

# TU Insider

June 2019

*Important information for students about what's happening at Thomas University*

## New courtyard, pavilion going up on Magnolia Campus

When Thomas University students move into the residence halls on Magnolia Campus in August, they'll find an added feature waiting for their use. Thanks to the generosity of a couple of donors, the area next to the residence halls on Magnolia Campus will feature a courtyard with a pavilion for students to use. Construction on the pavilion began the week of May 27.

The courtyard will include a new upgraded beach volleyball court, picnic tables with sunshades, trees, sidewalks and a pavilion. The 25-foot by 40-foot pavilion will feature a tongue-and-groove ceiling, a metal roof, stone columns, ceiling fans, seating and gas grills. The area will be a place for students to gather and enjoy time together. It will also be an ideal location for Student Activities' events such as cookouts and game nights.

"This new pavilion will be a great addition for our students," said Dr. Bob Bohman, Vice President for Student Life. "Because it will be located on the Magnolia campus next to the



*Construction began May 27 on the new pavilion located on Thomas University's Magnolia Campus next to the two residence halls. The pavilion and the courtyard will be ready in time for the start of fall semester.*

sand volleyball court, it will provide a great place for our students to relax and take a break from their studies, enjoy the outdoors, and have a much-needed gathering place to enjoy each other's company. It will also provide a place for TU clubs

and organizations to host meetings and social events."

The courtyard and pavilion are possible thanks to the generous donation of Mike and Kelly Grimsley of Thomasville, long-time supporters of Thomas University.

## Make sure all financial aid documents are complete

If you haven't but are interested in applying for financial aid, you can do so [here](#). TU's school code is 001555.

To check the status of your aid, please use the information provided in the [student portal](#).

- username: firstname.lastname
- password: password you created for TU

In the left-hand column, click on My

Financial Aid.

In the left-hand column, be sure the term is set to the term you plan to begin classes at TU. In the middle screen, click on Outstanding Requirements. This will take you to a list of the documents that need to be completed. For each item, there is either a link directly to that document or to the website where the

information can be requested.

If there are no outstanding requirements, you should be able to see your financial aid award. Please note, this award is based on full-time attendance. If you register for fewer classes, your aid will be adjusted.

If you have any questions, please contact Financial Aid directly at 229-584-2460 or [finaid@thomasu.edu](mailto:finaid@thomasu.edu).

# Veterans Services available at TU

As a Military Friendly School, Thomas University is committed to providing opportunities for current service members, veterans and their families. TU has established several programs aimed at ensuring your academic success at Thomas University

The Veterans Services and Career Transition Center allows veterans the opportunity to connect with peers. Located in Room 102 on the Forbes Campus (just around the corner from the TU Library) the Center is a designated area where veterans can share experiences and enhance comradery with other veterans in our community.

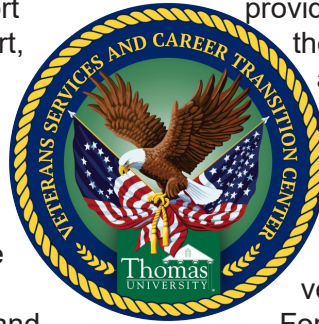
The Vet Center provides a wide arrange of services, such as assistance with VA education benefits, mental health counseling,

referrals to external support services, academic support, job placement, and résumé and interviewing prep. The Center is open to all veterans regardless of affiliation with Thomas University, including active duty service members, National Guard, Reserve and military dependents.

The Vet Center's fall 2018 hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Student Veterans of America is a national non-profit coalition of student-veteran groups on colleges and universities around the world. The organization has a network of 1,300 schools and more than 500,000 student veterans.

The primary mission of the Student Veterans of America is to



provide military veterans with the resources, support and advocacy needed to succeed in higher education. The Thomas University SVA chapter cordially invites you to join our network of student veterans enrolled at TU.

For additional information on joining the SVA, please contact Stephen Ferguson at 202-821-7249 or by email at [sferguson@thomasu.edu](mailto:sferguson@thomasu.edu)

**VA education counseling and support services** are provided at TU. Do you have questions about your GI Bill, the certification process, or need assistance applying for your benefits?

For assistance, call Stephen Ferguson directly at 202-821-7249.

## Understanding the basics of FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education, including Thomas University.

FERPA affords students certain rights with respect to their education records. These rights include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA.
3. The right to provide written consent before the University discloses personally identifiable information

from the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when the student reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students who wish to authorize the release of their records to their parents or to anyone else, must complete the FERPA Student Authorization for Release of Records Form available in Hawklink under Academic forms.

Additional information about FERPA can be found on the U.S. Department of Education's [website](#).

### Fall Semester Important Dates

Aug. 15	New students move into residence halls.	Sept. 2	Labor Day holiday (TU will be closed.)	Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving holidays
Aug. 16	New Student Orientation	Oct. 14-18	Fall break	Dec. 6	Last day of regular classes
Aug. 19	First day of classes	Oct. 21	Spring semester registration opens	Dec. 9-13	Final exams