

## Alumni Honored at Homecoming 2009

Each year at Homecoming, Thiel's Alumni Association honors alumni who bring pride to themselves, their families and their alma mater with the Service to Thiel, Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni awards.

Service to Thiel winners are nominated for their loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel. Distinguished Alumni are nominated for outstanding contributions to their professions. Young Alumni award winners are nominated for their potential for future accomplishments in their professions and service to the College.

This year, the following alumni were honored:

### —Service to Thiel Awards—

#### **Marianne Kennedy Calenda '79**

Marianne Calenda has dedicated her life to inspiring students in higher education, at her alma mater and currently at Elizabethtown College, where she serves as dean of students.

After joining the Thiel staff in 1990, Calenda held several positions including director of community service, director of corporate and foundation support, director of special events and projects, interim director of development, associate dean of students and co-director of the First-Year experience. During her tenure at Thiel, she was involved in several important campus initiatives, including Earth Week and the Center for Women's Leadership.

Calenda has a bachelor's degree in art from Thiel and a master's in higher education administration from Geneva College.

#### **Daniel McMillen '86**

A four-year letter winner while on the Thiel golf team, Dan McMillen has revitalized the golf program as head golf coach.

Following a brief stint in sales after graduation from Thiel, McMillen became head golf professional at Greenville Country Club, now the Greens of Greenville, where he has been for the past 17 years.

He earned his "Class A" status with the PGA of America in 1996. He has provided individual and clinical



*Pictured from left to right are Jeffrey Keeling '07, Marianne Kennedy Calenda '79, Gary J. Witosky '79, President Troy VanAken, Daniel McMillen '86 and Richard D. Huether '74*

instruction to hundreds of area players with an emphasis on junior golfers. McMillen is the first PGA Professional and one of a handful of people in the world to ever record two holes-in-one on the same day on the same hole at the King and Bear Golf Club in St. Augustine, Fla. He has been the head golf coach at Greenville High School for more than 11 seasons.

#### **Gary J. Witosky '79**

A magna cum laude graduate with a degree in accounting and business administration and a certified public accountant, Gary Witosky has worked on the audit staff at Ernst & Young, served as vice president of finance, treasurer and chief financial officer of American Axle & Manufacturing Inc., and was president and chief operating officer of Colfor Manufacturing Inc. After retiring in 2001, he returned to Thiel as an adjunct professor of business administration. Witosky served as the College's interim vice president of finance in 2004.

In 2007, Witosky was appointed senior vice president with President Robert C. Olson '60. Witosky was instrumental on several major projects including the Middle States accreditation, oversight of the admissions department marketing plan and many others.

Witosky currently serves as the executive assistant to the president, a position to which he was appointed by President Troy D. VanAken in

July. He is also a member of the Haller Advisory Board and a former member of the Board of Associates and Alumni Board of Directors.

### —Distinguished Alumni Awards—

#### **Robert Denove '75**

Bob Denove has been with international accounting firm Deloitte for more than 33 years and, for the past nine years, has held the position of managing partner of the Pittsburgh office. Over the years, his clients have included significant entities in banking, finance, health care, manufacturing and professional services.

Denove is a member of the board of directors of the Pittsburgh Opera, the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Pittsburgh Children's Museum, the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, the Pittsburgh Economy League and the Boy Scouts of America Greater Pittsburgh Council. He is also a member of the board of directors and the 2009 Campaign Chair for The United Way of Allegheny County.

Denove was the original speaker for the capstone course for business students, the Senior Honors Seminar. Denove is a member of the Thiel Board of Associates. He graduated magna cum laude from Thiel with a degree in accounting.

#### **Christine Hammond, Ph.D. '77**

Dr. Christine Hammond is the senior project coordinator for

Michigan State University, Dubai and has been instrumental in setting up the university's Middle East campus.

MSU Dubai is a nonprofit higher education institution intended to promote world-class research, teaching and scholarship.

Previously, Hammond served nearly 10 years as executive director, planning and administrative affairs, at Michigan State University College of Law. Prior to that, she was the head of the Office of Faculty and Evaluation at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. Hammond spoke as part of the Business Honors Seminar and began her higher education career at Thiel in 1979 as assistant dean and residence life coordinator.

Hammond holds a bachelor's degree in English from Thiel, a master's degree from Bowling Green State University and a doctorate from Michigan State University.

#### **Richard D. Huether '74**

After graduating from Thiel with a degree in business administration, Rick Huether began pursuing his MBA at Bowling Green State University. In 1975, he received a job offer from Maryland-based Independent Can Company (ICC), which was founded in 1929 and has been owned by his family since 1948. ICC is a manufacturer of

specialty decorative and industrial tins with three can manufacturing plants in the United States and is headquartered in Belcamp, Md.

He began working at ICC as a sales representative, a position he held for 13 years. Huether has worked in the family business, minus his summer work as a student, for 34 years in various capacities in sales and marketing, manufacturing and currently as president and CEO. He is the third generation to hold that position.

He has been involved with the International Packaging Association; Vistage, an organization of company presidents and CEOs; the Thiel Board of Trustees and was a recipient of the Haller Enterprise Entrepreneur of the Year award.

#### **—Young Alumni Awards—**

#### **Jeffrey Keeling '07**

Jeffrey Keeling graduated magna cum laude from Thiel with a degree in English. An English and literature teacher in the Commodore Perry High School District, Keeling also teaches eighth and 10th grade college prep courses and serves as an adviser and coach to several programs promoting academic excellence, such as the Academic Pentathlon and Youngstown State University's English Festival.

Keeling is currently working toward a master's degree in English. He also is a talented musician—Keeling and other family members perform as “The Keelings,” a gospel music group. He serves on Thiel's ACT 101 Advisory Board.

#### **Jamie Larrick Pinchot '99**

This former Thiel valedictorian graduated summa cum laude from Thiel in 1999 with a bachelor's degree in computer science and an associate's degree in management information systems. Jaime Pinchot then worked for Bayer Corporate and Business Services as an information systems analyst while beginning her teaching career as an adjunct at Robert Morris University. Pinchot returned to her alma mater in 2004 as an instructor of computer science where she helped develop the Web development and e-commerce majors. She also assisted with improving the Thiel Web site.

Pinchot left Thiel in 2008, returning to Bayer Business and Technology Services as senior consultant, where she provides consulting, support and training for Web 2.0 initiatives.

Pinchot also holds a master's degree and doctorate in information systems and communications from RMU.

## On the Road with Thiel College



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Thiel College has been “out-and-about” this year, introducing the College's new president, Dr. Troy VanAken, and sharing the good news from campus with alumni around the region. Pictured are Baltimore area alumni at an event in September (1), Cleveland-area alumni enjoyed a night on the water with the College that same month (2), Mercer County friends and alumni enjoyed a festive evening at the Avalon Country Club in Sharon, Pa., in October (3) and Dr. Jim Ummer '67, H'07 presented a retirement seminar in April to College alumni in Pittsburgh (4). Other travels this semester include Meet-the-President events in Erie, Pa., and northeast Ohio. Check [www.thiel.edu/alumni](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni) for more details!



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## Jim Cunningham '77 & WQED: a dynamic duo for 30 years

When Jim Cunningham '77 walked in the doors of WQED Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh's public broadcasting company, in fall 1978, he did not know he would be entering those same doors every day for three decades. After all, it is a bit unusual for a person in the radio industry to have one job for so long. But Cunningham has been lucky and talented enough to stay at the same radio station for 30 years.

From a young age, Cunningham knew he wanted to have a career in radio. He joined the radio club in high school and worked at the local radio station in Warren, Pa., where he grew up. When it came time for college, he chose Thiel College for two reasons—many of his relatives were alumni and he liked the fact that Thiel had a campus radio station. Cunningham majored in both business and English, and it was one of his English professors, Evelyn Baer, who sponsored his internship at WQED during his freshman year.

During his internship, Cunningham had the opportunity to work alongside Fred Rogers of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." He also met many of the celebrities who were featured on WQED's television station, WQED-TV, and the radio station, Classical WQED-FM 89.3. He also was able to work with the people who ran *Pittsburgh* magazine, which was at that time owned by WQED. Cunningham also learned more about classical music and the way the station was run.

After his internship, Cunningham continued his involvement in radio. He became student manager of the radio station at Thiel during his junior and senior years, and also worked at local radio stations WNAE and WRRN-FM in Warren during summer months and WGRP AM in Greenville during the academic year and on breaks.

While at Thiel, Cunningham made many connections with his professors, such as David Miller, Richard Schroeder, Jim Bloomfield, Ron Pivovar, and Judith Newton. He was most influenced by the cultural world view of Schroeder, his academic adviser, who had traveled to many countries throughout the world. Schroeder encouraged Cunningham to make the most of the cultural opportunities he had at Thiel.



Jim Cunningham '77 celebrates 30 years at WQED Pittsburgh's classical radio station this year. (Pictured left): Cunningham was first introduced to WQED as a young man interning at the station.

When graduation time arrived, Cunningham was hired by WQED to work as an announcer for the radio station. Thirty years later, he is still working at WQED, but is now the senior executive producer. He has had the opportunity to go on 20 world tours with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, traveling to exotic places like Malaysia, Japan, Australia, Europe and many others. He says that when he lived in Warren many years ago he never dreamed he would have all the opportunities to travel that he has had, but he did always dream of a career in radio.

Cunningham also serves as the host for the Robert Morris University Pittsburgh Speakers Series at Heinz Hall each year, which WQED sponsors, and has interviewed prominent figures such as Colin Powell, Dave Barry and Robert Redford.

"My favorite thing about my job is meeting smart, interesting people every day who are working hard to make the world a better place," says Cunningham.

When asked what advice he would share with a current Thiel student, Cunningham said, "Be curious about everything. Talk to people about their passions. Be a continuous learner. It is when you work hard to help others that you will find yourself fulfilled . . . and go eat a Maji dog."

– Nicole (Owens) Wertz '10

# 2009 Homecoming Reunion Classes

## Thank You!



Guy Thigpen '49 and Dannie Smith Bair '45.



Janet McClintock, Bill Wise and Carol (Porter) McQueen.



Kathy (Garofolo) Sourbeer, Leah (Glessner) Dever, Jane (Davis) Minton and Stewart Bair.



(Row 1) Richard Erickson, Dan Lowery, Ken Christiano and Dave Sartori; (Row 2) Grant Gawronski, John Phillips, Bruce Thoma and Karen Ely; (Row 3) Byron Russell, Theresa Merhaut, Brent Agett, Scott Boucher, Susan (Benigni) Lendin and Pete Muskovac; (Row 4) Julie Smith and Ruth (Burns) Walkup.



(Row 1) Bill Hutzell, Hugo Martin, Charles Whiteman, Richard Bruckman, David Keener, Robert Anderson and Thomas West; (Row 2) Robert Fischer, Deanna Leuenberger, Carl Olsen, Roy Wilt and Duane Weiss; (Row 3) Dean Mates, Janice Olsen, Mary Arbaugh, George Summerhill, Leonard Toy, Fred Zikeli and Katherine Weiss; (Row 4) Rae Johnson, Elsa Schubel, Arlene Summerhill, Tom Lerch, Joyce Bischoff, Stanley Schubel and Dale Rushneck.



Paul Hinnebusch, Ed Neiderhiser, David Burgess, Richard Sosin and Dave Harding (front).



(Row 1) Val Heyworth, Ramona (Snyder) Groh and Andy Zikeli; (Row 2) Shannon (Jackson) Pursel and Lisa (Martino) Schmittinger; (Row 3) George Huss, Donna (Balante) McCaskey, Sydne (Neumaier) Hanko and Christine (Mosack) Pitman.



Nirina (Andrianavony) Rajaofera and Renee Bair.

Many thanks to the following class agents for loyalty to their alma mater and generous work on behalf of fellow alumni.

If interested in serving as a class agent, please contact the director of alumni services at alumni@thiel.edu.

- Vivian (Loncoske) Lowther '35 (Classes before 1945)
- M. Evaline (Lackey) Packard '46 (Classes of 1945-46)
- Margaret (Easton) Battisti '47 (Classes of 1947-48)
- Rev. Ralph & Lois R. Fogal '50 (Classes of 1949-50)
- Barbara (Taylor) Davis '51 (Classes of 1951-53)
- Myrtie (Lewis) Manes '57 (Classes of 1954-57)
- Rev. Dr. Richard Dowhower (Class of 1958)
- Arlene (Rupert) Summerhill (Class of 1959)
- Letha (Morton) Adelman '61 (Classes of 1960-61)
- Ken & Dianne (Badock '63) B. Weigel '62 (Classes of 1962-64)
- Susan (Ward) Merk '66 (Classes of 1965-66)
- Tom Balas (Class of 1967)
- Rev. Donald & Dr. Judith C. Thomas (Class of 1968)
- Richard & Carol B. Patterson (Class of 1969)
- John Hauser '71 (Classes of 1970-71)
- Evelyn (Duffett) Todd (Class of 1972)
- Rev. Stewart Bair '74 (Classes of 1973-74)
- Tom Wickerham (Class of 1975)
- Peggy A. Pollitt (Class of 1976)
- Jane (McCrea) Hand (Class of 1977)
- Joe Nairn '79 (Classes of 1978-79)
- W. Gregory Ramsey '82 (Classes of 1980-82)
- Mary D. Baden (Class of 1983)
- Monty McAdoo '85 (Classes of 1984-85)
- Sally Tomlinson '87 (Classes of 1986-87)
- Dr. Monica Anderson (Class of 1988)
- Brian Governor (Class of 1989)
- Michelle Uschock and Kim Balas (Class of 1990)
- Jane (Kozak) Burgh '92 (Classes of 1991-92)
- Audra (Schell) Ganiear (Class of 1993)
- Sam & Charlene C. Leeper and Ken Fredericks (Class of 1994)
- Damen Taylor and Dawn Salter (Class of 1995)
- Amy Hackman (Class of 1998)
- Renee Bair (Class of 1999)
- Stephen Isler '02 (Classes of 2000-02)
- Heather Atkinson (Class of 2003)
- Christina Urie and Jeri Reed '05 (Classes of 2004-05)
- Melanie (Cragg) Horvath (Class of 2006)
- Bridget Hurt and Kelly Parsell (Class of 2007)