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National Theater Competition pg. 4!



Do you know your Thiel Happenings & Bly Movies?

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THE THIELENSIAN

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Three women awarded Vira Heinz Scholarship for 2014

by Katie Allgeier, kallgeier@thiel.edu

The winners of the 2014 Vira Heinz scholarships have been announced; Sara Toombs, Allie Gloor, and Bethany Snider have each been awarded approximately five thousand dollars to study abroad this summer.

"I was really excited, but now I'm also nervous," Gloor, a sophomore, said of her award. Gloor will be travelling to Costa Rica this summer to stay with a family in San Jose, where she will be taking both Spanish and English courses. Gloor also hopes to have the opportunity to volunteer in the community while she is abroad.

Sara Toombs, a junior, will be travelling to Meknes, Morocco for one month during the summer. Toombs will be living in apart-

ment-style quarters with other study-abroad students. Toombs remarked that she is still in shock that she has been chosen.

"I feel really excited to go, but also really nervous," Toombs explained. "I don't think it's really set in yet that I get to go."

Toombs, who applied for the scholarship last year, will be working at an internship with a women's rights association while in Morocco. She explained that while she had been discouraged by not winning, her friends and family encouraged her to try again.

"I'm so glad I did," Toombs finished.

Bethany Snider, sophomore, will be travelling to Tokyo, Japan,

to study at Sophia University for four weeks. Snider will be doing a home-stay program in Shinjuku, a ward of Tokyo.

"I am so honored that I have been awarded this scholarship," Snider remarked. "I know there are many other women out there who want to travel abroad so I feel extremely privileged to have been given this opportunity."

While at Sophia University, Snider will be taking two courses; one a Japanese language course, the other an art course.

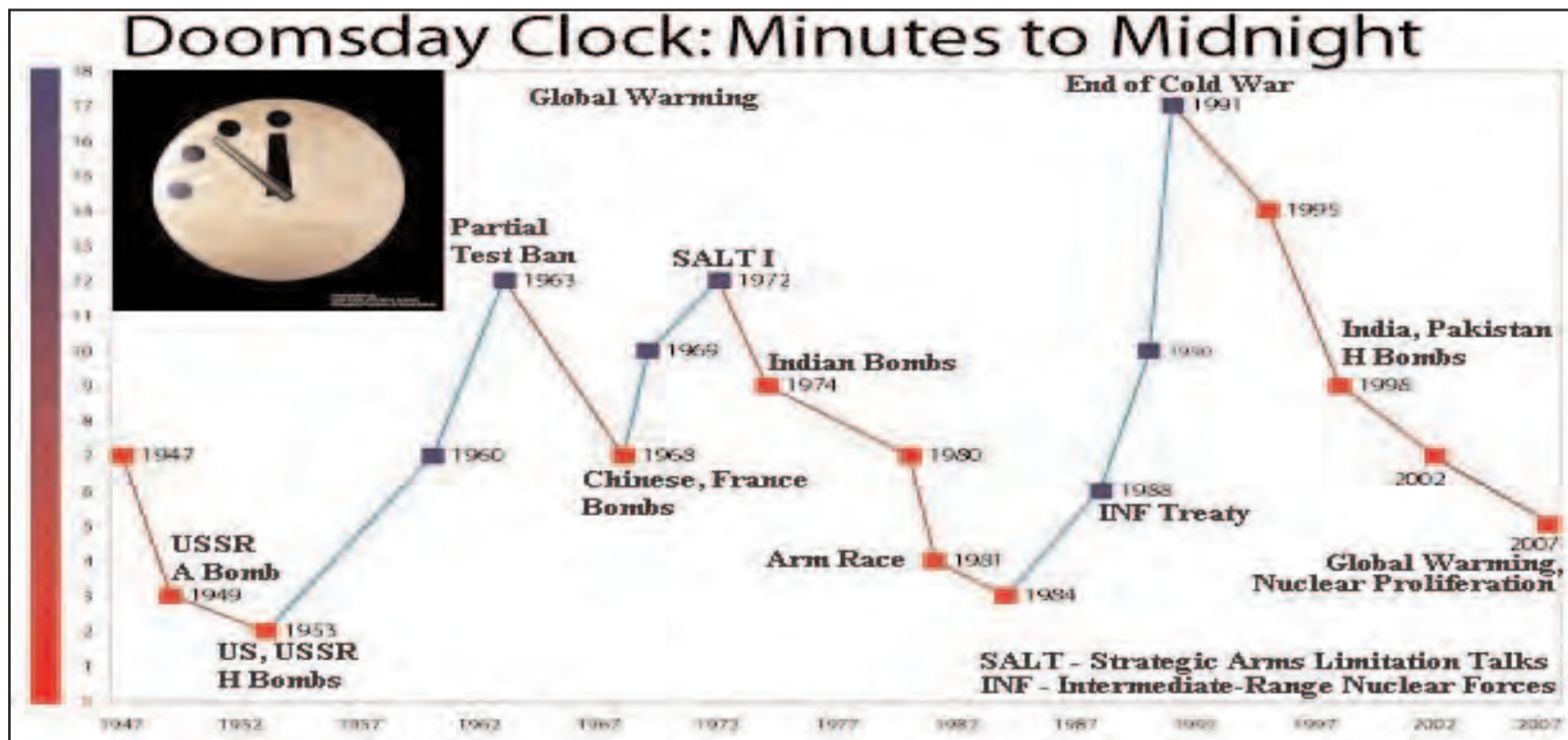
"Because I studied Japanese for 5 years in high school, it's always been one of my dreams to travel to Japan. Winning this scholarship is really like a dream come true."



The 2013 Vira Heinz cohort consists of sophomore Allie Gloor, sophomore Bethany Snider, and junior Sara Toombs (not pictured).

Students converse about doomsday possibilities

by Hunter Michaelis, hmichaelis@thiel.edu



According to the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists (BAS), the current 'Doomsday' clock is set at five minutes to midnight. This means that based on their research, some form of widespread destruction could occur in the near future.

Doom is never far from reach when it comes to the Doomsday Clock. The clock is a clock face maintained by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (BAS), a board of scientists of various professions, who look at biological and environmental factors, global government relations, and various disasters.

The more they feel these disasters are prevalent in causing a global disaster, whether technological in nature or otherwise, the closer the clock moves to midnight. The

clock is currently set five minutes to midnight, which is very close to some kind of widespread destruction, in their opinion.

"The doomsday may come. I really think people are just a little freaked out about it," Casey Schultz, a freshman Conservation Biology major, said, "I think it'll happen when people least expect it, and not in our lifetime."

Perhaps that is a problem with the world today – people do not think it will ever happen. However, BAS

believe that destruction is very close to being imminent. What are we missing? Is the destruction of the planet, and the humans who inhabit it, going to happen regardless of what the populace say or do?

There is no lie that the world is in a shaky stance for the moment. A financial crisis nearly brought the world's economy to its knees in 2009, which some are still trying to recover from. In the Middle East, counties are threatening to fight

each other with nuclear weapons, which is a war tactic unseen since the days of World War II. The board considered the world's current nuclear standing heavily in their decision for 2014.

"I don't think the human race will be destroyed," Justin Felgar, a freshman Political Science major, said, "Something terrible will happen, but not destroy us. It's very much in our culture in shows like supernatural, however."

[cont. on pg. 4]

Advanced PR survey simulates 24hr College student day

by Brianna Tiedeman, btiedeman@thiel.edu

"I was startled," said Dr. Bob Batchelor, Professor of Communication.



When we drive to work in the morning, the thoughts in our minds usually do not amount to much. In Dr. Bob Batchelor's case, however, some surprising statistics came out of his morning inquiry about what college students do with their time.

In the Fall of 2013, Batchelor taught an Advanced Public Relations class and assigned them a prompt as a simulation of what a senior executive might do at a large corporation. "I wanted to try, specifically with project, to demonstrate how communicators get information out into the public," Batchelor said. The pitch started with the question of how college students spend their time – the class then took that thought along with the information they already knew about college life, and created a survey using Google Drive.

Questions varied from work hours, studying hours, sleeping hours including naps, leisure time, social activity time, sports and extracurricular time, television and video game time, and time spent using social media.

The class then took the information gathered from 260 responses, Thiel students excluded, and created a model of an average 24 hour time span of a college student. This model, according to the pitch itself, claimed that the typical college student spends "3 hours in class, sleeps for 7 hours, works for 2.5 hours, chooses 8 hours of leisure activities, reads for classes for 1/2 hour, and takes 3 hours for life's necessities. (bathing, commuting, eating, etc.)"

"Most students attempt to balance the academic and social aspects of college life, which made the fact that a typical student's leisure time so outweighs their studies shocking," senior and Advanced PR class member, Tori McMullen said in the pitch.

[cont. on pg. 3]

Phi Theta Phi raises over 1.3 million for Free Care Fund

by Daniel McFetridge, dmcfetridge@thiel.edu

Phi Theta Phi – "We're the big kids who help the little kids who cannot help themselves."

Each year during the first week of December, the brothers of Phi Theta Phi brave the harsh winter environment in order to support their philanthropy, The Free Care Fund at Pittsburgh's Children's Hospital. The Free Care Fund was set in place to help provide vital care for children in need.

On June 5, 1890, the Pittsburgh Hospital for Children opened and began to change the fates of many children. Its mission was simple – provide assistance and care to those children who were injured and sick, regardless of their families' ability to pay. In order to guarantee that this mission continues year after year, the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation established the Free Care Fund. This fund continues to ensure that all children are receiving the medical care and assistance that they need; no child from the tri-state area will ever be denied care because of an inability to

pay. The Free Care Fund exists to help those families who have no money due to parents losing insurance policies, children with a chronic illness who require care that exceeds what their insurance will pay, or children with an illness that requires experimental treatment. Throughout the years since its instillation, the Children's Hospital has increased its free and uncompensated care. In 1996, the figure was \$8.4 million; while in 2007, it was more than \$31 million.

Phi Theta Phi has supported the Free Care Fund nearly each year of its existence – Phi Theta Phi was founded in 1966, and the first walk was held in 1968. That first walk generated \$1,100 for the Free Care Fund, and started a philanthropy that continues to this very day. Since its beginning, the walk has only missed 3 years – after Phi Theta Phi was kicked off campus, the walk took a hiatus until alumni reinstated it in 2005.

[cont. on pg. 3]



Phi Theta Phi brothers support the Free Care Fund for the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The Happenings

compiled by Liz Carlson

Relay for Life Kickoff: Friday, Jan. 24 6:30-9 p.m. in LHR
Come celebrate the official kickoff of the Thiel College 2014 Relay for Life event!

Dance Workshop: Saturdays from Jan. 18 – Feb. 1, from 1-3 p.m. in the LHR
Come test out your dance skills at this three-week beginner's dance work shop!

Yoga Workshop: Sundays from Jan. 12 – Feb. 2, from 5-6:15 p.m. in the Glen Johnson Center, Room 101
Join instructor Jackie for a relaxed evening of yoga during this four-week long workshop.

Girls Empowerment Workshop: Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 5-8 p.m. in the LHR
The 2012-13 Vira Heinz recipients will be presenting a workshop titled, "Tackle Your Fears and Love Your Mind & Body," for girls to discuss their fears, goals, and body image.

ELCA Malaria Campaign Presentation: Tuesday, Jan. 28 from 7-8 p.m. in the LHR
Stop on by to learn more about ELCA's Malaria campaign and to support the Dietrich Honors Institute and Campus Ministry as they present funds raised for the cause.

FAFSA Filing Workshop: Tuesday, Feb. 4 from 4:30-7 p.m. in the MIMC
Register today to attend a free workshop on filing the FAFSA. For more information, contact Sonya Lapikas.

Kappa Delta Phi Principal Panel: Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the LHR
Kappa Delta Phi will be hosting local school district principals to speak about their careers. Principals will be prepared to answer questions about careers in education.

Thank a Donor Day: Thursday, Feb. 6 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Bistro
Students are invited to come participate in activities to thank and give recognition to alumni and friends of the College who support their Thiel experience.

Founder's Day Celebration: Thursday, Feb. 6 from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the LHR
Join us as we celebrate the founding of Thiel College at the annual Founders' Day ceremony and present the Louis and Barbara Thiel Award will to Mark A. Nordenberg '70, H'97, the seventeenth chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh. Distinguished faculty and staff awards will also be presented. A reception will precede the event at 10 a.m. in the Rotunda Area of the Howard Miller Student Center.

Alumni and Student Leaders Reception: Friday, Feb. 7 from 5-7 p.m. in the Sawhill-Georgian Room
Hosted by Thiel College's Alumni Association Board of Directors, select members of the junior and senior classes will have the opportunity to talk with alumni, Board of Trustees members, and Board of Associates members.

Winterfest Activities: Friday, Feb. 7 from 8-11:59 p.m. in the Glen Johnson Community Center
Join us for a fun-filled winter night! Activities will include ice skating, hot tubs, crystal keepsakes, mask decorating, and more!

Wanna see a movie?

BLY HALL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...

compiled by Liz Carlson

Captain Phillips: Friday, Jan. 24 and Sunday, Jan. 26 – 8 p.m.
This action thriller starring Tom Hanks tells the true story of Richard Phillips. While carrying freight around Africa, Captain Phillips and his crew are ambushed by a group of pirates from Somalia who takes over control of their ship. Taking orders from the captain, Phillip's crew hide throughout the ship awaiting the safe word from Phillips, who remains on deck. When a ship malfunction angers the ruthless pirates, they command Phillips to help them search the boat for the terrified crew. When the plan fails, the pirates flee with a large sum of cash and, at the last minute kidnap Phillips, hoping to gain more money through ransom. This action leads to a stand-off with the United States Navy, who is determined not to let the pirates reach Somalia. This suspenseful film is one that you will not want to miss.

Ender's Game: Friday, Jan. 31 and Sunday, Feb. 2 – 8 p.m.
Based on the celebrated novel by Orson Scott Card, this movie traces the success of young Ender Wiggin. The top of his class at a prestigious battle school, Ender is in training to defend the planet against a race of aliens seeking to exterminate the human race, known as the Formics. Ender successfully completes a series of simulations and almost effortlessly masters every challenge presented to him. Shortly after, he is promoted to command school, where he is trained by International Fleet Commander, Mazer Rackham. Mazer provides Ender with the knowledge and skills to defend the planet in hopes that he will arise a hero in the final battle against the Formics.

Thiel Ultimate Frisbee Club

All are welcome; no prior experience required!!



Stop on by!!

Practices:

- 2:00 Sundays in the quad
- Select weeknights in the dome

Questions? Contact Nate Flory at NFlory@thiel.edu


Thiel College POLICE BLOTTER

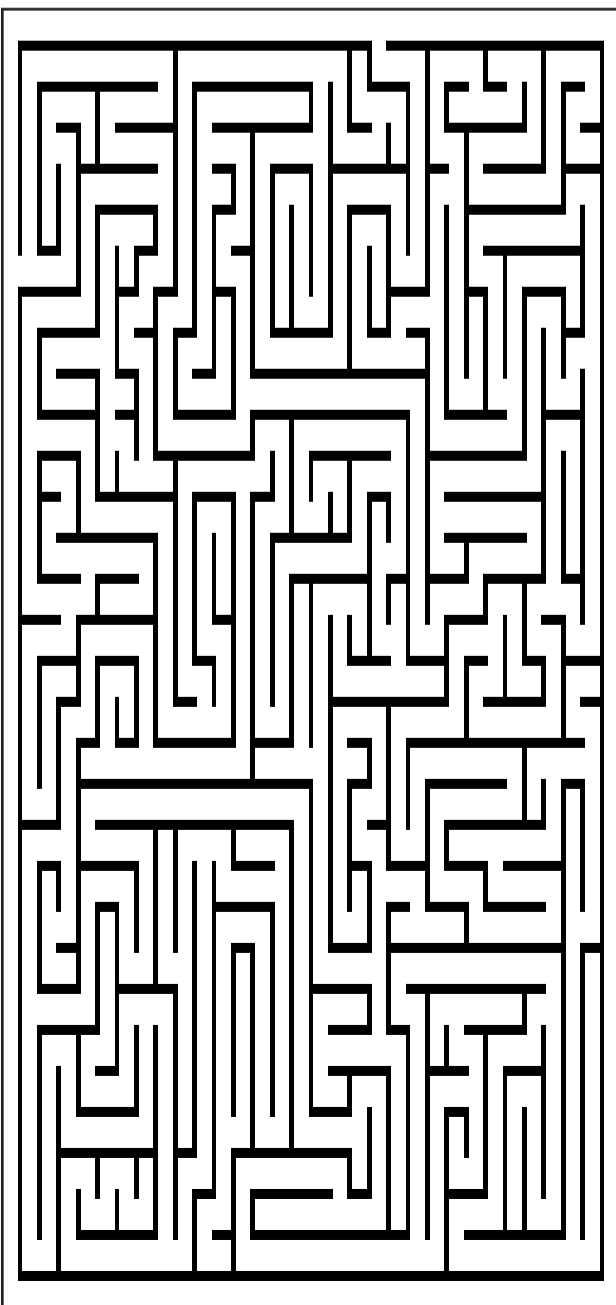
compiled by Brianna Tiedeman

Jan. 10 - Indecent Assault, Disorderly Conduct - Harter
A woman was sexually assaulted by two students in Harter Hall.

Jan. 12 - Controlled Substance - Bane Hall
A student was smoking marijuana in his room. He also had some in his possession.

Jan. 12. - Disorderly Conduct- Bane Hall
A student was moving her things out of her room when an argument broke out between the two roommates.





Meandering the Maze!

Topics of the afternoon include the value of your relationship with yourself, the relationships you make with others, and the value of strong female role models.

Discover what it means to be a women in the crazy maze of life through activities and discussions with peers!

When: Tuesday January 28th from 5:30-8:00pm

Where: Howard Miller Student Center, Thiel College
In the Sawhill Georgian Room

for young ladies in grades 6th to 8th

**Please RSVP by Monday, Jan 27 by emailing Victoria at vchal742@thiel.edu

More information on page 4

Phi Theta Phi: the big kids who help the little kids who cannot help themselves

[cont. from front page]

With Mother Nature refusing to change the weather in their favor, the brothers of Phi Theta Phi hit the streets with hard hats on their heads, signs around their necks, and buckets in their hands in order to raise money for The Free Care Fund. Over the course of 44 years, they have continued to support The Free Care Fund. As of today, Phi Theta Phi has raised over 1.3 million for the Free Care Fund.

"This past year's walk was a huge success whether we reached our goal or not; any money raised constitutes a good year. I'm proud to announce that we have raised \$37,000 during this past Walk-A-Thon. We continue to support The Free Care Fund because it's what we do and we love doing it year after year. It's a great feeling knowing at the end of the day that

you helped a great cause. In fact, the week of the walk is my favorite week of the year – during the days leading up to the walk, I don't even sleep. I am proud to have had the chance to organize and complete it," said Matthew R. Graham, this past year's walk chair.

This year's new walk chair, Andrew Thomas, has big plans for the next walk. "Even though this walk didn't go as we had planned, overall in the end we still made a difference. The main walk went well, but after collecting and counting the money raised at the Steeler game, we realized we had fallen short of our goal. Overall, it was it a fun, and life-long experience. This year's main walk brought me many new memories with my brothers. I was pleased to see more and more people donating. All the donations helped re-

store my faith in humanity. As the new walk chair, I have many responsibilities, as well as ideas to add to the walk next year, and I am excited for this great opportunity. It is a lot of work, but in the end it is all worth it for this worthy cause!"

Even though Phi Theta Phi is only a local fraternity, with few active brothers and no nationals, they have an amazing alumni-support network that is willing to help and eager to see them succeed. They may be small, but their hearts are mighty as they raise more money than any other Greek organization at Thiel College.

Next year, during the first week of December, please look for us with our green vests, signs, and buckets. We would really appreciate it if you would roll down those windows and donate.



Illusions and Magic: Leon Etienne Performs at Thiel

by: Kayla Kemper, kkemper@thiel.edu

On Jan. 17 in the Passavent Center, Thiel students were treated to a performance by famed illusionist Leon Etienne, a former contestant on the hit television show America's Got Talent. The students there were eager to watch the show and couldn't wait to see what was in store for them.

The show started at precisely 10 p.m. with a welcome from Etienne. The first trick that was performed consisted of a drawing pad and a marker. There were rumblings of doubt in the crowd when Etienne drew a bowling ball, but that doubt was quickly replaced by disbelief when an actual bowling ball dropped from between the pages of the drawing pad.

Etienne then asked for a member of the audience to assist him in his next trick: the time-honored card trick.

It was just a simple card trick in which Etienne had to guess which card the audience member was thinking of and had on her person. Of course, like most illusionists and magicians in a performance, Etienne's first guess was wrong. But unlike most magicians, past and modern, the answer showed itself on the pad he was drawing the first card earlier. Gasps were heard in the crowd as audience members were caught off guard.

For the final act, Etienne took a leaf out of the infamous Harry Houdini's book of tricks, and claimed that he could get himself out of a strait jacket in less than five minutes. Once again, there was a student from the audience that came to his assistance, tying Etienne into the jacket and adjusting the straps as snugly as possible.

Like Houdini, Etienne managed to get himself out of the jacket in less than three minutes, causing the audience to applaud louder than they had the entire performance.

Though there were some scoffs and some praise, the show was an overall hit. Willie Hodges, freshman, said, "I found the show whimsical and clever, yet sarcastic and humorous. The magician adds a playful air to the business of magical entertainment."

Another freshman, named Tyleeza Reagle said, "I thought the show was awesome, it was really cool. I'm really glad I came to see it."

Overall, the show was a hit here at Thiel. Leon Etienne's performance is keeping the magic alive here at Thiel for all the students.

Doomsday Clock nears midnight

[cont. from front page]

This may be true, especially with all of the media associated with zombie apocalypses, or the burning of the world from global nuclear attacks. Take the video game series Fallout. It is set in a world after a massive nuclear war. Whether these two possibilities are even considered in BAS' final decision, it still makes the people think of what could happen down the road.

Despite this, the scientists are particularly concerned with climate change. According to Fox News, the board wrote to President Barack Obama last year about their worries. The goal was to get him to partner with global leaders in an effort to combat it. The clock's setting in 2012 was based on the hottest summer in years, and they believed that more was to come, which it has.

"It's inevitable. You can

stave it off, but it's coming,"

Felgar added, "All that's coming has an ending, and the Bible even has a detailed account of it."

"It's just inevitable," Schultz agreed, "I just think it's going to happen." With all of the factors affecting the planet right now, it may be a little challenging to

think any other way.

While the possibility of preventing it is in question, the world can only hope that the disaster will not be as devastating as the scientists and their Doomsday Clock predict. On the other hand, everyone's time is ticking away every second.



Advanced PR survey 'creates news'

[cont. from front page]

The primary conclusions of the Advanced PR class gathered, according to Batchelor, were that students were choosing 8 hours of leisure activities and spending less than an hour preparing for academic coursework. "Clearly, college students need help to better understand time management and rethink their current endeavors," McMullen said.

"I was startled," Batchelor said. "I wish [other profes-

sors] were more surprised but I think what this did was conform people's stereotypes of what's going on with their students. I talked with faculty all over the country – they weren't surprised but they were a little taken aback."

After a collective class outreach to local newspapers in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Greenville, and other locations, telling them the news they created, the pitch was covered by Phillip Rau of The Record-Argus,

Greenville's community newspaper, and was a front page story.

"In an advanced public relations class – my ultimate goal is that they would leave the class with an understanding of how PR works and what they'd be expected to do," Batchelor said. "Getting placement in the media is really the lifeblood of communications work for young professionals. So it perfectly aligned with the learning objectives that I had set up for the course."

Stay Fit at Thiel

by Hunter Michaelis, hmichaelis@thiel.edu

Thiel is taking the initiative to stay fit and well during the intense winter season this year. As part of this initiative, Thiel is holding several activities indoors to keep campus healthy during the winter months. Among these activities are yoga, dance, and fitness classes. These events can be a way to get healthy or just add some fun to life. All events listed are located in the Lutheran Heritage Room.



Last week, and throughout the next two weeks, dance classes are being offered. It is just one of the many fitness-related activities that Thiel is hosting this semester.

Yoga

Yoga is the practice of maintaining peace within the body. Exercises are performed in a quiet environment with the use of mats. Yoga is a new addition to Thiel with a four-week workshop. "It's been very well received so far," Than Oo, Director of Student Involvement, said, "We have an instructor from Hermitage come in to teach it." Classes are held every Sunday from 5-6 p.m.

Dance

Students can prepare for Thiel's Black and White Masquerade Ball. This is open to all students who want to increase their dancing skills, which would be a great place to start if you need to learn to dance for the ball. The workshop is three weeks long, and has already started. The event is approximately 1:00-3:00 p.m. every Saturday.

Biggest Loser

The final event for staying healthy, Thiel's own version of The Biggest Loser, kicks off Jan. 23 at 9:30 p.m. "We have Casey Arena coming in," Oo said. "She's a fitness expert, and she'll launch it." Students and faculty are invited to try and lose the most weight. There is a cash prize to the person who can achieve this feat.

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Meandering the Maze – 2013 VIH Cohort to hold workshop for young women

by Keeley Criswell, kcris483@thiel.edu

After Vira Heinz recipients return from their international experiences, they are purposed with the task of a Community Engagement Experience (CEE). The CEE is designed to integrate the local community with aspects of the Vira Heinz program. Throughout the program, recipients attend two weekend retreats. The first retreat, which takes place prior to the international experience, focuses on accepting diversity and recognizing that differences in culture do not mean that one culture is better than the other. The women in the program are then able to put what they learned into practice; they spend four or more weeks living among and interacting with members of a different culture. After returning to the United States, Vira Heinz recipients work on their leadership skills; the second retreat focuses on being a woman in America today. It is from this retreat as well as their overall experiences in the Vira Heinz program that the 2013 Thiel cohort – Victoria Challingsworth, Keeley Criswell, and Grace Hildebrand – gathered ideas for their CEE. The women will hold a workshop for young girls, grades six through eight, on Tuesday, Jan. 28. It will run from 5:30 – 8 p.m. in the Sawhill Georgian Room of the HMSC and will focus on the relationship one has with oneself, one's peers, and one's role models. The original idea to hold a workshop for young women came from Hildebrand.

"I thought up the idea for holding a workshop for young women because I wanted to be able to deliver our message and provide support in a simple, structured, and accessible way," said Hildebrand. "I have had awesome experiences with workshops in the past and found them to be a relaxed, yet focused environment that easily enables people to feel comfortable while getting to the nitty-gritty, uncomfortable things we have to talk about."

The women are partnering with a local Girl Scout Troup, but the workshop is open to all young women from grades six – eight; there is no cost for the afternoon. The girls will spend an evening having discussions and doing confidence and relationship-building activities with the 2014 VIH cohort. Each of the three VIH women will focus on a different aspect of relationships and how to build and maintain healthy ones. The workshop is designed to allow the young women to discuss topics that are of concern to them.

"I'm really excited for the project because I really see an opportunity to help an area where our influence can make a difference. We all remember the struggles along the journey of finding ourselves, and while it is a journey we all ultimately have to make alone, a little help never hurt," said Challingsworth.



Last summer, the 2013 VIH cohorts spent weeks in a foreign country learning about leadership and acceptance.

Interfaith worship honors leaders

by Claire Lee, hlee@thiel.edu



The interfaith worship service contained elements from several different cultures around the globe. It honored Dr. Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela, two advocates of acceptance.

On Jan 15, there was an interfaith chapel service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson "Madiba" Mandela in the David Johnson memorial chapel at Thiel College. It was the first chapel service in this spring semester, and was held near the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The procession began by singing "Siyahamba," a South African song, and "We are Marching in the Light of God". Mark Weir, Thiel Director of Diversity and Multi-

cultural Affairs, said a wonderful gathering prayer. Next, the greeting of peace was read by international students in their native languages. Saba Pervaiz, who returned to her home country of Pakistan after finishing an exchange program during the last semester, also joined church service via Skype. Zohaib Khawar sang a song of peace while playing his guitar. TC Soldiers performed a marvelous dance and mime and student readers did a litany in remembrance for Martin

Luther King Jr. and Nelson "Madiba" Mandela. Preacher Ronnell Hunt delivered a sermon. There were many songs about peace and freedom played by Dr. Michael Bray.

The Rev. Jayne M. Thompson, campus pastor, said, "Most of campuses in the United States always have done similar remembrance services honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. We also wanted to remember and honor Nelson Mandela, too". Both of these men are historical world leaders who tried to

bring peace, freedom, equality, and love to all people. At Thiel College, we want to work with our international and multicultural students by honoring their talents as they join the service and add their gifts, too.

The service was an interfaith worship service and gathered many multicultural students. There were beautiful songs, wonderful plays, and an important message. The Diverse components in services made a beautiful result.

Gorkin's "The Art of Safe Stress"

by Sean Oros, soros@thiel.edu

Mark Gorkin, a social worker who has been hired by private, corporate, and governmental clients, came to Thiel College to provide a stress management presentation to staff and faculty. He gave an entertaining presentation, with sagacious advice for the busy. His primary message was based on his most recent book's title, Practice Safe Stress: Healing & Laughing in the Face of Stress, Burnout, and Depression. The goal he outlined in presentation was to learn skills for identifying and addressing stress as it builds in one's life, rather than allow-

ing it to build to burnout.

The first step, of course, is to recognize bad kinds of stress. Good stress, after all, can drive us forward—but bad stress, or "chronic distress," can slowly burn us out. Perspective is important, even then, however; Gorkin said of burnout "It's not a failure, but a sign we gave ourselves away." There are multiple stages to burnout—ranging from physical, mental, and emotional exhaustion to a sense of failure, helplessness, and general crisis—but none of them are healthy.

However, there is hope.

Whether trying to prevent or recovering from burnout, Gorkin proposed the "Six Rejuvenating R's," including running (any kind of exercise), reading, retreating (taking time for reflection), writing (such as journaling), relating (connecting with people), and risk taking (trying new things). It's also important to avoid the major causes of burnout. Overloading oneself with responsibilities, neglecting personal care, and extreme dissatisfaction are three easily recognized traits, but something less often acknowledged is the field of

power struggles. It is important to realize that continual contentions with someone can take a toll on one's own health. Stepping back from conflict and using conciliatory, rather than confrontational, language can help to mediate situations and reduce stress at work or in groups.

Following tips like this can help prevent stress turning into distress, and distress into burnout. Taking care of oneself is one of the keys to success, and stress is certainly a common ailment of students, faculty, staff, and administrators alike.

Kay and Hall to Attend Theatre Competition

by Hans Guthrie Meyers, hmeyers@thiel.edu

Irene Ryan was an actress who gained fame for her role as "Granny" on the 1960's situational comedy "The Beverly Hillbillies." One of the few versatile actresses whose career in vaudeville and on Broadway survived the transition to television, Ryan died childless in 1973. In her will, she established a scholarship award – The Irene Ryan Award – to be given to the best performers nationwide who compete against one another at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Washington, D.C. in April. In the 41 years since Ryan's death, the Irene Ryan Award has become one of the most prestigious scholarships in the country for actors. This is the first year that Thiel College's Thiel Players – helmed by Dr. Pete Rydberg – have participated.

Two Thiel Students – Lora Kay (Sophomore) and Austin Hall (Freshman) – have been nominated by the Kennedy Center Festival judges to continue on to the regional competition at West Chester University in West Chester, Pennsylvania. As part of the KCACTF Regional Competition, Kay and Hall – along with scene partner Ashley Reynolds (Sophomore) – will compete against other actors from colleges in Pennsylvania,

Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York – including famed performing arts college Julliard – and the District of Columbia. The Irene Ryan Award is a \$3,000 scholarship presented to the top two performers nationally.

Adjudicators for the KCACTF attended this past fall's Thiel Players production of The Beaux Stratagem, and Kay and Hall were chosen to represent Thiel College at the Regional Competition – which was held January 14 through 19 at West Chester University.

"It's amazing," says Rydberg, "not only do they get to go and be amazing actors, but it's a festival – they get to go to workshops, see plays, and it's just a great experience for them."

"When I heard that people were coming to watch our production, I didn't really pay any attention," says Lora Kay, one of the two Thiel students nominated for the award. "And when they told me I was nominated, I just said, you know, 'what is that?'"

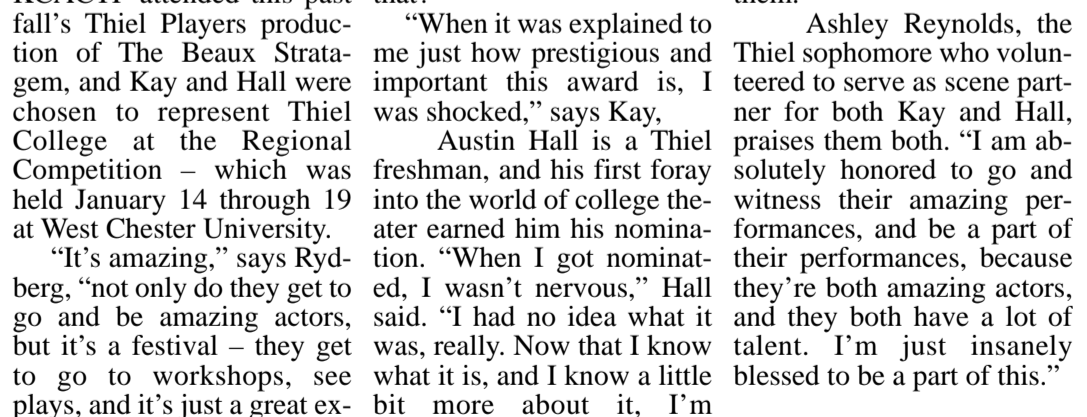
"When it was explained to me just how prestigious and important this award is, I was shocked," says Kay.

Austin Hall is a Thiel freshman, and his first foray into the world of college theater earned him his nomination. "When I got nominated, I wasn't nervous," Hall said. "I had no idea what it was, really. Now that I know what it is, and I know a little bit more about it, I'm

still not nervous. When I get there and they're calling my name to come out on stage, then I'll be nervous. My naivety as a freshman is, I think, a huge advantage to me in this. I don't know how big things like this are, so I don't worry about them."

Ashley Reynolds, the Thiel sophomore who volunteered to serve as scene partner for both Kay and Hall, praises them both. "I am absolutely honored to go and witness their amazing performances, and be a part of their performances, because they're both amazing actors, and they both have a lot of talent. I'm just insanely blessed to be a part of this."

Kay, Hall, and Reynolds will all attend the regional championship. Kay and Hall were chosen to represent Thiel.



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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.

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.

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New Policies Proposed by Students Still Being Considered

Bri Tiedman btiedman@thiel.edu

As the Fall 2013 semester began to cool down, both work-wise and temperature-wise, Dr. Laurie Moroco's Persuasion students were preparing for a different type of final exam: Monroe's Motivated Sequence speeches.

Students were asked to develop a Policy Change which could be implemented into Thiel College and ideas ranged from new minors, to new programs, to new buildings. After all of the speeches were given and reviewed by both Dr. Moroco and Ryan Prescott, 4 students were selected to deliver their speeches for a second time in front of President Troy VanAken, Vice President Mike McKinney, and unexpectedly, 7 prospective students who were visiting that day.

The speeches occurred on Dec. 6, 2013 at 1p.m. in

Greenville Hall and on Jan. 10, 2014, the President's Cabinet meeting had intentions of discussing the possibilities of each of the following.

"In my work I am always looking for honest feedback, and our students have been very good about sharing opinions and participating in surveys," McKinney said. "What we (both himself and VanAken) love about this project is that the students are also involved in the process of identifying solutions."

Senior Evan Proksell stepped up to the podium first to present his "Tomcat Taxi" policy change. Proksell suggested to his audience that Thiel provide 'safer transportation' on weekends via a shuttle which would loop around Main Street,

stopping at the Greenville bars, Sheetz, and on campus. He proposed that the Resident Director's drive the shuttle and charge a \$5 fee per student, per night.

In response to Proksell's proposal, President VanAken asked if a lot of students take the risk of drinking and driving and the majority agreed that they do.

Junior Jenna Simanovsky presenting on the foundation of off-campus housing – which is currently not a housing option for students. Her argument was that offering such an opportunity would "spur Greenville's economy by combining it with Thiel through off-campus housing." Her idea included only allowing juniors and seniors with a 2.5 cumulative GPA to be granted this experience provided that

they keep their meal plan with Thiel.

Junior Natasha Brenneman proposed a Student-Alumni networking program where Career Services would work directly with present and past students to match up those in the same fields – enhancing communication and mentoring in a more casual and effective manner.

Brenneman had several meetings with Career Services and Martin Black in particular, with whom she devised 3 options students could consider: face to face contact, digital contact, and a hybrid of personal meetings and also digital communication.

Both Moroco and McKinney agree that this idea is the most feasible and appropriate for the college at this time. "We have decided to begin

discussions with Career Services, Advancement, Student Life, and our Alumni Board to better explore the implementation of an alumni mentor program," McKinney said.

Lastly, Junior Trent Mosley proposed that we turn the game room in the HMSC into a lounge entitled The Tomcat Tundra. He suggested that AVI serve alcoholic beverages and bar-oriented foods. He highlighted that it would be a great place for students and faculty to mingle and also it would eliminate drinking and driving as the lounge would be on campus.

In response to the proposal, one of McKinney's concerns was the liability factor and he asked Mosley if any other schools had successful tries at this idea. Mosley's re-

search suggested that St. Mary's college in southern MD has a bar on campus and after getting in contact with them, he discovered that it increased faculty and student rapport and was overall very successful.

Collectively, Moroco was pleased with the overall turn out of her assignment and recognizes the students' efforts by intending to follow up on a few of the ideas presented. "I will follow up on the Tomcat Taxi because I think this is relatively easy to implement and I also liked the idea of the Thiel Tundra. Logistically, it will require some planning but I believe it could work."

Further information on Brenneman's idea will be brought forward and announced shortly.

WESTERN HUMANITIES Peer Assisted Learning (PAL) Groups Weekly Review Sessions SPRING 2014

Class Section	PAL Mentor	Day	Time	Location
Dr. Moinet 8:00 am	Nicole Jeschelnig	Wednesday	8:00 pm	TLC Classroom
Dr. Eppley 8:00 am	Courtney Gibson	Wednesday	9:00 pm	TLC Classroom
Prof. Adams 9:00 am	Kiara Weltner	Wednesday	8:00 pm	S-200
Dr. Morgan 9:00 am	John (JT) Grondwalski	Wednesday	7:00 pm	S-200
Dr. Hecking 1:00 pm	Jessica Yozwiak	Wednesday	9:30 pm	Bly Hall
Dr. DelMarmaro 1:00 pm	Ashley Reynolds	Wednesday	7:00 pm	TLC Classroom
General Not Section Specific	Bethany Snider	Wednesday	12:00 Noon	AC-233

THIEL FORUM REVIEW

Katie Allgeier kallgeir@thiel.edu

Jan. 16 marked the first Thiel Forum of the year. Held in the Sawhill- Georgian room, four faculty presenters gathered to hold a discussion of four different topics. On the ballot for the evening were Dr. Michael Balas, Dr. Bob Batchelor, Dr. Laurie Moroco, and Professor Lisa Walton.

Dr. Balas began the seminar with a discussion of the importance of quantitative literacy, the ability to work with and understand numbers as applied to real world settings. Dr. Balas recently attended a seminar hosted by the American Association of Colleges and Universities in which participants discussed the various ways that quantitative literacy can be incorporated into traditional schooling.

"Quantitative literacy can be integrated into any class," Balas said. "Being able to work with numbers will help you to understand (various aspects) of any curriculum."

Dr. Balas' discussion was followed by Dr. Batchelor's TED-like talk on intellectual curiosity. Batchelor discussed the importance of intellectual curiosity, and remarked that traditional schooling often "teaches" curiosity out of students. "I fear the imminent death of intellectual curiosity," Batchelor said. "We can't

create worldviews without intellectual curiosity...there needs to be a wave of intellectual curiosity, and we need to lead that charge."

Batchelor maintained that curiosity and effort would lead to real-world success, and that a natural curiosity should be encouraged in students.

Dr. Laurie Moroco followed Dr. Batchelor with a discussion of her service experiences in Italy. Through the Rowley Endowment, Moroco was able to travel to the Puglia area in Italy, a lower class, non-tourist area. Moroco said that the experience changed her view of the Italian people—though Moroco had been to Italy four times prior to her trip, this was her first service learning trip. Moroco assisted the people in Puglia through a service learning program in which she taught English to lower class citizens.

Professor Lisa Walton concluded the afternoon with a discussion of allergy awareness. Walton began her discussion with by telling the audience about her first experience with an anaphylactic reaction to a food borne allergen, in the form of her son's negative reaction to tree nut residue in a cookie. Walton stressed the importance of allergen awareness and safety.

SPRING 2014 KEEP CALM AND GOTO

SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION AND GROUP PEER STUDY

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
MATH 182 Shane Martin		Calculus II 8-9 pm AC 108	Calculus II 8-9 pm AC 108		Calculus II 7-8 pm AC 108
ACCT 123 Haley Becker	Accounting II 5-6 pm AC 4			Accounting II 8-9 pm AC 4	Accounting II 7-8 pm AC 4
CSCI 159 Daniel McFetridge		Intro to Programming 7-8 pm AC 36	Intro to Programming 7-8 pm AC 36		Intro to Programming 7-8 pm AC 36
SPAN 151 Spanish II Chelsea Maukonen	Prof Thompson 6-7 pm AC 127 Prof Gutierrez 9:30-10:30 am AC 127			Prof Thompson 9:30-10:30 am AC 127	Prof Gutierrez 8-9 pm AC 127
SOC 141 Danielle Massengill		Macrosociology 7-8 pm S 211			Macrosociology 8-9 pm S 211
INDS 220 Blair Duell	Global Heritage II 6-7 pm S 211		Global Heritage II 7-8 pm S 211		
PSY 150 Shayla Percy		General Psych 6-7 pm AC 129			General Psych 8-9 pm AC 129
BADM 355 Kayla B. Smith	Business Law I 6-7 pm AC 36		Business Law I 7-8 pm AC 36		
BADM 356 Kayla B. Smith	Business Law II 7-8 pm AC 33		Business Law II 6-7 pm AC 33		

TOOMBS TIME: what a definition doesn't say

by Sara Toombs, stoombs@thiel.edu



We're back for a new semester, a new Thielensian, and a new Toombs Time. I took some time over the holidays to sleep in (then nap later), watch a lot of Netflix, eat too much, and with what was left, I took a little time to reflect.

It occurred to me that a big part of what I do as a person, and therefore as a writer, is to question the way people around me think.

Sometimes, I challenge them to think differently, but

at the core I am just curious about how others see the world.

With this column, I seem to have developed a habit of analyzing the way people use words, especially when those words develop beyond their given definitions.

The word in question this week is family. This is another one of those terms that no one can seem to get a firm grip on and force into a specific definition.

Family means something different across borders, through cultures, and between people. Families are large, small, close, estranged, mixed, broken, rearranged, and altogether variable.

The "great American family photo" looks something like this: Mom, Dad, Junior, Little Angel, and perhaps Fido.

Even in a less exaggerated

version of this, one would attempt to define a "normal" family as a mom and dad and some kids. This is what we generally know and what our brains default to when we hear "family."

"In that one night, I realized the true extent of the people I can count on and who will be behind me when I need them the most."
 - Sara Toombs,
Columnist

One extra minute of thought, however, reveals that this really isn't what family looks like across the board.

A single woman and three

children are a family. Two men and their adopted son are a family. A grandma and grandpa raising their grandchildren are a family. These, we can typically accept.

However, in other cultures,

women living together in one home are a family. It seems that the only truly stable feature of families is that their members consider themselves a family.

It has become popular in modern culture to refer to many different groups as our various "families." There are school families, sports clans, Greek brothers and sisters, second moms, soul siblings, and a vast array of other types of people we call family. I think it is possible to assert that the current connotation of the word "family" has much less to do with genealogy and, contrary to the popular phrase, all to do with choice.

I have a mom, a dad, a brother, and a sister. I also have a grandma, a brother-in-law, a niece, and three nephews. They are my family, but not all of them share

my blood. My family, like many, is complicated.

I have a best friend, who also has a mom, a dad, and siblings. They are also my family, and have been nearly as long as I have been alive.

I joined Chi Omega, and gained a network of sisters.

I have a fiancé, and he has a mom, a dad, and siblings. We have two dogs and a cat. They are all my family.

Last week, when Nana Elaine passed away, everyone I just listed was my family.

They all supported me while my fiancé's family and I said goodbye to a woman we dearly loved.

In that one night, I realized the true extent of the people I can count on and who will be behind me when I need them the most.

That, beyond all else, is family.

"Why does society feel the need to change ourselves with the New Year," Nathan Nitzczynski wonders.

New Year's Resolutions deemed unruly

by Nathan Nitzczynski, nnitzczynski@thiel.edu



Every New Year, society always has the rationale of "New Year, New Me." Why? Why does society feel the need to change ourselves with the New Year? We use the New Year as an excuse to change ourselves for the better.

Many people want to be healthier in the New Year. Society approaches this resolution with a new method of

eating such as diet. We are more motivated to go to the gym in hopes of burning calories and shedding a few pounds.

Another approach we take to a new year and a resolution is to be more positive. We use the habit of changing the calendar as an excuse to make ourselves act more positive. It is understandable for people to have New Year's resolutions for a healthier life including mind and body.

Being positive, eating healthy, and working out are common New Year's resolutions. Those three resolutions happen to be my 2014 resolutions as well. However, I quickly fell back into bad habits on the night of January 1, 2014.

I found myself at Coldstone Creamery with one of my friends. I felt guilty or-

dering an ice cream treat but I did it anyways. As my friend and I were eating our delicious confections, she scrolled through Instagram, showing me "selfies" with captions of "New Year, New Me." My friend muttered in a comedic tone "New Year, same us."

This sparked me as I thought to myself, "New Year, Same Me." Why do we wait for the change of a year to change ourselves for the better?

This got me thinking-each day is a brand new opportunity to better ourselves. We don't need a new year or the start of a week or a new month to go to the gym. If we want to go to the gym or even start a new approach to healthy eating, why don't we just do it?

It is understandable that change is a process that takes

time. It is very scary to think of change. Moreover, we can make the changes in our lives at any time at a gradual pace. Easing into something such as being more positive, healthy eating, or working out can give us more effective results in the long run.

Why wait? Why wait for the new year to make a change? I leave with this, a lyric from a popular 80's song: "If you want to make the world a better place, take a look at yourself then make a change" These song lyrics come from Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror."

In essence, we need to take any changes we desire one day at a time because life is a gift and we need to start with ourselves and love ourselves. Then, we can be the person we want to be - without waiting for the flip of a calendar.



Why Your Favorite Movie is Awful; Denson evaluates classic Romeo & Juliet

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

The Movie:

Everyone's favorite go to movie when stating that love exists (besides Titanic), Romeo and Juliet. What a great movie for the sad, pathetic people who still believe in such a thing.....hey at least it ends well.

This is the first movie I have written about where I actually do not enjoy it. The movie/play focuses on Romeo - a guy who literally just got over his obsession with one girl - who does what all good idiots do and move on to the next mistake.

Enter Juliet, the stereotypical flip-floppy girl who cannot make up her mind only to let the guy manipulate her into thinking SHE MAY ACTUALLY LOVE HIM.

The reason this movie/play is so famous is because it covers the topic of forbidden love. I'm sorry Shakespeare, but you could have at least made them a little older to make the illusion of love a little bit more believable. Juliet is a girl who just had her first period, like, yesterday and Romeo is still freaky-ing out over his first erection. WHO TOLD THESE TWO THEY WERE IN LOVE?

Anyway, they end up going against their families' hatred

for each other, and marry each other.

This leads to the only redeeming scene in the entire 1968 version of the movie, The Juliet Nip Slip. I watched this movie for the first time in my eighth-grade English class and my teacher tried his hardest to prevent us from seeing that prepubescent breast, but alas he failed and I was introduced to nudity (well at least non-pornographic nudity).

In the end, everyone dies, and I applaud the ending of one of the most awful pieces of work ever created.

Character Everyone Loves To Hate:

Some may say everyone should hate the families of the two main characters but let me ask you this: why hate those characters?

You do not know why they hate each other so much, what if it was really bad and the worst thing that could possibly happen is for the children from both families to decide they were going to marry each other?

That's like a Nazi youth marrying some random Jewish girl.....see, it wouldn't work. At any rate, the characters that everyone should hate most are obviously the

main characters themselves.

TWO DAYS, THAT'S ALL IT TAKES, TWO DAYS for these two children to fall in love with each other. You guys all know those kids that love each other after two days, and more than likely you hate them.

Here's something you people can choke on: don't you hate when people who just started dating have to express their "love" for each other ALL THE TIME - not sometimes, not every now and then, ALL THE TIME.

It's as if these people believe that if they don't say it all the time, the person might leave them. First of all, you don't love them so stop with that.

Second of all, in the less than 1 percent chance that you do love them, telling them and the world that you do all time can be quite an annoying and most of the time people want something bad to happen to you, like in Romeo and Juliet.

Why The Movie is Awful:

Because of the play.

Why The Movie is Not Awful:

1968 Version- Nip Slip, 1996 Version- Claire Danes. **Best/Worst Moments:**.....No, just no.

Paying it Forward: Movement showers kindness in Charity

by Kate LaMark, klamark@thiel.edu

A new movement has popped up around Connecticut, called Pay it Forward. The concept is simple - when going through a drive thru, pay for the person in front of you. It's a little way to add a little more happiness to a strangers Monday morning commute or long drive home, and it has me thinking about what I can do more for those around me.

This movement proves that charity isn't always about massive fundraisers and walking miles for awareness. Sometimes, it's the little things that matter most. Finding cash on the ground and finding the nearby owner instead of pocketing it, helping someone carry their groceries to their room, or spending an hour helping a friend learn a difficult sub-

ject. These three simple things can make someone's entire day. I feel that these acts are more about kindness than anything.

It's so easy to lose faith in the human race these days.

goes a very long way, especially when directed toward strangers. It makes you feel good inside, and it brightens the day of the recipient.

I love the Pay it Forward movement. I love the way an entire community is rallying together for good, instead of the bad we so often see. I think it's a beautiful thing.

I have determined that this month I will be working on showing more kindness and compassion to others. Next time I am in a busy drive thru, I think I'll try the pay it forward movement.

I encourage all of you to remember to incorporate simple acts of kindness in your daily lives as well. You never know how much happiness you can find in serving others.



'Pay it Forward' is a trend which turned up in Connecticut, encouraging the concepts of charity and kind-heartedness.

With the mass media spewing reports of war, genocide, and hate crimes, its tough to realize the good that is all around you. A little kindness

Opinion Poll: "What is your 2014 New Year's Resolution?"



Carmen Papa

"To get better every day."



Alix Clark

"To do better in school."



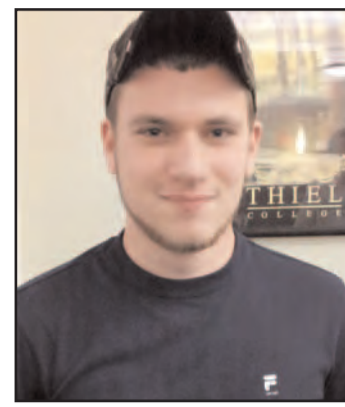
Mike Crane

"To grow out my beard for one year."



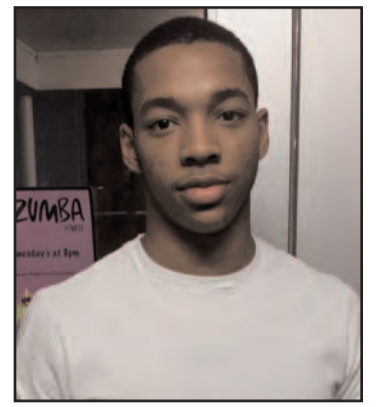
Samantha Elliott

"To lose weight!"



Bobby Leitsch

"To not have a resolution."



Josh Johnson

"To be stronger spiritually and get closer to God."

Photo of the Edition



"This photo was taken at Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh. Their Christmas displays and light show fuel one of the busiest times of the year for the conservatory."

Photo by Keeley Criswell. If you have a picture of Thiel, send it to the Thielensian.thielensian@thiel.edu

#Twittin' @Thielensian

- #turnuporttransfer
- The only two grades that aren't posted are the only ones I'm worried about... #anxiouslywaiting
- The worst thing about having a 3-hour night class? The fact that I will be missing nearly all of the Penguins game. #thissucks
- Okay snow, I have shit to do tomorrow so how about we stop :(
- Dear Thiel, It is really cold. There should be no reason for any classes today. You're all insane. Sincerely, Thiel Student Body
- I'm sitting here on my Thiel laptop and the kid in front of my has a MacBook Pro. Life's not fair.
- Thiel should get rid of havin a football program, if thts what u call it... All it does is cost the college money & embarrasses the school.
- I wish Thiel had a gym for athletes and one for NARPs.
- Seldom things are more brave than a frat boy who leaves his toothbrush in the communal bathroom.
- I never want to move from under this blanket #toocold #stayinside
- Can I please get some thielaruba up in here or what?
- The soft serve machine is working!!! #RUUNNN

FASHION FRENZY

How to Pick the Perfect Pair of Snow Boots

by Katie Allgeier, kallgeier@thiel.edu

With the winter months in full swing and the snow falling daily, many students are looking to invest in a time-honored fashion accessory: the winter boot. With so many choices out there, it can be difficult to choose properly. Here for you, the cold college student: Katie's Guide to Snow Boots.

1. Branding isn't everything

It can be easy to fall into the brand trap, but assuming a certain brand of boot is perfect because of its enormous following can be disastrous. Two of the biggest names in boots are Ugg Australia and Bearpaw, but many consumers do not realize that these classic boots, though incredibly warm, are not waterproof, and the fabric exteriors are easily stained by mud, snow, and salt. In Pennsylvania's winter months, waterproof boots are a must. Consider boots with waterproof fabrics and sealed seams to keep your feet warm and dry.

2. Size matters

Even if your new boots could keep your feet warm and dry in an aquatic expedition to Atlantis, they're not going to do you much good if they don't fit your feet. When sizing yourself for a boot, remember that you're going to be wearing thick socks or liners inside the boot and that you'll need some extra space to accommodate the extra lay-

ers. Consider moving up a half size when buying winter boots to avoid chafing and blistering from too tight of a fit.

3. High ho, high low

The height of a boot is something that many consumers do not consider until their sock has been thoroughly filled with snow. Remember that the activity for which you are buying your boot with influence the ideal height of your boot. For instance, if you are buying boots for the casual walk to the Bistro, your boots need not be as high as someone who is going on a snowy hike through the woods.

4. Style

Style remains one of the pillars of proper winter accessorizing. Ensure that your new boots don't clash with your other winter accessories; bonus points if your gloves, hat, scarf, and jacket all coordinate. Winter boots can often appear masculine in nature, so ladies in particular must be on the watch for boots that are both functional and fashionable.

Remember, the most important thing about winter boots is their functionality. Winter boots may not be the height of fashion, but blisters and frostbite are even less fashionable. Make good choices, and you'll sail through winter with warm feet and fabulous style.



Photos collected from Google Images

A Traditional Woman Leads Non-Traditional Life

by Melanie Soros, msoros@thiel.edu



So there is this trend called "Friends with Benefits" or, as I like to call it, the Biggest Rip-Off Ever.

Basically, as I understand this concept, you're friends with a guy and that friendship includes sex. This type of friendship allows for each party to be involved sexually with others without consequences – because it lacks any type of commitment or respect for the other person.

So when did we evolve into a species that can fornicate with just anyone, for any reason, and at any time? Oh wait – that's not evolution – that's going back in time to before we could stand upright.

I know this has been romanticized in movies – I loved the one with Mila Kunis. It was sweet how they fell in love at the end. But, the glaring truth is that that rarely happens. Generally, if you are involved in this type of relationship you are headed for some big hurting – especially if you are a romantic like me. I could never be involved in a "Friends with Benefits" relationship because I have too much respect for myself and those men that are my "just friends."

Well, that and the fact that if someone tried to treat me

that way I'd probably end up in jail.

But I digress.

If you are already involved in this kind of relationship, maybe it's time to take a step back and a truly clear look at what you are doing. If your partner is a true friend they will understand and it won't affect the friendship. If they are just using you, and I suspect that this is the case, you should be prepared for the fact that you might never hear from

him again.

It is important to understand that love and respect go hand-in-hand and allowing yourself to be used does not promote respect, therefore it is unlikely to promote love. Remember – your feelings count, you are important and you are worthy of love so take the time needed to find that true and lasting relationship where you end up feeling all those things – and not like yesterdays news.



'Friends With Benefits' stars Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis as 'just friends' who pursue intimate relations and eventually fall in love.

A new study conducted by the Huffington Post finds that attraction to a friend of the opposite sex is more often a burden than not.

In the study, 38 percent of women and 25 percent of men ages 27 to 50 said jealousy from their romantic partners was one cost of maintaining an opposite-sex friendship.

Men's volleyball carries on the winning tradition

Erin Huff ehuff558@thiel.edu



Setter Cory Hamilton, soars high above the net attempting to block his defender. Corry, a senior, contributes a great deal to the men's volleyball program.

In their opening games this season, Thiel's men put up a good fight and ended up splitting their first two matches. The first match-up was against Lakeland and it was an upset for the Tomcats. They dropped the game 3-1 with one thrilling set of 27-

The battle on the court started with a loss in the first set that went into extra points and ended with a score of 27-29. The Tomcats rallied back and took the second set 25-22, only to lose the next two and inevitably the game.

The second game of the day was an intense encounter with Hilbert. The match went five games and the Tomcats were victorious when all was said and done. The 3-2 win was hard fought and a total team effort was put forth on the court by each Tomcat. Dylan Lasher recorded a team-high 14 kills and added six digs to the win. Alex Ciepela contributed to the victory with seven kills and throwing up three blocks while Colin Vitale hit the floor to bring up 14 digs. Hamilton led the Thiel setters with 18 assists for the guys.

This winning reputation is a tradition in the men's volleyball program that is rivaled by no other volleyball program in the conference. The PAC is filled with tough contenders that will give Thiel a run for their money this season. It will not be easy to become the PAC champions this season but don't be fooled, because our men will not go down without a fight.

29. In the loss, Josh Turner and Michael Whitelock were the leading scorers, slamming down 13 kills apiece. Thiel's setter, Cory Hamilton, finished the game with an outstanding 30 assists and Charlie Tindall added 14 more to the effort.

Men's Basketball team in need of a change in momentum

Erin Huff ehuff558@thiel.edu



Luke Kochka pulls up for a shot over his defender. Luke has been clutch at the three point line for the Tomcats so far this season.

With a record of 2-6 in the PAC and 5-9 overall to say the men's team is fighting for each win would be an understatement. It has been a winding road filled with plenty of ups and downs and each game has been a substantial obstacle. Their opponents have lost by no more than six points in every Tomcat victory so far.

The boys have suffered a string of losses in the last two weeks, all of which were PAC games. The first loss coming from Saint Vincent, where the Bearcats topped Thiel 69-76 in Latrobe. Another road game at Thomas More ended in a loss and started a two game losing streak for the boys.

After two games on the road, our boys brought their talents back to Greenville to take on the Waynesburg Yellow Jackets in their own stadium. It was the campus' hope that being on home turf would result in a win, but

that was not the case. The Yellow Jackets were in control for a majority of the game but in the final minutes Thiel tied the game at 66 to send it into overtime. This nail biting clash between two PAC rivals ended with Waynesburg on top 76-79.

The Grove City game progressed much like the Waynesburg game in that our men started out the game falling into a first half deficit and clawing their way back in the second half. This time it wasn't enough to send the game to overtime and the Tomcats lost in regulation. Eric Mallinger ripped down a team-high nine rebounds during the contest and combined with Luke Kochka for 13 points.

In desperate need of a win, we welcomed our cross county rivals, the Westminster Titans, to the Beeghly Gymnasium where Thiel's men jumped out to an early lead. The first nine minutes

of play was dominated by the Tomcats, as they claimed a 21-11 lead over the Titans. However, Westminster was not going down without a fight and they made that apparent when they rallied to take the lead (28-25) with just under 5 minutes in the half. Once both teams resurfaced to start the second half Kochka took back the lead for the Tomcats by hitting a shot from behind the arc just 19 seconds into the half. Thiel began to control the tempo of the game again in the second half and took a ten-point lead (45-35) with quite a lot of time remaining in the half.

Westminster, being the kind of scrappy team that hangs around, went on a 16-6 run to tie the game all up at 51 and just 12 minutes left on the clock. With time ticking away, the Tomcats found themselves face to face with another loss, but Khari Bess was not about to let that happen. He went on 7-0 run that included a three-pointer that put Thiel back in the driver's seat. One last time during the contest, Westminster cut the deficit and trailed by only three points with just seconds remaining. Basic fundamentals sealed the win for Thiel when juniors, Charlie Thomas and Jermaine Hamilton, each sunk their free throws late in the fourth quarter.

With 20 points, Bess was a top scorer for Thiel and tied his season-best nine assists to finally break a four game losing streak. Eric Mallinger crashed the boards with 16 rebounds and noted 20 points in books and on the scoreboard, while contributing six steals and five blocks to the stat sheets. Luke Kochka completed the Thiel trifecta as the third double-digit scorer with 14 points on the night, going 3-of-4 from downtown.

The Tomcats will take on the Saint Vincent Bearcats in the Beeghly Gymnasium on Feb. 5th at 7:30 p.m.



Sophomore forward, Hannah Stoneman plays some great defense during the game against Westminster opponent. Stoneman has proven to be quite an asset on the hardwood.

Lady Tomcats start the season on the wrong foot

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The high opinion and respect that the women's basketball program receives from other schools and individuals around the PAC is second to none. There is definitely some transition within the program at this point in time and it appears that this will be seen as more of a rebuilding season. The growth of an athletic team, not only for current players but future players, is the most important aspect of having a successful team for many years. There is plenty of young talent on the team that has the potential to continue making strides for a more thriving program.

With only two seniors on the court this season, Bethany Hines and Leanna Yeager, the team is relatively young and they have not necessarily polished their skills. Hines, who is 15-15 on starts this season, averages 8.9 points per game and has 64 rebounds on the year, as well as 43 assists. Yeager, the 6-foot forward from Poland, Ohio, is shooting .600 from the free throw line; which as we know from the boys game, a free throw could be the difference between a win and a loss. These two will not be easy to replace, but there are two juniors currently on the roster that will have some big

shoes to fill come next winter. Cimone Reid and Taylor Queen, both three year veterans of team that maintain leadership roles for the rookies. Reid comes off the bench for the Tomcats this season and is performing over .500 from beyond the arc. Queen is also coming off the bench and shooting an astounding 100% from the line, and has kept possession of the ball for the team with six offensive rebounds this year.

The sophomore class has shaped the manner in which the program will continue to grow, for not only their next two seasons with the team but for the legacy they hope to leave behind. In true Kelly Muffley fashion, Hannah Stoneman has tacked up three double-doubles on the season so far. She is averaging 7.5 rebounds a game and 9.2 points per game which makes her a stand out player. Kayla Welty is also 15-15 for starts on the season and the 5'3" guard has an astonishing 50 rebounds to go along with her 51 assists. This makes her a threat on both sides of the ball, which at this point is exactly what the team needs to start adding games to the win column. Jaclyn Watkins, from Aliquippa, is also top notch on each end of the court with

a total of 102 rebounds, 66 defensive and 36 offensive, and 191 points thus far this year. Taylor Ketter in another full-time starter who has contributed 21 assists and has drained over 70 percent of her free throws.

Laken Shields and Erin DiFalco, two freshmen that have seen a noticeable amount of playing time in all 15 games so far will be key elements in the growth of women's basketball here at Thiel. Shields, the 5'9" forward, has seen just over 20 minutes per game; a considerable amount for a freshman. DiFalco is a 5'8" forward; who has started in five games this season and has put 86 points for the Lady Cats.

There is plenty of room to grow and there is still plenty of time to keep post-season hopes alive; although the odds are slim. This is hopefully just a rough start and the girls will turn the second half of the season around, so that the scores of each game will reflect the hard work and dedication put forth by every member of the team.

Our Lady Tomcats will host Saint Vincent in the Beeghly Gymnasium on Feb. 5th starting at 5:30 p.m. with the men's game to follow.

The Gym Class Heroes return to the dome for Intramural Soccer

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Kraig Smith, Head of Intramural Sports

As any decorated athlete will tell you, "Sometimes you have to do it because for the love of the game." Most students play some type of competitive sport in high school before arriving at this beautiful campus, but over half of high school athletes

don't go on to play their chosen sport in college. So where, you ask, do the other half go? Well they continue to play on a smaller, and sometimes, more competitive stage.

Intramural sports have become an outlet that comes from the stress that college puts on all students. It's a healthy and fun way to continue playing the sports we all love with all the friends that love them too. As all the students are welcomed back to Thiel, we also welcome intramural soccer to the dome. Each of these teams is comprised of any number of participants who play in multiple regular season games throughout this short intramural season. Like any normal season, the best teams from the regular season will proceed to the playoffs where the champions of intramural soccer are crowned. Senior, Nelson Warner, has returned to Thiel for his final semester and has

joined a team to pass some time his last few months as a Tomcat. Nelson said, "It's just a fun way to blow off some steam and hang out with my friends." Junior Anne Mullhausen has been playing intramurals for her entire time here at Thiel and is the captain of her pick-up soccer team. She claims, "We get to take a break from our nightly routines and experience some competitive spirit while we have some fun."

The soccer season has already started but there is another intramural season that will start later in the semester: ultimate frisbee. Check your emails for the friendly reminders to register or start your own team that come from Kraig Smith, the head of the intramural sports department. Even if you don't want to participate on the field, head down to the dome on Sunday evenings to cheer on your favorite team.