

Academic Affairs Newsletter

This newsletter highlights the professional (and sometimes personal) accomplishments of Thomas University's faculty. **We have a lot to brag about, so let's get to the good stuff!**

Professional

LeAnna Willison: Performed an earthworm dissection/talk with 3rd grade classes at a local elementary school on September 12, 2025. She also serves as the faculty advisor for Beta-Beta-Beta Biology honor society.

Nik Tsvetkov, Remi Padilla-Hernandez, and Ingee Lee: Sponsor the Math/ Science Club.

Eleanor Hall: Presented a PICOT research presentation to 19 Nurse residents at Colquitt Regional Medical Center in Moultrie, GA on August 20, 2025 to support the new nurse residents as they transition to practice. Eleanor also recently published: Rosner, E., Hall, E., & Garland, M. (2025). Early milk expression for mothers of premature infants and its impact on milk volumes. *Journal of Nursing Care Quality*, 10.1097/NCQ.0000000000000889.

Kim Cribb: Served as a Peer Evaluator for an international nursing accreditation site visit for a program in Saudia Arabia in February 2024, a program in South Carolina in Spring 2025, and for a program in Oman in September 2025.

Nik Tsvetkov, Remi Padilla-Hernandez, and Ingee Lee: Were awarded a **\$20,000** NetVue grant to establish a professional development initiative for STEM faculty, Career Center staff, and professional advisors at Thomas University. The initiative aims to deepen vocational reflection among students, particularly those who view STEM fields primarily as pathways to financial success.

Pauline Patrick secured two federal Department of Education grants of **\$874,940** and **\$999,990** for the Social & Behavioral Sciences Division that will provide tuition stipends for 11 Rehabilitation Studies 13 Counseling Master's students per year, respectively, for five years.

Steve & Robin DePaola: Several presentations, including; Silent Victims: Elder Abuse June 12, 2025 at Georgia Pines, It's Grief: Presentation for first year medical students: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM): Moultrie Campus August 6, 2015, and It's Grief: Honoring and Exploring Professional Grief, Accepted for GHPCO 2026.

Gale Neal: Published an article in the *Journal of School Leadership* "Who Can Lead Schools? Differences in Perceived Teacher Leadership Opportunity in Georgia (USA)" with colleagues from Mercer and VSU. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1177/10526846251369088>. Gale was also selected to become a GaPSC Program Accreditation Site Visitor Review Team Chair.

Susan Hagood was selected to become a GaPSC Program Accreditation Site Visitor Review Team Chair.

Susan Lynn was selected to serve on the Senate Resolution 237 GA Strategic Educator Recruitment and Retention Roundtable with various Georgia agency and association heads to develop a strategic plan for Georgia educator recruitment and retention. Susan was also selected to serve on the Evaluation Review Panel (ERP) for the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC).

Remi Padilla-Hernandez, Jenna Coffee, Angelique Mitchell, Holley Johnson, Gale Neal, and Lindsey Wingate were selected to serve on the Pearson GaPSC Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators standard setting teams to help develop the new educator certification exams in their respective content areas.

Groups

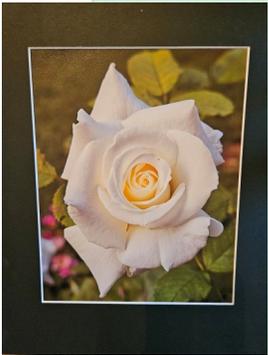
The Beta-Beta-Beta Biology honor society set up a science student snack station this fall for all science students. Students can grab a snack to help them get through classes. Last year, the honor society did a pet food drive for Thomas Humane in January of 2025. We also do an annual cleanup of Millpond Road and the next one should be October 24th. Our induction of new members for this year will be in November 2025.

The Math & Science Club hosted a Chess tournament in Spring 2025 and is planning to hold additional tournaments this school year.

TU's Nursing programs received approximately \$93,000 in student scholarships from the Lettie Pate Whitehead foundation last year.

Personal

LeAnna Willison: I love roses and promote others to learn about growing roses and enjoying their beauty. I serve on the board of the Tallahassee Rose Society. I also enter my roses and enter them in local rose shows (Thomasville rose show, Tallahassee rose show and Gainesville Rose Show). I won the Princess Award for photography with a photograph of the rose Pope John Paul II at the Thomasville rose show on April 25, 2025. The princess award is for the 3rd best photograph in the entire rose show. I won the Queen Award for Photography at the Tallahassee Rose show on October 26, 2024 with my rose Honey Dijion. The Queen is the award for the best photograph in the entire show. One of my rose photographs was also selected for publication in the American Rose Society 2025 calendar. The photograph was of the rose Louise Estes and is featured in the month of July. LeAnna is also a Girl Scout Troop Leader for 4-8th graders.



Hugh Moye: I assisted with the Pelham Masonic Lodge (#312) in providing Pelham High School football team with their pregame meal. We will be selling BBQ sandwiches at the Pelham Wildlife Festival on October 4th, and providing biometric identification for children and adults.

Please Welcome to the TU Family

Jennifer Falepapalangi is the new Senior Administrative Assistant for the Division of Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Why We Do What We Do

One of our new campus-based students, Cloey O'Doniel was **Jenna Coffee's** student when Jenna taught 7th grade science in Thomas County Schools. In Dr. Woods class during the first week of the Fall semester, Cloey shared that Jenna Coffee was her reason for wanting to be a teacher. Here's a picture of Jenna and Cloey on Cloey's first day as a junior Education major!



Thank you for all that you do to make TU a great place to work and learn!

-John