

Thiel Makes Community Connections

In August 2009, Thiel welcomed its first AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America), Christie Zwahlen, whose primary goal has been to develop a service-learning program that strengthens campus-community ties. Created in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson, the VISTA program is a national service organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty in the United States and its territories.

During her year of service, Zwahlen has worked toward the establishment of lasting relationships between Thiel and the area's local nonprofit and community organizations. Thus far, Zwahlen has facilitated the development of six service-learning courses—three in the Communication Department, two in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department and one in the Business Administration Department.

Dr. Laurie Moroco's Intercultural Communication class and Dr. Victor Evans' TV Field Production and Editing class worked together to create a documentary style video for The Prince of Peace Center and Joshua's Haven, both located in the Farrell/ Sharon area. Students from Dr. Moroco's class interviewed staff and recipients of services from The Prince of Peace Center's Project R.U.T.H. and Joshua's Haven's Men's Shelter program, while Dr. Evans' students shot and edited the taped material. The joint endeavor fulfilled the agencies' need for a video documenting their services and success stories.

"The Prince of Peace Center was very excited to develop a relationship with Thiel College," said Natalie Higbee '89, director of Project R.U.T.H. and Family Supportive Services. "The project



Professor Gayle Jesse and Thiel students Doug Keeling and Louie Rubin present the Literacy Council Web site to director Dr. Georgina S. Rettinger and Sharon Center coordinator Geraldine Moore.



was uplifting for all involved. It was a pleasure working alongside the students as they interviewed the homeless in our county and learned of their struggles. Because of their expertise, the students made it possible for the stories of the homeless to be heard by many. Due to the lack of funding, Project R.U.T.H. would not have been able to afford the costs of producing a documentary addressing homelessness."

Moroco's students have continued to be involved in service-learning, having since gone on to volunteer with the residents at St. Paul's, a Greenville continuing care community. In this Small Group Process course, students planned and coordinated activities and events with "families" (groups of five to seven residents) at St. Paul's, twice a month. The course culminated in

a '40s-themed event, complete with food and games.

In the Math and Computer Science Department, Adjunct Professor Florence Gordon's Project Management class collaborated with UPMC's Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP) to create a project plan for the workings of their recycling operation. Additionally, Professor Angelo Giannini's Operations Management course has created an inventory management system for MERP's stock of recycled medical equipment (see next page for more about this project).

While Zwahlen understands that service learning alone cannot fulfill the many, varied needs of every local nonprofit, she says, "There is so much that Thiel can do for the community, and likewise, much that we can learn."

Students in Professor Gayle Jesse's Professional Web Portfolio course recently helped with a technological need at The Literacy Council of Mercer County

while learning more about their community and the challenges of working with a real client.

“Dealing with real people, as opposed to examples from a textbook, provided the class both motivation and healthy pressure. This was a real project that was going to be viewed by the community, so it had to be done right and look professional,” says senior Doug Keeling, a student from the class. “In addition, I never truly knew what services

The Literacy Council provided or who could benefit from them. I was impressed to find out that the programs they offer are free to the public. I hope that the new Web site design will draw more attention to the LC and spread the word to those in the community who are looking to improve their reading, writing or math skills.”



Students in the Small Group Process course worked with residents at St. Paul's in Greenville.

Thiel Lends a Helping Hand to MERP

Have you ever opened the doors to your closet and asked yourself when the tornado struck? Thiel alumna and program coordinator for UPMC Horizon's Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP) Cindy Hanna '00 experienced a similar predicament last year—but instead of a closet, it was her workplace!

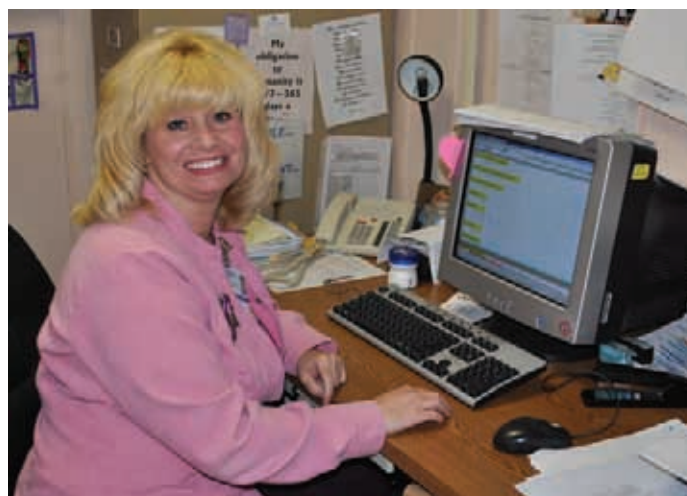
MERP provides Mercer County area residents with refurbished medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, canes, walkers, hospital beds, tub benches, shower chairs and lift chairs. They also educate community members about where to seek help for their other needs, such as everyday essentials like food and clothing or specific assistive devices like hearing and speech devices and prostheses.

“MERP has assisted more than 6,000 area residents and made numerous overseas donations,” says Hanna. “In the 11 months that I have been program coordinator, we have been able to give to the Appalachians and make four overseas donations. The total number of lives touched by this program is remarkable. I am honored to be a part of it.”

Hanna came to Thiel College last fall looking for help. She saw the need to restructure the facility, as well as obtain a new means to keep track of items. Professor Angelo Giannini, who teaches an Operations Management course, felt the project would be a perfect match for his students.

“We cover inventory control in my class, so why not apply it to a real-life situation?” says Giannini.

All equipment at MERP is either donated from community members who no longer need the items or from collections that other organizations have conducted. Volunteers are the support beams of the program. Jasper Wells is the repair technician, Carol Mehler specializes in data entry as well as customer service and Pat Marcucci juggles data entry with fundraising. Tully and Jodie White are also part of the team and repair lift chairs. Before any items are distributed, they are thoroughly inspected.



MERP Program Coordinator Cindy Hanna '00 uses the new software inventory program designed for the program by Thiel students.

“Currently they are the only volunteers I have and we are in need of others to assist in all areas,” explains Hanna. “It takes a group of us to make this program function.”

Giannini split his class in half and assigned two group leaders. Group A was responsible for developing a new physical layout of the inventory. They contacted local businesses and received shelving as well as other supplies that helped to organize the physical layout. Group B established a software program that would help keep track of the items more efficiently. The team catalogued all of the equipment using Microsoft Excel and accounted for weekly adjustments. The group performed a number of test runs for the program that they created to make sure they were happy with the finished product.

After completing the redesigned layout and software program, Hanna evaluated the success of the program. She was more than satisfied with the finished result, which in turn reflected in the

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Thiel Junior Runs for Office

When tracing back her interest in politics, Thiel junior Stephanie Flask can point to an Al Gore rally that her father took her to in fifth grade.

“Attending that rally initiated my interest in politics because of the passion everyone there had,” explained Flask. “I had an opportunity to not only see exactly how the community felt about our area, but what interest national politicians had in our area too.”

Her father, Vincent Flask—who is currently a city councilman from Warren, Ohio, and is running for state representative this year—may have influenced her (just a bit) to pursue a state office while still a student in college.

Flask ran for a seat on the Ohio Democrat State Central Committee, representing the 32nd district (Warren, Ohio), this spring. The committee sets policy for the party for the entire state, and is composed of one female and one male member of each Ohio district.

She decided to run for the position because she wanted to make a difference in her community and, being a political science major, this would be an optimal way to make that difference.

As a member of the committee, Flask would be an unpaid volunteer, but would travel to Columbus, Ohio, to meet with other committee members and set policy for the Ohio Democratic party.

The first-hand experience with an election has been an education for Flask. Along with her experience with her father’s campaigns, she has learned that it takes a lot of time and dedication to participate in the political process.

“The beauty of the process is that it is democratic,” said Flask. “The community has a greater say in the political system than they realize a lot of the time.”

Flask credits her education at Thiel to enhancing her knowledge of the political realm as well as making her “eager to go for it.” She is a political science and English literature double-major, and a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English honorary



society as well as the Thiel College Investment Society.

During her candidacy, the 21-year-old Flask saw the dark side of political life as well when her candidacy was challenged by her opponent, who claimed Flask was not a resident of the district based on her Facebook page, which listed her current city as “Youngstown.” Her residency was easily verified with a check into her voting history, said Flask.

Currently, Flask has no plans to pursue any higher political office if she wins, instead focusing on “fusing” her two majors and pursuing a career in political commentary after completing graduate school. Flask will graduate from Thiel College in May 2011.

Editor’s Note: Unfortunately, on Election Day, Flask lost to her opponent, Margaret Scott, by slightly more than 1,100 votes.

MERP—From page 3

grades the students received.

“I am extremely happy with the amount of work the students put into this project,” says Hanna. “They went far beyond what I expected and I truly appreciate their efforts.”

This project has not only benefited MERP and its

recipients, but it has also been a direct application of the concepts these students learned in the classroom.

“The need for our program has grown drastically,” says Hanna. “Last year at this time, we had assisted 35 area residents. This year, we are already up to

160.” MERP is funded by UPMC Community Health Foundation, but volunteers and cash donations are always appreciated and allow for the program to operate smoothly. To learn how you can help MERP, call 724-983-8737 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/ybzckav>.

—Kimberly Holdsworth '10

Bon Voyage with Vira Heinz

Three Thiel College women will study abroad this summer thanks to the Vira I. Heinz Scholarships for Education Abroad, which were awarded in December. The three scholarship winners—sophomores **Kylie Czulewicz** of West Alexander, Pa., **Amy Jane Matchett** of Bulger, Pa., and **Monica Smith** of Emlenton, Pa.—will each receive \$5,000 to fund their study abroad experiences.

Czulewicz, a biology/pre-physical therapy major with a minor in religion, will participate in Australearn's "Tropical Marine Ecology" summer program, during which she will study tropical marine biology through formal lectures and practical field experiences around Queensland, Australia.

"As a person with little travel experience and a great desire to learn and explore with the field of biology, this program provides an ideal experience that will grant me the experience of a lifetime," says Czulewicz.

Matchett, an English literature and psychology major, will attend the Freie Universität Berlin where she will take arts and political science courses while practicing language skills and exploring Germany.

"The Vira I. Heinz Scholarship is one of the greatest opportunities that I have ever received," says Matchett. "This is the closest I have ever been to achieving my dream of studying abroad and seeing the world from a different perspective."

Smith, an elementary education major, will use her scholarship to study in Florence, Italy. She will study Italian art and culture.

"I believe by studying abroad, I will better myself as a future teacher and in the end help my students to be open to diversity," says Smith. "I cannot think of a



Monica Smith, Amy Jane Matchett and Kylie Czulewicz prepare for their summer study abroad experiences—made possible by the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Women in Global Leadership.

better or more educational way to spend my summer!"

The Vira I. Heinz Program for Women in Global Leadership is funded by the Heinz Endowments. Each year, three women of sophomore status are selected from each of 15 regional colleges and universities to receive an award in the amount of \$5,000 for summer study abroad. In addition, they participate in a series of retreats designed to cultivate leadership and intercultural skills.

Ultimately, the goal of the program is to fully realize the motto of the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Women in Global Leadership, "Preparing women leaders for tomorrow's global challenges," and to increase its visibility on campus and in the community.

The Heinz Endowment supports efforts to make southwestern Pennsylvania a premier place to

live and work, a center of learning and educational excellence, and a home to diversity and inclusion.

Committed to helping its region thrive as a whole community—economically, ecologically, educationally and culturally—the Foundation works within Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the nation to develop solutions to challenges that are national and international in scope.

One of the largest and most innovative independent philanthropic foundations in the country, the Endowments awarded more than \$85 million in grants in 2008.

Faculty Focus

► **Professor Jesse Amar**, art, held a sculpture exhibition, "New Sculptures in Glass," in the Weyers-Sampson Art Gallery in February.

► A paper titled "Computation of bound orbits in the plane of a galaxy with a flat rotation curve" by **Dr. Michael Bacon**, physics, and **Amber Sharrar '06** has been accepted for publication in the "European Journal of Physics." The paper is based on the work Sharrar did for her senior physics project, involving the computation of orbits in a galaxy consisting of a disk of baryonic matter (ordinary matter) surrounded by a spherically symmetric halo of "dark matter."

► **Dr. Cory Grewell**, English, wrote an article, "Vanquishing the Beast Within: Christianization of the Hero Ethos in Robert Zemeckis' 'Beowulf,'" that was accepted for publication in the 2009 volume of "Year's Work in Medievalism." Grewell also presented a paper entitled "The American Noir Detective as Christological Judge and Redeemer" at the Northeast Regional meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, held at Pace University in New York, in March.

► **Dr. Ellen Lippert**, art, published an article, "George Ohr: Mad Potter, Marketing Genius," in the February 2010 issue of "Style 1900" magazine.

► "Psalm 23: An Interpretation" by **Jane A. E. Ogunro**, French, is now available on Amazon.com. The book is a message of hope and inspiration culled from Ogunro's personal interpretation of the Bible verses that people can relate to and that are relevant to the current times.

► In March, three of Thiel's education professors participated in Read Across America, an annual celebration of reading that takes place each year on or near Dr. Seuss' birthday. **Professor Mary Reames** read to students at Zion Preschool in Greenville; Jamestown Elementary School had the pleasure of having **Professor Connie Reinhart** read to their students; and **Dr. Doug Hazlett** and daughter Emily (grade 5) volunteered their time reading to a West Middlesex kindergarten class.



Staff News

► **Jeff Linn '02**, associate director of admissions, and **Kateri Linn**, academic and career adviser, presented at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School during their annual Career Day Expo in December. A total of 86 (9th-12th graders) signed up to meet and speak with Kateri and Jeff. The topic of the presentation was "It's ok to be undecided." Kateri discussed the career decision process while Jeff talked about working in the higher education arena.

► U.S. Army Sgt. Cavalier and U.S. Army Lt. French stopped by Thiel College on Monday, April 12 to present Cpl. **Tony Morris** of the U.S. Army Reserves with an American flag and two medals in honor of his service in Iraq last year. Morris is a lieutenant in the Thiel Police Department and was wounded during his second tour of duty.



► **John Rindy**, dean of educational outreach, was recognized in March for special service to the U.S. Army with a Patriot certificate, which was awarded for his assistance in promoting the Army on campus and supporting the armed forces.



Leslie Graul, IT Department; **Dr. Henry Barton**, Environmental Studies Department; and **Elizabeth Stuyvesant**, Financial Services Department, were honored for 30 years of service to Thiel at the Employee Recognition Dinner on April 22. Also honored were:

25 years

Andrew Grover
Patricia Leskovac
Deborah Ross

20 years

Brenda DelMaramo
Mark DelMaramo
Nancy Knapp
Dabbie Moffett
Susan Richards
Barbara Samson

15 years

Donna Jamison

James Koshan

Cynthia Moyer
Denise Urey

10 years

William Beil
Mary Theresa Hall
Anna Mary Hoovler
Constance Jablonski
Jennie Kather
Sean McConnor
Gregory Perrine
Joseph Schaly
Valerie Vernon

5 years

Heather Balas
Barbara Blue
Sheryl Greenlee-Ogello
Scott Hartle
Justin Jakovac
Robert Knapp
Patricia Leipheimer
Kateri Linn
Nancy Solderich
Michael Walton
Marietta White
Elke Wiand

Student News

Habitat for Humanity Heads to the Gulf

Habitat for Humanity made their annual Spring Break trip in early March to Mobile, Ala. The group consisted of 13 students and two chaperones. Thanks to the generosity of the First Baptist Church, the group was able to stay on their campus, enabling them to make their own meals and relax after long work days. After a free day spent visiting the Gulf, the team got down to business, painting walls and ceilings, caulking beams, painting porches, putting up columns and wrapping the house with facial metal.



Kappa Delta Pi Induction

Kappa Delta Pi held its 2010 induction ceremony on Saturday, March 20 in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. Heidi (Snyder) Neely '09 was the featured speaker. Membership in the society is by invitation only and is awarded to only the top 20 percent of students and professionals in the field of education.



This is the only all-disciplinary honor society for educators that provides support throughout the student's career in education. Congratulations to Rebecca Betteridge, Abigail Charsar, Lee Anne Chiles, Rachel Doran, Philip Double, Laura Graham, Rebecca House, Megan Kay, Jennifer Keller, Amy Nelson, Julie Novotny, Samantha Peigowski, Robin Reimold, Erica Riola, Katie Rufener, Monica Smith, Mark Wyant and Elizabeth Yurky!

Sigma Tau Delta Induction

The 10th annual Sigma Tau Delta induction ceremony was held on Sunday, March 21 in the Sawhill-Georgian Room. The English Department inducted 12 students into the Alpha Iota Kappa Chapter of this international English honorary society. Professor David Miller, professor and chair of the Business Administration Department, served as the keynote speaker. The newly inducted students are Angela Blackburn, Abigail Charsar, Daniel Martino, Amy Matchett, Shawna McIntyre, Kristen Moreland, Rachel Nicholson, Melissa Sincek, Khrystina Slagle, Laura Kaye Stemm, Elizabeth Yurky and Emily Zoller.



Weatherly Wins Photo Contest

Lisa Weatherly '11, who studied abroad in Australia during summer 2009 as part of the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship program, had one of her trip photos chosen as a first-place winner in the 2009 Vira I. Heinz photo contest.

Bartholomew Publishes Research Paper

Katie Bartholomew '10, an English/secondary education major, was notified during the spring semester that a research paper she wrote for Dr. Mary Theresa Hall's linguistics course in fall 2009 has been accepted for the Literatures and Linguistics

Undergraduate Colloquium at Gordon College. Her paper, "Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Raven': An Enhancement of Student Reading Skills," explores how the poem contains multiple linguistic features that correlate to the proven strategies that teach students how to read.

Student Researchers Recognized

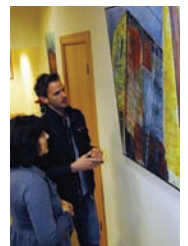
On Feb. 4, the first "Exemplary Library Research Awards" were awarded at a ceremony in the Lutheran Heritage Room. Following opening remarks by Allen Morrill, director of the Langenheim Memorial Library, Tressa Snyder, reference/instruction librarian, read the names of the 32 professors who brought their classes to the library during the fall 2009 semester to conduct research projects. Ten students were nominated for their outstanding research and five of those were selected to present their research at the ceremony. The student presenters were Audrey Rattay, Emily Whipple, Kayla Ohlin, Sheila Gross and Samantha Sterns.



Pictured from left to right are Tressa Snyder, Audrey Rattay, Emily Whipple, Kayla Ohlin, Sheila Gross and Allen Morrill.

Beck Holds Exhibit in Downtown Greenville

In December, Ben Beck '10 held an exhibit of his artwork entitled "Talisman & Swamp Alleys" at the FHC Building (Greenville Neuromodulation Services) in downtown Greenville. The paintings in the exhibit explored the inherent beauty of the rear of buildings found on Talisman and Swamp Alleys, parts of downtown that were not part of the beautification project recently completed there.



Writing Meets Technology

In March, Professor Connie Reinhart's language arts students were involved in an interactive polycom with the Hermitage School District. Artman Elementary third grade teacher Joe Bender and his students explained to the Thiel students how they use writing skills in their writing workshop. The lesson brought together required writing skills and standards (eligible content) with essential learning thus empowering Bender's students to improve their writing test scores for the PSSA. The third-grade students were very proud to show Thiel's students their love of writing.

Students, Staff, Faculty Create Short Film

In November, "Punk Rock Zombies vs Disco Spiders from Mars" premiered on campus. The film was directed by Professor Allan Hunchuk, sociology, and was an official selection of the 3rd Annual Venango Film Festival in September 2009. The film starred students Sam Aiken, Bobbi Hughes, Adrianna Reppert and staff members Allen Morrill (and his son, Tom) and John Rindy. Students David Williamson, Dan Thomas and Nick Thompson provided their camera and editing skills.



New Faces at Thiel

Dr. Lynn Franken—Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Lynn Franken has been appointed vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, a position she assumes July 1.

“Dr. Franken is a person of integrity and creativity with a passion for the liberal arts tradition and the student-centered ethos of Thiel College,” said Dr. Troy D. VanAken, Thiel president. “She brings a unique set of abilities and experiences that will enable her to make a significant impact on Thiel’s growth.”

Franken has decades of experience in higher education, in both teaching and administration. She currently is a senior fellow with the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Previously, she was vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college at Beloit College in Wisconsin and dean of the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts at Coastal Carolina University in

South Carolina. Franken began her career in higher education at Butler University in Indiana, culminating there as chair of the Department of English.

Franken has a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Texas at Austin and master's and bachelor's degrees in English from Texas Tech University.

As VPAA and dean of the college, Franken will be responsible for coordination, development, integrity and quality of academic programs; the administration of academic and faculty policies and budget; the management and administration of key academic support services including the library; and implementation of the academic aspects of the strategic plan. Franken also will coordinate with the College Advancement Office to secure external funding and grants for the College.

“It is an honor to have been selected as Thiel College’s new vice president for academic



affairs/dean of the college,” said Franken. “I am looking forward to working with President VanAken and all who serve the college as we move toward the bright future that lies ahead for Thiel.”

Originally from Austin, Texas, Franken currently lives in Beloit, Wisconsin. She has three adult sons, Robert, Charles and Erik.

Lauren Oman—Director of Alumni Services

Lauren Oman is the new director of alumni services at Thiel College. Her first day on the job was Jan. 4.

Since 2007, Oman served as regional director for the UCLA Fund in Orange County, Calif., where she worked extensively with major donors and volunteers for the university in the Orange County area. Prior to her position as regional director, Oman worked as an administrative assistant and stewardship coordinator for the UCLA Fund in Los Angeles, Calif.

“I am pleased to welcome Lauren to the Thiel College Advancement team,” says David Grober, vice president for college advancement. “Her energy, experience and local ties will bring a renewed connection between Thiel and its more than 11,000 alumni.”

As director of alumni services, Oman will work in conjunction with the Thiel College Alumni Board to promote alumni-college relations. She also will plan and implement all alumni events, maintain

correspondence with alumni and develop volunteer opportunities for alumni to serve the College and its students. Along with her alumni services responsibilities, Oman will contribute to the College’s fundraising efforts.

A native of Greenville, Pa., Oman holds a bachelor's degree in television-radio from Ithaca College. She is the daughter of Linda '75 and Barry Oman '74 of Greenville.

For a message from Lauren, see page 28.



Andy Erb—Director of Bands

Andrew S. Erb has been appointed director of bands, a position he will assume effective July 1. Erb has been actively recruiting students for the band throughout the spring semester.

“The addition of a full-time instrumental faculty member at Thiel College is a major commitment to the expansion of the music program at the college,” said Dr. Michael Bray, chair of Thiel’s Department of Music. “Andy has extensive knowledge that will enable him to recruit and build a high-caliber band program. The campus is very excited to welcome him as our newest colleague.”

Currently, Erb is the band director at Sharpsville Area School District, where he has led the marching band, pep band, concert band and jazz ensemble for 10 years. Erb also teaches trumpet and directs the jazz ensemble at Westminster College where, as part of the music program, he recruits trumpeters, teaches studio lessons and performs as part of the Faculty Brass Quintet.

Along with his teaching and band director duties, Erb is an active performer who has played with musicians such as Marie Osmond, Wayne Newton and Foreigner. In addition, he is lead trumpet for Sugarfuzz Orchestra (a Youngstown-based horn-rock band), Doug Butchy Big Band and the Mercer County Community Jazz Band Summer Band.

Erb has a bachelor’s in music education from Westminster College and a Master of Music in trumpet performance from Youngstown State University. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, International Trumpet Guild, National Education Association and Sharpsville Area Education Association.

Thiel announced the formation of a marching band in December 2009 and will field its first marching band in the fall. As director of bands, Erb will provide recruitment, vision and oversight of all aspects of marching and concert bands at Thiel. He will



also assist in community outreach and summer camp recruiting, and will teach one course each semester in addition to conducting one-on-one lessons.

“I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such great kids and great bands at Sharpsville over the past 10 years,” said Erb. “I am happy to now have the chance to bring the joy that comes from being part of these groups to Thiel.”

Erb is a lifelong resident of Mercer County and currently lives in West Middlesex, Pa., with his wife, Diana, and two sons, Jonathan and Benjamin.

New Year, New Ideas

The Office of Career Services has made some changes. In an effort to reach more students, Heather Balas, director of career services, has started a new series of “Minute Clinics.” At a booth set up in the Academic Center lobby, Balas encourages students to drop in and ask career-related questions.

“The idea is to take a minute between classes and get a question answered. Students can get basic information and then stop in and see me in my office to follow up and get more details,” says Balas.

Each Minute Clinic has a specific theme that is posted for students to catch their attention as they walk by. Topics range from resume writing to internship information to how to apply to graduate school.

“The clinics have been a huge success. Every clinic has given me the opportunity to meet with students, answer questions and provide them with resources to help them. The clinic has provided me with an increase in contact with students,” she says.

Minute Clinics are just one of the ways Career Services is trying new ideas to interact with students and alumni. For more information about the services available to alumni, contact Heather Balas at 724-589-2014 or hbalas@thiel.edu, or join the Thiel College Career Services Fan Page on Facebook.

The Johnson Center Gets a Facelift

Out with the old and in with the new is not always the best solution. Sometimes the old just needs a little work—just take a look at Thiel's Glen Johnson Community Center.

Last summer, the Center went through a series of renovations that allow the space to be multifunctional, flexible and more useful to the campus and local community.

Prior to the renovations, the Center was mainly extra space for the College's townhouse-style residence halls and Greek organizations. The problem was that the townhouse residents and Greeks already had their own living quarters and therefore did not use the Johnson Center regularly.

Roberta Leonard, director of corporate foundation and governmental support, had a part in the overall renovation process—she helped secure a grant from the Department of Justice for \$427,000. A second grant for expanded programming in the amount of \$500,000 was announced this spring.

"The building was not being fully utilized and had too many small rooms that were not conducive enough for the needs of the College as well as the community," explained Leonard. The remodeling was completed by Kusich Construction and Thiel College's Maintenance and IT Departments.

The IDL (Interactive Distance Learning) room includes Polycom™ Interactive Videoconferencing Technology and a SMART™ Sympodium® that allow for learners at remote sites to view PowerPoint presentations as well as white board work, from a distance. These connections to the sites are made accessible through a wall-mounted, touch screen control panel. This room can seat up to 40 people.

The Smaller Group Learning Spaces are similar in nature. There are three of these break-out rooms that include the interactive SMART Boards along with accessibility ports for the instructor's notebook



Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper (far right of photo) presents a Department of Justice grant to expand programming at the Glen Johnson Community Center to Dr. Troy D. VanAken, president of Thiel College; Chief Dave Morgan, Hempfield Township Police Department; Chief Denny Stephens '81, Greenville/West Salem Police Department; and Chief Donald Aubrecht, Thiel College Police Department.

computers. These rooms can hold from 12 to 18 individuals at a time.

The East Training Room is perfect for plenary sessions and fully equipped with technology based presentation equipment that allows for double projection. These features allow for optimal viewing for up to 90 people.

The exhibition room is a serving facility for sit-down dining and receptions. The room can accommodate up to 90 people and can

be set up according to guest requirements. AVI Foodservices Inc., Thiel's food service vendor, provides the guests with customizable, versatile menus.

Due to these modifications, there are many more uses for the facility. Receptions, training sessions, small group learning and Web conferences can all be held in the multifunctional building. Also, every entrance is handicapped accessible.

The community has been eager to take advantage of the renovations. As of May, there are plans for a federal Safe Schools Program, state training events and a law enforcement ceremony to take place in the facility.

The near future also holds reservations for EMT education seminars as well as Webcasts for the Hermitage School District.

"This is only the beginning," Leonard says.

For information on renting the facility for corporate or educational events, contact John Rindy at 724-589-2181, or to reserve space for social or other special events, contact Sherrie Greenlee-Ogello at 724-589-2240.

—Kimberly Holdsworth '10

Founders' Day 2010

On Feb. 4, Thiel College paid tribute to 10 faculty and staff members and **Jill '66** and **Fred Haer '65** at the College's annual Founders' Day convocation in the Lutheran Heritage Room of the Howard Miller Student Center.

President Troy D. VanAken presented the A. Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award to the Haers, who are founders and owners of FHC, Inc., an international company that designs, manufactures and markets medical equipment for brain research and clinics to target disfunctioning brain structures during neurosurgery.

Currently, FHC has 95 employees, including nine at Greenville Neuromodulation Services, the Greenville sales and technical support office. Four years ago, FHC, Thiel College and UPMC Horizon, with support from Senator Bob Robbins and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entered into a partnership that created the neuroscience major at Thiel, established Greenville Neuromodulation Services and put into motion plans for a Greenville Neuromodulation Clinic—a clinical treatment facility to perform deep brain stimulation implants on patients needing cranial neuromodulation therapies, chiefly for movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease. The Haers, who live in Brunswick, Maine, also have been dedicated to their alma mater—Fred has served as a member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2007 and was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2000. Fred and Jill chaired the campaign for the Paul W. Bush '66 Memorial Fitness Center. Jill has been active in her community, serving on boards and committees with the MS Society, Hospice of Maine, the United Way of Midcoast Maine and the Midcoast Hospital.

The award is named after A. Louis and Barbara Thiel, whose generosity made possible the founding of Thiel College in 1866. The Thiels dedicated themselves to the welfare of others.

Receiving the prestigious Professor of the Year Award posthumously was **M.J. Yusko-Howsare**, professor of economics and business administration. Yusko-Howsare, of Delaware Township, Pa., passed away in July 2009.

For 29 years, Yusko-Howsare was a valued member of Thiel's Business Administration Department where she taught the core courses in the accounting major. In fact, Yusko-Howsare laid the foundation for literally hundreds of students in accounting who went on to achieve great success in their field after completing the Thiel accounting program. She served as the department's representative on the Faculty Council since its inception and served many times on the executive committee of the council.

Other faculty members to earn recognition were:

- **Dr. Curtis L. Thompson**, professor of religion, Distinguished Service Award.
- **Dr. Cynthia Sutton**, professor of sociology, Distinguished Teacher Award.
- **Dr. Cory L. Grewell**, assistant professor of English, Distinguished Scholar Award.
- **Rachel D. Doddato**, adjunct professor of history and English, Distinguished Adjunct Award.

Five staff awards also were presented during the ceremony:

- **Allen S. Morrill**, director of the Langenheim Library, Distinguished Innovator Award.
- **Roberta L. Mutinelli**, assistant dean of students and director of residence life, Distinguished Newcomer Award.
- **Jeffrey S. Linn '02**, associate director of admissions, Distinguished Extra Effort Award.
- **Jennie A. Kather**, assistant director of public relations, Distinguished Outreach Award.
- **James P. Flammia**, IT support specialist, Distinguished Service Staff Award.





Thiel Hits the Road with Anderson Coach & Travel

Thiel is currently being seen on the highways and byways across the country thanks to Anderson Coach & Travel. Through a partnership between the college and Anderson, one of the buses in the company's fleet was wrapped with images of the College and unveiled on January 28 at the company's Greenville headquarters. The bus wrap is aimed at getting the word out about the new Thiel Commitment.

The "Thiel Bus" will be seen by millions during its travels in 2010. In fact, Joyce Stephenson '63 of Pittsburgh took the bus early this year to Baltimore on an Anderson tour and wrote to the company, saying "I had to comment on the new bus recently added to your fleet that has the Thiel College images painted on the sides. What a spectacular image for both you and the College. I just had to let you know how glad I am to see the relationship that has flourished between your quality family-run company and a good quality small college in Northern Pennsylvania. I love the bus!"

Pictured is first-year student Audrey Rattay of Apollo, Pa., whose picture is featured on the "Thiel Bus." Rattay is a member of the Thiel Choir, who rode the bus around the eastern United States during its spring tour in March.

Wear It Out

The first Thiel College Wear it Out recycled fashion show was held on March 11. Five designers participated—Liz Sitko (with model Jillian Spino, who is pictured here wearing the winning look); Professor Andy Grover and Thea Arai (with Grover modeling); Katey Williams (with model Kayla Ohlin); and Ian Meakim and Sam Slaven (both modeling creations by students in two of Dr. David Buck's history classes). Event organizer Jacquelyne Kinney and Master of Ceremonies Zac Markley both wore recycled clothing as well. Liz Sitko won first place and a \$100 prize, Andy Grover won second place and a \$50 gift card, and Katey Williams won third place and a \$25 gift card.



Thiel Receives Gift of New Microscopes

Thiel students' laboratory experiences have been enhanced by the gift of 24 Leica microscopes, all equipped with oil immersion lenses, that were purchased with funds provided by Dr. Carl Hoffman Jr. '69 and his wife, Theresa, during the spring semester. Four also are equipped with digital cameras that allow live feed to a computer and still capture to a card or to the computer, allowing students in Microbiology and Immunology & Parasitology courses to develop micrograph portfolios. The microscopes also have darkfield and phase contrast capability, which will enhance the learning experience in Cell Biology. In addition, the microscopes will support the research activities of Thiel's students. All biology majors are required to conduct independent research; state of the art microscopes expand the possibilities for student research in cell biology, microbiology, developmental biology, parasitology and toxicology.

THIEL LEGACIES

Thiel “runs in the family” for these members of the Class of 2010...each year, Thiel College takes photos of graduates and the members of their family who also are Thiel alumni. Pictured below are the members of the Class of 2010 with their “legacy” family members.



Brock Cline & his sister, Dr. Cary Cline '05



Ashley Habel & her grandfather-in-law, Bob Habel '58



Kody Kaclik & his parents, Cheryl (Malloy) '80 and Kevin '79



Cody Kendera & his sister, Madison '09



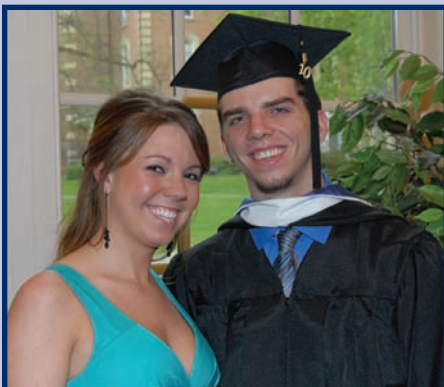
Steven Monnich & his grandfather, John Montgomery '60



Heather Snyder & her sister, Heidi Neely '09



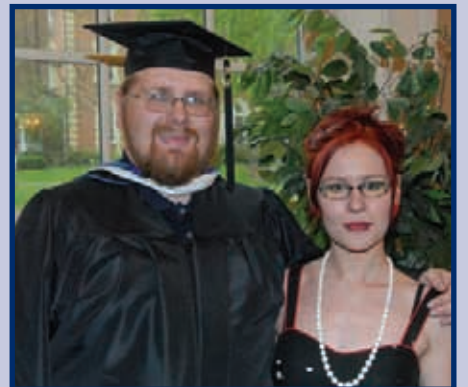
Caitlyn Shipton & her father, Rod '81



Wesley Siko & his sister, Stephanie '07



Melissa Spence & her sister, Shelby '06



Adam Toohey & his sister, Lauren '07