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Alumni Awards Ceremony & Luncheon

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Homecoming 2023
Tommy-PAW-Looza

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023
Lutheran Heritage Room
Howard Miller Student Center

Homecoming 2023 Alumni Awards Ceremony

WELCOME & OPENING.....*Renee Bair '99*
Alumni Board President

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS*Susan Traverso, Ph.D.*
Thiel College President

INVOCATION.....*Pastor Brian Riddle '07*

LUNCH

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Arthur Wetzel, Ph.D. '73.....*David Fauth '73*
Presenter

Philip Joyce, Ph.D. '78.....*Donna (Sopber) Kline '79*
Presenter

SERVICE TO THIEL AWARD
Melissa (Eagon) Oakes '03.....*Gary Witosky '79*
Presenter

Anna (Piscbera) Reinsel, Ph.D. '06.....*Gary Witosky '79*
Presenter

James Frank '88.....*John Thigpen '86*
Presenter

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD
Becky Crawford '14*Nathan Nitczynski '15*
Presenter

CLOSING REMARKS.....*Roberta Leonard*
Vice President for College Advancement

ALMA MATER

– PHOTOGRAPHS –

Hail, Alma Mater

Thiel College Alma Mater
from the Hymn Tune "Integer Vitae"

In 2

♩ = 65

Music by F. F. Flemming (1811)

Lyrics by Grace Hunton, Class of 1900

Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter, on thy hill en-thro-ned. Firm as a moun-tain, may'st thou stand en-dur-ing.
Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter, may thy torch for-ev-er. Shed light re-splen-dent for thy God and coun-try.
Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter, we thy chil-dren pledge thee. Here our de-vo-tion, loy-al, true, and ten-der.

9 Fair as the val-ley of thine own She-nan-go. Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter.
Send the flame on-ward to all gen-er-a-tions. Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter.
Thee will we cher-ish, praise thy name for-ev-er. Hail, Al-ma Ma-ter.

rit. on verse 3

The Thiel College Alumni Association is proud of the ways in which Thiel alumni have contributed to their professions, their communities and their alma mater. The awards given each year at Homecoming single out those alumni who have distinguished themselves in three ways:

Distinguished Alumni are nominated by the Thiel community and approved for recognition by the Alumni Association Board of Directors for outstanding contributions to their professions.

Service to Thiel award winners are nominated by the Thiel community and approved for recognition by the Alumni Association Board of Directors for their loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel College.

Young Alumni award winners must have received their degree from Thiel College within the past 10 years. They are nominated by the Thiel community and approved by the Alumni Association Board of Directors for their potential for future accomplishments in their professions and in their service to the College.

A list of those who have received these awards in the past 15 years is included at the end of this program.

Arthur Wetzel, Ph.D. '73



Arthur Wetzel, Ph.D. '73 was born in Oil City, Pa. and grew up in Wentling Corners farm country near Knox, Pa. He developed a lifelong interest in science, math, and technology at an early age. He was influenced by his grandfather and encouraged by his parents. He was always experimenting and building electronic and optical devices, including telescopes, ham radio equipment, and a TV. He became an Eagle Scout in 1966 and was a founding member of a BSA Explorer post.

He continued his hobbies of astronomy and photography as a chemistry major at Thiel. He also began work in computing when Thiel got its first computer in 1974.

After Thiel, he entered the University of Pittsburgh Interdisciplinary Department Doctoral program in information science. At Pitt, he began as a teaching assistant and progressed to assistant professor. An important part of his Pitt work was setting up departmental computing systems with Bell Labs' UNIX.

At Pitt, he met graduate student **Rose Barbuto**, and they married in 1980. After his Ph.D. dissertation defense on genetic algorithms, the couple moved to New Jersey. Wetzel joined Bell Telephone Laboratories technical staff in Holmdel, N.J. With the breakup of the Bell System, he became a consulting engineer at Pixel Computer in Massachusetts. He became Vice President of R&D for xePIX Incorporated in Nashua, N.H. The couple's two children, **Nathaniel Wetzel** and **Annamarie Grand**, were born in Massachusetts in 1984 and 1987.

Later in 1987, the family returned to Pittsburgh and Wetzel began working in the computing systems group at Carnegie Mellon and teaching at Pitt. While continuing to teach, Wetzel also joined the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center (PSC)

in 1995 and has focused on biomedical image applications. He has contributed to pathology diagnostics through content-based image retrieval and was the lead on patents for automated microscopic pathology imaging.

Recently, he has collaborated on large-scale electron microscopy projects and traveled to institutions across the U.S. and to Germany. He is working on image projects at the PSC and has collaborations with the University of Texas and Salk Institute developing techniques for neural circuit reconstruction from electron microscopy.

He and his wife enjoy spending time with their nearby grandchildren **Teagan** and **Waylon**.

Philip Joyce, Ph.D. '78



Philip Joyce, Ph.D. '78 was a history major studying under the dedicated mentorship of Professor of History Emeritus **Bob Olson, Ph.D. '60 H'09**. Joyce was a member of Phi Theta Phi fraternity while at Thiel, in addition to serving as the official scorer for the Thiel men's basketball team and participating in intramural sports. Joyce got a master's degree in public administration from Pennsylvania State University and a Ph.D. in public administration from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

His career has included both stints in government service and as a faculty member at various universities. Joyce spent four years with the Illinois Bureau of the Budget, three years with the Illinois Department of Corrections, and five years with the United States Congressional Budget Office (CBO). He is a Professor of Public Policy in the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. Joyce has also been on the faculty of The George Washington University, Syracuse University, and the University of Kentucky.

Joyce has written three books and more than 50 journal articles and other publications. He is a past editor of the journal *Public Budgeting and Finance*, is a past president of the American Association and Budget and Program Analysis and is a past chair of the American Society for Public Administration's (ASPA) Center on Accountability and Performance (CAP).

Joyce is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. In 1992, he received the CBO Director's Award for Distinguished Service. He is the recipient of several national awards, including the Aaron Wildavsky Award for lifetime scholarship in public budgeting and finance (2012) and the Paul Posner Career Legacy Award from George Mason University (2021). Joyce has testified 14 times before the U.S. Congress on budget process reform issues. He has consulted internationally, both as an individual and for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. This consulting work has taken him to Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Guyana, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, and Slovenia.

Joyce has been happily married for 35 years and has three wonderful grown children. He remains in touch with a lot of his friends from Thiel days, especially his Phi brothers, many of whom have been connecting via Zoom at least monthly since the beginning of the pandemic.

Melissa (Eagon) Oakes '03



Melissa (Eagon) Oakes '03 graduated from Thiel College with a B.A. in business administration & accounting. She earned her CPA (Certified Public Accountant) in 2007 and her CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner) in 2008. She earned her Master of Business Administration in 2012 at Clarion University (now Penn West).

Oakes was a healthcare audit supervisor when she left Carbis Walker, LLP in 2008 and worked at MVS Saegertown as a cost accountant supervisor until 2010 when she joined Thiel College as a professor in the Arthur McGonigal Department of Business Administration and Accounting.

Oakes received, through faculty nomination, the Faculty Service Award at Thiel's Founders Day, Lambda Sigma's Professor of the Month three times (sophomore student society), and the National Society of Leadership and Success Service and Leadership Awards, both through student nomination. She has served as chair of the Promotion & Tenure Committee and as a member of the Faculty Executive Committee. She is the chair of the Arthur McGonigal Department of Business Administration and Accounting Department and a member of the Dietrich Honors Council.

Through the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants, she's served on the High School and CPA Exam Scholarship Committee, Schools and Colleges Committee, and the Emerging CPA's Committee, and reached the PICPA's Young Leader Award.

She was recently named a trustee to the George Wright Fund, which provides interest-free student loans.

Melissa lives in Sandy Lake, Pa. with her husband, **Justin**, and goldendoodles, Izzy and Skye. In her spare time, she enjoys boating, running, golfing (a new-found hobby) and traveling with friends.

Anna (Pischera) Reisel, Ph.D.'06



Anna (Pischera) Reinsel, Ph.D. '06 graduated from Thiel College with degrees in environmental chemistry and chemistry with American Chemical Society certification. She received her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from the University of Akron. She has been a professor and chair of the environmental science department at Thiel since 2011. She has taught a variety of classes, including courses in the

honors, environmental science, chemistry, geology, environmental safety management and interdisciplinary programs.

Reinsel's favorite thing about teaching at Thiel is her students. She is proud of the Envirocats, who she described as "amazing." Reinsel said she has been lucky to advise and mentor so many hardworking Thiel students who have become successful alumni. Under her leadership, the environmental science department has added an environmental safety management program that has brought with it "many awesome students." One of her passions is traveling with students. She has led multiple study abroad/away experiences with Thiel students including a Hawaii Ecology program this May.

Reinsel's service to the College, in addition to teaching, advising and mentoring students and leading the environmental science department, includes serving on a number of committees. This has included many search committees for administrators and faculty members to join the Thiel community. She is the Assistant Faculty Marshall and is a member of the Faculty Executive Committee.

She resides in Brookfield, Ohio with her husband, **Tim Reinsel '06**, and their three children, **Penelope (10)**, **Rosalie (7)** and **Tobias (3)**.

She is excited to continue her career at Thiel and go on many more adventures.

James Frank '88



James Frank '88 came to Thiel from Beaver, Pa. He is the son of **Curtis** and **Sally Frank**. While at Thiel, he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi, a three-time editor of the “Endymion” yearbook, a member of the football team (1984-85), and a DJ for WTGP. His family has a long affiliation with Thiel, as both of his grandfathers attended Thiel. **A. Dale Clarke '35** was a three-sport standout for the Tomcats. **Rev. James N. Frank '32 H'67** was awarded an honorary doctorate from Thiel.

Frank's father, **Curt**, taught chemistry at Thiel in 2009.

Frank has been very active within the Thiel community since graduation. He has been on the Delta Sigma Phi Alumni Control Board since 1989. For many years, before social media, he created and distributed a fraternity newsletter. He is active on social media with hosts of people from Thiel. He hosted the Delta Sigma Phi golf outings for 30 years and still has an active role with the annual event. He has rarely missed a Thiel golf outing over the past 35 years.

Frank served on a College-wide Greek committee in 2003. He is in his second year on the Thiel Alumni Board. According to his fraternity brothers, Frank is “the glue that holds us all together.” Another has introduced Frank as “Facebook before there was a Facebook.”

His latest project has been a series of YouTube videos with thousands of photographs of Thiel alumni. Frank has had a varied career starting in sales, both industrial and retail. He began a career in education in 1996, teaching for many years at Mars (Pa.) Area High School. He worked as an educational consultant for Dellicker Strategies, LLC. He returned to education and became the Principal at Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School in downtown Pittsburgh. After teaching evening courses at Butler County Community College for 10 years, Frank is working as a student services specialist.

Frank and his wife, **Tina**, live in Cranberry Township, Pa.

Becky Crawford '14



Becky Crawford '14 was born and raised in northeast Ohio. She attended Champion High School and graduated as valedictorian in 2011. She earned a Bachelor of Science in actuarial studies with a minor in mathematics and a Bachelor of Arts in business administration.

Crawford was the captain of the dance team, worked as a tour guide in the admissions office, and was a sister of Sigma Kappa sorority. After graduating, she moved to Texas to begin her career.

She received her master's degree in data analytics from University of Houston Downtown. Crawford has earned several professional certifications from Google, Amazon Web Services and other organizations. She was a presenter at the Women in Tech Texas Conference last year. She has worked in data science and data analysis for CGI and Two Sigma before becoming a business intelligence engineer for Amazon in September 2022.

She lives in Austin, Texas with her partner and two cats.

Distinguished Alumni

Award Recipients

2007

James Davy '75
Denise (Boustead) Muha '81
Edgar Robb '59

2008

Karen (Oill) Moury '79
Dr. Bette M. Simmons '78
Phillip Stutzman '62

2009

Robert Denove '75
Dr. Christine Lokiec Hammond '77
Richard D. Huether '74

2010

Dr. Thomas West '59
Lynn (Soper) West '63
William Parker '75

2011

Mark Funkhouser '71
Barbara (Lopez) Kunz '79

2012

Rev. Donald R. '68 and Judy
(Charlesworth) Thomas '68

2013

Dr. William Reinhart '61
Michael Lanciotti '78
John "Jack" Martin '78

2014

Ron C. Legler '90

2015

Dr. Frank Maenpa '69

2016

Dr. Donald L. Schweingruber '63
Dr. Robert D. Crutchfield '71

2017

George A. Summerhill Jr. '59
Marvin E. Hill '88

2018

Stephen Rowe, Ph.D. '65
David Fauth, Ph.D. '73

2019

Gary W. Fincke, Ph.D. '67
Joseph T. Nairn, D.Mgt. '79
Darrin L. Rubino, Ph.D. '95

2020-21

Andy Crago '71
Kevin Hart '86

2022

Tracy (Fair) Robertson '74
Amy (Maliner) Zell '95

Service to Thiel

Award Recipients

2007

The Rev. Dr. Albert Gesler Jr. '56
Arlene (Summerhill) Schultz '57
(posthumously)

2008

Dr. Daniel R. Herrington '68
Fred '65 and Karen
(Spence) McCullough '65
Richard '82 and Sandra "Sandy"
(Cotterman) Parker '81

2009

Marianne Kennedy Calenda '79
Daniel McMillen '86
Gary Witosky '79

2010

David Andrews '63, H'13
Mary Jo (Enlow) Andrews '63
Barbara (Taylor) Davis '51

2011

Dr. James & Lucy Shaffer '72
Knut Hamre '58

2012

Rae (Weiss) Johnson '59
Donald Achenbach '77

2013

Dr. James Bloomfield
Raymond Hanlon '74

2014

Joseph Scarpitti '80

2015

Phi Theta Phi

2016

Paul J. Miller '69

2017

Joseph T. Nairn, D.Mgt. '79

2018

Dr. Barry '70 and Carol
(Yeager) Stamm '71
Christopher Shinkman, Ph.D. '62

2019

Clyde J. Morgan '00

2020-21

John Barr '70
Cynthia Farrell '77
Damon Dohar '92

2022

Leo M. Phillips '84

Young Alumni

Award Recipients

2007

Ryan Gloyer '04
George Heald '00

2008

Daniel Diem '05
Arthur J. "A.J." Ray '00

2009

Jeffrey Keeling '07
Jamie Larrick Pinchot '99

2010

Dr. Justin Napotnik '04

2011

Brett Stedman '04

2012

Nathan Bissell '02

2013

Grant Alexis '05
Branning Street '06

2014

Michael Stimac '08

2015

Paul Stibich '05
Amanda (Rooney) Stierli '07

2016

Mathew J. Saur, J.D. '11

2017

Walter Luis Rosado, Ph.D. '07

2018

Kyle Fiedler '15
Antonio Quarterman, Ed. D. '08

2019

Maggie A. Giel-Bovaird '09
Kevin M. Farr '09

2020-21

Danielle Dwyer '11
David Saur '11

2022

Kayla (Ohlin) Emanuelson '13

Alumni Board of Directors

2022 Officers

Renee Bair '99 – President

Damen Taylor '95 – Vice President

Lindsey (Bona) Amar '07 – Secretary

Directors

Elliott Beach '15

Gary Bonner '80

Jessica (Peters) Burkley '21

Angela Campbell '20

Jim Frank '88

Austin Hall '17

Joshua Koncar '06

John Marrs '83

Sara Matczak '17

Frank Newnam '71

Amy (Myers) Noble '83

Talia O'Brien '20

Sean Oros '15

Sandy (Trasferini) Peace '87

Liz Prada '04

Michelle (Stahl) Reefer '90

Chris Shinkman '62

Zachary Smith '23

Gregory Stringer '87/'18

Brenden Tully G'23

Hannah Uschock '22

Directors at Large

Michael Allen '90

Laura (Lord) Broome '92

Nikki (Colpo) Galbo '06

Angela (Lago) Hughes '97

James McRoberts '58

Michael Miller '92

Jessica (Sommerville) Philips '08

Dawn Salter '95

Allen Schreiber '99

David Schreiber '00

Marion (Norris) Shoemaker '63

John Wotus '74



THIELTM

C O L L E G E

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