



This year, Thiel's three recipients of the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship—Amy Jane Matchett, Kylie Czulewicz and Monica Smith—spent parts of their summers studying abroad in Germany, Australia and Italy respectively. The Heinz Scholarship is funded by the Heinz Endowments and is granted to three rising junior women for summer study and travel abroad. It is intended to enrich each student's academic program, provide opportunity for travel in a foreign country and improve international understanding. Thiel's three intrepid travelers are happy to share the stories of their summers with you.

Discovering Deutschland

This past summer, I spent four weeks studying abroad in Leipzig, Germany, through a study abroad program with Temple University. After arriving in Germany, I met up with a group of students from Temple and spent the first four days of our trip touring Berlin. While there, I visited the Holocaust Museum and Pergamon Museum where I learned more about Jewish victims of WWII and Islamic art and the Middle East, respectively. During my stay, I also took a boat tour along the canal running through the city and visited the East Side Gallery, which is now an international memorial made up of portions of the Berlin Wall.

For the remaining three and a half weeks of my trip, I studied at the Herder Institute of Leipzig University where I took intensive German language and phonetics courses to improve my speaking and writing abilities. My classes were taught by native German professors and consisted of culture-based activities that helped to immerse me in the country. In the classroom, I studied alongside students from Ecuador, Argentina, Hong Kong, Russia and Canada. Throughout the week, I spent time outside of the classroom touring the city, attending cultural events and visiting museums. While studying abroad, I lived with a young woman from China and was able to practice my German speaking skills with her every day.

Throughout the program, I also visited six different German cities including Berlin, Leipzig, Munich, Dachau, Dresden and Eisenach. While in Munich, I accomplished one of my life goals by visiting the Dachau concentration camp memorial site. Here, I learned about the history of work camps during WWII and more about the specific events that occurred at Germany's first Nazi concentration camp.

My international experience this past summer is something that has affected my life in ways I could



have never thought possible. After being able to immerse myself into a new culture for a month, I was able to grow as a person and gain a global perspective. I now feel confident to challenge myself in more culturally diverse ways as a result of my study abroad program. By meeting new people and speaking a foreign language, I now have a greater appreciation for the diversity of human beings all throughout the world. Thanks to the Vira I. Heinz scholarship, I was able to achieve my lifelong goal of traveling to Germany.

—Amy Jane Matchett '12

Down Under

The Vira I. Heinz scholarship permitted me an opportunity to travel to Australia through the Australearn program of Tropical Marine Ecology of Australia's East Coast. This program involved traveling from Brisbane up the east coast to finish four weeks later in Cairns.

During my travels, I stayed five days on three different islands where I resided at research stations and learned about the distinctly different ecology of each island. I conducted one research project on each island by collecting data ranging from diversity and distribution of gastropods in different tidal zones to density and distribution of coral species throughout different reef zones. The program was entirely field excursions and hands-on studies. Hiking, snorkeling, rock climbing and swimming were a few of the many components of our daily routine.

When back on the mainland and traveling up the coast, many more activities were offered that strengthened our knowledge of our subject matter, but also of Australian culture. This method of studying completely immersed us in the environment and made it so easy to absorb what we were learning. After the completion of my program, I had the privilege to then spend three days in Sydney and three days in Melbourne to see other parts of Australia that were not visited during my program.

Italy Adventure

For my study abroad experience, I chose to travel to Italy. Italy was my first choice for many reasons. First, there was so much history I knew I would explore during my trip. Second, I have always enjoyed Italian culture. The third reason was the academic program in which I chose to participate. I had the best experiences and met the nicest people while I was abroad. Traveling to Italy on the Vira I. Heinz scholarship has been one of the best experiences of my life.

While in Italy, I had the opportunity to take any class I chose. I took a history of the mafia course because I wanted to take a class that was not offered at Thiel. The class was taught by a former lawyer who specialized in mob activity. She had a great range of knowledge and took us to an anti-mafia rally. I learned so much about how the mafia is still a huge problem in Italy. I absolutely loved the class.

While in Italy, I went to Rome, Bologna, San Gimignano, Siena and other cities. I learned a great deal about the history of Italy, but also a great deal about what I *thought* I had already learned. Many of my classes at Thiel had provided me with information about Italy that other students did not know. I was



My experience abroad was life-changing and only deepened my desire to travel the world.

—Kylie Czulewicz '12



able to interact more with the tour guides. I learned more about the culture than I ever thought possible. I enjoyed interacting with the natives; the grocery store was always interesting.

Studying abroad has changed me as a person. I am more aware of what is going on in the world and I have learned a lot about the Italian culture. I plan to travel more and learn as much about the world as I can. This was just the beginning of my journey.

—Monica Smith '12

Welcome New Faculty

Thiel College welcomed five new full-time faculty members for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The new faculty members are:

- **Jessica Abbott**, instructor of sociology. Abbott holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master's degree from Southern Illinois University, where she is currently completing a doctoral program in sociology. A native of Huntington, Tenn., this is Abbott's first faculty appointment. She is a member of the American Society of Criminology.
- **Dr. George Branch-Trevathan**, lecturer of religion. Branch-Trevathan holds a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Divinity from Harvard University and a doctorate from Emory University. He is a member of Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion and the American Historical Association. He formerly served as an adjunct instructor in Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Branch-Trevathan is a native of Murray, Ky.
- **Dr. Angie Koban**, assistant professor of psychology. Koban holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Pennsylvania State University and master's and doctoral degrees from Tufts University. She served as an adjunct instructor at Tufts from 2006 to 2009. She is a native of Sewickley, Pa.
- **Melissa Oakes '03**, instructor of business administration. Oakes holds a bachelor's degree from Thiel College and is currently enrolled in the M.B.A. program at Clarion University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Oakes is a native of Greenville, Pa., and currently lives in Sandy Lake.



Pictured from left to right are Dr. Christopher Stanisky, Jessica Abbott, Dr. George Branch-Trevathan, Melissa Oakes '03 and Dr. Angie Koban.

- **Dr. Christopher Stanisky**, assistant professor of chemistry. Stanisky holds a bachelor's degree from Franklin and Marshall College and a doctorate from Yale University. He formerly served as a visiting professor at Mount Holyoke College and Harvey Mudd College and was a postdoctoral research assistant at the University of Notre Dame. A native of Pittsburgh, Stanisky is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, the American Chemical Society and the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society.

New adjunct faculty for the 2010-2011 academic year include Dr. James Bloomfield, history; Heather Butchy, English; Kevin DeFrancesco '05, education; Nicole Estock, French; Rachael Gerstnecker, art; Scott Graubard, environmental science; Nancy Katz, English; Jessica Phillips, business administration; Ronald Saffell, English; David Spalding, education; and Mary Varley, college reading.

Making a Joyful Noise

Forty choir alumni gathered on Thiel's campus to take part in reunion festivities on April 30 through May 2. After a full day and evening of rehearsals and renewing friendships, the talented group gathered for a banquet on Saturday afternoon where many of them shared fond memories of campus and choir life. The performance by the alumni choir was held on May 1 in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. Several alumni choir members stayed to accompany the Thiel Choir at the baccalaureate service on Sunday, May 2.



With a Name Like Smucker's

A Thiel senior shares her internship experience at the "jelly company down the road."

As I started senior year, I entered it with a different mindset and perspective than my previous years at Thiel. I have feelings of anticipation for what's to come, fear for knowing it's my last year as a college student, but most of all excitement for what's in store for me beyond graduation—that last one is thanks largely to my recent internship with the J.M. Smucker Company in Orrville, Ohio.

I always saw Smucker's as the "jelly company down the road." I soon found that Smucker's is much more than that. It is a major corporate office and a fourth-generation, family-owned corporation with several acquisitions from Jif, Crisco and Pillsbury, Folger's, Hungry Jack and Martha White—and that's just to name a few!

With this internship, I wanted to branch away from the creative side of advertising and marketing that I was familiar with and explore the analytical side of sales and marketing. I wanted to step outside my comfort zone. Therefore, I interned in the Consumer Insights and Category Management department. It is a complex area that houses analysts who research and pull data from different databases which is then utilized by the sales and marketing departments. This data is used to create presentations and reports on consumer shopping behavior and shelving and category tactics, as well as pricing strategies and opportunities and threats analysis. Our work helped the sales and marketing teams when they were presenting information and reasons to retailers about why they should promote our products a certain way or why their store shelves should be set up in a specific manner.

Going into my internship I expected to gain insight into the

corporate business world and also to learn about the J.M. Smucker Company, but I soon realized how much more it had to offer me. I learned valuable information about Smucker's, but at the same time I learned a lot about myself. You cannot put a price tag on the value

of internship

experience. The possibilities and learning opportunities are endless, but in the end, it really is what you make it. You control how you utilize your time and measure the benefits of your experience, and it is ultimately

you who takes what you have learned and implement it towards the future.

An internship gives you something that you do not receive in a classroom setting—real life experience. Not only is an internship a resume builder, but it also gives you the opportunity to take a "sneak peek" before you dive head first into a career. By taking advantage of an internship, you can explore different career routes and understand what your true interests are and what kind of work environment would help you flourish. While at Smucker's, I noticed that employees frequently were promoted or switched departments. Regardless of whether they felt their talents would either be better served there or that it may be a better fit for their interests, the important thing is they still had the option to explore and move about the company. An internship before graduation can give you a better



Senior Danielle Dwyer spent the summer learning the ropes (and the jam) at the Smuckers Company.

understanding of where you'd like to be in the future and where to turn to if later on down the road you decide to make an internal or external switch.

I had a wonderful internship experience that not only taught me about the corporate world and provided me with some business "know-how," but also life lessons that I can take with me and utilize wherever my future endeavors may take me. Anticipation, fear and excitement are all flooding my mind during my senior year, however, after getting a taste (literally) of life beyond graduation, I am taking a moment to savor and enjoy my final year of college, but also look forward to what lies ahead of me. We may not know what the future holds, but like the company motto says—"With a Name Like Smucker's it has to be Good"—I am sure it will be something worth looking forward to.

Dalton, Ohio-native Danielle Dwyer is a senior business communication/media communication major with a minor in fine art and a member of the women's volleyball team, Alpha Xi Delta sorority, several honor societies and The Thielensian. Along with writing, she contributed to the design of this page.

Faculty Focus

► **Dr. Natalie Dorfeld**, English, presented “Teaching in Multiple Modes: Sources, Stumbling Blocks, and Success” at the National Teachers of English conference in November in Orlando, Fla.

► **Dr. Mary Theresa Hall**, English, published a review in a scholarly journal, *The Sixteenth-Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*, which reviewed the “Huntingdon Library Quarterly: Religion and Cultural Transformation in Early Modern England,” edited by Lorna Clymer. The reviewed publication is comprised of eight essays, derived from papers delivered at the UCLA Center for 17th-and 18th-Century Studies conference, focusing on the role of religion in cultural transformation during those centuries. Hall also recently conducted a peer review of “The Heart of Where to Start: The Guide to Identifying Your Perfect Book Topic and Writing with Confidence,” by Timothy Morrison. This textbook, which could be used by college writing instructors, provides print and technological aids for students to better formulate thesis statements and develop strong sentence structure.

► This summer, **Cynthia Kreisel**, history, received the Bernadotte E. Schmitt research grant from the American Historical Association in order to continue revising her project, “Between War and Revolution: French Women and the Sexual Practices of Everyday Life, 1952-1967,” for publication.

► **Dr. Laurie Moroco**, communication, led a group of Thiel faculty, students and alumni on a 10-day European trip to Paris and London in early summer. Highlights of the trip included a boat ride down the Seine River and visiting Versailles, the Louvre, Oxford University (pictured) and Buckingham Palace. The intrepid travelers included faculty members **Dr. Natalie**



Dorfeld (English) and **Dr. Victor Evans** (communication); students Jenna Mohr, Danielle Dwyer, Rachel Bessey, Shanel Little, Sarah Conte and Ronnie Edison; and alumni Ashley Williams '09 and Derek Hermann '10.

► **Dr. Derek Nelson**, religion, was published in the *Lutheran Quarterly*, Vol. 24. The article, “Unity, Ecumenicity and Difference in the Augustana Synod,” examines the ways that the Swedish American Lutheran Church played a role in the movement toward church unity in 1860-1962.

► In March, **Dr. Jennifer Curry**, mathematics, and **Dr. Max Shellenbarger**, mathematics, along with **Carol Jones '75**, The Learning Commons, presented a workshop at LaRoche College in Pittsburgh for local colleges and universities on utilizing computer-aided instruction for teaching math to college students.



Phi Alpha Theta Members Attend Conference

In April, members of Phi Alpha Theta history honorary traveled to Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., for the 2010 Western Pennsylvania Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference and Undergraduate History Forum where they presented papers and projects. More than 65 students presented from 13 different colleges and universities during the event. Thiel’s Theta chapter had the most representatives of any college with 10 students, including **Kevin Woods, Abagale Steidl, Matt Endlish, Danielle Hillwig, Mark Wyant, Alex Bent, Sheila Gross, L.B. Lubomski, Dave Henry and John Tell. Professor Rachel Doddato, Dr. James Koshan, Dr. David Buck and Dr. James Bloomfield** accompanied the students and Koshan served as a moderator on two panels. Henry earned “Best Paper” in the Soviet Russia panel with his paper, “Operation: Barbarossa.”



Education Students Visit East Elementary

Thiel College education students and professors attended a cooperative professional development day focused on technology innovations at East Elementary School in Greenville in May. Teachers at the elementary school shared practical interactive instructional strategies and visiting students and staff had the opportunity to practice with hardware and Web-based software resources. A question and answer session was held for Thiel students with a panel of experienced elementary school teachers. The cooperative program was made possible by funding from the Enhancing Education through Technology grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



New Members and Officers Named to Lambda Sigma

In April, Thiel’s chapter of the Lambda Sigma Society, a national sophomore honorary, elected new members. The inductees are all members of the Class of 2013 and include (listed in alphabetical order) **Brittany Anderson, Brian Davis, Caitlin Ferry, Kaila Hawley, Joseph Hertzog, Cassidy Kravec, Ethan Ludwig, Anthony McGuire, Crystal Mitchell, Julie Mitchell, Jessica Mueller, Kayla Ohlin, Mariah Poage, Vincent Pucci, Ashley Rable, Audrey Rattay, Matthew Earl Schneider, Diana Slomainy, Jordan Smith, William Stone, Emily Whipple and Karen Wolfe.**

Officers for 2010-2011 were also elected and are **Matthew Schneider**, president; **Jordan Smith**, vice president; **Emily Whipple**, secretary; **Cassidy Kravec**, treasurer; **Kelly Barzak**, community service chair; **William Stone**, fundraising chair; **Vincent Pucci**, parliamentarian; and **Audrey Rattay**, ritual/selection chair.



Alpha Chi Inducts New Members

Fourteen new members were inducted into Thiel’s chapter of Alpha Chi at a ceremony in March. Founded in 1922, Alpha Chi is one of only four national scholarship societies admitting superior junior and senior students regardless of their fields of study. On the 290 campuses with chapters, Alpha Chi membership is the highest academic honor that can be awarded.

Neice Featured in Teaching Blog

Sophomore education major **Rachel Neice** was featured in the netTrekker blog on Sept. 20. Neice was interviewed about her use of netTrekker’s Spotlight program, a mathematics teaching tool.

Chi Alpha Epsilon Inductions

The Gamma Sigma chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon, a national honor society that acknowledges the continuing successes and achievements of students who participate in academic success programs, inducted three new members—**Hannah Kichman, Jenna Hionas and Ann Camp**—in March.



Psi Chi Inductions

In late April, **Lynette Enterline, Sarah Conte, Alicia Trescott, Amy Matchett, Duranna Fretts, Chelsi Clark, Michelle Blose, Jaime Kirchofer and Clarissa Miller** were inducted into Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology. Psi Chi is an organization that provides support and encouragement for its members to excel in scholarship and advance psychology.

Marty Manning Day Celebrated at Thiel and YSU

On Sept. 4, Thiel College designated the opening game of the 2010 football season "Marty Manning '88 Day." Manning, who was associate director of student life at Youngstown State University, battled cancer for three years. (Sadly, Manning passed away from the disease on Oct. 6.) The day began with a benefit bike ride from YSU to Thiel College, coordinated by Marvin Hill '88, Manning's college roommate and best friend, with support from the administrations at both institutions. The bike ride kick-off at YSU included a silent auction and guest speakers who shared stories about Manning. All proceeds for the day's events benefit the Manning family, specifically a trust fund account for Manning's children, Marc, Maya and Melina. For those wishing to donate to the Dr. Martin T. Manning Cancer Fund, please send checks or money orders (made payable to the Manning Cancer Fund) to Dr. Martin T. Manning Cancer Fund, C/O Migdalia Manning, 380 Flora Rd., Leavittsburg, OH 44430.



Dr. Troy VanAken presents the game ball during halftime to Marvin Hill and Millie Manning, Dr. Manning's wife. Pictured from left to right are Dr. VanAken, Marvin Hill, Manuel Reyes (Marty's father-in-law), Marc Manning, Millie Manning, Maya Manning, Melina Manning, Annette VanAken, Gabriella VanAken and Trey VanAken.

Johnson Family Member Baptized in Chapel that Bears Grandfather's Name



Dr. Glen H'88 and LaVonne Johnson, generous supporters of Thiel and the driving force behind the David L. Johnson Memorial Chapel, the Glen Johnson Community Center and the Con Spirito Chamber Music Concert Series, visited the Chapel on July 17 for the baptism of their great-grandson, Conor Daniel Hungrecker. Conor is the son of their granddaughter, Katelyn, and her husband, Eliot. Katelyn is the daughter of Sheila and the late David Johnson, the Johnsons' son for whom the Chapel was named in 2006.

Rev. David Gleason, a member of the Thiel Board of Trustees, presided over the baptism. Pictured (from left to right) are Rev. David Gleason, Katelyn Hungrecker with Conor Daniel, Sheila Johnson, Eliot Hungrecker, Aidan Wallace, LaVonne Johnson with David Hungrecker, Miles Wallace and Glen Johnson.

Thiel Trustee Awarded Endowed Professorship



Dr. Jonathan Caulkins, a member of the Thiel Board of Trustees, was awarded the H. Guyford Stever Professorship of Operations Research and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University in June.

A member of CMU's Heinz College faculty since 1990, Caulkins has taught at CMU's Qatar campus since 2005. He specializes in mathematical modeling of policy systems pertaining to drugs, crime, terror and violence.

This fall, Caulkins was also named an INFORMS Fellow by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, an honor awarded to those with outstanding lifetime achievements in operations research and the management sciences.

Caulkins earned his doctorate in operational research and master's in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also holds a master's in systems science and mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis, where he did his undergraduate work in engineering and computer science. Caulkins has been a member of the Thiel Board of Trustees since 2003.

Spring Cleaning



On Saturday, April 24, the campus and Greenville community participated in the sixth annual Spring into Action Day. More than 350 volunteers from Thiel College student organizations, athletic teams, staff members and Greenville community organizations gathered to beautify the campus and surrounding areas including Riverside Park, Main Street and St. Michael School, among other projects. Spring into Action day falls around Earth Day each year and volunteers are always welcome. Many thanks to all those who participated this year and helped to put Greenville's best foot forward!

Wear Your Tomcat Pride



The Thiel Bookstore is now selling t-shirts for some of Thiel's new programs and sports. You can purchase Shooting Club, lacrosse, marching band and tennis shirts from the bookstore for \$15 each. Visit www.thiel.edu and click on the "Bookstore" link to peruse the merchandise for online sales. If they are not listed on the Web site, sport- and organization-specific shirts can be purchased in person at the bookstore or via phone. Proceeds for program-specific shirts benefit those groups! The

bookstore is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can be reached at 724-589-2170.

An Ounce of Prevention

Thiel launches a safe schools pilot program for student teachers

It seems that nearly everyone has a bullying story; an experience in elementary, middle or high school that haunts you to this day. If you're lucky, part of your story includes an adult who helped you get through the experience and come out stronger on the other end. A new program in Thiel College's Education Department is training student teachers to be that caring adult, someone who can minimize negative or violent behavior before it gets out of hand.

The Prevent, Intervene and Restore (PIR) project is a pilot program that provides training to Thiel's student teachers, instructing them how to identify the precursors of violent behavior in children and preempt violence in the classroom. The program stresses bullying, which, according to the Safe School Initiative report compiled by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education in 2002, is the precursor to about 71 percent of violent actions in schools.

The PIR project in the Education Department is a spin-off of Thiel's new Regional Training Center (RTC), which launched last summer through the efforts of Vice President for Auxiliary Enterprises and Chief Technology Officer Bill Beil and Director of Public Safety Don Aubrecht and is funded by a grant

from the U.S. Department of Justice. RTC provides in-service and continuing education training in school safety, all-hazards crisis management and emergency response preparedness, and other specialized areas of study to law enforcement and safety professionals, educators and academic leaders, corporate executives and community leaders throughout western Pennsylvania. Professor Connie Reinhart, associate professor of education and director of teacher education at Thiel, attended the RTC open house and immediately saw the opportunities it would present for her students.

"We want to give our student teachers as many tools as possible and show them where they can find resources so that if and when something happens in their classrooms, they become part of the solution, and not part of the problem," said Reinhart.

The first few years of a teaching career are the prime time for teachers to struggle with how to manage bad behaviors in their classrooms, said Reinhart. The new Thiel program is called "Prevent, Intervene and Restore" because those are three of the four steps recommended by the Department of Education when dealing with negative or violent behaviors in the classroom. (Recovery is the final

step.) Moreover, the name reflects exactly the process that Thiel's Education Department wants its students to learn, a process that will help to make the classroom a more positive environment for students, one that is more suitable for learning.

Thiel is the first college to offer such a program to its student teachers and the first time that the Safe Schools and Communities Consulting Group, which coordinates training at the RTC, has connected their training to a college education program.

The SSCCG provides assessment and development of crisis response plans, behavioral analysis, anti-bullying programs and physical security and crime prevention strategies based on the results of the 2002 "Safe Schools Initiative" report. The group's team members collectively have about 350 years of experience in law enforcement, behavioral science, business, education and emergency management for local, state and federal agencies.

"It's imperative to be practiced so that if and when something happens in a classroom—whether it's a student being verbally disruptive or a bullying situation or a violent action—you're ready to respond in a manner that has a better chance for a positive outcome," said Lillie Leonardi, SSCCG project liaison to Thiel College's RTC and PIR programs. "We never want teachers to say 'Oh, my God, I didn't know what to do.'"

However, the program is not intended to instill fear; instead it allows Thiel's student teachers to be knowledgeable and instinctive in heading off problems before they start.

Currently, the program consists of six seminars, two each month, throughout the semester, ranging in topic from "Red Flag Behaviors" to "Cultural Awareness" to "Bully Behaviors." Each session is taught by instructors from Safe Schools and Communities Consulting Group. Currently, there are about seven student teachers in the program during the initial semester and about 15 will be in the program in the spring. Students who complete the training will receive a certificate, said Reinhart.

Thiel's Education Department will review and make changes to the program as time goes on based on feedback from students, both while they're doing their student teaching and through follow up in their post-graduation teaching careers. The most important feedback for the pilot program will be about applicability, said Leonardi. Will the students

actually use the skills they learn in their classrooms? Were the seminars beneficial to their early years of teaching? What the student teachers feel is valuable in the course will be a very important part of the future direction of the program, she added.

Pennsylvania has a very strong teacher education program, ranking as the third largest state in the export of teachers with about 100 teaching colleges across the state. Reinhart, a former school principal, has a passion for school safety that she shares with other school administrators. The training provided by PIR will give Thiel's student teachers the tools not only to make them effective educators, but to help them land their first teaching position, wherever it may be.

"One positive adult influence can make all the difference in a kid's life."

"We have a very strong team in the Education Department and all of us have so much background knowledge. We always want to make sure we're giving the best to these students so that they do get hired," said Reinhart. "I can't see any future employer looking at this program and not seeing it as a real plus."

This program could also help them keep those jobs. The first five years of teaching after graduation see the biggest defection of teachers from the

profession, said Reinhart, and one of the biggest causes are discipline and boundary issues in the classroom.

"We want to make this program as beneficial as possible to our students," said Reinhart. "We want them to become part of the solution and not part of the problem of school violence."

Reinhart and Leonardi are already thinking about future plans for PIR. Local school administrators are interested in what's happening with the program and collaboration between the PIR program and local schools could occur in the future, said Reinhart. Simulations of classroom incidents in real schools or all-day retreats at local schools with the student teachers and faculty and administrators at the school are both a possibility.

"One positive adult influence can make all the difference in a kid's life," said Leonardi. "We want to help these student teachers become the teachers they want to be and be the educators that their students need."

Thiel's student teachers participate in one of the seminars of the Prevent, Intervene and Restore pilot program.



Photo by Matthew T. Lacey and used by permission from The Record-Argus

Don't "Buc" the Opportunity

Many college students find typical, ordinary summer jobs in places like movie theaters, grocery stores and fast food restaurants, but when Laura Davin '11 and Stephanie Smith '11 were offered the opportunity to become ball girls for the Pittsburgh Pirates, they didn't hesitate to sign up.

"Our future boss e-mailed collegiate softball coaches around the area asking if they had any players who would be interested in being ball girls because they stopped using ball boys," said Davin.

Being a loyal Pirates fan, Laura couldn't let this opportunity pass her by and neither could Stephanie Smith, a fellow softball player and Pirates fan. The Pirates weren't hesitant in picking them up either. Both Davin and Smith were given threads that the ordinary fan would die for, including jerseys, hats, socks and shorts.

The girls were two of many softball players from the area who worked for the Pirates. Schools such as Chatham University, St. Vincent College, Washington & Jefferson College and Westminster College were represented during the summer as well.

"It was great to meet and get to know girls that we play against during the season because now they aren't just opponents, they're friends," said Smith.

Although meeting the players wasn't allowed, the girls felt as if they were part of the team. Their jobs consisted of scooping up foul balls and either saving the ball or tossing it into the stands. It can be said that every fan's dream is to catch a ball hit into the stands and usually the fans get a little crazy over a four-dollar baseball. In one instance, a foul ground ball was hit towards Davin, as she was waiting, glove open, for the errant hit. Before the ball got to her, a fan dove for the ball and made her miss it. The ball careened off the wall and flew into the stands, almost striking a fan in the process!



"It was kind of scary because everyone's eyes are on you whether you like it or not, and when something like that happens everyone sees it. You can only hope that no one gets hurt. That was definitely my worst moment there hands down," said Davin. "Those fans can get so crazy over a foul ball."

Other than the crazy fans the job was a sweet gig, giving both Davin and Smith the opportunity of a lifetime. They were part of a Major League baseball team for an entire summer, and the perks made the job worth it every day.

"I think that the greatest feeling I had was seeing the look on a kid's face when I tossed him the foul ball. It was priceless, I'll never forget it," said Davin.

—Kendell Harrell '14