



Fall 2019

CONNECTIONS

Alumni Homecoming Dinner set for Oct. 25

All Thomas University alumni are invited to gather for the annual Alumni Homecoming Dinner to celebrate TU and this year's outstanding alumni award recipients. The event will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, on the Sue Rumble Terrace on TU's Forbes Campus, 1501 Millpond Road, Thomasville.

The dinner, catered by the Plaza Restaurant, will feature Greek chicken, mushroom and rice pilaf, Greek-style green beans and a Greek salad. A dessert bar will feature delights from the Bread Wagon, Savannah Moon and others. Drinks

When:
6-9 p.m.
Friday,
Oct. 25

Where:
TU's Forbes
Campus

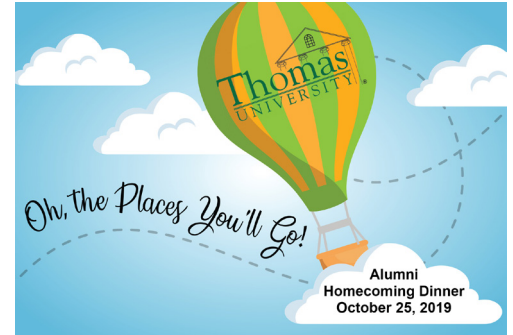
Hat, Thing One and Thing Two, Cindy Lou Who, plus more. Door prizes will also be presented.

The cost is \$45 per individual,

will include beer, wine and iced tea.

With the theme "Oh the Places You'll Go," the dinner will feature servers dressed as characters from Dr. Seuss' books, such as

the Cat in the Hat, Thing One and Thing Two, Cindy Lou Who, plus more. Door prizes will also be presented.



\$80 per couple or \$350 for a table of eight. RSVPs are due by Oct. 7 by calling the Office of Institutional Advancement at 229-227-6903 or registering online at www.tinyurl.com/TUHomecoming2019.

22 TU Education alumni named teachers of the year

To be named Teacher of the Year is one of the highest honors an educator can receive. For the recipient, it is confirmation of his/her efforts to inspire students in their educational pursuits, to work with parents for students' success, and to advance the profession as an educator.

Thomas University is honored to have 22 alumni named Teacher of the Year for their respective schools since 2014. Those alumni and the years of their honors include:

- Marcus Griffin, 2018-2019, Riverside Intermediate School, Cobb County School System
- Amanda West, 2018-2019, Thomas County Middle School, Thomas County School System
- Stacey Labouchere, 2018-2019, College Heights, Decatur City School System
- Ashley Maxwell, 2018-2019, Northside Elementary School, Grady County School System
- Shawn Woodward, 2018-2019, Southside Elementary School, Grady County School System
- Neal Ford, 2018-2019, MacIntyre Park Middle School, Thomasville City School System
- Jacob Reed, 2018-2019, Leon County High School, Leon County (Florida) School System
- Kelly Ellis, 2017-2018, Harper Elementary School, Thomasville City School System
- Kelli Dorminey, 2016-2017, Cross Creek Elementary School, Thomas County School System

- Latonya Knighton-Bennett, 2015-2016, Stringfellow Elementary School, Colquitt County School System
- Bridget Williams, 2015-2016, Northside Elementary School, Grady County School System
- Todd Wilson, 2015-2016, Thomas County Central High School, Thomas County School System
- Deann Garcia, 2015-2016, Thomas County Central High School, Thomas County School System
- Angela Hutchings, 2015-2016, Cross Creek Elementary School, Thomas County School System
- Keri Johnson, 2015-2016, Hand-in-Hand Primary School, Thomas County School System
- Christopher Miranda, 2015-2016, Bishop Hall Charter School, Thomas County School System
- Neal Ford, 2015-2016, MacIntyre Park Middle School, Thomasville City School System
- Lynlee Barrett, 2014-2015, Shiver Elementary School, Grady County School System
- Rebecca Ramsey, 2014-2015, Scholars Academy, Thomasville City School System
- Emily Cofer, 2014-2015, Jerger Elementary School, Thomasville City School System
- Kim Williams, 2014-2015, Harper Elementary School, Thomasville City School System
- Pamela Gardner, 2014-2015, Scott Elementary School, Thomasville City School System

3 biology grads start on road to doctorates

By Joshua Barrett
Student writer

Three Thomas University biology majors who graduated in May 2019 with their bachelor's degree started graduate programs this fall that will lead to doctorate degrees.

Gabriela Mora from Albuquerque, New Mexico, attends Gannon University in Ruskin, Florida, in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

"I applied to several schools and Gannon University thankfully responded," Mora said. "I was interviewed by a professor and a student at the school and had to wait for a response for about two weeks. I then received an acceptance email, and I felt on top of the world."

Jeleah Nunez from Kissimmee, Florida, is in the University of Florida's Veterinary Medical School.

"It was always a dream of mine to go to this school, and my mentors spoke highly about their veterinary program," Nunez said.

Dante DiSipio from Lakeland, Florida, attends the University of Florida's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

"At TU I learned how to study different ways for a variety of subjects," he said. "My degree has given me a background in many



Photo by Joshua Barrett, Student photographer

Recent graduates (from left) Dante DeSipio, Jeleah Nunez and Gaby Mora began doctoral programs this fall.

fields and the confidence to pursue any graduate degree I desire."

All three students credit TU's biology programs with helping them prepare for graduate school.

"I loved the environment at TU and the wonderful people that helped me get to where I am today," Mora said.

Nunez said, "My degree has prepared me for the future courses I will be taking because I will need

the information as background knowledge while I am digging deeper into my profession."

DiSipio said, "I enjoyed most all the lifelong friends and memories I have made with them."

While students at TU, all three have also been athletes. Mora and Nunez both played on the Night Hawks Softball team. DiSipio played on the Men's Basketball Team.

Business alumni sought for mentorship program

The Thomas University chapter of Sigma Beta Delta International Honor Society and the TU Division of Business are looking for TU alumni interested in serving as mentors for current Business students. The SBD Executive Mentorship Program seeks to prepare TU graduates for successful careers and responsible leadership.

Mentors will:

- Share experiences and knowledge with students.
- Identify and shape future leaders and future mentors.
- Serve as a role model.

- Increase diversity and overall creativity.
- Improve utilization of each student's unique talents and potential.

Mentees will:

- Gain an expanded personal and professional network.
- Have a sounding board for testing ideas and plans.
- Receive positive and constructive feedback on professional and personal development.
- Increase self-awareness and self-discipline.

Interested in becoming a mentor? Email SBDEMP@thomasu.edu.

Alumni Notes



Leslie Cooper (center) of Pavo ('17) graduated with a Master of Science Degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in the summer of 2019. Cooper is now an Assistant Professor and Director of the Medical Laboratory Science Program at Thomas University.

Do you have alumni news to share in the **Alumni Notes** section? New job? New academic degree? Award received? Marriage? Birth of a child? [Click here to send us your news](#) or email advancement@thomasu.edu.

TU honors employees for years of service



Thomas University honored employees for years of service during its fall semester faculty-staff meeting held Wednesday, Aug. 21, in the Flowers Foods Executive Classroom. Honorees includes (from left) Dr. Danae Johnson, 10 years; Dr. Sandra Simonds, 10 years; Dr. Carolyn McClenny, 15 years; Leslie Cooper ('17), 5 years; and Stacie Reilly ('12), 10 years. Not pictured are Anna Crowder ('18), Michelle Manning ('18), 5 years; and Jennifer Howell, 10 years.