

2018

Founders' Day

THIEL

C O L L E G E

Founders' Day Convocation

11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018

Lutheran Heritage Room, Howard Miller Student Center

PRELUDE

Impromptu in G-flat major, op. 90 no. 3 Franz Schubert
James Vasconi, *Campus Organist and Accompanist*

PROCESSIONAL

St. Anthony Chorale attr. Franz Joseph Haydn

***OPENING PRAYER** The Rev. Jayne Thompson
Campus Pastor

WELCOME Susan Traverso, Ph.D.
President

CHORAL MUSIC

A Mighty Fortress Text by Martin Luther, arr. Julie Neish
May God Bless and Keep You Robert Wetzler '54
Julie Neish, D.M.A., *Director of Choral Activities*
and Assistant Professor of Performing Arts

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL STAFF AWARDS

Roberta Leonard *Vice President for College Advancement*
Michael McKinney, *Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students*
Bob Schmoll, *Senior Vice President for Finance and Management*

Distinguished Staff Award Mario Marini '91
Director of Special and Planned Giving

Distinguished Staff Award Tom Jones
Captain of Campus Police

Distinguished Staff Award Stacey Yake
Student Accounts Supervisor

Distinguished Staff Award Kimberly Braden '01
Payroll Specialist/HR Assistant

Distinguished Staff Award Michael Mason
Computer and A/V Technician

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL FACULTY AWARDS

Liz Frombgen, Ph.D. *Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Dean of the College*

Distinguished Adjunct..... Karen Kollar
Adjunct Professor of English

Distinguished Scholar..... Russell B. Richins, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, Department Chair

Distinguished Service..... James C. Koshan, Ph.D.
Professor of History, Department Chair

Distinguished Teacher..... Kristel M. Gallagher, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Distinguished Professor of the Year..... Greg Q. Butcher, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Neuroscience, Department Chair

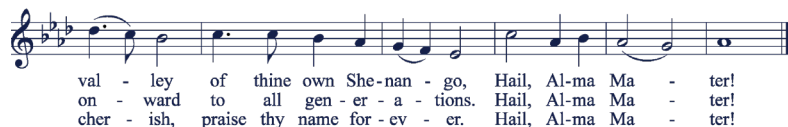
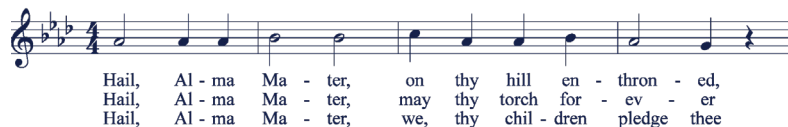
PRESENTATION OF THE LOUIS AND BARBARA THIEL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

President Traverso

**Tom Roberts &
Michael P. Walton**

An honor bestowed in recognition of their work on behalf
of the region and with the Hope Center for Arts and Technology.

***HAIL ALMA MATER.....** Music by Friedrich F. Flemming
and lyrics by E. Grace Hunton 1900



***CLOSING PRAYER.....** Rev. Thompson

POSTLUDE

Fugue in A-flat major, BWV 862..... Johann Sebastian Bach

***AUDIENCE WILL PLEASE RISE IF ABLE.**

The Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to community members who demonstrate exemplary character, continuity of leadership and long-term service to Greenville and its environs. The recipients must demonstrate a commitment to the common good above private interests. The award is named after Louis and Barbara Thiel, whose generosity made the founding of Thiel College possible in 1866. The Thiels dedicated themselves to the welfare of others. The German couple immigrated to western Pennsylvania in the 1840s, and as their work was blessed with success, they faithfully served family, community, and the church.



Tom Roberts

Tom Roberts is Executive Director of the Hope Center for Arts & Technology (HopeCAT) located in Sharon, Pa. He holds an M.B.A. from Temple University and a B.S. in industrial and labor relations from Penn State University. His

interests include arts-based organizations, community engagement, and economic development.

Prior to joining HopeCAT, Roberts was a director at Sharon Regional Health System working with the chief executive officer and assistant chief executive officer to recruit physicians and support the development of the strategic plan. Before joining the hospital, Roberts was general manager for Cottage Gardens, Inc, but his professional roots started in manufacturing where he began as a temp and worked his way up to vice president of U.S. retail sales for MAAX, Inc.—a multinational producer of kitchen and bath products.

After relocating to Hermitage in 2004, he had a strong desire to reduce his travel and increase his work with community based, non-profit organizations. He has served on the boards of the Prince of Peace Center, YMCA and Buhl Park Corporation. In his spare time, Roberts sings with the Shenango Valley Chorale, performs in multiple community theater productions, and enjoys landscaping projects with his wife Ryen. He is also a proud member of the Penn State Blue Band that performs annually at Penn State's homcoming.



Michael P. Walton

Michael P. Walton is the CEO and co-owner of Jamestown Coating Technologies in Jamestown, Pa. and Jamestown Powder Coatings in Girard, Pa. Both companies produce industrial coatings for use by manufacturers. Walton is active in

the paint and coatings industry through the American Coatings Association where he has served on its board of directors.

Locally, Walton participates in economic development and education initiatives. He is board president of the Hope Center for Arts & Technology, and is on the boards for PNC Bank, UPMC Horizon and Team PA. He is a former president of the United Way of Mercer County. Walton has taught as an adjunct professor at Thiel College and guest lectured at John Carroll University, Penn State University and Grove City College.

Walton earned a B.S. in management from John Carroll University and a M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh. He lives in Hermitage, Pa. with his wife, Lisa, and their three children.

He is the third generation of Waltons to earn a Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award. His grandfather, Joseph M. Walton, father, D. Michael Walton, and uncle, Joseph P. Walton, were given the award in 1994.

Distinguished Professor of the Year



Greg Q. Butcher, Ph.D.

Greg Q. Butcher, Ph.D., is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Neuroscience. He began teaching at Thiel in 2014, having taught previously for eight years at Centenary College of Louisiana. At Thiel, he serves as

director of the Health Professions Institute and has conducted research as a part of the GNC Faculty/Student Research Institute since 2015.

He is a member of the Society for Neuroscience, Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience, the Association for Biology Lab Education, Nu Rho Psi national neuroscience honorary, the Association of College and University Biology Educators, and the Northeast Association for Health Professions.

Butcher received bachelor's degrees in psychology and zoology from the University of Wyoming in 2000 and 2001, and completed his Ph.D. in neuroscience from The Ohio State University in 2006.

Butcher lives in Greenville, Pa., with his wife, Anne, and children, Finn, 11, and Lily, 9. He enjoys cooking, travel, board and card games, and carpentry.

Faculty Awards

Distinguished Adjunct

Karen Kollar, M.A.



Karen Kollar began teaching at Thiel College in 2007 as a professor in the English and Communication departments. Previously, she had spent time as an English and French teacher for Greenville High School, and as an English professor for Butler County Community College and Youngstown State University. She received her bachelor's degree from Slippery Rock University in 1972 and master's

degree from Youngstown State University in 1978.

Kollar volunteers for UPMC and is a board member for Youngstown State. She enjoys participating in English festivals and helps with Thiel's campus chapter of Alpha Xi Delta. She is also a member of the National Education Association, the Pennsylvania State Education Association and the National Council of Teachers of English.

Kollar says an important objective in her life is to strive to be a life-long learner. Her teaching positions have all made great contributions toward that goal. She lives in Clark, Pa., and has two adult children, Christine Yoder, 43, and Matthew Kollar, 37.

Distinguished Scholar

Russell B. Richins, Ph.D.



Russell B. Richins, Ph.D., graduated with his bachelor's degree from Weber State University in 2004 and earned a master's degree in 2006 and Ph.D. in 2010 for mathematics from the University of Utah. He then went on to post-doctoral work in the Michigan Center for Industrial and Applied Mathematics at Michigan State University.

Richins joined the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Thiel in 2012 as an assistant professor of mathematics and has been the department chair since 2016. Besides knowledge of C, C++ and CUDA programming languages, he is fluent in Spanish and has a reading knowledge of French.

Richins is a member of the Mathematical Association of America. He loves to read and lives in Greenville with his wife, Nicole, and son, Dallin, 10.

Distinguished Service

James C. Koshan, Ph.D.

Professor of History James C. Koshan, Ph.D., received a bachelor's degree from Clarion University, an M.A. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and a Ph.D. from Kent State University. Joining Thiel in 1994, Koshan progressed from adjunct to full professor.

Koshan serves as chair for the Department of History and

Faculty Salary and Fringe Benefits Committee and is a member of several more institutional committees. A member of Phi Alpha Theta national history honor society, Koshan was faculty adviser for 17 years, hosting two of its annual regional conferences on Thiel's campus.

Koshan's teaches a variety of courses in U.S. 19th and 20th century history, covering topics such as immigration, labor, warfare and the American South. His research focuses on immigration and labor in western Pennsylvania.

He and his fiancée, Donna Unangst, live in Hermitage, Pa.

Distinguished Teacher

Kristel M. Gallagher, Ph.D.

Kristel M. Gallagher, Ph.D., began teaching psychology at Thiel in 2015 and has since been frequently recognized for her excellence in teaching.

Gallagher earned a bachelor's degree from Waynesburg University in 2007, and earned an M.A. from Kent State University in 2009. She completed her Ph.D. in

experimental, social and health psychology from Kent State in 2012. She taught at Keystone College for three years before coming to Thiel.

A member of Association for Women in Psychology, the Social Psychology Network, the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, and the Social and Personality Health Network, Gallagher's favorite teaching quote is, "We should judge teaching not by the amount of knowledge it passes on, but by the enduring excitement it generates."

Gallagher lives in Hermitage, Pa. with her cats, Lilo and Stitch.



Staff Awards

Mario Marini '91

Mario Marini has been a member of the College Advancement team at Thiel since 2002.

Marini has been heavily involved with major fundraising for the school, including supporting the \$65 million *Thiel 2016* Campaign.



He graduated from Thiel in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration. Before returning to Thiel, Marini worked for seven years as a trust officer for First National Trust Company and spent nine years as a stock broker and financial planner for Robert Thomas Securities. He is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Marini serves as an auditor for Hempfield Township, is president of the Horizon Hospital System Authority, and volunteers with the Kiwanis club, the United Way, and Americans for the Competitive Enterprise System. He lives in Greenville with his wife, Chris, and has three children, Nicolette, 25, Shaina, 22, and Michaela, 21.

Thomas Jones

Thomas Jones started at Thiel in 2003. He oversees Thiel College public safety officers, determines schedules, and ensures officers are available to respond to emergency situations.



Jones studied at Clarion University and Edinboro University. He graduated from the police academy at Mercyhurst College in 1992. He lives in Greenville with his girlfriend, Amber. He has four children, Breanna, 21, Mary, 18, Logan, 6, and Luke, 3.

In the past, Jones was Chief of Police in Conneautville, Pa., a Sergeant in the Linesville Police Department, a Patrolman for Cochran and Vernon Township Police, and a member of the State Attorney General's Drug Task Force. He is active with Greenville Heritage Days, and is a historian, and living history reenactor.



Stacey Yake

Stacey Yake is the student accounts specialist at Thiel College, handling all aspects of the student billing and corrections process.

She started at Thiel in February of 2007, having previously worked as an account representative for Diagnostic

Imaging Consultants and Physician Billing Specialists between 1998 and 2007. She has also taken classes at Thiel in the past.

Yake was an important contributor on last year's First Year Experience committee and has been a member of the Starfish retention and early alert committee. She lives in Greenville with her husband, Dean, and has two children, Collin, 21, and Tanner, 19.



Kimberly Braden '01

Kimberly Braden began her Thiel College career in October of 2011, as a facilities administrative assistant. She then moved to assistant director of facilities-administration, before joining Thiel's IT department as an information technology solution center specialist, working with students to resolve technical issues and help with personal

computers and devices. In December 2016, she took her current role as a payroll specialist and HR assistant.

Braden is secretary for the Thiel Safety Committee, a Thiel College mentor, and is president of the Valley Little Gridders. She enjoys camping with family and attending her children's various sporting events.

She lives in Springboro, Pa., with her husband, Bill, and children, Aurora, 16, Brady, 13, and Logan, 11.



Michael L. Mason

Michael L. Mason joined as a member of the Information Technology team at Thiel in 2014 after retiring from the United States Army, having served for more than 20 years. Throughout his career he was deployed to over 35 states and 40 countries, including four combat tours in Afghanistan.

Over his career he served eight years with the White House Communications Agency directly supporting the president, four years with the National Military Command Center and four years with the Asymmetric Warfare Group.

Besides coaching Reynolds baseball and football over the last four years, Mason is heavily involved with the VFW. He is the Senior Vice Commander for the Reynolds VFW and active in supporting the community through volunteering and fundraising.

Mike lives in Transfer, Pa. with his wife, Melanie, and son, Mitchell, 14.

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C O L L E G E

*Previous Louis and Barbara Thiel
Distinguished Service Award Recipients*

Paul J. Miller '69 ~ 1990

The Hon. Roy W. Wilt '59, H'85 ~ 1991

Richard L. Werner, H'87 ~ 1992

Donna C. Winner, James E. Winner ~ 1993

Joseph M. Walton, D. Michael Walton, Joseph P. Walton ~ 1994

Dorothea E. Anderson ~ 1995

F. W. Knecht III ~ 1996

James E. Feeney ~ 1997

Joseph A. George ~ 1998

James Weller Jr. Family ~ 1999

Peter Mortensen H'05 ~ 2000

Dr. Robert Baker, Dr. John Scullin ~ 2002

Archie O. Wallace, Esq., Jeff A. Wallace, Daniel P. Wallace, Esq. ~ 2003

The Rev. Martin M. '66 and Sarah "Sally" (Fox) Roth '65 ~ 2005

Paul E. O'Brien ~ 2006

Robert D. Robbins and Cynthia A. Robbins ~ 2007

James D. Bittel Jr. '60 ~ 2008

Luther John Kuder '59 ~ 2009

Fred '66 and Jill (Shackett) Haer '66 ~ 2010

The Frangakis Family Foundation ~ 2011

John M. Hudson ~ 2012

Harvey H'15 and Uta Childs ~ 2013

Mark A. Nordenberg, Esq. '70, H'97 ~ 2014

Robert Olson, Ph.D. '60, H'09 ~ 2015

The Dietrich Foundation ~ 2016

John '71 and Nancy (Gibson) Hauser '75 ~ 2017

For lists of previous Distinguished Staff Award and Faculty
Award recipients, go to www.thiel.edu/foundersday.