

BOARD PROFILES OF DISTINCTION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

RON OWEN '71

WHY IS BEING PART OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IMPORTANT TO YOU AS AN ALUMNUS OF THE COLLEGE?

I grew up in a middle-class family in Pittsburgh with three brothers and a sister. I was the first member of my family to attend and graduate from college. It was a frightening experience to go away to college and be away from my family while entering this new world of higher education. When I visited President Olson to discuss joining the Board of Trustees, I reminisced with him about the previous visit to the executive office of the College while I attended Thiel. The discussion back then never touched upon a future position on the Board! Thiel College was a life changer for me in many ways. I believe strongly in supporting in any way persons or organizations that have helped me in my life. I am honored to be a Thiel trustee and being able to give back both financially and with my time.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER OR LIFE PHILOSOPHY?

I believe that you must force balance into your life. My foundation block is to "Work Hard and Play Hard." I must admit that during times of my elevation to a senior leadership position at a Fortune 500 company, I was out of balance. My two girls' school and academic activities were a good tool for me to force balance. I can recall conducting soccer practices in my business attire when I didn't allow enough time for a change of clothes. My first job was delivering newspapers. I evolved to a caddy, a construction worker, painter and a list of other jobs too long to mention. I wanted to demonstrate to a future employer that I was not afraid to work. My real desire with my career was to be a banker. The "work hard" philosophy allowed me to advance from a starting position as a management trainee as a bank teller to senior vice president of marketing in 13 years. My work ethic was built around a basic philosophy—conduct your personal affairs in a manner that you could always be in a position to tell your parents what you did and be passionate about your job.

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

Graduating from high school at 18 years of age and moving on to college brings a high level of anxiety. At that time, it is very difficult for most individuals to try to make a curriculum decision as to what their specialty will be for life. A Thiel College education allows you to create a well-rounded background which will better prepare one for the various opportunities that will be presented to them as they move along in their life's journey.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY?

I began my freshman year at Thiel in a most unique manner. Five of my high school classmates decided to come to Thiel at the same time. The environment of coming to Thiel, already having friends, was a real bonus. However the added benefit was being able to build new relationships with many new students. I enjoyed playing football at a high level during high school years. Being able to participate in this activity at a collegiate level was a memory I treasure to this day.

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

The life value of matriculating at a liberal arts college is invaluable. With the continuing escalating costs of getting a college degree, you want to make sure you get the best value for your investment. Coming to Thiel College will not permit you to get lost in a crowd in your classes. The faculty/student ratio allows for individual attention when it is needed. You will be treated as a person, not just a number.



Ron Owen '71 is senior relationship executive at First American in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the advancement and audit committees of the Thiel Board of Trustees. He also is a member of the board of the Pennsylvania Parents Advisory Council, vice president of the Chapel Gate Swim Club and past president of the Churchill Club. Owen and his wife, Judi, live in Pittsburgh.

BOARD OF ASSOCIATES:

CARA HOEHN LAPIC '92

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BE A PART OF THE BOARD OF ASSOCIATES?

Thiel has a special place in my heart. I want to stay connected and to continue to explore ways to give a little something back.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIEL'S CURRENT DIRECTION?

I am optimistic, energized and excited about Thiel's future. The more time I spend with the Thiel team, the more I am impressed by the quality of people. I am confident that the team wants the best for the students and has the capability of actually delivering on The Thiel Commitment. I hope all those connected with Thiel partner to discover how they can contribute to the cause.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY?

An impossible question as I can't pick just one!

WHAT PART OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT/SERVICE WITH THIEL POST-GRADUATION ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I'm proud of the school, so any small way in which I can contribute is meaningful and important to me. I've especially enjoyed interacting with the students at the Business Honors Seminar in past years and being involved on the Strategic Planning Committee of late.

Cara Hoehn Lopic '92 is senior product manager at BNY Mellon, specializing in foreign exchange and cash products. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Thiel and a doctorate in business administration from Robert Morris University. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, volunteering and riding horses. She is a member of Toastmasters and does research in the fields of information systems and communications.



ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

RAY HANLON '74

WHY SHOULD ALUMNI CONSIDER BEING A PART OF THE ALUMNI BOARD?

Early in my career, I would find myself acknowledging how well prepared I was, academically and professionally. Thiel provided essential intellectual, scholastic and social opportunities. Anyone who has similar connection and benefit from Thiel might consider giving back by participating on a Board for the purpose of contributing talents toward keeping the opportunities Thiel provides students going strong.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL THE ALUMNI BOARD CONTRIBUTES TO THE COLLEGE?

Alumni represent having been through the Thiel experience; then engineering and implementing a life. This means that alumni are a rich resource for understanding how the college mission has impacted the lives of its graduates and their work and social communities. Advancing the mission of the College not only requires financial support by alumni but also their ideas, insights and assistance in reinforcing the mission and vision of the College.

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THIEL COLLEGE POST-GRADUATION HAS AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

I am the type of person who seeks understanding of how and why life experiences and opportunities evolve and interact. Thiel affected me in so many positive ways that the experiences remained in my awareness of where I came from as I progressed through the normal stages of family and career life development. In looking back, it really is no surprise that I would find myself re-engaged with the College by serving on the Alumni Board, and in effect realizing that my experience at Thiel and my subsequent career and life validate one another.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY?

It is very hard to isolate a favorite Thiel memory: My circle of friends; the intimacy of knowing nearly everyone on campus; bus trips to football games; returning to campus after breaks; playing handball with my roommate late at night; stealing off to the pottery studio to mix clay and glazes in the quiet late of nighttime solitude in the Art Department; the extraordinary concerts on campus; sitting in classes during junior and senior years appreciating that I was really beginning to make sense of liberal education and being in awe of learning and insight to knowledge; traveling to Germany during the January term; competing in intramurals; Sunday dinners in the cafeteria; and Brother Martin's Walk after a significant snow fall.

Raymond B. Hanlon '74 majored in psychology at Thiel. For the past 28 years, he has worked at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Department of Anesthesiology, Division of Pain Medicine. Besides fulfilling clinical duties, he lectures in various university and medical departments and mentors and supervises doctoral students and clinical psychology interns. He and his wife of 32 years, Donna, live in Portersville, Pa., and have two adult sons, Aaron and Sean.

