

# TU Insider

November 2019

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

## TU honors outstanding alumni at Homecoming dinner



*Photo by Sharita Mitchell-Perkins, Student photographer*

Thomas University presented awards to its outstanding alumni during the annual Homecoming awards dinner held Friday, Oct. 25, on TU's Forbes Campus. Honorees include (from left) Leslie Cooper, Stacie Reilly, Penny Gaskins, Josue Gonzalez, Daniel Todd Spear, Kelli Dorminey, Christopher Kitlas, Trasetta Alexander, Michael Singletary, Jason Carl Morgan, Jennifer Reynolds Green, Jackie Strickland, Edward Foy, Jocelyn Baker, Kerri Knight and Nicole Gatlin. Not pictured are Anna Gray, Dena Zinker, Aileen Fiallo, Lisa Lowe and Stephanie Brunner Tillman. [Read more.](#)

## TU receives \$750,000 grant for graduate Counseling program

*Grant includes funding for scholarships for nine graduate students, known as TU RSA Scholars*

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded Thomas University's Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling (CMHCRC) program a \$750,000 grant to be used over the next five years. The grant includes tuition scholarships for nine students, known as TU RSA Scholars, per year who agree to work for their state's Vocational Rehabilitation Services office after graduation to serve clients with mental illness.

TU's CMHCRC program, which is completely online, has dual accreditation in Clinical Mental Health and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling through the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Program (CACREP). The program's coursework prepares all students, including TU RSA Scholars, to become qualified counselors in rehabilitation and mental health counseling. TU students receive specific training, certification and license eligibility, and clinical experience to work in state Vocational Rehabilitation settings and other settings to serve clients with a variety of physical

and mental disabilities

Written by Dr. Cristina Jones, CMHCRC Program Coordinator, and Dr. Pauline Patrick, Counseling and Psychology Division Chair, the goal of the federal grant is to address the national shortage of master's level Vocational Rehabilitation counselors at the national, state and regional levels by increasing the number of qualified personnel trained in providing vocational, medical, social and psychological rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities. This grant focuses on the academic and clinical training of students who will be proficient at working with the population of VR clients whose mental illness is an impediment to employment.

"Being awarded the Rehabilitation Long Term Training grant is a huge honor and wonderful opportunity for our students," Jones said. "Persons with mental illness face the highest unemployment rate of all persons with disabilities. The chance to train our students to meet the employment and independent living needs of this population will go a long way in eliminating the stigma of mental illness and create a new workforce of Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors who are highly qualified to assist persons facing mental health challenges."

# TU Library exhibits celebrate veterans

The Thomas University has three exhibits honoring veterans that will be on display until Nov. 25.

“World War I: Lessons and Legacies” is organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the National Museum of American History, with funding from the United States World War I Centennial Commission and the Smithsonian Women’s Committee.

“World War I: Lessons and Legacies” explores the history of the war and its lasting impact on American life. Sparked by the assassination of one man, the war eventually included the forces of the world’s major industrial powers (over 18 countries in all) and ended with millions dead.

Beyond the countries involved and the people affected, World War I gave rise to significant and enduring changes in America. Wartime technologies and medical advances resulted in new industries and novel ways to both fight disease and treat disability.

The critical roles that women and minorities played in the war led to the right to vote for women and a raised consciousness of civil rights issues



Photo by Sharita Mitchell-Perkins, Student photographer

throughout society.

“Economic Stabilization During War Times” provides a glimpse into the price and defense mobilization efforts of Edward F. Phelps, a former resident of Thomasville and a dedicated civil servant in the federal government. Phelps served under the administration of seven presidents from World War II through the Cold War. He held positions with numerous

federal offices and agencies including the Economic Stabilization Agency, the Office of Price Administration, the War Food Administration, and was the Controller of the FDIC for 14 years.

The Phelps materials are provided by the Thomas University Archives and Special Collections. The exhibit was curated by TU student Tiffeny McCardel.

## Veterans Day observance

On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, TU employee and graduate student Penny Gaskins, created a display in the TU Library honoring veterans. The Veteran table was set for one, symbolizing the frailty of a person who has given freely for this country. Each item on the table represented had a special meaning in the display.



Photo by Sharita Mitchell-Perkins, Student photographer

## Blues scholar and musician to perform Nov. 22

The next performance in the Fridays at Noon series will feature David Evans, noted blues scholar and musician who has been instrumental in documenting some of the remaining vestiges of traditional blues in Memphis and the surrounding region. Evans will perform at 12 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Thomas County Public Library.

Author of “Big Road Blues,” Evans heads the doctorate program in Ethnomusicology at the University of Memphis. Born in Boston, he came to the blues through the folk revival of the mid-’60s. After seeing such legendary performers as Son House, Mississippi John Hurt, and Sleepy John Estes, Evans decided to pursue the study of the blues tradition as a career. In 1966, while in graduate school at UCLA, he began making field trips to the South to research and record blues musicians.

In 1970 Evans recorded Bentonian bluesman Jack Owens. The record, “It Must Have Been the Devil,” was reissued in 1995. He produced Jessie Mae Hemphill’s “She Wolf” in 1981 and “Feelin’ Good” in 1987, playing rhythm guitar accompaniment on both records.

In 1994 Evans recorded a number of regional artists on an excellent record, “The Spirit Lives On, Deep South Country Blues and Spirituals.” In 1997, Evans’ group – The Last Chance Jug Band, an ensemble modeled on the jug bands of Memphis during the 1920s and ’30s –



### David Evans

released its debut album, “Shake That Thing.”

Fridays at Noon is part of Arts for the Community at Thomas University (ACTU). For more information, call 229-227-6964 or email [actu@thomasu.edu](mailto:actu@thomasu.edu).

## Kirkus named SBD Fellow



Photo by Sharita Mitchell-Perkins, Student photographer

Erin Kirkus of Bainbridge recently recognized by Sigma Beta Delta International Honor Society in Business as a 2019 Fellowship Award recipient.

## Upcoming Events

- Nov. 15:** Application for Spring 2020 and Summer 2020 Graduation Deadline
- Nov. 18:** 7 p.m., TU Book Club meeting, Campus Center Classroom, Forbes Campus
- Nov. 19:** 6 p.m. Science Cafe, Flowers Foods Executive Classroom
- Nov. 19:** 7 p.m., Tie Dye Skate Night at Roll-A-Rink
- Nov. 19:** 11 a.m., “All About Abstracts” workshop, Classroom 108
- Nov. 20:** 11 a.m., Mindful Hour, TU Library Study Room
- Nov. 22:** Fridays at Noon presents David Evans, Doctor of Blues, at the Thomas County Public Library
- Nov. 25:** 6:30 p.m., Student Thanksgiving Dinner in the TU Gym
- Nov. 27-29:** Thanksgiving holidays
- Dec. 6:** Last day of regular classes

## Next Science Café to discuss hands-on science education

The next installment in Thomas University's popular Science Café series will be "Public Television and Hands-on Science Education," presented by Tasha Weinstein and Misty Penton of WFSU Public Media on Tuesday Nov. 19.

Weinstein is WFSU's Education and Engagement Manager and has worked with WFSU for more than a decade. Before joining WFSU, she was an educator working with Pre-K through 12th grades, Title 1 and gifted students as a formal and informal art teacher, environmental educator and historical interpreter. Weinstein has a bachelor's degree in Art Education from Virginia Commonwealth University and is a graduate of Florida State University's Blended Online Learning & Teaching Master's Certificate Program.

Penton is WFSU's Education and Engagement Specialist. She graduated from FSU with a double major in Anthropology/Archaeology



*Misty Penton (left) and Tasha Weinstein of WFSU work with children at a recent event. At the next TU Science Café, they will discuss hands-on science education.*

and Political Science. Penton received a master's degree in Physical Anthropology from the University of Oregon.

The Science Café will be held in the Flowers Foods Executive Classroom

inside Smith-Bonvillian Hall on TU's Forbes Campus. A reception with the speakers will be held from 6 to 6:30 p.m. The presentation will start at 6:30. For more information, email [apenton@thomasu.edu](mailto:apenton@thomasu.edu).

## O'Connor's 'Good Country People' topic of next Book Club meeting

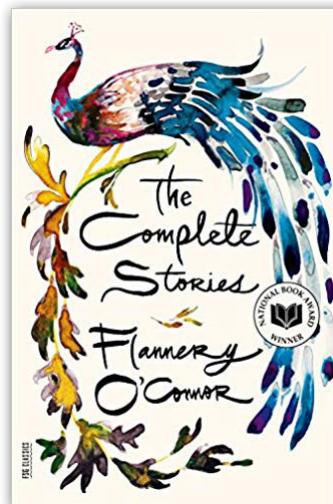
*By Sharita Mitchell-Perkins*  
Student writer

The short story "Good Country People" by Flannery O'Connor will be the topic of discussion at Thomas University's Book Club meeting on Nov. 18. The discussion, led by Dr. Jim Hughes, will be held in the Campus Center Classroom on Thomas University's Forbes Campus.

"Good Country People" was published in 1955 by one of Georgia's most notable authors. The story focuses on the perception of how people define the identity of others. Its themes consist of social and class division, religion, education and consciousness of life.

Leading the discussion will be Dr. Hughes, who received his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Philosophy and English from Vanderbilt University, as well as a Master of Education Degree in Administration and Supervision and a Doctorate of Education, both from Auburn University. Hughes is a retired educator who taught and coached in secondary schools for more than 40 years.

Hughes has been recognized across Georgia for his contribution to education and athletics. In 1999 he was



years.

The Book Club meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18. The Book Club meeting is a part of Arts for the Community at Thomas University (ACTU) and is open to the public.

For more information, call 229-227-6964 or email [actu@thomasu.edu](mailto:actu@thomasu.edu). Visit [thomasu.edu/actu](http://thomasu.edu/actu) to learn about other ACTU events.

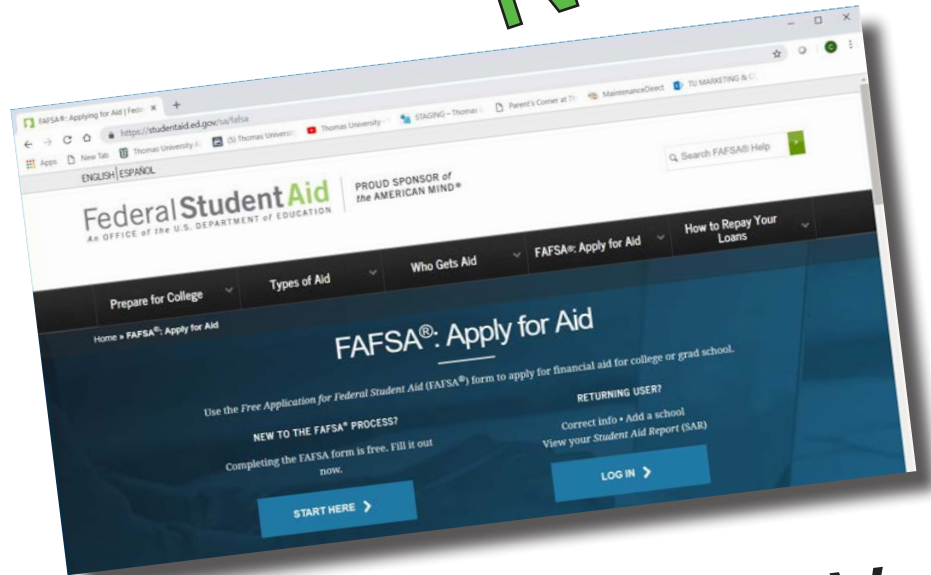
inducted into the Thomasville-Thomas County Sports Hall of Fame; in 2000 the Moultrie-Colquitt County Sports Hall of Fame; in 2009 the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Sports Hall of Fame; and 2014 the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. After leaving secondary education, Hughes served as the executive director of the Georgia Industries for the Blind at the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency in Bainbridge for 13

# Get a head start!

The 2020-21 FAFSA is available

**NOW!**

- File early to avoid the rush later!
- Log in with your FSA ID.
- Use 2018 tax information.
- Link your parents' or your tax information by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.
- TU's school code: 00155500



[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)

*Have questions?*

*Need help?*

Contact the TU  
Office of Financial Aid  
& Scholarships!



229-584-2460