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**DIETRICH HONORS INSTITUTE**

# Annual Report

Prepared By:

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Director, Dietrich Honors Institute

# HISTORY

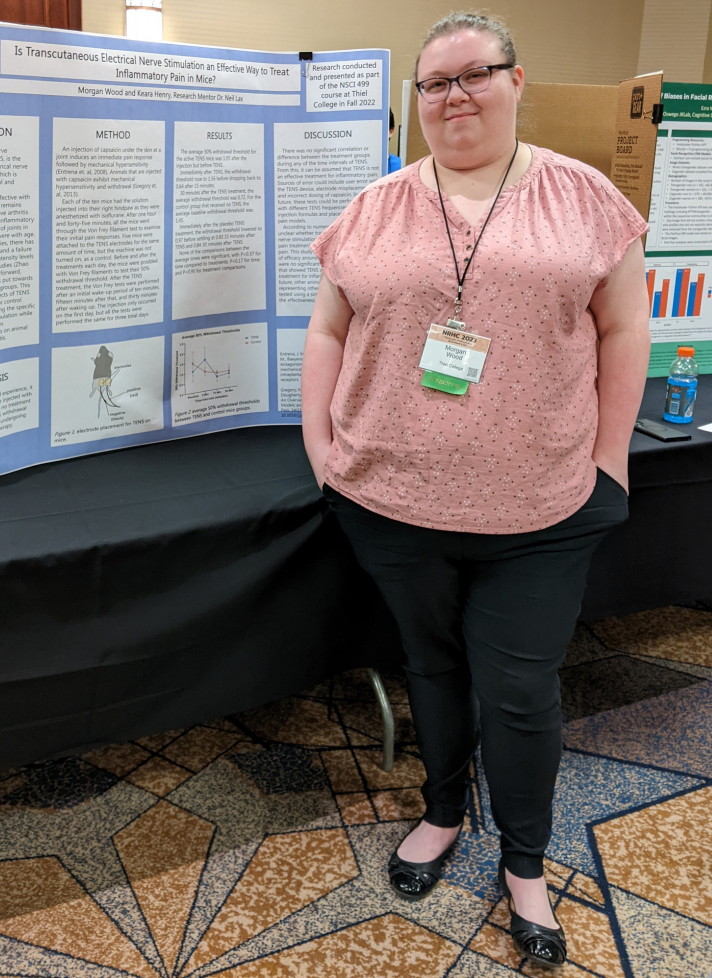
Philanthropist, businessman, scholar and proud northwest Pennsylvania native William S. Dietrich II, bequeathed a \$25 million fund to Thiel College upon his passing in 2011. Dietrich's gift is the largest made to the College in its 150-year history. His gift founded the Kenneth '31 and Marianna Brown '32 Dietrich Honors Institute in honor of William's parents. Today, the Dietrich Honors Institute is a passionate and purposeful learning community open to select Thiel College students.





# MISSION

The Dietrich Honors Institute inspires and enriches Thiel College's inclusive community of life-long learners with programs that foster inquiry, reflection, and growth. We challenge students to make discoveries and apply knowledge in new ways. In this way, the DHI prepares students to be responsible and purposeful leaders.



# BY THE NUMBERS

138 DHI Students

18% of Thiel  
Undergrads

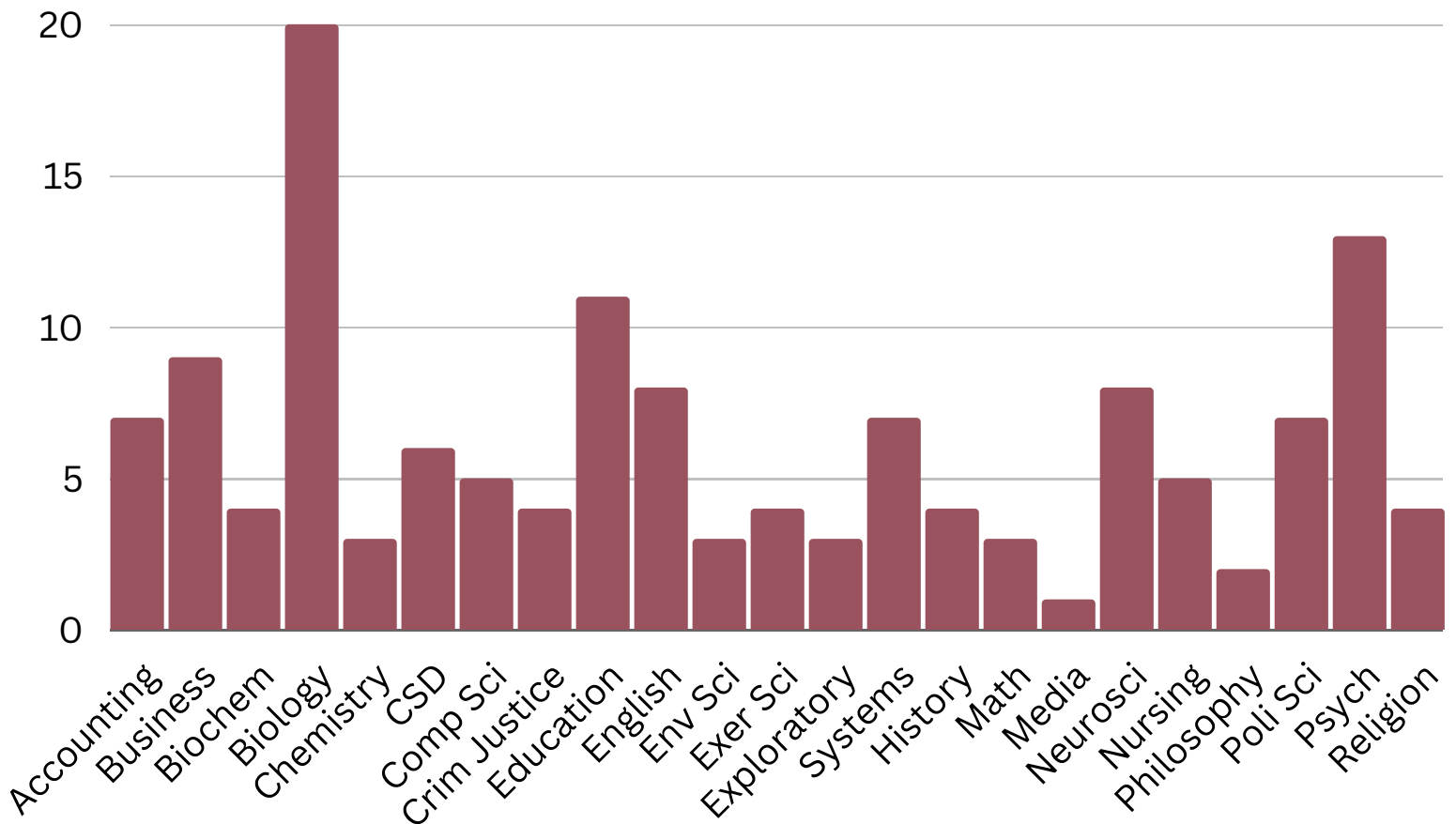
35

DHI Class of 2023

42

DHI Class of 2026

■ No. of Majors





# DHI STUDENTS LEAD ON CAMPUS

48%

Fall 2022  
Peer Mentors

50%

2022-2023  
Students of the  
Month

65%

Alpha Chi  
members

88%

Thielensian  
Staff

26%

2023 Chi Alpha Sigma,  
the National College  
Athlete Honor Society.  
inductees

## 22-23 SGA

Vice President  
Secretary

## Class of 2023

President  
Vice President  
Senior Orator

## PAC Scholar-Athlete

## Three 2023 Vira I. Heinz Awardees

# STEAM

## Thiel's STEAM Room Continues to Grow

As part of the Dietrich Honors Curriculum, some students were given an opportunity to create an original project, which gave way to the STEAM Room. In 2023, that tradition continues to thrive as students carry on the support of this space.

STEAM, a variation of STEM, is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. These disciplines represent the sciences, while Art helps to integrate the more humanitarian fields alongside these areas of study. This ideology helped to inspire students to develop the STEAM Room.

Located on the upper floor of the Langenheim Memorial Library, the STEAM Room came about in the spring of 2021 due to a creative project for Dr. Mary Theresa Hall's Honors Creating Culture course. That year, the STEAM team worked to acquire a space to create a room for students to use, emphasizing the free exploration of STEAM. The inaugural team worked on painting and preparing the area for student use. The subsequent class expanded on the room, installing new flooring and adding to the assortment of books, supplies, and decorations.

Now, Dr. Hall's Honors Creating Culture students for the spring 2023 semester have taken up the challenge of continuing to improve the STEAM Room. Divided into three "departments" of marketing, renovations, and fundraising, these students significantly contributed to the space.

The marketing group reinstated the STEAM Room Instagram account to garner more followers and spread awareness on campus...The most substantial change to the STEAM Room this year is the upcoming renovations. Ceiling tiles, such as ones suffering from water damage, will be updated with newer ones. Not only that, but the STEAM Team worked with students on campus to paint tiles, with one tile representing each discipline of study offered at Thiel College. The tiles will be replaced over the summer after all tiles are collected when students are not using the library....

After all these efforts, STEAM Team members presented their progress at the Scholarship & Arts Symposium. Teaching Assistant and former STEAM Team member Kaitlyn Schmidt helped to introduce the presenters, who included Brooke Griffith, Karigan Hager, Makenna Oswalt, and Blake Gibson. In their presentation, they shared the progress made by each team and how it contributed to the overarching goal of incorporating the STEAM Room, the tenets of STEAM, and the Thiel College community...

--Colin Schroyer '26, *The Thielensian*, April 2023

# CREATIVITY IN THE DHI



Top left, Chris Casanta, Thiel's Graphic Designer shares his approach to creative process with DHI juniors preparing for the thesis in HONS 330. Bottom left, students in HONS 330 experiment with art at the Andy Warhol Museum. Right, Mya Winkle, a sophomore in HONS 147 Science in Our Lives, finishes her handmade soap.



# DHI CITY TRIPS



The DHI returned to Chicago in October 2022 for a 2-night trip. Highlights included the Art Institute and Millennium Park. 45 students attended. For more than half, this was their first time in Chicago. 25% reported it was their first visit to an art museum.

## What students say...

- *"I loved the whole city of Chicago. I saw many connections with school."*
- *"The experiences were very fun and different. Many things I have learned in my courses I saw in unique ways."*
- *"The theater experience gave me perspective on my own time at theater at Thiel and how I can better project myself to be a captivating actor."*
- *"Yes, I saw a lot of what we talk about in sociology related to stratification and class consciousness."*

# DHI CITY TRIPS



In February 2023 the DHI took its first trip to Cincinnati where the group of 35 students visited the Underground Railroad Museum and Newport Aquarium. A highlight was the reception hosted in conjunction with the Alumni Office. 35 DHI students mingled with six area alumni.

## What students say...

- *"I had such a good time talking to [the alumni], particularly my sorority alums."*
- *"LOVE [the aquarium], I liked that they had multiple interactive pools, and of course meeting speckles. This aquarium was better than any other more local aquariums I've been to."*
- *About the Underground Railroad Museum: "It was interesting seeing how slavery worked in the past and how it still affects us in different ways today."*



# DHI EXCURSIONS



The DHI & Theater Dept. see the musical *Six* in March.



First-year students visit the Cleveland Museum of Art.



DHI students visit Phipps Conservatory in September.



The DHI & Theater see *Hadestown* in November.



# NORTHEAST REGIONAL HONORS CONFERENCE

Eight DHI students attended the Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Pittsburgh from March 30 – April 2, 2023.

Kaitlynn Wolffe and C. Grace Honeycutt conducted a roundtable presentation on “Resilience and Remembrance: Using Bibliotherapy to Recover from the Tragedies of World War II.”

Emily Irons, Morgan Wood, and Jade Rhoads led a roundtable entitled, “Undergraduate Research Journal: From Pandemic to Publication.”

Brooke Griffith presented an assessment of the Pennsylvania Junior Academic Science competition and its resilience through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Jade Rhoads and Morgan Wood also participated in the poster session; Jade presented her research on community support for children with traumatic experiences. Morgan presented on transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation.

It was an award-winning weekend for Thiel College, as Jade Rhoads was named Student-of-the-Year from a four-year institution, and The Lectern won first place in the publications contest in the journal category.

-Abigail Smagala '25



# NORTHEAST REGIONAL HONORS CONFERENCE

Jade Rhoads '23 wins  
NRHC Student of the Year



The Lectern wins first place  
in then Publications  
Contest!

# THE LECTERN

undergraduate research review

The Lectern is an academic research journal that highlights the work of Thiel College students from across the disciplines. Submissions may be in a variety of formats including papers, posters, and audio/video presentations. Creativity is encouraged. Submissions are reviewed by a team of undergraduate editors for style, content, and originality. The Lectern is sponsored by the Dietrich Honors Institute at Thiel College and is open to all students. It is dedicated to fostering students' interest, knowledge, and skills in researching, reviewing, editing, and publishing academic work. - Dr. Sheila Gross, Faculty Advisor to The Lectern

# The Lectern

***The Lectern*** published **Issue 2 in Fall 2022 (click here)**. It featured six articles and four posters.

## Editors-in-Chief

Tess Cadman and Jade Rhoads

## Editorial Board

Matt Beuermann, Emily Irons, Janelle Mudry, Samantha Reid, Virginia Riddle, Hannah Stoughton, Madeleine White, and Morgan Wood

## Faculty Advisor

Dr. Sheila Gross



# DHI '23

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Launching Leaders!



**Emily Main '23**  
hired as a fourth grade teacher  
at Amanecer Elementary School



### Launching Leaders!



**Jade Rhoads '23**  
attending Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine for a  
Ph.D. in behavioral neuroscience



### Evan Gerber hired at PWC Accounting Student of the Year



### Morgan Wood attending the University of Toledo for a PhD in Neuroscience



### Launching Leaders!



**Jacob Frantz '23**  
attending Thiel College for a  
Master of Business Administration  
hired as an IT Technician at Thiel College



### Camryn Sankey attending Thiel's Physician Assistant program



# Stay in Touch



@thiel\_dhi



@thiel\_dhi



Dietrich Honors Institute at Thiel College



dhi@thiel.edu

Scan to sign up for our  
weekly newsletter



## from the DHI Director

Thanks to all who made 2022-2023 a banner year for the DHI! It's wonderful to see so many faculty, staff, and students working towards special projects like the STEAM Room, share trips and experiences like the theater, and bring to life research ideas.

2023-2024 is looking bright. The incoming DHI Class of 2027 has 49 accepted students eager to join our community. I'm looking forward to what's to come for the DHI!

-Dr. Sheila Nowinski

