urging leaders within the Church to be deeply concerned about where students in their congregations are going to college and why they are going there. I am consistently surprised at the lack of care for Christian higher education in the local church. It seems as if our leaders and elders are more supportive of students attending the popular, large public university than the smaller, lesser-known Christian institution. One friend and colleague expressed to me, in the spirit of Luther, that "it seems they care more about their football team and social status than they do the long-term formation of their students."Again, I am not suggesting that higher education outside of the Christian sector is inherently wrong or evil. I am suggesting that college, in its most holistic, integrated, and complete version, is to be an investment in more than a degree and career outcomes; it is also an investment in becoming a person of Christ-like character who is equipped to participate in and expand the kingdom of God through every facet of life.



I recognize my potential biases in this conversation. Perhaps I am too close to the situation to make a fully objective case. Still, as I reflect, I'm struck by the gift it is to participate in God's redeeming work. By the grace of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, the people of God are changing the world and bringing about flourishing in their communities. Our Lord, in his sufficiency, gives us a place to stand in that effort. Yet, Christian higher education seeks to provide support in this collective mission – our project to bring about shalom. It is one more place to stand, a steady footing from which we move the world.⁶

³Wolterstorff, N., Joldersma, C. W., &Stronks, G. G. (2004). *Educating for shalom: Essays on Christian higher education*. W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.

⁴Palmer, P. J. (2022). *Hidden wholeness*. Jossey-Bass.

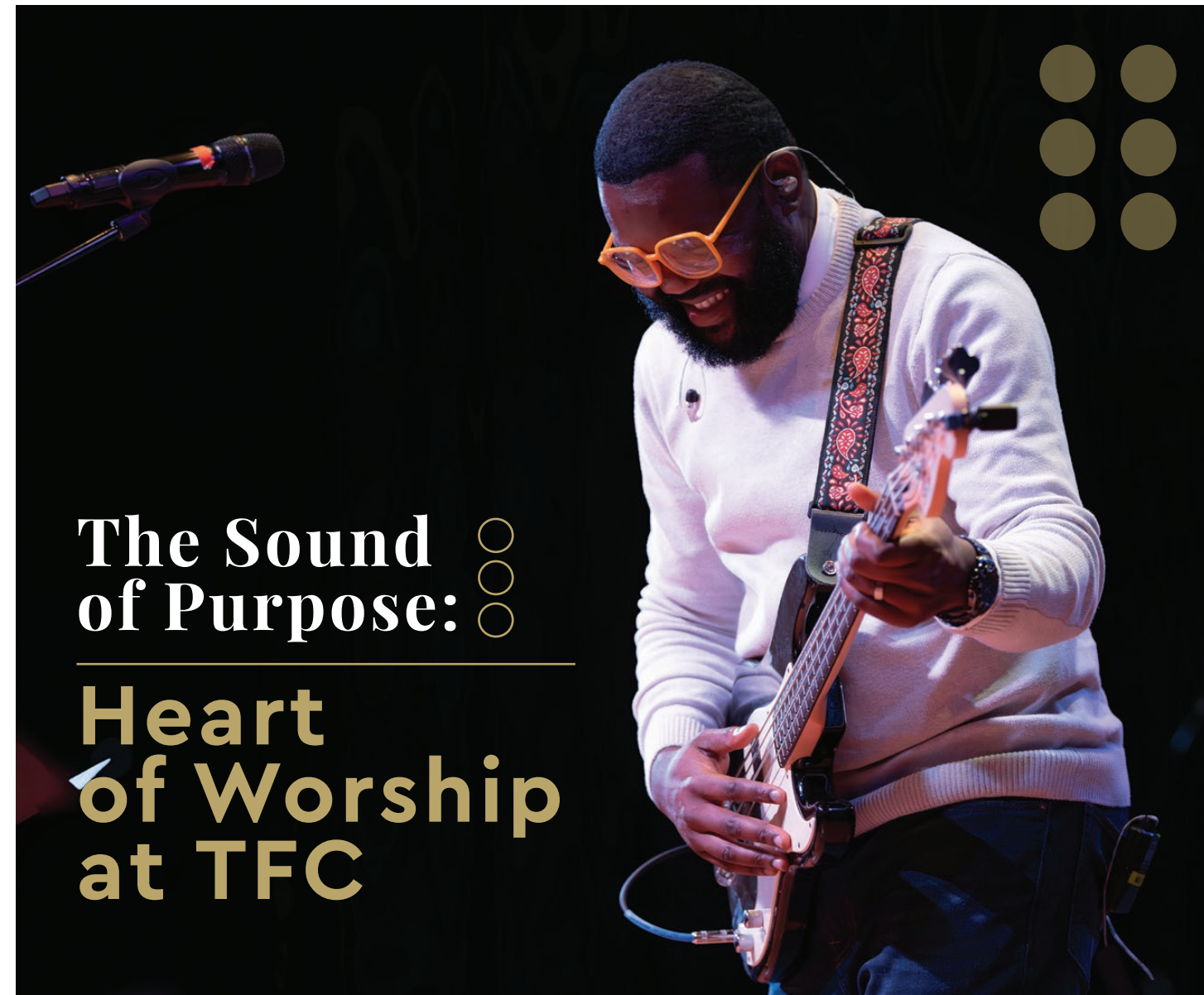
⁵Crosby, J. (2023). *The language of the soul: Meeting God in the longings of our hearts*. Broadleaf Books.

⁶Newby, E. (1978). *A philosopher's way: Essays and addresses of Elton Trueblood*. Nashville, TN: Broadman.



Ronnie Stewart
Vice President for Enrollment
& Marketing

The Sound of Purpose: Heart of Worship at TFC



I was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria. My mom primarily took care of us as my dad would shuttle between work in the United States and Nigeria. She was committed to immersing my siblings and I into life in the church through regular attendance. My parents are strict devout believers which meant we had to attend almost all services at church. Although my parents are not musical, music was very much a part of the rhythm of life as we typically heard songs, instruments, recordings and the sounds of different ethnic groups all around us. Interestingly, I was further exposed to a lot of these ethnic musical voices through the blaring speakers of the record store adjacent to my mom's grocery store in Lagos. As I would often help my mom at her grocery shop, I was involuntarily accustomed to different styles of music resounding from the audio speakers of that record store every day. My formal music lessons began in my late teens. Beginning with voice lessons, then piano lessons, music theory, guitar and the list goes on.

Growing up, the music of the Church played a formative role in my life. It would be impossible to discuss music's impact in the broader culture without the church. Think about black gospel and the many mainstream genres that have been birthed from one style and sound which began in the church. My musical journey in the church has been a catalyst for all that I do. I was part of the children's

choir, the teens choir and other groups in our local church in Lagos. We sang together, performed together at home, prayed together, and my musical growth has come through serving the local body of believers. Even when I began formal classical music lessons, I was still exploring these forms in the liturgical practices at church. We learned to play four-part hymns, gospel styled choir harmonies, while honing our aural skills through scoring and music composition. There was a deep drive towards God honoring excellence, using the gift He has given to us and with the limited resources we had available. I never had a piano or a keyboard in our home in Nigeria and I remember walking so many miles, sometimes it could take me over an hour just to get to my music teacher's home. Once I arrived, and joyfully soaked in sweat, I had to make the most of the 1 hour duration of which we were each assigned to play the upright piano that was so badly out of shape and out of tune. You can imagine my excitement when I got to the United States and discovered that you could walk into a practice room and practice for as long as you wanted. It felt like Christmas every day having the ready access to the piano while I was in school. My journey has been one of desire fueled by resilience to purposefully live out my calling for the glory of God.

So, what led me to join the Music and Worship Arts Faculty at Toccoa Falls College? I can only describe my joining TFC as the result of God's divine orchestration. You know how Psalm 37:23 describes the Lord delighting in every detail of our lives and ordering our steps, that perfectly sums up my journey to TFC. I was not planning to leave my previous institution but through God's sovereignty, during the summer of 2024, in the application and interview for my current position here at TFC, I prayerfully began to get a sense that God truly wanted my family and I here. This is the cliff notes version of the story. There is something profoundly unique about the posture of reverential surrender that I have witnessed in our students here at TFC. It's that collective longing for God in which "deep cries out to deep" like we see Psalm 42:7. Whether it's in the one-on-one conversation with a student or the collective fellowship in word or song, the hunger for more of God is beautifully and tangibly contagious. I can think of the many chapel services here at TFC in which even when we ended chapel and the music stopped; students were still postured in song and prayer unwilling to leave. In many of these occasions, students have been seen prayerfully interceding for their friends in the room. What we've been witnessing is not a product of human machination but a testament to the Spirit of God at move in a fresh way across our campus. Personally, it has been breath taking and a profound reminder that God honors His word as we humble ourselves with biblical openness to what He wants to do.

I am blessed that I get to work with amazing colleagues in my department and across campus. Moreso, it has been a beautiful gift to journey with these talented students in our department and across our many academic disciplines. As part of our chapel and spiritual life department, I get to interact with students from many other programs and not just music. In each of these lives, there is a deepening understanding that Jesus is not just a stamp or logo on their vocational calling; rather He is the only way to truly live out life purposefully in their vocation. This continues to be very enriching for me.

I once had an exceptionally talented student. He wasn't just a skillful pianist who could play different styles of music, but he was and still is an incredible music producer and an all-round artist. During a sophomore evaluation interview, he surprisingly mentioned to my colleagues and I that he was not certain about his faith in God anymore. Well, my colleague and I collectively decided to commit to praying for him. The subsequent semester as we were doing our book study on the Holy Spirit, I began to realize that this student became openly transparent about how he had rededicated his life to Christ and was studying the scriptures daily. He was a brand-new person. As we journeyed together through mentorship, he began to realize that the foundation to music making for the glory of God is a vessel surrender to God and His truth. Without truth, there is no worship. Without surrender, there is no true and proper worship. The realization that God is much more interested in our surrendered hearts allowed my student to rightfully see His musical gift as a responsive offering of praise to God. Worship is primarily about our life lived in surrender to God and how we use our gifts in service for His glory. It is amazing to see the lives that continue to be blessed by this particular student's story and his music. The calling to lead and serve the corporate community through music or word is such a weighty endeavor and one that should not be treated with triviality. We are called to the task of caring for the souls of people.

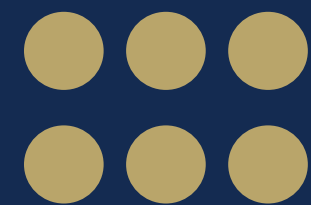


We recently released a single titled "Due Season" with our TFC College Choir led by Dr. Tom Council and in collaboration with the multiethnic worship collective, PFC Worship. If you know anything about the recording process, you know there are many layers; preproduction, programming, instrumentation, vocal production, postproduction, mixing, and mastering. The choir vocal recording session took some time as expected and the students came ready to sing and they gave it their all. Having the opportunity to work with multiple Grammy award winning mastering engineer and producer was remarkable. Equally meaningful for the students was getting to hear the final product and the lives that have been blessed by the song. I believe it is a reminder to the students that God can use them from wherever they are to shine His light all over the nations. Such is the power of music. One student's email stood out to me because she shared how it dawned on her as she was listening to the recording that she had done something she always dreamed of doing which is being on a recording.

I hope that through my service to students, the department, and ultimately the institution, we continue to stand out as a place where students from all over the world can come to be trained biblically in their artistic and musical calling so that they love God more fully and learn to serve others deeply with excellence in their vocation.



Dr. Desmond Ikegwuonu
Associate Professor of Music
and Worship Arts



Reflection on Commencement 2025

Excitement filled the Toccoa Falls College campus as friends, family, and the TFC community gathered to honor the graduating Class of 2025. That evening’s Commencement ceremony was marked by tradition and celebration, including the lighting of Toccoa Falls waterfall. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Kelvin Cochran. Cochran is an author, nationally recognized public speaker, and passionate advocate for religious liberty and unity within the body of Christ. He urged graduates not only to pursue their dreams but to align those dreams with God’s divine purpose for their lives. In recognition of his dedication to the Kingdom of God and his partnership with TFC, Dr. Robert Myers presented Cochran with the President’s Medallion.

This year’s graduating class included 183 total graduates from Fall 2024 through Summer 2025, with 142 participating in Friday’s ceremony. Among them, 169 undergraduate degrees were awarded, with Counseling Psychology standing out as the largest major, graduating 32 students.

The Gary D. and Karolyn J. Chapman School of Graduate Studies conferred 17 Master of Arts degrees across four areas of study. The program continues to experience exciting growth, particularly in Marriage and Family Therapy, which accounted for more than half of this year’s graduate degrees.

Toccoa Falls College extends heartfelt congratulations to each graduate on a job well done. As they step into the next chapter of their lives, may Psalm 121:1-2 be etched upon their hearts.

“I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” (NIV)



Gary Chapman for 2026

TFC is thrilled to announce the guest speaker for this academic year will be Dr. Gary Chapman. A familiar name most known for his book *The Five Love Languages*, and certainly a treasured relationship with Toccoa Falls College - culminating in a transformative gift that led to the naming of the Gary D. and Karolyn J. Chapman School of Graduate Studies.

Dedicated in October 2022, the Chapman School recognizes both Gary and Karolyn’s generosity and shared passion for preparing Christian leaders through advanced education. Since its launch in 2020, TFC’s graduate program has grown steadily, offering master’s degrees in fields such as Marriage & Family Therapy and Organizational Leadership—disciplines close to Chapman’s own life’s work.

Dr. Chapman’s involvement is more than honorary—it’s deeply personal and mission-driven, strengthening the college’s commitment to combining faith, intellect, and service in every stage of learning.

Forrest Hall

Final Wing Construction Has Begun

Excitement continues to build as the Forrest Hall Renovation Project enters its final stages. With funding fully approved, preliminary work has now begun on the last phase—B-Wing, Phase III—in partnership with Ron Cantrell Construction, Inc. (RCCI) and the TFC Maintenance team.

TFC is thrilled to announce that the newly renovated M-Wing has officially passed its final walkthrough inspection with administration and is now complete. RCCI has done outstanding work throughout Phases I and II, and heartfelt thanks to project superintendent Seth Bailey for his excellent oversight. The M-Wing will be welcoming our incoming students this fall.

The entire renovation project remains on schedule as we enter the third and final year of this transformative effort. Careful planning and close attention to detail have guided each phase. TFC is deeply grateful to the administration for securing the necessary funding, and to RCCI for providing the labor and resources to bring this vision to life.

Forrest Hall holds a special place in the college’s history, dating back to its groundbreaking in 1961 by founder, Dr. Richard Forrest. His vision for TFC continues to resonate in the community of faculty, staff, and students who remain committed to serving at God’s best. TFC is humbled and thankful that this multi-million-dollar project is being completed debt-free.

The renovation has created beautiful residential rooms, modern bathrooms, and welcoming common areas where students can truly feel at home. This project is not only a blessing to our current students but will serve future generations for years to come.

As TFC continues to grow and flourish by God’s grace, these campus improvements are essential to meeting the evolving needs of our community. What an exciting time it is to witness the near completion of such a



monumental milestone—set to be fully completed by this coming spring.

Please pray with us that this beautifully renovated building will be a place of spiritual growth, renewal, and deepened passion for knowing Christ in the lives of the students who call Forrest Hall home.



Jennifer Ham
Director of Communication and Public Relations



A New Place to Gather:

TFC Celebrates Grand Opening of Screaming Eagle Café

Toccoa Falls College celebrated the grand opening of the “Screaming Eagle Café,” TFC’s renovated and newly named dining option for students. Formerly known as the “Eagles Nest,” this space was renovated over the summer for students to begin enjoying in the fall of 2024.

The café offers a beautiful, new common space at Toccoa Falls College where students, faculty, and staff can connect with one another. The café is complete with booth-style seating, Starbucks services, on-the-go snacks and drinks, brand new furniture, a private study room, and a rebuilt wrap-around porch overlooking the mountains. Students can enjoy their favorite meals and snacks using Eagle Bucks, a declining balance automatically included with each meal plan and linked to their student ID. In addition to Eagle Bucks, students can make purchases with credit or debit cards and take advantage of meal exchange swipes available through their meal plans.

Danny Dawkins, District Manager of Chartwells Higher Ed, TFC’s dining partner, shared, “the project is an investment in our ongoing partnership with Toccoa Falls College to provide innovative dining experiences for the campus community.” This completely renovated space is a testament to TFC’s ongoing commitment to enhancing the student experience on campus. The upgrades reflect our vision for creating inviting environments that foster connection, spiritual growth, and a sense of community, offering students a space to enjoy meals, study, and build relationships in a Christ-centered atmosphere.



Toccoa Falls College students returned to campus this fall to find a refreshed and more inviting dining hall space. Over the summer, the main dining area received a series of updates, including new paint and redesigned walls, creating a brighter, more modern atmosphere for students, faculty, and staff to enjoy meals together.

With these updates, the dining hall continues to serve as a central gathering place on campus—where good food, conversation, and connection come together in a Christ-centered environment.





Amy Petke
Director of Career Services

At Toccoa Falls College, preparing students for meaningful work is a vital part of our mission. The Center for Career Services exists to equip students and alumni with the tools, guidance, and connections they need to pursue their calling with confidence. Whether exploring vocational direction, developing a resume, preparing for an interview, or seeking internships and job opportunities, the Center serves as a hub for career readiness and long-term success.

Can you tell us a little about yourself and where you're from ?
I grew up in Chambersburg, PA but have spent the last 20 years living in DeLand, FL.

What led you to join Toccoa Falls College?
I graduated from TFC in 2001, so it has always had a special place in my heart. Through a complete fluke I became aware of the open position here at the college last fall. God worked out the rest!

What's your professional background, and how did it prepare you for this role?
I worked for the district office of the Alliance Southeast in the role of Director of Administration and Placement. I had many hats in that position, but one of them was sourcing resumes, filtering through them, interviewing potential candidates, and doing interview training. That role has given me the foundation for this new role here at Toccoa Falls College.

What is your official role at Toccoa Falls College?
Director of Career Services

What does a typical day look like for you in your position?
It depends on the day! Some days I am in the classroom doing resume, cover letter, and interview seminars. Some days I do mock interviews. Many days I am meeting one on one with students to review their resumes and cover letters.

What are you most excited about in your new role?
I am really excited about being able to help our students as they prepare to enter the workforce. Even though it's one small piece in their process, it brings me joy knowing that I could be of help.

Career Services Spotlight

Introducing Amy Petke

What stood out to you about Toccoa Falls College when you were considering joining?
I attended TFC from 1997-2001. TFC has always felt like home even if I was just stopping in for a visit.

How do you see your work contributing to the mission and values of TFC?
TFC's mission is to prepare students to service the Kingdom of God personally and professionally. My position gives me the opportunity to help students prepare to serve the Kingdom of God professionally while they are students and as well as after they graduate.

What are some goals you've set for yourself in your first year here?
My goals are to acclimate to the new job and the Toccoa area. I am also wanting to build a foundation of relationships with the students so they know who I am and know that they can come to me for help.

Are there any specific projects or initiatives you're looking forward to working on?
I am currently working on promoting the College Central Network program that has been underutilized over the past few years. This program is free to our students and has the potential to open up more job and internship opportunities to our students. I am also working on the potential of having a job fair on campus for our students as well.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?
I enjoy spending time with my son, Alex, who is in 11th grade and is active in high school sports.

Do you have a favorite book, quote, or Bible verse that inspires you?

- Favorite book: *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins
- Favorite Bible verse: *Jeremiah 29:11*

Is there anything else you'd like the TFC community to know about you as you begin this new chapter?
I am very excited to be here! Feel free to come by and see me!



To learn more or schedule an appointment, students can visit the Career Services office on campus or access resources online at <https://tfc.edu/life-at-tfc/career-services/>.

The Christian College of Georgia:

Advancing Dual Enrollment with Purpose and Excellence

The Dual Enrollment (DE) Program at Toccoa Falls College (TFC) has reported all-time institutional records for 3 consecutive years. This has provided an opportunity for many high school students to get ahead in their studies and prepare themselves for a brighter future. In Fall 2019, TFC entered uncharted territory as we enrolled 970 DE students! Just 5 years prior, only around 100 DE students had enrolled in a semester, and this population rise was remarkable. However, amid the celebration, TFC's DE team began anticipating a major challenge.

On July 1, 2020, Georgia House Bill 444 went into effect, aiming to address wasteful spending tied to DE by limiting the number of funded college credit hours a student can earn while enrolled in high school. This necessary change continues to motivate students to succeed academically and strategically consider how to use their 30 credit hours of DE funding. As a result of this new legislation, most colleges in GA, including TFC, faced a decline in DE population. In Fall 2020, TFC dropped to 830 DE students, an expected shift from the prior year's success.

Still, TFC persevered through this legislative change to continue providing premier education that integrates biblical truth and academic excellence to our students. By Fall 2021, TFC's DE student population grew to 950, nearly reaching the pre-legislative improvement levels. In comparison, many colleges remained stagnant while TFC experienced nearly unexplainable growth.

Since then, the Lord's blessings have become even more abundant. In Fall 2022, which began our 3 consecutive years of all-time records, TFC surpassed any previous DE enrollment record with nearly 1,200 students. Just one academic year later, in Fall 2023, we enrolled 1,600 for the first time, and by Fall 2024, we reached 2,100. We anticipate that we will remain on this trajectory for Fall 2025, serving the most students we've ever enrolled.

During the 2024-2025 academic year TFC worked with 135 high schools in Georgia and the families of nearly 250 homeschooled students. **In total, TFC served over 2,600 DE students in the 2024-2025 academic year and was Georgia's largest private provider of Dual Enrollment.** TFC plans to continue to offer a wide range

of high-quality courses and excellent customer service to all students as a piece of our impact as The Christian College of Georgia. For more information, please visit tfc.edu/dual.



- **Earn Dual Credit:** High school students can take college courses online or in person to earn both high school and college credit through Toccoa Falls College's Dual Enrollment program.
- **Transferable Credits:** Courses offer valuable college credit that can be transferred to most accredited institutions.
- **Scholarship Opportunity:** Dual enrollment students who enroll on-campus at Toccoa Falls College after high school receive a \$1,000 annual scholarship.
- **Christ-Centered Support:** The program provides a guided, Christ-centered academic experience focused on student success.
- **Personalized Support:** Students receive dedicated support from caring faculty and staff, whether learning online or on campus.



Andrew Thorne
Vice President for Distance Education



Introducing New M.A. in Theology



**Earn a Master of Arts
in Theology Online**

The Master of Arts in Theology program offers advanced training in the theological disciplines, providing graduates with an even greater depth of understanding concerning biblical studies and theology. It is a degree program especially designed for students who already have a significant amount of practical ministry experience and are wanting more training focused in biblical and theological studies to prepare for teaching ministries in church, specialized ministries, and/or doctoral studies.

By drawing course work from the focus areas of bible and theology, ministry and leadership, and global ministries, graduates will be prepared to serve in diverse ministry settings. Toccoa Falls College grants advanced standing of up to 12 hours to qualified undergraduate students toward the M.A. in Theology degree.

Dr. Phil Strickland, Dean, School of Graduate Studies states:

“The MA in Theology is an excellent choice for students seeking a deep and rigorous exploration of the Christian faith, its historical development, and its relevance in today’s world. This program provides a strong foundation for those interested in academic research, teaching, or further graduate study, while also equipping students to think theologically about culture, ethics, and the global church. Unique among theology programs in the Southeast, TFC’s offering is both intellectually robust and spiritually grounded—welcoming students from diverse denominational backgrounds and encouraging thoughtful engagement with Scripture and tradition.”



Earn a Masters at TFC

At Toccoa Falls College, we are dedicated to providing our students with the highest quality Christian education possible. Our online graduate program is no exception to this rule. We understand that pursuing an advanced degree with Christ-centered values can be challenging, especially for those who are working full-time or have other responsibilities. That’s why we have designed our online graduate program in GA to be as flexible, convenient, and God-honoring as possible.

Programs:

- M.A. in Organizational Leadership
- M.A. in Christian Ministry
- M.A. in Theology
- M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy
- M.A. in Counseling Ministries
- Graduate Certificate in Trauma Therapy

Discounts Available:

- TFC Alumni | 10% off
- Full-time emergency responders | 25% off



New Major at TFC

Environmental Science & Sustainability



For more information about this new program, visit:

Toccoa Falls College is thrilled to announce a new major being offered in Environmental Science & Sustainability! This exciting addition to our degrees and programs offers students the opportunity to integrate the natural and social sciences, equipping them to address today’s most pressing environmental challenges. Rooted in a biblical worldview, the program emphasizes the Christian responsibility to steward God’s Creation with wisdom, care, and integrity.

This program is a perfect fit for students seeking degrees or future careers in the field of sustainability, differing from the missional approach of the Sustainable Community Development program at TFC. Graduates will be equipped for a diverse range of local and global career paths. Dr. Brian Peek, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, shares his perspective on the program’s mission and impact, stating:

“The Environmental Science & Sustainability program at TFC is designed for students who want to make a meaningful difference in the world while staying grounded in their faith. It’s a place where science and stewardship go hand in hand—where we explore environmental challenges through the lens of Scripture and prepare students to lead with both competence and conviction.”

The Lawson Center for Sustainable Community Development



To learn more about The Lawson Center for Sustainable Community Development visit:

When you look around the TFC farm, it is exactly what it appears to be—a beautiful, thriving farm. Rows of vegetables, strawberry plants, and fruit trees flourish in abundance. Blueberries and blackberries hang heavy on each bush. A greenhouse brims with additional greenery and flowering plants. Across the stream, farm animals like goats, a cow, and chickens roam freely, while painted gourds serve as homes for various bird species. Irrigation systems and upcycled planters reflect a commitment to urban community sustainability, with every plant thriving under thoughtful care. Every element of the farm serves a greater purpose: to teach. Scott Davis, The Lawson Center Farm Manager, states,

“Everything we do at The Lawson Center is to disciple our students and teach them discipleship principles that they can carry out into the world so that they can be equipped to disciple others and ultimately share the love of Jesus with them.”

Students that are interested in studying agriculture may be interested in this mission-centered agricultural approach. Students majoring in Sustainable Community Development learn ways to practice sustainable lifestyles, plan sustainable development with community leaders, and establish locally appropriate communities of faith among all people, including unreached people groups.





Equipping Generations:

The Heart and Ministry of Dr. Rich Griffith

The spirit of Toccoa Falls College is reflected not only in its beautiful campus or the faces of its leadership, faculty, staff, and students, but in the ripple effect of the Gospel that has flowed from the heart of this community to the world. For 118 years, TFC has shaped and sent out pastors, business leaders, international workers, educators, nurses, Bible scholars, musicians, and scientists. Through the grace of God and the faithful hearts of those who serve and support TFC, countless lives have been transformed, continuing a legacy that thrives to this day.

One of the many who exemplify the mission of TFC is Dr. Rich Griffith, Associate Professor of Youth Ministry. As a professor at Toccoa Falls College, he's spent years equipping students to lead. He doesn't just teach about leadership, he lives it out with a deep passion for investing in young people. But beyond the classroom, Dr. Griffith is also a gifted author whose books and writings speak directly to the heart of youth ministry and parenting. Whether he's writing about spiritual formation, leadership, or culture, his words are always grounded in ministry experience and a love for the next generation. His calling is clear: to help students not only grow in knowledge, but also in wisdom and purpose as they step into God's call on their lives.



Before joining the faculty at Toccoa Falls College, Dr. Rich Griffith served for 24 years in ministry as both a senior pastor and youth pastor in the United Methodist Church. He also worked in parachurch ministry and served as a U.S. Army Chaplain Assistant. An accomplished author, Dr. Griffith has written books such as *Voices: Helping Our Children and Youth Listen to Wise Counsel* (2023) and *Discipleship is Leadership: Stages of Generational Development* (2024). His work blends personal experience, as a single father to three adopted sons, with professional insight, offering valuable guidance for youth workers, parents, and families.

In addition to his books, Dr. Griffith has contributed to academic journals, podcasts, and written columns. He was also featured on Focus on the Family, an experience he describes as deeply meaningful: "I've been a lifelong fan of the ministry, and it was exciting to meet Jim Daly and John Fuller, but most impressive is the way God is opening the doors for His broader influence."

Coming to TFC in "unexpected ways," for years Griffith sensed God's pull to raise up the next generation of ministry leaders. Around 2015, he recalls that several students he had mentored in student ministry ended up attending TFC. After inquiring about serving as an adjunct professor, he learned that the college was searching for a new Professor of Youth Ministry. Over the years, Griffith has witnessed a hunger that young people are seeking to fill, as he states, "it's very humbling to see firsthand that young people are seeking what

TFC offers, there is such a hunger for guidance and that's what we do."

His personal journey as a single father has profoundly shaped both his identity and vocation. Through the lens of a Christian worldview, he has come to recognize the deep challenges facing today's youth. Not only through parenting his own sons, but also by observing the struggles of his students and younger generations. He describes many of these struggles as stemming from "generational, culturally induced trauma," marked by fears of nuclear war, systemic abandonment, unstable families, school shootings, social media bullying, terrorism, and a global pandemic. "These fears are not going away," he says. "They're only increasing. Meanwhile the stable supports our young people need are being stripped away." These realities have only deepened his commitment to living out his faith in the community, rather than in isolation, something he believes today's youth desperately need.

Dr. Griffith develops rooted relationships with his students as most professors do, investing in their knowledges and spiritual growth, taking into perspective each unique personality and giftings that God has placed within them. When asked what it means to him to be a part of the TFC family, Griffith replied, "It is my desire to represent my TFC family well. I enjoy trying to recruit for the school and I am thankful for how TFC supports my academic and personal pursuits. I hope and pray that we, as a TFC family, will always have a sense of unity."

Even in all his accomplishments, both nationally and on campus, Dr. Griffith points it all to Christ. When asked to do this featured article to celebrate his impact, Griffith's response was, "we're not spotlighting me, we're spotlighting God and his accomplishments through a willing vessel." Whether through books, podcasts, guest appearances or speaking engagements, his work exemplifies TFC's values. Looking ahead, Dr. Griffith is excited to announce the release of his newest book this fall entitled *Reimagining Church As Family*. Toccoa Falls College is grateful for Dr. Rich Griffith's faithful service to the Kingdom and honored to have his example as part of our community.



Jennifer Ham
Director of Communication
and Public Relations



Toccoa Falls Athletics:

A Year of Growth, Momentum, and Success

As Toccoa Falls College closed out the 2024–25 academic year, the Athletics Department reflects on one of its most dynamic and successful seasons to date. With major facility enhancements, the addition of new sports programs and full-time coaches, and continued excellence in both academics and competition, TFC Athletics continues to build a strong foundation for future success.

Progress has been visible across campus, with athletics facilities undergoing a series of strategic upgrades designed to enhance both the student-athlete and fan experience.

One of the most significant additions was the construction of a brand-new film and meeting room—a centralized space where teams can gather for film study, strategy sessions, and athlete development. This addition has become a key tool in both player education and team cohesion.

The soccer and baseball fields also saw improvements, including new scoreboards and enhancements to the playing surfaces, elevating the quality of competition and the overall atmosphere on game day.

Meanwhile, the Lois DeLaney Athletic Center received a much-needed facelift, with new flooring throughout the lobby and hallways, along with fresh interior paint that has revitalized the space for athletes, staff, and visitors alike. These updates reflect a broader commitment to providing high-quality resources that match the ambitions of our programs.

This past year also marked a significant period of expansion for Toccoa Falls Athletics. The department relaunched Men’s and Women’s Cross Country and proudly introduced Men’s and Women’s Golf—two programs that made promising starts with young, determined rosters. Though early in their



development, both programs are building strong cultures and setting the stage for future achievements.

To lead this new chapter, TFC welcomed two new full-time head coaches:

- **Shannon Howell**, Head Coach of Golf, brings a wealth of experience and vision as he works to establish both men’s and women’s programs.
- **Brooke Hall**, Head Coach of Women’s Soccer, joins with a clear passion for mentoring student-athletes and building a competitive team culture.

Both coaches have been hard at work recruiting and preparing for the 2025–26 season, which promises to be an exciting year as their programs officially launch into action.

While athletic competition is a central focus, TFC Athletics continues to prioritize academic achievement—and the results speak volumes. In 2024–25, the department achieved a cumulative GPA above 3.0, with several teams reaching new highs for academic performance. Student-athletes not only set ambitious goals in the classroom, but many also celebrated the ultimate milestone: earning their degrees.

On the field and court, Toccoa Falls teams continued to make their mark, with several programs competing for regional championships—an impressive feat for a department still in its early stages of growth. Soccer and basketball, in particular, showed strong upward momentum, driven by young talent and committed coaching.

As we turn toward the 2025–26 athletic year, excitement is building. Facility improvements continued through the summer, and student-athletes—many of whom are training hard during the offseason—returned to a campus energized by progress and possibility.

With new programs on the rise, passionate coaches leading the way, and a culture grounded in faith, excellence, and perseverance, Toccoa Falls Athletics is on a trajectory of sustained growth. The future is bright, and the next chapter is just beginning. To learn more, please visit tfcathletics.com.



Brooke Hall:

Brooke is a proud TFC alumna, graduating in 2021 with a degree in Counseling Psychology. With seven years of coaching experience across various age groups and 15 years of playing experience, Hall is back at TFC, driven by a passion for helping players grow both on and off the field.

Coach Hall shared, *“I am so excited to get started as the new Head Women’s Soccer Coach at TFC. This place feels like home, and I can’t wait to make new memories here.”*



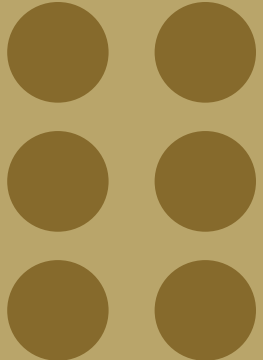
Shannon Howell:

Howell brings years of experience and valuable expertise as a Golf Pro at the Currahee Club. The TFC Golf Teams were launched last fall, with support from the Knox Whiten Foundation, as well as the beautiful Currahee Club, which became TFC’s home course.

Joshua Taylor, TFC’s Athletic Director, expressed: *“We are so excited to have Coach Howell, and his family join us as our new Head Golf Coach. Howell has been around the golfing world for many years and is extremely well known and respected.”*



Joshua Taylor
Athletic Director



Alumni Spotlight:

Where Are They Now?

Jason Pope
Founder of The Rain
Collective

**From TFC to Across
the World**



As a student, I graduated with the lowest GPA in my high school class and began college on academic probation. But a visit to my cousin at Villanova University changed my perspective. I saw what it looked like to pursue excellence and left with a renewed vision for my own life. Within two quarters, I was on the Dean's List and earning 4.0s. During that time, I began to seek a place where I could grow intellectually and spiritually. That pursuit led me to Toccoa Falls College—a place where character formation and academic rigor could intertwine.

Initially, I thought I would become a licensed counselor. But God had other plans. After my freshman year, I spent ten weeks in the Republic of Georgia running camps for internally displaced children. That experience shifted my direction. I saw first-hand how poverty, hopelessness, and systemic corruption stole purpose from children. I returned to the Republic of Georgia after graduation to consult with a local youth program and encountered three boys—all around age twelve—who had never been to school and spent their days begging, sniffing glue, and surviving. That moment birthed a deeper calling in me: to help communities grow holistically so that children like them could reclaim hope. I pursued graduate work in Intercultural Studies and Public Policy while working full-time at The Salvation Army. Later, a 2007 trafficking investigation in China on the Myanmar border cemented my long-term focus. Since then, I've remained committed to combating human trafficking, ultimately earning a PhD in International Family and Community Studies from Clemson University.

Being part of the Christian & Missionary Alliance community opened my worldview. My 8 a.m. World Perspectives class with Dr. Tim Tennent was transformational. So were our world mission prayer meetings. But perhaps most formative was the group of friends I found. We called ourselves the "Formages" for reasons involving tomfoolery and minor infractions—like missing curfew and racking up gratis hours. But over ramen and pizza, we asked big questions and sought spiritual depth. That brotherhood remains a constant in my life today. Academically, courses like Western Thought and Culture, Philosophy, and Hermeneutics gave me the tools to think critically and study Scripture deeply.

TFC had an impact on me, therefore, TFC had a contribution to founding Rain Collective. The name "Rain" represents blessing—a nod to Genesis 12:3: "You will be a blessing to all the families of the earth." TFC instilled in me the global mission of the Church: to bless, not to condemn. My time on the baseball field and in team settings shaped how I think about collaboration and excellence. Coach Paul Shiffer once gave me the signal to steal home—a move that gave me the school record for stolen bases, which I believe still stands. That moment reminds me that I can do hard things. Toccoa Falls pushed me out of the nest and whispered, "You can do this."

Rain Collective exists to disrupt the cycle of trafficking in the Middle East and North Africa and to restore and repatriate survivors. At Toccoa, I learned that dehumanization stands in direct opposition to God's plan. As A.B. Simpson said, "Divine love loves that it may bless and do good." TFC taught me that love must be tangible. That's why one of our seven stages of

repatriation is simply emotional support. If all else fails, we show up and stand with survivors in their hardest moments.

Though Rain Collective was founded in 2021, connections from TFC have already played a role. I've reached out to alumni pastors for wisdom, and in one case, helped connect a former student with survivor services in South America. I hope to deepen these ties and build more church partnerships through our TFC network.

I served on student government for four years and led the intramural program. As Junior Class President, I helped organize a multi-site car wash fundraiser that covered most of our Junior-Senior event. That was my first foray into fundraising. I also took Public Speaking with Mr. Marsh—a class that terrified me. My roommate (now Dr. Curtis Elliott) and I developed a quirky goal: we wanted our speeches to make people mad, laugh, cry, and feel joy—all in five minutes. Not the most polished approach, but it sparked something. Today, I speak to large audiences and raise major gifts. Spiritually, TFC taught me the power of discipline and perseverance.

These skills have led me and been used in high stakes settings. For example, in 2019, I had the opportunity to lead a delegation in partnership with Clemson University faculty to meet with Vice President Leni Robredo of the Philippines. Our focus was addressing the growing crisis of online sexual exploitation of children. We discussed strategies for strengthening local rescue shelters, increasing survivor-centered services, and building out social work capacity across the country. Backed by support from the U.S. State Department, our team launched research initiatives and curricular training to help prevent future exploitation. That meeting was a reminder of how far a calling—nurtured at TFC—can reach when matched with perseverance and purpose.

I learned at TFC that prayer changes things—big things and small ones. I remember a chapel where the speaker asked, "Do you believe God can meet all your needs?" That question has stayed with me. In hard moments since, I've gone back to that posture of belief. God has never failed to provide. Dr. Quarterman used to say, "All truth is God's truth." That gave me permission to integrate science, Scripture, and culture in thoughtful ways. My experiences at TFC formed a faith that could withstand diverse environments—from India to the Middle East—and taught me how to love across differences without compromising truth. If I could speak to students currently at TFC who are passionate about creating change, I would tell them: Adopt a listening and learning posture. Ask good questions. Go deep into other cultures. Wrestle with your own weaknesses and stay humble. Seek God's voice and persevere. As Dr. King once said, "*the arc of justice is long—but you are walking in the right direction.*" Keep going. Each time I bring thought leadership or respond with character, I'm living out the foundation laid at TFC. Through friendship, sports, service, and scholarship, those four years became a seedbed for everything I do now.

Growing up, I lived in 20 different homes across several cities. TFC gave me four years of stability—the most I had ever known. When I graduated, I felt an aching loss. But that grief pointed to how beautiful those years were. God has since multiplied those relationships through my family and life today. But the beauty of that season at TFC shaped me forever.





Meet The New SGA PRESIDENT

Allison Bell

Grad Year: May 2026

Major: Biology Pre-Professional

Q&A

What makes TFC feel like home to you?

The answer that immediately comes to mind whenever I get asked this question is community. TFC's tight-knit community fosters a space for spiritual growth and connection among its students. Professors don't treat you like you're another number; rather, they get to know you personally as they guide you in your academic and spiritual life. From faculty and staff pouring into you and investing in your walk with God to forming deep and intentional friendships, TFC quickly became my home away from home shortly after I arrived in my freshman year. This intentionality allows you to pour into others and for others to pour into you -- the foundation for the Christ-centeredness TFC faithfully pursues. Plus, not every college has a waterfall in its backyard.

What is one thing you would like for the TFC community to know about you?

One thing I want the TFC Community to know about me is that I am excited to serve and get to know the students, faculty, and staff on campus better. I love this campus so dearly, and I cannot wait to worship and serve Christ alongside the people in its community.

What encouraged you to seek a leadership position within SGA?

If you had told me in my freshman year that I would be a part of SGA, I would have been in total disbelief and would have seriously doubted you. However, it has been through upperclassmen and God-fearing friends—who encouraged me to grow in my relationship with Christ and get involved in a community eager to invest in me—that I have come to realize the importance of godly leadership. Others leading and impacting me at TFC encouraged me to want to do the same, offering myself as a vessel for the Lord to do His Kingdom work. I want to pour into TFC and its community as much as it has poured into me.

In your own words, what does it mean to be SGA president?

To be SGA President goes far beyond leading meetings, facilitating collaboration among the SGA team, representing students' concerns, or advocating for change and improvement within the TFC community. And

yes, while those responsibilities are incredibly important—and ones I am excited to fulfill—stepping into the role of President has already brought about a transformation in my heart that words cannot fully describe. Being SGA President calls me to surrender my own agenda, desires, and goals and instead embrace the agenda, desires, and goals that God has laid out for me and my team. It is a calling to cultivate a humble heart and spirit as I encourage the student body to do the same. It is a calling to serve, lead, and represent those God has placed in my life at TFC.

What is one goal you're passionate about achieving this year through SGA?

One goal I am passionate about achieving this year is fostering an SGA team that humbly and wholeheartedly serves God in all they do, as well as representing Christ and His love to the students they have been called to serve.

What are you most excited about for this upcoming school year?

Along with serving in this role and watching students grow in their faith, I'm most excited to see how God will use the students at TFC to advance His Kingdom and make a lasting impact both in Toccoa and beyond.

What is something you want to be remembered for at TFC?

I don't want to be remembered personally at TFC, but I hope the work our SGA team does for Christ inspires others to serve boldly—so that more students come to know Him through lives surrendered to Him.

What or who inspires you to lead well?

Aside from Jesus Christ being the ultimate example of and inspiration for humble service, someone who inspires me to lead well is my grandma. Her servant's heart for God and people is so evident in all that she does. Not only is she all about helping others, but she also never complains about meeting someone in their needs and serving them with everything she has. She shares the light of Jesus with those who need hope, a cheerleader for those who need encouragement, and a Barnabas to those who need uplifting. She leads with a humble and willing heart and spirit, and it would bring me joy and satisfaction to lead and serve others the way she has exemplified.

What core values are you bringing into this role?

The core values I am bringing to this role include serving God so we can serve others, cultivating hearts of surrender and worship, centering on Christ so we can change the world, and leading those who will become Godly leaders in the future. Through serving others, we can exemplify Christ, who is worthy of our complete and genuine worship and surrender and leave a lasting impact on this world for His glory and honor. Through leading future leaders to continue to serve Him and others, we can foster a community of intentionality and growth. We are to be the leaders and servants Christ calls us to be, like 1 Peter 4:10-11 describes, "Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." (CSB)

SGA Leadership

SGA VICE PRESIDENT

NOLAN CHASE

Grad Year: Spring 2027

Major: Pre-professional Biology

Minor: Bible and Theology

Hi, everybody! My name is Nolan Chase, and I am the Vice President of the SGA during the 2025-2026 school year! I am a biology major with a concentration in pre-professional studies as I look to serve overseas as a vocational missionary. I have been involved in this awesome community going on three years now and I love seeing people get together and do fun things like movie nights, razzle blast, or even just playing games in the Odyssey. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with people and learning complicated board/card games.

I was brought to TFC by the Future Scholars event, which led me to discover some good friends and what the community at this college really felt like. That's when I decided that TFC was perfect for me. My family lives in Pennsylvania, and while the long trek up and down every summer and winter can be tiring, TFC is more than worth it. The professors, faculty, and students on this campus have been such an encouragement and blessing to my development as a student and individual.

I'm looking forward to so many things this coming school year! I can't wait to meet the incoming freshman class, see the new SGA team give their best for our campus, and reconnect with friends after a long summer. I'm especially excited to see what each club will do this year. I'm committed to supporting both new and returning club leaders in their vital role of cultivating the community we all know and love. My goal is to be someone they can rely on—someone they turn to in times of need, as they work to bring their ideas and passions to life on campus. I can't wait to see all that this year holds for the people of TFC!



Meet Your 2025-2026 Student Government Association

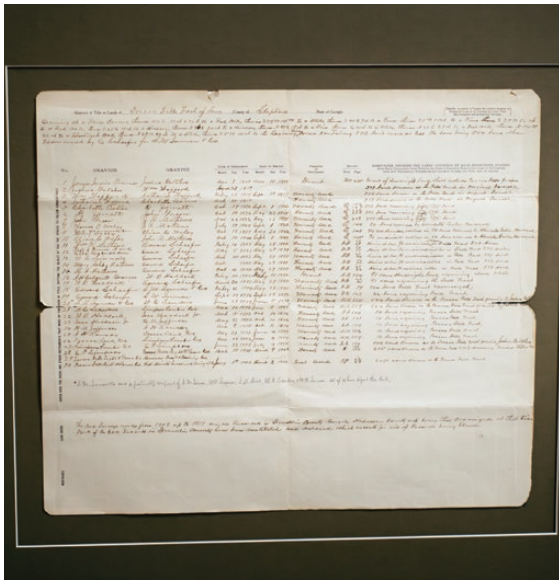
Back row left to right:

Nolan Chase, Jaden Wiggins, Tyler Prentice,
Molly Kee, Alex Kuiper

Front row left to right:

Hannah Rodriguez, Rachel Allen, Hillary Smith, Millie
Davidson, Toby Deleon, Noah Detwiler, Alli Bell





Toccoa Falls College Preserves Historic Documents with Help from Troup’s Studio and Gifts

In its continued commitment to preserving the rich heritage of Toccoa Falls, Georgia, Toccoa Falls College (TFC) has taken a significant step forward in enhancing the TFC Museum and Archives. The college recently commissioned the professional restoration and framing of two historically significant documents through a partnership with Troup’s Studio and Gifts, a local business known for its quality craftsmanship and dedication to community history.

The first document to be preserved is the *Abstract of the Falls Tract of Land*, dated 1905. This document holds considerable historical importance, as it was created the same year Stephens County was formed from portions of Franklin and Habersham Counties. The Abstract details the lineage of land ownership of the Falls Tract—land that would eventually become home to Toccoa Falls College—tracing its proprietorship from the post-Revolutionary period through the early 20th century. Historians believe that this original Abstract was among the records kept in the safe of the Haddock Inn, a foundational building of the college, and miraculously survived the devastating fire that destroyed the inn in 1913.

The second document is a *survey of the Falls Tract* completed in 1945 by M.B. Collier, then County Surveyor. This survey builds upon a lineage of previous plats conducted between 1911 and 1943 and includes references to several local family names, offering a fascinating glimpse into the land’s layout and its community ties during that period. Together, these documents represent not only a geographic and legal history but also a narrative of the people who shaped the early Toccoa Falls community.

Both documents will be proudly displayed in the Toccoa Falls College Museum, where students, faculty, alumni, and visitors will have the opportunity to engage with the college’s foundational history. The careful preservation and professional framing ensure that these fragile records will remain intact and accessible for generations to come. Toccoa Falls College extends sincere appreciation to Troup’s Studio and Gifts for their meticulous work and for their enthusiastic support of this preservation project. Their contribution underscores the vital role local businesses can play in sustaining historical awareness and pride.

The initiative is especially meaningful in light of TFC’s legacy—a history marked by resilience, faith, and renewal. From rebuilding after the fire that destroyed the Haddock Inn to recovering from the catastrophic dam break and flood of 1977, TFC has continually demonstrated its unwavering trust in God’s provision and purpose. The restoration of these documents serves as a powerful symbol of that ongoing story—a testament to the enduring hand of God on Toccoa Falls and the people who call it home.

To learn more about the incredible journey of Toccoa Falls College and explore its deeply rooted history, visit tfc.edu/history.

Kelly Vickers
Registrar



Cultivating Joy In Ordinary Days



In the liturgical calendar, we are in Ordinary Time now—the lengthy season between Pentecost & Advent, which is the longest season of the church year, normally around 29 weeks. It can become a period that seems punctuated by predictability & a sense of going through the motions.

In my own walk of faith, I pray for my life to find rootedness in God-given joy. Yet this does not come easily to me. I struggle with living in a sense of perpetual preparation for the fulfillment of the next major goal or big event and frequently miss the contentment the Lord graciously grants from small & consistent steps of obedience in my daily schedule.

How do we cultivate God-imbued joy in ordinary days, in days that can feel uneventful and tedious? How can we embrace intentionality to accept divinely inscribed joy in routine days?

The Valley of Vision is a collection of Puritan prayers that serves as one of my favorite devotional works. In a selection entitled “Joy,” the author beautifully expresses the gap we so often experience in projecting appropriate gratitude for sustaining mercies:

*I am an unworthy recipient of thy grace.
I often disesteem thy blood and slight thy love,
but can in repentance draw water
from the wells of thy joyous forgiveness.
Let my heart leap towards the eternal Sabbath,
where the work of redemption, sanctification, preservation,
glorification is finished and perfected forever,
where thou wilt rejoice over me with joy.*

As the author shares with lyrical conviction, God has profound lessons to teach us, even in days that are outwardly uneventful, if we are open to hear His voice and respond to His gentle leading.

In the Bible, **Joy** is a word that appears approximately 165 times in the King James Version, 182 times in the New American Standard Version, and 218 times in the NIV. In the English Standard Version, the words **joy, rejoice, or joyful** appear 430 times.

Immersing myself in some of my favorite Scriptural passages involving joy is a meaningful first step in the process of exchanging the world’s definition of transitory happiness for the Bible’s definition of inexpressible contentment.

“If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that my **joy** may be in you, and that your **joy** may be full.” **John 15:10-11**

“Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” **John 16:24**

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” **Romans 15:13**

This foundational Fruit of the Spirit finds daily clarification in the unchanging blessings we find in Christ alone through humble submission to His leading. Its most meaningful externalization is found in praise to the Lord for the fulfillment we can experience exclusively through His perfect love.

The Pulitzer-Prize winning *Gilead* is a contemporary novel that has a continuing impact on my own spiritual formation. Marilynne Robinson’s quietly moving and nuanced meditation focuses on cultivating a gratitude-laden vision of existence in ordinary days. It is a tender reflection on the workings of grace to find resolute joy in all circumstances. This novel focuses on an elderly pastor named John Ames looking back over his life after receiving a terminal diagnosis. He sees the providential framework of his entire life unfold through these remembrances. John recognizes God’s perfect sovereignty has covered all aspects of his life in preparation for his eternal home. One of his most moving epiphanies involves how divine grace heightens his appreciation for the inextricable link between the joy of beauty and deepened spiritual awareness: “It has seemed to me sometimes as though the Lord breathes on this poor gray ember of Creation and it turns to radiance—for a moment or a year or the span of a life.”

James 1:17 declares that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” As we pray to internalize this reality, seemingly mundane days will find illumination through a sanctified vision for the future consummation of eternal joy. May we rejoice in this radiance & humbly reflect it to others as the most powerful testimony of the joy we know presently in this fallen yet glorious world.



Alisa Thomas
Humanities Department Chair;
Assistant Professor of English



107 Kincaid Drive
Toccoa Falls, GA 30598

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ASHEVILLE, NC
PERMIT NO. 575



T1 P1 - 1 *****AUTO**5-DIGIT 38060
JANE A SMITH
1 WOODLAND DR
SOMEWHERE TN 38002-3837

Save the Date

HOMEcoming

October 10-11, 2025

