

# The Bell

A Little TLC  
Homecoming 2010  
...and much more!



## From Alpha to Omega

*The return of Phi Theta Phi  
heralds a resurgent Greek  
community at Thiel*



# A Message from the President



Dear Alumni & Friends,

What a difference a year makes! When I look back, I am extremely pleased at the progress that the College has made since 2009. We set big goals and raised expectations high, and our students, faculty and staff, alumni and friends responded better than I could have imagined. We are reversing trends and making great progress on the way to our ultimate goal of making Thiel College one of the nation's premier liberal arts institutions.

As the fall term began in August, the first results of our hard work were seen. Thiel enrolled 417 new students—nearly 100 more than the previous year! Not only were there more new students, they brought with them an increase in average ACT/SAT scores and very strong high school grade point averages. Moreover, this is a group of students who will have a huge impact on Thiel with their enthusiasm, dedication and pursuit of excellence in all areas of their collegiate lives. Thanks to these new students and the gains Thiel made in student retention, our total enrollment is up to nearly 1,100 students. While that isn't where we need or want to be just yet, we're moving in the right direction. Next year promises to be another banner year. Our inquiries and applications are already well above where they were at this time last year. In fact, we have some students who have already applied, been accepted and deposited for next fall!

As you can see, the new initiatives put in place over the past year are clearly having an impact. The Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride, the new athletic and academic programs, and facility improvements—like the new Rissell-Schreyer Dome (check out some photos of the “inflation” day on page 13) over Stoeber Field—have been key in attracting and retaining Thiel students.

If you attended Homecoming this year, you got a first-hand view of the new excitement at Thiel. From our expanded parade through Greenville to the standing room-only crowd at the football game—good times and big smiles were seen all over campus. We added a new cocktail party and student/alumni dance that was a rousing success—when you see members of the Class of 1975 and current students dancing and having a great time together, you realize what a special place Thiel College is! Check out photos from the weekend on page 20.

While we have made solid progress, we aren't finished yet. The Imagining Thiel strategic “dreaming” process has resumed and ideas are surfacing on campus that will enhance the Thiel experience for our students. Stay tuned for more about those ideas as they are firmed up and vetted. The Thiel Commitment ([www.thiel.edu/commitment](http://www.thiel.edu/commitment)) remains the cornerstone of our efforts, and I encourage you to talk about it with prospective students (see page 14 for The Thiel Commitment Top Five). A personal endorsement from an alumnus is often the best “advertising” there is when attracting future Tomcats.

As we head for the end of the fall term and bring 2010 to a close, I am filled with anticipation about what 2011 will bring. Positive momentum and good news generates more of the same—and everyone at Thiel is working hard to keep the College moving forward. Thiel has dared to dream again, and the College is well positioned to build on the successes of the present and craft a future that will benefit our students for generations to come. The foundation of our current and future successes is, as it has always been, our alumni and friends like you—thank you for all that you have done and continue to do for Thiel's current and future students! Your support is invaluable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jay D. VanAlken". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

Thiel College  
75 College Avenue  
Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125  
800-248-4435 • www.thiel.edu

**CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Edward A. Bartko

**PRESIDENT**

Dr. Troy D. VanAken

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC  
AFFAIRS & DEAN OF THE COLLEGE**

Dr. Lynn Franken

**ASSISTANT ACADEMIC DEAN**

Dr. Jennifer Griffin

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND  
MANAGEMENT**

Greg Garber

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT**

David J. Grober

**DEAN OF STUDENTS**

Michael McKinney '02

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR AUXILIARY  
ENTERPRISES & CTO**

William J. Beil

**CAMPUS PASTOR**

The Rev. Dr. Derek Nelson

**DEAN OF ENROLLMENT**

Amy Becher

**DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS**

Jack Leipheimer '74

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS**

Kevin Fenstermacher

**EDITOR & DESIGNER**

Joyce DeFrancesco Carr

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS**

Jennie A. Kather  
Kendell Harrell '14

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Danielle Dwyer '11  
Matt Jackson

**CLASS NOTES**

Lauren Oman

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Joyce DeFrancesco Carr      Allen Morrill  
Jennie A. Kather                Linda Oman '75  
Dave Miller                        Tiffany Wolfe

**PRINTER**

Knepper Press, Pittsburgh

**ON THE COVER:**

*Phi Theta Phi alumni help new members open their house for the 2010-2011 academic year.*

The Bell is published in the spring and fall by the Department of Public Relations, Thiel College, Greenville, PA 16125. Publication inquiries should be sent to aforementioned address, in care of the Editor, or e-mail [jcarr@thiel.edu](mailto:jcarr@thiel.edu). For Class Notes and address changes, please contact the Alumni Office at [alumni@thiel.edu](mailto:alumni@thiel.edu) or fax to 724-589-2860. Thiel College is a liberal arts, sciences and professional studies college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

LVX MVNDI VERBVM DEI  
LIGHT OF THE WORLD, WORD OF GOD

Fall 2010

# Contents



page 8

Campus News . . . . .	2
Where in the World is Vira I. Heinz? . . . . .	2
Faculty Focus/Student News . . . . .	6
An Ounce of Prevention . . . . .	10
Dome Sweet Dome . . . . .	13
The Thiel Commitment Top Five . . . . .	14
From Alpha to Omega . . . . .	15
Back in Black (and Gray) . . . . .	16
Homecoming 2010 . . . . .	20
Athletic News . . . . .	22
Alumni News . . . . .	28
Trustee Spotlight: Mark Benninghoff '82 . . . . .	32
Meet the Boards . . . . .	33
Class Notes . . . . .	34
Marriages . . . . .	36
Births . . . . .	36
In Memoriam . . . . .	36
Class Reunion Photos . . . . .	38
Final Word . . . . .	40

This year, Thiel's three recipients of the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship—Amy Jane Matchett, Kylie Czulewicz and Monica Smith—spent parts of their summers studying abroad in Germany, Australia and Italy respectively. The Heinz Scholarship is funded by the Heinz Endowments and is granted to three rising junior women for summer study and travel abroad. It is intended to enrich each student's academic program, provide opportunity for travel in a foreign country and improve international understanding. Thiel's three intrepid travelers are happy to share the stories of their summers with you.



## Discovering Deutschland

This past summer, I spent four weeks studying abroad in Leipzig, Germany, through a study abroad program with Temple University. After arriving in Germany, I met up with a group of students from Temple and spent the first four days of our trip touring Berlin. While there, I visited the Holocaust Museum and Pergamon Museum where I learned more about Jewish victims of WWII and Islamic art and the Middle East, respectively. During my stay, I also took a boat tour along the canal running through the city and visited the East Side Gallery, which is now an international memorial made up of portions of the Berlin Wall.

For the remaining three and a half weeks of my trip, I studied at the Herder Institute of Leipzig University where I took intensive German language and phonetics courses to improve my speaking and writing abilities. My classes were taught by native German professors and consisted of culture-based activities that helped to immerse me in the country. In the classroom, I studied alongside students from Ecuador, Argentina, Hong Kong, Russia and Canada. Throughout the week, I spent time outside of the classroom touring the city, attending cultural events and visiting museums. While studying abroad, I lived with a young woman from China and was able to practice my German speaking skills with her every day.

Throughout the program, I also visited six different German cities including Berlin, Leipzig, Munich, Dachau, Dresden and Eisenach. While in Munich, I accomplished one of my life goals by visiting the Dachau concentration camp memorial site. Here, I learned about the history of work camps during WWII and more about the specific events that occurred at Germany's first Nazi concentration camp.

My international experience this past summer is something that has affected my life in ways I could



have never thought possible. After being able to immerse myself into a new culture for a month, I was able to grow as a person and gain a global perspective. I now feel confident to challenge myself in more culturally diverse ways as a result of my study abroad program. By meeting new people and speaking a foreign language, I now have a greater appreciation for the diversity of human beings all throughout the world. Thanks to the Vira I. Heinz scholarship, I was able to achieve my lifelong goal of traveling to Germany.

—Amy Jane Matchett '12

## Down Under

The Vira I. Heinz scholarship permitted me an opportunity to travel to Australia through the Australlearn program of Tropical Marine Ecology of Australia's East Coast. This program involved traveling from Brisbane up the east coast to finish four weeks later in Cairns.

During my travels, I stayed five days on three different islands where I resided at research stations and learned about the distinctly different ecology of each island. I conducted one research project on each island by collecting data ranging from diversity and distribution of gastropods in different tidal zones to density and distribution of coral species throughout different reef zones. The program was entirely field excursions and hands-on studies. Hiking, snorkeling, rock climbing and swimming were a few of the many components of our daily routine.

When back on the mainland and traveling up the coast, many more activities were offered that strengthened our knowledge of our subject matter, but also of Australian culture. This method of studying completely immersed us in the environment and made it so easy to absorb what we were learning. After the completion of my program, I had the privilege to then spend three days in Sydney and three days in Melbourne to see other parts of Australia that were not visited during my program.



My experience abroad was life-changing and only deepened my desire to travel the world.

— *Kylie Czulewicz '12*

## Italy Adventure

For my study abroad experience, I chose to travel to Italy. Italy was my first choice for many reasons. First, there was so much history I knew I would explore during my trip. Second, I have always enjoyed Italian culture. The third reason was the academic program in which I chose to participate. I had the best experiences and met the nicest people while I was abroad. Traveling to Italy on the Vira I. Heinz scholarship has been one of the best experiences of my life.

While in Italy, I had the opportunity to take any class I chose. I took a history of the mafia course because I wanted to take a class that was not offered at Thiel. The class was taught by a former lawyer who specialized in mob activity. She had a great range of knowledge and took us to an anti-mafia rally. I learned so much about how the mafia is still a huge problem in Italy. I absolutely loved the class.

While in Italy, I went to Rome, Bologna, San Gimignano, Siena and other cities. I learned a great deal about the history of Italy, but also a great deal about what I *thought* I had already learned. Many of my classes at Thiel had provided me with information about Italy that other students did not know. I was



able to interact more with the tour guides. I learned more about the culture than I ever thought possible. I enjoyed interacting with the natives; the grocery store was always interesting.

Studying abroad has changed me as a person. I am more aware of what is going on in the world and I have learned a lot about the Italian culture. I plan to travel more and learn as much about the world as I can. This was just the beginning of my journey.

— *Monica Smith '12*

## Welcome New Faculty

Thiel College welcomed five new full-time faculty members for the 2010-2011 academic year.

The new faculty members are:

- **Jessica Abbott**, instructor of sociology. Abbott holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Tennessee at Martin and a master's degree from Southern Illinois University, where she is currently completing a doctoral program in sociology. A native of Huntington, Tenn., this is Abbott's first faculty appointment. She is a member of the American Society of Criminology.
- **Dr. George Branch-Trevathan**, lecturer of religion. Branch-Trevathan holds a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University, a Master of Divinity from Harvard University and a doctorate from Emory University. He is a member of Society of Biblical Literature, the American Academy of Religion and the American Historical Association. He formerly served as an adjunct instructor in Emory University's Candler School of Theology. Branch-Trevathan is a native of Murray, Ky.
- **Dr. Angie Koban**, assistant professor of psychology. Koban holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Pennsylvania State University and master's and doctoral degrees from Tufts University. She served as an adjunct instructor at Tufts from 2006 to 2009. She is a native of Sewickley, Pa.
- **Melissa Oakes '03**, instructor of business administration. Oakes holds a bachelor's degree from Thiel College and is currently enrolled in the M.B.A. program at Clarion University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. Oakes is a native of Greenville, Pa., and currently lives in Sandy Lake.



*Pictured from left to right are Dr. Christopher Stanisky, Jessica Abbott, Dr. George Branch-Trevathan, Melissa Oakes '03 and Dr. Angie Koban.*

- **Dr. Christopher Stanisky**, assistant professor of chemistry. Stanisky holds a bachelor's degree from Franklin and Marshall College and a doctorate from Yale University. He formerly served as a visiting professor at Mount Holyoke College and Harvey Mudd College and was a postdoctoral research assistant at the University of Notre Dame. A native of Pittsburgh, Stanisky is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, the American Chemical Society and the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society.

New adjunct faculty for the 2010-2011 academic year include Dr. James Bloomfield, history; Heather Butchy, English; Kevin DeFrancesco '05, education; Nicole Estock, French; Rachael Gerstnecker, art; Scott Graubard, environmental science; Nancy Katz, English; Jessica Phillips, business administration; Ronald Saffell, English; David Spalding, education; and Mary Varley, college reading.

## Making a Joyful Noise

Forty choir alumni gathered on Thiel's campus to take part in reunion festivities on April 30 through May 2. After a full day and evening of rehearsals and renewing friendships, the talented group gathered for a banquet on Saturday afternoon where many of them shared fond memories of campus and choir life. The performance by the alumni choir was held on May 1 in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. Several alumni choir members stayed to accompany the Thiel Choir at the baccalaureate service on Sunday, May 2.



# With a Name Like Smucker's

*A Thiel senior shares her internship experience at the “jelly company down the road.”*

As I started senior year, I entered it with a different mindset and perspective than my previous years at Thiel. I have feelings of anticipation for what's to come, fear for knowing it's my last year as a college student, but most of all excitement for what's in store for me beyond graduation—that last one is thanks largely to my recent internship with the J.M. Smucker Company in Orrville, Ohio.

I always saw Smucker's as the “jelly company down the road.” I soon found that Smucker's is much more than that. It is a major corporate office and a fourth-generation, family-owned corporation with several acquisitions from Jif, Crisco and Pillsbury, Folger's, Hungry Jack and Martha White—and that's just to name a few!

With this internship, I wanted to branch away from the creative side of advertising and marketing that I was familiar with and explore the analytical side of sales and marketing. I wanted to step outside my comfort zone. Therefore, I interned in the Consumer Insights and Category Management department. It is a complex area that houses analysts who research and pull data from different databases which is then utilized by the sales and marketing departments. This data is used to create presentations and reports on consumer shopping behavior and shelving and category tactics, as well as pricing strategies and opportunities and threats analysis. Our work helped the sales and marketing teams when they were presenting information and reasons to retailers about why they should promote our products a certain way or why their store shelves should be set up in a specific manner.

Going into my internship I expected to gain insight into the

corporate business world and also to learn about the J.M. Smucker Company, but I soon realized how much more it had to offer me. I learned valuable information about Smucker's, but at the same time I learned a lot about myself. You cannot put a price tag on the value of internship experience. The possibilities and learning opportunities are endless, but in the end, it really is what you make it. You control how you utilize your time and measure the benefits of your experience, and it is ultimately you who takes what you have learned and implement it towards the future.

An internship gives you something that you do not receive in a classroom setting—real life experience. Not only is an internship a resume builder, but it also gives you the opportunity to take a “sneak peek” before you dive head first into a career. By taking advantage of an internship, you can explore different career routes and understand what your true interests are and what kind of work environment would help you flourish. While at Smucker's, I noticed that employees frequently were promoted or switched departments. Regardless of whether they felt their talents would either be better served there or that it may be a better fit for their interests, the important thing is they still had the option to explore and move about the company. An internship before graduation can give you a better



*Senior Danielle Dwyer spent the summer learning the ropes (and the jam) at the Smuckers Company.*



understanding of where you'd like to be in the future and where to turn to if later on down the road you decide to make an internal or external switch.

I had a wonderful internship experience that not only taught me about the corporate world and provided me with some business “know-how,” but also life lessons that I can take with me and utilize wherever my future endeavors may take me. Anticipation, fear and excitement are all flooding my mind during my senior year, however, after getting a taste (literally) of life beyond graduation, I am taking a moment to savor and enjoy my final year of college, but also look forward to what lies ahead of me. We may not know what the future holds, but like the company motto says—“With a Name Like Smucker's it has to be Good”—I am sure it will be something worth looking forward to.

*Dalton, Ohio-native Danielle Dwyer is a senior business communication/media communication major with a minor in fine art and a member of the women's volleyball team, Alpha Xi Delta sorority, several honor societies and The Thielensian. Along with writing, she contributed to the design of this page.*

## Faculty Focus

► **Dr. Natalie Dorfeld**, English, presented “Teaching in Multiple Modes: Sources, Stumbling Blocks, and Success” at the National Teachers of English conference in November in Orlando, Fla.

► **Dr. Mary Theresa Hall**, English, published a review in a scholarly journal, *The Sixteenth-Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*, which reviewed the “Huntingdon Library Quarterly: Religion and Cultural Transformation in Early Modern England,” edited by Lorna Clymer. The reviewed publication is comprised of eight essays, derived from papers delivered at the UCLA Center for 17th-and 18th-Century Studies conference, focusing on the role of religion in cultural transformation during those centuries. Hall also recently conducted a peer review of “The Heart of Where to Start: The Guide to Identifying Your Perfect Book Topic and Writing with Confidence,” by Timothy Morrison. This textbook, which could be used by college writing instructors, provides print and technological aids for students to better formulate thesis statements and develop strong sentence structure.

► This summer, **Cynthia Kreisel**, history, received the Bernadotte E. Schmitt research grant from the American Historical Association in order to continue revising her project, “Between War and Revolution: French Women and the Sexual Practices of Everyday Life, 1952-1967,” for publication.

► **Dr. Laurie Moroco**, communication, led a group of Thiel faculty, students and alumni on a 10-day European trip to Paris and London in early summer. Highlights of the trip included a boat ride down the Seine River and visiting Versailles, the Louvre, Oxford University (pictured) and Buckingham Palace. The intrepid travelers included faculty members **Dr. Natalie**



**Dorfeld** (English) and **Dr. Victor Evans** (communication); students Jenna Mohr, Danielle Dwyer, Rachel Bessey, Shanel Little, Sarah Conte and Ronnie Edison; and alumni Ashley Williams '09 and Derek Hermann '10.

► **Dr. Derek Nelson**, religion, was published in the *Lutheran Quarterly*, Vol. 24. The article, “Unity, Ecumenicity and Difference in the Augustana Synod,” examines the ways that the Swedish American Lutheran Church played a role in the movement toward church unity in 1860-1962.

► In March, **Dr. Jennifer Curry**, mathematics, and **Dr. Max Shellenbarger**, mathematics, along with **Carol Jones '75**, The Learning Commons, presented a workshop at LaRoche College in Pittsburgh for local colleges and universities on utilizing computer-aided instruction for teaching math to college students.



### Phi Alpha Theta Members Attend Conference

In April, members of Phi Alpha Theta history honorary traveled to Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., for the 2010 Western Pennsylvania Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference and Undergraduate History Forum where they presented papers and projects. More than 65 students presented from 13 different colleges and universities during the event. Thiel's Theta chapter had the most representatives of any college with 10 students, including Kevin Woods, Abagale Steidl, Matt Endlish, Danielle Hillwig, Mark Wyant, Alex Bent, Sheila Gross, L.B. Lubomski, Dave Henry and John Tell. Professor Rachel Doddato, Dr. James Koshan, Dr. David Buck and Dr. James Bloomfield accompanied the students and Koshan served as a moderator on two panels. Henry earned “Best Paper” in the Soviet Russia panel with his paper, “Operation: Barbarossa.”



### Education Students Visit East Elementary

Thiel College education students and professors attended a cooperative professional development day focused on technology innovations at East Elementary School in Greenville in May. Teachers at the elementary school shared practical interactive instructional strategies and visiting students and staff had the opportunity to practice with hardware and Web-based software resources. A question and answer session was held for Thiel students with a panel of experienced elementary school teachers. The cooperative program was made possible by funding from the Enhancing Education through Technology grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



### New Members and Officers Named to Lambda Sigma

In April, Thiel's chapter of the Lambda Sigma Society, a national sophomore honorary, elected new members. The inductees are all members of the Class of 2013 and include (listed in alphabetical order) **Brittany Anderson, Brian Davis, Caitlin Ferry, Kaila Hawley, Joseph Hertzog, Cassidy Kravec, Ethan Ludwig, Anthony McGuire, Crystal Mitchell, Julie Mitchell, Jessica Mueller, Kayla Ohlin, Mariah Poage, Vincent Pucci, Ashley Rable, Audrey Rattay, Matthew Earl Schneider, Diana Slomainy, Jordan Smith, William Stone, Emily Whipple** and **Karen Wolfe**.

Officers for 2010-2011 were also elected and are **Matthew Schneider**, president; **Jordan Smith**, vice president; **Emily Whipple**, secretary; **Cassidy Kravec**, treasurer; **Kelly Barzak**, community service chair; **William Stone**, fundraising chair; **Vincent Pucci**, parliamentarian; and **Audrey Rattay**, ritual/selection chair.

### Neice Featured in Teaching Blog

Sophomore education major **Rachel Neice** was featured in the netTrekker blog on Sept. 20. Neice was interviewed about her use of netTrekker's Spotlight program, a mathematics teaching tool.

### Chi Alpha Epsilon Inductions

The Gamma Sigma chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon, a national honor society that acknowledges the continuing successes and achievements of students who participate in academic success programs, inducted three new members—**Hannah Kichman, Jenna Hionas** and **Ann Camp**—in March.



### Alpha Chi Inducts New Members

Fourteen new members were inducted into Thiel's chapter of Alpha Chi at a ceremony in March. Founded in 1922, Alpha Chi is one of only four national scholarship societies admitting superior junior and senior students regardless of their fields of study. On the 290 campuses with chapters, Alpha Chi membership is the highest academic honor that can be awarded.



### Psi Chi Inductions

In late April, **Lynette Enterline, Sarah Conte, Alicia Trescott, Amy Matchett, Duranna Fretts, Chelsi Clark, Michelle Blose, Jaime Kirchofer** and **Clarissa Miller** were inducted into Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology. Psi Chi is an organization that provides support and encouragement for its members to excel in scholarship and advance psychology.

## Marty Manning Day Celebrated at Thiel and YSU

On Sept. 4, Thiel College designated the opening game of the 2010 football season "Marty Manning '88 Day." Manning, who was associate director of student life at Youngstown State University, battled cancer for three years. (Sadly, Manning passed away from the disease on Oct. 6.) The day began with a benefit bike ride from YSU to Thiel College, coordinated by Marvin Hill '88, Manning's college roommate and best friend, with support from the administrations at both institutions. The bike ride kick-off at YSU included a silent auction and guest speakers who shared stories about Manning. All proceeds for the day's events benefit the Manning family, specifically a trust fund account for Manning's children, Marc, Maya and Melina. For those wishing to donate to the Dr. Martin T. Manning Cancer Fund, please send checks or money orders (made payable to the Manning Cancer Fund) to Dr. Martin T. Manning Cancer Fund, C/O Migdalia Manning, 380 Flora Rd., Leavittsburg, OH 44430.



*Dr. Troy VanAken presents the game ball during halftime to Marvin Hill and Millie Manning, Dr. Manning's wife. Pictured from left to right are Dr. VanAken, Marvin Hill, Manuel Reyes (Marty's father-in-law), Marc Manning, Millie Manning, Maya Manning, Melina Manning, Annette VanAken, Gabriella VanAken and Trey VanAken.*

## New Member of Johnson Family Baptized in Thiel Chapel



Dr. Glen H'88 and LaVonne Johnson, generous supporters of Thiel and the driving force behind the David L. Johnson Memorial Chapel, the Glen Johnson Community Center and the Con Spirito Chamber Music Concert Series, were in the Chapel on July 17 for the baptism of their great-grandson, Connor Daniel Hungrecker, the son of their granddaughter, Katelyn, and her husband, Eliot. Rev. David Gleason, a member of the Thiel Board of Trustees, presided over the baptism. Katelyn is the daughter of Miles Wallace and the late Lori Johnson Wallace, the Johnsons' daughter for whom the Con Spirito series is named.

Pictured (from left to right) are Rev. David Gleason, Katelyn Hungrecker with Connor Daniel, Sheila Johnson, Eliot Hungrecker, Aidan Wallace, LaVonne Johnson with David Hungrecker, Miles Wallace and Glen Johnson.

## Thiel Trustee Awarded Endowed Professorship



Dr. Jonathan Caulkins, a member of the Thiel Board of Trustees, was awarded the H. Guyford Stever Professorship of Operations Research and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University in June.

A member of CMU's Heinz College faculty since 1990, Caulkins has taught at CMU's Qatar campus since 2005. He specializes in mathematical modeling of policy systems pertaining to drugs, crime, terror and violence.

This fall, Caulkins was also named an INFORMS Fellow by the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences, an honor awarded to those with outstanding lifetime achievements in operations research and the management sciences.

Caulkins earned his doctorate in operational research and master's in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also holds a master's in systems science and mathematics from Washington University in St. Louis, where he did his undergraduate work in engineering and computer science. Caulkins has been a member of the Thiel Board of Trustees since 2003.

## Spring Cleaning



On Saturday, April 24, the campus and Greenville community participated in the sixth annual Spring into Action Day. More than 350 volunteers from Thiel College student organizations, athletic teams, staff members and Greenville community organizations gathered to beautify the campus and surrounding areas including Riverside Park, Main Street and St. Michael School, among other projects. Spring into Action day falls around Earth Day each year and volunteers are always welcome. Many thanks to all those who participated this year and helped to put Greenville's best foot forward!

## Wear Your Tomcat Pride



The Thiel Bookstore is now selling t-shirts for some of Thiel's new programs and sports. You can purchase Shooting Club, lacrosse, marching band and tennis shirts from the book store for \$15 each. Visit [www.thiel.edu](http://www.thiel.edu) and click on the "Bookstore" link to peruse the merchandise for online sales. If they are not listed on the Web site, sport- and organization-specific shirts can be purchased in person at the bookstore or via phone. Proceeds for program-specific shirts benefit those groups! The

bookstore is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and can be reached at 724-589-2170.

# An Ounce of Prevention

## *Thiel launches a safe schools pilot program for student teachers*

It seems that nearly everyone has a bullying story; an experience in elementary, middle or high school that haunts you to this day. If you're lucky, part of your story includes an adult who helped you get through the experience and come out stronger on the other end. A new program in Thiel College's Education Department is training student teachers to be that caring adult, someone who can minimize negative or violent behavior before it gets out of hand.

The Prevent, Intervene and Restore (PIR) project is a pilot program that provides training to Thiel's student teachers, instructing them how to identify the precursors of violent behavior in children and preempt violence in the classroom. The program stresses bullying, which, according to the Safe School Initiative report compiled by the U.S. Secret Service and the U.S. Department of Education in 2002, is the precursor to about 71 percent of violent actions in schools.

The PIR project in the Education Department is a spin-off of Thiel's new Regional Training Center (RTC), which launched last summer through the efforts of Vice President for Auxiliary Enterprises and Chief Technology Officer Bill Beil and Director of Public Safety Don Aubrecht and is funded by a grant

from the U.S. Department of Justice. RTC provides in-service and continuing education training in school safety, all-hazards crisis management and emergency response preparedness, and other specialized areas of study to law enforcement and safety professionals, educators and academic leaders, corporate executives and community leaders throughout western Pennsylvania. Professor Connie Reinhart, associate professor of education and director of teacher education at Thiel, attended the RTC open house and immediately saw the opportunities it would present for her students.

"We want to give our student teachers as many tools as possible and show them where they can find resources so that if and when something happens in their classrooms, they become part of the solution, and not part of the problem," said Reinhart.

The first few years of a teaching career are the prime time for teachers to struggle with how to manage bad behaviors in their classrooms, said Reinhart. The new Thiel program is called "Prevent, Intervene and Restore" because those are three of the four steps recommended by the Department of Education when dealing with negative or violent behaviors in the classroom. (Recovery is the final

*Thiel's student teachers participate in one of the seminars of the Prevent, Intervene and Restore pilot program.*



Photo by Matthew T. Lackey and used by permission from The Record-Angus

step.) Moreover, the name reflects exactly the process that Thiel's Education Department wants its students to learn, a process that will help to make the classroom a more positive environment for students, one that is more suitable for learning.

Thiel is the first college to offer such a program to its student teachers and the first time that the Safe Schools and Communities Consulting Group, which coordinates training at the RTC, has connected their training to a college education program.

The SSCCG provides assessment and development of crisis response plans, behavioral analysis, anti-bullying programs and physical security and crime prevention strategies based on the results of the 2002 "Safe Schools Initiative" report. The group's team members collectively have about 350 years of experience in law enforcement, behavioral science, business, education and emergency management for local, state and federal agencies.

"It's imperative to be practiced so that if and when something happens in a classroom—whether it's a student being verbally disruptive or a bullying situation or a violent action—you're ready to respond in a manner that has a better chance for a positive outcome," said Lillie Leonardi, SSCCG project liaison to Thiel College's RTC and PIR programs. "We never want teachers to say 'Oh, my God, I didn't know what to do.'"

However, the program is not intended to instill fear; instead it allows Thiel's student teachers to be knowledgeable and instinctive in heading off problems before they start.

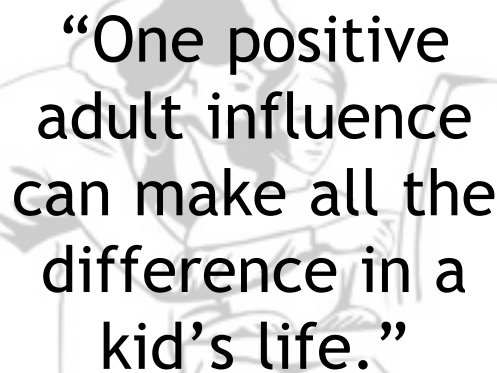
Currently, the program consists of six seminars, two each month, throughout the semester, ranging in topic from "Red Flag Behaviors" to "Cultural Awareness" to "Bully Behaviors." Each session is taught by instructors from Safe Schools and Communities Consulting Group. Currently, there are about seven student teachers in the program during the initial semester and about 15 will be in the program in the spring. Students who complete the training will receive a certificate, said Reinhart.

Thiel's Education Department will review and make changes to the program as time goes on based on feedback from students, both while they're doing their student teaching and through follow up in their post-graduation teaching careers. The most important feedback for the pilot program will be about applicability, said Leonardi. Will the students

actually use the skills they learn in their classrooms? Were the seminars beneficial to their early years of teaching? What the student teachers feel is valuable in the course will be a very important part of the future direction of the program, she added.

Pennsylvania has a very strong teacher education program, ranking as the third largest state in the export of teachers with about 100 teaching colleges across the state. Reinhart, a former school principal, has a passion for school safety that she shares with other school administrators. The training provided by PIR will give Thiel's student teachers the tools not only to make them effective educators, but to help them land their first teaching position, wherever it may be.

---



**“One positive adult influence can make all the difference in a kid’s life.”**

---

“We have a very strong team in the Education Department and all of us have so much background knowledge. We always want to make sure we're giving the best to these students so that they do get hired,” said Reinhart. “I can't see any future employer looking at this program and not seeing it as a real plus.”

This program could also help them keep those jobs. The first five years of teaching after graduation see the biggest defection of teachers from the

profession, said Reinhart, and one of the biggest causes are discipline and boundary issues in the classroom.

“We want to make this program as beneficial as possible to our students,” said Reinhart. “We want them to become part of the solution and not part of the problem of school violence.”

Reinhart and Leonardi are already thinking about future plans for PIR. Local school administrators are interested in what's happening with the program and collaboration between the PIR program and local schools could occur in the future, said Reinhart. Simulations of classroom incidents in real schools or all-day retreats at local schools with the student teachers and faculty and administrators at the school are both a possibility.

“One positive adult influence can make all the difference in a kid's life,” said Leonardi. “We want to help these student teachers become the teachers they want to be and be the educators that their students need.”

## Don't "Buc" the Opportunity

Many college students find typical, ordinary summer jobs in places like movie theaters, grocery stores and fast food restaurants, but when Laura Davin '11 and Stephanie Smith '11 were offered the opportunity to become ball girls for the Pittsburgh Pirates, they didn't hesitate to sign up.

"Our future boss e-mailed collegiate softball coaches around the area asking if they had any players who would be interested in being ball girls because they stopped using ball boys," said Davin.

Being a loyal Pirates fan, Laura couldn't let this opportunity pass her by and neither could Stephanie Smith, a fellow softball player and Pirates fan. The Pirates weren't hesitant in picking them up either. Both Davin and Smith were given threads that the ordinary fan would die for, including jerseys, hats, socks and shorts.

The girls were two of many softball players from the area who worked for the Pirates. Schools such as Chatham University, St. Vincent College, Washington & Jefferson College and Westminster College were represented during the summer as well.

"It was great to meet and get to know girls that we play against during the season because now they aren't just opponents, they're friends," said Smith.

Although meeting the players wasn't allowed, the girls felt as if they were part of the team. Their jobs consisted of scooping up foul balls and either saving the ball or tossing it into the stands. It can be said that every fan's dream is to catch a ball hit into the stands and usually the fans get a little crazy over a four-dollar baseball. In one instance, a foul ground ball was hit towards Davin, as she was waiting, glove open, for the errant hit. Before the ball got to her, a fan dove for the ball and made her miss it. The ball careened off the wall and flew into the stands, almost striking a fan in the process!



"It was kind of scary because everyone's eyes are on you whether you like it or not, and when something like that happens everyone sees it. You can only hope that no one gets hurt. That was definitely my worst moment there hands down," said Davin. "Those fans can get so crazy over a foul ball."

Other than the crazy fans the job was a sweet gig, giving both Davin and Smith the opportunity of a lifetime. They were part of a Major League baseball team for an entire summer, and the perks made the job worth it every day.

"I think that the greatest feeling I had was seeing the look on a kid's face when I tossed him the foul ball. It was priceless, I'll never forget it," said Davin.

—Kendell Harrell '14



# DOME SWEET DOME

On Nov. 15, the Rissell-Schreyer Dome began its journey toward the sky in the cold morning air. Frost and ice fell away from the durable vinyl structure as it filled with air and the Thiel community felt excitement as a two-year-long planning process and many months of preparation finally came to fruition. Thiel College has its dome!

The Rissell-Schreyer Dome is a seasonal air-supported structure that covers the College's multi-use athletic field from November to March each year. This facility adds six times more usable recreational space to Thiel's current available indoor athletic space during winter months and offers flexibility to configure the space for a variety of activities. The dome also provides the Greenville community with a new venue for walkers, indoor soccer leagues and other activities during inclement weather.

"The Rissell-Schreyer Dome has been a priority because of the profound impact it will have on Thiel's athletic program and campus life as well as the benefits it will deliver to the local community," said Dr. Troy D. VanAken, Thiel president.

The dome is named in honor of Dr. William A. Schreyer H'90, chairman emeritus of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., and his great-uncle, Charles D. "Tod" Rissell 1900, who is known as the "Father of Thiel Athletics."

The new dome was officially unveiled on Dec. 3 at a grand opening celebration for the Thiel, Greenville and Mercer County communities.



*Pictured from top: The Rissell-Schreyer Dome towers over the First National Bank Hospitality Building at Alumni Stadium; the dome rises off the field on Nov. 15; Junior David Mossa, President Troy VanAken and Director of Athletics Jack Leipheimer help "flip the switch" and put the inflation in motion.*



# The Thiel Commitment "Top Five"

It's been one year since Thiel College launched The Thiel Commitment initiative. Word about this unique pledge to future Tomcats has been spreading thanks in part to our alumni and friends talking about the Commitment. In order to make it even easier to talk about The Thiel Commitment, check out the "top five" aspects of The Thiel Commitment below. Together they make a "cheat sheet" that you can share with prospective Tomcats in your life. This is by no means a comprehensive explanation of The Thiel Commitment—students who want to learn more should contact Thiel's Admissions Office at 800-24-THIEL or [admissions@thiel.edu](mailto:admissions@thiel.edu).

# 1

## *Career Services are for life - really!*

The Thiel College Career Services Office doesn't consider it "job done" when a graduate gets his or her first job. The office is here to help with the search for a second, fifth or 10th job; after all, research shows that the average college graduate could have as many as 10 different careers during his or her working years. The Career Services Office staff can perfect a resume or cover letter, provide job search tools like online databases or career counseling, and offer graduate school information, among other services. During a student's years at Thiel, the office can arrange for job shadowing, internships or service learning opportunities that make a graduate that much more employable.

## *The Thiel Commitment starts before a student does.*

Did you know that one of the most popular majors among college freshmen is "undecided"? At Thiel, we know that exploring interests and options is an important part of the college experience, and students can't make a choice if they don't know their options. That's why The Thiel Commitment provides career discernment seminars that are available to students before they matriculate. Once a student is accepted and enrolled, The Learning Commons at Thiel can help a student figure out where his or her interests and strengths lie. Thiel also offers exploratory major designations, such as "history exploratory" or "biology exploratory," which allow a student to explore his or her interest in a field of study without "locking into" a major.

# 2

# 3

## *A liberal arts education that can secure a great career.*

At Thiel, we believe in the benefits of a great liberal arts education and we believe in preparing our students for fulfilling careers. It's a balance we call "practical liberal arts." Our e-portfolio and co-curricular transcripts make it easy to show potential employers not only what you've done in the classroom, but the experiences outside that help shape the practical liberal arts experience Thiel.

## *Affordability isn't just a word.*

It's a pledge we don't take lightly. With the rising cost of higher education in the United States, Thiel is committed to ensuring that a Thiel education is within the reach of families. Thiel is one of the most affordable private institutions in Western Pennsylvania—couple that with grants, loans and scholarships (Thiel offers more than 200 endowed scholarships alone) and you can pay less at Thiel than at a state institution!

# 4

# 5

## *Ninth semester tuition is free—yes, free!*

College is a time for expanding horizons and pursuing knowledge. We don't want our students eliminating a life-changing experience like study abroad or a semester-long dream internship because it will tack on another semester before earning their degrees. That's why we offer a ninth-semester tuition waiver for qualified students. "Qualified" doesn't mean "perfect" either. We know that at some time during their college years, most students will struggle. And we don't think that working hard to get through a rough patch should eliminate you from pursuing your dream. As long as you are in good academic, financial and social standing you qualify for the ninth-semester tuition waiver!



## From Alpha to Omega

On Oct. 23, Thiel College held its first-ever Greek Summit on campus. This special event brought together 260 Thiel College alumni, current students, staff and faculty to discuss Thiel's Greek system from Alpha to Omega—where it's been, where it is now and where it can go in the future.

The day kicked off with a presentation by Will Foran, the director of education and leadership development with the North-American Interfraternity Conference, a trade association of international and national men's fraternities. Foran's presentation focused on the importance of fraternity and sorority members making good choices, upholding the values of their organizations and always representing their chapters to the utmost at all times. Foran emphasized the importance of leadership in the Greek system at an individual and organizational level, stressing that Greek members should put their ritual first, brotherhood/sisterhood second and the social aspect of the Greek system last.

Following Foran's presentation, the attendees broke into smaller groups to hold roundtable discussions. Each group was given a question—such as “How can the administration better support the Greek system?”, “How should each chapter instill the value of chapter excellence in each new member?” and “How can sorority and fraternity recruitment be improved”—to discuss and generate ideas that could address that aspect of Greek life.

Constructive discourse and many good ideas came from the roundtable discussions. Some of those ideas included the creation of more activities

for Greek members; a philanthropy day in Greenville where each Greek house could showcase its national philanthropy; create a new “Greek Row” housing area; create larger events to attract and involve Greek alumni; strengthen the involvement of on-campus advisers with the Greek houses; institutional recognition of academic achievement at the chapters; strengthening the role of the Interfraternity Council and Panhellenic Council on campus; including Greek life in new student orientation; and much more.

Action on the ideas generated at the Summit will be driven by Greek students on campus, says Barbara Blue, director of Greek Life at Thiel. Thiel is committed to the Greek system on campus and will be supporting its growth in the future. At this point, the IFC and Panhellenic Council will be taking the lead to develop some short-term, long-term and parking-related goals for the Greek system with implementation to follow with support of the College administration.

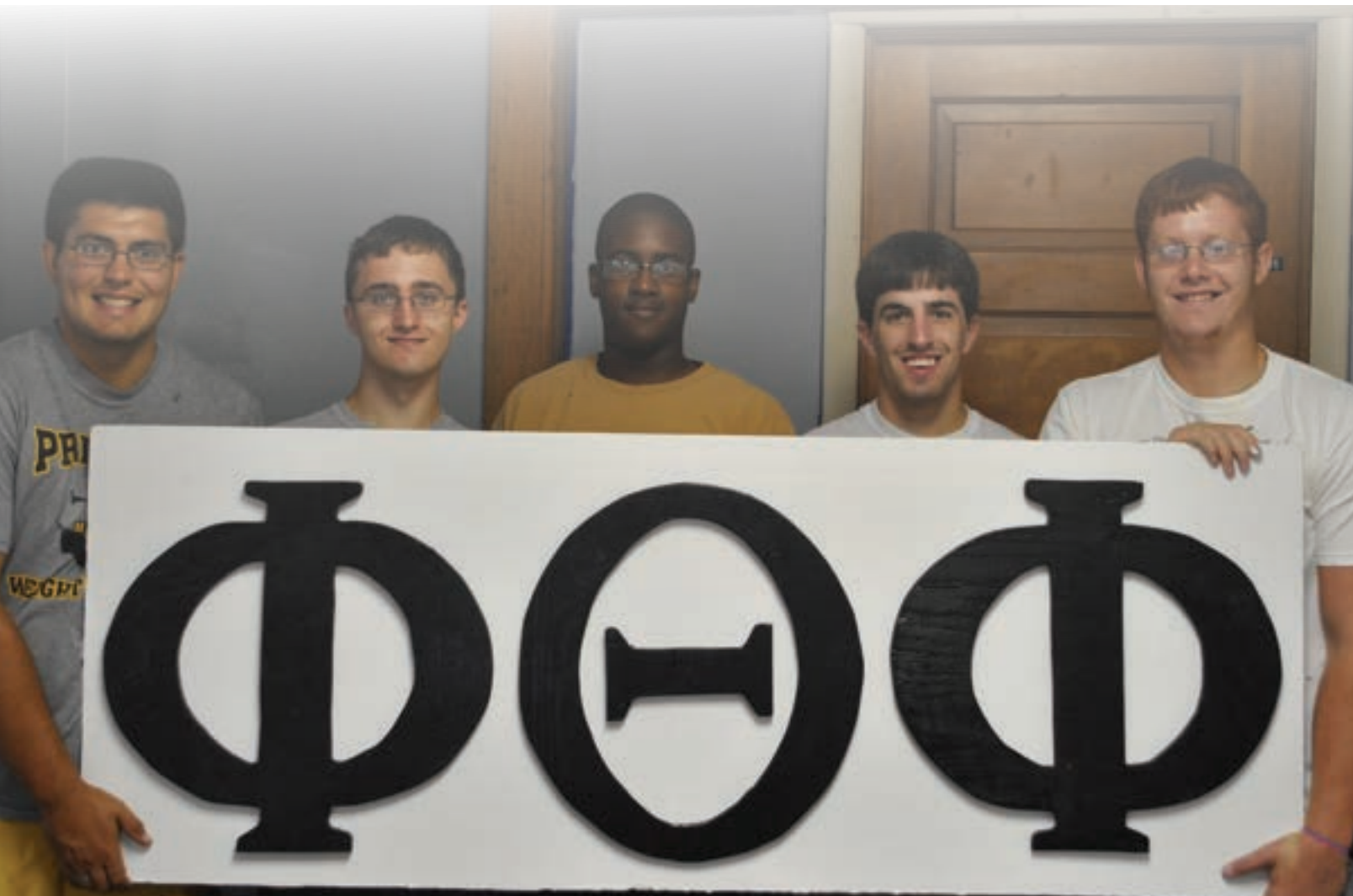
The Greek Summit is not the end of Thiel's efforts to support and strengthen the Greek system. Additional summits will be held in the future, and Greek alumni who have lost touch with their chapters or who would like to get involved in Greek life at the College again are encouraged to do so. Alumni involvement is one of the best ways to strengthen a Greek chapter. Alumni who would like to get involved can contact Barbara Blue at 724-589-2192 or [bblue@thiel.edu](mailto:bblue@thiel.edu).



*Pictured at top—Thiel College fraternity members wait for the first-ever Greek Summit to begin. Pictured above and left—Chi Omega alumnae and Phi Theta Phi brothers show their Greek pride during the summit.*

# Back in Black (and Gray)

A house at 42 College Avenue was the site of a flurry of activity in late August. Suitcases were moved in, furniture was re-arranged and rooms were cleaned—all the “settling in” activities that occur when a fraternity house opens for the academic year. But this house was the site of something special—a group of students and alumni who gathered together to proudly hang the Greek letters “Phi Theta Phi.”



Those letters were last seen on Thiel's campus in December 2002, when Phi Theta Phi, a local fraternity, was closed down for violations of Thiel's student code of conduct. So how did the Phis return to campus? It actually all sprang from a joke, says junior Ian Meakim, one of the driving forces behind the push for a fourth fraternity at Thiel.

Last year, a group of male students approached the Student Life Office with the idea to start a new fraternity chapter on campus. The group wanted to participate in Greek life, but didn't feel a match with any of the three existing national fraternities on campus.

After his unsuccessful participation in Greek recruitment in fall 2009, Meakim said he turned to a group of friends in the same situation and said laughingly, "We should just start our own fraternity."

Meakim was joking at the time, but the idea stuck and the group soon approached the Office of Student Life with it. Initially, they didn't want to bring back an old fraternity, said Meakim, but Dean of Students Mike McKinney and the Student Life staff encouraged the group to include Phi Theta Phi in their considerations. They met with John Hauser '71, Thiel archivist, and an alumnus of Phi Theta Phi, to learn more about the fraternity.

"The moment we walked out of the room [after meeting with Hauser], I thought 'I want to be a Phi,'" said Meakim.

Meakim, along with juniors Evan Krizon of Franklin, Pa., Earl McCloud of Buffalo, N.Y., and David Owens of Polk, Pa., met with two national fraternities, but none felt as "authentic" or "welcoming" to them as Phi, said Meakim.

The group also attended a breakfast before the Phi Children's Hospital Walk in December 2009. McKinney said that the students were impressed with level of support from the Phi Theta Phi alumni organization, which they felt was as good

as or better than the support offered by the national fraternities.

"The alumni have been great. I don't think we would be here without them," said Meakim. "It's just been incredible."

In fact, the Phi Alumni Association has morphed into the Phi Alumni Advisory Board. The board has taken on an expanded role in the resurrected chapter, serving as an oversight board for the chapter and its members much like national fraternities operate and ensuring that the history and traditions of the chapter are maintained and grown in a positive way.

---

---

*"The moment we walked out of the room, I thought 'I want to be a Phi'"*

---

---

The Phi Theta Phi Alumni Advisory Board includes Gary Bonner '80, Ben Burke '99, Damon Dohar '92, Albert Gesler III '90, John Hauser '71, Dr. Carl Hoffman '69, H'10, Thomas Novak '82, Todd Pilipovich '00 and Gil Troutman '75.

The Phi alumni conducted new member education with the newest Phi Theta Phi brothers in August and the chapter participated in recruitment this fall. Members recruited this year have the option to move in to the chapter house immediately. The chapter was looking for five to 10 quality new members, said Meakim, and they ended fall recruitment with four new members.

McKinney and the College administration note that the new chapter will even out the male and female Greek chapters and make pairing them up for events and service/volunteer work easier. It also will help Thiel increase the overall number of students participating in Greek life on campus in the future, which is currently at 25 percent.

"Whoever joins this chapter has the chance to really make it their own," says McKinney. "These new Phis will be able to shape the way that the organization will grow in the future."

The new Phis are continuing one very important "old" Phi tradition – the annual Walk-a-thon for the Children's Hospital Free Care Fund.

Meakim said that he wasn't even aware of the Phis involvement with the Children's Hospital Free Care Fund at first, but was awed by their results over the years and is excited to participate in the 2010 walk, scheduled to begin Dec. 3.

The first Walk-a-thon was held in 1968 and raised \$1,100. In the 41 Walk-a-thons since, the event raised more than \$1.2 million for the Free Care Fund—that's more than any other single fraternity chapter in the world. The Phis have been recognized for their service by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate. In 2002, the Association of Fundraising Professionals recognized them as an outstanding philanthropic organization.

Todd Pilipovich '00, assistant director of admissions at Youngstown State University and a member of Phi Theta Phi, has served as Walk-a-thon chairman for the past five years, keeping the event alive through alumni participation.

"The Walk-a-thon has always been bigger than the fraternity; it's what made our organization," said Pilipovich. "For some like me, the Walk-a-thon is a life-changing event that is hard to describe."

When the fraternity closed in 2002, Pilipovich kept in contact with the Pittsburgh Children's Hospital Free Care Fund and discovered that in the one year without a Walk-a-thon the fund lost more than \$30,000. That fact helped him start conversations with other Phi alumni to form the Alumni Association and bring back the Phi walk.

Pilipovich will continue in his role as Walk-a-thon chairman this year, but will be shadowed by junior Shawn O'Hara, a new current Phi brother from Crafton, Pa., who will assist Pilipovich and lead the organization's fundraising efforts in 2011.



*John Hauser '71, a member of the Phi Alumni Board, bonds with new Phi Theta Phi brother Ian Meakim during Homecoming 2010.*

"With our chapter back on campus, the Walk-a-thon's future looks very bright," said Pilipovich. "Alumni participation will be up, the new members have creative and newer ideas on increasing our fundraising efforts and, most importantly, a unique tradition will continue to be passed down to other new members."

While Phi Theta Phi is an independent fraternity, the College gave the chapter a list of expectations, including collecting dues that are similar to the other chapters on campus, keeping their alumni base active and engaged, and maintaining scholarship and conduct standards.

"We plan to work very closely with the Phis throughout the year," said McKinney. "We want this chapter to be successful and be an integral part of Thiel's campus for many years to come."

The Phi alumni were notified of the chapter's return this summer in a letter from the Thiel College President's Office. One alumnus wrote with excitement about the news:

"It is great news that Phi Theta Phi Fraternity is coming back. My time at Thiel was special, but the brothers added an extra dimension during my time. The [Children's Hospital] Walk took me out of myself and into serving others. This was a life-changing event for me...On the Walk my senior year, I met a nursing student on a blind date. Patty is still my bride after 38 years. I walked 100 miles to meet my soul mate. Thank you, Thiel, and the Phi Walk-a-Thon."— Ken Kashner '71



## Fast Phi Facts

<b>Founded:</b>	1966
<b>Recolonized:</b>	2010
<b>Colors:</b>	Black, gray and white
<b>Principles:</b>	Creed of fraternal bonds and code of honor and responsibility
<b>Brothers initiated:</b>	More than 500
<b>Alumni:</b>	Living in 30 states with 143 in western Pennsylvania
<b>Charity:</b>	Phi Theta Phi Walk-a-thon for Pittsburgh Children's Hospital Free Care Fund

## A Brief History of Phi Theta Phi

In February 1965, Gerald Neri and William Scherer Jr. began to discuss starting a new organization at Thiel, a fraternal order corresponding to the Greek societies. A nucleus of six men was formed to perform administrative duties and establish a framework for the fraternity. However, a rift developed among the executive members and general meetings were discontinued after only three weeks.

Soon after, it was decided that a constitution, creed and code of honor and ideals were needed before approaching a general membership. With ideas in writing and a tentative framework compiled, general meetings were held and officers were elected. To help the group operate, Thomas Brazelton, assistant professor of biology and geology, and George Dickinson, instructor in sociology, accepted positions as advisers.

On April 7, 1965, a motion was put before the Student Senate to acknowledge Phi Theta Phi as the fifth fraternity on campus. The fraternity was recognized by a large margin. A week later, the constitution was presented to Student Government and Phi again gained approval.

Phi Theta Phi opened its first academic year on campus with a faculty reception held in its new house, the former West Dormitory. It followed this with a Hootenany Party, an Autumn Dance and many other social events. The men built a float to participate in Homecoming,

participated in all intramural sports, serenaded the women's residence halls, caroled with the other fraternities and participated in varsity sports and most extracurricular activities on campus.

The first pledge class of the fraternity consisted of seven men. Six activated. Phi Theta Phi's second pledge class was taken in February 1966 and consisted of eight men, seven of which activated.

The return of the brothers in fall 1966 found official recognition of the fraternity by the faculty awaiting them. The first Founders' Day celebration was held on October 13 to celebrate. Phi Theta Phi began its third year at 5 Roy H. Johnson Drive with 33 members.

It was not until 1968 that Phi Theta Phi was recognized as more than "a house organized for social activities." The first Phi Walk-a-thon for the benefit of Children's Hospital was held in February 1968, and netted \$1,100. The walk has become a tradition and is a cornerstone of the fraternity's life.

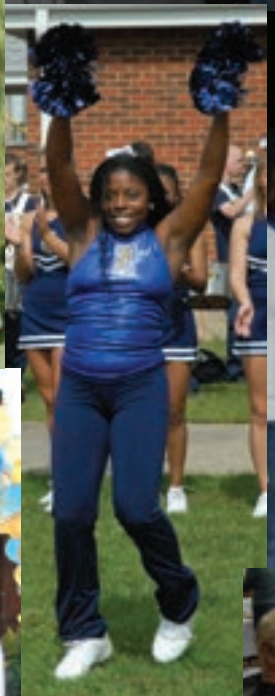
This continued to serve Thiel as members of athletic teams, class and student government officers, in the residence halls as head residents and residence assistants, as academic assistants and tutors, and as members and officers of academic and co-curricular organizations, keeping with the Phi creed of honoring and supporting the college and its organizations.

In December 2002, the Thiel administration, after the chapter

violated college policy, withdrew its support for the chapter and disbanded the fraternity. The Walk-a-thon for Children's Hospital, after 34 consecutive walks, was not held.

The 2003 Walk was held as an all-college event and raised under \$10,000. In 2005, Todd Pilipovich '00, took over the reins of the Walk, utilizing the Phi alumni along with the Youngstown State University "Ice Breakers," a student service group. That coalition continued the Walk for the rest of the decade.

In fall 2009, a group of undergraduate men discussed starting a new fraternity on campus. They chose to pursue re-colonizing Phi Theta Phi. The Phi Alumni Association convened an advisory board of 12 brothers, who prepared documents demonstrating how a volunteer board of directors could provide the same services to a chapter that a paid staff from a national fraternity provided. This included oversight for a revised educational program, fiscal responsibility and disciplinary sanctions if necessary. On February 24, 2010, the Interfraternity Council voted to approve Phi Theta Phi, with colony status, as the fourth fraternity on the Thiel campus. Approval from the dean of students and the president of the College came on April 9, 2010, and bids were extended to six men, five of whom accepted. The five were inducted into active membership on August 22, 2010.





Homecoming 2010 celebrated Thiel College "Through the Decades," and alumni from 60 years came to campus to celebrate, reminisce and make some new memories. It was standing room only for many events and smiles were present all across campus. From fireworks on Friday night to the parade, football game and Homecoming dance on Saturday to the alumni baseball and softball games on Sunday, Homecoming 2010 was one for the records! Don't miss Homecoming 2011 on Sept. 23-25, 2011 (when we'll be celebrating reunion classes that end in '1 and '6)—See you next year!



## Student-Athlete Profile: Bryan Villegas



The power of family, whether biological or athletic, is something that should never be taken for granted—a fact that Thiel College football's senior captain Bryan Villegas has grown to know very well.

Growing up in Tampa, Fla., with a very large extended family, some may wonder why Villegas came to Greenville at all. Although he does not like the snow and cold weather, Villegas admits that Thiel offers a great living and learning environment and one that has served as a good “home away from home” for the past four years.

Watching this 6-foot, 1-inch and 183-pound free safety, one may think he has been playing since he could walk; yet this talented athlete has only played football since his sophomore year in high school. Villegas explains that his older brother came home one day saying that he and Bryan were going to start doing the football workout in preparation for the upcoming season. Up until that point, Villegas said he had only played backyard football, but added that, now looking back, he wishes he would have started playing at a younger age.

Not only did his brother get him started in football, but according to Villegas, he is also his biggest inspiration.

“My brother has always believed in me and wants me to try and do everything I possibly can,” Villegas said. In addition, he says his brother is his biggest fan because not only did he never miss a game throughout his senior year of high school, but he continues to stay in touch and involved in supporting Villegas while he has been at Thiel.

His brother along with his parents have made it to all the homecoming games in the past three years, but as his career worked its way to a close, they attended every home game during the season.

Family is a main focus for Villegas and he worked to take this mindset and apply it to his family of teammates throughout his time at Thiel. Although Villegas's individual goals are to make first team in the Presidents' Athletic Conference and earn All-American status, his top priority this season was to help the team turn its season around.

By working to be a more vocal leader as well as keeping people positive and inspired to keep going and working hard week after week, Villegas mentions that after graduating with degrees in Web development and e-commerce, he hopes to find a coaching position somewhere.

As Villegas's final season with the Tomcats wraps up, he will leave the program with these words for his teammates: “Do everything you do on the field like it's the last time you do it because you'll be a senior before you know it. You want to leave here with no regrets, so give it all you got.”

—Danielle Dwyer '11

# 2010 Game Day Honorees

The Game Day Honoree Program is a way to say thank you to valued alumni, friends and partners for their commitment to Thiel College. Our game day honorees have invested in the Thiel Community and are actively engaged with the College. They are dedicated to the success of our students. At each game one special person or group is recognized and Dr. VanAken offers his thanks on behalf of the entire community for their generosity, friendship and steadfast support.

## September 4—Dr. Marty Manning



Dr. Marty Manning was honored during Thiel's first home game. A 1988 Thiel graduate, he was a staff member of Youngstown State University since 1990, culminating as associate director of student life. Manning was a high school football official, an assistant coach to his daughter's soccer team and a member of St. Luke Parish in Boardman, Ohio. Manning had three children, Melina, Marc

and Maya with his wife, Mille. (*Editor's note: Manning lost his battle with cancer shortly after Marty Manning Day.*) Each day Manning lived out the Thiel College mission by constantly seeking to reach his full potential as a beloved educator, a devoted father and a loyal friend.

## September 18—Howard '56 & Kay '59 Weyers



Howard and Kay Weyers were honored for their commitment to Thiel—shown through their service on the Board of Trustees, work with athletics and the Blue Gold Club, and dedication to Thiel students' success. Both the Weyers Sampson Art

Gallery and the Weyers Student Lounge are named in honor of their generosity. In 2000, Howard and Kay led the charge for an on-campus stadium, offering a lead challenge gift to other alumni and friends. In 2004, they were recognized as Distinguished Alumni during Homecoming.

## November 6—Ronald & Karen Doerr



Students are at the heart of Thiel, and no one understands that better than Thiel parents Ron and Karen Doerr, whose son, Jeff, is a member of the Class of 1990. During Jeff's time at Thiel, the Doerrs joined the Parents' Advisory Council, now the Thiel Family Council. Their dedication to student issues was soon recognized and Ron moved to a position on the Board of Trustees. He went on to become chair of the Board in 1998 and served through 1999. The Doerrs dedicate tremendous time and energy to Thiel's success, including Ron's service as board chair during the Thiel 2000-Sharing the Mission campaign, and leading both the 1999 and 2009 Presidential Search Committees. In 2001, they were honored with a "Service to Thiel" award. Ron has rejoined the Board of Trustees and serves as the chair of the Board's Advancement Committee.

## October 16—The Anderson Family



The Anderson Family was recognized for their tremendous leadership, engagement and service not only to the College but to the entire region. Their company, Anderson Coach & Travel, began in 1937 and now serves more than half a million customers each year. The family, led by Dot and the late O.D., includes children Doug, Sue, Lyle, and Karen, their spouses Lori, Darrell, Susan and Dave as well as numerous grandchildren. The family has been engaged in the Thiel College community for more than 60 years with Thiel Athletics and various boards. During the October 16 football game, Thiel celebrated all of the Anderson Family, including its the more than 200 employees.

## October 30—First National Bank



The Thiel College Community is a family bound together by a commitment to a common mission and strengthened by shared experiences, values and goals. That family includes students, faculty, staff, alumni and valued partners such as First National Bank. The long partnership between Thiel and FNB has connected them on a variety of levels, including a business relationship, internships, community engagement and service on Thiel's Board of Trustees by FNB officers, such as Norman Mortensen, Peter Mortensen and Jeff Wallace. FNB also endowed the chair of Thiel's largest academic department as the Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics.

## A Taste for Victory

Winning is becoming something that is more expected rather than hoped for during the women's volleyball season at Thiel.

Fifth-year head coach Steve Brewer, with the help of assistant coach Amanda Brewer, has led the the Tomcats to a second consecutive successful season, proving last year's 23-win campaign was no fluke.

This season was very similar to the last. Both had first-time wins over Westminster—the Tomcats registered their first-ever win over the Titans last season and their first victory in Westminster's gym this season—and both featured Thomas More and Thiel as the top two teams in the standings. This season, the Tomcats topped Washington & Jefferson College for their 10th straight win, matching last year's 10-match winning streak.

The wins haven't come at the cost of playing quality competition either. While some coaches take the easy way out and pad stats with an easy non-conference schedule, Brewer did the opposite. He lined up a pair of nationally-ranked teams, an NAIA team and a few other solid programs to get the team ready for the conference part of the schedule and the postseason.

"It's important for our program to get out every season and play some of the toughest schools in our region," Brewer said. "The goals for our program are lofty, and you need to beat great teams before you can become the best team."

Over the past two seasons, the Tomcats tallied at least one win over every team in the Presidents' Athletic Conference and were strong contenders for the conference title this year.

The squad was led by Kelly Barzak, who won two PAC Player of the Week awards this season. The sophomore already appears in the program's single-season and career record books and will probably own every record related to her position by the time her career at Thiel is complete. The 6-foot-1-inch sophomore is one of the best athletes on campus and is a two-sport star. If she stays the course of her freshman season, she could leave Thiel with eight all-conference selections combined in volleyball and basketball.

In addition to Barzak, the Tomcats have three other players with their names in the Thiel record books. Senior Stephanie Shipley tops the school's career list in digs, senior Madison Chylik is the career leader in assists and junior Megan Kay is second only to Barzak in career hitting percentage.

The Tomcats earned a trip back to the PAC championship match this year after defeating



Westminster College in straight sets. The team faced top-seeded Thomas More College in the championship match for the second year in a row on Nov. 6, but fell 3-1 to Thomas More. With this win, the Saints earn the right to represent the PAC in the 2010 NCAA Division III women's volleyball championship.

Despite the tough loss in the championship game, Brewer says the strength of his team is based on discipline and accountability. And, of course, it all begins with quality recruiting. The Tomcat coaches have done a great job of bringing in student-athletes that fit in well with what they want from the program. That task should only get easier in the next few years as the coaches now have the best recruiting tool available, a winning team.

# The Comeback Kid(s)

Trailing 4-1 and needing an offensive spark, Thiel men's soccer coach Andy Hoggarth turned to an unexpected player in a match earlier this season.

Less than 18 minutes remained on the clock when Hoggarth moved Tanner Mesing, a defender, up front with the hope he could provide a spark. The freshman didn't disappoint, scoring four goals in nine minutes as the Tomcats came back to beat Hilbert College 6-4.

The four goals tied a Thiel record for goals in a game. (Nikola Vasilev scored four times against Waynesburg in 2004.)

Mesing's first goal came on a header off a corner kick by Erik Gabrich at the 72:28 mark. He added a second goal six minutes later off an assist by Francis Ahia and netted an unassisted goal just three minutes after that. Mesing's final goal, the go-ahead score for the Tomcats, came just one minute later and was assisted by Darwin Porras.

"We were outplayed and disappointed for the first 70 minutes," Hoggarth said. "We made some changes and put Tanner up front. We told him to win balls in the air and create chances for us and he did that. It shows a lot of heart from our squad to come back like we did."

The goals were the first four of the season for Mesing. His great game overshadowed a breakout performance by another Tomcat freshman. Tyler Hanks tallied his first two goals of the season, including a game-tying score in the 34th minute and an insurance goal in the 90th minute. Chris Lepley assisted on Hanks' first goal while the second was unassisted.

With the win, Thiel tied the program's record for wins in a season with five and would later notch its sixth win to make this season the most successful in Thiel men's soccer history.

To put Mesing's performance into perspective, only one other player in the conference has scored four goals in a game this season. Marco Rosas scored four times in Thomas More College's win over Thiel. Only three players in Division III have scored five times in a game this season and 15 others matched Mesing's performance with four. The only difference is that the Thiel freshman did it in a 10-minute span and on just four shots.

The outstanding performance is even more surprising when you consider Mesing didn't score a goal during his time on the team at Freedom High School.

"It is very rare that a player has that type of game, and we were very fortunate that Tanner was able



*Pictured clockwise from top left are Thiel Tomcat soccer stand-outs Tanner Mesing, Francis Ahia and Rory Duncan.*

to have a break out game just when we needed it," Hoggarth said.

The move wasn't permanent as Mesing was moved back to play defense the next game. Still, from one 10-minute offensive breakout, he is just one goal shy of cracking the top 10 in the PAC through 16 games.

Mesing is just one of a large group of freshmen that have the Tomcats on the rise. Rory Duncan helped Thiel open the season with a 5-4-1 record with a terrific start to his career. Duncan scored eight goals and tallied three assists in the first eight games of the season and is currently fourth in the conference in goals with nine and third in points with 22.

Duncan is also putting his name in the Thiel record books. He needs one more goal to move into a tie for a second in single-season goals and is already third in career points and fourth in career goals. Fellow freshman Francis Ahia is also having a great debut season. His five assists are a single-season record for the Tomcats.

## Welcome to LAX

Soon, another Thiel athletic program will call Alumni Stadium home as the men's lacrosse team opens its season under the Rissell-Schreyer Dome on Feb. 19, 2011.

Coach Shem Johnston-Bloom and the men's lacrosse team got their first taste of competition in a tournament at Washington & Jefferson College this fall. Their first real competition has the coaches and players eager to get back in action this spring.

"We had our wrap-up meetings from fall practice and the guys are really pumped," Bloom said. "They felt like we felt, that they really belonged out there. They know we have some things to work on, but the competition gave them some confidence as we get ready for the season."

Thiel played three games in an adjusted format to allow each participating team a chance to play as much as possible. Each game consisted of two 20-minute halves with a running clock.

The Tomcats didn't shy away from tough competition with games against top-notch junior college programs in Mercyhurst North East and Hartford Community College and a future Division II program in Walsh.

When the Tomcats put the pads on for spring practice, the Rissell-Schreyer Dome will be ready to hold events. The first three home games on the schedule will be in the dome.

The opening game will be against Penn State Abington with an away game at Albion College a week later. The other two games in the dome will be against Medaille College and Wells College. Fourteen games are on the schedule with eight at home, five on the road and a game against Bard College during a trip to Wesleyan University.

Currently, the Tomcats are not associated with a conference. Three other Presidents' Athletic Conference programs have lacrosse teams—two established teams at W&J and Saint Vincent College and a startup at Bethany College.

The men's team won't be the only lacrosse squad on campus for long. Coach Whitney Turnbull has hit the recruiting trail hard and is set to officially begin the women's lacrosse team during the 2011-12 school year.

Turnbull brings experience in starting a program from scratch after coaching the University of Arkansas women's lacrosse club



team for four years. She played a large role in the creation of the team, which was the state's first.

Lacrosse fans on campus will have the chance to watch teams next season, but for now they will watch as the men's team develops during its first year.

"We have a long way to go but there's definitely a lot of positives. The big thing is we had a chance to go back and look at tape to evaluate our guys and determine what they need to work on," Bloom said. "We're obviously a very young team so we're going to make our fair amount of mistakes, but we're further along than I thought we'd be at this point."

**THIEL COLLEGE ATHLETICS**

**SECOND ANNUAL HAWAII TRIP RAFFLE**

THIEL ATHLETICS IS RAFFLING A CHANCE TO WIN A SEVEN-NIGHT STAY AT A FIVE-DIAMOND RESORT ON WAIKIKI BEACH AND ROUND-TRIP AIRFARE FOR TWO. ARRANGEMENTS BASED ON ADVANCED RESERVATIONS AND AVAILABILITY THROUGH THE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE, INC. TICKETS ARE \$10 EACH AND CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT [WWW.THIELATHLETICS.COM](http://WWW.THIELATHLETICS.COM).

Drawing to be held on Friday, May 27, 2011 at the Blue-Gold Golf Outing

# Scott Stano—Student Sideline Reporter

What do you want to be when you grow up? Most children answer this question with responses such as firefighter, police officer, doctor, singer or actor, but for Thiel senior Scott Stano, this was not the case. Since he was four, the Erie native has aspired to be a sports announcer and claims his role model growing up was the voice of the Chicago Cubs, Harry Caray.

With his mind set on eventually becoming a sports broadcast announcer for ESPN or a large market professional athletic team such as the Chicago Cubs, Buffalo Bills or Buffalo Sabres, Stano has made it a point to get actively involved in the Communication Studies Department throughout his Thiel career. Some may have seen Stano appear on TCTV (the college television station) doing the news and various other shows; others may have heard his radio show where he would play music and discuss everything from sports to global events.

However, this fall, students have seen Stano in a whole



Scott Stano on the sidelines with the Thiel Tomcats

new environment as he became Thiel College's first-ever sideline reporter for the football team.

After Coach Kurt Reiser, Thiel's head football coach, proposed doing an internship for him as a sideline reporter at home football games, Stano accepted the position without any hesitation.

"With the new addition of Scott as the sideline reporter, it adds a nice element to our broadcasts by providing sideline coaches' interviews, injury updates, weather reports, etc.," said Hugh Ringer, who is in his seventh year as the voice of the Tomcats on News Talk 790 WPIC. "I was very impressed with Scott's performance at the home opener on September 4. He was poised, articulate and enthusiastic and has a promising future in the broadcasting field."

Stano enjoys the role sideline reporters play in athletics because it allows him to give his input not only on the basics such as injury reports and the weather, but also his opinions on questionable calls.

"I devise my questions for the coaches based on game situations and what has happened thus far in the plays," said Stano.

Although it was not until a week before high school graduation that Stano made the decision to come to Thiel based on the opportunity to join the track team, he has been quite the asset to the Communication Studies Department at Thiel for the past three years.

"By being a college athlete I feel as though it allows me to have the upper-hand in sports broadcasting because I can relate to what the athletes are going through over someone who does not have much playing experience," said Stano. "My main focus in the past, present and future has always been to give to the audience and make sure that I am not only entertaining them, but also giving them accurate facts and making them happy viewers."

—Danielle Dwyer '11



## Wrestlers Serve the Community

On April 22, the Tomcat wrestling team participated in a community service project at Hempfield Station One where they served breakfast to many community members at the 45th annual Lions' Club Pancake & Sausage Day.

# Alumni Honored at Homecoming 2010

From a public servant who traveled the world to a school teacher who never left her hometown of Greenville, a wide variety of life experiences, successes and years of service were on display at the annual Alumni Award Ceremony at Homecoming this year. But one thing that this year's seven Alumni Award recipients share is the profound impact that a Thiel education had on their lives. Their inspiring stories were presented to a group of students, staff and faculty, alumni and friends on Friday, Sept. 17 in the Lutheran Heritage Room. Thiel is proud to celebrate this special group's achievements and lives of service to their families, community, alma mater and the world. Congratulations all!

## Service to Thiel Award

Service to Thiel Award recipients are nominated for their loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel.

### David '63 and Mary Jo (Enlow) '63 Andrews

From their student days on campus, through their commitment to family, career and community, Dave and Mary Jo Andrews have stayed connected to Thiel and involved in its progress. From enthusiastic attendance at alumni and student events to membership on the Board of Trustees, they have a 40-year history of volunteer service to Thiel.

Dave and Mary Jo met while students and upon graduation went on to marry, develop careers, have a family and become community and regional leaders.

Dave's dedication to his alma mater includes membership on the Alumni Board, service as a past president of the College's Alumni Association and membership on Thiel Board of Trustees—a role he has been committed to since 1983. Currently, Dave serves as the Board treasurer and also is the chair of the Finance and Investment Committee, where leadership has been invaluable.

Mary Jo is an active presence on campus and a frequent supporter of many Thiel activities. She can be seen at sporting events, graduation, building dedications and student presentations as well as

every Homecoming for the last 20 years. She has served as a mentor to presidential and board spouses; an ambassador sharing the College's mission with local, regional and national constituencies; and has been a tremendous resource of information for new members joining the Thiel community.

### Barbara (Taylor) Davis '51

The love Barbara Davis has for Thiel College is legendary. During her time as a student, she was an engaged member of the community participating in Chi Omega sorority, Pan-Hellenic Council, Thiel Players, band, German Club and *The Endymion*.

Her appreciation of music and talent as a flutist led her to begin, as a student, what would become a more than 60-year affiliation with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra, during which she played with Pittsburgh Symphony harpist Gretchen VanHosen and also played under guest conductor Alex Trebek. Davis has accompanied the Thiel Choir and the Thiel Players on the flute during various programs.

Her dedication to her alma mater has taken many forms over her lifetime including service on boards, volunteering at events, being a member of the 1998 Presidential Search Committee and writing letters as a class agent for more than five decades. Davis and her husband, Bob, were involved with the creation of the Friends of Art Gallery during the

renovation of the Howard Miller Student Center.

The Davis family has welcomed international students from Nepal, Japan, China, Korea, Africa and Sri Lanka into their home and offered hospitality and a chance to share information about their own cultures. Davis has worked as an Admissions Office volunteer, sharing the importance of a faith-based, liberal arts education and the relevance that it continues to have with prospective students. One of her fondest memories is participating in the 1999 Thiel Choir tour of the American south.

It is her belief in the "Thiel Family" that has not only continued her connection to Thiel but strengthened that relationship since graduation. During her career, she was a math teacher at Penn High School in Greenville, Pa., and serves as a volunteer for various community activities.

Davis resides in Greenville with her husband. They have three daughters, Cynthia, Pamela and Roberta, and six grandchildren with one more on the way.

## Distinguished Alumni Award

Recipients are nominated for outstanding contributions to their profession.

### Dr. Thomas '59 and Lynn (Soper) '63 West

Tom and Lynn West have a shared passion for excellence in education and commitment to

providing access to educational and research services for students at all levels. Since both were first employed at Thiel College in 1959, their combined professional careers in education span more than 90 years of service.

Tom is the founding president and C.E.O. of National LambdaRail (NLR), serving there until 2009. Today, NLR is comprised of members from more than 100 U.S. research universities focused on implementing and operating a national network infrastructure for the advanced networking needs of the research and education communities. Before joining NLR, Tom spent more than four decades in the research and higher education community, including serving as the assistant vice chancellor for information resources and technology for the California State University system and directing the information and computer services for the Indiana University System. Earlier in his career, he held a number of positions, including mathematics instructor, assistant development director, vice chancellor for administration and college president. Tom has served on a variety of boards and is a noted speaker and publisher.

Lynn is an advocate for quality, excellence and standards in all aspects of a student's educational experience. Since 2005, she has served as the principal of Anaheim Adult Education, part of the Anaheim Union High School District. Her work as an advocate for the adult education program and its students is widely recognized. Lynn has chaired numerous accreditation visitation committees for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. In this volunteer role, Lynn has chaired committees that have accredited schools ranging from public schools, private or church-sponsored schools to the education program in San Quentin



*The 2010 Alumni Award recipients—pictured from left to right are Dave Andrews, Bill Parker, Mary Jo Andrews, Justin Napotnik, Barbara Taylor Davis, Tom West and Lynn West.*

Prison. Over a more than 40-year career in education, she served as a college registrar's assistant, university academic adviser, junior high and senior high school English and journalism teacher as well as an assistant principal at both levels.

While retiring recently, the Wests continue their commitment to education today. Lynn continues as principal with Anaheim Adult Education, on a consultant basis. Tom participates on Thiel's Board of Trustees. They reside in Newport Coast, Calif., and have four children and nine grandchildren.

#### **William "Bill" Parker '75**

William Parker is the vice president for international affairs for 21st Century Systems, Inc. and is an adjunct fellow for national security analysis at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab. He serves as special adviser for international affairs at the Space Foundation. Parker has more than 30 years of management and executive leadership experience in government in more than 50 countries. He retired with the rank of minister-counselor with the U.S. Department of State.

During his Foreign Service career, Parker served in embassies in

Ivory Coast, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, the Philippines and NATO Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and India; served multiple tours in Washington, D.C.; and participated in numerous military and diplomatic operational activities overseas. Parker also was the foreign affairs adviser to General James E. Cartwright, former commander of the U.S. Strategic Command.

He was the first African American to serve as POLAD (foreign policy adviser), a role that has significant national and international responsibilities including coordinating and implementing the general's program for military-to-military engagement initiatives with senior personnel in Russia, China and India. He also played a key role in designing and assisting in the creation of the Joint Information Operations Warfare Command to support the commander and the secretary of defense in addressing the Department of Defense Global Information Operations. Parker also coordinated the commander's international engagements with Russian and Indian space force commanders.

*See page 31 for more.*

**Alumni Holiday Event**

Dec. 9  
6-8 p.m.  
*Squaw Creek Country Club, Ohio*

**Southern California**

Palm Springs: Jan. 7, 2011  
4-6 p.m.  
*Host: Dr. Chuck Inacker '58*

Newport Coast: Jan. 8, 2011  
4-6:30 p.m.  
*Hosts: Tom '59 & Lynn '63 West*

**Arizona**

Jan. 11, 2011  
4-6 p.m.  
*Hosts: Ken '57 & Joyce Bash, Scottsdale, Ariz.*

**Texas**

Houston: Jan. 12, 2011  
5-7 p.m.  
*Daily Grill—Houston Galleria*

Dallas: Jan. 13, 2011  
4-6 p.m.  
*Host: Connie Hutzell '59*

**A Black & White Affair**

Feb. 12, 2011  
9 p.m.-2 a.m.  
Thiel College  
*Alumni are invited to attend this special Thiel community ball on campus!*

**Detroit-Area & Lacrosse Game vs. Albion**

Pontiac, Mich.  
Feb. 26, 2011  
Game: 1-4 p.m./Event: 5-7 p.m.

**Chicago, Illinois**

Feb. 27, 2011  
*Exact location and time TBA*

**South Pittsburgh**

March 24, 2011  
*Exact location and time TBA*

**Harrisburg/Philadelphia/Washington, D.C.**

May 18-20, 2011  
*Exact locations and times TBA*



*Contact the Director of Alumni Services, Lauren Oman, at [loman@thiel.edu](mailto:loman@thiel.edu) or 724-589-2042 with questions or to RSVP for alumni events.*

*Visit [www.thiel.edu/alumni](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni) for more information about events as they are scheduled.*

**Ciao Italia!**

The beauty, culture and tastes of Italy can be yours to enjoy this spring — thanks to EF College Study Tours and Thiel College.

This year's international trip will depart from Pittsburgh on May 17 and last 11 days. The tour itinerary includes visits to Rome, Assisi, Florence, Bologna and Venice plus Milan and the Lake Como Region. Tour highlights include a walking tour of Rome, a visit to the Accademia Museum in Florence and the Doges' Palace in Venice, and a cruise of Lake Como. Your tour companions will be students, faculty and staff, alumni and friends of Thiel College!

Tour fees include all airfare, hotel, guided tour and breakfast and dinner costs. As of October 31, tour fees were \$3,168.

For more info, please contact Barbara Long-Cooper (tour #649853) at 724-589-2052, Susan Cowan (tour #424545) at 724-589-2063 or Dr. Lori Moroco (tour #424374) at 724-589-2041.

To enroll, visit [www.efcollegestudytours.com/enroll](http://www.efcollegestudytours.com/enroll) and enter a tour number from above or call EF Customer Accounts at 800-665-5364.



Continued from page 29

Parker and his wife, Carol, whom he met at Thiel, remain close with many alumni friends and currently reside in Derwood, Md.

### Young Alumni Award

Young alumni awardees are nominated for their potential for future accomplishments in their professions and service to the College.

### Dr. Justin Napotnik '04

Justin Napotnik received his Bachelor of Science degree from Thiel College in 2004 and played football for four years while at Thiel. Napotnik was one of 15 student athletes across the nation to receive an \$18,000 post-graduate scholarship from the National Football Foundation for his excellence on the field of play and in the classroom.

Napotnik's success began in Sharpsville High School. He was valedictorian of his graduating class in 2000 and a four-year letter winner in football, basketball and baseball, earning First Team All State in football in 1999.

After graduating from Thiel, he went on to Palmer College of Chiropractic, founded by the Palmer family, who developed chiropractic studies in the late 1800s. The school was the first of its kind in the world and is the largest chiropractic college today. He graduated with honors in 2008 from its Port Orange, Fla., campus.

Napotnik returned to Mercer County upon graduation because of his "love for the people and the advantages of small town life." Napotnik and his wife, Jinine, a chiropractor herself, celebrated the addition of their daughter, Elizabeth ("Ella"), on June 13, 2009.

His business, Back 2 Heath Chiropractic, is located in the Greenville Orthopedic Center in Greenville, Pa. His office is a wellness-based family practice with special emphasis on sports injuries. Napotnik is the only chiropractor in Greenville offering spinal decompression therapy. He has a particular affinity for his alma mater and donates time during the football season to treat athletes at the school and sees many of them in his office.

Napotnik is a member of the Greenville Rotary Club. You can also find him working out in Thiel's weight room or playing basketball in the gym. He also volunteers time and expertise to local businesses and community groups through his enhancement workshops, which help educate the Greenville community about health and wellness.

## Congratulations, Class of 1986!



The Class of 1986 won the first-ever President's Challenge for the 2009-2010 fiscal year with 15 percent giving participation.

The President's Challenge is a competition among the graduates of the past 25 years to increase their class giving. At the 2010 Homecoming celebration, Dan McMillen '86 accepted the honor on behalf of his class. The class' year will be engraved on the President's Cup, which was presented to McMillen by Director of The Thiel Fund Kelly Bailey and President Troy VanAken. The cup will reside in a place of honor in Roth Hall.

The race is on for this year's President's Challenge winner for classes 1986-2010—donate to The Thiel Fund today to put your class in the lead!

### Calling All Artists & Writers!

Written and artistic expression are major areas of communication and a large part of our daily lives. *The Phoenix*, Thiel's literary magazine, allows creativity and communication to unite. If you are interested in sharing creative works (poems, short stories, photographs or art pieces), please submit them to [sflask@thiel.edu](mailto:sflask@thiel.edu) by Jan. 7 for the spring issue of *The Phoenix*. Please limit written entries to two pages, single spaced.

## TRUSTEE PROFILE OF DEDICATION:

# MARK A. BENNINGHOFF '82

### AS AN ALUMNUS OF THE COLLEGE, WHY IS SERVICE TO YOUR ALMA MATER AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IMPORTANT TO YOU?

It is an opportunity to give back to Thiel and to contribute to its continued success so that current and future students can have the same or better experiences than me. Second only to my family, the education, mentorship of faculty and staff, and social experiences gained during my undergraduate studies at Thiel played such an important role in who I am today.

### WHAT LESSONS DID YOU LEARN OR EXPERIENCES DID YOU HAVE AT THIEL THAT INFLUENCED THE DIRECTION OF YOUR LIFE AND CAREER?

- *From religion faculty member William Good: Do Good! And give back.*
- *From business and accounting faculty members John Logan, David Miller and M.J. Yusko-Howsare: The recipe for great teaching goes beyond classroom lectures. Mentorship and encouragement are important ingredients too!*
- *From my work study job as a dishwasher in the cafeteria: Do a good job no matter what it is. Also, all staff—whether dishwasher or president—contribute to the success of the organization.*
- *From theatre faculty member Bill Robinson: The importance of thinking outside the box.*
- *And from Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity: The importance of virtue, diligence and brotherly love. It was also my first experience in leading a turnaround.*



### WHAT IS YOUR BUSINESS OR LIFE PHILOSOPHY?

Family first; do good; have fun; and give back.

### WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT ALUMNI CONNECT AND BECOME ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LIFE OF THIEL COLLEGE?

It feels good to give back. Regardless of our individual experiences at Thiel, it was likely a major influence on who we are as individuals and professionals. Thiel has come through some major challenges recently, and we need the involvement of as many alumni as possible. Alumni involvement will be critical to the success of our “Imagining Thiel” initiative as we plan Thiel’s future. The good news is that alumni involvement can take many forms:

- *Time*—Volunteer time to become involved on one or more of many committees or initiatives. We now hold many meetings electronically so travel requirements are minimal.
- *Talent*—Provide internships for students or provide advice and counsel in almost any area.
- *Treasure*—Donate to Thiel at any level to make a difference in our ability to execute our plans for the future. Any form of alumni involvement will help us reshape Thiel into the best Lutheran-related liberal arts college!

### IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT MAKES THIEL UNIQUE AMONG LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES?

Thiel is unique because of its amazing faculty-to-student ratio, especially compared to other institutions; the ability for a student to be a “big fish in a small pond”; the great opportunities for students to be involved in many extracurricular activities; and the incredibly talented and dedicated faculty, staff, cabinet, president and Board of Trustees, and most importantly, students!

*Mark Benninghoff is the chief operations officer/chief administrative officer of Valley Physician Enterprise in Winchester, Va. Previously, he worked at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for 24 years, culminating as the executive vice president for the Physician Services Division in 2008. He earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting and business administration from Thiel in 1982 and an M.B.A. from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh in 2009. He is vice chair of Thiel’s Board of Trustees, as well as chair of the Audit Committee. Benninghoff and his partner, David E. Kauffman, M.D., have two children, Carter and Charlotte.*

# Meet the Boards



Officers for the Board of Trustees are, from left, Edward A. Bartko '72, Chair; Mark A. Benninghoff '82, Vice Chair; David R. Andrews '63, Treasurer; Susan R. Snowden, Esq., Secretary

## Board of Trustees

### Officers:

Edward A. Bartko '72, Chair  
Mark A. Benninghoff '82, Vice Chair  
David R. Andrews '63, Treasurer  
Susan R. Snowden, Secretary  
Dr. Troy D. VanAken, Ex-Officio

Dr. Frank Baker\*  
Dr. Robert O. Blomquist H'99\*  
Dr. Robert D. Burns '74  
Lewis (Lou) P. Carbone '71  
Dr. Jonathan P. Caulkins  
Jason Chappell '96  
Connie L. Danko '69  
Ronald Doerr  
George "Chip" Dufala '92  
Pastor Brian Evans '03  
Dr. Alan F. Fager '69  
John R. Frangakis  
Joseph A. George  
Rev. Dr. David P. Gleason  
Fred Haer '65  
Dr. Carl A. Hoffman Jr. '69, H'10  
John Hudson  
Rick Huether '74  
Dr. Charles Inacker '58\*  
Dr. Glen R. Johnson H'88\*  
Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow '85  
Dr. James McHugh '62, H'02\*  
Steven D. Mechling  
Catherine V. Mott  
Dr. Barbara Nakles\*  
Ronald W. Owen '71  
Donald R. Owrey '89  
Dr. James Pedas '50, H'89\*  
William E. Phillips '54  
Dr. Sarah Taylor-Rogers '69  
Joseph D. Scarpitti '80  
Dr. M. Roy Strausbaugh  
John L. Vitale '47, H'90\*  
Miles Wallace  
Dr. Thomas W. West '59

Howard J. Weyers '56\*  
Rod Wilt '86  
Elaine M. Woloshyn '74  
John E. Zawacki '71

*\*Emeriti*

## Board of Associates

Glen Augustine  
John M. Barr '70  
James D. Bittel Jr. '60  
Dale W. Deist  
Robert C. Denove '75  
William G. Hansmann '50  
Troy J. Harper '91  
Thomas W. Hodge '50  
Jean (Bartholomew) Hodge '50  
Dr. David L. Hofius '64  
Dr. Cara Hoehn Lopic '92  
Cris Loutzenhiser  
Sue A. Nicklin  
Lee Ann Nucерino '87  
William V. Parker '75  
Leo M. Phillips '84  
Glenn Riley  
Paul H. Saternow '71  
Joseph D. Simko  
Dr. Peter C. Sotus  
John E. Thigpen '86  
Jeffrey Wallace  
The Hon. Roy W. Wilt '59, H'85  
Elaine M. Woloshyn '74

## Alumni Board

### Officers:

Raymond Hanlon '74, President  
James McRoberts '58, Vice President  
David Hollenbaugh Jr. '66, Past President

Mary (Davis) Baden '83  
Dr. Shawn Brooks '82  
Gil Dolinar '07  
Audra (Schell) Ganiear '93

Al Gesler III '90  
Chuck Goodrick '74  
Amy Hackman '98  
Melanie (Cragg) Horvath '06  
Melissa Janoski '05  
Rae (Weiss) Johnson '59  
Joseph T. Nairn '79  
Pam Achenbach Novak '03  
Dr. Kylee Quarterson '98  
Dawn Salter '95  
Dr. Christopher Shinkman '62  
Ronald Shoemaker '63  
Richard Simpkins '68  
Dr. Julie Smith '84  
Paul Stibich '05  
John A. Wotus '74

## Thiel Family Council

Gwen Martino, Chair  
Philip Beck  
Joseph & Norma Bailey  
Gil & Marge Dolinar  
The Rev. Ralph & Brigid Edwards  
Kathy Henry  
Kathy Kamisky  
Eric & Carla Magnone  
Tim & Donna Sandstrom  
John & Kathy '74 Sourbeer  
Tim Rech  
John & Jane Tell  
Jeanne Travaglianti  
Kimberly Walter  
Ron & Jennifer Woody

# Class Notes

## 1940s

LLOYD H. '49 and JOANNE "JODY" (GREER) KELLER '49 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June. They have three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## 1950s

BARRY R. EVANS '54 was re-elected by the residents of The Villages, Fla., to a third term on the Board of Trustees of Sumter Electric Co-Op. Evans writes that he is "enjoying life in The Villages, which is the greatest retirement spot around."

▼ HELEN MCCULLOUGH HOPKINSON '57 and other Chi Omega alumnae met up with current sorority members at the Thiel Choir alumni reunion concert in May. (Thanks to Bob Hopkinson '59 who took the photo.) Pictured, from left to right, are (front row) SUNNY JEONG '13, ABBY KUSSEROW '13, STEPHANIE HUDSON '12, JULIE NOVOTNY '12, MAGGIE BABINKA '08 and STEPHANIE DOLINAR '12; and (second row) MINNIE HAM '13, GAIL MCCLAIN OWENS '65, HELEN MCCULLOUGH HOPKINSON '57, JUDY MCDONALD MILLER '63, KAREN SPENCE MCCULLOUGH '65 and NANCY GIBSON '75.



## 1960s

DR. TOM REGAN '60, professor emeritus of philosophy at North Carolina State University, retired in 2001, but is still active in the field of animal rights. In 2009, he gave several lectures in Canada and Europe (Sweden, Italy and Greece) and was recognized with two major international awards and a citation. Regan received an award for outstanding contributions to the animal rights movement in Milan, Italy, and an international award for exceptional contributions to ecology in Athens, Greece. He also was named "one of the 50 visionaries who are changing your view

of the world" in the December 2009 issue of the *Utne Reader*.

JAMES V. WEHNER '65 retired from teaching German at Southwest Allen County School in Fort Wayne, Ind., but continues to teach a full schedule at Indiana-Purdue in Fort Wayne and Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. In his spare time, he plays the Highland bagpipe as a band member and soloist and is restoring/maintaining two classic German NSU minicars and two classic German motorcycles (an NSU and BMW). Wehner also enjoys playing with his grandson who he has promised a half-scale set of bagpipes when he's ready. "His mother, also a piper, doesn't object," writes Wehner.

## 1970s

JANE MARTIN '70 is a visiting lecturer of education at Westminster College and is currently pursuing a doctorate of education at Youngstown State University. She holds certifications as a reading specialist, elementary principal and supervisor, and secondary principal. She was previously the director of curriculum, instruction and assessment for the Midwestern Intermediate Unit.

JON MILLS '70 has joined Affiliated Computer Services Inc., a subsidiary of Xerox, in their State Enterprise Solutions unit as the Illinois site operations director.

JANET MACCARTNEY '71 welcomed a new grandson in June. She practices master garden design and has studied master's level horticulture at Virginia Tech.

► RONALD W. OWEN '71 was appointed to the Board of Directors of ESB Bank in Ellwood City, Pa., on June 30. Owen is currently senior relationship executive for First



American Title Insurance Company. He also is a member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees. ESB Bank services customers throughout Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties.

CINDA J. BRUCKER '72 graduated from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pa., in May with a Master's of Divinity. She was ordained as an ELCA pastor in June at Susquehanna University by the Upper Susquehanna Synod. She serves as pastor at Trinity

## Chemistry Reunion



On June 19, 15 former Thiel College chemistry majors reunited with Dr. Richard Bennett, Thiel chemistry professor from 1964 to 1998, on campus to reminisce and share stories of their post-Thiel lives. The impressive group included CHARLES COE, Ph.D. '72 (assistant professor of chemical engineering at Villanova University and owner of 37 patents); DARLA DUNN, D.M.D. '73 (former Air Force dentist now in private practice); ANDREW MANCE, Ph.D. '73 (General Motors researcher currently in the hydrogen fuel cell program); ANN SEELEY JOHNSON, M.B.A. '73 (senior technical engineer for Shaw Industries); KATHIE CUNNINGHAM TRYSON, M.B.A. '73 (regulatory affairs director for Willert Home Products); ARTHUR WETZEL, Ph.D. '73 (principal computer scientist at the Pittsburgh Supercomputing Center); VIRGINIA OLSAVICKY MOSZKOWICZ, M.B.A. '74 (vice president for global continuous improvement at ModusLink); ROBERT BURNS, M.D. '74 (pediatrician with Mansfield Pediatrics); KATHRYN HELD, Ph.D. '75 (associate professor of radiation oncology at Harvard University Medical School and director of the Held Laboratory); PAUL KENNEDY, Ph.D. '75 (vice president for manufacturing at Avid Radiopharmaceuticals); SUSAN VERDECCHIA MATTESON '75 (chemistry teacher at McDowell Senior High School in Erie, Pa.); REBECCA STUMPF, M.D. '76 (family practice doctor in Uniontown, Pa.); and JAMES SECHLER, M.D. '76 (medical director of cardiac rehabilitation at Parma Community Hospital).

# Class Notes

Lutheran Church in Hughesville, Pa., as well as serving at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Hughesville. She also became a grandmother in March.

NORMA KLINE '74 lives in Meadville, Pa., and works at the Erie National Wildlife Refuge as a wildlife biologist. Her interests include conservation activism and converting lawns to wildlife habitats. Kline has lost touch with several Thiel friends, who can obtain her contact information through the Office of Alumni Services.

TRACY FAIR ROBERTSON '74 is chair of the Assembly of State Coordinators of English Language Arts. She is the English coordinator for the Virginia Department of Education. She lives in Midlothian, Va.

KATHY (GAROFALO) SOURBEER '74 started her 16th year of teaching and directing at Trinity Lutheran Preschool in Monroeville, Pa. Her daughter, KATIE, is a senior at Thiel and she and her husband, John, are in their fourth year on the Thiel Family Council. They live in North Huntingdon, Pa.

## 1980s



▲ ROSEANN DELLDONNA '81 enjoyed a weekend getaway in May in Pittsburgh with fellow Thiel alumnae (pictured from left to right, bottom to top) LESLIE (VICK) EVANS '82, DELLDONNA, ANN SWANSON '84, KORY (MAZZEO) STOECKLE '81, AMY (WICKERHAM) MONTGOMERY

'83, STEPHANIE SMITH '81, AMY CADWELL '83, EILEEN (FIELD) KADILAK '82, NETTI (KNOTT) LONGIETTI BONHAM '79, JOY BRESLIN '81 and DEBBIE WOODRING '82. The group came from six different states for the event and is already planning their next gathering. "So darn hard to believe we are all in our 50s now," writes DellDonna. "We all still say that those were the best years of our lives."

ARTHUR FAYNE '85 is president of 4KIDS Leadership Endowment Foundation in Cleveland. 4KIDS is an organization whose mission is to develop customized education and training programs that assist youth, individuals and families in the areas of academics, leadership, health and fitness, and vocational skill development.

CHRIS RIZZO '87 received the John W. Beatty Outstanding Chief Student Affairs Officer Award at the Penn State Student Affairs Development Day at Penn State's University Park campus in June. Rizzo, who is director of student affairs at Penn State Beaver, received one of only two individual staff awards given by Penn State to student affairs staff members working at campuses outside of University Park.

JAMES ZAHNISER '89 runs Red Robot Design & Illustration ([www.redrobotcreative.com](http://www.redrobotcreative.com)), a thriving freelance design, illustration and logo design business in Pittsburgh where he also lives.

## 2000s

▼ HEATHER M. (ACHENBACH) BALAS '01 attended the Chi Omega National Convention in Florida with juniors Melissa Sincek, Thiel's chapter president, and Katie Hassel, chapter treasurer. Balas is a co-adviser to Thiel's Chi Omega chapter, along with STEPHANIE (SMITH) TURNER '98, who also attended the convention. After the convention, Balas, Sincek and Hassel



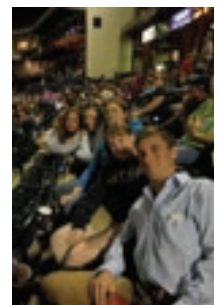
visited the Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Orlando where they posed for a photo with the Hogwarts Express.

STEVEN L. DEDRICK '03 completed his M.B.A. with a finance focus at Duquesne University in August 2009. He is a treasury management analyst with Dollar Bank in Pittsburgh.

NATHAN R. LEARD '04 performed for the inaugural concert of the World Civic Orchestra and Choir at Carnegie Hall in New York City on June 20. Leard is an accountant with TeleTracking Technologies Inc. in Pittsburgh.

ANTHONY ROBERT ROSS '04 graduated in May from Bowling Green State University with a Master's of Art in teaching with a concentration in mathematics. Ross received the Pre-Career Award for excellence in teaching from BGSU. He currently is working as a mathematics instructor at Edinboro University.

► This fall, SHELBY SPENCE '06 and several Metro D.C.-area alumni reunited to watch the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs take on the Somerset Patriots in Waldorf, Md. Pictured from left to right are ALLISON WYNN '09, SHELBY SPENCE '06, PEGGY DEVENY '05, KATIE GARLING WHEELER '06 and BEN WHEELER '06.



MARGERY A. WILSON '08 graduated in May with a master's degree in social work and gerontology certification from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work. She lives in the Pittsburgh area.

ALLISON OBENOUR '08 is finishing her master's degree in social work, with a specialization in geriatric care, at the University of Pittsburgh. She works in a residential treatment facility for traumatized youth in Pittsburgh.

▼ NICHOLAS THOMPSON '10 was a staff member at the 2010 National Scout Jamboree at Fort AP Hill near Bowling Green, Va., from July 26 to August 4. Between 35,000 and 40,000 scouts were in attendance, and Thompson served as a staff



# Class Notes

member for the Collections Merit Badge booth. The event featured presentations by Robert Gates, Miss America, the governor of Virginia, TV host Mike Rowe and many others, as well as a videotaped message from President Barack Obama. "Overall, the Jamboree was very fun, and I had a lot of fun helping other scouts at it," writes Thompson. "I cannot wait to be on staff at the 2013 Jamboree."

## Marriages

▶ AARON SKRBIN '01 to Rachel Franek on May 15 in Reading, Pa. Alumni at the wedding included JEFF LINN '02 (who served as the best man), JOSH HARGEST '00, MATT ATWELL '00 and CARISSA (EMCH) ATWELL '99. The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia.



▼ SHANNON L. STRANG '02 to Sixto Mercado on March 26. CAITLIN (MCKENNA) DEGNAN '04 served as matron of honor. The couple resides in Washington, D.C.



▶ JULIE A. GREER '05 to JUSTIN M. PAGE '05 on May 23 on a beach in Oahu, Hawaii. They currently live in Washington, D.C. where Julie is a secondary English teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.



SEAN MOCKER '05 to Josie Cattron on May 9, 2009, in Sharon, Pa. Mocker is employed by Cattron Group Inc., in Sharpsville, Pa., where the couple also lives.

KAYLA CASHNER '07 to Douglas Shook on May 8 in Clarks Mills, Pa. Alumni in the wedding party included MALLORY BORRELLI '07 and KIM TUROSKI '07. The couple honeymooned in the Pocono Mountains and is living in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

▶ LINDSEY BONA '07 to Jesse Amar on May 22 at George Washington's Mount Vernon in Virginia. The couple lives in Greenville, Pa.



## Births

To AMY ASHLEY-MATTA '97 and her husband, Joseph: a daughter, Claire James, on Nov. 24, 2009. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

To SARA K. COPE '98 and her husband, David: a daughter, MaKenna Grace, on May 27. She joins older brother, John Michael. Cope is a math teacher in Elizabeth Forward School District.

To MATTHEW R. THIRY '98 and his wife, Andrea: a son, Wesley, on February 17. He joins his older brother, William. The family lives in Atlanta, Ga.

To DAVID T. DIGENNARO '00 and his wife, Kathleen: a son, Joshua David, on June 8. The family lives in Philadelphia, Pa., where DiGennaro is a sales representative for Rain for Rent.

▶ To NATALIE SNYDER '02 and her husband, Benjamin: a daughter, Eve Alexandra, on May 7. Snyder is a special education teacher in the Chartiers Valley School District. The family lives in Upper St. Clair, Pa.



To AMBER L. (EISEL) CAROTHERS and her husband, JONATHAN '03: a daughter, Zoe Nicole, on February 6. Jonathan completed his master's degree as a reading specialist from McDaniel's College in May 15. They live in York, Pa., where Amber works for the York County Parks Department.

To AMY R. HOLLOWELL '04 and her husband, Michael: twin sons, Ryan Christopher and Sean David, on May 24. They join older brother, Evan Michael. Hollowell is a consultant for Mary Kay. The family lives in Greenville, Pa.

## In Memoriam

SAMUEL FRANKLIN SHAKELY JR. '35 of Dallas, Texas, on Oct. 18, 2009.

LAURAELEIZABETH "BETTY" WINTERSTEEN, U.S.N., '36 of Lancaster, Pa., on June 11.

MARGARET JANE (MORELAND) HUBBARD '38 of Jamestown, Pa., on Dec. 30, 2009, at age 94.

MARY (STEINMETZ) ERIE '40 of Los Angeles, Calif., on Dec. 18, 2009 at age 92.

LENNE (GREINER) LOGAN '41 on Oct. 1.

MARTHA LOCH KOWALYSHYN '42 on March 11.

EARL E. MYERS '42 in October 2008.

KATHERINE STREMEL NURNBERGER '43 on February 3.

JAMES I. LINN '46 of Marina Del Ray, Calif., on June 5 at age 87.

PAUL KECK ULRICH '48 of Winchester, Ore., on February 3.

JOHN H. PUDLINER '49 of Macon, Ga., on June 22.

LEWIS W. LEARY '50 of Jefferson, Ohio, on August 10 at age 85. He is survived by four sons, including BRAD J. LEARY '78.

PAUL LONG '50 of Pittsburgh on March 19.

WILHELM J. BORCICKY '51 of Mobile, Ala., on May 24.

FRANK P. GREISINGER '51 of Catonsville, Md., on April 14, 2009.

CHIQUITA (FLESHER) LAWRENCE '51 of Irving, Texas, on July 19.

MICHAEL A. ROGERSON '53 of Marion, Ohio, on April 16.

MARY ALICE GERHART '54 of Butler, Pa., on July 27 at age 80.

MARGARET "PEG" (POOLE) HUSHER '55 of Los Altos, Calif., on June 28 at age 74.

RICHARD "DICK" PETERS '58 of Greenville, Pa., on May 25 at age 74.

JERRY A. ROGERS '60 of Powder Spring, Ga., on August 26 at age 71. He is survived by his wife, DIANE (GILLESPIE) ROGERS '59

MARGARET J. MCCULLOUGH '61 of Fort Worth, Texas, on April 4.

KENNETH S. MURPHY '63 of Jamestown, Pa., on April 29 at age 74.

# Class Notes

JAMES K. BOLTZ '70 of Durham, N.C., on Dec. 25, 2009, at age 61.

REV. NORMAN R. GAUCH '70 of Kiantone, N.Y., on July 9 at age 61.

JOHN WASCAK '71 of Mentor, Ohio, on May 7 at age 60.

WALTER JOSEPH ZOTTER '73 of Pittsburgh on May 28 at age 59.

MICHAEL C. BROWN '79 of Mount Lebanon, Pa., on July 12, 2009, at age 53.

GAYLE D. ERDICE '87 of Jamestown, Pa., on June 11 at age 56.

NANCY R. GOOD '91 of West Salem Township, Pa., on July 15 at age 78.

THERESA MARIE GALLUZZO '02 of Masontown, Pa., on May 28 at age 30.

## Friends

JENNY A. KASHNER, former employee with the Thiel bindery, of Greenville, Pa., on June 12.

MARY KEREKES, a Thiel College house-keeper for 24 years, of Otter Creek Township, Pa., on May 25 at age 81.

## 50th Anniversary Class



On Friday, Sept. 17, the Class of 1960 gathered together for a reunion dinner in the Sawhill-Georgian Room as part of the Homecoming 2010 celebration. Fifty years faded away as the group reminisced about old times and caught up on what's been happening in their lives. Congratulations to all the members of the class on becoming part of Thiel College's Honor Circle!

Pictured are (front row) Diana (Johnston) Devine, Paul Clare and Ed Redman; (second row) Harry Reiner, Nancy Ristvey, Doris Ursitti, Bob Olson, Ralph Wagner and C. Donald Seagren; (third row) Glenn Roof, Tom Regan, Nancy (Tirk) Reagan, Wayne Scott and William McCloskey; and (top row) Lee Montgomery, Sarah (Frankenfield) Hauth, Sandy Yeager, James Casker and Karen (Glatzert) Rainey.

## Class Notes and Photo Policy

■ Please send us your news after it has happened. Future events (such as expected births or engagements) are not listed.

■ News that appears in this issue arrived at the Alumni Office on or by Oct. 1, 2010. If your news was submitted after that date, it will appear in the next issue.

News for Class Notes, Marriages and Births must be reported either by or with the explicit approval of the subject(s). All notes are subject to editing for content, space and style. Photos become the property of the Alumni Office and may not be returned.

■ Photo Guidelines—Prints should be at least 2x3 inches for headshots and 4x6 for photos featuring several people. Both color and black & white are acceptable. Photos can be mailed care of Alumni Services, Thiel College.

To submit a digital photo, e-mail it to [alumni@thiel.edu](mailto:alumni@thiel.edu). Digital photos should be 300 dpi resolution in as large a format as possible. Photos that are small and low resolution may not be usable. Digital photos should be saved as a JPEG or TIFF. *Please include a brief description of the photo and the names and class years of alumni who appear.*

# 2010 Homecoming Reunion Class Photos



1950

Pictured alphabetically: Jack Brown, Robert Dunmire, Tom Guinn, Jean Hodge, Tom Hodge, Harry Irons and Bill Satterfield



1970

Pictured alphabetically: Carol Sue Carlson-Jones, Rosa (Kellner) Davis, Jo (Spiker) Devlin, Marnie Gill-Joseph, Jeff Ives, Dave King, Frank Kozen, Karl Mount, Janet (Kepple) Opalinski, Jane Ross-Stempel, Chris (Olson) Snyder and Cari Thieme-Busch



1980

Pictured from left: Amy (Peet) Shetrom and Kate Albright

Pictured (on right) alphabetically: Cindy (Hood) Allhouse, Scott Armstrong, Dee (Stitt) Callihan, Rick Callihan, Debbie (Daugherty) Carr, Kelly (Douglass) Cumbie, Jeff Doerr, Dave Verno and Liz (Bruno) Wood



1965

Pictured from left: Gail (McClain) Owens, Michael Boehm '66 and Signe (Olson) Mitchell



1975

Pictured alphabetically: Gary Cook, Carol Detar-Jones, Paul Eberhardt, Linda Ebling, Nancy Gibson, Jack Martin, Linda Oman, Susan (Verdecchia) Matteson, Bill Parker, Carol Parker, Deb Reeher-Zraggen, George Schuler, Sharon (Guca) Skolaski, Barbara Swab '76, Steve White, Tom Wickerham, Amy (Duff) Zeffiro and Tim Zeffiro



1985

Pictured from left: Bill Walworth, Monty McAdoo and Jeff Seiple



1990

# GOT NEWS? WE WANT TO HEAR IT!

**Help keep us and other alumni up to date on what's going on in your life.**

**Please fill out this form and mail to:**

**ALUMNI OFFICE, THIEL COLLEGE, 75 COLLEGE AVE.,  
GREENVILLE, PA 16125.**

**Fax: 724-589-2860 / E-mail: alumni@thiel.edu.**

**Please also consider a first-time or increased gift to The Thiel Fund this year.**

**To give online, visit [www.thiel.edu](http://www.thiel.edu). Thank you!**

- I wish to serve on an alumni committee.
- I wish to serve as a class agent.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse a graduate of Thiel College?  Yes  No Year \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for writing (please check all that apply & specify on lines below):

- New address/e-mail
- Marriage
- New job
- Birth
- Recent honor or achievement
- Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal address and dates (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names \_\_\_\_\_

Birth dates \_\_\_\_\_

Your occupation (title) \_\_\_\_\_

Employer (full name) \_\_\_\_\_

Business address (city, state) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's occupation (title) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's employer (full name) \_\_\_\_\_

Business address (city, state) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** News that appears in this issue arrived at the Alumni Office by Oct. 1, 2010. If your news was submitted after that date, it will appear in the next issue. News for Class Notes, Marriages and Births must be reported either by or with the explicit approval of the subject(s) and are subject to editing for space, style or content. Photos become the property of the Alumni Office and may not be returned.

# Nihao!

I'll never forget that day in October of my senior year at Thiel when I got my nomination to serve in the Peace Corps. I was in the 24-hour lab in the Howard Miller Student Center. I hadn't expected to hear back so soon after my interview in Pittsburgh. I remember sitting there and seeing the e-mail in my inbox. I clicked it and saw that I had been nominated to serve in the Peace Corps somewhere in Asia. My first reaction was to burst into tears. I then called my mother. I remember there being a lot of other people in the lab who looked scared because I was screaming on the phone and crying all at the same time. I finally pulled myself together enough to say "I'm going to Asia!"

Since that day, my life has been a whirlwind ride. Between the medical appointments and the paperwork, my senior year was busy and stressful, but also the most fun I'd ever had. I couldn't have done it by myself. I had great support from my group of friends, teachers, my bosses at the Office of Admissions and Anita Lillie in the Thiel Post Office. She always understood how important all of my mail that was going to Washington was to me.

I finally received my invitation to serve right before finals week of the second semester of senior year. It said that I would be serving in China and that I would leave July 1 for Chengdu, where I lived for two months. Those two months were some of the hardest months of my life. All of the sudden the fact that I was an actual adult, a college graduate, hit me like a ton of bricks. Most of the other volunteers had been out of school for a year or two and had already had "grown-up" experiences. I felt like I was two years old and on top of that I was in China.

Luckily, I had a great host family that helped keep me busy during training. I met a lot of great people and I



Zoller poses with a Buddhist monk she met while visiting the Buddhist temples at Mati Si.

am confident in saying that the Chinese are some of the nicest people that I have ever met. Even when I made awful language mistakes, my host family never made me feel stupid. One such encounter happened my first

week in China. I had asked my language teacher how to say "stepmother" in Chinese. I thought she said "jiniu." So for the next couple of weeks whenever I showed pictures of my family, I would point out my jinu. Well, it turns out that jinu means prostitute in Chinese and jimou is stepmother. Once I figured out my mistake, it explained why people always looked at me in shock when I said it. My host parents just laughed and told me not to worry about it.

Other than learning language in Chengdu, I also studied culture and teaching and even had a two-week model school with Chinese students. The two months went by quickly and I learned a lot of useful tools to help me with my Peace Corps service. I'm now living in Zhangye, China, which is in the north of the country, teaching at Hexi University. I absolutely love it here. The people are all so friendly and my students are fantastic. They love to learn and they try so hard to improve their English. I still miss my friends and family in America, but I'm happy with where I am right now and I am really looking forward to spending the next two years in China.

*Emily Zoller '10 graduated magna cum laude in May with a degree in English literature. She is originally from Rochester, New York and is currently serving as a Peace Corps/US-China friendship volunteer at Hexi University in Zhangye, Gansu, China.*

# Why I Wear My “Thiel Society of 1866” Lapel Button All Year

*By Dick Dowhower '58, H'87*



My favorite blue sport coat bears the lapel pin of Thiel College's organization of those who have included the College in their estate plans. I am very proud to do so because not too many years ago I was told, "But you don't have an estate." Today, Thiel affirms that I do.

In the late 1970s, when I was named senior pastor in a Lutheran congregation that gave a lot of money to church-wide missions, I was invited to become a member of the

Board of the Lutheran Church in America's Foundation. As a board member, I was challenged to make a personal commitment in the form of planned giving from my estate. After describing our modest financial status (as compared to well-heeled fellow board members), I was told that I really did not have what most people considered an "estate," just a few life insurance policies, a little in savings, no educational loan debts and a small equity in our house.

My father sold life insurance for a prestigious company out of Milwaukee, Wis., so my wife, Kay H'87, and I took out charitable life insurance policies on ourselves with the national church as owner and beneficiary. The church would receive far more than we could afford in a direct bequest and we could afford the premiums. At that point, Thiel had been in our wills for a four-figure amount.

In the 1980s and 1990s with two incomes, our net worth began to grow. A special Thiel fundraising campaign asked for our support. Pleased with the LCA planned gifts, we turned to life insurance again. That way we could hope to gift the College with more than 30 times the amount of our original will, and pay it off over 20 years.

Over the years, we enjoyed giving annually to the annual fund, scholarships and the sports program as well as special projects like the Passavant Center, the William A. Robinson Theater, and Alumni Stadium and the Ballfields.

In this era of million dollar bequests, our charitable life insurance gifts may not seem like much, but to two grateful recipients of Thiel degrees who worked at careers in the Church, it means that we do, indeed, have an estate that qualifies us for membership in the Society of 1866 with others who similarly demonstrate what the College has meant to so many of us. That's why I wear the Society of 1866 pin everywhere, hopefully waiting for people to ask what it means so I can tell them.

## SOCIETY OF 1866 CONFIDENTIAL PARTICIPATION FORM

Please confirm your estate gift intentions with us so you can be assured your wishes will be fully honored; enclose this form and, if possible, a copy of the section of your will or other document that mentions Thiel College.

- I/We have included Thiel College in my/our will.
- I have planned another type of deferred gift. (Life Insurance, Gift-Annuity, Charitable Trust, etc.)

If you have checked one of the boxes above, you may wish to note one or more of the following:

Thiel College is included in my/our estate plan for:

Percentage: \_\_\_\_\_%; Estimated value: \$\_\_\_\_\_ ; Fixed amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

If you intend to designate your bequest for a specific purpose, please indicate the designation as follows:

- Please list my/our name(s) in the annual Honor Roll of Generosity.
- Please do not list my/our name(s) in the annual Honor Roll of Generosity.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (1): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (2): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please detach and return to:**

**Society of 1866, Thiel College, 75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125-2181**

# THIEL

---

## COLLEGE

75 College Avenue  
Greenville, PA 16125-2181

### *From the Archives*



The 1970 Phi Walk-a-thon participants get fired up before hitting the road to Pittsburgh. Over the years, the walk has raised more than \$1 million for the Free Care Fund at Children's Hospital. This year's walk is scheduled for the weekend of Dec. 4.