

History in the Making

William S. Dietrich II leaves his mark on Thiel College with \$25 million gift

Despite his business success and generous spirit, William S. Deitrich II was not a household name in northwestern Pennsylvania. However, in recent months, his generosity has put him and the institutions he valued in the spotlight. Those institutions include Thiel College, the place where his parents met and fell in love in the 1920s. Upon his passing on Oct. 6, the College became the latest recipient of his generosity with a gift valued at \$25 million, the largest in Thiel College's 145-year history.

"A gift of this magnitude has the potential to fundamentally change Thiel College," said Dr. Troy VanAken, Thiel College president. "Bill's generosity to Thiel, as well as the community we call home, is overwhelming. Each time we met over the last several years, I left impressed with Bill's passion, focus and ability to understand investments in an increasingly global economy. The faith and trust he has put in Thiel College with this investment is humbling and will enhance our ability to serve our mission of academic excellence, ethical leadership, diversity and service to the world. With this gift, we begin a new phase in the history of Thiel College."

Bill's precarious financial situation growing up with his parents in Pittsburgh and Conneaut Lake, Pa., left an indelible mark on him. He knew he wanted to be successful and never spend another moment's worry about money.

After graduating from Princeton University in 1960, Bill served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves before joining Dietrich Industries, Inc., the company founded by his father, and transforming it from a small steel warehouse and distribution business to the nation's largest manufacturer of light metal framing for the construction industry. He earned master's and doctoral degrees in political science from the University of Pittsburgh while running the company. In 1996, Worthington Industries bought the company and asked Bill to remain as director, which he did until his retirement when he turned his full attention to managing the Dietrich Charitable Trusts.

Bill's connection to Thiel began in the 1920s when his parents, Kenneth Dietrich and Marianna Brown, met as Thiel students. Ken was a business major and Marianna studied English as a humanities major. Bill cited his mother for instilling in him the desire to explore the world and diverse new ideas and apply the knowledge gained to scholarship, entrepreneurship, collaboration and community. His father, whom he described as "a good man,"



Bill Dietrich with Dr. Troy VanAken on Sept. 7 at the announcement of his gift to Carnegie Mellon University.

taught his son the business that he would later make more successful than Ken could have dreamed.

Shortly after graduation, Ken '31 and Marianna '32 married in 1933, began a life together in Pittsburgh and had two children, William and Linda. The Dietrichs returned to northwestern Pennsylvania in 1947 to run a small hotel in Conneaut Lake, Pa. Soon after, Ken started a small lumber business near Blairsville, Pa., which would grow to become Dietrich Industries Inc. and would later flourish under his son's direction. Ken and Marianna retired to Florida by the late 1960s while Bill expanded Dietrich Industries to 19 plants throughout the country and weathered the 1970s recession by developing steel wall studs for the construction industry, something which by 1980 would account for \$15 million of the company's \$100 million annual sales. By 1996, the company would record \$350 million in annual sales.

Ken stayed connected to Thiel, serving on the College's Board of Trustees from 1978 to 1984. Bill was honored by Thiel College in 1996 for his leadership of Dietrich Industries with the Haller Enterprise Institute's Entrepreneur of the Year award, which is given annually by the college to a business owner who has demonstrated entrepreneurial leadership.

Unlike many would, Bill didn't spend the remainder of his days flying around the globe on a private jet from vacation spot to vacation spot. Instead, he poured his incredible skill, determination and work effort into shepherding his funds and helping them grow so that when he passed away, he would make the region that he invested his life in stronger.

"Bill spoke often and with great pride about how important this gift would be to Thiel College, an institution that meant so much to his family," said Edward J. Grefenstette, the chief investment officer of the Dietrich Charitable Trusts. "He was highly confident that the combination of these resources and President VanAken's leadership would mean that Thiel's greatest days were in front of it."

The gift will not be available as a lump sum to the College. Rather the structure of the gift is designed to allow it to grow through compounding returns for many, many years. Disbursements from the fund will be made each year to the College's endowment, where it will continue to grow. The College will be able to draw five percent annually from the endowment contributions.

The source of the fund that will benefit Thiel is the Dietrich Charitable Trusts, which are charitable remainder trusts created by Bill that own assets primarily generated by the 1996 sale of Dietrich Industries, which were grown significantly through a global investment portfolio. Upon his passing, the trusts will fund a new charitable organization, The Dietrich Foundation, which will administer the funds benefiting Thiel.

The Dietrich Foundation will manage funds left by Bill to Carnegie Mellon University (\$265 million),



Ken '31 (top) and Marianna (Brown) '32
Dietrich

The University of Pittsburgh (\$125 million), Thiel (\$25 million), The Pittsburgh Foundation (\$18.1 million, including \$5 and \$2.5 million for the boroughs of Greenville and Conneaut Lake respectively), Duquesne University (\$12.5 million), Chatham University (\$5 million), and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust (\$5 million).

Along with his business success, Bill was also a lifelong scholar of history and political science who never stopped learning. He was the author of "In the Shadow of the Rising Sun: The Political Roots of an American Economic Decline" and "Eminent Pittsburghers: Profiles of the City's Founding Industrialists," a collection of his essays which was released this year, and was working on a third book about China at the time of his death. He also was a regular contributor to *Pittsburgh Quarterly* magazine.

Bill was well known for his commitment to the betterment of the Pittsburgh region. He served on the boards of the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Chatham University, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, the Pittsburgh Symphony Society, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Growth Alliance, the UPMC Health System and the Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America.



A New Year Begins



Thiel began its 146th academic year on Aug. 26 when members of the class of 2015 arrived on campus for move-in day and orientation activities. Students and their parents began arriving early and soon were busy unloading and moving into new dorm rooms. New students were greeted at their dormitories by members of the President's Cabinet and the Thiel football team, residence and student life staffs, and many others helped get students settled in.

"Opening Convocation is one of the highlights of the academic year at Thiel College," said Dr. Troy VanAken, president. "Seeing the excitement of our first-year students as they begin this new phase of their lives gets the semester off to a great start."

More than 440 new students were welcomed at the opening convocation ceremony following move-in activities. VanAken hosted and joined faculty and staff in welcoming new students as well as their parents and other friends of the college. Dr. Lynn Franken, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college; Mike McKinney '02, dean of students; and Evan Ditty '12 of Titusville, Pa., president of the Student Government Association, also addressed the students. During the opening convocation, students recited a new pledge, vowing to give their best efforts as a student and as a citizen of the community and hold themselves to the highest standards of shared inquiry and academic integrity.

A welcome picnic for new students and their families followed the ceremony on the Howard Miller Student Center terrace and lawn.



Thiel Welcomes New Professor of Environmental Science and Chemistry

Thiel College welcomed one new full-time faculty member for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Dr. Anna M. Reinsel '06 has joined the Thiel College faculty as an assistant professor of environmental science and chemistry. Reinsel received her doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of Akron in May 2011 and her bachelor's degree in chemistry (with an environmental chemistry option and American Chemical Society certification) in May 2006. A native of Ravenna, Ohio, this position is Reinsel's first faculty appointment.

New adjunct faculty for the 2011-2012 include Christina Gant, music; Sherry Nold, music; Suzanne Penner, English; Laura Pickens, psychology; Brian Quinn, music; Pamela Slatcoff, education; Noel Stanger, English; Joseph Tompkins, communication; and Gasperina Woge, Spanish.



Ashley Named Chief Information Officer

This summer, Thiel welcomed Kurt Ashley as chief information officer. As CIO, Ashley is responsible for the effective and strategic deployment of all information and educational technology, including academic and administrative computing, network planning, telecommunications and maintenance.

Ashley has substantial information technology experience, with a special emphasis on networking and systems management. He previously served as director of systems and networking at Albion College where he planned and supervised all major projects, upgrades and daily activity of the department.

"The seamless and cost-effective deployment of information technology is absolutely critical in

higher education," said President Troy VanAken. "Kurt's diverse experience in information technology and management will be an invaluable asset to Thiel and its students, faculty and staff."

Ashley holds a bachelor's of business administration in management of information technology from Cleary University.

He and his wife, Denise, live in Clark, Pa.



Campus Pastor Called

Thiel welcomed new campus pastor the Rev. H. William Bixby in August.

As campus pastor, Bixby oversees campus worship and campus ministry groups, provides pastoral care to those within the college community and facilitates their spiritual formation, supports the College's efforts to attract and enroll Lutheran students, nurtures relationships with congregations in the Greenville and surrounding areas, and serves as a spokesperson for the Lutheran identity of the College. Bixby also has teaching duties, including support for the College's Theology & Youth Ministry major.

Previously, Bixby served as director for youth and young adult ministries with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) churchwide staff, where he played a major role in youth leader development. He also served as a grant project director and theological educator at two ELCA seminaries where he led intensive theological and vocational

exploration efforts with teens. Bixby has served as pastor in three ELCA congregations, all located in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod where he was ordained in 1986.

"Bill Bixby's strengths in theologies and practices for youth ministry and his creative worship design and leadership are a perfect fit for Thiel College," says Mike McKinney, dean of students.

Bixby holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Colgate University and a master's of divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa. He is married and has three adult daughters.



On the Road with Vira Heinz

Each year, Thiel College sends three sophomore women who have never before traveled internationally on a summer study-away trip with funding through the Vira I. Heinz Program for Women in Global Leadership, which provides a unique opportunity for international experiences, leadership development and community service. Those students who applied were selected through a competitive process that included an interview with the selection committee. The three chosen sophomores, Emily Whipple, Kayla Ohlin and Audrey Rattay, were awarded scholarships of at least \$5,000 for summer study abroad. In addition, they have participated in a series of retreats designed to cultivate leadership and intercultural skills and perform a community engagement experience. Thiel's three "world travelers" share a bit about their experiences.



A Whole New World

From June 25 through August 7, I resided in Meknes, Morocco, while attending classes. During the week, I gained knowledge in Middle East history and issues and in addition, learned how to read, write and speak the Arabic language while in the classroom at Moulay Ismail University in Meknes. On a daily basis, I had the opportunity to interact with locals while drinking mint tea at the corner café and having in depth conversations about Moroccan traditions and how they differ from American traditions. I was able to experience Moroccan folklore stretching from music festivals to crafts to yearly rituals, such as the running of the women, a race in Meknes where participants compete while wearing their customary dresses.

During my free time, I worked toward my personal goal of meeting a Moroccan wedding planner. Fortunately, I became friends with Driss, a well-known Meknes wedding planner who invited me into his home and taught me the customs and traditions of Moroccan weddings. Not only did Driss open my eyes to customs through pictures, video and text, but he invited me to attend a wedding that took place from 8 p.m. until 7 a.m. I never would have guessed that I would be eating a true Moroccan meal with my hands at two in the morning at the bride's parents' table! On the weekends, I traveled to various cities, which enabled me to experience desert, mountain and coastal living. I was also able to spend one weekend in Merzouga, a desert town located in the Sahara Desert and 20 minutes



away from the Algeria border. I took advantage of this opportunity to ride camels, sleep in the sand dunes and dine with Berber families in the desert oasis by the large sand dune of the Erg Chebi. My experience in Morocco has changed my life forever and I encourage others to broaden their horizons and learn about the world by immersing themselves in the culture, hands on.

—Audrey Rattay

Unexpected Experiences

After years of hearing about the Vira I. Heinz Program, hours spent applying and preparing for an interview, and months of making travel arrangements, I finally had my own opportunity to study abroad this summer in Barcelona, Spain. The International Studies Abroad (ISA) program lasted for one month, from the end of May to the end of June, and during that month I had the experience of a lifetime. The total immersion in a culture and language very different from my own taught me lessons in patience, independence and the importance of stepping outside of my comfort zone that I will never forget. On one memorable occasion, my roommate invited me to take a train with her about two hours out of the city to the monastery on Montserrat. Anticipating a tour of famous buildings and religious artwork, I agreed. The train took us to a funicular that would carry us up to the monastery. As we watched the landscape below us growing smaller and smaller, my roommate mentioned how excited she was to hike the trails on this famous mountain. I stared back at her. "What do you mean, trails?" This was not a museum tour, it was a hiking trip. The trails she was telling me about were long, difficult and included a fair amount of climbing. I was dressed in a blouse, shorts and flip-flops.



Not wanting to ruin the trip, I resigned to tough it out in my less-than-acceptable hiking gear. Two hours later, with sore and extremely muddy feet, I stood at an altitude of 1200 meters, the highest peak of Montserrat reachable by trail, breathless and watching a rainstorm roll by beneath us. I was exhausted, thirsty, in pain and more exhilarated than I had ever been. This unexpected hike up a mountain in my sandals represents my entire trip to Spain. Despite the best of intentions, I was unprepared, unsure of what to expect and exhausted by the end of it all, but the experience, and the difficult journey to get there, was life-changing.

—Emily Whipple

Spanish Summer

I spent five weeks this summer in San Sebastian, Spain. As part of an International Business Program, I attended classes at the University of Deusto, studying the economics of the European Union and the "Society, Politics and Society of Spain." In classes taught by native professors, I was exposed to the global economic crisis and worked with others to contemplate solutions.

I was exposed to a new culture—living in a city for the first time in my life, in a country with a different language and way of life. Enticed by new foods and flavors, I loved the cuisine. My experiences ranged from my first opera to meeting with the city's director of volunteer services. While San Sebastian is a prosperous city, it is not without its needy. I also spent countless hours learning about the Basque Country in Spain. Did you know the sport of rowing stems from the whaling days in the North Atlantic? This, and so much more was exposed to me.

While I saw many tourist attractions such as Madrid, Pamplona and Bilbao, I also went to lesser known gems such as the World Peace Museum in Guernica: the site of an atrocious bombing in World War II. I was also able to meet up with my friend and fellow Thiel College student, Emily Whipple. I



met her in Barcelona where we spent the weekend touring the city. I even had my first interaction with a wild boar in a national park just outside Barcelona.

Whether on the public bus on the way to school or on a hike in mountains, I interacted with the people of San Sebastian. This exchange of ideas, both simplistic and complex, was my favorite part of the trip. Overall, Spain provided me with an educational experience far beyond what the classroom could ever offer, and I am eager to share my knowledge with everyone I meet. It has deepened my desire to travel abroad. Hopefully, Korea is next!

—Kayla Ohlin

Winter Weekend 2012

Homecoming Weekend is often the highlight of the year at Thiel College. We had to ask ourselves, "Why should fall semester have all the fun?"

This year, spring semester gets its due when the first-ever Winter Weekend celebration will couple the hugely successful Black & White Ball gala with new winter-related activities that students, alumni and community members may all enjoy. Mark your calendar for Feb. 10-12, 2012, and plan to be on campus for this exciting new event.

Along with all the events listed below on the weekend schedule, Tomcat fans won't want to miss Thiel's men's and women's basketball teams taking on Presidents' Athletic Conference rival the Bethany College Bison in a 2011 PAC championship re-match, dubbed the "Buffalo Hunt"!

The first year of this celebration is especially momentous due to a special college announcement that President Troy VanAken will deliver on Saturday evening. He will announce the College's plans for the \$25-million gift from William Dietrich II (see page 2 for more details).

We invite our alumni and friends to stay for as many or few of the festivities as you are able. All activities, with the exception of the alumni dinner, are free of cost and require no reservations. A complete schedule is listed below. (A list of lodging options in the Greenville area can be found at www.thiel.edu/about_thiel/visitor/lodging.)

Be part of a new Thiel tradition—join us for Winter Weekend this February!

Friday, Feb. 10

6-10 p.m. Winter Festivities, Front Campus Lawn
Including ice skating rink, hot tubs, snow tubing and refreshments in a heated tent!

Saturday, Feb. 11

11:30 a.m. Alumni lunch, Galleria
1 p.m. Women's basketball game vs. Bethany College
3 p.m. Men's basketball game vs. Bethany College
5:30 p.m. Cocktail reception, Bistro
6 p.m. Dietrich gift announcement, Lutheran Heritage Room
7 p.m. Alumni dinner, various locations, HMSC (\$18 per person)
8:30 p.m. Black & White Affair, Lutheran Heritage Room and Bistro
(Cash bar available)

Sunday, Feb. 12

9 a.m. Worship service, David Johnson Memorial Chapel
10 a.m. Post-worship reception, Chapel

Joy Cone President Named Entrepreneur of the Year

Joseph A. George, president and owner of Joy Cone Co., received the 2011 Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Thiel College at a ceremony on Oct. 5.

Given annually to a business owner who has demonstrated entrepreneurial leadership, the award, now in its 17th year, was presented by Thiel President Dr. Troy VanAken and Professor David Miller, executive director of the Haller Enterprise Institute.

George shared the history of Joy Cone Co. and his secrets of success with Haller scholarship recipients and students enrolled in the entrepreneurship class. He said that in running his successful business there has been “no grand strategy or brilliant insight—it’s all fundamentals.” Simply put, Joy Cone Co. produces a quality product with excellent service. He also emphasized one of the greatest reasons for his success is that his “employees truly feel like management cares about them—because they do.”

George graduated from Sharon High School in 1954 and later earned an A.B. degree from Harvard College. In 1964, he returned to his hometown to revive the George & Thomas Cone Company, the ice cream cone company his family started in 1918. Under his leadership, George & Thomas Cone Company transitioned into a modern, profitable, employee-owned company. In 1964, Joy Cone’s sales were \$25,000. In 2011, sales are projected to reach \$90 million. The company now sells more than 1.5 billion cones per year, including gluten-free ice cream cones.

George is or has been a member of the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Mercer County, Penn Northwest Development Corp., F.H. Buhl Club and the Thiel College Board



Professor David Miller '61, Joy Cone Co. president Joe George and President Troy VanAken at the annual Haller Enterprise Institute ceremony.

of Trustees, among many others. He has received numerous awards, including the Louis & Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award from Thiel, the Boss of the Year Award from the American Business Women's Association and the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce's Phoenix Award, among others. He is a member of Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage, Pa., and lives in Sharon, Pa. He and his wife, Ruthanne Beighley '73, who is Joy Cone's legal counsel, have six children and nine grandchildren.

The Haller Enterprise Institute, originally named the Thiel College Enterprise Institute when it was organized in 1983, was renamed in 1996 when Pittsburgh residents Dr. Henry E. and Grace Mary Haller provided a \$1 million gift to develop entrepreneurial education at Thiel.



Congratulations!

Board of Trustee member Susan Snowden was named to the *Super Lawyers – Business Edition 2011* in September. This inaugural issue features attorneys who are outstanding in their areas of business practice. The attorneys included were selected to the 2011 list in business-related practice areas that are divided into five distinct practice groups: litigation, employment, construction and real estate, business transactions and intellectual property. Only five percent of the attorneys in each state are named to *Super Lawyers*.

“I was honored to be included for the fifth consecutive year in the West Virginia Super Lawyers for 2011. I was even more privileged to be selected for publication in the 2011 Super Lawyer inaugural edition of their Business Edition,” commented Snowden. “Thomson-Reuters has created this publication as an annual reference tool for general counsel and executives and I am pleased to be featured in their comprehensive list of attorneys in business-related practice areas, with my designation in Employment Law.”



Thiel's Chi Omega Sisters Made History

For the sisters of Thiel College's Beta Delta chapter of Chi Omega, 2011 marks the 40th anniversary of their success in the fight for racial equality within Chi Omega.

Denise Terry was an undergraduate student at Thiel College in the late 1960s, a sociology major from Montclair, N.J. Terry was active and involved on campus, participating in the Education Club, Sociology Club and Student Government. In 1970, she was named Thiel's Homecoming Queen. She also was the first African-American to be initiated into Chi Omega fraternity. Although the Beta Delta chapter at Thiel is small, her initiation did not go unnoticed nationally and the situation would make a large impact on the Chi Omega Fraternity.

Following a routine visit from a national consultant in spring 1970, the Beta Delta chapter received notification that their chapter was being placed on probation for "inadequate alumni recommendations, poorly trained officers and ignorance of the rules." The probation was to extend until further notice, implied as

the time when they revoked the membership of their African American sister. The Chi Omegas were barred from initiating their spring pledge class and attending the national conference.

As the school year concluded, Beta Delta remained on probation and learned of other chapters who were in similar situations after extending membership to African-American women. The sisters decided to fight the probation and retain Terry's membership, despite the possibility of losing their charter.

As news of Beta Delta's situation spread, *The Thielensian* took on the fight with the sisters, publishing regular articles about the local chapter's struggles, contacting other chapters and updating the campus as more information was found. One publication included a letter sent by Mrs. Mary Love Collins, president of Chi Omega, that chastised Thiel and Beta Delta as unworthy of trust, incapable of understanding Chi Omega's rules and seeking publicity.

Beta Delta had the support of Thiel's president, Dr. Chauncey

Bly, who attempted to intervene with Chi Omega on the chapter's behalf. *The Thielensian* learned of chapters in Marietta, Ohio, and Canton, Mo., who were placed on probation for uncertain reasons only to have their probation revoked when their black members depledged.

News from Thiel also spread to other campuses. Both Beta Delta and the Chi Omega national organization contacted Chi Omega chapters to gain support for their cause.

As the 1970 school year progressed, the members decided to take a more forward approach. Beta Delta organized a conference in Chicago, opening it to all Chi Omegas. The purpose of the conference was to propose a resolution for revising Chi Omega's constitution. The conference was held in April and many active and alumni sisters attended to hear speeches on integration and nondiscrimination and to take part in writing the resolution. During summer 1971, the resolution was addressed and passed by Chi Omega nationally.



(Left) Queen Denise Terry rides the float at the 1970 Homecoming celebration. (Above) Denise Terry as a senior at Thiel College.

Due to Beta Delta's efforts, Chi Omega is now open to all women. The young woman whose sisters refused to let her give up her membership is still recognized by Chi Omega as a sister.

—Julie Novotny '12

Writer's Note:

As a sister of Beta Delta chapter, Chi Omega has taught me many things, from how to work with all types of people to what it means to truly have someone there to support you. One of the reasons I am most proud to be a Chi Omega, however, is our dedication to standing up for our ideals, purposes and what we believe in. No story or personal experience has shown me more of Chi Omega's dedication than the story of Denise Terry. Her story stands for me as a reminder of why I am a Chi Omega.

Editor's Note:

Julie Novotny is a elementary education major from Madison, Ohio.

"From the Archives" Correction

One of the alumni in the "From the Archives" Homecoming photo from the spring issue of *The Bell* was incorrectly identified. Nancy Tirk should have been listed as Nancy Bloss '60 (now Nancy Perrine).

Strategic Planning Update from President VanAken

The strategic planning initiative currently underway at Thiel College is building on the College's tradition as an institution of higher education that provides transformative learning and prepares its graduates for lives of meaning, purpose and significance. The strategic plan is the roadmap that the College can follow over the next 150 years—our goals are bold and ambitious and we are committed to the success of Thiel College.

In March 2011, a Strategic Planning Committee was established and a consultant hired to facilitate the development of a strategic plan for the College. The plan answers three basic questions: who are we; what do we aspire to become; how do we get there?

After nearly a year of work, the draft of the plan, "The Thiel Commitment," is in its third draft and nearing completion. The plan has four major areas of emphases:

- A commitment to academic excellence and relevance
- A commitment to a culture of caring and confidence-building
- A commitment to enhanced facilities and infrastructure
- A commitment to superior delivery of programs and services

The foundation of the new strategic plan is The Thiel Commitment, an initiative developed by a group of faculty and staff shortly after I arrived at Thiel in 2009, but will expand significantly in this plan to become the driving force for profound and enduring change. More than a brand or "tag line," The Thiel Commitment reflects a campus-wide commitment to personalized, motivating, challenging and relevant education for every student and to the delivery of superior programs and services that respond to student needs.

A sound, effective strategic plan will point the College in a direction that seizes important new opportunities and reaffirms or redefines existing strategic strengths. The plan must be embedded in the unique heritage and mission of Thiel College and be realistic and achievable.

If you'd like to learn more about the strategic plan, a Web site, www.thiel.edu/strategic-plan, has been created. There, Thiel's alumni and friends will find the draft strategic plan, a timetable, a list of steering committee members and other planning documents. Feedback on the process is welcome and opinions, thoughts or suggestions on the strategic plan can be submitted to thepresident@thiel.edu.

Faculty & Staff News

► **Dr. Henry Barton**, environmental science, received professor emeritus status upon his retirement at the end of the spring semester. He is pictured with President Troy VanAken and Dean of the College Lynn Franken at his retirement party in April.



► **Tressa Snyder**, part-time reference librarian, also is serving as part-time coordinator of disability services for the College.

► **Melissa Oakes**, business administration, helped Thiel College join the Anti-Fraud Education Partnership, an initiative of the ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners) that aims to make it easy for colleges and universities to provide expert anti-fraud training to their students. Thiel has received videos and workbooks and case studies from the Partnership to utilize in the classroom. Students will also be able to obtain discounted student memberships in ACFE thanks to the new designation.

► **Dr. Douglas Hazlett**, education, continued to provide help and guidance to novice principals at local schools during the 2010-2011 academic year through the Pennsylvania Principals Mentoring Network, a mentoring program for new administrators. This year, Hazlett worked with Brian Tokar (pictured with Hazlett), assistant principal at Greenville High School, and Pam Chodubski, principal at Harbor Creek Junior High School. Hazlett has mentored 11 area principals over the past several years with the program.



► **Julie Graubard** has moved from a temporary position in Faculty Services to administrative assistant in the Office of Academic Affairs.

► **Dr. Gayle Jesse**, mathematics and computer science, successfully defended her dissertation at Robert Morris University in the spring. Her doctoral field project was entitled “The Influence of Personality on the Type of Information College Students Share on Social Networking Sites.”

► **Dr. Mary Theresa Hall**, English, published an updated version of the life, works and influences of Renaissance author George Herbert (1593-1633) in the New Catholic Encyclopedia: Supplement 2011. The New Catholic Encyclopedia is a standard reference work for high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, librarians, journalists and others interested in the history, doctrine, literature, practices and people of the Catholic faith.

Hall also was asked to review “All Things Chaucer: An Encyclopedia of Chaucer’s World,” a recent new library acquisition, by Allen Morrill, executive director of the library and The Learning Commons, this semester. This panoramic tour of the medieval world of the “Father of English poetry” received a favorable review, thanks to its accessibility, broad overview and extensive Chaucerian quotes. Hall’s review was published in *The Thielensian*.

► **Dr. Andrew Grover**, mathematics and computer science, participated in the annual reading and scoring for the College Board’s Advanced Placement Examinations in June in computer science.

► **Connie Reinhart**, education, and her daughter, Gabrielle Marinella '07, visited Congressman Mike Kelly (R-PA) in his Washington, D.C., office as advocates representing the National Breast Cancer Coalition.





Operations Management Class Presents to UPMC Execs

In April, Professor Angelo Giannini's Operations Management class presented a business plan via video conference to UPMC executives about UPMC's Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP). The business plan presentation was a continuation of a project from the previous spring with Cindy Hanna '00, the director of MERP at UPMC's Farrell facility. The business plan project addressed a proposed new MERP location in Franklin, Pa., but would also serve as a template for other UPMC MERP locations.



Students Earn NRA Certification

Ten students are among the latest at Thiel College to complete the NRA 10-hour basic pistol class given by NRA instructor James Flammia. The class is a basic requirement for the Thiel College Shooting Club. The course goal is to develop in the students, the basic knowledge, skills and attitude essential to the safe and efficient use of a handgun. They join the ranks of last year's seven members. The team continues to develop techniques and plans to go on to compete locally. Pictured (from top to bottom left to right) are Joshua Emanuelson, Kimberly Ault, Victoria Challingsworth, Zach Rosengrant, Kirk Russell, Nathan Glotzbach, Jacob Ensor, Llan Llanos, Zachary Woody and Brittany Dell.



Lambda Sigma Inductions

In April, Lambda Sigma, the national sophomore honor society, inducted 28 members, which included Ashley Adkins, John Amorose, Alyssa Bartlett, Morgan Carson (president), Ashley Davis (SGA representative), Molly Jo Everett (fundraising chair), Matt Fiore, Kayce Grimm (secretary), Deryk Herold, Leah Kook, Chelsea Maukonen, Chelsea Mikos, Ryan Murphy, Cory Swarmer (treasurer), Joy Tubero (ritualist), Kevin Walkup (parliamentarian), Leanna Yeager (community service chair) and Katelyn Young (vice president).

Students Complete Service Learning Project at Holy Trinity



Barbara Horn '12, Bryan Villegas '11 and Charles Hockenberry '11, along with Dr. Gayle Jesse completed a redesign during the spring semester of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Greenville's Web site as a service learning project in the Web Portfolio course.

Each student created a prototype and church members picked which they preferred. The three students worked together to create the new Web site.

Hodge Hall: It Feels Like Home

Positive enhancements to campus life are ongoing at Thiel College, and the extensive renovations to Hodge Hall that took place this summer verify that. Daily progress was noticeable on the outside as windows were replaced, parking lots paved and old furniture removed. However, the tangible and meaningful improvements are on the inside, where more than 140 first-year co-eds are living and learning in an updated space that reflects Thiel's commitment to its students.

Although the project didn't happen overnight, it certainly didn't take long to completely makeover the building. The Thiel College Board of Trustees approved the \$3.25 million budget on March 31 and the project was completed on July 31. In four short months, the lengthy to-do list was done and the bottom line was under budget! That's quite a feat when considering all that was involved.

All of the doors—inside and out—were replaced, new double-pane energy efficient windows installed, the bathrooms completely gutted and now have Corian® countertops and showers complete with water-saving shower heads. Both the electrical and plumbing systems were entirely replaced; a new sprinkler system and all new heating system with state-of-the-art energy efficient boilers were installed. New hallway carpet was laid and tile floors were installed in every room and everything got a fresh coat of paint.

Comparable to renovating an old home (the original building was completed in 1961), it is impossible to anticipate what you might run into when you start the demolition.

"Luckily, there weren't many changes to the original plan," said Greg Garber, vice president for finance and management. "Everything we wanted to accomplish, we accomplished."

One unforeseen incident was the need to replace all of the main water pipes leading to Hodge Hall

in order to accommodate the new sprinkler system. Looking forward, the new piping system will allow sprinkler systems to easily be installed in the other dorms around the quad when funds become available.

Hodge Hall is a co-ed residence hall that houses first-year students. While recruiting, admissions counselors promoted it as a first-come, first-served option; students who registered early got first dibs on the new digs. Every room has brand-new cherry wood furniture that can be arranged to the students' liking (as opposed to the natural wood-colored furniture in the other halls that is mostly built in or stationary).

Nate Newell and Branden Reed are roommates in Hodge Hall and agree that their residence hall "feels so much nicer than all the others." Football players moved in on Aug. 12 and immediately felt the sense of community that dorm living offers.

"It really does feel like home," Newell said. "I think the other students are a little jealous."

Another appealing upgrade is the electric fireplace and new, comfortable furniture that was installed in the main lobby lounge and study area. Meant to warm the room literally and figuratively, the fireplace offers a calming atmosphere for students to relax, socialize and study. The basement lounge has become the envy of all other freshman residence halls as it not only features new pool and ping-pong tables but an ultramodern home theater system where students can gather to watch movies and sports. Resident assistants use the space for programming and other campus groups have begun requesting the space for functions.

"We tried to be very mindful of what we purchased and how we did it," shared Roberta Mutinelli, director of residence life. "We took a small environment and made big effects—and I think that kind of translates into everything we do here at Thiel."

—Jennie Kather





You're Invited!

Thiel will celebrate the reopening and second year of the Rissell-Schreyer Dome with an open house on Friday, Dec. 9 from 6 to 10 p.m. and you're invited! This annual event is open to the public and there is no admission charge to attend.

The open house will feature a variety of activities, including Bongoball, a golf driving range, a batting cage and inflatable jumpers and activities, throughout the evening. The Tomcat Marching Pride and the Thiel Spirit Squads will perform at 7 p.m. and line dancing lessons will be offered at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and food will be available for purchase.

The Dome will be open for community access again this winter and spring. It will be available for walking Monday through Friday, 8 to 11 a.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The driving range will be available on Tuesday, Thursday and most Saturdays from 8 to 11 a.m. Buckets of golf balls (approximately 50) are available for \$5. All times are dependent on varsity athletic use.

The Rissell-Schreyer Dome is available for rental to a variety of groups and organizations at a reasonable cost. Contact Kevin Fenstermacher, associate director of athletics, at 724-589-2187 or kfenstermacher@thiel.edu for more information.



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