

# TU Insider

January 2021

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

## Students receive grants for research projects

Health and Science Division undergraduate students have been busy designing and implementing research projects for the 2020-2021 academic year. These projects are designed to be done with minimal contact and with COVID-19 safety measures in place.

This allows students to engage in the scientific process and advance scientific knowledge, while still maintaining health standards.

Three of the projects were recently awarded research grants through Beta Beta Beta, the National Biological Honor Society. These projects will be performed by undergraduate students in the Health and Science Division under the direction of a faculty member.



**Morgan Smith**

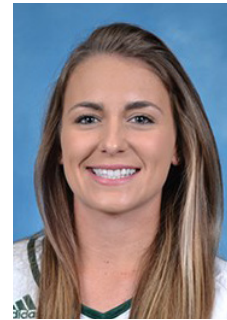


**Megan Phillips**

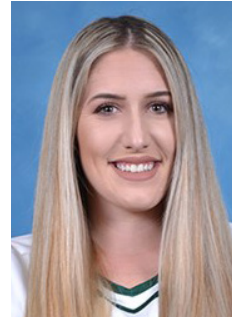
Morgan Smith, a biology major from Ochlocknee, Georgia, received a \$384 grant for her project "STEM Obstacles in the Collegiate Setting." She is working with faculty member Dr. LeAnna N. Willison.

Megan Phillips, a biology major from Bainbridge, Georgia, received a \$550 grant for her project "Evaluation of the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River watershed for human consumption and habitat suitability for *Percina crypta* and *Bothrioplana semperi*." She is working with faculty members Elizabeth Harrell and Dr. Leanna N. Willison.

Rebecca Boesen, a biology major from Bradenton, Florida, and Sheala Brown, a biology major from Wray, Georgia, received a \$792 grant for their project "Evaluation of the influence of thermal variation on mating behavior of Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches (*Gromphadorhina portentosa*)." They are working with faculty member Elizabeth Harrell.



**Rebecca Boesen**



**Sheala Brown**

Students who received Beta Beta Beta grants will present their projects at the regional conference in April or the National conference in July.

## ACTU's January Jazzto feature to TU Jazz Ensemble

Arts for the Community at Thomas University (ACTU) will feature TU's popular Jazz Ensemble in its livestreamed "January Jazz" performance at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 24.

The newest members of the TU Jazz Ensemble include two violinists/fiddlers, and this concert performance will include "Blues de Basile" featuring Andrea Stanley on the violin. The song has its origins in Cajun-zydeco music from the 1930s and is attributed to Amedee Ardoin.



**The Thomas University Jazz Ensemble**

**JAZZ** continued on page 3.

## Next TU Science Café to feature discussion on meiofauna

The next installment of Thomas University's popular Science Café series will focus on meiofauna and its role in marine ecosystems with a presentation by Dr. Jeroen Ingles, a marine ecologist at Florida State University. The presentation will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 26, via Zoom.

Dr. Ingles has a wide interest in benthic biodiversity, ecosystem functioning and food web ecology in marine ecosystems. After earning a master's degree in Zoology and a master's degree in Marine and Lacustrine sciences, he completed a Ph.D. in deep-sea biology and ecology, specializing in meiofauna and free-living nematodes (metazoans smaller than 1mm) and working together with marine scientists across Europe, all at Ghent University in Belgium. Dr. Ingles was then involved in several international projects focusing on deep-sea habitats and Antarctic marine ecosystems under pressure of climate change before moving to the United Kingdom with a European Union Marie Curie Fellowship to develop more holistic meiofauna research in coastal and shelf environments at Plymouth Marine Laboratory.



**Dr. Jeroen Ingles**

At the Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory, his research focuses on creating a better understanding of the role of meiofauna in marine ecosystem function, and advancing knowledge of meiofauna and nematode biology and ecology. Meiofaunal organisms are abundant in all marine ecosystems and play a pivotal role in key processes and functions. Despite their ecological importance, they are often overlooked

and many aspects of their biology and ecology are still unknown. Research projects aim at understanding what drives (meio)benthic diversity and how it affects marine sediment functions.

For those who would like to participate in this event, please email April Penton, Science Café coordinator, at [apenton@thomasu.edu](mailto:apenton@thomasu.edu), for the Zoom link. Participants are welcome to join between 6 and 6:30 p.m. to chat with the presenter.

## 'Mindful Hour' meets via Zoom each Tuesday during spring semester

During the 2019-20 academic year, two TU professor began holding sessions on mindfulness. When COVID forced most classes to move online, so did the mindfulness sessions.

During spring semester, Thomas University faculty Rich Curtis, Associate Professor of Art, and Bill Milford, Assistant Professor of Social Work, will host the "Mindful Hour" online every Tuesday during at 8 p.m.

Mindfulness is the simple practice of focusing on your breath and the present moment. It has been clinically demonstrated to help individuals with stress management and emotional regulation and balance (equanimity).

The group includes Thomas University students, faculty and friends outside of the university. Participants are free to attend weekly or whenever they like. Although there is a time set aside for group conversation, participants are free to "pass" and just listen.

To join the "Mindful Hour" group, click [here](#) to sign up.

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# Next 'Live from the Center' to feature Camerata South Chamber Orchestra, violinist Bubanja

Arts for the Community at Thomas University (ACTU) will partner with the Thomasville Center for the Arts for the next "Live from the Center" performance at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 21. The online event will include the Camerata South Chamber Orchestra performing "Winter" by Antonio Vivaldi and "Capriol Suite" by Peter Warlock featuring violinist Dr. Petra Bubanja.

Originally from the European country of Montenegro, Bubanja recently earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in violin performance from Florida State University, where she worked as a teaching assistant with Dr. Ben Sung. She has also served as concertmaster of FSU's University Symphony Orchestra. Bubanja was part of the concertmaster studio at the Brevard Music Festival, where she led Brevard's Sinfonia as concertmistress and took lessons from some of America's top concertmasters.



**Dr. Petra Bubanja**

She spent the summer of 2018 in Breckenridge, Colorado, where she performed in the prestigious National Repertory Orchestra.

Bubanja is a member of the Tallahassee Symphony Orchestra, Pensacola Symphony Orchestra,

Mobile Symphony Orchestra, Sinfonia Gulf Coast, Valdosta Symphony Orchestra and Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra. She is also an adjunct violin instructor at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee.

"Live from the Center" can be viewed at [www.facebook.com/actu31792/live](https://www.facebook.com/actu31792/live). No Facebook account is required.

This performance is supported in part by Georgia Council for the Arts through the appropriations of the Georgia General Assembly. Georgia Council for the Arts also receives support from its partner agency, the National Endowment for the Arts. This project is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

For more information about this and other ACTU events, visit [www.facebook.com/actu31792](https://www.facebook.com/actu31792) or [www.thomasu.edu/actu](https://www.thomasu.edu/actu), call 229-227-6964 or email [actu@thomasu.edu](mailto:actu@thomasu.edu).

## JAZZ continued from page 1.

"This song will give a little taste of Mardi Gras, which is coming up next month," said Dr. Karl Barton, director of the ensemble.

Also on the program will be "On Broadway" that was popularized by the Drifters and George Benson. The TU Jazz Ensemble's version will feature vocalist Tres Parker and guitarist Roy Weidner.

"We wanted to pay tribute to that part of New York City, and the lyrics also touch on being down on your luck, which is definitely true for the musical theatre district right now," Barton continued.

Another song highlights the talents of the ensemble's trumpet expert.

"Our longest-serving member of the jazz ensemble is trumpeter Rod Carter, who has been with the group for 17 years," Barton said. "We will feature him on the instrumental number 'Peace' by Horace Silver. The song's title says it all, and the lyrical melody and lush harmonies embody a sense of tranquility that we could all use."

Another vocal number will be the ever-popular "Georgia on My Mind" by Hoagy Carmichael, which will feature vocalist Tres Parker and fiddler Dr. Bo Edwards.

*"Our longest-serving member of the jazz ensemble is trumpeter Rod Carter... We will feature him on the instrumental number 'Peace' by Horace Silver. The song's title says it all, and the lyrical melody and lush harmonies embody a sense of tranquility that we could all use."*

*– Dr. Karl Barton*

"As the lyrics state, 'Still in peaceful dreams I see, the road leads back to you,'" Barton said. "It's no wonder that this is the official state song."

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