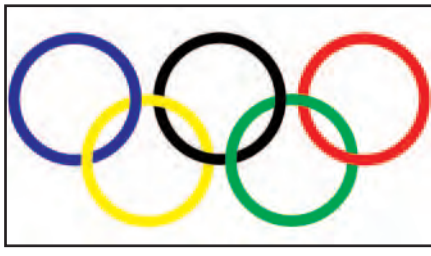


Eating Disorder  
Awareness  
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Petition for  
Tuition - Free Ninth  
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Olympic  
Medal Count!  
pg. 8

# THE THIELENSIAN

the student-run newspaper of Thiel College in Greenville, PA

Volume 133 Issue 3

Friday, February 21, 2014



## Thiel Happenings

compiled by Liz Carlson

**Friday, Feb. 21**

**Circle K Book Sale: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - LHR**

Stop by to browse the books and help raise funds for dozens of charities, both local and international!

**Saturday, Feb. 22**

**Speaker: Ryan Devlin, Teacher of the Year: 1-5 p.m. - LHR**

Ryan Devlin from the Department of Education will be giving a presentation to members of Kappa Delta Phi from Thiel and other nearby colleges. For more information, contact Kristen Fedder.

**Movie: Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom: 8-10 p.m. - Bly Hall**

Grab your popcorn and join us for another special movie night in honor of Black History Month. This night's movie, "Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom," is based on South African President Nelson Mandela's autobiography.

**Sunday, Feb. 23**

**Yoga Workshop: 5-6:15 p.m. - Glen Johnson Center Lobby**

Join instructor, Jackie, for the final workshop of the series!

**OBC Soul Food Feast: 5-8 p.m. - Carpeted Area of the Dining Hall**

OBC members prepare their annual dinner, consisting of food for the soul. The program also includes a TC Soldiers performance, poetry reading and more!

**Monday, Feb. 24**

**WestPACS Registration: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Rotunda Bistro**

Stop by the Rotunda Bistro to help us kick off Career Week and register to attend the WestPACS Job and Internship Fair. For more information, contact Heather Balas!

[Cont. on pg. 2]

## Founders' Day convocation congratulates faculty, staff; Distinguished alum. receives Louis And Barbara Thiel Award

by Brianna Tiedeman, btiedeman@thiel.edu

Spring 2014's semester at Thiel officially celebrated its annual Founder's Day and Winter Weekend Combination, tapping glasses to 148 years running since its foundation in 1866.

The celebration started on Thursday, Feb. 6th while alumni and friends gathered in the Rotunda for a reception prior to convocation. At 11 a.m. in the LHR, 12 faculty and staff as well as a special honoree were honored for several distinguished awards.

"The Thiel College faculty and staff honorees being recognized today are dedicated professionals who have consistently demonstrated excellence, willingly gone above and beyond on a regular basis and their efforts have greatly benefitted this institution over the years," President Troy VanAken said. "I'm proud to recognize this inspiring group for their services."

Commencement of the convocation began with words from Dr. Christopher Moinet, faculty marshal, a prayer from Pastor Jayne Thompson, and music selections from professor Kathryn Gray and the Thiel Choir directed by Dr. Michael Bray.

President Troy VanAken then presented each award recipient their "iceberg" plaques, preceding words provided by the correlating department heads.

Kurt Ashley, Chief Information Officer, spoke on behalf of Jonathon Shearer for his Distinguished Innovator Award.

"John was the first hire I made after I started at Thiel and some people would say it was probably the best decision I've made since I've been here. I'd like to prove them wrong, but he keeps winning awards."

[Cont. on pg. 5]



President Troy VanAken presented several awards at the 138th annual Founders' Day celebration. To his left sits Dr. Lynn Franken and Thiel Alumnus Mark A. Nordenberg. Photo Credit: Natasha Brenneman

## Destination Sochi : Living conditions at Olympic games questioned by many

by H.G Myers, hmyers@thiel.edu

On Feb. 7, the Games of the XXII Winter Olympiad opened in the city of Sochi on the shores of the Black Sea in Russia's Krasnodar Krai province. Under the stern gaze of two-time Russian President and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin – who personally pushed for the games before the International Olympic Committee in 2007 – the opening ceremonies were lavish, over-the-top, and a salute to the colorful past of the world's largest country. For the first time since 1980 and the famous boycott of the Moscow Olympics, the games have come to Russia.

And there have been a few hiccups on the way there.

The first sign that things might not quite be up to snuff came a few days before the opening ceremonies, when reporters arriving in the Russian coastal town began sending tweets referencing the state of their hotels.

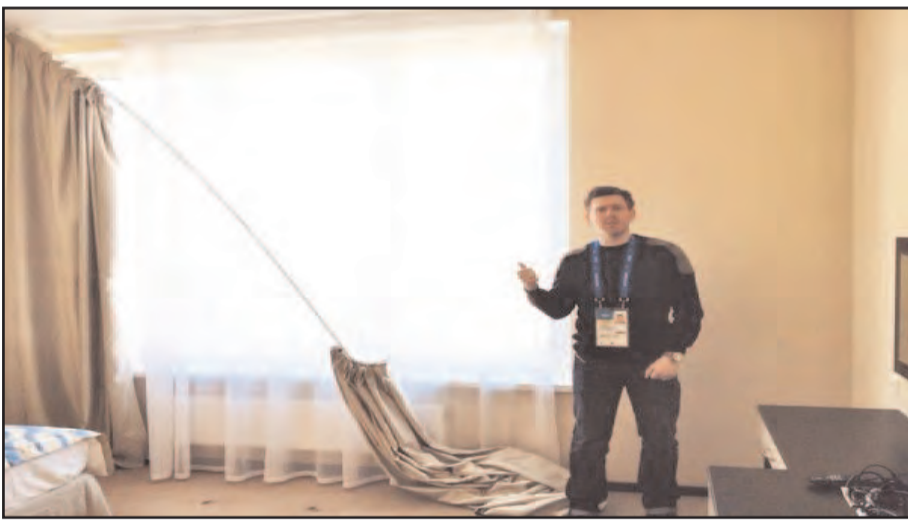
Stacy St. Clair, The Chicago Tribune's reporter covering the games in Sochi, tweeted the news that hotels were without running water; and that – if restored – front desk clerks were urging people not to use it on their faces as "it contains something very dangerous."

Jo-Ann Barnas of Dateline: Indianapolis tweeted a picture warning people to watch their step – a lot of sidewalks were without manhole covers over the sewer entrances.

Bruce Arthur of The National Post sent a series of tweets mourning the absence of hot running water.

Grantland's Katie Baker relayed the story of her new friend from La Presse whose hotel room doorknob came off in his hand.

[Cont. on pg. 8]



Journalist Harrie Reekie from CNN tweeted this photo stating "This is one hotel room @Sochi2014 have given us so far. Shambles."

## Career Center hosts etiquette dinner; students learn professional dining

by Keeley Criswell, kcriswell@thiel.edu

Last Friday, Valentine's Day, Heather Balas and the Career Development Center hosted a special etiquette dinner. While the dinner included components of traditional etiquette dinners – messy foods, tips for eating, and interacting with other students – it also included a new element: wine.

"I have had students request [a wine etiquette dinner] for over a year now," said Balas.

The students in attendance each received a wine guide and a packet of information about etiquette. The packet covered American dining as well as social expectations. Throughout the night, Balas discussed different aspects of etiquette that related to the dinner. Students in attendance were encouraged to ask questions, and try the tips they received.

"To make the etiquette dinner challenging, and to ensure that I would have plenty to talk about that is relevant to the actual meal, I always pick something messy," said Balas. The dinner consisted of three courses – French Onion Soup, spaghetti and a dinner roll, and butter pecan ice cream on a brownie.

"This is the first time I've done French Onion Soup," said Balas. "With it being so cold and snowy, I thought soup would be better than a salad, and if you are doing an etiquette dinner, there is only one soup to consider that is difficult to eat!"

Students in attendance thought that the event was well-run and met their expectations.

"I thought that I can have the chance of formal dinner, and I need to learn about the etiquette because I don't want to seem rude. The dinner was good, especially dessert," said Jinyoung Sim, one of the students in attendance.

[Cont. on pg. 5]

## Polar Vortex buries East Coast

by Hunter Michaelis, hmichaelis@thiel.edu

The new year has not exactly started on a positive note. The weather has left most of the country in awe of the massive power of Mother Nature, and few can say that they were not affected by the extreme cold and snow left in her wake.

Besides the Greenville area being hit with wind chills below -10 and receiving more than a dozen inches of snow since the beginning of the semester, other areas have received weather and snow that makes Greenville look like a paradise.

Washington, D.C. was buried under a foot of snow, with more expected to fall, according to CBS Washington. In the South, Georgia was hit with around 3 inches of snow, which is enough to cause panic in Atlanta.

The public's frustration reached a plateau when more than 1,200 flights were cancelled, and children had to spend the night in school. Georgia just did not

possess the equipment the North has to deal with the threat, according to USA Today.

Here at Thiel, students' opinions on the weather and snow were mixed. Most were in agreement that Thiel made the right choice not cancelling classes, but some felt that classes should have been to a certain degree.

"I thought they did a good job with giving students the choice to come back at the beginning of the semester," Jaden Nozicka, sophomore and Michigan native, said. "It was really nice for students who live far away."

When Nozicka left home at the beginning of the semester, he measured 2.5 feet of snow outside his home, only to come to more snow and cold at Thiel.

Erie, Pennsylvania had 41 inches of snow by December, which is double the season average by that time. In contrast, Pittsburgh had 17 inches, which is 11 inches above normal for the same

time, and that is just the Northeast.

This has all happened as a result of a "polar vortex," which is basically a cyclone that keeps the weather trapped within an area when the vortex moves into it. For those at the mercy of it, it was several weeks of absolutely unnatural weather for the area.

"It's kind of dumb," Chandler Daugherty, freshman, said, another student against cancelling classes. "We walk two feet... It's not terribly dangerous if you dress appropriately."

Many students are divided on the issue. With differing opinions on classes and the weather, what is someone in administration to do? For those who were born and raised in an area that receives a lot of snow and cold weather, it might not be so terrible, but what about students from other areas? If the residents of At-



photo credit: PoliticoPro

D.C. and its government buildings shut down for several days after last week's snowstorm kept everyone inside.

Buildings reopened on a delay on Friday, Feb. 14.

lanta enjoyed the snow, more power to them, but some of them had probably never seen snow before this recent storm.

"They're probably going through withdrawal from sun," Daugherty joked, with a laugh, "But they're proba-

bly bundled up to the point where we would think they're crazy."

For those of you who are not fans of the snow and have experienced this weather, have no fear. Summer is only a couple of months away.

# TEVENTS

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Friday, February 21, 2014

THIELENSIAN

## Thiel Happenings

*continued from front page*

**Monday, Feb. 24**

**TAB Coffee House Series – Tall Heights: 9-10 p.m. in the Bistro**

Stop by and enjoy a performance by Tall Heights, a duo that's received rave reviews from NPR, Per-former and Boston Magazine.

**Tuesday, Feb. 25**

**SGA General Assembly Meeting: 9:30-10:30 p.m. in the Lutheran Heritage Room**

**Thursday, Feb. 27**

**Graduate Panel: 4-6 p.m. in the Howard Miller Student Center**

Graduating students are invited to meet with a Thiel College alumni and faculty panel who will answer questions about graduate school, getting that first job and life after college.

### Spring Break: March 1-9

**Tuesday, March 11**

**SGA Academics Forum: 9:30-10:30 p.m. in the Lutheran Heritage Room**

**Wednesday, March 12**

**WestPACS Job and Internship Fair: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. in Monroeville, PA**

### ONGOING EVENTS:

**Candles in the Round:** Sundays from 6-7 p.m. in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. Join Pastor Jayne Thompson and fellow students for a peaceful time of informal singing and praying at the end of the day.

**Aikido Classes:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. in the Glen Johnson Community Center.

**Weekly Chapel:** Wednesdays from 4-4:30 p.m. in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. Gather every Wednesday for chapel service. All are welcome!

**Senior Business Seminars:** Wednesdays (from January 15 - April 9, 2014) 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Sawhill-Georgian Room

The Senior Business Seminar class provides students the opportunity to meet and interact with individuals who have enjoyed distinguished careers in the corporate and foundation worlds.

**Thiel Team Trivia Tuesdays:** Every Tuesday in the Bistro from 10-11 p.m.

## Wanna see a movie? BLY HALL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...

*compiled by Liz Carlson*



***The Hunger Games 2: Catching Fire: Friday, Feb. 21 and Sunday, Feb. 23 from 8-10 p.m.***

A year after winning the 74th annual Hunger Games, Katniss Everdeen and her partner, Peeta, find themselves participating in the games once again, this time with the promise of a single winner.

While embarking on their Victor's tour of the districts following their triumphal victory, Katniss begins to sense a feeling of rebellion among the districts, although the capital remains in control. President Snow is hard at work preparing for the 75th Hunger Games, a special occasion known as the Quarter Quell. In honor of the special occasion, Snow decides that the competitors in this year's games will be all the previous winners from the games, including Katniss and Peeta. The couple sticks together, strategically choosing allies along the way in an attempt to gain yet another victory.

## Thiel College POLICE BLOTTER

*compiled by Brianna Tiedeman*

### **Feb. 8 - Liquor Law Violation**

Multiple students were found in Hunton Hall playing beer pong in the basement.

### **Feb. 8 - Liquor Law Violation**

Bottles of liquor and beer were taken out of a non-21 status room in Frat 2.

### **Feb. 8 - Liquor Law Violation**

An underage student was found vomiting in the bathroom of Hodge Hall.

### **Feb. 16 - Theft**

Student's vehicle information was stolen out of her glove box in the Townhouse parking lot.

### **Feb. 16 - Property Damage**

A student had a fire extinguisher discharged in his car by an unidentified person. The front door of Sawhill was also sprayed.

### **Feb. 17 - Domestic Disturbance**

Two students argued when one asked the other to leave a room. Pulling and shoving did occur.



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## BLIND DATE



photos by Maryanne Elder and Lynae Jackson

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### About the Thielensian

The *Thielensian* is Thiel College's student-run newspaper, funded by the Student Government Association.

Our mission is to serve the campus community by publishing timely, fair, and relevant news, sports, feature stories, and other information, and to provide a lively forum for student expression and the opinion of others on campus. 2347367592

The *Thielensian* encourages letters to the editor of 300 words or less by traditional mail and preferably by e-mail. Letters must be signed (no pseudonyms, please) and a phone number must be provided for verification.

Letters must be free from offensive language, personal attacks, obvious errors in fact, and libelous or potentially libelous statements. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, and we reserve the right to reject any letter.

Guest columns, letters or other opinions expressed in the *Thielensian* are the views of the writer and don't necessarily reflect those of the staff and adviser or the college.

Letters may be mailed to:  
The *Thielensian*  
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Greenville, PA 16125  
or sent via e-mail to:  
newspaper@thiel.edu  
Burton Speakman, adviser

## T.A.B. Coffeehouse Series: Savannah Smith rocks Bistro

by Hunter Michaelis, hmichaelis@thiel.edu



Ukulele player Savannah Smith brought her talents to the Bistro Feb. 13, courtesy of Thiel Activities Board.

Ukulele player Savannah Smith performed in the Bistro on Feb. 13 with her instrument adding life to the already thriving area of the HMSC. Smith, a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, works with preschoolers during the day, and then tours by night.

This performance is her first at Thiel, and it was made possible by the Thiel Activities Board (T.A.B.) Coffeehouse Series, which was organized by Than Oo. Smith's booking manager, David, worked with Oo in the past, and Thiel was on the way between Minneapolis and New York.

"I was a little worried when I saw the cafeteria-type setting," Smith admitted, "But I was really surprised when everyone had their undivided attention on me. It

was great."

Smith is a veteran of performing at colleges and she knew how differently each college is to another. Her biggest worry was of the performance being received well by the crowd, which was during a peak Bistro rush.

Smith has been playing the ukulele for three years, but she has been musical for most of her life. She remembers standing on top of a box and screaming on top of her lungs to Jewel when she was just five years old.

Smith was accompanied by her manager and road companion, Maurya Torgerson. She has been with Smith since the artist started touring, but this is her second time as an official manager. She was in training the first time Smith performed, so her

duties will increase from here.

"I'm just here to keep us on time, be a good road companion, and I think we get along really well," Torgerson said.

Torgerson spent the past couple of times watching, helping, and writing down everything she could, and to her surprise, she took on leadership. Since she has "learned the ropes," as described by Torgerson, she has done more with each performance.

"I got to set up tonight, and it was great. I got to learn a little about sound, and it's always a learning experience," she stated, with a smile.

To add to the intimidation was the general noise of the Bistro, which was full of talking Tomcats, whirring

vending machines, and employees announcing orders. It was a little difficult to hear, but one could hear a soft and practiced voice if he or she really listened.

Between each song, Smith revealed more about herself through jokes about past experiences about touring and life at home. She recalled having to perform after accidentally taking too much cough syrup, and she stressed the need to read every label.

"I would not wish that feeling on anyone," she explained.

Over the course of the performance, the applause grew from scattered to full, and several people took the time after the performance to thank Smith for coming and purchase her EP album.

## The Phoenix flies once more WXTC is back on the air

by Sean Oros, soros@thiel.edu

This year's edition of The Phoenix will be released February 23. The Phoenix, Thiel's literary journal, is a campus-wide publication presented by Thiel's Alpha Iota Kappa Chapter of the national English honorary society, Sigma Tau Delta. In addition, the society is proud to induct five new members on that same day, all of whom have exhibited exemplary academic achievement in English and beyond.

The Phoenix allows students on campus to present their literary, artistic, and photographic accomplishments to campus. Work from any student, faculty, or alumni is welcome; a range of submissions helps to ensure a diversity of opinion and expression within the

document. Pieces range from poems to short stories, photographs to paintings, and even songs. The range of art forms contained within helps to ensure that Thiel's creative minds have a free medium for expressing their creative selves. It also allows a public forum to display the hard work of students from classes themselves, whether they are in art or English.

The new members being inducted will have opportunity to assist with future editions of the Phoenix, as well as with Sigma Tau Delta's many other outreaches. Thiel's chapter of Sigma Tau Delta is involved across campus in many activities. Many of its members are part of other organizations

on campus, including other honor societies.

The involvement of Sigma Tau Delta's members has continued to represent English and the humanities across the campus, often unseen by those who are not familiar with the organization. Their contributions, however, help to ensure excellence at Thiel, both in the classroom and community service field.

Historically, members have read to grade-school and special-needs classrooms, hosted book drives for local literary programs, and sold flowers at plays for the Thiel Players. Perhaps most noticeably remains the Phoenix, creating an outlet for creative expression across Thiel.

by Liz Carlson, lcarlson@thiel.edu

After being out of commission for a period of time, things are beginning to look up for Thiel College's radio station, WXTC. With new DJ's, new equipment, and even a new station on the way, WXTC is back up and ready to go. When asked what is new with the radio station this semester, Ryan Prescott, the campus advisor of the radio, was quick to exclaim - "Everything."

A new outlook would not be completed without new faces. This semester, WXTC will be featuring two new DJ's, along with the familiar voices from semesters past. Michael Boratyn will be hosting a new show titled "Are You Serious?" One is sure to have experienced a thing or two during their time at Thiel that is absolutely unbelievable. Michael will be sharing some of these stories that will leave you ask-

ing, "Are you serious?"

New shows would not be possible without new equipment. With a new music board and extra microphones now in their possession, TC Radio will now feature better sound quality and the opportunity to do more interviews simultaneously.

"This new equipment will allow the radio station to get more connected with the campus," said Ronnell Hunt, an active participant at the station and voice of the TC Gospel Show with Ronnell Hunt. He described some of the ways in which WXTC hopes to better reach the student body, including new contests with prizes ranging from free t-shirts to free tickets to the spring concert.

TC Radio has a lot to look forward to for the remainder of the semester, and especially into next semester when their station

will be moved into the new James Peda Communications Center. As Hunt explains, "We will now have a fish bowl station similar to that of any other famous televised radio station..." The new environment will also help the public relations of the studio and hopefully boost participation, according to Prescott. "We have great participation already, but you can never have too much," he adds.

TC Radio is definitely looking optimistic regarding this semester and the many others to come. If TC Radio interests you, and you would like to become involved in their up and coming improvements, the process to become involved is simple. Simply sign up with the station manager to go through a mock interview.

TC Radio can be found on 88.1 FM.



Members of Sigma Tau Delta are excited to present the newest edition of The Phoenix.

**WHAT:** Book Sale

**WHO:** Thiel College Circle K

**WHERE:** Lutheran Heritage Room

**WHEN:** Friday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**WHY:** Proceeds will be donated to Circle K's many charities, including March of Dimes, Caitlin Smiles, and UNICEF.

**No books will be priced over \$2, and the books make great presents for friends and family. All are welcome to attend.**



### Eating Disorder Awareness Week

**February 24-28**

#### Monday:

- Kick off EDAW Scavenger Hunt 4:00-6:00pm

#### Tuesday:

- Warrior Butterflies 4:00-6:00pm in the Bistro

#### Wednesday:

- Love Every Body workshop 4:00-6:00pm in the Bistro

#### Thursday:

- Guest Speakers From NEDA: Ms. Katy Mullins and Ms. Julianne Griffith 5:00pm in LHR
- Wear purple for a group picture!

#### Friday:

- Closing program

Active Minds members will be sitting outside of the cafeteria all week during lunch and dinner with an education booth, donation jar for NEDA, and purple awareness ribbons. Follow the Active Minds Twitter page for more updates! @TC\_ActiveMinds

Any questions/comments/concerns? Contact president of Active Minds Ivey Shorts: isHORTS@thiel.edu

## Founders Day Celebration at Thiel

contd. from front page

John Gasperin and Joe Matecka were honored for Distinguished Newcomer Awards, and Leslie Graul for her Distinguished Service Award.

Jackie Muller, Vice President for Communication and Marketing, spoke on behalf of Jennie Kather for the Distinguished Extra Effort award and Jack Leipheimer, Director of Athletics spoke on behalf of Ed Topoleski for the Distinguished Outreach Award.

"He does an outstanding job on a daily basis," Leipheimer said. "He's an excellent mentor and role model for our student workers and everyone he comes in contact with."

Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean Lynn Franken spoke on behalf of 6 Thiel Faculty with awards while she reminisced on their employment. The Distinguished Adjunct Faculty

award was presented to education professor Angela Virostak for her dedication and contributions.

The Distinguished Scholar award recipient was Professor Gayle Jesse of the Math and Comp. Science department for having had scholarly articles published. Dr. Mary Theresa Hall of the English department received the Distinguished Service award while the Distinguished Teacher award went to Dr. Jie Wu.

To conclude the faculty award distribution, Professor of the Year awards were given to Dr. Nicholas Despo, Biology, and Professor Judith Newton, Math and Computer Science.

"Why is it that our Professors of the Year are always retiring - in pairs?" Franken said. "There ought to be a law. Noah after all was taking his pairs into the arc, not

letting them out."

To highlight the morning convo, the Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award was awarded to Thiel alumnus of 1970 and current Chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, Mark Nordenberg.

Louis and Barbara Thiel were the initial founders of the college and recipients of this award "demonstrate exemplary character, continuity of leadership, and long-term service to Greenville and its environs," according to the itinerary from the event.

Nordenberg was selected as a recipient based on his ten year membership on the Board of Trustees, his Alumni Achievement award from 1988, being the commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient in 1997, and serving as the keynote speaker during President VanAken's inauguration in April 2010.



President Troy VanAken presents Chancellor Mark Nordenberg with the Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award at the 2014 Founders Day Convocation, Feb. 6.

## Dinner teaches students proper etiquette

cont'd from front pg.

Balas developed an interest in etiquette during graduate school. "[It] became a special project for me during my internship graduate internship in the Career Center at Slippery Rock University," said Balas. "I researched all types of etiquette and created a new program for a First Year Leadership course. Because of that knowledge, etiquette became part of my graduate practicum experience at

Westminster College as well. It is something that I continued to study throughout my time in Residence Life, Student Activities and Greek Life. When I had the opportunity to teach FYS, I of course chose to have etiquette as a component. Now that I've moved into Career Development, I'm thrilled to be able to use my knowledge regularly!"

Balas has held several etiquette dinners in the past.

She holds at least one a year. But, due to their popularity, she has been holding one every semester for the past two years.

This semester's event was funded by the Career Center with help from AVI who donated several bottles of wine left over from previous events and allowed the use of student ID numbers and cafeteria points to offset some of the cost of food.

**If you entered Thiel in the fall semester of 2010 or 2011, you were told that you would be eligible to have your ninth-semester tuition waived. Now is the time to apply for that waiver. Applications are currently being accepted for waivers for tuition during the falls of 2014 and 2015. Applications can be picked up in the Academic Records office in the bottom floor of Roth Hall. There is a full list of requirements on the back of the form; however if you are still unsure whether you qualify for the tuition waiver, you can schedule a meeting with Denise Urey, the Registrar of the College. Applications for Fall 2014 need to be submitted before Spring Break; applications for Fall 2015 can be submitted as well. If you have any questions, please e-mail Denise Urey @ durey@thiel.edu.**

## February students of the month announced

by Jennie Kather, jKather@thiel.edu

Keeley Criswell is a senior physics and computer science major and the editor-in-chief of the College newspaper, The Thielensian. She is a supplemental instruction assistant in the physics department and has been named to the Dean's List each of her semesters at Thiel. Criswell is a member of Alpha Chi – the highest academic honor bestowed on students at the College and Kappa Mu Epsilon, Thiel's mathematics honorary society. She is a member of the Dietrich Honors Institute and was a member of Lambda Sigma, the sophomore service honorary.

At Thiel, Criswell serves as the president of the shooting club, and was a recipient of the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Women in Global

Leadership. As a result of the Heinz scholarship support, Criswell spent last summer pursuing her studies in Spain. She has secured an internship through the National Science Foundation for the Research Experience for Undergraduates and will spend summer 2014 working in Hamburg, Germany. She is the daughter of Brad and Laurie Criswell of Bedford, Pa.

Leanna Yeager is a senior English literature and secondary education major and is a member of the varsity volleyball and basketball teams. She has been named to the President's Athletic Conference (PAC) Academic Honor Roll five times and has been named to the Dean's List each of her semesters at Thiel. Yeager also is a member of Alpha Chi –

the highest academic honor bestowed on students at the College and Kappa Delta Pi and Sigma Tau Delta, Thiel's education and English honorary societies, respectively. She also is a member of Chi Alpha Sigma the national college athlete honor society and was involved with Lambda Sigma, the sophomore service honorary. She is currently a member of Les Laurier, the senior service honorary.

At Thiel, she serves as a member of the senior class gift committee and recently had a paper accepted at the Susquehanna University Undergraduate Conference for English and Creative Writing. Yeager is the co-editor of Thiel's literary journal, The Phoenix. She is the daughter of Tim and Debbie Yeager of Poland, Ohio.

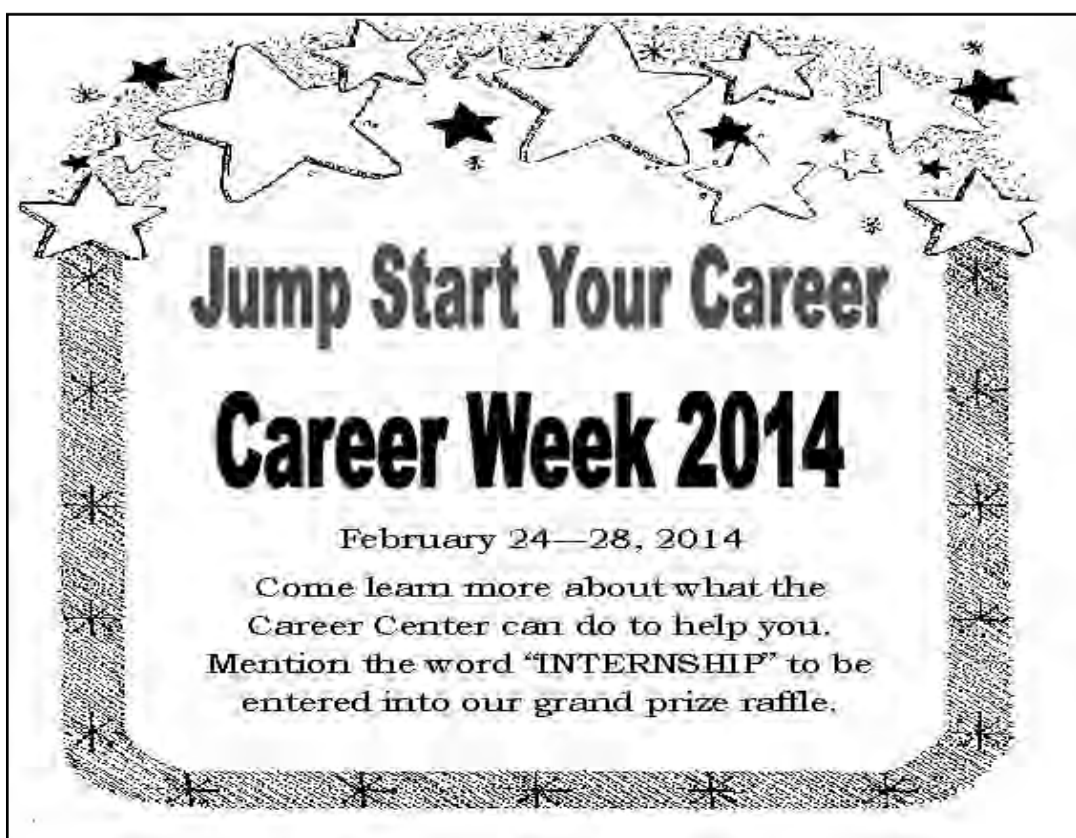


Leanna Yeager, left, and Keeley Criswell, right, are February's students of the month.

## \*\*\* ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS \*\*\*

Seniors graduating in May 2014, should schedule an appointment with the Registrar, Denise Urey, to review your college core requirements. Appointments can be made at the Records Office or by calling extension 2110.

Seniors who desire to participate in commencement exercises in May 2014, who will complete graduation requirements in summer school 2014, must petition the Academic Standing Committee by April 15, 2014 for approval to participate in the May ceremony. The academic petition form can be obtained in the Records Office.



# TOOMBS TIME: Do you respect yourself at all?

by Sara Toombs, [stoombs@thiel.edu](mailto:stoombs@thiel.edu)



The title of this article is a question I have been asked way too many times in my life. Even though I know the person must be asking for a good reason, it still seems to

hit me like a brick to the face every single time – a brick that prints the word NO in bold letters across my forehead. No, Sara, you don't respect yourself at all.

It seems like we as a society have spent a lot of time lately worrying about confidence. The buzz word "self-esteem" is everywhere you look, reminding people that it's important to love yourself for who you are. That's absolutely true – we need to embrace the little quirks that make us each individually unique and love ourselves. But I think part of

that message gets overlooked; it is equally as important to respect yourself.

I get that self-esteem and self-respect mean just about the same thing, but there is something a little bit different about the concept of respect. It is one thing to be confident, and another to have respect for yourself. Think of the respect we show our parents: I for one don't always like my parents very much. I have wished that they would change or just go away. But, I always maintain respect for them. I can think my mom is the most evil woman ever to grace earth at times, but in those moments I still respect her as human being and a valuable person.

It almost seems foreign that we could apply this concept to our own self-image, but the ability to respect oneself is truly crucial to success. Having confidence is

hard – plain and simple. I have struggled with my self-esteem since I was a little girl and someone was thoughtful enough to let me know that my legs were too fat, my hair too frizzy, and my glasses just a little too thick to be "cool." I am absolutely sure that at some point, everyone has experienced the realization that they just aren't good enough. It's been bottle fed to us since we were born that there will always be someone smarter, cooler, and definitely prettier than we are waiting around the corner. So writing an article meant to inspire all its readers to suddenly develop self-confidence is ambitious, and probably just impossible. But, hopefully, self-respect is a different story.

Just like that relationship we have with our parents, the "respect no matter what" scenario, we need to build a "no

matter what" connection with ourselves. I have to establish a relationship with myself based on respect for my status as a human being and a person who is, whether I like it or not, the most important person in my life.

I do not always have to love myself. I do not always have to think I will succeed. I don't always have to feel beautiful. Because I won't. Some days, and probably most days in my personal situation, I am going to wake up feeling truly unsatisfied with my body, my achievements, my social life, my hair – you name it. That, unfortunately, is the way a lot of us have been operating our entire lives, and it isn't going to just disappear. But if I develop the ability to respect myself, I can completely alter the way those "I just don't..." mornings end. Respecting myself means

that I am understanding of my own flaws. It means that I care about my own well-being and choose to make decisions based on my health and happiness. It means that I stand up for myself, even when I don't really want to. I choose what is best for me, not what I think will make me more appealing to others. I can say yes, but I can also say no. And I will treat myself like a worthy, significant, and beautiful person, even when that isn't who I see in the mirror.

Learn to respect yourself, and the confidence will come. Truly, confidence comes from how you think the world perceives you, but the ability to show yourself the respect you deserve comes only from within. And when you treat yourself with respect, you can demand the same treatment from everyone else.

## Why your favorite movie is terrible

*Disclaimer:* The views expressed in this column are solely the views of the author and are meant to be offensive. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Thielensian and its staff. Please proceed to read at your own discretion or do not read if you become easily offended.

by Andrew Denson, [adenson@thiel.edu](mailto:adenson@thiel.edu)

### The Movie:

Everyone's favorite movie when they were five a.k.a. **Space Jam**. The movie stars **THE BEST BASKETBALL PLAYER EVER**, Michael Jordan (Lebron and his fans can kick rocks). The movie takes place during that one time in the 90's where the NBA sucked and Michael Jordan retired to try his hand at being the worst baseball player to ever exist, and he did a very good job at that.

Eventually some person came up with a bright idea to make a movie that would explain why Michael was so terrible at baseball. Enter **Space Jam**. Apparently Michael was so tired from his basketball game with the Looney Tunes against roid raging aliens, that he couldn't live up to his limited baseball potential. If you have not seen this movie my suggestion is to find some pretty young thing on campus, marry her, make whoopee, and have a child. When that child turns 5 show them **Space Jam**, they will love it.....hopefully you will too

### Character Everyone Loves to Hate:

When I first came up with

this movie to write about I had all intentions of talking about that annoying Stan character. Then I thought maybe Bill Murray, or Larry Bird, or animated Danny Devito. I eventually settled on writing about **EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THIS MOVIE WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LOONEY TUNES.....** By the way, Lola does not count as a Looney Tune because I say so.

The horrendous acting in this movie made me question my life choices when I got older. Michael's faux children should never have and I don't believe ever acted again after their poor pitiful performance in that movie. And what was up with his son's teeth? See a dentist kid, **YOU ARE MICHAELS JORDAN'S SON!**

Anyway the aliens played by Jose Canseco, Barry Bonds, Mark Maguire, Sammy Sosa and A-Roid were not much better in the acting department. For most of the movie I am wondering if the creators of this movie didn't just make this movie to upset children when they grew up and discovered their fa-

vorite movie as a child was actually a piece of trash.

And **DO NOT** get me started on the NBA players they got to cameo in this movie. Yes, Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing were two of the best of all time, but Shawn Bradley??? Larry Johnson??? **WHO ARE YOU, WHY ARE YOU ON MY TV, SAVE ME SUPERMAN.**

### Why The Movie is Awful:

If you can look past the awful characters and storyline (and cheesy dialogue).....well you can't really look past any of it. I have tried. **FOR YEARS I HAVE TRIED.**

### Why The Movie is Not Awful:

Looney Tunes playing basketball with Michael Jordan. Also, try to go a whole week without saying a **Space Jam** quote. Just try.

### Best Quotes from the Movie:

1. BE GONE, WANNABE, BE GONE.
2. Michael Jr: ALRIGHT!
3. Jim Rome: Michael, WHAT IS THAT!
4. Bill Murray: Larry's not white, Larry's clear.

## New technology replaces now archaic communication methods

by Hunter Michaelis, [hmichaelis@thiel.edu](mailto:hmichaelis@thiel.edu)



It seems like social roles have changed in the world of 2014. Gone are the days of calling someone when you wanted to hang out with them, or just writing a letter to someone and sending it through the mail. They were replaced by the likes of social media and email.

Like or not, the world is changing faster than anyone thinks. The world has become so technologically driven that its people sometimes lose the ability to communicate in person. I did not have the luxury of a cell phone until 14, and that was barely in the same city compared to the Galaxy S4 I have now.

The point is that I learned

to communicate and keep to those old ways much longer than the average person. From it, I have been able to see how the world could have been had I not.

Regardless of whether you are a computer-communicator or not, you should never worry about how others perceive you. Being the most popular person in the world is not important, especially in college. There are other more important things to worry about like finals and the days left until spring, for example.

If you can find a small circle of friends where you get along with everyone and feel comfortable, then you succeeded. If you have not been able to do this, be patient. It will happen when you least expect it.

In high school, some of you may remember the titles that some received – class clown, clumsy, brainy, and the list goes on and on. For me, I was the clumsy one of the class. However, I never let it get me down when I dropped my lunch to everyone's delight, or collided with people around a corner in the hallway.

It is very important that you worry about your stud-

ies more than what others think of you. It is nothing more than a waste of valuable brain space and time.

I used to worry about that constantly when I was in high school. It never really got me anywhere, but I still worried about it. I eventually realized that there will always be someone who disagrees with you, or even does not like you. It is just how life is. This is one of the things in life that no one can change. You could no more change this than the gravitational field constant, or the dinner options of the café. What you can control, however, is how you act around other people.

By having a positive attitude and working on that personality, you could find that nice circle friends I was talking about earlier in no time. It goes back to what some told me the first day of classes – "college is as fun as you want it to be." So, how much fun do you want to have? The solutions are quite simple: get out of the room, get involved around campus, and be a positive example. Never become too engrossed with social media, and you will fare just fine here.

Do you have something to say? Submit a letter to the editor!!








Submission Date	Publication Date
Sun, Feb. 23	Fri, March 14
Thurs, March 20	Tues, April 1
Thurs, April 3	Fri, April 11
Thurs, April 10	Fri, April 25

TC Comic by Christina Ryan, [cryan@thiel.edu](mailto:cryan@thiel.edu)



# Sochi Medal Count Update

updated Thursday, Feb. 20

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
 <b>Norway</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>
 <b>Germany</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>
 <b>United States</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>
 <b>Russia</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>
 <b>Canada</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>
 <b>Netherlands</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>
 <b>Switzerland</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>

## Olympic Games continue in Sochi

Cont'd from front page

Despite a seeming array of unpreparedness on the part of hotel accommodations for journalists – which have always been rather low on the totem pole of priorities for Olympic organizers – the sheer state of unpreparedness seen in the hotels in Sochi was astounding. The hotels – built especially for the games – were part of the \$51 Billion construction project which also saw the creation of the Fischt Olympic Stadium, where the opening ceremonies were held on February 7, and where the closing ceremonies will be held on February 23. But the first hint that the rest of “Putin’s Games” – as some are calling these Olympics – might suffer a few technical issues came during the opening ceremonies, when a gigantic hanging snowflake refused

to transition into one of the five Olympic rings, resulting in the appearance of an asterisk hovering in midair beside the rings, and giving the internet plenty of comedic fodder to pile on to its already plentiful bounty of material.

The very next day, Sochi’s accommodations were in the news once more as it came out that Team USA bobsledder Johnny Quinn had gotten locked inside his Olympic Village apartment’s bathroom, and had been forced to smash his way through the door to escape. Quinn tweeted a picture of the smashed cardboard-and-wood remains of his bathroom door which quickly went viral.

For a city that had been preparing for its moment in the limelight since Russian President Vladimir Putin gave

a triumphant speech to the International Olympic Committee in 2007. Speaking then, Putin called Sochi’s receiving the 2014 games “not just a recognition of Russia’s sporting achievements, but it is, beyond any doubt, a judgment of our country.”

While no one is doubting Russia’s talent for winter sports – they currently sit in seventh place in the medal table with one gold, three silver, and three bronze – some may have had reason to doubt Russia’s preparedness to host the games.

As for Team USA bobsledder Johnny Quinn? The very next day, he was trapped in an elevator.

Closing ceremonies of the XXII Winter Olympics will be broadcast on NBC this Sunday.



## Men’s Lax loses a hard fought battle against W&J at home opener

by: Erin Huff ehuff558@thiel.edu

The Thiel men’s lacrosse team welcomed the Washington and Jefferson Presidents to the Rissell-Schreyer Dome last weekend. Three goals, stemming from the stick of Carmen Papa, helped the Tomcats stay in the game. In the end, Papa’s three goals combined with Mike Bryant’s three goals, the Tomcats couldn’t hold off W&J and they suffered the 8-10 loss.

The game stayed pretty

even through the first period of play with the Presidents leading the Tomcats 3-2. The second period told a different story for Thiel’s men. W&J outscored the Thiel 4-2 and took an all out lead of 7-4. Just when things didn’t look so good for Thiel, Papa scored two goals just 49 seconds apart to cut the W&J lead down to just one. A goal from the Presidents would put them back

up by two, but with just over six minutes remaining in the game, Bryant scored two straight goals to tie the game. Regrettably, the Presidents surged ahead with two goals of their own making the final score of the game 10-8. This one was hard fought by the Tomcats and left the fans wanting more, which I’m sure they will be happy to give us in their next home match-up.

## Men’s Volleyball tops Hilbert and coasts to a one-game win

by:Erin Huff ehuff558@thiel.edu

After going 1-2 on the road Thiel took on the Nittany Lions of Penn State – Behrend here at home. The Beehgly Gym was filled with Tomcats who were chopping at the bit to see a win from our men’s team. The first set went in favor of TC, with a score of 25-13. The Lions were not going to be defeated that easily and with ice in their veins they took the second set, 25-19. This went back and forth the entire match and when the final point was scored, the Lions went back to the bus victorious. This devastating home loss dropped Thiel to a 4-6 record overall.

Mike Whitelock and Kyle Turkalj, both middle hitters on the Tomcat offense, were the top scorers of the game; slamming down 15 kills apiece. However, it was senior Andrew Pohlod who really came to life on the hardwood; Pohlod put a double-double in the books, his second of the season, with 10 kills and 12 digs.

Their next game came on Valentine’s Day weekend and it was a sweet victory for the Tomcats, who traveled to New York to battle the Hilbert Hawks. It was a 3-0 win for the guys and with great ease they jumped back up to 5-

6 on the season.

John Turner was the ace in the sweep with 10 kills, while Evan Proksell, Thad Paunovich and Kyle Turkalj chipped in six kills apiece to aid in the win. Setters, Corey Hamilton and Charlie Tindall, combined for 35 assists in the sweep; and Tindall chalked up a couple of aces in from behind the service line.

The Tomcat’s have a stretch of home games coming up and it’s certain they are going to be some good games. Check their schedule at www.thielathletics.com and be sure to come cheer on Thiel as they make a run for the PAC title.



Carmen Papa, a veteran of the men’s team, scored three goals on Saturday afternoon.



Thad Paunovich shows his talents at the net in home action earlier this season. Thad has proven quite a weapon for the Tomcat offense.



## Track & Field results from Oberlin

- C. Jones:**  
1st place 60 Meter Run  
**B.Hritz:**  
1st Place 60 Meter Hurdles

### Women

- M. Berg:**  
1st Place 60 Meter Hurdles

- E. Petrak:**  
1st Place 1,000 Meter Run

- E. Petrak, M. Steinmetz, C. Arnold, S. Primrose:**  
1st Place 4 X 400 Meter Relay

### Men

- N. Jones:**  
1st place high jump  
1st place long jump

- T. Walker, R. Edwards, J. McLean, C. Jones:**  
1st place 4 X 200 – meter relay