

**ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024**

T T U

*takes flight*



# President's Message

Dear Friends,

This year, TU took flight – literally. Mr. Stephen Ferguson, TU Vice President for Military and Corporate Affairs, won a sizable grant from the Federal Aviation Administration. It will subsidize the construction of a school for aircraft mechanics. It's a big deal because the program will provide a non-degree training option for a credential that can be transferred into TU for college credit. And it is an exciting step as TU works toward adding more science, technology, engineering, and math to its offerings. It's the start of a new journey to serve both students and the aviation industry in Georgia.



Frequent flyers know about turbulence and this past year, TU hit some. The university's enterprise-level business systems underwent a conversion. That project was messy enough but as the new system was coming online, a cyber-attack added more chaos. Experts determined that our sensitive data was safe but the attack still took its toll. TU computers were off-line for the month of February. That caused delays both in reporting and financial processing. At a time when higher education is facing a sharp decline in the number of college-bound students, those delays added to the challenge of generating top-line revenue. You may notice some of that in the financial summary. As I write this letter, however, you should know that things are back online and we are moving aggressively to meet the challenges and steer away from the choppy air.

There's something else you should know: TU is an overbooked flight. The 2023-2024 school year began with roughly fifty students living in a hotel. TU ran out of beds for students who wanted to attend. That's what happens when you have great professors like Ingee Lee, amazing students like Matt Bowman and Kristen Manza, and supportive friends like those listed toward the end of this report. Special thanks are owed to them all for making TU a wonderful institution.

TU is taking flight – fasten your seatbelt.

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

James A. Sheppard, Ph.D.  
President  
Thomas University

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## Mission

*Thomas University is a private, comprehensive, university offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs as well as training for non-credit industry certifications to prepare students to serve the common good through industry, government, and community.*

# Reaching For The Stars

## TU NAMED #1 MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Thomas University was proudly named the No. 1 Military Friendly School by Military Friendly®, which measures an organization's success and commitment to the military community.

TU claimed the No. 1 spot in the category of private colleges and universities not offering doctorate degrees for 2024-2025. The university was also recognized as the No. 1 Military Spouse Friendly School.

"To be named the #1 Most Military Friendly School in the country is such an amazing honor," Stephen Ferguson, Vice President of Military and Corporate Relations at TU, said. "Our institution has done an outstanding job of creating programs that truly benefit our military and veteran community, and this award confirms our efforts are aligned with what it truly means to be 'military friendly.'"

There are over 250 military-affiliated students enrolled at TU, which has dedicated academic and recreational resources to support the military community.

Military Friendly® is owned and operated by VIQTORY, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business.



## TU OFFERS NEW ACCOUNTING DEGREE PROGRAM

Thomas University students can now earn a Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree by conveniently taking flexible online courses.

"Accounting is one of the basic building blocks of business programs," Dr. Pauline Ray, Division Chair of Business at Thomas University, said. "We are now offering a BS in Accounting in an online program accessible to students who work and have busy family lives."

The new program is also designed to allow students majoring in Business Management or Marketing to have the unique opportunity to minor in accounting. Students can specialize in Public Accounting or Managerial Accounting.

After the program's completion, graduates will be qualified to become financial advisors, auditors, sales managers, accountants, and budget analysts, among other professions.



## Donor Spotlight

*"TU provides strength to our community. Education is one of the most important factors in life. Our community would have no identity without opportunity through TU."*

*– Fran Milberg*

*"TU is all about serving the students today with a firm foundation to shape their future."*

*– Rob Milberg*

## TU NAMED 2023 ARMED FORCES MERIT AWARD FINALIST



Thomas University's Military Transition Football Program was named a finalist for the 2023 Armed Forces Merit Award presented by the Football Writers Association of America.

The award honors an individual and/or a group with a military background and/or involvement that impacts college football.

"To be considered for such a prestigious award speaks magnitudes about how far our military-related programs have come," Stephen Ferguson, Vice President for Military and Corporate Relations, said. "Our objective of providing quality and innovative programming to the nation's warfighter has resonated across our region, the defense community, and now by the Football Writers Association of America."

Thomas University Military Transition Football Program is the nation's first purpose-built initiative to support the entire life cycle of individuals affiliated with the military.

"It is truly an esteemed honor for our university, community, and our football program, made up of dedicated veterans, National Guardsmen, and reserve personnel, to receive recognition from the Football Writers Association of America," Orlando Mitjans, Football Head Coach, said.

## TU COUNSELING PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT FOR NEARLY \$1.1 MILLION

Thomas University's Master of Science in Counseling program (MSC) received a second grant awarded by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA).

Known as the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training – Children, Adolescents, and Young Adults (BHWET-CAY) grant, \$1,059,818 will be invested in

training fieldwork students to work with at-risk children, adolescents, and young adults in medically underserved and rural areas, that are in dire need of an increased supply of trained professional counselors.

The grant will provide stipends to 18 of TU's MSC fieldwork students per year to help them with

personal finances while they are at their fieldwork sites. The grant will also provide funds to hire two full-time fieldwork faculty who will be tasked with supervising and training grantees.

TU's MSC program was one of only 18 recipients of the BHWET-CAY grant.

## SYNOVUS BANK PROVIDES GRANT TO SUPPORT GEOSPATIAL DATA COLLECTION

Thomas University's Geospatial Analysis Planning & Preservation Center was awarded a grant from Synovus Bank.

The grant was used to purchase two Handheld Trimble Data Collectors. It allows students to collect geographical data of precise locations.



Synovus Bank also gave Thomas University a grant to purchase two 3-D model drones in 2022.

The grant has helped students identify a location on campus for a football practice field, mapping the Red Hills bike trail in Thomasville, and remapping the Pebble Hill Workers' Cemetery.

"The Synovus grants have provided high-tech equipment for TU students to use satellite and drone images of local topography and landscape, which can then be used to visualize, interpret, and tell stories about the geographic features of the local area," Dr. Deana Baker, Program Director of Science and Biology Professor, said. "All of this helps

improve geographical understanding of the local area for community stakeholders."



# Student Spotlight

*“One of the things that I love most about Thomas University is its diversity and community. We have people from all over the world who enrich us with cultural knowledge. As part of the international students, I have always felt welcomed and have had no problem finding help whenever I had any kind of problem thanks to the amazing community of students, coaches, professors, and other members of the faculty.”*

– Laura Garcia Zapatar  
Senior,  
Humanities

## TU RECOGNIZED FOR ONLINE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Thomas University was named one of the Best Online Colleges in Georgia of 2024 by Intelligent.com, a trusted resource for higher education program rankings and planning.

The recognition comes after over 3,000 academic institutions were evaluated based on a scale of 0 to 100 across six categories. The categories were tuition costs, admission, retention and graduation rates, faculty, reputation, and student resources

provided for online learning.

Thomas University offers over 20 online undergraduate and graduate degree programs that can be completed entirely online. TU added a new online program called Data Intelligence in Fall 2023. It is designed to help students understand intelligence and technical data analysis.

“TU understands the demands of busy working adults and we are pleased to offer working adults the

opportunity to earn their bachelor or master’s degree online. “This recognition highlights the value our faculty and staff bring to the educational process,” stated Susan Backofen, Vice President for Enrollment.



## 15 varsity sports teams; 3 JV sports teams

## THOMAS UNIVERSITY ROLLS OUT EIGHT NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Thomas University started offering eight new programs in Fall 2024

The undergraduate degree programs are Bachelor of Science in Special Education General Curriculum and Bachelor of Science in Special Education General Curriculum Elementary Education. TU also began offering a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Science Education.

The graduate degree programs are Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education General Curriculum,

Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education General Curriculum/Elementary, Master of Education in Special Education General Curriculum, and Education Specialist Degree in Special Education General Curriculum.

Thomas University is also offering an Education Leadership Tier II Certification for principals and administrators who supervise school principals.

“Our Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts in Teaching

programs will allow us to increase the number of certified teachers,” said Susan Lynn, Division of Education Chair. “Our new Master of Education program will allow currently certified Special Education teachers to gain additional knowledge and skills to better meet the needs of their students. The Education Specialist in Special Education program will target teachers who would like to gain more knowledge to lead Special Education programs in their school or district.”

## TU RECEIVES AVIATION GRANT

Thomas University was awarded a \$499,869 Aviation Workforce Development Maintenance Technical Workers Grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in March. This grant is the first round of two rounds of funding over the next two years that will amount to approximately \$1 million.

"We are really excited," John Lohmueller, program director, said. "To get this grant opportunity is exciting because we were like one of 15 schools in the country to have won this grant."

The grant is being used to implement an Aviation Maintenance Technician Training Program that will aim to provide a diverse group of students including women and people of color, with the educational opportunity to

pursue a career in the growing aviation industry.

The 18-month program will begin in Spring 2025. The program will consist of two sections – Airframe and Powerplant – which will prepare students to earn Airframe or Powerplant FAA licenses.



The first-round of grant funding will be used for training on different components of the airframe system, which controls the wings, fuselage, stabilizers, and undercarriage of the airplane.

Students will begin airframe training in the decommissioned police building at the back of the Magnolia campus.

The second round of funding, which is yet to be allocated by the FAA, will be used to develop the Powerplant portion of the program, where students will focus on the airplane's engine.

During the program, students will learn about aviation maintenance and receive hands-on training to perform these practical tasks on aircraft.

Once students have completed the program, they will receive their certification from Thomas University. Graduates will then be eligible to take the FAA test to earn their Airframe or Powerplant FAA license.

## DR. LEE NAMED PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Dr. Ingee Lee, Professor of Mathematics, was named Thomas University's 2024 Professor of the Year.

Lee, who teaches algebra and statistics, was honored with the coveted award during the 2024 commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 4. The award honors a faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching.

Lee's approach to teaching required math courses has garnered the attention and engagement of students.

His math lessons are all-encompassing. From linear equations, to calculating the cost of a tank of gasoline, to determining sales tax, he repeatedly challenges his students to understand how math can be applied in ways they may not expect.

Lee not only teaches in the classroom, but he also devotes extra hours between and after classes to tutor students. He is dedicated to helping students understand the difficulties of math so they can think critically.

Lee is described in his nomination letter as a natural leader. His nominator said: "We, the students, faculty, and staff, have all become the beneficiaries of the humble, patient, and gentle math professor."



*Dr. Ingee Lee named Professor of the Year*

**TU awarded over **\$1.8 MILLION**  
in scholarships in 2023-24**

# Night Hawks Fly High

## TU STUDENT LAUNCHES NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

As Thomas University senior, Kristen Manza, walked around her community in Thomasville, she often noticed a large number of stray cats roaming around apartment complexes, houses, businesses, and dumpsters.

"There are a lot of feral cats around Thomasville, and I noticed that not many people were doing anything to solve the problem," Manza said.



Kristen Manza

The Canadian native felt a heightened level of responsibility to help them, and her community, to decrease stray cats and litters of kittens in Thomas County.

So, she decided to start a group called All Saints Cat TNR in 2021, which officially became a non-profit organization in December, to trap, neuter, and return the cats to the place where they were originally found.

When Manza traps cats, she takes them to South Georgia Low Cost Spay and Neuter Clinic in Thomasville to be neutered. Once they are neutered and their ears are tipped, signifying they have been neutered, Manza ensures that they recover by allowing them to stay at her home for one or two days before returning them back into the community.

Manza and the members of All Saints Cat TNR's board also launched a website for All Saints Cat TNR in early January.

"The website is supposed to be a main hub for people to access information, make donations, and find out about cats that are available to be adopted through other agencies," Manza said. "It is really for people to know how they can get involved."

So far, All Saints Cat TNR has had over 130 cats neutered and more than 30 adopted.

Similarly to helping cats, Manza wants to continue to help the community in a different way. She is pursuing a degree in Social Work and a minor in Psychology. Once she graduates, Manza said she wants to focus on therapy.

"In a strange way, getting cats neutered is also social work because it helps the people too and it gets the community together," Manza said. "I have been able to get 200 people together and hopefully inspire other people to help and feel empowered to go out there and help even if it is just cats."

## Student Spotlight



*"Being out of high school for 47 years, and because of injuries sustained in military service, I never had the time to learn the technologies that most students take for granted. Thomas University professors have shown me that if a student is willing to put in the work and give 100%, the professors will give their time, effort, and expertise to help every student be successful."*

– John Furbush  
Freshman  
Management



## TU ALUM SELECTED TO 30 UNDER 30 CLASS



*Jennifer Coleman*

Thomas University student Jennifer Coleman was named to the College Sports Communicators (CSC) 30 Under 30 Class of 2023.

She was among 30 young people from across the country who were selected by various committees and previous inductees.

The recognition honors up-and-coming strategic, creative, and digital athletics communications professionals who have been successful either professionally, impacted their athletic department/conference office, or have served the CSC organization.

"I am extremely honored to be a member of this class," she said. "I make sure what I do, I do with 100% effort," she said. "I credit the student-athletes, especially to the support staff that I have – the Administration, Athletic Director, and everyone in the Sports Information Department – for trusting me to do a good job

because I love what I do."

Coleman, a December 2023 graduate, was the athletic communications student assistant at TU from 2019-2023.

Coleman was responsible for managing the athletic social media pages, photography, videography, and creative content.

Coleman was also a member of the Track and Field team. She competed in the shot put, weight throw, discus, hammer, and javelin events.

The Thomasville native majored in film studies and pursued three minors.

"I just want to continue to make TU proud, my family proud and the City of Thomasville overall proud," she said.

## #1 Military Friendly® School

### TU STUDENT HONORED WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Thomas University's Matthew Bowman was the recipient of the 2024 Student Veteran Athlete of the Year Award, presented by Viqtory Media.

Bowman was honored with the award for demonstrating exceptional prowess not only as a student veteran athlete, but also as a dedicated student and valuable contributor to his academic institution and community.

Matthew is a United States Marine Corps veteran whose dream was to play college football. Bowman joined TU's Military Transition Football team, the nation's first military football transition team, for its inaugural 2023-2024 football season.

"After a visit to campus and meeting the staff, I knew this was the place for me," he said. "I enrolled that spring. It was a super easy transition into the school, and I was able to apply a lot of credits from my Joint Service Transcript to my degree."

Bowman quickly acclimated to all aspects of TU's military football program. During the early phases of the Military Transition Football Program, Matt was instrumental in helping the institution revise policies and ensure the program had the necessary support services in place for transitioning service members.

Bowman served as a captain of the football Team during its inaugural season. He played various offensive, special teams, and punting team positions. As he played in those positions, Bowman was able to personally connect with the coaches.



*Matt Bowman*

## THOMAS UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS INSPIRE ALUMNA TO DO MORE

Alumna Ucher Dent praises her Thomas University professors for her fulfilling career as a Forensic Community Coordinator for the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability.

She graduated from Thomas University with a bachelor's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling in 2004 and later returned to TU to earn her master's in Community Counseling with a concentration in substance abuse in 2007.

"They consistently went above and beyond their duties," she said. "They would invite students to their offices, long before practicums and internships were a standard part of the curriculum. We would shadow them, engage in conversations about various topics, and gain invaluable insights. Those moments deeply resonated with me and fueled my desire to help others. They weren't motivated by money; their actions stemmed from a genuine love for people and a commitment to making a difference. This profoundly influenced my own aspiration to reach out and support others."

Now, Dent monitors individuals who the judicial system deems to have severe psychiatric disorders that can be treated by mental health intervention in the community.

She also educates individuals about court procedures including plea bargains. Some of the individuals that she works with have felony or misdemeanor charges.

"Thomas University professors really added substance and added to my Christian belief of wanting to help people and wanting to do good," she said.



Ucher Dent

## 603 graduates in 2023 (Including 101 graduating with honors)



### Student Spotlight

*"I spent four years at different colleges until I stumbled upon Thomas University. I had one year of baseball eligibility left, so choosing where to spend my fifth and final year of school was critical. The esteemed academics, ambitious athletics, and graceful campuses proved to be a nurturing environment to complete my college degree. After spending a year and a half at Thomas, I happily obliged to be a Graduate Assistant baseball coach; I could not be happier with the decision I made to be a Night Hawk."*

– Alex Friesen  
Graduate Student  
Pedagogy

## 2024 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The intrigue of a small school in a small city drew Kristen Manza from the hustle and bustle of Toronto, Canada. Her decision to move more than 1,000 miles from the comfort of a city she has called home to Thomasville, GA to attend Thomas University has been rewarding.

Manza graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work degree and was stunned when she received the President's Award during the 2024 Commencement Ceremony. The President's Award is the highest honor presented to a TU student.

During her time at TU, Manza was named to the President's List, which recognizes TU full-time students who have a GPA of 4.0. As a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society, she became the first Thomas University student to receive the national Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Scholarship.

The Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society is for non-traditional students at least 26 years old, have a GPA of at least 3.2, and have taken at least 24 graded undergraduate semester hours at TU.

In addition to her academic success, she became a resource for her peers. Manza often took time out of her busy schedule to tutor her peers.

Now, with her degree in Social Work from Thomas University and her experience living in both a large and small city, Manza wants to help more people.

"I really like helping people and empowering them," she said. "I like to let them know that 'you can do things that are hard and difficult and there are people who are willing to help you.' If I can do that in the future, that would be amazing."



*Kristen Manza was named the 2024 President's Award winner.*

## NEAL HONORED WITH VULCAN AWARD

Dr. Gale Neal, the Division of Education's graduate program director, received the 2024 Vulcan Teaching Excellence Award.

She was honored with the distinguished award for her strong academic skills in the classroom, her leadership, and her support in the other areas of campus life.

Neal developed the Orientation course for Graduate Programs, Teacher Leadership Residency courses, Math Curriculum Development course for the Undergraduate Teacher Education Program, and Math Curriculum Development course for the Master of Arts in Teaching Program.

The programs have spun success.

The Teacher Leadership program's pass rate on the Georgia certification exam is higher than the state average, with many of the comparable institutions being large public institutions.

"I can attest to her exceptional qualities as an educator, a mentor to her students, an active member of the campus community, and a recognized expert in teacher leadership in Georgia," Dr. Susan Lynn, Chair for the Division of Education, said. "She is most deserving of the Vulcan Award."



*Dr. Gale Neal earns the Vulcan Teaching Excellence Award*

## TU PROFESSOR NAMED TEACHER OF THE YEAR

A Thomas University Professor was named Bishop Hall Charter School's Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Retha Lee, a Division of Education professor at TU, is also an English teacher at Thomas County-based Bishop Hall, where she was voted for by her peers to receive the prestigious award.

"I am honored and flattered to be recognized by my peers and to represent Bishop Hall," she said. "I've been teaching a long time and it's a blessing to receive this award."

Lee has been an educator for 28 years. This is her third year as a teacher at Bishop Hall.

She joined TU in 2006 for a year, then returned in 2015 and has been at the University since, teaching undergraduate and graduate students. She is currently teaching a Reading Comprehension, Curricular, and Programmatic Strategies course.

"I hope that students realize that they can accomplish whatever they set their minds to," Lee said. "TU is, in my opinion, one of the best universities for anyone looking to be an educator or/and pursuing a higher degree in education."

**TU students hail from 37  
states and 20 countries**

## TU STUDENTS COMMITTED TO SERVE

Thomas University held a swearing-in ceremony for 14 members of TU's Military Transition football team into the Georgia National Guard.

Col. Jason Fryman, Chief of Staff of the Georgia Army National Guard, conducted their oath of enlistment.

The mission of the National Guard is to respond to domestic emergencies, overseas combat missions, counterdrug efforts, reconstruction missions, and more when called upon by the Governor or the President.

TU athletes sworn into the Georgia Army National Guard were:

Charles Britt (Philadelphia, PA)  
Ronnie Davis (Valdosta, GA)  
Corey Williams Jr. (Valdosta, GA)  
Lake Wilson (Lee County, GA)  
Wyatt Waddell (Albany, GA.)  
Jakhi Pusha (Gardens Corner, S.C.)  
Jaylen White (Douglasville, GA)  
Brandon Denmark (Valdosta, GA)  
Julian Harper (Moultrie, GA)  
Tykell Maxwell (James Island, S.C.)  
Howard Alexander (Sneads, FL)  
Adrian Traylor (Lagrange, GA)  
Charles Williams (Valdosta, GA)  
Damian St Fleur (Cottondale, FL)



*Photo credit: Connie Southwell*



## Donor Spotlight

*"My husband, Dr. Charles I. Hancock, and I began the Cora Williams Hancock Scholarship Endowment to honor his mother's legacy of helping others less fortunate, as she also began with very little resources. She was such a wonderful lady and a lifelong Thomasville resident who believed in the power of a quality education. As a family, we continue to support this endowment and find it very enjoyable and satisfying to see these funds help others."*

*– The Martha T. Hancock Family*

# TU makes an economic impact of **\$45 MILLION** in North Florida & Southwest Georgia each year

## THOMAS UNIVERSITY HONORS SUPPORTERS AT FORBES DINNER

Thomas University showed its appreciation to its supporters at its annual Forbes Society Dinner on February 8, 2024 at Glen Arven Country Club in Thomasville.

TU presented three awards recognizing the impact community leaders have had on the University.

Thomasville High School was honored with the W. Cameron Forbes Award, which is given to an individual or organization that has displayed a life-long commitment to education and Thomas University.

The Ambassador's Award was presented to Barberitos Thomasville, John Rainey, and Ben Tillman. This award is given in appreciation of exceptional volunteer commitment to Thomas University.

Flowers Foods was the recipient of the President's Award. The award is given to a corporation or foundation recognized for outstanding support of the Thomas University mission.



*Forbes Award Winners l to r: Ben Tillman (received by Stephanie Tillman), Flowers Foods (received by Steven Moulds), Thomasville High School (received by Jeremy Rayburn), John Rainey, Barberitos Thomasville (received by Jessica and Todd Jones, owners)*

"We would like to thank you for this award," Steven Moulds, Flowers Foods Assistant General Counsel and Director of Governmental Affairs, said. "We greatly value our partnership with Thomas University, and we'll continue our partnership for many years to come."

# Athletics

## ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

### Soccer

Men's and women's soccer teams were semifinalists in the SSAC Championship tournament.



### Track & Field

Justin Tomison won the SSAC Championship for the Track and Field 5000m dash event. He was also named to the SSAC first-team all-conference for men's indoor track and field. Tyrese Henderson was named to SSAC third-team all-conference. Sophia Alexander and Cassie Richards were named to the SSAC all-conference third-team for women's indoor track and field. Michael Eady and Tyrese Henderson qualified for the NAIA men's outdoor track and field championships. Kyron Belton, Michael Eady, Kasahn Rivers, and TJ Tullock were all named to the SSAC all-conference third team. Tyrese Henderson was named to the SSAC all-conference second-team for the triple jump. Cassie Richards was named to the SSAC all-conference second-team for the 5000m dash. Sophia Alexander was named to the Champions of Character team.



**6**

**STUDENT-ATHLETES NAMED  
CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER**



**86**

**STUDENT-ATHLETES MADE  
ALL AMERICAN ACADEMIC TEAMS**



## Flag Football

Women's flag football finished 17-4 and 6-2 in SUN Conference play. Four players were named to first-team all-conference and two were second-team all-conference. Gisele Jones was named the SUN Defensive Player of the Year. Team finished as a runner up in the SUN Conference Championship. The team was national semifinalists in the NAIA national tournament. Janae Scott was named to the Champion of Character team for the SUN conference.



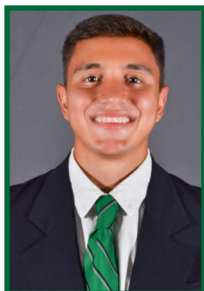
## Military Transition Football

Thomas University Military Transition Football had their inaugural season. Thomas University has college football's first and only military transition football team. Quarterback Charles Britt won offensive player of the week for the week of October 16 – October 22. Matt Bowman was named the 2024 Veteran student-athlete of the year.

## Champions of Character

The Champions of Character program helps participants find the balance by keeping five core values – integrity, respect, responsibility, sportsmanship, and servant leadership – at the heart of the athletics experience.

The 2023-2024 recipients of the Champions of Character Award for Thomas University were: **Diego Azar** (Men's Soccer), **Mariah McKinney** (Women's Soccer), **Connor Changizi** (Men's Outdoor Track and Field), **Sophia Alexander** (Women's Outdoor Track and Field), **Emmanuel Tovar-Negrete** (Men's Indoor Track and Field), **Sophia Alexander** (Women's Indoor Track and Field), **Keon Williams** (Men's Basketball), **Dejah Wilson** (Women's Basketball), **Diego Alonso** (Swimming), **Janae Scott** (Flag Football), **Timothy Tulluch** (Men's Cross Country), **Cassie Richards** (Women's Cross Country), **AnnMarie McAfee** (Softball), **Bruce Bitting** (Baseball).



Diego Azar



Mariah McKinney



Connor Changizi



Sophia Alexander



Emmanuel  
Tovar-Negrete



Keon Williams



Dejah Wilson



Diego Alonso



Janae Scott



Timothy Tulluch



Cassie Richards



AnnMarie McAfee

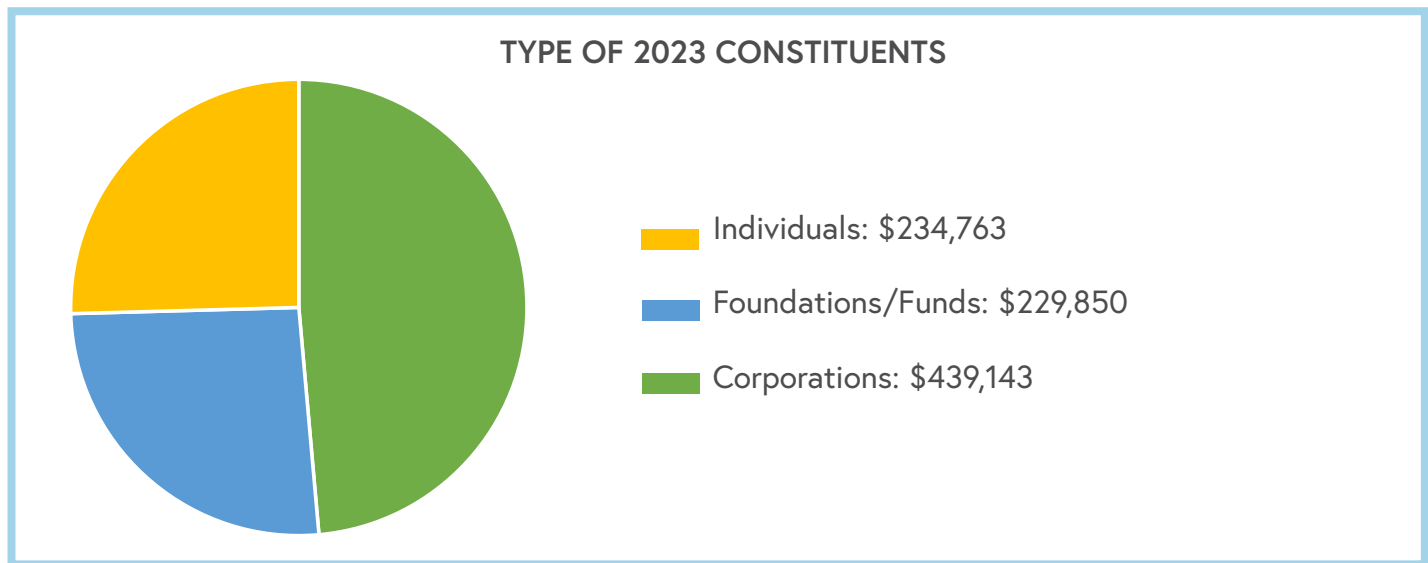


Bryce Bitting

# Financial Summary

The composition of Thomas University's Endowment Fund net assets as of May 31, 2023 and May 31, 2024 were as follows:

ENDOWMENTS	YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2024	YEAR ENDING MAY 31, 2023
Operations	\$511,928	\$457,631
Scholarship	\$3,896,019	\$3,432,045
Academic Programs	\$2,779,927	\$2,431,358
Academic Support	\$16,722	\$14,915
Student Services	\$16,396	\$14,624
	<b>\$7,220,992</b>	<b>\$6,350,573</b>





# Chairman's Message

The buzz and excitement that rippled across the campuses of Thomas University this past year was synonymous with the continued trajectory of growth. TU students and faculty achieved unprecedented success with the momentous growth in our student body and degree programs.

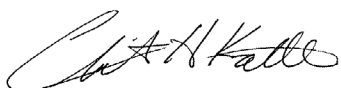
Thomas University's unique appeal as an inclusive, small school in a small city has attracted students from across the country and around the world. Subsequently, Thomas University recorded its highest enrollment in school history during the Fall 2023 semester.

Thomas University was named the No. 1 Military Friendly School and the No. 1 Military Spouse Friendly School in the category of private colleges and universities not offering doctorate degrees for 2024-2025 by Military Friendly<sup>®</sup>. TU's dedication to its military community has become a model of national excellence for other institutions to follow.

Thomas University's dynamic and innovative teaching methods were applauded nationally as TU was named one of the Best Online Colleges in Georgia of 2024 by Intelligent.com. We expanded our online offerings by adding new Special Education degree programs to meet the increasing demand for certified Special Education teachers.

In the inspiring theme of this Annual Report, "TU Takes Flight," Thomas University was the recipient of a \$499,869 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration earlier this year. The grant will help to launch a new Aviation Maintenance Technician Training Program next year.

The growth of TU's student body and academic programs is fostered by the community that Thomas University calls home. Thomasville has welcomed our students and supported our continued growth, and for that, we say Thank You.



Clint Kadel  
Chairman  
Thomas University Board of Trustees



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023

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The information below is intended to provide general guidance. Please discuss as needed with your tax advisor the best way(s) for you to contribute to Thomas University.

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Outright gifts of cash (which include donations made via check, credit card and payroll deduction) are often the simplest for you to make. The key is to make sure you keep record of the gift as required by the IRS. Thomas University will provide a gift receipt via mail, when a mailing address is provided.

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Publicly traded stock and other securities which you have held for more than one year may potentially have accumulated long-term capital gains, and could make one of the best charitable gifts. Why? Because you may be able to deduct the current fair market value and avoid the capital gains tax that you may be required to pay if you were to sell the property outright.

However, you may not want to donate stock that is worth less than your basis. Instead, you could sell the stock outright so that you might be able to deduct the loss and then donate the cash proceeds to Thomas University.

## GIFTS IN KIND

As demonstrated above, gifts of cash or stocks are relatively simple and may provide tax savings benefits, but many taxpayers make other types of donations, such as vehicles, collectibles, or services as in-kind contributions.

## PLANNED GIFTS

Many other contribution vehicles are available, such as Wills, Charitable Remainder Trusts, Charitable Lead Trusts, Charitable Gift Annuities, etc.





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