



## Dr. Thomas A. Klein (Longtime UT Professor)

May 16, 1936 - September 17, 2020

Born in Toledo on May 16th, 1936 to Adeline and Arnold Klein, Thomas A. Klein lived a good and full life as an educator, writer, community supporter, friend, husband, father and grandpa. He passed away on September 17th at Ebeid Hospice from multiple health problems.

He attended Gesu, graduated with the infamous Class of '54 from Central Catholic (a proud recipient of the Order of the Celtic Cross Award in 2003), graduated from the University of Dayton, received his MBA from The University of Detroit and his Ph.D from The Ohio State University in 1964. He signed on to the College of Business faculty at Toledo University which was transitioning from a city school to a state university and renamed The University of Toledo. It grew and he helped in that process.

His early interests were statistics and marketing, teaching the required course for MBA students in research methodology. He served as a liason for the implantation of The Model Cities program and plans for the establishment of the Farmers' Market. In 1968 he was named One of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Year by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. He taught marketing courses centered on social costs and also designed courses for non-profit organizations. He mentored many students who kept in touch through the years.

At the University, he was named the Director of the Business Research Center, was the Associate Dean for many years and served as Acting Dean for the College of Business during the 80s and early 90s. Always aware of collegiality, he instituted the College family picnic and the get-togethers for new faculty to aid their integration. During this time, he was instrumental in instituting the Center for Family Business and the Sales Program.

His focus evolved to business ethics. He was a scholar, writing many articles and presenting papers for professional conferences plus two books, one of which was seminal in business ethics. The push he received from colleagues worldwide was enabling for him. He was most proud of the Macro Marketing Association Award in 2013 for his sustained and scholarly contributions to the field.

Sabbaticals were not just time off to enjoy a sunset, but spent researching and teaching which enabled him to widen his horizons working with other faculty. He did stints at the University of Rochester, University of California Berkeley (that was an eye-opening, jaw dropping, family experience), Simon Fraser University in Vancouver British Columbia and at Nyenroda School of Business in the Netherlands.

Officially he retired from UT in 1993. He was invited to teach Business Ethics at the University of Notre Dame which had him commuting to South Bend for a weekly three day stay, residing with retired Holy Cross Brothers. He was then invited back to UT for two more years to establish a Business Ethics Center.

He believed in supporting organizations which aided people to succeed. Asked to serve on many Boards and numerous committees, he offered his expertise, but was not reticent to sometimes offer a differing view. He worked with Civil Rights groups in Toledo. Sometimes an essay appeared in The

Catholic Chronicle, such as Catholic Schools Must Take All, Not Just the Elite (2/6/1976). His focus centered on groups whose goal is betterment of society. He was a long time member of the Boards of Goodwill Industries and of the Catholic Charities (President). He also served in the past on the boards of the University of Dayton, Toledo Rotary, the Metropolitan YMCA Board, the UT Y Board, The Diocesan Catholic Schools Board, and Toledo Opera.

Tom was not all work and no play: He and Karen travelled the world, but enjoyed their hometown very much, loving the symphony, opera, jazz concerts as music was for the mind and soul: six bars in and he could name the composer! He loved local live theatre, the art museum, and the fellow patrons. Saturday night was date night with Karen and Sunday afternoons were family excursion times. He had fun going to dinner with good conversation, playing tennis, hosting dinner parties, enduring his wife's latest cooking forays and, of course, so many activities with his family. Camping in the Sears tents across the country to California for six weeks and the return is stuff of legend. He was the cheerleader and analyzer at soccer games and pushed and begged the CYO to begin their competitive program forty years ago. He was a strong supporter of his children's academics, sports and science fairs, following the same pattern later as Grandpa. They knew they had his love and support.

He was a longtime active member of Toledo Rotary and of The Toledo Club where he participated with appreciation for all the wonderful members. He was quick with a quip, exhibiting his wry sense of humor.

Survived by his wife of fifty-eight years, Karen E.; his children, Dr. Peter, nicknamed Fritz, (Julie) and Kirsten (Michael) Dusseau of Denver; grandchildren, Andrew, Katherine and Daniel Klein, Otto and Henry Dusseau and brother, James E. (Sally) of Akron. A son, Stephen, died in infancy.

Thanks go to Meg for her wonderful care at Ebeid Hospice.

The Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 a.m. at St. Joan of Arc, 5950 Heatherdowns Blvd., Saturday September 26th, with visitation beginning at 10 am. Masks required. The Funeral Mass will also be live streamed via St. Joan of Arc's YouTube channel.

Those wishing to make a memorial contribution might consider The Thomas Klein Endowed Fund For Business Ethics at UT, Catholic Charities or to a charity of donor's choice. Please view and sign our online "guest registry" at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **26.** 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St Joan Of Arc  
5856 Heatherdowns Blvd  
Toledo, OH

## Service

SEP **26.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St Joan Of Arc  
5856 Heatherdowns Blvd  
Toledo, OH

# Tribute Wall

DO

“ Dear Karen, Fritz and family. No matter the age, no matter the reason, the loss of a loved one is most difficult to bear. There will be hills and valleys ahead for you.....ride with them that is important. May the fond memories of Tom give you comfort. I shall miss seeing Tom at the Toledo Club. I look forward to seeing you, there, Karen. May GOD carry you all in HIS heart. Blessings, Geneva Rodgers

dove3@bex.net - September 26, 2020 at 10:53 AM

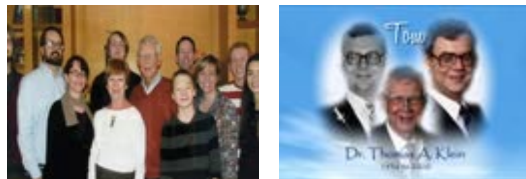
GK

“ Karen and Family, We were so sorry to see that Tom passed away, what a wonderful man. We have very fond memories of him. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you. George and Sue Kertz

GEORGE KERTZ - September 25, 2020 at 10:20 AM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS - September 24, 2020 at 10:48 PM

DS

“ My thoughts go out to the family. Tom was a great member of our finance committee at Catholic Charities and will be missed. ~ Donna Stefansky, Finance Director Catholic Charities.

Donna K Stefansky - September 21, 2020 at 05:40 PM

JE

“ Karen  
Our deepest sympathy on the loss of Tom.  
John and Debbie Eding

---

**John Eding** - September 21, 2020 at 03:20 PM

ME

“ Dear Tommie,  
It was nice (you know what I mean)  
to read your obituary and see that you had accomplished so very  
much in your lifetime. You always were the smartest kid in the class!  
We are proud of you!  
Margret Mary Conmay Kneisley & Mary Grace Elwell, Gesu Class of  
1950.

---

**Mary G. Elwell** - September 21, 2020 at 12:44 PM

MU

“ Tom had such a wonderful sense of humor, always delightful to talk  
with, we'll miss him terribly. Tom Uhler respected him as a educator  
and mentor. I know how close you two were. Take care.  
Marlene & Tom Uhler

---

**marlene Uhler** - September 21, 2020 at 11:38 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Tom's passing. I remember with fondness his  
being our chauffeur at the National USTA championships years ago.  
What a great supporter! My thoughts are with you, Karen.  
Carol Plimpton

---

**Carol Plimpton** - September 21, 2020 at 09:37 AM

JA

“ Condolences...70 yrs of friendship, mentoring, and example of true citizenship! We, and the world will miss him! Heaven gains a scholar, a teacher, a prophet, and a friend!  
*Jim Auth*

---

**Jim Auth** - September 20, 2020 at 04:19 PM

DD

“ My sincere condolences to Karen and Tom's entire family. He lived a complete life, and I was honored to serve with him on the faculty of the College of Business and Innovation, as well as on the board of Goodwill of NW Ohio. Tom actually was the Interim dean at the time I joined UT in 1989. He was a very kind and caring person, and I know Toledo is better for his presence among us.

---

**Dale Dwyer** - September 20, 2020 at 09:17 AM

TB

*Trish and I send our heartfelt condolences to Karen and family on Tom's passing. He will long be remembered as a truly engaging, talented and knowledgeable man who contributed so much of his time and talents for the betterment of so many.*

---

**Tony & Trish Barone** - September 20, 2020 at 01:27 PM

EP

*My deepest sympathies to Tom's family. I joined the faculty at UT while Tom was a superannuitant. Since then, to me, he has always been a fixture in the department. A group would go out to lunch or the department would have a gathering and Tom was often there despite his "retired" status. I learned a great deal about teaching and research and being a faculty member from Tom and always enjoyed his company. I think it was just last academic year when he joined us for a birthday celebration lunch and shared some of his engaging insights. He always had a warm greeting and a big smile when I would see him in the building.*

---

**ELLEN PULLINS** - September 21, 2020 at 02:57 PM

MO

*My deepest sympathy to Karen and Tom's family. It was Tom who was the interim Dean and Dave Lindsay who hired me as part of the administration in 1987 to oversee the CBA Student Services office.*

*I am very grateful to Tom and Karen who were very generous in opening their home for dinners and gatherings for new faculty and staff in welcoming them to UT and the CBA community. Not only was UT and the College of Business Administration a sense of pride for Tom, but also his love for the entire Toledo community.*

*Tom was a kind, thoughtful and caring man. He touched many lives throughout his life. He has finished the race and may he now rest in peace.*

*Mary G. Ormson  
CBA Assistant Dean for Student Services (retired)*

---

**Mary G. Ormson** - September 26, 2020 at 03:35 PM