

Greetings, Thiel Alumni!

Thank you for your warm welcome during my first months at Thiel as your alumni director. As you know, Thiel is truly a special place, and I feel very fortunate to be serving its alumni and helping to further its mission each day.

“Thiel is for life.” President Troy D. VanAken spoke these words on April 17 in his inaugural response. “The Thiel Commitment extends from the moment our students first come in contact with the College to their golden years as loyal alumni.” Your relationship with Thiel grows and changes throughout the various stages of life, but it always remains. No matter your place in life, our job in the Alumni Office is to ensure that Thiel is relevant to you and serving you in a meaningful way.

What does it mean to be a recent Thiel graduate facing a difficult job market? It means that you have lifetime access to our Career Services Office, where you will network with other alumni and hone your interviewing skills. What does it mean to be a Thiel graduate with a young family? It means that we provide programming opportunities for you and your family, such as the College for Kids program or our upcoming Alumni and Family Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo. What does it mean to be a Thiel graduate celebrating your 50th class reunion? It means that Thiel enriches you through lifelong learning, philanthropy, volunteer service and sharing your passion for liberal arts education.

We also strive for relevancy and practicality in the ways that we communicate with you. We provide services and up-to-date information about campus through the use of technology and increased e-communications. At the same time, Thiel enjoys significant cost-savings by cutting back on printed mail. Please share your e-mail address with us so we may ensure that you are kept informed.

Given all of the new initiatives and developments on campus, there has perhaps never been a more exciting time to get involved. Regardless of where you live, we have an opportunity for you to make a difference at Thiel. From mentoring students to planning alumni events to acting as a class agent, there are a host of volunteer positions connected with the Alumni Office.

I hope that you are inspired, as I have been, to join in and “Imagine Thiel.” Thank you for all that you do and for all that you will do in the future for Thiel College. I look forward to meeting you personally very soon.

Warmest regards,



Lauren Oman
Director of Alumni Services



You've Been Challenged

As was reported in the fall edition of *The Bell*, the College has issued a President's Challenge to the graduates of the past 25 years (1985-2009). This special challenge is aimed at increasing the percentage of participation among the College's recent graduates and to help the institution meet its first-ever \$1 million goal for The Thiel Fund.

Even more exciting, a generous anonymous donor has agreed to match, dollar for dollar, all new gifts to The Thiel Fund, up to \$30,000. As of May 10, the leading class was the Class of 1988 with 13 percent of class members giving, followed closely by the Classes of 1985, 1986 and 1989 all at 12 percent. It's anyone's game—your participation makes a difference!

If you're a first-time donor, there won't be a better time to step up and be counted among Thiel's most dedicated supporters. The challenge runs through June 30—so don't delay in putting your class at the top!

You can donate online (www.thiel.edu) or mail your gift to 75 College Ave., Greenville, Pa. 16125.

The winning class will be honored at Homecoming 2010 and will be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Bell*.

The class year will also be engraved on the President's Challenge Cup that will reside in a place of honor in Roth Hall.

For more information, call the Office of College Advancement at 724-589-2027.



Thiel on Tour

Dr. Troy VanAken and other members of Thiel's staff and faculty have been "on the road" again this semester. Meet the President events were held in Erie, Pa., Warren, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Pa., and Naples, Fla., in recent months. Attendees were able to meet the new president and learn about the exciting initiatives and events happening on campus—as well as VanAken's plans for the future of Thiel College. Pictured below: **(1)** Members of the Class of 1979 Mike Zawoysky, Pat Findle and Gary Witosky reunite at La Casa Narcisi Winery in Pittsburgh, where Sara '63 and Dennis Narcisi hosted an event in March. **(2)** A group of alumni share an intimate dinner with Dr. VanAken and Dave Grober, vice president for college advancement, in Naples, Fla., in January. **(3)** Dave Hofius '64 and his wife, Elaine, hosted an event in Warren, Ohio, in December and pose with Chuck Cunningham Jr. '67 and his wife, Marybeth, and Dave Grober. **(4)** A group of Thiel alumni and prospective students share an evening in Harrisburg, Pa., in April, hosted by Dr. Carl Hoffman Jr. '69 and his wife, Theresa. **(5)** A group of alums gather together in Erie, Pa., in November, hosted by Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Roy Strausbaugh and his wife, Rosanna.



Alumni Present Assessment Tools to Education Majors

In February, the Thiel chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international education honorary, and Intermediate Unit 4—through a grant from the Heinz Foundation secured by Professors James Shaffer and Mary Reames—hosted a presentation on performance assessment. Education majors from Thiel College, Grove City College and Westminster College were invited to attend. Presenters **Kevin DeFrancesco '05** and **Katie Tyson '06** provided the participants with authentic assessment tools used in their classrooms that allow



students to demonstrate their understanding. The projects were technology rich and included such tasks as Web Quests, displays that required the students to use art, music and drama to express their thinking about topics taught, and portfolios. In order to have students engaged, teachers must be willing to take risks and have the patience to work with their students to get positive results. Students who attended the presentation said "...the best thing I learned today was that you have to empower your students and make them self-sufficient learners" and "Teaching is more than homework and lecturing. A teacher's first priority is the students who need engagement and flexibility. Mr. DeFrancesco and Mrs. Tyson are absolutely wonderful teachers and models for us all."

Upcoming Events

Thiel Alumni and Family Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo

Saturday, June 19

Get wild with fellow alumni and their families at the Pittsburgh Zoo! Tickets include zoo admission and a catered lunch in the PNC Pavilion.

Visit www.thiel.edu/alumni/alumni-events for details and ticket information.

Homecoming 2010—Save the Date!

September 17-19

(See page 38 for more details.)

Alumni Board Meeting Dates 2010-2011

Saturday, September 18

Saturday, October 30

Saturday, February 12

Saturday, April 16

Contact the Office of Alumni Services at 724-589-2042 or alumni@thiel.edu with questions about these or other alumni events.



**Save the date
for the Thiel
College Greek
Summit on
Oct. 23, 2010!**

Greek Alumni are invited back to reconnect with the campus community for Thiel College's first-ever Greek Life Summit this year. The program will feature a keynote speaker, various presentations and roundtable discussions with a focus on enhancing Greek life at Thiel College.

Following the primary program, Thiel's Greek chapters also will plan individual social events and open houses for returning alumni. Finally, the Division of Student Life will be taking a pep bus to the football game at Westminster College at 7 p.m. to support the team.

Additional information will be sent to Greek alumni later this summer.

If you have any immediate questions about this event, please contact Dean of Students Mike McKinney '02 at 724-589-2600 or e-mail him at mmckinney@thiel.edu.

Alumni Mentors Needed



The Office of Career Services is looking for alumni to serve as mentors for our current students. We currently have two outstanding Web sites that students and alumni can use to search for jobs and develop mentoring relationships.

Becoming a mentor is easy! Simply follow one of the links below, create a free profile and sign up to serve as a mentor:

 www.collegecentral.com/thiel

This Web site features a mentoring network where students can find mentors by major, professional field or even extracurricular activities you were involved in when you were at Thiel. This site also provides job searching/posting and a built-in e-portfolio.

 www.careerathletes.com

This Web site's mentoring network connects students with alumni mentors by collegiate sport. This site provides job searching/posting with companies who are specifically looking for former athletes to employ. The site also has a feature that allows you to search not only jobs posted to their site, but jobs from other qualified databases that meet your search criteria.

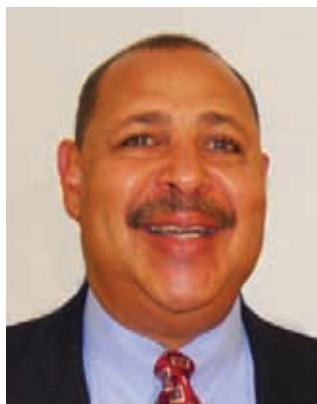
If you have any questions about becoming a mentor, or about using either site, please contact Heather Balas, director of career services, at 724-589-2014 or hbalas@thiel.edu.

Tomcat Alumni to be Honored at Homecoming

Thiel College is proud to announce this year's Homecoming alumni awardees. Each year, Thiel's Alumni Board chooses a group of Thiel alumni to honor who bring pride to themselves, their families and their alma mater. This distinguished group of alumni has truly made a mark in their professional lives, their service to the world and their love of Thiel College. (Young Alumni award winners will be announced later this summer.) Please join us on Sept. 17-19, 2010 during Homecoming 2010 to celebrate their achievements!

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumni honorees are nominated for outstanding contributions to their professions. Congratulations to this year's winners!



William Parker '75



Dr. Thomas '59 & Lynn (Sopher) '63 (not pictured) West

Service to Thiel

Service to Thiel winners are nominated for their loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel. Thank you for all that you do for Thiel College!



Barbara (Taylor) Davis '51



David '63 & Mary Jo (Enlow) '63 Andrews