

PROFILE OF DISTINCTION:

SUSAN SNOWDEN

YOU WERE NOMINATED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES BY THE WV/WMD SYNOD. WHY IS SERVICE ON THE BOARD IMPORTANT TO YOU AS A LUTHERAN?

Thiel has a rich heritage of faith-based education, which originated at its inception. When Rev. Dr. William Passavant and Louis Thiel met in 1866 at the Lutheran Church Pittsburgh Synod convention in Greensburg, Pa., an affiliation began between the church and the College. This tradition continues today and Lutheran Synods have representatives to the Board, which allows trustees such as me to donate their time, talent and treasure to furthering the mission of the College. Although I may not be an alum, I am a Lutheran that believes in educating students in their career and personal lives.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER OR LIFE PHILOSOPHY?

I believe that if you work hard and always try to do the right thing you can achieve any goal. Your business philosophy should mirror that of your personal life. Integrity and ethics are important factors in life and, above all, I try to see all sides to an issue and be fair. I always try to lead by example and will not ask someone to perform a task that I would not, or could not, do myself. I have always involved my family in my business life so that they had a clear understanding of what I do and who I am. A demanding career does not mean that you do not have time for your family, friends or community.



YOU ARE VERY ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY, BOARD AND VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES, WHY DO YOU FEEL THAT SERVICE IS IMPORTANT IN YOUR LIFE?

God has blessed me with unique abilities and has allowed me to be a success in the legal profession. Because of that, I give back in my professional and personal life. The Bible says, "For everyone to whom much is given, of him shall much be required" (Luke 12:48). I live my life by that verse. No matter what your station in life, you always have something that you can give—even if it is just a kind word or gesture. Our treasures are not our own, they belong to God and he allows us to steward those gifts for the greater good. My family believes this and we have taught our children to donate their time and talent to others as well.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION LIKE THAT WHICH THIEL PROVIDES?

A liberal arts education creates a well-rounded individual. I know many lawyers who are musicians, artists, writers and true craftsmen. Most of them are a product of a liberal arts education. Your career knowledge is tantamount to your professional success. Your education in many paths of knowledge is fundamental to your evolution into a well-rounded person. I believe that knowledge is power, and you should never stop learning. The art class you dread as a freshman may very well inspire you later in life to visit museums when traveling on business in another city. I graduated from a liberal arts school and believe it has made me a multi-dimensional person who can try a case during the week and cook a gourmet meal or scrapbook a photo display of a vacation, and always on Sunday provide music for our worship service.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ASPECT OF BEING PART OF THE THIEL COLLEGE COMMUNITY?

I have met many quality individuals at Thiel, and count many as friends. Each year brings new opportunities to meet new people, contribute to new goals and further Thiel's commitment to educate tomorrow's leaders.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT TAKE A LOOK AT THIEL COLLEGE?

Thiel College is the perfect-size college for a student who wants to grow academically and personally. Faculty and staff at Thiel provide the perfect environment to experience new things. Whether it is going to your first professional sporting event in Pittsburgh, or a museum, or the Nation's Capitol...Thiel offers you the opportunity to grow. I believe in Thiel and that is borne out by the fact that my son is a current student at Thiel.

Susan Snowden is a shareholder and attorney at Martin & Seibert, L.C., and practices in the area of insurance law with an emphasis on class action defense of employment and insurance-related claims. She also serves as a fiduciary commissioner for Berkeley County, W.Va. Snowden earned her law degree from Ohio Northern University and her bachelor's degree from Shepherd College. She and her husband, Bradley, live in Inwood, W.Va. Their son, John, is a member of the Thiel Class of 2013.