

FOUNDED 1866 • GREENVILLE, PA



## Founders' Day 2015

#### **OUR MISSION**

Thiel College, an academic institution in the Lutheran tradition, empowers individuals to reach their full potential by assuring educational excellence, stimulating global awareness, promoting ethical and responsible leadership, and preparing students for careers so that lives inspired by truth and freedom may be committed to service in the world.

# THIEL C O L L E G E Founders' Day 2015 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 - 11 A.M.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015 - 11 A.M. LUTHERAN HERITAGE ROOM HOWARD MILLER STUDENT CENTER

PRELUDE	
Nocturne in E Flat Major, Op. 9, No. 2 Frédéric Chopin	
Arabesque I in E Major	
Kathryn A. Gray, M.M.	
Adjunct Professor of Music	
PROCESSIONAL	
Grand March from 'Aida'	
*OPENING PRAYER	
WELCOME	
CHORAL MUSIC	
On God and Not on Human Trust	
Grant Us Thy Peace	
Michael R. Bray, D.M.A., Director	
The Thiel Choir	
PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE STAFF RECOGNITION President Van Aken	
Craig Thurber, Wrestling Coach	
Tammy Shilling,	
Administrative Assistant to the V.P for Enrollment Management Larry Vallar, Vice President for Enrollment Management	
Roberta Leonard,	
Executive Director, Capital Campaign	
Michael Shultz, Director of Facilities	
Jeannie Carey, <i>Accounts Payable Specialist</i> Bob Schmoll, Vice President for Finance and Management Martin D. Black,	
Associate Dean of Career Development	
Dean of the College	
Diane M. Donnelly,	
Assistant Director of The Learning Commons	

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College and President Van Aken

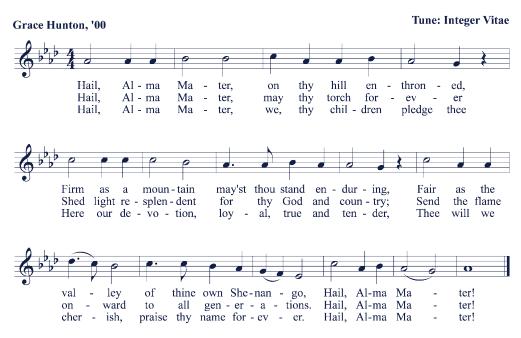
Distinguished Adjunct Faculty	Joshua R. Myers, M.A., Adjunct Professor of English
Distinguished Scholars	Fatimata A. Palé, Ph.D., Professor of Biology
	Christopher M. Stanisky, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Chemistry
Distinguished Service	Melissa S. Oakes '03, Associate Professor of Business Administration
	and Accounting
Distinguished Teacher	
	Director of Bands
Professor of the Year	

PRESENTATION OF THE A. LOUIS AND BARBARA THIEL 

#### Dr. Robert Olson '60, H'09

18th President of Thiel College

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



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

#### **POSTLUDE**

<sup>\*</sup> Audience will please rise.

## Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award

## Dr. Robert C. Olson '60, H'09

## 18th President of Thiel College



Dr. Robert Olson '60, H'09, Thiel College's 18th President, graduated from Thiel summa cum laude with a history degree. Olson also earned his master's and doctoral degrees in history from The Pennsylvania State University in 1962 and 1969, respectively.

"It is with profound pride that we are able to honor Thiel alumnus and former president Dr. Olson for the immeasurable contributions he has made to his alma mater as both an administrator and a professor," President of Thiel College Dr. Troy D. VanAken said. "Dr. Olson earned the position of President by steadying the institution and guiding it through a turbulent time. This is a richly deserved recognition for someone who has dedicated more than 50 years to Thiel College."

Olson returned to his alma mater in 1965 as an assistant professor of history and rose through the associate and professor ranks, teaching a variety of U.S. history courses with a special interest in the history of Native Americans. In 1999, Olson was appointed to the position of vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college after having served as interim vice president and dean since 1998. In 2005, he retired, but was recalled to assume the interim presidency of the College in March 2007. In November 2008, the Thiel College Board of Trustees officially designated Olson as the 18th president of the College, retroactive to his interim appointment. Olson served as president for 27 months.

Beyond campus, Olson is active within the community. He served as president of the Reynolds School Board from 1981 to 1989, is a member of the Mercer County Historical Society Board of Directors and belongs to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville. He serves on the Greenville Salvation Army Advisory Board and has been on the Board for Glade Run Lutheran Services in Zelienople, Pa. for more than 10 years, where he is currently chairman of the service board. He is also a 50-plus-year member of the Organization of American Historians.

Olson, a resident of Mercer, and his late wife, Margaret—who was for many years the college's bookstore manager and purchasing agent— are the parents of a son, Erik.

The A. 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 possible the founding of Thiel College 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 church.

## Professor of the Year =

## Curtis L. Thompson, Ph.D.

Director of Dietrich Honors Institute; Professor of Religion



Curtis L. Thompson came to Thiel College to become part of the Religion Department in 1983. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn. in 1969, a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. in 1974, a Master of Arts in Religion from the University of Chicago in 1979, and a Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Chicago in 1985. He served as the Pastor of St. Paul American Lutheran Church in inner-city Minneapolis from 1974 to 1978.

At Thiel, Dr. Thompson has contributed to several College-wide curricular initiatives and has been a part of various teaching teams. Dr. Thompson also was named Professor of the Year in 1992 and 2002. Many different College committees have engaged his service, and he has advised scores of students over the years. Learning trips have taken him

to Denmark and much of Europe and also to Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, India, and China.

Dr. Thompson has been active as a scholar in publishing books and articles. He is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Kierkegaard Society, and the Hegel Society of America. He is an Advisory Board member of an extensive multi-volume reference work for the interdisciplinary field of Kierkegaard studies sponsored by the Søren Kierkegaard Research Center at the University of Copenhagen.

Since 2012, Dr. Thompson has served as Director of the Dietrich Honors Institute that Thiel established with the generous gift from William S. Dietrich II. He has enjoyed working closely with the DHI Scholars, whose inaugural class will graduate in 2017.

Curt and his wife, Kathy, live in Greenville. They have four children—Sarah, Josh, Aaron, and Joran—and two grandsons, Soren and Brekken. They are members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, where they sing in the choir. Curt also serves on the Salvation Army Board of Directors.

Dr. Thompson appreciates being a part of the Thiel family and wants to thank his Thiel colleagues in the faculty, staff, and administration who have willingly extended their friendship to him and stood ready to partner with him in all kinds of endeavors.

## Faculty Awards

### Joshua R. Myers, M.A. Distinguished Adjunct Award



Joshua Myers received an Associate's Degree in English from Penn State University in 2004 and a Bachelor of Arts in Communications-Journalism from Penn State in 2008. He received his Master of Arts in English from Arcadia University in 2012.

Myers joined Thiel College in 2013 as an adjunct professor of English. Since then he has taught several sections of Oral and Written Expression. This past fall, he became the faculty adviser to the English club. His mentorship has led to several students adopting English as a major. He is also helping with a Shakespeare garden, which will be a tribute to Shakespeare scholar and Thiel College professor Dr. Jay Ward, who passed away in 2014.

Outside of academia, he works for Score More Tutors, a Pittsburgh-based tutoring company that specializes in SAT preparation for high school students, and he contributes critical literary reviews for various online e-zines. This past summer he worked as a research assistant for Joshua Lapekas, Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Pittsburgh.

Melissa M. Oakes '03, C.P.A, C.F.E., M.B.A. Distinguished Service Award



Melissa Oakes, associate professor of business administration and accounting, has been at Thiel College since 2010. She has been identified as a caring and involved professor at Thiel. She has won an Excellence in Teaching and the Young Leader Award through the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants. In addition to her teaching load, Professor Oakes serves on the following committees: Institutional Planning & Budgeting Committee, Dietrich Honors Council, Great Colleges to Work For, and Faculty Executive Committee. She also strongly promotes the institution to prospective students and their families. Professor Oakes serves as a mentor not only to her students, but also to new professors in the business department.

She graduated from Thiel College in 2003 with a bachelor's in accounting and business administration. She has a master's in business administration

from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

She lives in Sandy Lake, Pa. with her husband, Justin.

## Christopher M. Stanisky, Ph.D. Distinguished Scholar Award



Dr. Christopher Stanisky, assistant professor of chemistry, has made an impression with his love for all things chemistry and his students. Dr. Stanisky often puts in extra hours hosting review sessions prior to exams. He wants his students to think critically about how chemistry applies to the world outside of the classroom. When Dr. Stanisky is not teaching, he is researching and presenting papers. He also pursues grants to modernize and strengthen the labs at Thiel College. Attention to detail, motivation, drive and a sense of dedication to Thiel College are just some of the qualities that define Dr. Stanisky.

He joined the Thiel faculty in 2010 and specializes in physical chemistry. He serves as secretary at faculty meetings and Faculty Council meetings. He is willing to pitch in wherever needed and approaches committee work and meetings with a seriousness of purpose.

Stanisky holds a bachelor's degree from Franklin and Marshall College and a doctorate from Yale University. He is a native of Pittsburgh and lives in Sharon, Pa., with his wife, Heidi, and son, Jasper.

### Fatimata A. Palé, Ph.D. Distinguished Scholar Award



Dr. Fatimata Palé, professor of biology and Fulbright Scholar in 2011-12 in Burkina Faso, is an advocate for students and continues to work to be the best professor while also participating in several service-oriented events and occasions on campus.

She has been a member of the Thiel College faculty for 16 years. She recently was recommended for the Fulbright Specialist Roster. As a roster candidate, Palé will be considered for project requests that require her area of expertise. She is active in her scholarship, but also in campus and community activities. She is on the Promotion and Tenure Committee, she helped initiate a Global Club and this spring she will serve on the board of the Prince of Peace organization.

As well as her Fulbright honor, Dr. Palé has a Baccalauréat Science College de La Salle Ouagadougou; CBBG (Chemistry Biology and General Biology) University of Dakar, Sénégal; Master ès Science (Botany) University of Orléans; DEA (Plant Physiology) University of Paris Jussieu/Gift-Sur-Yvette; Doctorat (Ecology/Resource Management), University of Bordeaux III; Master ès Science (Ecology/ Geography), University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Dr. Palé lives in Hermitage.

## Andrew S. Erb, M.M. Distinguished Teacher Award



Andrew Erb, Director of Bands, Instructor of Music/Performing Arts, has been identified as someone who goes above and beyond when reaching students. Mr. Erb has been busy as the Director of the Tomcat Marching Pride Band, teaching classes and pursuing his doctoral degree.

Erb holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Westminster College and a Master of Music in trumpet performance from Youngstown State University. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, International Trumpet Guild, National Education Association and Sharpsville Area Education Association.

Erb is a lifelong resident of Mercer County and lives in West Middlesex, Pa., with his wife, Diana, and two sons, Jonathan and Benjamin.

## Staff Awards

#### Martin Black



Martin Black, Associate Dean for the Career Development Office, has a contagious enthusiasm. This enthusiasm and dedication have enabled him to make the Career Center and vital and vibrant part of a student's time at Thiel College. He arrives early and stays late and serves as a steady point of contact for students. Black's plans have created an atmosphere of teamwork and accountability at the Career Center. He has developed achievable goals and methodologies to measure outcomes, fostered relationships between Thiel alumni and students, counseled students, and most recently has been promoting Thiel's four-year blueprint to get first-year students thinking about careers after graduation.

Black joined Thiel College in the summer of 2013. He had spent the previous eleven years between Boston (Brandeis University's Heller School) and Pittsburgh (Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College) where he

directed the career offices and college-wide outreach to employer partners across the United States. Originally from New York where he also pursued his studies (New York University, ABD in German Area Studies; SUNY-Albany, BA in English), Martin lived and worked abroad for two years before returning to the U.S. and two decades of service for NYC-based companies and organizations as a teacher, editor, cross-cultural trainer and program manager.

#### Jeannie Carey



Jeannie Carey's title is accounts payable specialist, but her job goes far beyond that title. Her willingness to help out and take on additional responsibility has earned her this recognition. Her outstanding work ethic and her cheerful and upbeat personality make her a pleasure to work with. She volunteers quickly and pitches in with whatever needs done.

She is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University and Slippery Rock University.

She has been at Thiel since January 2013. Prior to coming to Thiel she was a Sales Tax Auditor for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a bookkeeper at Elder Sales Service.

She was born and raised in Greenville and lives in Clarks Mills, Pa. with her husband, Tom.

#### Diane Donnelly



Diane Donnelly, assistant director of The Learning Commons, began her career at Thiel College in August 1988, serving as an Academic Advisor in the Academic Success Center, currently The Learning Commons. In September 2014, she was appointed Assistant Director of The Learning Commons and Director of the Act 101 state- funded program. As an adjunct faculty member, Donnelly has taught a First Year Seminar course designed for student-athletes. She serves on several campus committees and is the advisor for both Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society and Alpha Xi Delta Sorority.

Donnelly earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education/ Communication Arts and English from Clarion University of Pa. and a Master of Arts degree in Student Personnel from Slippery Rock University.

She is an 18-year member of the Shenango Valley Chorale, has performed with the Chorale's Madrigal Singers for five years, and is on its board of directors. She also "dabbled" in acting while performing with the Greenville Area Community Theatre for six years.

Diane resides in Sharon, Pa. and is the proud and doting aunt of six nephews and nieces and a great nephew and great niece.

#### Roberta Leonard



Roberta Leonard has been the Executive Director of the Capital Campaign since August of 2014. The Capital Campaign is the largest fund-raising campaign ever undertaken by Thiel College and has a goal of \$65 million.

Prior to that she was the Executive Director of Donor Services, a position she held for 21 months. Before that she was the Director of Corporate, Foundation, and Government Support.

Leonard has been recognized by many for her hard work and during the Alumni Awards ceremony at the 2014 Homecoming celebration, one of the award winners singled out Leonard for her tireless efforts on behalf of the college

She has also been involved with several local organizations. She has served as the President of the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce and is a board member of the Greenville Reynolds Development, Greenville Area Economic Development Corporation, Greenville Area Relay for Life, and Mercer County Children's Transplant Fund.

She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1991. She remains passionate about the difference Thiel College can and does make in the lives of the young men and women who attend here. Her family is large and loud and are often seen on Thiel's campus.





Tammy Shilling, administrative assistant to the Vice President for Enrollment Management, has been with Thiel College for 28 years.

Shilling also serves as the marketing and communication manager for the Admission department. She helps create and publish various marketing materials that are sent to students around the country. Shilling is a vital part of the College's efforts to recruit both domestic and international students.

She goes the extra mile to make sure the job gets done.

Shilling has worked for the Admission department for her entire Thiel career. Before working at Thiel, Shilling spent two years working in Washington D.C. on the executive staff of the National Rifle Association.

Shilling lives in Greenville with her husband, David. A daughter, Callie, is a senior conservation biology at Thiel, and a son, Colton, is a senior at Greenville High School. She and her husband own Life Force Ambulance of Western Pa. in Greenville.

#### Mike Shultz



Mike Shultz has been at Thiel College since last January and has made a big impact in that first year. He has worked to build better communication between the Facilities and Housekeeping areas and the campus community. Last summer, he managed a busy construction and renovation schedule and had those projects finish on time and within budget. He has built strong relationships with local vendors and supports the right balance between working with vendors and getting the best outcome for Thiel College.

Shultz has been working through the reorganization of his area and is diligently working to change the culture and attitude of employees in his area.

He attended Grove City College.

He is grateful for the support and guidance of his father. He also wanted to recognize his wife, Tracey, and sons, Jonathan and Christopher for putting up with his late hours and short temper. In receiving this award, Shultz thanked Vice President for Finance and Management Bob Schmoll and the Housekeeping and Maintenance staff.

#### Craig Thurber



Craig Thurber, Thiel College wrestling coach and adjunct physical education professor, is in his 13th season with Thiel. Thurber is a Greenville native.

Since taking over the Tomcat program in 2003, Thurber has led the Tomcats to six Presidents' Athletic Conference Championships and has taken 15 wrestlers to the Division III National Championships, with seven Tomcat student-athletes earning All-America honors. In November, Thiel was ranked 14th in the country in Division III. Thurber volunteers his time with the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, where he has led members of all athletic teams in community service efforts throughout the campus and Greenville community. Thurber is a strong supporter of academic excellence. The 2013-14 team finished 23rd in Division III for overall grade point average. He has been a member of the campus safety committee for 10 years.

Thurber earned a B.S. in health and physical education from Slippery Rock University. His wife, Kristin, is a sixth grade teacher in the Greenville School District. They have three young children: daughters Keetin and Karis, and a son, Cael. They reside in Greenville.

## Previous Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award Recipients

Paul J. Miller '69 ~ 1990

The Hon. Roy W. Wilt '59, H'87 ~ 1991

Richard L. Werner, H'87 ~ 1992

Donna C. Winner, James E. Winner ~ 1993

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

Dorotha E. Anderson ~ 1995

F. W. Knecht III ~ 1996

James E. Feeney  $\sim 1997$ 

Joseph A. George ∼1998

James Weller Jr. Family  $\sim 1999$ 

Peter Mortensen H'05 ∼ 2000

Dr. Robert Baker H'12, Dr. John Scullin ~ 2002

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

The Rev. Martin M. '66, H'06 and Sarah "Sally" (Fox) '65 Roth  $\sim 2005$ 

Paul E. O'Brien ∼ 2006

Senator Robert D. Robbins (R-50) and Cynthia A. Robbins ~ 2007

James D. Bittel Jr. '60  $\sim 2008$ 

Luther John Kuder '59  $\sim 2009$ 

Fred '65 and Jill (Shackett) '66 Haer  $\sim 2010$ 

The Frangakis Family Foundation  $\sim 2011$ 

John M. Hudson  $\sim 2012$ 

Harvey and Uta Childs ∼ 2013

Mark A. Nordenberg '70, H'97  $\sim$  2014

## Previous Professor of the Year Award Recipients

Dr. Curt Thompson ∼ 1992

Dr. Joyce Cuff ~ 1993

Dr. James Shaffer  $\sim 1994$ 

Dr. Richard Bennett ~ 1995

Dr. Robert Olson '60 ~ 1996

Professor Judith Newton ∼ 1997

Professor Jesse Ligo ∼ 1998

Dr. Merrill Downer & Dr. Tim Zgonc ~ 1999

Dr. Jay Ward  $\sim 2000$ 

Dr. Joyce Cuff  $\sim 2001$ 

Dr. Curt Thompson  $\sim 2002$ 

Dr. Mary Theresa Hall ~ 2003

Dr. J. Henry Barton  $\sim 2004$ 

Professor David Miller '61 ∼ 2005

Dr. Jay Ward ~ 2006

Dr. William A. Robinson ~ 2007

Dr. Cynthia L. Sutton  $\sim 2008$ 

Dr. James H. Shaffer ~ 2009

Professor M.J. Yusko-Howsare ~ 2010

Dr. David R. Buck ~ 2011

Dr. Joyce Cuff  $\sim 2012$ 

Dr. William A. Robinson  $\sim 2013$ 

Dr. Nick Despo & Dr. Judith Newton  $\sim 2014$ 

## Previous Distinguished Faculty Award Recipients

(2001)

Dr. Christopher Moinet Dr. Gregory Peterson Dr. Mark DelMaramo

Dr. Sara Lightner

(2002)

Dr. Nicholas Despo Dr. Mary Theresa Hall Prof. Judith Newton Prof. Joan Heald

(2003)

Prof. Judith Newton Dr. Jay Ward Prof. John Wise Prof. Ruth Leone

(2004)

Dr. Michael T. Balas Dr. Kristin Kiblinger Dr. William Robinson Prof. Brenda DelMaramo

(2005)

Dr. Jennifer Griffin Dr. James Bloomfield Dr. G. Rattan Kaur Khalsa Dr. Emerson Heald

(2006)

Dr. Cynthia Sutton Prof. Sean McConnor Dr. Beth Parkinson Prof. Jennifer Curry '91

(2007)

Dr. Mary Theresa Hall Dr. Arthur White Jr. Dr. Mervin Newton Prof. Helen Nichols (2008)

Dr. Kathryn K. Frantz Rev. Dr. Curtis L. Thompson Dr. Michael R. Bray Prof. Loretta J. Ball '67

(2009)

Dr. David R. Buck Rev. Dr. Derek Nelson Prof. Connie S. Reinhart Prof. John M. Gibson

(2010)

Dr. Curtis Thompson Dr. Cory Grewell Dr. Cynthia Sutton Prof. Rachel Doddato

(2011)

Dr. Lisa Walton Dr. Robert Wells Dr. James Koshan Prof. Kathleen Christiansen

(2012)

Dr. Kathryn Frantz Dr. Michael Bacon Dr. Matthew Morgan Prof. Alecia Eppley

(2013)

Dr. Mary Theresa Hall Dr. Christopher Stanisky Dr. Dan Eppley Prof. Kathryn Gray

(2014)

Dr. Mary Theresa Hall Dr. Jie Wu Prof. Gayle Jesse Prof. Angela Virostick

## Previous Distinguished Staff Award Recipients

(2001)
Pat Cullen
Jeff Taylor
Delores Harrison

(2002) Peggy Miller Wayne & Peggy Hause Sara Smargiasso

> (2003) Tony Vaccaro Linda Lewis John Armbruster

(2004) Pamela Despo Gayle Erdice '87 Anna Mary Hoovler

(2005)
Homer Bloom '02
Donald Aubrecht
Mark McGrath '86
Barbara Long-Cooper '98
Cynthia Farrell '77

(2006)
Joyce Minor
Roberta Leonard
Heather Balas '01
Kevin Fenstermacher
John Marzka

(2007)
Ed Schutte
Jerri Reed '05
Clyde Morgan '00
Elizabeth Hildebrand
Vicki Poe

(2008)
Dr. Kathleen Ward
Susan Richards
Marsha Wissinger
Cindy McClelland
Sherrie Ogello

(2009)
Susan Swartzbeck
Joe Langdon
Elizabeth Stuyvesant
Liz Young
Joyce DeFrancesco

(2010) Jennie Kather Allen Morrill James Flammia Roberta "Bobbi" Mutinelli Jeff Linn

> (2011) Suellen Beckdol Thomas J. Luciani Barbara Blue Tressa Snyder Barbara Samson

(2012)
Pamela Despo
Jennifer Clark
Andrew Walizer
Deborah Schreiber
Lauren Oman Zuschlag

(2013) Rhonda Laird Joe Webb Jonathan Shearer Amy Schafer Bob Schaller

(2014)
Jonathan Shearer
John Gasperin
Joe Matecka '12
Leslie Graul
Jennie Kather
Ed Topoleski '02