

Peter Thomas

Author and social entrepreneur

Peter Thomas is known locally for developing the Four Seasons Scottsdale at Troon North, and internationally for building Century 21 Real Estate Canada Ltd. into a multibillion-dollar business.

Those "earning years" were built on the foundation of Thomas' "learning years." Now he is in his "returning years," focusing on giving back to the business community by spreading his message of success.

Thomas' "Be Great," published in 2009, is his fifth book directed at the business community. It establishes principles to help people merge their professional and life goals. He's traveling the country on a book tour, which he is no stranger to considering the numerous business workshops he has facilitated over the years.

Thomas' mission is to share the advice he received from an industrialist 35 years ago: Align your values and activities with your business philosophy.

This epiphany became the impetus for the value-based principles his LifePilot nonprofit organization was founded upon. LifePilot's goal is to help people overcome challenges in their lives and equip them with tools for success.

The organization, created in 2002, now has more than 5,000 graduates ranging from college students to war veterans.

Thomas received the International Caring Award in October for his philanthropic work. He started the Todd Thomas Foundation in memory of his son, who committed suicide in 2000, as a vehicle for mental health awareness.



Up close

AGE: 72

FAMILY: Wife, Rita; daughter, Liane; three grandchildren

HOMETOWN: London

RESIDENCES: Switzerland; Phoenix; and Victoria, British Columbia

EDUCATION: High school

Professional

WHAT'S THE TOUGHEST PART ABOUT WRITING A BOOK? Organizing what you want to say and focusing on that message. I find that I want to put in too much information.

WHO DOES YOUR LATEST BOOK APPEAL TO? Entrepreneurs, business students, and people who are looking for a bit of a change or want to raise their expectations of themselves.

WHAT DID YOUR SEVEN YEARS IN THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES TEACH YOU? How to get along with and relate to everyone.

AS AN ADVOCATE OF VALUE-BASED DECISION-MAKING, WHAT ARE YOUR CORE VALUES? Health, freedom, happiness and integrity

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE: Everything is attitude. When change comes, you can fight it or you can bend. You must be able to bend the way the wind blows.

Personal

WHY ARIZONA? Arizona is special — the weather, the people and their energy.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY: Work out daily — cardio for 30 minutes, weights and stretching for 30 minutes

TRAVEL SPOTS: Just everywhere in the world

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING: Deepak Chopra's "Mohamed"

VOLUNTEERING: Chairman emeritus, Entrepreneurs' Organization

FAVORITE TV SHOWS: "Dancing with the Stars" and "The Country Music Awards"

**ARCHITECTURE
& DESIGN**

Phoenix Design One, Tempe, promoted **Jennie Mayer** to associate.

ASSOCIATIONS

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce added **Lisa Barksdale**, **Daniel Froetscher** and **Brian Swartz** to its board of directors.

AWARDS**Welch**

Debbie Welch of Tempe received the 2010 First American Entrepreneur Award from the National Center for American Indian Economic Development.

**Epps**

Arizona Commercial Real Estate Magazine named **Barry Broome** its Top Economic Developer in Arizona.

Dr. Gladys Taylor McGarey was named Woman of the Decade and **Rena Huber** was named 2011 Woman of the Year by National Bank of Arizona's Women's Financial Group.

Terence Thompson was awarded the Hualapai Medal for Valor by the Tribal Council of the Hualapai Indian Tribe.

Two Valley winners were named in the national Stevie Awards for Women in Business: **Judi Hand** of Direct Alliance, Tempe, Best Executive (service businesses, up to 2,500 employees, business services sector); and **Deborah Bateman** of National Bank of Arizona, Phoenix, Best Executive (service businesses, up to 2,500 employees, banking, financial services and insurance sector).

BANKING & FINANCE

Linda Angel as office administrator, **Aimee Wood** as escrow assistant and **Leah Martin** as title assistant and analyst.

**Sabetta**

UMB Bank Arizona, Scottsdale, hired **Michael Sabetta** as vice president and private banking client manager in investment and wealth management.

CONSTRUCTION

Kraus-Anderson Construction Co., Phoenix, hired **Robert Prell** as senior project manager.

Helix Electric Inc. hired **Harvey Friedman** as vice president of pre-construction for the Arizona division, Tempe.

EDUCATION

Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, named **Kimberly LaPrade** dean of its College of Education.

**SPOTLIGHT: MARY ANNE ROUSSOS DOTY**

NEW POSITION: President and CEO, Arizona Council on Economic Education

FAMILY: Sons, Andrew and Connor

PETS: Cats, Charlemagne and Mozart; toads, Brownie and Arthur

FAVORITE CUISINE: Thai

HOBBIES: Gardening, fine arts and traveling

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in secondary education and MBA, Old Dominion University

HOMETOWN: Norfolk, Va.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO YOUR NEW OPPORTUNITY? Being in a position where I have the potential to impact student achievement in Arizona

MOST EXCITING BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: Working on a joint venture with Thomas Publishing in New York

CAREER ADVICE: Find yourself a mentor, and then become a mentor.

FIRST JOB: Assistant counselor at a summer camp for developmentally disabled children and youth

**Scott**

Cherie Scott joined Arizona Baptist Retirement Centers, Youngtown, as executive director of marketing.

INSURANCE**Foutz**

Jaclyn Foutz joined Ballard Spahr, Phoenix, as a litigation associate.

Polsinelli Shughart, Phoenix, hired **Molly Edwards** as marketing manager.

MANUFACTURING**Shnitzer**

Shnitzer to vice president-investments.

Turner Development Corp. hired **Bill Banks** as vice president of acquisitions, specializing in the Phoenix and Las Vegas markets.

MANUFACTURING**SERVICES**

AV Dimensions, Chandler, hired **Rob Vicks** as account executive.

**Robertson**

Michele Robertson joined the environmental, permitting and compliance

SERVICES**Bruno****SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

Harkins Theatres, Scottsdale, promoted **Barry Bruno** to head film buyer.

The Arizona Diamondbacks, Phoenix, named **Bill Duggan** as general manager.