

# COMMENCEMENT DAY 2

Skies were blue and smiles were bright on Sunday, May 3 as 249 men and women crossed the Passavant Center stage at Thiel College's 135th Commencement. The capacity crowd was treated to a rousing introduction by **Dr. Chris Moinet**, faculty marshal, who debunked some myths about an "institution at this institution" and the day's keynote speaker, Thiel President **Dr. Robert C. Olson '60**, who is retiring in July.

Olson spoke to the Class of 2009 about "Revisiting the American Dream," and charged its members to define their pursuit of the American Dream by the principles found in the Declaration of Independence. After a heartfelt introduction by **Gary Witosky '79**, senior vice president, Olson received an honorary doctorate of humanities.

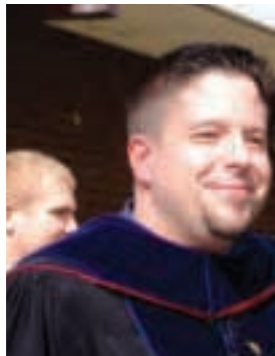
**Dr. James Shaffer**, professor of psychology, retired

at the end of the academic year and was honored with emeritus status during the Commencement ceremony.

Four students with perfect grade point averages—**Heather Jane Gratzmiller** of Monroeville, Pa., **Jamie Leigh Kuhn** of Cabot, Pa., **Daniel William Morrison** of Cortland, Ohio, and **Kristin Elaine Skelley** of Greenville, Pa.—earned valedictorian honors for 2009 and one student—**David Gregory Nypaver** of Williamsfield, Ohio—was named salutatorian.

Senior Class President **Russell Brown** of McKeesport, Pa., offered greetings from the graduating class and presented the class gift—an elm tree to adorn Sister Katherine's Walk and a patio garden to be located outside of Roth Hall, and **Jennifer Wilfong** of New Brighton, Pa., delivered the senior address "Deal or No Deal."

Congratulations to Thiel's newest alumni!



# Thiel Legacies



*Stephen Shick and his sister, Kourtney '08.*



*Kyle Heben and his mother, Carol '75.*



*Casie Morettini and her brother, John '94.*



*Chris Woods and his father, Harman '70*



*Andrew Thierman and his father, Mike '78*



*Anne Selby and her brother-in-law, Will Munster '94*



*Margaret Morris and her mother, Delma (Lutz) '71*



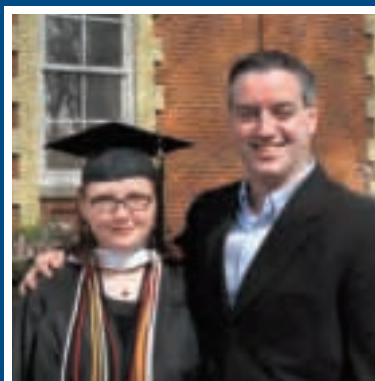
*David Chesley and his aunt, Ruth Cheng '87*



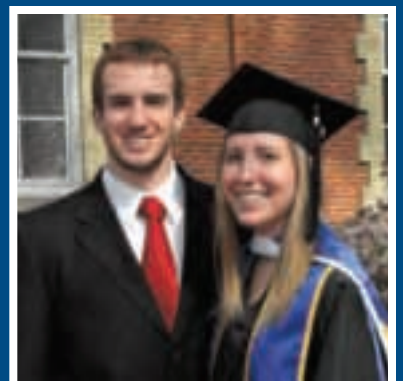
*Ashley Crothers and her brother, William '07*



*Sara Farley and her grandmother, Bonita '86*



*Rebecca Miller and her stepfather, Mike French '98*



*Madison Kendera and her brother, Cody '10*