

## **Joseph J. Thomas, Ph.D.**

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Dr. Joe Thomas is one of the founding partners of The Student-Leader Seminar and serves as its President and CEO. He also currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Admiral James B. Stockdale Center for Ethical Leadership and most recently the Class of '61 Chair and Distinguished Professor of Leadership Education at the US Naval Academy. He serves as an Executive Coach for the Executive MBA program at the Robert H. Smith School of Business and as the Academic Director for the Smith School's U.S. Customs and Border Protection Leadership Institute. He's provided executive and leadership coaching to strategic leaders in the private and public sector, led team-building retreats with organizations ranging from Fortune 50 corporations to Police and Fire departments, and trained thousands in high performance ethical leadership.

He is the past Director of the John A. Lejeune Leadership Institute at Marine Corps University in Quantico, VA. A U.S. Marine Corps officer for over 20 years, he remains active in philanthropic work to assist veterans, law enforcement, and the education communities. In the past few years his work has been featured in the *Washington Post*, *Harvard Business Review*, and *60 Minutes* among other print and television programming. Joe is also the co-founder of The Annapolis Leadership Center.

Joe's education includes an M.S.Sc. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, a M.S.S. from the US Army War College, a Ph.D. from George Mason University, and Certificate in Public Leadership from the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC. He is a former elected school board member, a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7293 and American Legion Post 739 Whitehall PA, and is involved in a variety of philanthropic and community services. He's taught at the University of Notre Dame, George Washington University, and the National Outdoor Leadership School in Lander, WY

Joe is the author of numerous articles and books on the subjects of character, training and education, and leadership. Joe is dedicated to maximizing the effectiveness of learning organizations and has built a Student-Leader Seminar team of world-renowned experts in a variety of fields related to leadership education. He has planned and led expeditions in the Appalachians, Rockies, Andes, Himalayas, plains of Southern Africa, and deserts and mountains of the Middle East. He has designed and taught leadership and ethics courses in Israel, Bulgaria, Romania, South Africa, China, Jordan, Turkey, among others. He and his wife Jackie have three sons and two granddaughters and reside in Annapolis, MD.

**Carol Graser, MBA, PCC**

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Carol Graser is founder of NextGen Leaders, a firm focused on the transformation of leaders and organizations through executive coaching, leadership development, and organizational change management. Carol works with senior executives globally who are leading enterprise-wide transformations and are facing significant challenges leading in turbulent times. She also works with leaders who have stepped into new roles, helping them take their leadership to the next level. Additionally, Carol is President of the Annapolis Leadership Center, a center for Experiential Leader Development, focused on outdoor team building challenges to develop leaders and teams.

Carol is an adjunct professor at the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, teaching Leadership Development in the MBA program. She is also an Executive Coach in the Executive MBA program at the Smith School. She recently developed the Advanced Executive Coaching Program for the R.H. Smith School at the University of Maryland. Carol has also been an adjunct professor in the Georgetown Executive Masters in Leadership course on Culture, and on the faculty of the Georgetown Leadership Coaching Certification Program. Carol was also the Coaching Coordinator for the Executive Masters in Leadership at Georgetown University. Carol currently coordinates leadership coaching for officers and faculty at the United States Naval Academy. She earned her coaching certification in the Georgetown University Leadership Coaching Certification Program, and the Professional Coach Certification (PCC) with the International Coach Federation. She has received certification in Brain-Based Conversations through the Neuroleadership Institute.

Carol's global clients include the following: Anne Arundel Medical Center, Amgen, Center for Naval Analysis, Children's National Medical Center, FDIC, Freddie Mac, Educational Media Foundation, Goodwill Industries, IBM, Johns Hopkins, Sapiient, IMS Health, Lockheed Martin, Merck Pharmaceuticals, Momentive, Pfizer, Shore Leadership, Under Armour, United States Naval Academy, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Postal Service, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Grounds, University of Maryland Medical Systems, University of Maryland Executive MBA Program, Veterans Administration Debt Management Center, Google, USAID, and others.

Carol has been the Executive Director for Organizational Development at Merck Pharmaceuticals and the Change Management lead for their enterprise wide transformation. Prior to that, Carol was on the leadership team of a startup strategy consulting practice at IBM, leading global consulting projects on ebusiness and Organizational Change. She was also Vice President of Customer Service for Caterair International (formerly Marriott), a Director of Pricing at Marriott Corporation, and a financial manager at Hewlett Packard. It is through these leadership experiences that Carol has forged her approach to leadership development and leadership coaching.

Carol received an MBA from the University of Maryland, and a BA in International Relations, American University, Washington, D.C. Carol's research currently is focused on the neuroscience of leadership.

Carol is a runner, specializing in 5K races, and lives in Annapolis, MD.