

Legacy Narrative Presents Dr. Zachary Thul

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to Season 4 Episode 10 of Legacy Narrative. I am your host, Dr. Madie Trolinger and I hope you're ready for yet another inspiring science story. Today, we honor my wonderful friend, Dr. Zachary Thul; a brilliant and esteemed genetic engineer who has done something no one else could. Over the course of the past decade, he has completed a vast number of life-changing projects, earning himself all sorts of recognition. Let's take a look into his early life, his career, and his accomplishments.

Dr. Thul, known as Zach to his friends, grew up in Darien, Illinois. According to his childhood friend and later roommate, Jacob Gleize, he always had a knack for science: biology, chemistry, astronomy, genetics—you name it. In an interview with him, Gleize can still remember all the monster drawings spread out across his bedroom walls and the model rockets sitting proudly on his desk. Once he graduated high school, he and Gleize attended Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois together. Bradley came to be the place where he met some of his closest friends and colleagues. Among them were Dominic Balsamo (the famous singer and YouTuber), Benjamin Keil (the actor who starred in *To Be A Man*), Edwin Jerone Flores (the man who cured COVID-19), and myself (MD and Author of *Creatures of Tomorrow*). We were as close as family, spending just about every day in each other's company. I swear, Dominic would say the strangest things back in college. We'd be sitting in the lounge and he'd walk in and say something like, "I have found that college is kindergarten with swear words" or "it's like a complex Rube Goldberg machine of death." I also thoroughly enjoyed playing Super Smash Brothers with them all on EJ's Nintendo Switch. Fun times, fun times. Of course, it was from these friendships that Dr. Thul found inspiration for his projects.

You see, Dr. Thul has an incredible passion for the tabletop RPG Dungeons and Dragons, D&D for short. During his time at college, he both hosted and played several campaigns. Eventually, by the end of his freshman year, he came up with the idea to combine science with D&D to bring the beasts of the Monster Manual to life. Once he graduated, he took up the internship that would allow him to accomplish his dreams; the SCP Foundation. Benjamin Keil always described Dr. Thul as a studious young man who dedicated himself to his projects. He was the type to take initiative and as a result, his boss offered him a permanent position as a genetic engineer within the first year of his internship. In 2027, Dr. Thul met Rosemary Cairns, a journalist writing articles on the company's discoveries. As Dominic Balsamo put it, she shared his love for science and the supernatural. His third year at the company also brought him incredible fame as he managed to create a mind flayer out of specialized cells. Needless to say, this was a major breakthrough in the world of science and D&D.

In 2030, Dr. Thul married Cairns and took a five-year journey across the world with her. EJ recalls asking him where he wanted to go. All he responded with was "Don't know. Anywhere I can spend time with Rosemary is good by me." During their trip, they made a number of findings. Cryptids such as Siren Head, the Gremloblin, and the Impossibeast came to public light through Dr. Thul and his wife. The two even organized exhibitions to display the creatures they studied. It's been a few years since we attended his most recent exhibition in Peoria. As a creature enthusiast, I could not have been more proud of how greatly Zach and Rosemary have taken care of them. Dr. Thul eventually departed from the SCP Foundation and rose to become CEO of his own company, now known today as D&D Divine.

Since that day, Dr. Thul has created nearly every creature in the Monster Manual and continues to construct other creatures beyond the book. His work has earned him a number of different awards, including a Nobel Prize. Dr. Thul has also written three books, of which he gave me and his other friends signed copies, and lives happily with his family in the nice suburbs. He also accepts letters from aspiring scientists and wishes them well in their endeavors. On behalf of our show, we would like to present him with the Balsamo Keil Flores Trolinger Award, a custom award designed by his friends across the world. Not only do we celebrate his intelligence and perseverance, but we also acknowledge his profound kindness and humility in his interactions with man and beast alike. We hope to hold a very special reunion in the next few months to give this award to him in person. Again, thank you, everyone, for tuning in, and have a wonderful night!