





*One Hundred Fifty-second  
Commencement Exercises*

*2026*

*Eleven O'Clock  
Saturday, May Ninth  
William A. Passavant Memorial Center*



 *The Order of the Exercises*   
May 9, 2026

**Prelude**.....Ralph Holtzhauser, Organist

**\*Processional**

Faculty Marshal, Candidates for Degrees, Faculty, Platform Party  
Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 in D (*Edward Elgar*)

**\*Placing of the College Mace** .....Jared Johnson, Ph.D. MBA'27  
*Associate Professor of English, Faculty Marshal*

**\*Invocation** .....The Reverend Brenda D. Martin  
*Campus Pastor*

**Welcome**..... Robert Burns, M.D. '74 H'22  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

**Introductory Remarks**.....Susan Traverso, Ph.D.  
*President*

**Presentation of Honorary Degree Recipient**.....Guru Rattan K. Khalsa, Ph.D.  
*Professor of Biology*

**Conferring of the Honorary Degree** .....Chairperson Burns

**Commencement Address**.....Shane A. Snyder, Ph.D. '94

*"Your Future Is Bigger Than Your Plans"*

**Special Music** (*by members of the Thiel Choir*)

**Turn, Turn, Turn**

*Words from the book of Ecclesiastes*  
(*Music by Pete Seeger; Arranged by Linda Palmer*)

**In Meeting We Are Blessed**

(*Music by Troy Robertson; Words by R. Gatsnahos and John Donne*)

**Recognition of Faculty Emeritus** ..... Sheila Nowinski, Ph.D.  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Dean of the College*

**Introduction of Senior Class Representatives** ..... Eugene T. Torigoe, Ph.D.  
*Associate Professor of Physics  
Chair of the Faculty*

**Class of 2026 Greetings  
and Class Gift Presentation**..... Jordan Wilhoit '26  
*Senior Class President*

Alexis Brown '26  
*Student Government Association President*

**Introduction of Senior Orator** ..... Dr. Torigoe

**Senior Address** ..... Riley Smith '26

*"From Small Spaces to Big Futures."*

**Special Recognition of  
Valedictorians and Salutatorian**..... Dr. Torigoe

**Presentation of the Class** ..... Dr. Nowinski

**Conferring of Degrees**..... President Traverso

**Distribution of Alumni Flowers**..... James Frank '88  
*President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors*

**Special Announcements** ..... Dr. Johnson

**\*Hail, Alma Mater** (Friedrich F. Flemming)  
(Lyrics by E. Grace Hunton 1900)

## Hail, Alma Mater

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

Hail, Alma Mater, on thy hill enthroned,  
Firm as a mountain, may'st thou stand enduring  
Fair as the valley of thine own Shenango.  
Hail, Alma Mater!

Hail, Alma Mater, may thy torch forever  
Shed light resplendent for thy God and Country;  
Send the flame onward to all generations.  
Hail, Alma Mater!

Hail, Alma Mater, we thy children pledge thee  
Here our devotion, loyal, true, and tender;  
Thee will we cherish, praise thy name forever.  
Hail, Alma Mater!

**\*Closing Prayer** .....Rev. Martin

**\*Recessional** .....Ralph Holtzhauser, Organist

\*The audience is invited to rise.

# HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATE

## **Shane A. Snyder, Ph.D. '94**

*Keynote Speaker*



**Shane Snyder, Ph.D. '94** is the José Domingo Pérez Foundation Chair and Professor in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. An internationally recognized expert in environmental engineering and water sustainability, Snyder has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications with more than 41,000 citations, establishing him as one of the leading researchers in the field.

A 1994 graduate of Thiel College, Snyder earned a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry with a minor in biomedical technology before completing his doctorate in zoology and environmental toxicology at Michigan State University. He began his professional career in 2000 with the Southern Nevada Water Authority, where he served as Research and Development Project Manager, leading multidisciplinary teams focused on environmental engineering and public health research. In 2010, Snyder joined the University of Arizona as a professor and center director, and he later held faculty and leadership positions at the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University for more than 13 years.

Snyder is editor-in-chief of the American Chemical Society journal, *Environmental Science & Technology Water*, and a fellow of the International Water Association. He is also a Board-Certified Environmental Scientist by Eminence through the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. His contributions to water science have been widely recognized, including receiving the 2021 Clarke Prize, one of the field's highest honors.

A pioneer in potable water reuse, Snyder has advised organizations including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the World Health Organization and has served on numerous international expert panels addressing water quality and sustainability. In October 2025, Snyder returned to Thiel College as a Common Hour speaker, presenting research on emerging challenges in drinking water and environmental health.

# EMERITA RECIPIENT

## **Guru Rattan K. Khalsa, Ph.D.**

*Professor Emerita of Biology*



Professor of Chemistry **G. Rattan K. Khalsa, Ph.D.** joined the Thiel College Department of Chemistry in 1980. She resides in Greenville, Pa. during the academic year and spends her summers and holidays in New Mexico with her daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren.

Khalsa earned her Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of Alabama, going on to earn her Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1979. After a one-year appointment as a Visiting Professor at West Virginia University, she joined the faculty of Thiel College. She served as Chair of the College's Department of Chemistry at various times for 13 years from 2001 to 2020 and was recognized with the Thiel Distinguished Scholar Faculty Award in 2005. She was named the Thiel College Distinguished Professor of the Year during this year's Founders' Day celebration in February.

Bringing decades of experience to her role, Khalsa has spent her time during sabbaticals and summers conducting extensive research for a cumulative five years at Los Alamos National Laboratory, one semester as a Visiting Professor at the University of Nevada, Reno, and one year at the University of Wyoming.

Outside of the classroom, Khalsa enjoys traveling, hiking, wildlife observation, and snorkeling.

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

## Associate of Arts Degrees

**Aronde Marquell Bridgett \***  
Criminal Justice Studies

**Novaleigh Rahna Firster \***  
Liberal Studies

**Abigail Elizabeth Rottman \* #**  
Liberal Studies

## Bachelor of Science Degrees

**Braelynn Sarae Anderson ☆**  
Exercise Science

**Triston Wrangler Barr**  
Biology

**John Marquis Bresnan**  
Environmental Safety  
Management

**Colton James Brightwell**  
Exercise Science

**Calvin J. Cackowski**  
Exercise Science

**Cierra Lynn Consider**  
Conservation Biology  
Environmental Science

**Tegan Ann Daugherty ☆**  
Environmental Science

**Alexis Rose DeMarco**  
Biology

**Karigan Taylor Hager ☆**  
Biology

**Natalie Marie Hering ☆**  
Environmental Safety  
Management

**Joshua D. Hovan †**  
Biochemistry

**Tyler Thomas Hussey**  
Environmental Safety  
Management

**Daisy E. Jenness ☆**  
Biology

**Kylee Lynn Jordan**  
Exercise Science

**Haylie Laree Kidd**  
Communication Sciences &  
Disorders

**Dreyvin John Livingston**  
Exercise Science

**Garrison G. Martin †**  
Exercise Science

**Landon Joseph Mead**  
Exercise Science

**Logan Vincent Milie**  
Environmental Science

**Tiffany Marie Mong**  
Communication Sciences &  
Disorders

**Madalyn Bella Moore ☆**  
Neuroscience

**Jenna Marie Murrey \***  
Biology

**Jakub Obman**  
Environmental Science

**Morgan Elizabeth Popielarcheck**  
Exercise Science

**Joshua Thomas Pugh**  
Information Systems

**Greg Roae ☆**  
Biology

**Jaellen Ross Keith Rose †**  
Data Analytics

**Erdem Elijah Schroyer \***  
Neuroscience

**Cole Thomas Sherwin ☆**  
Data Analytics

**Riley Thomas Smith ☆**  
Biochemistry  
Chemistry

**Kylee Rose Surrena**  
Communication Sciences &  
Disorders

**Tristan Reese Thalman-  
Bruckner**  
Communication Sciences &  
Disorders

**Hayden William Tucker** ☆  
Biology  
Neuroscience

**Nathaniel D. Turner** ☆  
Conservation Biology

**Mitchell Valentine**  
Environmental Science

**Kaya Storme Van Tassel** ☆  
Neuroscience

**Andrew Joseph Verostek Jr.** †  
Exercise Science

**Jordan Thomas Wilhoit** ☆  
Biochemistry  
Chemistry

# Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degrees

**Garrett Thomas Floch** †  
Nursing

**Miracle Lee Irene Jewell** †  
Nursing

**Bryce K. Knauf** †  
Nursing

**Grace I. Olshanski** † ☆  
Nursing

**Kelly J. Peplowski** †  
Nursing

**Carlie Anne Reynolds** \*  
Nursing

# Bachelor of Arts Degrees

**Savannah Jane Adams** ☆  
Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Toby Marie Atwood**  
Accounting  
Business Administration  
(awarded posthumously)

**Jeffrey R. Badger**  
Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Ali McKenna Baker**  
Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Amy Elizabeth Batt**  
Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Jaylen NyQuan Benjamin**  
Philosophy  
Psychology

**Mila Anne Brdar** ☆  
Criminal Justice Studies  
Sociology

**Alexis R. Brown** ☆  
Political Science

**Deandre Tremaine Pierre  
Brown** \*  
Communication Studies

**Michael Aaron Lee Brown** †  
Business Administration

**Megan Bull**

Criminal Justice Studies  
Sociology

**Emma A. Cannata**

Communication Studies  
Media & Journalism

**Muncie Jean Canon** <sup>Δ</sup>

English

**Marley Claire Chapman**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Haley Jean Chiappini**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Richard J. Cianci** <sup>#</sup>

Business Administration

**Katie A. Cook**

Conservation Biology

**Delaney Grace Cowger**

Psychology

**Hunter John Crouse**

Business Administration

**Sofia Marie DeJohn**

Business Administration

**Komlan Samuel Denu** <sup>\*</sup>

Business Administration

**Kaylee R. Diefenderfer**

Psychology

**William A. Donaldson**

Business Administration

**Jalen Lavar Douglas**

Communication Studies

**Fumika Ebihara**

Neuroscience

**Priscilla Ehrensberger**

Business Administration

**Kenny Ermat**

Business Administration

**Danielle I. Ficetti** <sup>\*</sup>

Business Administration

**Jordan Lynne Fiorentini**

Psychology

**Madison Elaine Fiorentini**

Psychology

**Abriana Louise Forsythe**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Shayla Elizabeth Jean Foster** <sup>†</sup>

Individualized Major of  
Inclusive Early Childhood  
Studies

**Griffin Nathaniel Fraterrigo**

Business Administration

**Josie K. Gadsby** <sup>☆</sup>

Accounting  
Business Administration

**Brandon Frederick Gala**

Business Administration

**Skylar Renee Garlick** <sup>\*</sup>

Philosophy

**Taegan Renee Geiser**

Psychology

**Jason Thomas Gerle Jr.**

Media & Journalism

**Blake Tyler Gibson**

Health Systems

**Isabella Louise Good**

Accounting  
Business Administration

**Aidrianna Nicole Green**

Psychology

**Sydney Peyton Green**

Psychology

**Brooke Elizabeth Griffith** <sup>☆</sup>

Psychology  
Public Policy

**Momar Yaram Gueye**

Business Administration

**Makayla Z. Hall** <sup>†</sup>

Health Systems

**Megan Alyssa Harding**

Psychology

**Ryan McNeil Hardware** <sup>†</sup>

Communication Studies

**Kylie N. Heid**

Political Science  
Public Policy

**Autumn Rae Hendry**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Kaitlyn Herrmann \***

Business Administration

**Fletcher Herman Hindman \***

Business Administration

**Kylee Lynn Jordan**

Psychology

**Allie Annette Kidder**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Aniya M. King †**

Psychology

**Michael Thomas King**

History

**Tristan A. Kloss †**

Political Science  
Sociology

**Bryce K. Knauf**

Health Systems

**Ronald Shane LaCamera Jr. \***

Health Systems

**Neira Laird**

English  
Psychology

**Keagan Allan Landfried \***

Computer Science

**Emma Claire Lechan ☆**

Philosophy  
Psychology

**Deon Logan Jr. \***

Philosophy

**Justin J'von Logan \***

Media & Journalism

**Carina Marie Loreno**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Breanna Christine Martin**

Health Systems

**Kailee Adrian Matter**

Business Administration  
Healthcare Administration

**Cody Tyler Maxwell**

Psychology

**Jamie Maxwell ☆**

Psychology

**Charlee Elizabeth May \***

Psychology

**Edward James McCarthy Jr. \***

Business Administration

**Kaleb M. McDowell ☆**

Computer Science

**Hannah Beth McGirr**

Communication Studies

**Brooke Pauline McKinney**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

Special Education

**Kendall Gale McLaughlin † ☆**

Business Administration

**Abbigail Corrine Miller**

Communications Media

**Hannah Faith Miller †**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Madalyn Bella Moore ☆**

Health Systems

**Ethan J. Narby ☆**

Health Systems

**Raegan Isabella Nelson**

Business Administration

**James Gregory Omerzo**

Business Administration

**Kelly Alana Oros \***

Accounting

**Makenna R. Oswald ☆**

English  
Individualized Major in Business  
Communication & Media

**Sara Elizabeth Owens †**

Business Administration

**Natalie Noel Cierra Pape**

Accounting  
Business Administration

**Austin D. Parker**

Business Administration

**Kendra Elise Pennington**

Psychology

**Kaleb S. Proudfoot**  $\Delta$

History

**Nathen Robert Prunty** \*

Business Administration

**Joshua Thomas Pugh**

Accounting

**Jacob C. Reeher** †

Communication Studies

**Devin Marie Rhoads** ☆

Psychology

**Seth Bradley Riley**

Media & Journalism

**Emily Ripple**

Philosophy

Psychology

**Carolyn Elaine Ruffing**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Colin Alexander Schroyer** \* ☆

English

**Erdem Elijah Schroyer** \*

Psychology

**Alexander Xavier Scott** \*

Criminal Justice Studies

Sociology

**Cole Thomas Sherwin** ☆

Computer Science

**Rachael Ann Smith**

Business Administration

**Alicia Marie Sowash**

Early Childhood Education/  
Special Education

**Gianna Nancy Spreace** ☆

Business Administration

**Connor Steven Steffens** †

Communications Media

**Samantha Josephine Stine**

English

**William J. Stines Puhlman**

Communications Media

**Ethan James Tabaka**

Accounting

Business Administration

**Martiale Blessing Tete** ☆

Psychology

**Madalyn I. Triskett** ☆

English

**Hayden William Tucker** ☆

Health Systems

Philosophy

**Taryn Skylar Vergnola** ☆

Criminal Justice Studies

Psychology

Sociology

**Katie Marie Wagner**  $\Delta$

English

**Haley Madalyne Weber** †

Accounting

Business Administration

**Savanna N. Welch** \*

English

**Hayden Wightman**

Business Administration

**Jacob Daniel Wittenberg**

Psychology

**Derrick James Zappa** \*

Accounting

Business Administration

**William Robert Zimmerman**

Business Administration

# Master of Business Administration

Zachary W. Bergstresser '25

Olivia Lynn Brown

Jordan D. Castona '25

Zachary James Dillingham '25

Brandon E. Flock '24

Jacara Lynn Green '25

Jonathan A. Martin †

William Michael McCready III '23 †

Aidan Joseph Ochs '25 †

Christopher Fredrick Slaven '25

LaShawn Lorraine Williams '25

## Master of Science Speech-Language Pathology

*Ceremony in July*

## Master of Science Physician Assistant Studies

*Ceremony in August*

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☆ Dietrich Honors Institute

Δ Candidate for Pennsylvania Department of  
Education Teacher Certification

\* Degree awarded Summer/December 2025

† Early participant; degree to be awarded when  
requirements are met.

# U.S. Veteran

*Special legacy photographs will be taken for those graduates whose immediate family members are Thiel College alumni. Please meet near the terrace in front of Greenville Hall (rain site will be the lobby area next to the Cafeteria) immediately following the Commencement ceremonies.*

# GRADUATION HONORS

## Summa Cum Laude

Savannah Jane Adams ☼  
Toby Marie Atwood ☼  
Ali McKenna Baker ☼  
Mila Anne Brdar ☼  
Alexis R. Brown ☼  
Muncie Jean Canon ☼  
Marley Claire Chapman ☼  
Haley Jean Chiappini  
Griffin Nathaniel Fraterrigo ☼  
Josie K. Gadsby ☼  
Blake Tyler Gibson ☼  
Brooke Elizabeth Griffith ☼  
Natalie Marie Hering  
Daisy E. Jenness ☼  
Kylee Lynn Jordan ☼  
Haylie Laree Kidd ☼  
Allie Annette Kidder ☼  
Carina Marie Loreno ☼  
Breanna Christine Martin ☼  
Charlee Elizabeth May ☼  
Hannah Beth McGirr ☼  
Brooke Pauline McKinney ☼  
Abigail Corrine Miller ☼  
Madalyn Bella Moore ☼  
Jenna Marie Murrey ☼  
James Gregory Omerzo ☼  
Kelly Alana Oros ☼  
Makenna R. Oswalt ☼

Natalie Noel Cierra Pape  
Kaleb S. Proudfoot ☼  
Colin Alexander Schroyer ☼  
Cole Thomas Sherwin ☼  
Alicia Marie Sowash  
Ethan James Tabaka ☼  
Madalyn I. Triskett ☼  
Hayden William Tucker ☼  
Nathaniel D. Turner ☼  
Katie Marie Wagner ☼

## Magna Cum Laude

Braelynn Sarae Anderson  
Amy Elizabeth Batt  
Colton James Brightwell ☼  
Alexis Rose DeMarco  
Madison Elaine Fiorentini  
Abriana Louise Forsythe  
Taegan Renee Geiser  
Sydney Peyton Green ☼  
Kylie N. Heid ☼  
Tyler Thomas Hussey ☼  
Emma Claire Leehan  
Edward James McCarthy Jr.  
Landon Joseph Mead  
Tiffany Marie Mong ☼  
Ethan J. Narby  
Joshua Thomas Pugh  
Greg Roae ☼

Devin Marie Rhoads  
Carolyn Elaine Ruffing  
Erdem Elijah Schroyer  
Rachael Ann Smith ☼  
William J. Stines Puhlman  
Kylee Rose Surrena  
Kaya Storme Van Tassel  
Taryn Skylar Vergnola  
Savanna N. Welch ☼

## Cum Laude

Triston Wrangler Barr  
Calvin J. Cackowski  
Cierra Lynn Consider  
Delaney Grace Cowger  
Hunter John Crouse  
Tegan Ann Daugherty  
Kaylee R. Diefenderfer  
Jordan Lynne Fiorentini  
Isabella Louise Good  
Karigan Taylor Hager  
Autumn Rae Hendry  
Kaitlyn Herrmann  
Alexander Xavier Scott  
Martiale Blessing Tete  
Tristan Reese Thalman-Bruckner  
Mitchell Valentine  
Jordan Thomas Wilhoit

Graduation Honors: Seniors who have completed at least 60 credit hours in residence at Thiel are eligible for graduation honors. Those who have a grade point average of 3.80 or higher are graduated summa cum laude, and are wearing a blue and white cord. Those who have attained a grade point average of 3.60 to 3.79 are graduated magna cum laude, and are wearing two blue cords. Those who have a grade point average of 3.40 to 3.59 are awarded cum laude, and are wearing two white cords.

☼ The Dean's Key is awarded to those students who made the Dean's List during all eight semesters at Thiel. Transfer students who attended Thiel for at least one year, were on the Dean's List every semester at Thiel and were on the Dean's List every term at his/her former college(s) also receive the Dean's Key.

# DEPARTMENTAL HONORS

## **Biology & Life Sciences**

Alexis Rose DeMarco  
Daisy E. Jenness  
Greg Roae  
Nathaniel D. Turner

## **Business Administration & Accounting**

Griffin Nathaniel Fraterrigo  
Josie K. Gadsby  
Kailee Adrian Matter  
Kendall Gale McLaughlin  
Kelly Alana Oros  
Natalie Noel Cierra Pape  
Ethan James Tabaka

## **Chemistry & Physics**

Riley Thomas Smith  
Jordan Thomas Wilhoit

## **Communication Sciences & Disorders**

Haylie Laree Kidd  
Tiffany Marie Mong  
Kylee Rose Surrena  
Tristan Reese Thalman-Bruckner

## **Communications Media**

Emma A. Cannata  
Hannah Beth McGirr  
Abbigail Corrine Miller  
William J. Stines Puhlman

## **Education**

Savannah Jane Adams  
Ali McKenna Baker  
Amy Elizabeth Batt  
Muncie Jean Canon  
Haley Jean Chiappini  
Allie Annette Kidder  
Carina Marie Loreno  
Brooke Pauline McKinney

Kaleb S. Proudfoot  
Carolyn Elaine Ruffing  
Alicia Marie Sowash  
Katie Marie Wagner

## **English**

Muncie Jean Canon  
Makenna R. Oswalt  
Colin Alexander Schroyer  
Madalyn I. Triskett  
Katie Marie Wagner  
Savanna N. Welch

## **Environmental Science**

Cierra Lynn Consider  
Tegan Ann Daugherty  
Natalie Marie Hering  
Tyler Thomas Hussey  
Mitchell Valentine

## **Exercise Science**

Braelynn Sarae Anderson  
Colton James Brightwell  
Kylee Lynn Jordan  
Landon Joseph Mead

## **History**

Edward James McCarthy Jr.  
Kaleb S. Proudfoot  
Hayden Wightman

## **Mathematics & Computer Science**

Cole Thomas Sherwin

## **Neuroscience**

Blake Tyler Gibson  
Haylie Laree Kidd  
Madalyn Bella Moore  
Erdem Elijah Schroyer  
Hayden William Tucker  
Kaya Storme VanTassel

## **Philosophy**

Emily Ripple  
Hayden William Tucker

## **Psychology**

Delaney Grace Cowger  
Kaylee R. Diefenderfer  
Jordan Lynne Fiorentini  
Madison Elaine Fiorentini  
Taegan Renee Geiser  
Aidrianna Nicole Green  
Sydney Peyton Green  
Brooke Elizabeth Griffith  
Megan Alyssa Harding  
Kylee Lynn Jordan  
Jamie Maxwell  
Kendra Elise Pennington  
Devin Marie Rhoads  
Martiale Blessing Tete

## **Religion**

Alexis R. Brown  
Megan Bull  
Emily Ripple  
Gianna Nancy Spreccace  
Martiale Blessing Tete

## **Sociology & Criminal Justice Studies**

Mila Anne Brdar  
Brooke Elizabeth Griffith  
Devin Marie Rhoads  
Taryn Skylar Vergnola

## **Theatre**

Alexis R. Brown  
Brooke Elizabeth Griffith  
Charlee Elizabeth May  
Gianna Nancy Spreccace  
William J. Stines Puhlman  
Martiale Blessing Tete  
Savanna N. Welch

*Departmental Honors are a prerogative of each department and are calculated and submitted by those departments that recognize such a distinction.*

## *Senior Class Officers*

President - Jordan Wilhoit

Vice President - Brooke Griffith

Secretary - Charlee May (*graduated*)

Treasurer - Nathaniel Turner

## *Senior Class Gift Committee*

Lexi Brown

Jordan Wilhoit

Graduates wearing honor cords and tassels are members of designated honorary societies.

Emerald Green & Sapphire Blue Cords..... Alpha Chi, national college honor scholarship society  
Teal Cords ..... Alpha Kappa Delta, sociology/criminal justice honor society  
Gold Cords with Gold Tassels..... Alpha Mu Gamma, national language honorary society  
Antique Gold & Light Blue Cords ..... Alpha Psi Omega, national honorary dramatic fraternity  
Blood Red & Leaf Green Cords ..... Beta Beta Beta, national biology honorary society  
Sapphire Blue & White Cords.. Chi Alpha Epsilon, national honorary for academic achievement  
Black & Gold Cords ..... Chi Alpha Sigma, national college athlete honor society  
Drab Cords ..... Chi Eta Sigma, national commerce honorary society  
Gold, Purple & Mint Cords ..... Kappa Delta Pi, international honor society for educators  
Rose Pink & Silver Cords ..... Kappa Mu Epsilon, national mathematics honorary  
Gold Cords with Tassels ..... Lambda Pi Eta, national honorary in speech communication  
Royal Blue & Gold Cords ..... Lambda Sigma, national sophomore honor society  
Scarlet & White Cords.. Les Lauriers, senior honorary society for scholarship, service & leadership  
Gold & Black Cords ..... Nu Rho Psi, national neuroscience honorary  
Dark Blue & Platinum Cords ..... Psi Chi, international psychology honorary  
Red & Light Blue Cords ..... Phi Alpha Theta, international history honorary society  
Purple & White Cords..... Phi Sigma Tau, national philosophy honorary  
Gold & Silver Cords ..... Pi Nu Epsilon, national music fraternity honorary  
Black, White & Scarlet Cords ..... Pi Sigma Alpha, national political science honorary  
Scarlet & Black Cords ..... Sigma Tau Delta, international English honorary  
Scarlet Cords..... Theta Alpha Kappa, national religious studies and theology honorary society  
Black, White and Blue Cords ..... Veritas Ars Quaero, humanities research honors society  
Red, White and Blue Cords..... Military

# ACADEMIC REGALIA

The gowns, hoods and caps worn in the academic ceremonies today are relics of clothing worn in medieval times by students and professors. In the early universities—Bologna, Paris, Oxford—professors wore more colorful academic regalia than do their modern-day descendants. The gowns and hoods were probably worn for warmth in the unheated halls where lectures were delivered.

Since 1895, in the United States, the colors and types of caps and gowns have been largely standardized. In 1932, the code was revised to some extent, and in 1960, it was revised once more. A few American universities have adopted gowns other than black in color, and in European universities there is more diversity in cut and in the cap than prevails in the United States.

## TASSELS

The tassels worn on the caps may or may not be of the same types. In some institutions, all master's degree and bachelor's degree tassels are black; in others, the tassels, which are the same as the colors on the facing of the hoods, reflect the degree received. The tassels worn by doctors may be black or gold thread.

## GOWNS

The gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The gown for the doctor's degree has bell-shaped sleeves, and is designed to be worn open or closed.

## TRIMMINGS

None for the bachelor's or master's degrees. For the doctor's degree, the gown is faced down the front with black velvet with three bars of the same across the sleeves; or these facings and crossbars may be of velvet of the color distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains.

## HOODS

The length of the hood worn for the master's degree is three and one-half feet; and for the doctor's degree, it is four feet; that worn for the doctor's degree shall have panels at the sides.

The hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree; more than one color is shown by division of the field color in a variety of ways, such as chevron or chevrons, equal divisions, etc.

The binding or edging of the hood is of velvet or velveteen, two, three and five inches in width for the bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees, respectively, while the color is distinctive of the subject to which the degree pertains.

## COLORS

For all academic purposes, including trimming of doctors' gowns, edging of hoods and tassels of caps, the colors associated with the different subjects are as follows:

Agriculture .....	Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities .....	White
Commerce, Accountancy, Business.....	Drab
Dentistry.....	Lilac
Economics.....	Copper
Education .....	Light Blue
Engineering.....	Orange
Fine Arts, Architecture .....	Brown
Forestry, Environmental Studies, Sustainability.....	Russet
Journalism.....	Crimson
Law .....	Purple
Library Science, Information Management.....	Lemon
Medicine.....	Green
Music .....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Oratory, Speech, Communications .....	Silver Gray
Pharmacy .....	Olive Green
Philosophy.....	Dark Blue
Physical Education, Manual Therapy, Physical Therapy .....	Sage Green
Public Administration, Public Policy, Foreign Service.....	Peacock Blue
Public Health .....	Salmon Pink
Science (both "Social" & "Natural").....	Golden Yellow
Social Work .....	Citron
Theology, Divinity .....	Scarlet
Veterinary Science .....	Grey

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Office of the President

*Dear Class of 2026,*

Welcome to a community of more than 14,000 active Thiel College alumni.

We celebrate your academic accomplishments! We—the alumni and members of Thiel College’s faculty, staff, and trustees—will follow your future endeavors with great excitement. We hope you remain connected to the Thiel community and the friends you have made at the College.

We encourage you to continue to use the resources we have for you on campus, especially Alumni Affairs and the Career Development Center. Stay in touch with the faculty and staff who have taught and encouraged you. They will be happy to support you in the next phase of your life.

Before you know it, you can take your first trip back as an alumnus to Homecoming Sept. 24-27, 2026. We look forward to having you back on campus for that exciting alumni gathering.

Sincerely,

**Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**  
President

**James Frank '88**  
President, Alumni Association Board of Directors





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