University of Wyoming College of Arts & Sciences

KEITH AND THYRA THOMSON
HONORS CONVOCATION 2023
Welcome to the Keith and Thyra Thomson Honors Convocation, a well-established tradition in the College of Arts & Sciences to celebrate undergraduate success. Today we honor undergraduate students who have achieved excellence in their academic endeavors in the previous year.

In the College of Arts & Sciences, we understand the important role parents, extended family, and friends play in helping students set and achieve goals. We applaud you for your efforts and congratulate you on your student’s success. We are also aware that teaching and mentoring are profoundly important to student success and the College of Arts & Sciences is fortunate to have dedicated faculty who do all they can to provide needed support for students.

Each year, top achieving College of Arts & Sciences undergraduates are selected to present their scholarly success during this event. We salute our student presenters and their professors who worked with them. In addition, the convocation is highlighted by performances by our outstanding students in the performing arts.

We are forever grateful to the late Thyra Thomson for her philanthropy and foresight, the foundation upon which this student-focused event was created. We also thank Thyra’s family and many friends who created the endowment to support the Keith and Thyra Thomson Honors Convocation.

Following the ceremony, please join me at the reception. I look forward to meeting you. It is my sincere pleasure to get to know our students, their families, and their friends.
Keith and Thyra Thomson were married in 1939 and became one of Wyoming’s most notable couples. Recognized for exemplary service and dedication to the University of Wyoming, Keith and Thyra Thomson “paid it forward” before the term was coined. In 1997, Thyra, along with her family and friends, established an endowment to ensure that academically successful College of Arts & Sciences undergraduates be recognized annually for their achievements.

After completing a law degree at UW, Keith, a Wyoming native, served in World War II. He received numerous medals, including the U.S. Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Italian Cross of Valor, and the Czech Medal of Merit. When he returned home from the war, Keith joined the Cheyenne law firm of Henderson and Thomson. Keith served two terms on the UW Board of Trustees and one term as president of the UW Alumni Association. In 1950 and 1952, he was elected to the Wyoming State Legislature. At age 35, in 1954, Keith was the first UW graduate to be elected to the United States House of Representatives. After three terms in the House, he was elected United States senator in 1960. Tragically, before he could assume office, Keith passed away.

In 1962, Thyra was the first woman to be elected Wyoming’s secretary of state. Although her name repeatedly was suggested for higher office, Thyra chose to remain secretary of state and ex-officio lieutenant governor. When she retired from office in 1987, Thyra had served 24 years—longer than any other statehouse official in Wyoming’s history. She was acting governor in the absence of both Republican and Democratic chief executives, Governors Hansen, Hathaway, and Herschler. Thyra was named a UW Distinguished Alumna in 1969 and College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Alumna in 1987. Thyra, who died in June 2013, served on many advisory boards throughout the state, including the College of Arts and Sciences and Sciences Board of Visitors.

Program of Events

UW Theatre & Dance Performance
“Tktktktk”
Choreography: Robert Kleinendorst

Welcome and Introductions
J. Scott Turpen
College of Arts & Sciences Dean

Greetings from the Thomson Family
Bruce Thomson

Keynote Speaker Address
Michelle Sullivan
Director of the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance

Student Speakers
Grant Dillivan
Presentation Title: Public Perceptions of Private Prisons

Veronica Garcia
Presentation Title: Que Picanete! The Sexualized Language of Latina Women on Social Media

Presentation of Student Honorees
Susan Aronstein, Karen Bartsch Estes, Adrienne Freng
College of Arts & Sciences Associate Deans

Closing Remarks
J. Scott Turpen
College of Arts & Sciences Dean

Happy Jacks Send-off
Convocation Reception in the Arts & Sciences Lobby
Michelle Sullivan is the Director of the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance, a Priority Fund of the Wyoming Community Foundation. Most of Sullivan’s professional and voluntary life has focused on the development of dynamic and connected communities. She is especially passionate about creating contexts where young people can pursue their interests, develop their skills, and find communities of belonging. Much of her work integrates cognitive science research to design effective approaches to human development and to strengthen the bridges between educational research and practice. She is also an advocate for the development of leaders on all levels in organizations and facilitates numerous leadership programs.

Michelle has served as a member and former chair of the Wyoming State Board of Education, a Commissioner for State Parks and Cultural Resources and was appointed to the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees in 2015. She serves as a Trustee on several philanthropic foundations including the Homer & Mildred Scott Foundation.

Based in Sheridan, Sullivan holds a master’s degree in Mind, Brain & Education from Harvard University. She was a Kellogg National Fellow and a Loeb Fellow at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard University in 1994. She graduated from Colorado College where she received an honorary doctorate in 1994.

Grant Dillivan

Presentation Title: Public Perceptions of Private Prisons

Grant is originally from Powell, WY and began at the University of Wyoming in 2020. He has dual bachelor’s degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology; and Minors in Honors and Sociology. He currently works as a Cowboy Coach Student Peer Mentor in the Student Success and Graduation Department and will soon be starting as a SOAR Mentor for the Honors College. He is president of the Criminal Justice Club, a member of the Phi Chi chapter, and an avid participant of intramural flag football. His dream is to work for the FBI as a Special Agent, and in his Junior year, he had his first criminal justice career opportunity working as a Student Intern with the Wyoming Department of Corrections. He has also conducted research as an undergraduate research assistant in the Legal Decision-Making Lab (Director: Dr. Narina Nuñez). He is now conducting his own independent research project in the Social Cognition & Law Lab (Director: Dr. Kayla Burd). In this project, he is investigating public perceptions of private prisons. Specifically, he is examining how perceptions might change when participants are better informed about private prisons. He has had many unique opportunities through the Honors College, such as studying abroad on the Stealing Culture course, attending the Western Governor’s Leadership Institute, and working as a Program Coordinator for the High School Summer Institute. In his free time, he enjoys reading, spending time with friends, spending time outdoors, and playing video games.

Veronica Garcia

Presentation Title: Que Picante! The Sexualized Language of Latina Women on Social Media

Veronica is originally from Casper, WY and is currently a senior at the University of Wyoming studying International Studies with minors in Statistics, Japanese, and Honors. She previously received an A.S. in Psychology from Casper College. In the summer of 2022, Veronica had the honor of being selected as a McNair Scholar at the University of Wyoming. This gave her the opportunity to conduct a summer research project titled ‘Que Picante! The Sexualized Language of Latina Women on Social Media’ under the direction of faculty mentor Dr. James Alan Johnson. Veronica has also been actively involved with the Wyoming Latina Youth Center since 2019 under the direction of Cecilia Aragon. In the future, Veronica hopes to attend graduate school and aims towards working in foreign affairs.
Monique Acosta
Jaimie Adams
Matthew Adams
Annie Addlesperger
Luna Adeh
Max Aghbonkpolo
Cody Akin
Brandi Akin
Andrew Albers
Bryce Allen
Zachary Allison
Carson Almand
Marycruz Alvarez
Isaac Bayer
Madison Bearden
Adlynn Beck
Cole Beckstrom
Olivia Belton
Stephanie Benedict
David Benner
Daisy Bentley
Samuel Benton
Jordan Bertrangole
Brian Bessey
Zane Bible
Sondra Billman
Ashlyn Bingham
Brianna Bird
Andrew Bishop
Adam Black
Samuel Bleiezer
Savanna Bly
Riley Beck
Hannah Bolthouse
Willa Bonds
Brianna Bonefeld
Bailey Bonner
Sadie Boscher
Ben Bottom
Brittan Bower
Shawnee Boyd-Knowlton
John Boyer
Olivia Bradley
Bailie Brandt
Jaxton Braten
Hannah Brin
Noeika Brink
Whitney Brooks
Alexander Brown
Aisly BROWN
Allison Brown
Jonathan Brown
Anna Brown
Carter Brown
Mason Brummell
Alexis Bryan
Yixuan Bu
Kelly Buchanan
Mia Buchanan
Aydan Bullard
Eann Burns
Fisher Burris
Emily Byrd
Christian Cabral
Joshua Calhoun
Cassidy Calvert
Passion Campbell
Ranae Canaday
Delio Carducci
Jaedan Carnahan
Tasha Carnahan
Cole Cassell
Hailey Cassidy
Thomas Cassidy
Gabriela Castro
Trisha Cates
Brody Cathcart
Katelyn Cathcart
Shane Censullo
Michael Cestia
Felicia Chambers
Autumn Chavez
Shawnea Chestnut
Brenton Church
Sierra Clark
Shayla Clark-Mellort
Cameron Cloud
Deborah Cobb
Kym Codallos
Gina Colaw
Kayla Colburn
Sarah Cole
Lillian Collier
Kalley Collins
Jaret Collins
Lauryn Collins
Julia Colvin
Morgan Compton
Luke Condie
Camryn Cook
Skyler Cooley
Katelyn Cooper
Jasmyn Cooper
Nikayla Copenhaver
Cheyenne Corbin
Savannah Corneil
Paloma Costa
Sage Coventry
Katherine Cowel
Kealan Cox
Jaxon Cox
Candee Corbhill
Elizabeth Cozzens
Sean Craig
Ashley Cranston
Allyson Crile
Cortney Criss
Bryan Crouse
Jeffrey Cuevas
David Caminskey
Daniel Cummock-Francois
Chanel Cunningham
Kayla Cunningham
Grace Curran
Katie Currier
Garrett Curtis
Stephanie Dahlke
Olivia Dalebout
Madora Daley-Green
Dalla Via
James Damey
Jordan Daniele
Reese Davies
Angela Davis
Chelsea Davis-Hearn
Jackson Day
Allyson Dean
Meghan Dean
Brandon Dearing
Rebecca DeCero
Damin Delaney
Julian Delgadillo-Lovato
Monica Deru
Samuel Destories
Shayna Deveraux
Ellie Dewitz
Grant Dillivan
Kyla Dinges
Shelby Dodds
Joshua Dollar
Lesley Doney
Cody Donovan
Cheyenne Dorris
Laura Dorson
Melanie Doughty
Mayoree Dresang
Karla Duarte
Karter Dunham
Victoria Dunivan
Ashlyn Dunn
Alistair Dunnington
Sierra Durfee
Sarrah Durrant
Xavier Dusel
Kassandra Dutro
Ireland Earl
Joan Easter
Michaela Eddy
Sydney Edmonds
Morgan Edmond
Joseph Edwards
Mckenna Egolf
Josie Elder
Brook Eldred
Zane Eliason
Honor Roll of Students 2023

Duncan Emmons
Patrick Enderle
Lauren Engebretsen
Madison Engelby
Annastasia Erdmann
Mieke Erlandson
Briania Evelo
Tanner Ewalt
Morgan Ewart
Carrie Faaberg
Annellise Fandal
Abigail Farmer
Marina Farnum
Shannon Fassler
Lillian Feist
Aaron Feils
Brian Fenn
Boston Fernandez
Lexx Ferrin
Aubree Field
Conlon Fields
Samuel Firminhac
Tianne Fischbach
Drake Fjugas
Grace Fisher
Avery Fister
Diana Fittje
Weylan Fluharty
Sarah Foerster
Emily Foerster
Gregory Fornstrom
Jada Foss
Kevontae Foster
Rachel Fowler
Riley Frankel
Aspen Fraughton
Myakea Froehlich
Nicolas Fulton
Sarah Furia
Joshua Gaither
Amy Gallegos
Veronica Garcia
Antonia Garner
Melah Garwood
Jetteen Garwood
Haylie Gavin
Taylor Gay
Aurora Gearhart
Briania Geertson
Sabrina Geller
Aaron Giacoletto
Matthew Giarrusso
Katrina Gilbert
Lydia Gilbert
Katelynn Gilbert
Giselle Giornes
Emma Gist
Emma Glaze
Melissa Gleason
Garrett Glynn
Micael Goeglein
Ashlie Gold
Alexis Golinvaux
Sarah Gonda
Glenn Goodwin
Samantha Gossman
Grant Gramespacher
Sean Grant
Gage Graus
Skylar Gray
Matthew Green
Madison Greenberg
Laure Greene
Job Greenwood
Cameron Grieser
Allison Grimm
Carrie Grissom
Ivy Grover
Tarje Grover
Mary Gulkin
Ava Gunn
McKenna Guzman
Reuben Haas
 Ashton Hacke
Tristen Haddock
 Keeley Hagen
Alyssa Haimer
Madison Halas
Lindsey Hall
Alyssa Halls
Thristen Haloman
Guy Hamasaki
 Rochelle Hamilton
James Handy
Micael Hanly
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Elizabeth Hansen
Erynnna Hansen
 Dakota Hansen
Sage Hansen
Keegan Hansen Bennett
McDonnell
Hailey Hardeman
Annette Harlan
Elena Harmon
Grace Harper
Katherine Harris
Kaylee Haug
Kai Haukaas
Christopher Hawley
Andrew He
Jake Healey
Nicole Heatherington
Ryen Hedge
Deacan Heinz
Gerald Henderson
Peri Hennigar
Virginia Herboldsheimer
Val Hend Jr.
Tori Herrbold
Danielle Hershay
Jake Hicks
Reata Hindman
Bryce Hindman
Adrianna Hix
Alyssa Hodge
Kadin Hodges
Megan Hoffmann
Kelsey Hogan
Taylor Holliday
Lucille Holt
Amber Holt
Kari Holte
Hazel Homer-Wambear
Jenna Hoober
Christopher Hood
Dana Hoover
Colton Hopster
Amelia Horst
Darren Horve
Adeline Hoskins
Shay Hough
Zachary Houghtaling
Lana Houston
Hunter Hout
Cole Howard
Cassandra Howard
Sakhee Huh
Jordan Hunt
Anthony Hunter
Alayna Hutchison
Hailey Hysong
Madison Icenogle
Jeric Igo
Ashley Isum
Koiter Izatt
Cole James
Estelle Janetka
Siun Jang
Robyn Jauregui
Oliver Jenkins
Ashlee Jensen
Morgan Jesse
Kaleigh Johns
Lauren Johnson
Katie Johnson
Anna Johnston
Ronan Jones
Hailey Jones
Delaney Jones
Kaylee Jones
Ellie Jones
Jeremy Jones
Coweniewie Jones
Luke Kahl
Tanya Karr
Dariia Kasymova
Hannah Keener
Kaitlynn Keller
Moss Kent
Joshua Kentof
Duangdongphet
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Saad Khan
Husenjian Khan
Keely Kidd
Wesley King
Kayla King
Craig Kidber
Riley Klawiter
Mawe Keppner
Claire Knerr
Makayla Kocher
Ashlyn Kolkman
Kristen Koski
Kaylen Kott
Chloe Krick
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Trinity Kufeldt
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Edward Powers
Emmanuel Pregnon
Laura Prior
Casey Prior
Fayleen Psenick
Haley Purifoy
Carly Putnam
Sierra Quinn
Kiana Radcliffe
Karlea Radke
Callie Rafferty
Mary Ragold
Jaelyn Ramirez
Molly Rampulla
Erin Ramsey
Victoria Ransom
Logan Raper
Rylee Rech
Kathryn Redd
Drew Reece
Joshua Reed
Amy Reed
Jordyn Reed
Destiny Reed
Logan Reed
Emma Reed
Ashton Reese
Owen Reese
Lucas Regnell
Christina Reilly
Natalie Reyes-Aguilar
Taylor Reynolds
Olivia Rhoads
Brianna Rich
Ethan Rickett
Isabel Rieker
Peyton Rigg
Alexa Rigby
Chloe Riley
Annie Ripkey
Faith Riter
Victoria Rivas Zambrano
Nayeli Robles
Noah Roeuel
Kaylyn Rollfson
Antonio Roman
Devin Romberger
Mindy Roney
Israel Rosales
Leah Rose
Charlie Rose
Audrey Ruda
Tori Rueker
Taylor Rumpf
Brenden Runion
Charlie Rushin
Samuel Russell
Joshua Rutledge
Larissa Rutz
Max Rizi
Cierra Roberts
Whitney Roberts
Jenna Robertson
Raelin Robertson
Kylee Robinson
Mi Hay Robinson-Kim
Abigail Robinson-Kim
Nayeli Robles
Noah Roeuel
Kaylyn Rollfson
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Raelin Robertson
Kylee Robinson
Mi Hay Robinson-Kim
Abigail Robinson-Kim
Curtis Sanders
Treyjan Sandoval-Johnson
Grace Sanford
Sophie Sapienza
Jordan Sasso
Anna Savage
Brenden Schatz
Kacey Scheiderer
Madison Schick
Owen Schildt
Claho Schilling
Bryce Schlachter
Cole Schliebe
Andrea Schoenecker
Nicholas Schriber
Andrea Schulz
Hannah Scott
Eleaner Sedwick
Malena Seipel
Tyler Severin
Haleigh Seyfang
Grant Shannon
Kaden Shelledy
Dalyln Shellenberger
Victoria Shepard
Ashley Shimic
Olivia Shoemaker
Quayin Short
Colin Sieger
Brittany Silva
Kurris Silverne
Hailey Simmons
Stephen Simpson
Madison Singh
Dominick Singleton
Sydney Spojin
Cher Slater
Paul Sloan
Grace Smith
Stacey Smith
Emily Smith
Sydney Smith
Saber Smith
Jessica Smith
Laney Sorensen
Emma Sorensen
Bailey Sorensen
Amaya Spatz
Danielle Specht
Abigail Spiegel
Ashlynn Spohr
Elise Spomer
Baylee Stafford
Ashlee Stalcup
Jessie Stanlely
Trevor Stanfill
Emily Steele
Zane Steele
Faith Steinberg
Alexis Steinele
Cosette Stellern
Eza Stenapnek
Alicia Stevens
Kayleigh Stevens
Jodie Stevenson
Elena Stewart
Andrea Stigers
Jacine Stokes
Danika Stone
Lander Stone
Jolie Strahan
Jacob Streecker
Janelle Streeter
Georgia Strimenos
Kyle Strobele
Brooke Studebaker
Cody Stults
Seneva Sullivan
Joelou Sulzen
Read Sunn
Athena Suradis
Shelby Sutton
Hannah Swan
Aaron Swaney
Sabrina Swiontek
Carly Syren
Zach Taylor
Jessie Taylor
Alyse Taylor
Elijah Telkamp
Madeylyn Telkamp
Quinn Teller
Kennedy Templeton
Bella Terhark
Paola Terrazas Olmedo
Brealyon Terry
Abigail Tharp
Bryce Thomas
Tammy Thomas
Madison Thomas
Kyle Thomas
Samantha Thomas
Sidney Thomas
Kassidy Thomas
Cheyenne Thomsms
Parker Thompson
Sarah Thomson
Kendra Timberman
Emma Tinsley
Kaia Tippets
Taylor Tobin
Lydia Toelle
Jordan Toller
Louis Torres
Tanner Toussaint
Jennifer Trabert Campos
Tyrianna Trass
William Trimmel
Abigail Truax
Rachelle Trujillo
Carson Tulis
Douglas Tumminello
Courtney Turpen
Colby Turpen
Heather Tyler
Performers

Teddy Tyndall
Elizabeth Underbrink
Daniel Uptain
David Van Slyke
Madeline Van Wick
Keyle Vandeberg
Jade Vandel
Karylyn Vander Meer
Sergio Varela
Byanca Varela
Brandon Vega
Madeline Verheydt
Julianne Vicari
Maximo Vicente
William Vines
Gabrielle Vinkemeier
Michelle Visser
Kleo Vlastos
Anh Vo
Trey Waldron
Christian Walker
Caden Wiedernspahn
Gerrit Worthington

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Gerrit Worthington

UW Theatre and Dance
Title: Tktktktk
Choreography: Robert Kleinendorst
Music: Carapace by Freya’s Ghost
Dancers: Jocelyn Alvarado, Jackson Ellison, Mel Gleason, Jessie Standley, CJ Stodler, Julianne Vicari
Understudies: Avey Jespersen, Kaia Muffett
Music copyrights. All rights reserved

“Tktktktk” was created during the 27th annual Snowy Range Summer Dance Festival (SRSDF) held this past July. UW dancers cast in this work rehearsed for seven days learning from esteemed dance artist Robert Kleinendorst. Kleinendorst is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Towson University and performed with the Paul Taylor Dance Company for over 20 years. Training and working with world renowned dance artists serve as a cornerstone to the mission and vision of the SRSDF. Experiences such as this provides an essential tool in the artistic growth of UW dancers.

Happy Jacks
The University of Wyoming Happy Jacks enjoy a sense of camaraderie and congeniality that permeates rehearsals and performances alike. They are an auditioned tenor-bass ensemble that are also members of the UW Singing Statesmen. Through performances of a diverse body of repertoire, the Happy Jacks strive to continually increase their musicianship skills, thereby positively contributing to high-quality musical endeavors.

Honor Roll of Students 2023

Teddy Tyndall
Elizabeth Underbrink
Daniel Uptain
David Van Slyke
Madeline Van Wick
Keyle Vandeberg
Jade Vandel
Karylyn Vander Meer
Sergio Varela
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Michelle Visser
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Anh Vo
Trey Waldron
Christian Walker
Caden Wiedernspahn
Gerrit Worthington

Names of Honor Roll Students are provided by the UW Office of Registration and Records. Please report any errors to that office.
Keith and Thyra Thomson Fund

Since Thyra Thomson established the fund in 1997, the Keith and Thyra Thomson Fund has aided the College of Arts & Sciences in celebrating the academic achievements of A&S undergraduate students. The generosity of the Thomson family has been an integral part of our legacy and will continue to be crucial for the future of the college. The Keith and Thyra Thomson Fund directly benefits the Honors Convocation, as well as being a fund for celebrating the success of our exemplary students. If you wish to be a part of and contribute to this legacy, you are able to do so at the following link:
give.uwyo.edu/campaigns/24954/donations/new
To give to the Keith and Thyra Thomson Fund, visit the above link, click the College of Arts & Sciences drop-down menu as your giving priority, select other, and please specify that your gift is to contribute to the Keith and Thyra Thomson Fund.
The College of Arts & Sciences thanks the Thomson family as well as all of our generous donors that help give us the opportunity to celebrate our students each year.

Dean’s Visioning Fund

In addition to the Keith and Thyra Thomson Fund, anyone interested in supporting A&S can also contribute to the Dean’s Visioning Fund. The Dean’s Visioning Fund is an endowment that goes towards shaping the future of A&S. This may include bringing in guest speakers or artists, establishing academic initiatives, purchasing important equipment or facilities and much more. In short, the fund supports the vision of the college in maintaining its place as the heartbeat of the University.
To give to the Dean’s Visioning Fund, visit the link given above, click the College of Arts & Sciences drop-down menu as your giving priority, and select the College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Visioning Fund. Thank you for your generous support.

Acknowledgments

The Keith and Thyra Thomson Honors Convocation is a prestigious event and opportunity to acknowledge the academic excellence of the best and brightest Arts & Sciences has to offer. While it is an occasion to celebrate this achievement, it is also important to acknowledge all those who make it possible. Thank you to all of our students, as well as the faculty and staff of A&S that support our students academic journeys. Thank you to the parents, family and friends that are in attendance as well as those who are not but play an important role in our student’s lives. A&S would also like to thank our generous supporters, the Thomson family, and countless others who allow the college to produce events like these to honor academic greatness. Finally, we would like to give a special thanks to the UW students who shared their artistic performances for today’s event.

UW Theatre and Dance
Jocelyn Alvarado
Jackson Ellison
Mel Gleason
Jessie Standley
CJ Stoflet
Julianne Vicari

Happy Jacks
The College of Arts & Sciences would like to give a special thanks to the performers from the Happy Jacks. The group is an auditioned tenor-bass ensemble that are also members of the UW Singing Statesmen

College of Arts & Sciences Administration

J. Scott Turpen
Dean

Susan Aronstein
Associate Dean

Karen Bartsch Estes
Associate Dean

Adrienne Freng
Associate Dean