

2019

Founders' Day



THIEL
COLLEGE

Founders' Day Convocation

11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, 2018

Lutheran Heritage Room, Howard Miller Student Center

PRELUDE

Clay Colley, *Piano*

***PROCESSIONAL**

St. Anthony Chorale attr. Franz Joseph Haydn

***PLACING OF COLLEGE MACE** Jared Johnson, Ph.D.

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

WELCOME Susan Traverso, Ph.D.
President

CHORAL MUSIC

Praise to the Lord arr. Sally DeFord
I Sing Because I'm Happy Rollo Dilworth

Julie Neish, D.M.A., *Director of Choral Activities*
and Assistant Professor of Music; Clay Colley, *Piano*

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL STAFF AWARDS

Roberta Leonard *Vice President for College Advancement*

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

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

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

Distinguished Staff Award Cindy McClelland
Administrative Assistant, College Advancement

Distinguished Staff Award Dennis Bish
Chief of Police, Director of Public Safety

Distinguished Staff Award Than Oo
Director of Student Activities and Involvement

Distinguished Staff Award Andrew M. Houpt '85
Interim Director of Facilities

Distinguished Staff Award Tressa A. Snyder
Reference Librarian for Instruction

PRESENTATION OF SPECIAL FACULTY AWARDS

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

Distinguished Adjunct..... Nancy Katz
Adjunct Professor of English, Academic Coach

Distinguished Scholar..... Michael T. Balas, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology

Distinguished Service..... Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06
Associate Professor of Psychology, Department Chair

Distinguished Teacher..... Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. '06
Associate Professor of Env. Science and Chemistry, Department Chair

Distinguished Professor of the Year..... Daniel F. Eppley, Ph.D.
Professor of Religion, Faculty Chair

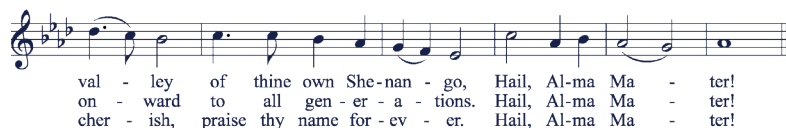
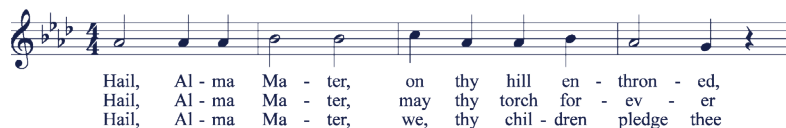
PRESENTATION OF THE LOUIS AND BARBARA THIEL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

President Traverso

**Sen. Michele Brooks
& Rep. Mark Longietti, J.D.**

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

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



***CLOSING PRAYER.....** Rev. Riddle
POSTLUDE

Clay Colley, *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.



Sen. Michele Brooks

Sen. Michele Brooks has built a reputation as a compassionate supporter of children, senior citizens, veterans and those in need. She has also emerged as an outspoken, results-driven advocate for job growth, regulatory reform and a common sense approach to budgeting.

Elected in the Senate in 2014 to represent Mercer and Crawford counties, along with parts of Erie and Warren counties, and re-elected in 2018, she serves as Chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. In the 2017-2018 session, she served as Chair of the Aging and Youth Committee and Vice-Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. Brooks made history as the first woman ever elected to represent the area in the state House of Representatives, and then again in the state Senate. Before her service in the Senate, she served eight years in the House of Representatives, after gaining experience as a Mercer County Commissioner and a Jamestown Borough Councilmember.

Brooks' work to expand and improve services for older citizens and children in the most effective and efficient ways possible earned her a prestigious, statewide "50 Over 50" Award from *City and State PA* as one of the Keystone State's most influential leaders. In 2018, she also earned a "Friend of Business" award from the National Federation of Independent Business.

She helped retain the Department of Aging as a stand-alone department, to keep Mercer State Correctional Institution open, and to reform the prison closure process. She served on a statewide commission to help recruit and retain firefighters and emergency medical technicians. She continues to be a strong advocate for education and preparing our children for the jobs of today as well as tomorrow.



Rep. Mark Longietti, J.D.

Rep. Mark Longietti, J.D., is a native of Sharpsville, Pa., and was elected to serve in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in 2006.

After graduating with honors from Sharpsville Area High School in 1981, Longietti graduated *summa cum laude* from Westminster College with a bachelor's degree in economics and political science. He then entered Boston College Law School and graduated *cum laude* with his law degree in 1988. Following law school, Longietti practiced law in Sharon for 18 years before his election to the legislature.

In the legislature, Longietti serves as Democratic Chairman of the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, as Vice Chairman of the House Democratic Policy Committee and as a member of the House Education Committee. He has also served as a member of the Basic Education Funding Commission and the Special Education Funding Commission. Additionally, he serves as co-chairman of the House/Senate Early Childhood Education Caucus, which is the largest issue caucus in the legislature.

In addition to his legislative career, Longietti has served on the boards of several local non-profit organizations, including local chapters of the American Cancer Society and the American Heart Association, Butler County Community College Advisory Board, Community Childcare Center, Keystone Blind Association, Laurel Technical Institute Advisory Board, Mental Health Association of Mercer County, Penn State Shenango Advisory Board and the United Way of Mercer County. He has also served on the boards of Community Action Agencies of Pennsylvania, Economics Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

Longietti has been a member of First Baptist Church of Sharon for more than 40 years and currently serves as an adult Sunday school teacher and worship leader. He resides in Hermitage, Pa. with his wife, Tina.

Distinguished Professor of the Year



Daniel F. Eppley, Ph.D.

Professor of Religion and Faculty Chair Daniel Eppley, Ph.D., has been a Thiel College faculty member for 12 years. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Gustavus Adolphus College, a master's degree in inorganic chemistry from Cornell University, and his Ph.D. in history of religion in the west from the

University of Iowa.

Eppley's research focuses on hermeneutics (approaches to interpreting the Bible) and the relationship between religion and politics in England in the 1500s, the time of Martin Luther, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, and Shakespeare. He has published and presented numerous essays and scholarly papers on various facets of these topics. Eppley's first book, "Defending Royal Supremacy and Discerning God's Will in Tudor England" was published in 2007; his second book, "Reading the Bible with Richard Hooker," was published in 2016.

He is a part of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and the American Academy of Religion, and serves as treasurer for the Greenville High School Band Boosters. He enjoys reading, exercising and Aikido.

Eppley lives in Greenville with his wife, Alecia Eppley. He has three children, Julianne (23), Michael (19) and Jacob (16).

Faculty Awards

Distinguished Adjunct



Nancy Katz

Nancy Katz is an Adjunct Professor of English and Academic Coach at Thiel College. She joined the Thiel community in 2011. Katz earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kansas in 1977 and 1980. She taught 12th grade English at Greenville High School until she came to Thiel, and was a speech, drama, forensics, and debate teacher for Bishop Miege High School in Kansas City from 1979-1989.

Katz lives in Greenville with her husband "and best friend for 40 years," Elliott Katz. She has two grown children serving in the United States military: Navy Lieutenant Commander Rae Barnett and Marine Corps Captain Joel Katz. Nancy Katz is a member of Congregation Tikvat Yisrael in Chesterland, Ohio.

Distinguished Scholar

Michael T. Balas, Ph.D.



Professor of Biology Michael T. Balas has been with Thiel College for 18 years. He earned his bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and his M.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Rochester. Prior to joining Thiel, he was an assistant professor for St. John's University (N.Y.).

He has been a member of the Entomological Society of America since 1992 and the Sigma Xi scientific research society since 2001. He also serves as a volunteer presenter for the Girl Scouts of America.

Balas lives in Jamestown, Pa., with his wife, Heather M. Balas '01, and children, Sydney (9) and Clara (5). He is a supporter of environmental conservation causes locally and globally, and is an avid collector of comic books.

Distinguished Service

Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06



Pickens graduated with her bachelor's degree in psychology from Thiel College, and went on to earn an M.A. in experimental psychology and a Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience from Kent State University. She returned to Thiel College in 2011 and is an associate professor of psychology and the chair of the

Psychology Department.

Pickens lives in West Middlesex, Pa., with her husband, Justin Pickens, Esq. '05, and her three children, Lucian (6), Grayson (5) and Harper (4).

Distinguished Teacher

Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. '06



Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Chemistry and Department Chair Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. '06 has been a Thiel College faculty member since 2011. She graduated with her bachelor's degree from Thiel before earning her Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Akron.

Reinsel is involved with the American Chemical Society as the chair of the Penn-Ohio border section. She enjoys being outdoors and lives in Brookfield, Ohio, with her husband, Tim Reinsel '06, and daughters, Penelope (5) and Rosalie (2). She wants people to know, "My students are amazing! Go 'Envirocats!!!"

Staff Awards

Cindy McClelland



Administrative Assistant for College Advancement Cindy McClelland has been with Thiel College since 1984.

McClelland holds a specialized business/medical associate's degree from the Shenango Valley School of Business. She was the Jamestown School Board Director

from 2005-2012, and has been an auditor for Otter Creek Township since 2015.

McClelland and her husband, Dave McClelland, raise grass-fed beef, and have eight horses, including four adopted mustangs and two miniature donkeys. Her son, Ryan Renwick '05, is a Thiel chemistry and business graduate who resides in Jamestown. Cindy enjoys family time, baking and gardening. She and her husband often camp and trail ride in the warmer months with their horses and three dogs.

Tressa A. Snyder



Snyder has been a reference librarian for instruction at Thiel since 2008. Snyder received a bachelor's degree from Edinboro University and a master's Degree in library science from Clarion University. She has worked as a librarian at the Corry Public Library and Southside Virginia Community College.

She has presented at the PA Forward Information Literacy Conference and has a publication in *Rural Libraries*.

Snyder is a member of the American Library Association, the advisor for Zeta Tau Alpha fraternity, and serves on the safety, assessment, diversity, and wellness committees. She served as the SEMS 110 instructor for "Environmental Awareness: Your Place in the World" during the fall 2018 semester. She lives in Hadley, Pa., with her husband, David, and has two children, Isabella (12) and Gabriella (8).



Andrew M. Houpt '85

Andy Houpt '85 graduated from Thiel College in 1985 and has been with Thiel for seven years. In the past, he has worked as an independent finish contractor, and recently was named the Director of Facilities at Thiel College.

Houpt has been an active member of the Greenville community, including the Elks and Moose Lodges in the past. He enjoys taking his family to their 30-acre getaway camp near Tionesta, Pa. He and his wife, Elizabeth Houpt '84, have two sons, Nathan '14 and Lucas '17.



Than Oo

Director of Student Activities and Involvement Than Oo was hired in 2013 and serves the College by providing students with an engaging slate of events and occasions throughout the year. He also oversees the Thiel Activities Board and Greek life programs at the College.

Oo earned his master's degree in student affairs administration from Binghamton University and his bachelor's degree in business administration in hospitality management from the State University of New York, College of Technology at Delhi. Previously, he had worked for Binghamton as a graduate coordinator of campus activities.

Than volunteers for Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, advising undergraduate chapter members. He also occasionally volunteers to instruct local fitness classes. He resides in Greenville, Pa.



Dennis Bish

Bish joined Thiel College last year as Chief of Police, after serving for 16 years as a police officer for the Greenville-West Salem Police Department. From 2000 until 2002, he served as a park ranger for the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Bish is a 1994 graduate of Mercyhurst College, Municipal Police Training Academy, and earned a state and national firefighter certification from the PA State Fire Academy in 1996. In 1997, he graduated from the U.S. Army Aviation Logistics School, UH-60 helicopter course, and served the U.S. Army from 1996-1999.

He is a member of the Jamestown VFW Honor Guard, and enjoys spending time with his wife, Lauri, and children, Benjamin (14) and Launa (12). Together they like amusement parks, fishing, cooking and traveling.



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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

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