

# Alumni Honored at Homecoming 2010

From a public servant who traveled the world to a school teacher who never left her hometown of Greenville, a wide variety of life experiences, successes and years of service were on display at the annual Alumni Award Ceremony at Homecoming this year. But one thing that this year's seven Alumni Award recipients share is the profound impact that a Thiel education had on their lives. Their inspiring stories were presented to a group of students, staff and faculty, alumni and friends on Friday, Sept. 17 in the Lutheran Heritage Room. Thiel is proud to celebrate this special group's achievements and lives of service to their families, community, alma mater and the world. Congratulations all!

### Service to Thiel Award

Service to Thiel Award recipients are nominated for their loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel.

#### David '63 and Mary Jo (Enlow) '63 Andrews

From their student days on campus, through their commitment to family, career and community, Dave and Mary Jo Andrews have stayed connected to Thiel and involved in its progress. From enthusiastic attendance at alumni and student events to membership on the Board of Trustees, they have a 40-year history of volunteer service to Thiel.

Dave and Mary Jo met while students and upon graduation went on to marry, develop careers, have a family and become community and regional leaders.

Dave's dedication to his alma mater includes membership on the Alumni Board, service as a past president of the College's Alumni Association and membership on Thiel Board of Trustees—a role he has been committed to since 1983. Currently, Dave serves as the Board treasurer and also is the chair of the Finance and Investment Committee, where leadership has been invaluable.

Mary Jo is an active presence on campus and a frequent supporter of many Thiel activities. She can be seen at sporting events, graduation, building dedications and student presentations as well as

every Homecoming for the last 20 years. She has served as a mentor to presidential and board spouses; an ambassador sharing the College's mission with local, regional and national constituencies; and has been a tremendous resource of information for new members joining the Thiel community.

#### Barbara (Taylor) Davis '51

The love Barbara Davis has for Thiel College is legendary. During her time as a student, she was an engaged member of the community participating in Chi Omega sorority, Pan-Hellenic Council, Thiel Players, band, German Club and *The Endymion*.

Her appreciation of music and talent as a flutist led her to begin, as a student, what would become a more than 60-year affiliation with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra, during which she played with Pittsburgh Symphony harpist Gretchen VanHosen and also played under guest conductor Alex Trebek. Davis has accompanied the Thiel Choir and the Thiel Players on the flute during various programs.

Her dedication to her alma mater has taken many forms over her lifetime including service on boards, volunteering at events, being a member of the 1998 Presidential Search Committee and writing letters as a class agent for more than five decades. Davis and her husband, Bob, were involved with the creation of the Friends of Art Gallery during the

renovation of the Howard Miller Student Center.

The Davis family has welcomed international students from Nepal, Japan, China, Korea, Africa and Sri Lanka into their home and offered hospitality and a chance to share information about their own cultures. Davis has worked as an Admissions Office volunteer, sharing the importance of a faith-based, liberal arts education and the relevance that it continues to have with prospective students. One of her fondest memories is participating in the 1999 Thiel Choir tour of the American south.

It is her belief in the "Thiel Family" that has not only continued her connection to Thiel but strengthened that relationship since graduation. During her career, she was a math teacher at Penn High School in Greenville, Pa., and serves as a volunteer for various community activities.

Davis resides in Greenville with her husband. They have three daughters, Cynthia, Pamela and Roberta, and six grandchildren with one more on the way.

**Distinguished Alumni Award**  
Recipients are nominated for outstanding contributions to their profession.

#### Dr. Thomas '59 and Lynn (Soper) '63 West

Tom and Lynn West have a shared passion for excellence in education and commitment to

providing access to educational and research services for students at all levels. Since both were first employed at Thiel College in 1959, their combined professional careers in education span more than 90 years of service.

Tom is the founding president and C.E.O. of National LambdaRail (NLR), serving there until 2009. Today, NLR is comprised of members from more than 100 U.S. research universities focused on implementing and operating a national network infrastructure for the advanced networking needs of the research and education communities. Before joining NLR, Tom spent more than four decades in the research and higher education community, including serving as the assistant vice chancellor for information resources and technology for the California State University system and directing the information and computer services for the Indiana University System. Earlier in his career, he held a number of positions, including mathematics instructor, assistant development director, vice chancellor for administration and college president. Tom has served on a variety of boards and is a noted speaker and publisher.

Lynn is an advocate for quality, excellence and standards in all aspects of a student's educational experience. Since 2005, she has served as the principal of Anaheim Adult Education, part of the Anaheim Union High School District. Her work as an advocate for the adult education program and its students is widely recognized. Lynn has chaired numerous accreditation visitation committees for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. In this volunteer role, Lynn has chaired committees that have accredited schools ranging from public schools, private or church-sponsored schools to the education program in San Quentin



The 2010 Alumni Award recipients—pictured from left to right are Dave Andrews, Bill Parker, Mary Jo Andrews, Justin Napotnik, Barbara Taylor Davis, Tom West and Lynn West.

Prison. Over a more than 40-year career in education, she served as a college registrar's assistant, university academic adviser, junior high and senior high school English and journalism teacher as well as an assistant principal at both levels.

While retiring recently, the Wests continue their commitment to education today. Lynn continues as principal with Anaheim Adult Education, on a consultant basis. Tom participates on Thiel's Board of Trustees. They reside in Newport Coast, Calif., and have four children and nine grandchildren.

#### William "Bill" Parker '75

William Parker is the vice president for international affairs for 21st Century Systems, Inc. and is an adjunct fellow for national security analysis at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab. He serves as special adviser for international affairs at the Space Foundation. Parker has more than 30 years of management and executive leadership experience in government in more than 50 countries. He retired with the rank of minister-counselor with the U.S. Department of State.

During his Foreign Service career, Parker served in embassies in

Ivory Coast, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, the Philippines and NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and India; served multiple tours in Washington, D.C.; and participated in numerous military and diplomatic operational activities overseas. Parker also was the foreign affairs adviser to General James E. Cartwright, former commander of the U.S. Strategic Command.

He was the first African American to serve as POLAD (foreign policy adviser), a role that has significant national and international responsibilities including coordinating and implementing the general's program for military-to-military engagement initiatives with senior personnel in Russia, China and India. He also played a key role in designing and assisting in the creation of the Joint Information Operations Warfare Command to support the commander and the secretary of defense in addressing the Department of Defense Global Information Operations. Parker also coordinated the commander's international engagements with Russian and Indian space force commanders.

See page 31 for more.

**Alumni Holiday Event**

Dec. 9, 2010  
6-8 p.m.  
*Squaw Creek Country Club, Vienna, Ohio*

**Southern California**

Palm Springs: Jan. 7, 2011  
4-6 p.m.  
*Host: Dr. Chuck Inacker '58*

Newport Coast: Jan. 8, 2011  
4-6:30 p.m.  
*Hosts: Tom '59 & Lynn '63 West*

**Arizona**

Jan. 10, 2011  
4-6 p.m.  
*Hosts: Ken '57 & Joyce Bash, Scottsdale, Ariz.*

**Texas**

Houston: Jan. 11, 2011  
5-7 p.m.  
*Daily Grill—Houston Galleria*

Dallas: Jan. 12, 2011  
4-6 p.m.  
*Host: Connie Hutzell '59*

**A Black & White Affair**

Feb. 12, 2011  
9 p.m.-2 a.m.  
Thiel College  
*Alumni are invited to attend this special Thiel community ball on campus!*

**Detroit-Area & Lacrosse Game vs. Albion**

Pontiac, Mich.  
Feb. 26, 2011  
Game: 1-4 p.m./Event: 5-7 p.m.

**Chicago, Illinois**

Feb. 27, 2011  
*Exact location and time TBA*

**South Pittsburgh**

March 24, 2011  
*Exact location and time TBA*

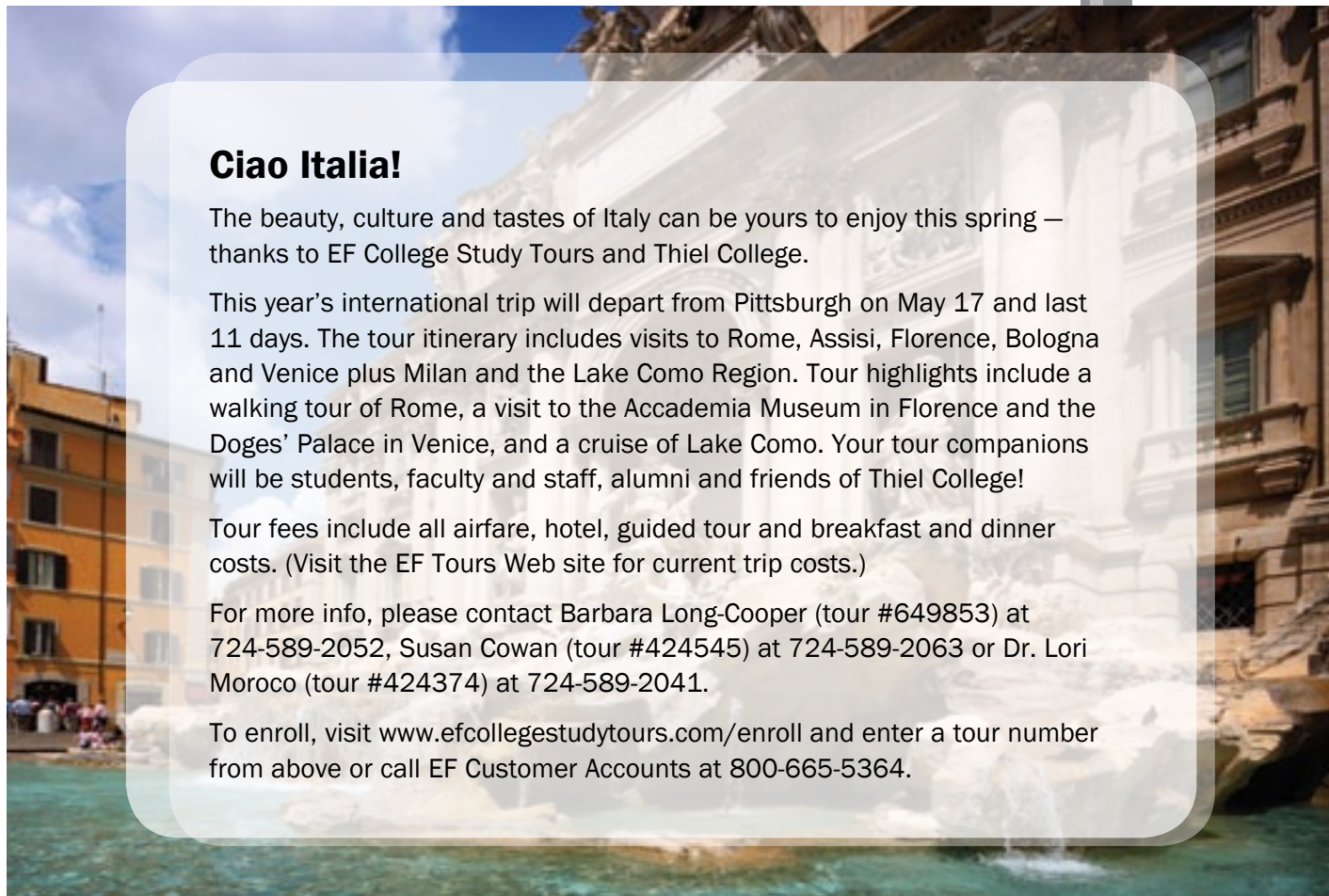
**Harrisburg/Philadelphia/Washington, D.C.**

May 18-20, 2011  
*Exact locations and times TBA*



Contact the Director of Alumni Services, Lauren Oman, at [loman@thiel.edu](mailto:loman@thiel.edu) or 724-589-2042 with questions or to RSVP for alumni events.

Visit [www.thiel.edu/alumni](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni) for more information about events as they are scheduled.



**Ciao Italia!**

The beauty, culture and tastes of Italy can be yours to enjoy this spring — thanks to EF College Study Tours and Thiel College.

This year's international trip will depart from Pittsburgh on May 17 and last 11 days. The tour itinerary includes visits to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Bologna and Venice plus Milan and the Lake Como Region. Tour highlights include a walking tour of Rome, a visit to the Accademia Museum in Florence and the Doges' Palace in Venice, and a cruise of Lake Como. Your tour companions will be students, faculty and staff, alumni and friends of Thiel College!

Tour fees include all airfare, hotel, guided tour and breakfast and dinner costs. (Visit the EF Tours Web site for current trip costs.)

For more info, please contact Barbara Long-Cooper (tour #649853) at 724-589-2052, Susan Cowan (tour #424545) at 724-589-2063 or Dr. Lori Moroco (tour #424374) at 724-589-2041.

To enroll, visit [www.efcollegestudytours.com/enroll](http://www.efcollegestudytours.com/enroll) and enter a tour number from above or call EF Customer Accounts at 800-665-5364.

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Parker and his wife, Carol, whom he met at Thiel, remain close with many alumni friends and currently reside in Derwood, Md.

**Young Alumni Award**

Young alumni awardees are nominated for their potential for future accomplishments in their professions and service to the College.

**Dr. Justin Napotnik '04**

Justin Napotnik received his Bachelor of Science degree from Thiel College in 2004 and played football for four years while at Thiel. Napotnik was one of 15 student athletes across the nation to receive an \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship from the National Football Foundation for his excellence on the field of play and in the classroom.

Napotnik's success began in Sharpsville High School. He was valedictorian of his graduating class in 2000 and a four-year letter winner in football, basketball and baseball, earning First Team All State in football in 1999.

After graduating from Thiel, he went on to Palmer College of Chiropractic, founded by the Palmer family, who developed chiropractic studies in the late 1800s. The school was the first of its kind in the world and is the largest chiropractic college today. He graduated with honors in 2008 from its Port Orange, Fla., campus.

Napotnik returned to Mercer County upon graduation because of his "love for the people and the advantages of small town life." Napotnik and his wife, Jinine, a chiropractor herself, celebrated the addition of their daughter, Elizabeth ("Ella"), on June 13, 2009.

His business, Back 2 Heath Chiropractic, is located in the Greenville Orthopedic Center in Greenville, Pa. His office is a wellness-based family practice with special emphasis on sports injuries. Napotnik is the only chiropractor in Greenville offering spinal decompression therapy. He has a particular affinity for his alma mater and donates time during the football season to treat athletes at the school and sees many of them in his office.

Napotnik is a member of the Greenville Rotary Club. You can also find him working out in Thiel's weight room or playing basketball in the gym. He also volunteers time and expertise to local businesses and community groups through his enhancement workshops, which help educate the Greenville community about health and wellness.

**Congratulations, Class of 1986!**



The Class of 1986 won the first-ever President's Challenge for the 2009-2010 fiscal year with giving participation of 15 percent.

The President's Challenge is a competition among the graduates of the past 25 years to increase their class giving. At the 2010 Homecoming celebration, Dan McMillen '86 accepted the honor on behalf of his class. The class' year will be engraved on the President's Cup, which was presented to McMillen by Director of The Thiel Fund Kelly Bailey and President Troy VanAken. The cup will reside in a place of honor in Roth Hall.

The race is on for this year's President's Challenge winner for classes 1986-2010—donate to The Thiel Fund today to put your class in the lead!

**Calling All Artists & Writers!**

Written and artistic expression are major areas of communication and a large part of our daily lives. *The Phoenix*, Thiel's literary magazine, allows creativity and communication to unite. If you are interested in sharing creative works (poems, short stories, photographs or art pieces), please submit them to [sflask@thiel.edu](mailto:sflask@thiel.edu) by Jan. 7 for the spring issue of *The Phoenix*. Please limit written entries to two pages, single spaced.