

# TU Insider

February 2021

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

## Thomas University introduces 'New TU'

In keeping with the changing times and in an effort to meet the needs of both students and employers, Thomas University recently introduced several new initiatives that are part of an effort the university calls the "New TU." These include organizing the academic offerings into three distinct schools, adding several new majors, and introducing a restructured fee schedule beginning Fall 2021.

Thomas University implemented a three-school system in order to focus on the needs of students specific to each school in the Fall of 2020. The School of Arts and Sciences consists of mostly traditional age, on-campus students who attend in-person classes. The School of Professional Studies offers working adults the opportunity to earn their bachelor's degree completely online. The Graduate School is made up of students pursuing graduate degrees. Each of these groups has specific needs that are best addressed in this new structure.

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*Brandon Allen, TU's Maintenance Supervisor with National Resources Management, prepares to install the new TU flag in front of the Forbes Building on Tuesday, Feb. 16. As part of the 'New TU' initiative, the university replaced its main logo with a new design*

## TU to begin offering Exercise & Sport Science degree

Starting fall semester 2021, Thomas University will begin offering a bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sport Science. The degree will be offered on-campus and will provide students with a wide range of hands-on coursework including required science classes to prepare students for advanced graduate degree programs or careers as health and fitness professionals.

"Over the years we've heard from students that they wanted a degree like this," said Deana Baker, Science Programs Director and Assistant Professor of Biology. "This degree isn't like a traditional physical education degree or sports management degree. Because of

its strong science foundation, the program prepares students for graduate school, if that's the route they want to take. If not, they'll be ready to earn a specialized certification and enter the workforce with this degree."

The bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sport Science will require classes such as chemistry, biology, and anatomy and physiology, along with biomechanics, sport psychology, exercise testing and prescription, injury prevention, motor learning, sport sociology, sport management, nutrition, and coaching theories and methods.

"One of the things that I think that will make this program unique is

the emphasis on certification and experiential learning," Baker said. "It's a scientific approach to the human body, and all the things that go into that, including psychology and sociology. This includes all the elements and sub-disciplines of being an athlete and performing at your best level."

Students will do more than just learn concepts from books. They will apply their knowledge in real-world settings. The culmination of the degree program will be the senior seminar. During the class, students can choose to complete a research projects on a topic of their choosing that will help

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# DeMarco joins TU as Student Success Director

Thomas University recently welcomed Burcu DeMarco as its new director of Student Success. In this role, she directs all student advising. Before joining TU, she worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the state of Florida, an academic advisor at the University of Maryland Global Campus at Europe and Asia, a program director at Troy University, and a Community College of the Air Force advisor at Incirlik Air Base Adult Education Center.

DeMarco said she became interested in working with student advising because she's always enjoyed helping people.

"Being an advisor gives me the opportunity to help students," she said. "I've always found it thrilling when students discover what they are passionate about and realize they can create a whole career around



**Burcu DeMarco**

growth."

DeMarco holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Engineering and a Master of Business Administration Degree, both from Cukurova University in Turkey, as well as a Master of Arts Degree in Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology.

At TU, DeMarco said the aim of Student Success advisors is to guide

what they are interested in. I love being part of a student's educational journey and helping them feel empowered to make academic decisions that promote personal and professional

students in creating clear pathways to achieve their academic goals.

"In addition to helping our students with their degree requirements, we hope to help them with success strategies, such as developing study habits, staying motivated and time management," she said. "My ultimate goal for every student is to ensure that their university experience is fulfilling and that their educational path aligns with their passions and core values."

DeMarco said she chose to work at TU because of the low student-to-faculty ratio because she believes this provides a better learning environment and encourages more participation from students.

"I have already met so many great people at TU, and I'm proud to work with such a smart and talented group of people," she said.

## Upcoming Events

### 2/23

3 p.m. JV Baseball at Andrew College (DH)

8 p.m. [Mindful Hour, Zoom](#)

TBA Men's Basketball at St. Thomas University

### 2/24

TBA Baseball at Albany State University

### 2/25

1, 3 p.m. JV Softball at South Georgia College (DH)

5:30 p.m. Women's Soccer at Middle Georgia State University

7:30 p.m. Men's Soccer at Middle Georgia State University

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## Streater begins as Student Life Activities Coordinator

Thomas University recently welcomed Katherine Streater as its new Student Life Activities Coordinator. Originally from Stone Mountain, Georgia, she recently moved to Thomasville from Valdosta.

Streater graduated from Valdosta State University in December 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Communication Arts and Psychology. While at VSU, she was a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and worked as a student assistant in VSU's Event Services Department, which launched her interest in planning events in higher



**Katherine Streater**

education.

Streater said that she has always been interested in events and bringing people together. She knew that she wanted a career that involved event planning.

"Thomas University holds a special place in my heart, and I was beyond excited when I got the chance to become the new student life coordinator," Streater said. "I believe college is such a pivotal and important time in someone's life, and I jumped at the opportunity to be a part of helping create campus culture."

As a recent college graduate, Streater said she believes she has insight into what students want and find valuable. She's passionate about creating a vibrant campus life and overall campus experience for students.

## Virtual tour of Mars to be featured at next TU Science Cafe

At Thomas University's next Science Café, participants will travel to a distant planet – virtually. Participants will go on a virtual tour of Mars from the viewpoint of the Mars Rover presented by Susan Borland, Education Manager of the Challenger Learning Center in Tallahassee. The presentation will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 23, via Zoom.

Borland received her bachelor's degree in Health Education and began her master's degree in Science Education at State University of New York Cortland and continued her master's program at SUNY Stony Brook. She has more than 20 years of experience teaching science in New York and Florida. She began her career with the Challenger



**Susan Borland**

development. She currently serves as Education Manager of the Challenger Learning Center and is involved in curriculum planning and alignment to standards, workshop preparation and delivery, camp coordination, grant writing and all facets of managing the education

Learning Center in Tallahassee in February 1999 and was involved in all aspects of planning of the center.

Borland has extensive experience in curriculum and workshop

department. In addition to her duties at the Challenger Learning Center in Tallahassee, Borland serves on the Network Council and as a mentor for the Challenger Center for Space Science Education network. She served as a member of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education Board from 2012 to 2015 and was one of the 2008 Children's Champions for Kids Incorporated of the Big Bend.

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. if they would like to chat with the presenter.



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prepare them for graduate school or they can prepare for and take a certification exam of their choice.

For example, students with the bachelor's degree in Exercise and Sport Science will be equipped to become certified personal trainers,

strength and conditioning coaches, sports coaches, wellness coaches, and sports officials. They could also choose to pursue graduate degrees in physical therapy, occupational therapy, clinical exercise physiology, biomechanics, sports management,

nutrition, or public health.

"Either way, students who earn this degree will have many career options," Baker said. "We'll guide them and help prepare them according to how they want to use their degree."

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Over the past several years, TU has been in the process of phasing out academic programs with low or no enrollment and replacing them with newer degree programs.

"We listened to what our students and employers are requesting," said Dr. John Meis, Vice President for Academic Affairs. "We also considered the skills most in-demand right now. By combining those, we came up with several new academic programs."

The new degree programs include the on-campus bachelor's degrees in Exercise & Sport Science and Literature & Media as well as an online bachelor's degree in Homeland Security Management.

The Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling will also add a specialization in School Counseling in addition to its specialization in Alcohol and Addictions.

Other academic programs are being developed and awaiting final accreditation approval. Those include online bachelor's degrees in Supply Chain Management and Computer Systems Management, and an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership.

TU has also implemented non-credit certification preparation courses in education, information technology, project management, Lean Six Sigma and contracting.

The University has also worked diligently at automating and

streamlining internal processes that increased efficiency. All these factors allow TU to introduce a reduced undergraduate tuition rate and restructured fee schedule that will take effect Fall 2021.

Unlike many other colleges and universities who've experienced declines in enrollment, TU has maintained consistent enrollment numbers throughout the COVID

pandemic. With the new undergraduate tuition rate, TU officials hope to make a bachelor's degree more accessible.

"We know that having a college degree helps people attain their career goals," said Dr. Andy Sheppard, TU President. "Now we're making high quality educational opportunities easily accessible."



**Registration for  
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THOMAS  
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**Wednesday, March 3, 2021**

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**Thomas University - Magnolia Campus**

*All donors will receive a Tie-Dye T-shirt and a \$10 eGift card. Plus, a wellness checkup including COVID-19 antibody test, blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!*

*Appointments are encouraged, please visit  
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ID required. Donors must be at least 16 years old. Those who are 16 years old need parental permission. See website for more details. \*One offer per donor, per donation. No cash value. Not-transferable. Not responsible for lost or stolen gift card. If you have recently donated, thank you. Please visit us when you are eligible to donate again. Donor must have successful donation to obtain results. If donor does not have account created in donor portal already, they must provide email address to phlebotomist at the time of registration so account can be created. Donor will receive email post donation with instructions. The same email provided at registration is used to activate donor portal account.

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