

2020

Founders' Day



THIEL
COLLEGE

Founders' Day Convocation

11 a.m. Thursday, February 6, 2020

Lutheran Heritage Room, Howard Miller Student Center

PRELUDE

Randy Curtis, *Piano*

***PROCESSIONAL**

St. Anthony Chorale attr. Franz Joseph Haydn

***PLACING OF COLLEGE MACE** Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06

Associate Professor of Psychology, Department Chair

***OPENING PRAYER** Pastor Brian Riddle '07

Campus Pastor

WELCOME Susan Traverso, Ph.D.

President

CHORAL MUSIC

Hope for Resolution Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory

Amazing Grace Bruce Stevenson

Thomas Wininger, D.M.A., *Director of Choral Activities;*

Randy Curtis, *Piano*

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL STAFF AWARDS

Michael McKinney '02, *Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students*

Bob Schmoll, *Senior Vice President for Finance and Management*

Distinguished Staff Award Jacquelyn Kytchak

Administrative Assistant

Distinguished Staff Award Monica Adametz

Coordinator of Special Events

Distinguished Staff Award David Knauff

Director, IT Support and Instructional Technology

Distinguished Staff Award Patricia Leskovac

Financial Aid Specialist

Distinguished Staff Award Angela Wark

Housekeeper

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL FACULTY AWARDS

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

Distinguished Adjunct..... Michelle Lentz
Adjunct Professor of Presentational Literacy

Distinguished Scholar..... Ellen J. Lippert, Ph.D.
Professor of Art History, Department Chair

Distinguished Service..... Ross Nugent
Assistant Professor of Communication

Distinguished Teacher..... Kristin M. Carlson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Languages, Director of ESOL Program, Department Chair

Distinguished Professor of the Year..... David M. Miller '61
*Professor of Economics and Business Administration,
Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics*

PRESENTATION OF THE LOUIS AND BARBARA THIEL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

President Traverso

The Pittsburgh Promise

An honor bestowed in recognition of their advocacy of Education
on behalf of Thiel College and the region.

*HAIL ALMA MATER.....*Leading Thiel College Choir*

Music by Friedrich F. Flemming
and lyrics by E. Grace Hunton 1900



Hail, Al - ma Ma - ter, on thy hill en - thron - ed,
Hail, Al - ma Ma - ter, may thy torch for - ev - er
Hail, Al - ma Ma - ter, we, thy chil - dren pledge thee



Firm as a moun - tain may'st thou stand en - dur - ing, Fair as the
Shed light re - splen - dent for thy God and coun - try; Send the flame
Here our de - vo - tion, loy - al, true and ten - der, Thee will we



val - ley of thine own She - nan - go, Hail, Al - ma Ma - ter!
on - ward to all gen - er - a - tions. Hail, Al - ma Ma - ter!
cher - ish, praise thy name for - ev - er. Hail, Al - ma Ma - ter!

*CLOSING PRAYER..... Paster Riddle POSTLUDE

Randy Curtis, *Piano*

*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.

Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award



Saleem Ghubril

The Pittsburgh Promise promotes high educational aspirations among City of Pittsburgh high school graduates by funding scholarships for post-secondary education access. Students can use their Pittsburgh Promise scholarship to attend any accredited college, university, trade or technical school in Pennsylvania.

Pittsburgh has the largest Promise program in the United States.

Thiel College is one of the Pittsburgh Promise's 24 Preferred College Partners. Preferred College Partners are post-secondary institutions that make two specific commitments over and above what they already do to ensure the success of Promise Scholars. Preferred partner schools provide a minimum \$2,000 grant per year for room and board to Promise-eligible students and push targeted transition and academic support services to Promise-eligible students. Students who are first in their families to pursue higher education, or who come from low-income contexts, often struggle in persisting after their first year of college. Data show that certain support systems and practices significantly increase their likelihood of success. The two stated requirements for receiving "preferred" status are primary predictors for increasing student success among vulnerable populations.

Accepting the Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award for the Pittsburgh Promise is Saleem Ghubril. He is the executive director and a passionate advocate for children and the City of Pittsburgh. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he has devoted his life to serving the people of his community through outreach and education programs. In 1985, he founded The Pittsburgh Project, a community development organization that provides free home renovations to hundreds of vulnerable seniors each year and deploys thousands of youth in meaningful volunteer community service. Ghubril is the volunteer co-pastor of Mosaic Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh and is a member of the boards of The Buhl Foundation, Vibrant Pittsburgh, and the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh.

The fund has provided more than \$141.3 million in higher education scholarships to 9,503 Pittsburgh Public School graduates since 2008, including many at Thiel College. More than 3,200 Pittsburgh Promise recipients have graduated from higher education programs and are working in the Pittsburgh region, according to figures provided by the fund.

Distinguished Professor of the Year



David Miller '61

Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller '61** has taught and advised more students than any professor in Thiel College's history. He has been teaching since 1963, which is the longest tenure for a professor since the College was founded in 1866.

Miller's distinctive voice and mannerisms have made him a campus legend. He has been immortalized on t-shirts, with bobbleheads and in impersonation contests, but it is his dedication to the students he has advised and taught in the classroom that truly makes him one of the most beloved teachers the institution has ever known. In 2016, the College endowed a chair in Professor Miller's name. This unprecedented honor was spearheaded by a group of grateful alumni.

Professor Miller earned his undergraduate degree from Thiel College in 1961 and an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1962. He has also done additional graduate study at Kent State University.

Miller's outreach extends beyond the classroom. Above and beyond the teaching and advising he provides for students, Miller was a key figure in the creation of the Haller Enterprise Institute, which annually awards scholarships to entrepreneurial students and recognizes Thiel College student entrepreneurs and successful business people from around the region.

Miller and his wife, **Ruth**, live in Jamestown, Pa. and have two adult children, **Michael '92 and Joy '90**.

Faculty Awards
Distinguished Adjunct
Michelle Lentz



Michelle Lentz is an Adjunct Professor of Presentational Literacy. Presentational Literacy is required by all first-year students. It focuses on developing basic presentational skills (including poster presentations, mock interviews, as well as more traditional types of presentations). In addition to basic presentational skills, she focuses on building a sense of community within her classes as well as developing students' self-confidence. She has been teaching at Thiel since the fall of 2016 and this year, has also taught business and technical writing for the Department of English.

Her contributions go beyond the classroom. Lentz and her husband, **Josh**, founded and run Christian Fitness Ministries and support other outreach within community as needs are brought to their attention, which includes a \$500 donation to the Thiel College food pantry. She is a fundraiser and grant writer for the backpack program for Greenville Elementary students and is a Baughman Foundation Grant Review Committee member.

Lentz enjoys watching her sons play soccer and basketball together and attending Zumba class with a great group of inspiring women (including **Tressa Snyder** and **Liz Frombgen, Ph.D.**, among many others).

She got her Bachelor of Arts in English and secondary education/literature from Grove City College in 1994 and a Master of Science in instructional leadership from Robert Morris University in 2000.

Lentz and her husband live in Greenville with their two children, **Logan** (15) and **Jonah** (17).

Distinguished Scholar
Ellen Lippert, Ph.D.



Ellen Lippert is a familiar face to many. She has taught at Thiel College since 2006, but also because she has been a frequent presenter at Thiel College academic gatherings. She has discussed British history and culture, art and the work on her book.

She published a book on the 19th-century potter American potter George Ohr and written three other articles about him. She was published in the *Journal of Modern Craft*. It is the first peer-reviewed academic journal that provides an international and interdisciplinary forum for pottery. She has spoken about Ohr at the Gardiner Museum, which is Canada's national ceramics museum and the Ohr-O'Keefe Museum in Biloxi, Miss. Her article, "Souvenirs of Fantasy: George Ohr's Clay Tokens," will be published in *Token and Medal Society Journal*, and she has been asked to speak at the National Arts and Crafts Conference in Asheville, N.C.

She has been the Chair of the Department of Art since 2014.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in geology and ceramics from Juniata College (1998) and a Bachelor of Arts in art history from Juniata College (1999). Lippert got her Master of Art in art history from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002. She earned her doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in 2009.

She and her husband, **Doug**, live in Cranberry Township, Pa. with their three children, **Eli, Adeline** and **Asher**. They recently added a new puppy to their household. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, especially books by Stephen King.

Distinguished Service

Ross Nugent



Along with his time in the classroom, Assistant Professor of Communication **Ross Nugent** is also busy in the studio, on the scene and in the editing suite, helping students learn the skills of running a camera, setting up video shoots and editing video. He also advises TCTV and serves as a liaison to the campus community seeking to have events recorded. He has filled numerous roles in the Department of Communication, Media and Public Relations.

He holds a B.A. in film studies from the University of Pittsburgh and an M.F.A. in film production from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Nugent has screened his shorts at a variety of venues around the world, including the National Museum of Art (Washington, D.C.), Museum of Modern Art (NYC), Ann Arbor Film Festival (MI), Antimatter Film Festival (Vancouver, B.C., Canada), Chicago Underground Film Festival, and Athens Video Art Festival (Greece), among others, as well as art galleries and broadcast television.

A native of nearby Transfer, Pa., Nugent and his wife, **Kathy**, live in Wexford, Pa. and stay active with their two Australian cattle dogs, Bella and Bodhi.

Distinguished Teacher

Kristin M. Carlson, Ph.D.



Kristin M. Carlson came to Thiel College in 2015 when she was named Assistant Professor of Languages and Chair of the Department of Languages, but one of her nomination forms included another title that would be appropriate, “ambassador.”

Carlson is one of the professors teaching seminar classes to first-year students and also works with international students on campus.

At Thiel, she developed a Spanish minor. In addition to that, she has written articles on Spanish for textbooks and journals and completed the American English Institute Global Teacher Training Program and is certified as an American English Institute instructor. She studied Spanish literature and culture at La Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain. Carlson has also traveled to Cuba, Mexico, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, France, Spain, Germany and Austria. She got her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Rider University in 1995. She earned a Master of Arts in Spanish linguistics from Purdue University in 2006 and completed her doctoral work in Spanish linguistics at Purdue in 2014.

Carlson lives in Greenville with her husband and 9-year-old and 6-year-old daughters. Away from Thiel, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, gardening and exploring nature.

Staff Awards

Jacquelyn ‘Jackie’ Kytchak



Jackie Kytchak’s role as an administrative assistant in the office of Student Life covers many important day-to-day functions, but the behind-the-scenes work she does as part of the ASSIST and ATTEND committee was described as “invaluable.” ATTEND reporting is intended for attendance issues. ASSIST reporting is an early alert for students who might be experiencing academic, emotional and/or social issues. The ATTEND & ASSIST Committee comprises staff and employees

who meet weekly. Her efforts with this committee ensure students get connected with the support they might need before reaching a crisis point.

Before coming to Thiel College in 2016, she worked as a freelance architect for 26 years and spent seven years as a secretary and receptionist for Kytchak Chiropractic.

Kytchak graduated from Temple University with a Bachelor of Science in architecture in 1990.

She said she is “proud to be part of Thiel and blessed to work with a very supportive, inspiring and encouraging group of people.”

Kytchak enjoys spending time with family; designing, crafting and sewing; kayaking, skiing and baking.

She lives in Greenville with her husband, **Dr. Brian**. They have a son, **Nicholas**.

David Knauff



It is unlikely that anyone on campus has not worked with **David Knauff** in some capacity. He is the director of information technology support and instructional technology. He manages user technology on campus, the Solution Center and its student employees, as well as the 1,000-plus laptops and the software applications on campus.

Knauff’s nomination cited his dedication as a reason the Solution Center’s processes have been streamlined and campus technology remains supported to a high degree.

He has an Associate Degree from Laurel Technical Institute in network administration.

Knauff and his wife, **Trina**, have a daughter, **Missy**, 7, and a son, **Mikey**, 5.

He enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family.



Angela 'Angie' Wark

As a member of the housekeeping staff, **Angie Wark** is frequently cleaning, shining, polishing or washing things up, but frequently her duties extend to brightening up moods, too.

She is diligent and thoughtful about her job, but also leaves notes of encouragement and thoughtful quotes on desks when she is done. Her nominator said, "she always greets me with a huge smile and cheerful countenance, welcoming me into my workspace with such positive energy

and optimism."

Wark lives in Greenville and is involved in children's ministry at Bethel Life Worship Center. She is also involved in the local Project Restore, which fights against human trafficking and domestic abuse.

"I am so very grateful to Thiel College for all their support, not only for myself, but also for my daughters," she said.

Her daughter **Summer '17** graduated from Thiel College with a degree in psychology and broke the school record in the five-kilometer run in cross country. Her daughter **Journey** plans to attend Thiel to get her Master of Science in speech-language pathology.



Patricia 'Pat' Leskovac

Pat Leskovac has been at Thiel College for more than 35 years. In that time, she has been a resource and friendly face for students and families working through any financial aid issues they might be having. She is patient with each family as they walk through the steps of the financial aid process, which can include the additional steps of verification and special circumstance reviews.

She has been involved with the National and Pennsylvania Association of Financial Aid Administrators, attending many conferences and workshops. She has also been a moderator for sessions at state financial aid conferences.

She has taken accounting classes at Thiel College.

She and her husband, **Larry**, live in Greenville, Pa.

All four of her children, **Dr. Adam Conover**, **Brian Leskovac '96**, **Erin (Leskovac) Reed '00**, and **Wendy (Conover) DiGregorio**, graduated college—including two who graduated from Thiel College. She has 10 grandchildren and a toddler great-grandson.

She enjoys camping and canoeing with family friends. She said they have had many exciting canoe trips done the Allegheny, Clarion and Shenango rivers as well as French Creek.



Monica Adametz

Monica Adametz is the coordinator of special events. She helps to coordinate with various campus departments all major campus events as well as works with external clients when they are hosting a campus event. Adametz is also responsible for managing the Con Spirito Concert Series through the acquisition of domestic as well as international artists to perform on campus.

She is also a member of the Campus Lifestyle Committee, the Arts and Scholarship Symposium Committee and serves on the board of the Community Medical Ethics and the Greenville Symphony.

Adametz is also a member of the Association of Collegiate Conference and Event Directors-International.

She wishes to send a heartfelt thank you to her colleague **Jackie Kytchak** and her work study student **Amelia Mutinelli '20** for their ongoing help and support.

"A special thank you also goes to my awesome Student Life family for always being there to lend a hand and my wonderful clients and co-workers," she said. "I am blessed to work with so many wonderful people."



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*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

Tom Roberts and Michael P. Walton ~ 2018

Sen. Michele Brooks & Rep. Mark Longietti, J.D. ~ 2019

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