

The

# Thielensian



## Tri-Beta Holds Darwin Day Watch Party

By: Jacob Walsh

Feb. 7th, 2024: Thiel College's Biology Honors Society, Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta), held a watch party for the University of Duquesne's Darwin Day event.

President Alex Kovalyak organized the Tri-Beta watch party for 'Darwin Day 2024 - Of Swarms and Slimes: Intelligence Beyond (and Without) the Brain.' The watch party was held in honor of Charles Darwin's birthday. Alex explained why the event was planned, "Being a part of Tri-Beta our job is to improve the understanding and appreciation of biology and extending the boundaries of knowledge through scientific research." He then added "Our goal hosting was to get more people involved in the biological sciences and celebrate the birthday of Charles Darwin." Charles Darwin was one of the most prominent figures in biology. Darwin is mainly known for the theory of evolu-

tion and natural selection. Alex noted that "The event was very informative, and we were very excited to have the participation of other students in various biology courses at Thiel in attendance".

Alex described the importance of the biology's honors society, "Tri-Beta is important because it provides a distinction of excellence to dedicated students in the biological sciences. It also provides a dose of service to the community. There are also opportunities for its members to present research."

Lastly, Alex added, "Our goal of Tri-Beta is to be more involved on campus and have more of a presence for the student body."

This event came to fruition to celebrate the history of Charles Darwin and his impact on biology on his birthday (2/7). The University of Duquesne held a presentation over Zoom with the keynote speaker Simon Garnier, PhD, lec-

turing on the topic of evolutionary origins of cognition.

The watch party was held in Bly Hall. Many students who are involved in biology courses on campus and Tri-Beta's advisor Dr. Balas attended the event. The watch party was completed with the help of Thiel professor Dr. Broderick and the University of Duquesne. Tri-Beta inducts new eligible members each spring.

Tri-Beta's Executive Board is pictured left to right: Sydney Varga (Vice President), Marissa Locondro (Secretary), Alex Kovalyak (President), Jason Rau (Treasurer) Dr. Balas (Faculty Advisor).



## Thiel Holds 96th Annual Academic Honors Convocation

By: Christina Newman

Feb. 9th, 2024: Thiel College held its 96th annual Academic Honors Convocation in Passavant Center to acknowledge its Dean's List and honors students.

According to the Thiel College website, Academic Honors Convocation has been going on since 1928. This event is

intended to recognize students' academic achievements. First-years, sophomores, juniors, and seniors who earned a place on the Dean's List are given a certificate to acknowledge their accomplishments. Students with named and endowed scholarships, and members of Alpha Chi, the National College Honor Scholarship Society, and the Dietrich

Honors Institute are also recognized during this event. This year's Convocation began with a procession including the Thiel Board of Trustees, joined by faculty and members of Alpha Chi entering the room and going to the stage. Then there was an invocation led by Coordinator for Campus Ministries...

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# Current Events

## Thiel Holds 96th Annual Academic Honors Convocation

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..Audra Franley, who graduated from Thiel in 2017. That was followed by the Thiel Choir performing two songs: ‘Bonse Aba’ (arr. Victor C. Johnson) and ‘I Sing Because I’m Happy’ (Arr. Rollo Dilworth). The choir was joined by pianist Ralph Holtzhauser and led by Director of Choral Activities Brianne Samson. After that, a student speaker gives a prepared speech. This year the speaker was given by Senior Austin Siko titled “The Value of Preparation”.

Following that, Alpha Chi members were individually recognized. These students include; Alexander Andreozzi, Behtany Bonnar, Brianne Coatsworth, Erika Cook, Kylie Gardner, Emily Irons, Alexander Martin, Raquel McDonald, Emmalee Sheeler, Kylie Vergnola, Allison Walsh, Madison Walsh, Madison Yurich, and the new inductees which were not listed in the event program.

Next, five faculty members were recognized for holding Endowed Chair posi-

tions. The professors that were recognized were Dr. Mary Theresa Hall (James Pedas ’50 H’89 Chair of Communication), Steven Kanadray (Norman P. Mortensen H’81 Chair of Economics), Dr. Sheila Nowinski (Kenneth ’31 and Marianna Brown ’32 Detrich Honors Institute Chair), Mellia Oakes (David M. Miller ’61 H’20 Chair of Accounting), and Craig Thurber (Rod E. Wilt ’86 Endowed Head Coach).

Afterward, the academic honors began. There was a quick recognition of other academic honors societies on campus including; Alpha Kappa Delta, Alpha Mu Gamma, Alpha Psi Omega, Beta Beta Beta, Theta Alpha Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, Kamma Mu Epsilon, Nu Rho Psi, Pi Nu Epsilon, PI Sigma Alpha, Phi Alpha Theta, Psi Chi, Sigma Tau Delta, and Chi Alpha Sigma. Then athletic and Greek Life academic accomplishments were recognized. The Fraternity and Sorority that earned the highest combined overall GPA for the 2023 academ-

ic year were Kappa Sigma and Zeta Tau Alpha.

After this, the students who were awarded a place on the Dean’s List were called up by class, starting with first years, and working their way up to the senior class.

The Convocation was closed with the Thiel Choir leading the audience in singing the Alma Mater, and a recession with the Thiel Board of Trustees, joined by faculty and members of Alpha Chi leaving the room. After everyone had left, students and guests were invited to the Howard Miller Student Center for a reception with refreshments and opportunities for pictures. The Campus Store was also open for students and families to purchase merchandise with a one-time use discount they were given with their awards.



## Country Star Toby Keith Dies of Cancer

By: Colin Schroyer

Feb. 5th, 2024: Renowned country music singer Toby Keith has died at age 62 on February 5. After an extended battle with stomach cancer, he died in his sleep surrounded by family.

Keith had been diagnosed in the fall of

2021, which he announced on June 12, 2022; at that time, he had already received chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. From then he had been more open about his battle with cancer, as well as his hope for recovery. When he passed, his team had shared the news of

his death on Feb. 6 through his website.

The music artist is known for his overtly patriotic anthems, like “Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue (The Angry American),” rowdy bar house singalongs, such as “I Love This Bar” and...

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# Current Events

## Country Star Toby Keith Dies of Cancer

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...modern-country classics like his breakout hit song “Should’ve Been a Cowboy.”

During the 1990s, when country music saw a boom in popularity, Keith broke onto the scene with popular songs that, while many critics despised, fans adored. His powerful voice, humorous lyricism, and tonal range across his discography all helped him rise to stardom. But for as much as fans enjoyed his music, critics and record executives did not concur; many saw his music as boisterous and, at times, angry. Keith also developed a feud with country band the Chicks (formerly the Dixie Chicks) over their criticism of then-president George W. Bush.

Keith battled cancer for around two years before his passing. In an interview with KWTU, he said “Cancer is a roller coaster... You just sit here and wait on it to go away. It may never go away.” Speaking to E! News, he elaborated, saying, “You get good days and, you know, you’re up and down, up and down. It’s always zero to 60 and 60 to

zero, but I feel good today.” He has described the condition as “debilitating,” but also shared that he was trying his best to get back into shape with the hopes of being able to perform once again.

In June 2023, he told *The Oklahoman* of Oklahoma City that the tumor had shrunk by a third as he continued chemotherapy. Additionally, he said that he also received immunotherapy, a type of medicine that helps the body’s immune system fight cancer cells.

During NBC’s pre-show event for the People’s Choice Country Awards, which took place in September 2023, Keith said, “I’ve been going through my cancer fight for the last couple of years, and it’s really inspiring for a lot of people.” Despite his ongoing battle with cancer, Keith performed his song “Don’t Let the Old Man In.” He added, “Coming back on TV for the first time and performing live in front of a live audience, I thought it was fitting.” His most recent performance was in Las Vegas in December.

Growing up, Keith worked in the oil fields of Oklahoma making decent money. When the job went bust, he began in semi-professional football while playing music gigs on the side. As the music was where the money was, Keith abandoned football and fully pursued music.



In 2001, Keith spoke to *The Associated Press* following the success of “I’m Just Talking About Tonight.” He shared about his process, stating, “I write about life, and I sing about life, and I don’t overanalyze things.”

His breakout hit song, “Should’ve Been a Cowboy,” was the most-played country song of the 1990s, having been played 3 million times on radio stations. Across his career, Keith secured 20 No. 1 records, including “How Do You Like Me Now?!” and “Beer for My Horses,” which was a duet with Willie Nelson.

“He fought his fight with grace and courage,” as was shared on Keith’s website.



# Current Events

## Newborn Death During Delivery in Georgia Hospital Ruled Homicide

By: Jason M. Walsh II

The death of a newborn baby, that was decapitated during delivery last year in a Georgia hospital, is now being ruled a homicide. This decision comes after officials completed their investigation into the unfortunate incident. The medical examiner's office concluded that Treveon Taylor Jr.'s death was caused by "the actions of another person" and was not natural.

Dr. Roderick Edmond, a medical doctor and one of the family's attorneys, believes the hospital's medical staff hid the incident from the family. Edmond stated, "It's diabolical", "they tried to basically force her to get the baby cre-

mated to basically spoil the evidence", and that the hospital tried to prevent an autopsy.

The family filed a suit against the doctor, Dr. Tracey St. Julian, as well as the hospital, Southern Regional Medical Center, in Riverdale, Georgia. The family and their attorneys are alleging fraud, intentional infliction of distress, as well as gross negligence against the doctor and the hospital.

During the press conference, the family was present, however, their attorneys spoke on their behalf. The mother, Jessica Ross was asked if she had any words at the end of the conference, Jessica then burst into tears and left the podium. The

father, Treveon Taylor Sr. did share a few words. He shared; "We just want justice for our son", "They lied to us. They ain't let us touch him. We don't like it. We just want justice for our son". The Clayton County Police Department is now investigating the matter. Their investigation comes from the ruling from the medical examiner's office and the ruling of a homicide, death caused by another person, and finding out who that person is. The Clayton County District Attorney's office also commented that they are awaiting the pending investigation to file criminal any potential charges.

# Valentine's Day

## The Lovely History of Valentine's Day

By: Carol Birdy

Valentine's Day, celebrated annually on February 14th, has become synonymous with love, romance, and affection. However, the origins of this cherished holiday are shrouded in mystery, with a rich tapestry of historical events, traditions, and legends woven together to create the

modern-day celebration. The earliest traces of Valentine's Day can be found in ancient Rome, where the festival of Lupercalia was held in mid-February. This pagan celebration honored Luper-cus, the god of fertility, and involved rituals aimed at promoting health and fertility. One such ritual included the

pairing of young men and women through a lottery system, which often led to marriage.

As Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire, the early Church sought to Christianize pagan festivals, leading to the transformation of...

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# Valentine's Day

## The Lovely History of Valentine's Day

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...Lupercalia into St. Valentine's Day. The exact origins of St. Valentine, the patron saint of love, remain uncertain, as there were several martyrs named Valentine who lived during the same period in the 3rd century AD.

One popular legend suggests that St. Valentine was a Roman priest who defied Emperor Claudius II's decree banning marriages for young men, believing that single men made better soldiers. St. Valentine continued to perform marriages in secret, leading to his eventual martyrdom. Another tale depicts St. Valentine as a compassionate figure who, while imprisoned, sent love letters to a young woman, signing them "From your Valentine," thus, inspiring the tradition of exchanging Valentine cards.

The association between Valentine's Day and romantic love gained promi-

nence in the Middle Ages, thanks to the writings of Chaucer and Shakespeare, who romanticized the holiday in their works. By the 18th century, exchanging handmade cards and tokens of affection became a popular custom, particularly in England and the United States.

The industrial revolution further commercialized Valentine's Day, with the mass production of greeting cards, chocolates, and other gifts, making it the highly commercialized holiday we know today. Despite its commercialization, Valentine's Day continues to hold sentimental value for many, serving as an occasion to express love and appreciation for romantic partners, friends, and family.

In recent years, Valentine's Day has evolved to become more inclusive, with people celebrating all forms of love and affection, regardless of their

relationship status. From romantic dinners and heartfelt gestures to acts of kindness and generosity, Valentine's Day remains a cherished tradition that celebrates the universal language of love.

As Valentine's Day is celebrated in the 21st century, it's essential to reflect on its rich history and the enduring power of love to transcend time, culture, and tradition. Whether it's by expressing love to a partner, friend, or family member, Valentine's Day serves as a reminder to cherish and celebrate the bonds that enrich people's lives.



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