

The Bell

A professional portrait of William Dietrich II, an older man with short, graying hair, wearing round, reddish-brown glasses. He is dressed in a dark pinstriped suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a dark tie with red and white diagonal stripes. He is looking slightly to the left of the camera with a gentle smile. The background is a neutral, textured brown.

Winter Weekend 2012
Homecoming 2011
The New Hodge Hall
...and much more

History *in the* Making

*William Dietrich II leaves his
mark on the future of Thiel
College with \$25 million gift*

A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

In the history of any organization, there come times or events that will fundamentally change that institution. We at Thiel College have reached another such watershed moment in our history with the announcement of a \$25 million gift from long-time friend of the College, William S. Dietrich II.

Each time I met with Bill over the last several years, I always left impressed with his passion, focus and ability to understand investments in an increasingly global economy. Bill was an incredibly savvy businessman and this gift, which Bill carefully designed to continue to grow over the coming years, will usher in a new phase in our history and serve as the foundation for further growth and investment in a successful future for Thiel College. The faith and trust Bill has put in us at Thiel is humbling and will allow us to enhance our ability to serve our mission of academic excellence, ethical leadership, diversity and service to the world.

Bill passed away after a courageous battle against cancer on Oct. 6. He left behind him a legacy of hard work, dedication and commitment to the betterment of the region he loved so dearly. He will be missed, and we will be eternally grateful for the investment he made in Thiel College and our students.

As you can see, we have another exciting year unfolding at Thiel College. The Advancement Office exceeded the \$1 million goal for The Thiel Fund during 2010-2011, an all-time high. The Admissions Office has recruited one of the largest groups of first-year students in recent history. We have been hard at work on the new strategic plan for the College, which will help guide the future of the College (see page 11 for an update on the process). With the announcement of the gift from Bill Dietrich, the 2011-2012 year has gotten off to an incredible start here at Thiel.

I encourage all of our alumni and friends to join us in what is already a banner year at Thiel. Please plan to attend an event on campus, especially the Rissell-Schreyer Dome opening on Dec. 9 (see page 15) or the Winter Weekend celebration in Feb. 10 and 11 (see page 8). That new event will be the “don’t-miss” event of the year here at Thiel! Besides being a weekend full of winter-time fun, we will announce the plans for Bill’s gift and celebrate as a community what it will mean for the future of Thiel College.

We’re already hard at work on our fundraising priorities for the current year—the second \$1 million year for The Thiel Fund, the Dr. James Pedas Communication Center and enhancements to Alumni Stadium. If you’d like to learn more about any of these vital projects, please contact me at thepresident@thiel.edu.

The excitement and optimism about Thiel College’s future is growing. It’s a great time to be part of the Tomcat family!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy D. VanAken". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'T'.

Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.
President

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Fall 2011

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ON THE COVER:

Businessman, scholar and philanthropist
 William S. Dietrich II

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Contents



page 20

Campus News	2
History in the Making	2
Around the World with Vira Heinz	6
Winter Weekend 2012	8
Strategic Plan Update	11
Hodge Hall Renovated	14
Dome Opening Celebration	15
Loving Every Experience	16
Homecoming 2011	20
The Far Reach of Family	22
Athletic News	24
Alumni News	28
Board Profiles of Distinction	32
Meet the Boards	34
Class Notes	35
Marriages	36
Births	37
In Memoriam	37
Final Word	40

History in the Making

William S. Dietrich II leaves his mark on Thiel College with \$25 million gift

Despite his business success and generous spirit, William S. Dietrich II was not a household name in northwestern Pennsylvania. However, in recent months, his generosity has put him and the institutions he valued in the spotlight. Those institutions include Thiel College, the place where his parents met and fell in love in the 1920s. Upon his passing on Oct. 6, the College became the latest recipient of his generosity with a gift valued at \$25 million, the largest in Thiel College's 145-year history.

"A gift of this magnitude has the potential to fundamentally change Thiel College," said Dr. Troy VanAken, Thiel College president. "Bill's generosity to Thiel, as well as the community we call home, is overwhelming. Each time we met over the last several years, I left impressed with Bill's passion, focus and ability to understand investments in an increasingly global economy. The faith and trust he has put in Thiel College with this investment is humbling and will enhance our ability to serve our mission of academic excellence, ethical leadership, diversity and service to the world. With this gift, we begin a new phase in the history of Thiel College."

Bill's precarious financial situation growing up with his parents in Pittsburgh and Conneaut Lake, Pa., left an indelible mark on him. He knew he wanted to be successful and never spend another moment's worry about money.

After graduating from Princeton University in 1960, Bill served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves before joining Dietrich Industries, Inc., the company founded by his father, and transforming it from a small steel warehouse and distribution business to the nation's largest manufacturer of light metal framing for the construction industry. He earned master's and doctoral degrees in political science from the University of Pittsburgh while running the company. In 1996, Worthington Industries bought the company and asked Bill to remain as director, which he did until his retirement when he turned his full attention to managing the Dietrich Charitable Trusts.

Bill's connection to Thiel began in the 1920s when his parents, Kenneth Dietrich and Marianna Brown, met as Thiel students. Ken was a business major and Marianna studied English as a humanities major. Bill cited his mother for instilling in him the desire to explore the world and diverse new ideas and apply the knowledge gained to scholarship, entrepreneurship, collaboration and community. His father, whom he described as "a good man,"



Bill Dietrich with Dr. Troy VanAken on Sept. 7 at the announcement of his gift to Carnegie Mellon University.

taught his son the business that he would later make more successful than Ken could have dreamed.

Shortly after graduation, Ken '31 and Marianna '32 married in 1933, began a life together in Pittsburgh and had two children, William and Linda. The Dietrichs returned to northwestern Pennsylvania in 1947 to run a small hotel in Conneaut Lake, Pa. Soon after, Ken started a small lumber business near Blairsville, Pa., which would grow to become Dietrich Industries Inc. and would later flourish under his son's direction. Ken and Marianna retired to Florida by the late 1960s while Bill expanded Dietrich Industries to 19 plants throughout the country and weathered the 1970s recession by developing steel wall studs for the construction industry, something which by 1980 would account for \$15 million of the company's \$100 million annual sales. By 1996, the company would record \$350 million in annual sales.

Ken stayed connected to Thiel, serving on the College's Board of Trustees from 1978 to 1984. Bill was honored by Thiel College in 1996 for his leadership of Dietrich Industries with the Haller Enterprise Institute's Entrepreneur of the Year award, which is given annually by the college to a business owner who has demonstrated entrepreneurial leadership.

Unlike many would, Bill didn't spend the remainder of his days flying around the globe on a private jet from vacation spot to vacation spot. Instead, he poured his incredible skill, determination and work effort into shepherding his funds and helping them grow so that when he passed away, he would make the region that he invested his life in stronger.

“Bill spoke often and with great pride about how important this gift would be to Thiel College, an institution that meant so much to his family,” said Edward J. Grefenstette, the chief investment officer of the Dietrich Charitable Trusts. “He was highly confident that the combination of these resources and President VanAken’s leadership would mean that Thiel’s greatest days were in front of it.”

The gift will not be available as a lump sum to the College. Rather the structure of the gift is designed to allow it to grow through compounding returns for many, many years. Disbursements from the fund will be made each year to the College’s endowment, where it will continue to grow. The College will be able to draw five percent annually from the endowment contributions.

The source of the fund that will benefit Thiel is the Dietrich Charitable Trusts, which are charitable remainder trusts created by Bill that own assets primarily generated by the 1996 sale of Dietrich Industries, which were grown significantly through a global investment portfolio. Upon his passing, the trusts will fund a new charitable organization, The Dietrich Foundation, which will administer the funds benefiting Thiel.

The Dietrich Foundation will manage funds left by Bill to Carnegie Mellon University (\$265 million),



Ken '31 (top) and Marianna (Brown) '32
Dietrich

The University of Pittsburgh (\$125 million), Thiel (\$25 million), The Pittsburgh Foundation (\$18.1 million, including \$5 and \$2.5 million for the boroughs of Greenville and Conneaut Lake respectively), Duquesne University (\$12.5 million), Chatham University (\$5 million), and the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust (\$5 million).

Along with his business success, Bill was also a lifelong scholar of history and political science who never stopped learning. He was the author of “In the Shadow of the Rising Sun: The Political Roots of an American Economic Decline” and “Eminent Pittsburghers: Profiles of the City’s Founding Industrialists,” a collection of his essays which was released this year, and was working on a third book about China at the time of his death. He also was a regular contributor to *Pittsburgh Quarterly* magazine.

Bill was well known for his commitment to the betterment of the Pittsburgh region. He served on the boards of the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, the Carnegie Museum of Art, the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Chatham University, the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre, the Pittsburgh Symphony Society, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Growth Alliance, the UPMC Health System and the Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts of America.



A New Year Begins



Thiel began its 146th academic year on Aug. 26 when members of the class of 2015 arrived on campus for move-in day and orientation activities. Students and their parents began arriving early and soon were busy unloading and moving into new dorm rooms. New students were greeted at their dormitories by members of the President's Cabinet and the Thiel football team, residence and student life staffs, and many others helped get students settled in.

"Opening Convocation is one of the highlights of the academic year at Thiel College," said Dr. Troy VanAken, president. "Seeing the excitement of our first-year students as they begin this new phase of their lives gets the semester off to a great start."

More than 440 new students were welcomed at the opening convocation ceremony following move-in activities. VanAken hosted and joined faculty and staff in welcoming new students as well as their parents and other friends of the college. Dr. Lynn Franken, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college; Mike McKinney '02, dean of students; and Evan Ditty '12 of Titusville, Pa., president of the Student Government Association, also addressed the students. During the opening convocation, students recited a new pledge, vowing to give their best efforts as a student and as a citizen of the community and hold themselves to the highest standards of shared inquiry and academic integrity.

A welcome picnic for new students and their families followed the ceremony on the Howard Miller Student Center terrace and lawn.



Thiel Welcomes New Professor of Environmental Science and Chemistry

Thiel College welcomed one new full-time faculty member for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Dr. Anna M. Reinsel '06 has joined the Thiel College faculty as an assistant professor of environmental science and chemistry. Reinsel received her doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of Akron in May 2011 and her bachelor's degree in chemistry (with an environmental chemistry option and American Chemical Society certification) in May 2006. A native of Ravenna, Ohio, this position is Reinsel's first faculty appointment.

New adjunct faculty for the 2011-2012 include Christina Gant, music; Sherry Nold, music; Suzanne Penner, English; Laura Pickens, psychology; Brian Quinn, music; Pamela Slatcoff, education; Noel Stanger, English; Joseph Tompkins, communication; and Gasperina Woge, Spanish.



Ashley Named Chief Information Officer

This summer, Thiel welcomed Kurt Ashley as chief information officer. As CIO, Ashley is responsible for the effective and strategic deployment of all information and educational technology, including academic and administrative computing, network planning, telecommunications and maintenance.

Ashley has substantial information technology experience, with a special emphasis on networking and systems management. He previously served as director of systems and networking at Albion College where he planned and supervised all major projects, upgrades and daily activity of the department.

"The seamless and cost-effective deployment of information technology is absolutely critical in

higher education," said President Troy VanAken. "Kurt's diverse experience in information technology and management will be an invaluable asset to Thiel and its students, faculty and staff."

Ashley holds a bachelor's of business administration in management of information technology from Cleary University.

He and his wife, Denise, live in Clark, Pa.



Campus Pastor Called

Thiel welcomed new campus pastor the Rev. H. William Bixby in August.

As campus pastor, Bixby oversees campus worship and campus ministry groups, provides pastoral care to those within the college community and facilitates their spiritual formation, supports the College's efforts to attract and enroll Lutheran students, nurtures relationships with congregations in the Greenville and surrounding areas, and serves as a spokesperson for the Lutheran identity of the College. Bixby also has teaching duties, including support for the College's Theology & Youth Ministry major.

Previously, Bixby served as director for youth and young adult ministries with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) churchwide staff, where he played a major role in youth leader development. He also served as a grant project director and theological educator at two ELCA seminaries where he led intensive theological and vocational

exploration efforts with teens. Bixby has served as pastor in three ELCA congregations, all located in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod where he was ordained in 1986.

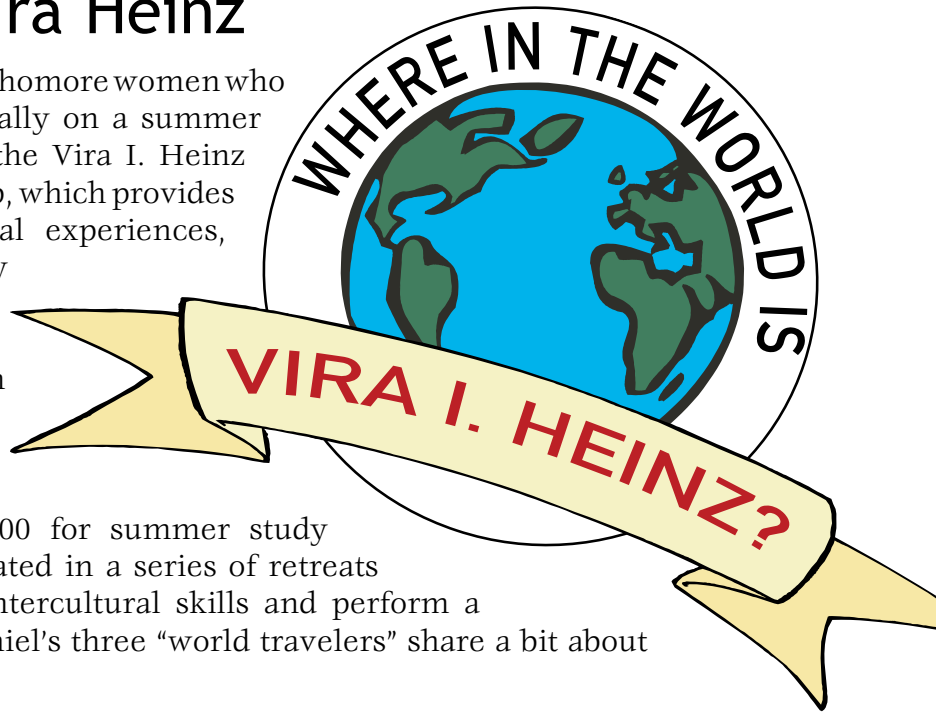
"Bill Bixby's strengths in theologies and practices for youth ministry and his creative worship design and leadership are a perfect fit for Thiel College," says Mike McKinney, dean of students.

Bixby holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Colgate University and a master's of divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pa. He is married and has three adult daughters.



On the Road with Vira Heinz

Each year, Thiel College sends three sophomore women who have never before traveled internationally on a summer study-away trip with funding through the Vira I. Heinz Program for Women in Global Leadership, which provides a unique opportunity for international experiences, leadership development and community service. Those students who applied were selected through a competitive process that included an interview with the selection committee. The three chosen sophomores, Emily Whipple, Kayla Ohlin and Audrey Rattay, were awarded scholarships of at least \$5,000 for summer study abroad. In addition, they have participated in a series of retreats designed to cultivate leadership and intercultural skills and perform a community engagement experience. Thiel's three "world travelers" share a bit about their experiences.



A Whole New World

From June 25 through August 7, I resided in Meknes, Morocco, while attending classes. During the week, I gained knowledge in Middle East history and issues and in addition, learned how to read, write and speak the Arabic language while in the classroom at Moulay Ismail University in Meknes. On a daily basis, I had the opportunity to interact with locals while drinking mint tea at the corner café and having in depth conversations about Moroccan traditions and how they differ from American traditions. I was able to experience Moroccan folklore stretching from music festivals to crafts to yearly rituals, such as the running of the women, a race in Meknes where participants compete while wearing their customary dresses.

During my free time, I worked toward my personal goal of meeting a Moroccan wedding planner. Fortunately, I became friends with Driss, a well-known Meknes wedding planner who invited me into his home and taught me the customs and traditions of Moroccan weddings. Not only did Driss open my eyes to customs through pictures, video and text, but he invited me to attend a wedding that took place from 8 p.m. until 7 a.m. I never would have guessed that I would be eating a true Moroccan meal with my hands at two in the morning at the bride's parents' table! On the weekends, I traveled to various cities, which enabled me to experience desert, mountain and coastal living. I was also able to spend one weekend in Merzouga, a desert town located in the Sahara Desert and 20 minutes



away from the Algeria border. I took advantage of this opportunity to ride camels, sleep in the sand dunes and dine with Berber families in the desert oasis by the large sand dune of the Erg Chebi. My experience in Morocco has changed my life forever and I encourage others to broaden their horizons and learn about the world by immersing themselves in the culture, hands on.

—Audrey Rattay

Unexpected Experiences

After years of hearing about the Vira I. Heinz Program, hours spent applying and preparing for an interview, and months of making travel arrangements, I finally had my own opportunity to study abroad this summer in Barcelona, Spain. The International Studies Abroad (ISA) program lasted for one month, from the end of May to the end of June, and during that month I had the experience of a lifetime. The total immersion in a culture and language very different from my own taught me lessons in patience, independence and the importance of stepping outside of my comfort zone that I will never forget. On one memorable occasion, my roommate invited me to take a train with her about two hours out of the city to the monastery on Montserrat. Anticipating a tour of famous buildings and religious artwork, I agreed. The train took us to a funicular that would carry us up to the monastery. As we watched the landscape below us growing smaller and smaller, my roommate mentioned how excited she was to hike the trails on this famous mountain. I stared back at her. "What do you mean, trails?" This was not a museum tour, it was a hiking trip. The trails she was telling me about were long, difficult and included a fair amount of climbing. I was dressed in a blouse, shorts and flip-flops.



Not wanting to ruin the trip, I resigned to tough it out in my less-than-acceptable hiking gear. Two hours later, with sore and extremely muddy feet, I stood at an altitude of 1200 meters, the highest peak of Montserrat reachable by trail, breathless and watching a rainstorm roll by beneath us. I was exhausted, thirsty, in pain and more exhilarated than I had ever been. This unexpected hike up a mountain in my sandals represents my entire trip to Spain. Despite the best of intentions, I was unprepared, unsure of what to expect and exhausted by the end of it all, but the experience, and the difficult journey to get there, was life-changing.

—Emily Whipple

Spanish Summer

I spent five weeks this summer in San Sebastian, Spain. As part of an International Business Program, I attended classes at the University of Deusto, studying the economics of the European Union and the "Society, Politics and Society of Spain." In classes taught by native professors, I was exposed to the global economic crisis and worked with others to contemplate solutions.

I was exposed to a new culture—living in a city for the first time in my life, in a country with a different language and way of life. Enticed by new foods and flavors, I loved the cuisine. My experiences ranged from my first opera to meeting with the city's director of volunteer services. While San Sebastian is a prosperous city, it is not without its needy. I also spent countless hours learning about the Basque Country in Spain. Did you know the sport of rowing stems from the whaling days in the North Atlantic? This, and so much more was exposed to me.

While I saw many tourist attractions such as Madrid, Pamplona and Bilbao, I also went to lesser known gems such as the World Peace Museum in Guernica: the site of an atrocious bombing in World War II. I was also able to meet up with my friend and fellow Thiel College student, Emily Whipple. I



met her in Barcelona where we spent the weekend touring the city. I even had my first interaction with a wild boar in a national park just outside Barcelona.

Whether on the public bus on the way to school or on a hike in mountains, I interacted with the people of San Sebastian. This exchange of ideas, both simplistic and complex, was my favorite part of the trip. Overall, Spain provided me with an educational experience far beyond what the classroom could ever offer, and I am eager to share my knowledge with everyone I meet. It has deepened my desire to travel abroad. Hopefully, Korea is next!

—Kayla Ohlin

Winter Weekend 2012

Homecoming Weekend is often the highlight of the year at Thiel College. We had to ask ourselves, "Why should fall semester have all the fun?"

This year, spring semester gets its due when the first-ever Winter Weekend celebration will couple the hugely successful Black & White Ball gala with new winter-related activities that students, alumni and community members may all enjoy. Mark your calendar for Feb. 10-12, 2012, and plan to be on campus for this exciting new event.

Along with all the events listed below on the weekend schedule, Tomcat fans won't want to miss Thiel's men's and women's basketball teams taking on Presidents' Athletic Conference rival the Bethany College Bison in a 2011 PAC championship re-match, dubbed the "Buffalo Hunt"!

The first year of this celebration is especially momentous due to a special college announcement that President Troy VanAken will deliver on Saturday evening. He will announce the College's plans for the \$25-million gift from William Dietrich II (see page 2 for more details).

We invite our alumni and friends to stay for as many or few of the festivities as you are able. All activities, with the exception of the alumni dinner, are free of cost and require no reservations. A complete schedule is listed below. (A list of lodging options in the Greenville area can be found at www.thiel.edu/about_thiel/visitor/lodging.)

Be part of a new Thiel tradition—join us for Winter Weekend this February!

Friday, Feb. 10

6-10 p.m. Winter Festivities, Front Campus Lawn
Including ice skating rink, hot tubs, snow tubing and refreshments in a heated tent!

Saturday, Feb. 11

11:30 a.m. Alumni lunch, Galleria
1 p.m. Women's basketball game vs. Bethany College
3 p.m. Men's basketball game vs. Bethany College
5:30 p.m. Cocktail reception, Bistro
6 p.m. Dietrich gift announcement, Lutheran Heritage Room
7 p.m. Alumni dinner, various locations, HMSC (\$18 per person)
8:30 p.m. Black & White Affair, Lutheran Heritage Room and Bistro
(Cash bar available)

Sunday, Feb. 12

9 a.m. Worship service, David Johnson Memorial Chapel
10 a.m. Post-worship reception, Chapel

Joy Cone President Named Entrepreneur of the Year

Joseph A. George, president and owner of Joy Cone Co., received the 2011 Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year Award from Thiel College at a ceremony on Oct. 5.

Given annually to a business owner who has demonstrated entrepreneurial leadership, the award, now in its 17th year, was presented by Thiel President Dr. Troy VanAken and Professor David Miller, executive director of the Haller Enterprise Institute.

George shared the history of Joy Cone Co. and his secrets of success with Haller scholarship recipients and students enrolled in the entrepreneurship class. He said that in running his successful business there has been “no grand strategy or brilliant insight—it’s all fundamentals.” Simply put, Joy Cone Co. produces a quality product with excellent service. He also emphasized one of the greatest reasons for his success is that his “employees truly feel like management cares about them—because they do.”

George graduated from Sharon High School in 1954 and later earned an A.B. degree from Harvard College. In 1964, he returned to his hometown to revive the George & Thomas Cone Company, the ice cream cone company his family started in 1918. Under his leadership, George & Thomas Cone Company transitioned into a modern, profitable, employee-owned company. In 1964, Joy Cone’s sales were \$25,000. In 2011, sales are projected to reach \$90 million. The company now sells more than 1.5 billion cones per year, including gluten-free ice cream cones.

George is or has been a member of the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Mercer County, Penn Northwest Development Corp., F.H. Buhl Club and the Thiel College Board



Professor David Miller '61, Joy Cone Co. president Joe George and President Troy VanAken at the annual Haller Enterprise Institute ceremony.

of Trustees, among many others. He has received numerous awards, including the Louis & Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award from Thiel, the Boss of the Year Award from the American Business Women's Association and the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce's Phoenix Award, among others. He is a member of Notre Dame Parish in Hermitage, Pa., and lives in Sharon, Pa. He and his wife, Ruthanne Beighley '73, who is Joy Cone's legal counsel, have six children and nine grandchildren.

The Haller Enterprise Institute, originally named the Thiel College Enterprise Institute when it was organized in 1983, was renamed in 1996 when Pittsburgh residents Dr. Henry E. and Grace Mary Haller provided a \$1 million gift to develop entrepreneurial education at Thiel.



Congratulations!

Board of Trustee member Susan Snowden was named to the *Super Lawyers – Business Edition 2011* in September. This inaugural issue features attorneys who are outstanding in their areas of business practice. The attorneys included were selected to the 2011 list in business-related practice areas that are divided into five distinct practice groups: litigation, employment, construction and real estate, business transactions and intellectual property. Only five percent of the attorneys in each state are named to *Super Lawyers*.

“I was honored to be included for the fifth consecutive year in the West Virginia Super Lawyers for 2011. I was even more privileged to be selected for publication in the 2011 Super Lawyer inaugural edition of their Business Edition,” commented Snowden. “Thomson-Reuters has created this publication as an annual reference tool for general counsel and executives and I am pleased to be featured in their comprehensive list of attorneys in business-related practice areas, with my designation in Employment Law.”



Thiel's Chi Omega Sisters Made History

For the sisters of Thiel College's Beta Delta chapter of Chi Omega, 2011 marks the 40th anniversary of their success in the fight for racial equality within Chi Omega.

Denise Terry was an undergraduate student at Thiel College in the late 1960s, a sociology major from Montclair, N.J. Terry was active and involved on campus, participating in the Education Club, Sociology Club and Student Government. In 1970, she was named Thiel's Homecoming Queen. She also was the first African-American to be initiated into Chi Omega fraternity. Although the Beta Delta chapter at Thiel is small, her initiation did not go unnoticed nationally and the situation would make a large impact on the Chi Omega Fraternity.

Following a routine visit from a national consultant in spring 1970, the Beta Delta chapter received notification that their chapter was being placed on probation for "inadequate alumni recommendations, poorly trained officers and ignorance of the rules." The probation was to extend until further notice, implied as

the time when they revoked the membership of their African American sister. The Chi Omegas were barred from initiating their spring pledge class and attending the national conference.

As the school year concluded, Beta Delta remained on probation and learned of other chapters who were in similar situations after extending membership to African-American women. The sisters decided to fight the probation and retain Terry's membership, despite the possibility of losing their charter.

As news of Beta Delta's situation spread, *The Thielensian* took on the fight with the sisters, publishing regular articles about the local chapter's struggles, contacting other chapters and updating the campus as more information was found. One publication included a letter sent by Mrs. Mary Love Collins, president of Chi Omega, that chastised Thiel and Beta Delta as unworthy of trust, incapable of understanding Chi Omega's rules and seeking publicity.

Beta Delta had the support of Thiel's president, Dr. Chauncey

Bly, who attempted to intervene with Chi Omega on the chapter's behalf. *The Thielensian* learned of chapters in Marietta, Ohio, and Canton, Mo., who were placed on probation for uncertain reasons only to have their probation revoked when their black members depledged.

News from Thiel also spread to other campuses. Both Beta Delta and the Chi Omega national organization contacted Chi Omega chapters to gain support for their cause.

As the 1970 school year progressed, the members decided to take a more forward approach. Beta Delta organized a conference in Chicago, opening it to all Chi Omegas. The purpose of the conference was to propose a resolution for revising Chi Omega's constitution. The conference was held in April and many active and alumni sisters attended to hear speeches on integration and nondiscrimination and to take part in writing the resolution. During summer 1971, the resolution was addressed and passed by Chi Omega nationally.

Strategic Planning Update from President VanAken



(Left) Queen Denise Terry rides the float at the 1970 Homecoming celebration. (Above) Denise Terry as a senior at Thiel College.

Due to Beta Delta's efforts, Chi Omega is now open to all women. The young woman whose sisters refused to let her give up her membership is still recognized by Chi Omega as a sister.

—Julie Novotny '12

Writer's Note:

As a sister of Beta Delta chapter, Chi Omega has taught me many things, from how to work with all types of people to what it means to truly have someone there to support you. One of the reasons I am most proud to be a Chi Omega, however, is our dedication to standing up for our ideals, purposes and what we believe in. No story or personal experience has shown me more of Chi Omega's dedication than the story of Denise Terry. Her story stands for me as a reminder of why I am a Chi Omega.

Editor's Note:

Julie Novotny is a elementary education major from Madison, Ohio.

"From the Archives" Correction

One of the alumni in the "From the Archives" Homecoming photo from the spring issue of *The Bell* was incorrectly identified. Nancy Tirk should have been listed as Nancy Bloss '60 (now Nancy Perrine).

The strategic planning initiative currently underway at Thiel College is building on the College's tradition as an institution of higher education that provides transformative learning and prepares its graduates for lives of meaning, purpose and significance. The strategic plan is the roadmap that the College can follow over the next 150 years—our goals are bold and ambitious and we are committed to the success of Thiel College.

In March 2011, a Strategic Planning Committee was established and a consultant hired to facilitate the development of a strategic plan for the College. The plan answers three basic questions: who are we; what do we aspire to become; how do we get there?

After nearly a year of work, the draft of the plan, "The Thiel Commitment," is in its third draft and nearing completion. The plan has four major areas of emphases:

- A commitment to academic excellence and relevance
- A commitment to a culture of caring and confidence-building
- A commitment to enhanced facilities and infrastructure
- A commitment to superior delivery of programs and services

The foundation of the new strategic plan is The Thiel Commitment, an initiative developed by a group of faculty and staff shortly after I arrived at Thiel in 2009, but will expand significantly in this plan to become the driving force for profound and enduring change. More than a brand or "tag line," The Thiel Commitment reflects a campus-wide commitment to personalized, motivating, challenging and relevant education for every student and to the delivery of superior programs and services that respond to student needs.

A sound, effective strategic plan will point the College in a direction that seizes important new opportunities and reaffirms or redefines existing strategic strengths. The plan must be embedded in the unique heritage and mission of Thiel College and be realistic and achievable.

If you'd like to learn more about the strategic plan, a Web site, www.thiel.edu/strategic-plan, has been created. There, Thiel's alumni and friends will find the draft strategic plan, a timetable, a list of steering committee members and other planning documents. Feedback on the process is welcome and opinions, thoughts or suggestions on the strategic plan can be submitted to thepresident@thiel.edu.

Faculty & Staff News

► **Dr. Henry Barton**, environmental science, received professor emeritus status upon his retirement at the end of the spring semester. He is pictured with President Troy VanAken and Dean of the College Lynn Franken at his retirement party in April.



► **Tressa Snyder**, part-time reference librarian, also is serving as part-time coordinator of disability services for the College.

► **Melissa Oakes**, business administration, helped Thiel College join the Anti-Fraud Education Partnership, an initiative of the ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners) that aims to make it easy for colleges and universities to provide expert anti-fraud training to their students. Thiel has received videos and workbooks and case studies from the Partnership to utilize in the classroom. Students will also be able to obtain discounted student memberships in ACFE thanks to the new designation.

► **Dr. Douglas Hazlett**, education, continued to provide help and guidance to novice principals at local schools during the 2010-2011 academic year through the Pennsylvania Principals Mentoring Network, a mentoring program for new administrators. This year, Hazlett worked with Brian Tokar (pictured with Hazlett), assistant principal at Greenville High School, and Pam Chodubski, principal at Harbor Creek Junior High School. Hazlett has mentored 11 area principals over the past several years with the program.



► **Julie Graubard** has moved from a temporary position in Faculty Services to administrative assistant in the Office of Academic Affairs.

► **Dr. Gayle Jesse**, mathematics and computer science, successfully defended her dissertation at Robert Morris University in the spring. Her doctoral field project was entitled “The Influence of Personality on the Type of Information College Students Share on Social Networking Sites.”

► **Dr. Mary Theresa Hall**, English, published an updated version of the life, works and influences of Renaissance author George Herbert (1593-1633) in the New Catholic Encyclopedia: Supplement 2011. The New Catholic Encyclopedia is a standard reference work for high school students, undergraduate and graduate students, teachers, librarians, journalists and others interested in the history, doctrine, literature, practices and people of the Catholic faith.

Hall also was asked to review “All Things Chaucer: An Encyclopedia of Chaucer’s World,” a recent new library acquisition, by Allen Morrill, executive director of the library and The Learning Commons, this semester. This panoramic tour of the medieval world of the “Father of English poetry” received a favorable review, thanks to its accessibility, broad overview and extensive Chaucerian quotes. Hall’s review was published in *The Thielensian*.

► **Dr. Andrew Grover**, mathematics and computer science, participated in the annual reading and scoring for the College Board’s Advanced Placement Examinations in June in computer science.

► **Connie Reinhart**, education, and her daughter, Gabrielle Marinella '07, visited Congressman Mike Kelly (R-PA) in his Washington, D.C., office as advocates representing the National Breast Cancer Coalition.





Operations Management Class Presents to UPMC Execs

In April, Professor Angelo Giannini's Operations Management class presented a business plan via video conference to UPMC executives about UPMC's Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP). The business plan presentation was a continuation of a project from the previous spring with Cindy Hanna '00, the director of MERP at UPMC's Farrell facility. The business plan project addressed a proposed new MERP location in Franklin, Pa., but would also serve as a template for other UPMC MERP locations.



Students Earn NRA Certification

Ten students are among the latest at Thiel College to complete the NRA 10-hour basic pistol class given by NRA instructor James Flammia. The class is a basic requirement for the Thiel College Shooting Club. The course goal is to develop in the students, the basic knowledge, skills and attitude essential to the safe and efficient use of a handgun. They join the ranks of last year's seven members. The team continues to develop techniques and plans to go on to compete locally. Pictured (from top to bottom left to right) are Joshua Emanuelson, Kimberly Ault, Victoria Challingsworth, Zach Rosengrant, Kirk Russell, Nathan Glotzbach, Jacob Ensor, Llan Llanos, Zachary Woody and Brittany Dell.



Lambda Sigma Inductions

In April, Lambda Sigma, the national sophomore honor society, inducted 28 members, which included Ashley Adkins, John Amorose, Alyssa Bartlett, Morgan Carson (president), Ashley Davis (SGA representative), Molly Jo Everett (fundraising chair), Matt Fiore, Kayce Grimm (secretary), Deryk Herold, Leah Kook, Chelsea Maukonen, Chelsea Mikos, Ryan Murphy, Cory Swarmer (treasurer), Joy Tubero (ritualist), Kevin Walkup (parliamentarian), Leanna Yeager (community service chair) and Katelyn Young (vice president).

Students Complete Service Learning Project at Holy Trinity



Barbara Horn '12, Bryan Villegas '11 and Charles Hockenberry '11, along with Dr. Gayle Jesse completed a redesign during the spring semester of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Greenville's Web site as a service learning project in the Web Portfolio course.

Each student created a prototype and church members picked which they preferred. The three students worked together to create the new Web site.

Hodge Hall: It Feels Like Home

Positive enhancements to campus life are ongoing at Thiel College, and the extensive renovations to Hodge Hall that took place this summer verify that. Daily progress was noticeable on the outside as windows were replaced, parking lots paved and old furniture removed. However, the tangible and meaningful improvements are on the inside, where more than 140 first-year co-eds are living and learning in an updated space that reflects Thiel's commitment to its students.

Although the project didn't happen overnight, it certainly didn't take long to completely makeover the building. The Thiel College Board of Trustees approved the \$3.25 million budget on March 31 and the project was completed on July 31. In four short months, the lengthy to-do list was done and the bottom line was under budget! That's quite a feat when considering all that was involved.

All of the doors—inside and out—were replaced, new double-pane energy efficient windows installed, the bathrooms completely gutted and now have Corian® countertops and showers complete with water-saving shower heads. Both the electrical and plumbing systems were entirely replaced; a new sprinkler system and all new heating system with state-of-the-art energy efficient boilers were installed. New hallway carpet was laid and tile floors were installed in every room and everything got a fresh coat of paint.

Comparable to renovating an old home (the original building was completed in 1961), it is impossible to anticipate what you might run into when you start the demolition.

"Luckily, there weren't many changes to the original plan," said Greg Garber, vice president for finance and management. "Everything we wanted to accomplish, we accomplished."

One unforeseen incident was the need to replace all of the main water pipes leading to Hodge Hall

in order to accommodate the new sprinkler system. Looking forward, the new piping system will allow sprinkler systems to easily be installed in the other dorms around the quad when funds become available.

Hodge Hall is a co-ed residence hall that houses first-year students. While recruiting, admissions counselors promoted it as a first-come, first-served option; students who registered early got first dibs on the new digs. Every room has brand-new cherry wood furniture that can be arranged to the students' liking (as opposed to the natural wood-colored furniture in the other halls that is mostly built in or stationary).

Nate Newell and Branden Reed are roommates in Hodge Hall and agree that their residence hall "feels so much nicer than all the others." Football players moved in on Aug. 12 and immediately felt the sense of community that dorm living offers.

"It really does feel like home," Newell said. "I think the other students are a little jealous."

Another appealing upgrade is the electric fireplace and new, comfortable furniture that was installed in the main lobby lounge and study area. Meant to warm the room literally and figuratively, the fireplace offers a calming atmosphere for students to relax, socialize and study. The basement lounge has become the envy of all other freshman residence halls as it not only features new pool and ping-pong tables but an ultramodern home theater system where students can gather to watch movies and sports. Resident assistants use the space for programming and other campus groups have begun requesting the space for functions.

"We tried to be very mindful of what we purchased and how we did it," shared Roberta Mutinelli, director of residence life. "We took a small environment and made big effects—and I think that kind of translates into everything we do here at Thiel."

—Jennie Kather





You're Invited!

Thiel will celebrate the reopening and second year of the Rissell-Schreyer Dome with an open house on Friday, Dec. 9 from 6 to 10 p.m. and you're invited! This annual event is open to the public and there is no admission charge to attend.

The open house will feature a variety of activities, including Bongoball, a golf driving range, a batting cage and inflatable jumpers and activities, throughout the evening. The Tomcat Marching Pride and the Thiel Spirit Squads will perform at 7 p.m. and line dancing lessons will be offered at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments and food will be available for purchase.

The Dome will be open for community access again this winter and spring. It will be available for walking Monday through Friday, 8 to 11 a.m., and Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The driving range will be available on Tuesday, Thursday and most Saturdays from 8 to 11 a.m. Buckets of golf balls (approximately 50) are available for \$5. All times are dependent on varsity athletic use.

The Rissell-Schreyer Dome is available for rental to a variety of groups and organizations at a reasonable cost. Contact Kevin Fenstermacher, associate director of athletics, at 724-589-2187 or kfenstermacher@thiel.edu for more information.

THIEL COLLEGE ATHLETICS PRESENTS 3RD ANNUAL HAWAII TRIP RAFFLE

ENTER FOR 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.

DRAWING TO BE HELD FRIDAY, MAY 25, 2012 AT THE BLUE-GOLD GOLF OUTING. TICKETS ARE \$20 AND CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE AT WWW.THIELATHLETICS.COM.



Loving Every Experience

Thiel junior Cylvie Cyuzuzo moves beyond her painful past to build a bright future.



Thiel College junior Cylvie Cyuzuzo seems like any other college student. Her accent doesn't betray the fact that she only learned English nine years ago. Her bright smile doesn't reveal the fact that as a six year old, she stepped over the dead bodies of friends, family and neighbors.

Cyuzuzo is a survivor of the Rwandan genocide.

"I don't know why I survived," says Cyuzuzo. "There's a reason God still wanted me on this Earth."

In 1994, Cyuzuzo and her family—her father, Sylvestre, her mother, Mathilde, and her 3-year-old sister, Mata—were caught up in the 100-day conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi tribes of Rwanda; a conflict now considered one of the most deadly of the 20th century.

Even for children like Cyuzuzo, the tribal lines were clear. She knew that she was Tutsi. The minority Tutsi were targeted by the majority Hutu following the death of Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana because they were blamed for the country's growing social and political unrest.

Her parents feared for the family's safety. Cyuzuzo remembers talk of fleeing to another country, but before any plan could be enacted, the violence escalated and became personal. Her own Hutu neighbors created a list of the Tutsi in the neighborhood. Her family was on that list. Only the kindness of the family's guard—a Hutu—saved them at the genocide's beginning by leading them past roadblocks run by Hutu extremists. They headed for a church where other Tutsis sought

refuge; her father sent the family ahead to what they hoped was safety. He did follow eventually, climbing a fence and injuring his hands.

The last time Cyuzuzo remembers seeing him is in the church across a sea of people as he had his injuries bandaged. He didn't stay and she couldn't reach him. He was killed later that night while walking out of the city of Kigali with another man. They encountered Hutu extremists armed with machetes and guns. Cyuzuzo's father was murdered, but the other man survived. Like so many victims of the genocide, her father's body was never recovered and instead lies in a mass grave somewhere.

Cyuzuzo doesn't know much more about how and where her father died. Normally, she doesn't talk about her experiences in 1994 or her father's death.

"It's just painful to talk about it," she explains. "That's why most people here at Thiel don't even know about it."

She prefers to talk about her mother who still lives and works in Rwanda, a businesswoman and store owner who helped influence Cyuzuzo's choice of major, or her 20-year-old sister who is a sophomore at the University of Idaho.

Cyuzuzo's mother's connection to a Rwandan friend in the United States helped get Cyuzuzo to a small private high school, the Dublin School, in New Hampshire. She arrived in the United States in 2002 to attend the school of about 300 students on a full-tuition scholarship. She started high school without knowing English (she only knew "hi" and "thank you") and dealing with the adjustment of being away from her family for the first time.

"At one point, I wanted to go back home," said Cyuzuzo. "But my mom encouraged me, telling me I would get used to it, and I did."

She returned to Rwanda following high school for a year and a half and the same family friend who helped her find her high school suggested that she take a look at Thiel College. She did, applied and was accepted. The first time she stepped foot on campus was the day she moved in, but it's been a decision with which she's been very happy.

"I love Thiel," said Cyuzuzo. "The way that people welcomed me...from the beginning, I felt like I was home."

She cites Carol Jones, academic competencies enhancement specialist, of The Learning Commons and Tracey Warner, international student admissions

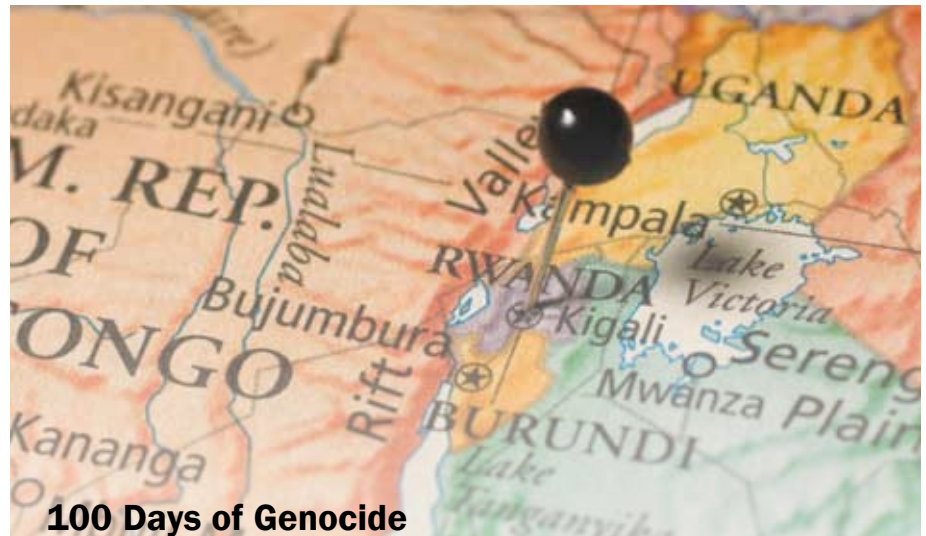
counselor, of the Admissions Office as being especially helpful to her adjustment at Thiel. A business communication major, Cyuzuzo also works in the college library and post office as well as for AVI, the College's foodservice provider. She is active in the Order of Black Collegiates and Women Inspiring the Next Generation (WING) organizations on campus. She has taken the opportunity to travel around the United States as well, visiting Chicago, Boston, Washington, D.C., New York City and Atlanta, Ga.

"I am loving every experience," says Cyuzuzo. "Every moment that I am with my friends at Thiel is just a great moment."

But Cyuzuzo's smile, sunny disposition and stylish demeanor hide painful memories that she can never forget. The day that Hutus shot women and children who had climbed aboard a truck, thinking they had found a safe way out of the ravaged city. A truck that she, her mother and sister were supposed to be on if Cyuzuzo hadn't been hiding in an adjacent church, forcing her mother and sister to look for her. Or the confrontation her family had with extremists while fleeing on foot, eventually hiding under a bridge where a grenade landed so close to Cyuzuzo she could have touched it. It never blew. Hiding in a small house thanks to a Hutu woman who fed them and hid them from her own husband, who was among the killers roaming the city and countryside.

"Most of the reason we survived is because Hutus helped us," said Cyuzuzo.

She shared some of her experiences with her Oral and Written Expression and Public Speaking classes, an experience she didn't enjoy. She does appreciate the chance to open people's eyes to what went on in Rwanda so many years ago, but



100 Days of Genocide

In 1994, some 800,000 Rwandans, mostly Tutsis, were murdered following the killing of the Hutu president of Rwanda, Juvenal Habyarimana. The political opposition was swiftly murdered by the presidential guard who then enacted a pre-planned campaign of slaughter by soldiers, government officials and business leaders, along with the Hutu militia, the Interahamwe, that spread across the country. Little was done by the international community to stop the killings and the genocide finally ended with the military defeat of the government by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a Tutsi-led rebel group.

- April 6** President Habyarimana and Burundian President Cyprien Ntaryamira are killed when their plane is shot down. Hutu extremists are believed to have been behind the attack.
- April 7** Rwandan armed forces and Interahamwe militia begin the systematic killing of Tutsis and moderate Hutus.
- April 8** The RPF launches a major offensive.
- April 9-10** French, Belgian and American civilians are rescued by their governments.
- April 11** The International Red Cross (IRC) estimates that tens of thousands have been killed. UN soldiers are ordered to withdraw from a school where 2,000 Tutsis are sheltered; most are killed after their departure.
- April 15** Slaughter of thousands of Tutsis who sought protection at Nyarubuye Church.
- April 21** The UN cuts the levels of its forces by 90 percent. The IRC estimates the dead could now number 100,000.
- Mid-May** The IRC estimates the dead at 500,000.
- May 22** The RPF extends control over the northern and eastern parts of Rwanda.
- July 4** The RPF takes control of Kigali and the southern town of Butare and its leadership claims it will form a government.
- July 13-14** Refugees flee into Zaire at approximately 10,000 to 12,000 people per hour, creating a severe humanitarian crisis.
- July 18** The RPF announces the war is over, declares a cease-fire and names Pastor Bizimungu as president with Faustin Twagiramungu as prime minister.

**Timeline information from BBC News (<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/africa/3580247.stm>)*



(Top) Cyuzuzo (at the far right) participates in a Homecoming parade with the Organization of Black Collegiates. (Above) Cyuzuzo working at the Thiel College Langenheim Memorial Library (photo courtesy of The Sharon Herald).

Cyuzuzo doesn't like dwelling on the bad memories and remembering what she lost.

Her father would be about 50 today, and she often wonders what it would be like if he was alive.

"As sad as it sounds, I don't have any good memories [of the time before the genocide] especially of my dad," says Cyuzuzo. "But he would be proud of me, I think... I think he is proud of me."

Cyuzuzo lost not only her father but her uncles and grandfathers as well during those horrible 100 days in 1994. Her father's side of her family is gone, while there are some aunts and cousins from her mother's side still living in Rwanda. Following the genocide, her mother adopted children who lost both their parents to the conflict. Cyuzuzo now has five more siblings—two brothers and three additional sisters.

While Cyuzuzo has been away, things have been moving in a positive direction in her home country.

"Everything is great. Everyone is getting along. We have a great president," explains Cyuzuzo, expressing hope in the future of her country. While she doesn't see herself returning to Rwanda immediately after graduation—she's thinking about trying out living in a large American city—Cyuzuzo can't imagine ending up anywhere else and that means she'll once again live and breathe in the place that changed her life and her family forever. Cyuzuzo is ready for the challenges that the future, and her eventual return to Rwanda will bring.

"Thiel has taught me how to live with people," said Cyuzuzo. "And if there's one thing I've learned in this world, it's that if you can get along with people, you will go far."

—By Joyce DeFrancesco



Placing bricks in the new alumni sidewalk.



Wish you were here!

Homecoming Weekend 2011 was such a great time. The weekend started off rainy, but we didn't let that dampen our (school) spirit! It was great catching up with old friends at the wine tasting and reunion dinners. We celebrated the successes of our fellow alumni at the Alumni Award Ceremony and cheered on our Tomcats at the football, volleyball and soccer games. The fireworks and parade get better every year! The new Tomcat Prowl brought back lots of memories of our days in Greenville. More great Thiel memories were made this weekend!

Thiel A
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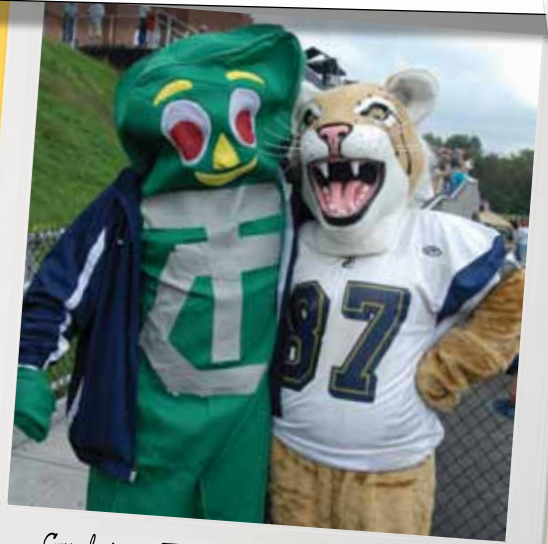
We missed you and hope to see you next year on Sept. 28-30, 2012!



Performing at halftime.



Several generations of Thiel fans in one family!



Gumbly joins Tommy to cheer on the Tomcats!



Dr. R.
Dr. Merrill
so





President VanAken thanks Ray Hanson '74 and other past and present members of the Alumni Board for their service.



The Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride plays through downtown Greenville.



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Seniors Ryan Prescott and Rachel Doran are this year's Homecoming King and Queen.



Beverly (Titus) McQuone '61 and Linda (Reed) Schaeffer '61 share some good memories.



Robert Wells, Brett Steedman '04 and [Name] Downer celebrate the new scholarship set up in their honor by Steedman.



The fireworks were so bright, we had to wear shades!



Alpha Xi Delta sisters get ready to "prowl"!

THE FAR REACH OF FAMILY

At any level of competitive football, from the high school ranks to the professionals in the NFL, a coach expects his players to find time to work out during the offseason.

For Thiel offensive lineman David Mossa, that task was a little more difficult this past summer. For one month at least, his focus was more on personal development—family, culture and history—rather than physical.

Mossa, a senior captain and three-year starter for the Tomcats, took a trip that few other college student-athletes have taken when he visited family in Israel in June. The time he spent there was both a learning experience and an attempt to catch up with a large family.

The trip was planned so he, his father and his brother could visit the grave of his grandmother, who had passed away the previous year. While a death in the family is never enjoyable, sometimes it has a way of bringing the rest of family together, in this case from all over the globe. Even the village where his family lives has a familial atmosphere. At weddings, for example, Mossa said most of the town would

attend. The event could literally last all day and night.

His historical sightseeing ranged from a mesmerizing view of the Dead Sea—the lowest elevation on the earth’s surface—to the city of Jericho, widely believed to be the oldest inhabited city in the world.

For the most part, the trip was one Mossa will never forget and a place he plans on going to again.

He was able to see family members he hadn’t seen since his last trip to Israel eight years ago. Unlike his time spent there at a younger age, he says he was able to take more in this time around, learning more



along the way, including some Arabic. And, in typical offensive lineman fashion, he notes "the food was amazing."

But at other times, it was downright frustrating, an eye opener that the United States isn't the only place where security is a top priority that, at times, makes the lives of innocent bystanders a tad more inconvenient as a tradeoff for safety.

Mossa had already planned on crossing the border into Jordan to visit even more family members, but the trip was moved up a week due to an unexpected death of one of his many cousins. Leaving Israel was fairly easy, but trying to get back in proved to be more stressful.

"When we tried to get back into Israel, they said something went wrong with our security checks," Mossa said. "We ended up going back into Jordan that night and when we returned the next day, we still had to wait six or seven hours before they let us in."

The problem at the border wasn't the only time Mossa was stopped and questioned, but he says he never felt like he was in danger. It also clearly had no effect on his overall view of the visit.

"I would love to live over there if it wasn't for my family over here that I would miss too much," Mossa said. "But, I definitely hope to make the trip again soon."

For the record and to the relief of Tomcat coach Kurt Reiser, not that he would have doubted one of the most reliable players during his tenure at Thiel, Mossa did find a way to stay in shape while being nearly 6,000 miles from the College's campus.

"I was worried I wouldn't be able to work out," Mossa said. "Before I went over I called my cousin and found out a gym had just opened up in the village."

—Matt Jackson

Photos below (l to right): The city of Ramallah, a Palestinian city in the central West Bank; Mossa with his father, Sam, cousin Abdul Atta, brother, Derek, and cousin Mohammed Atta outside a market that leads to the Dome of the Rock; an altar inside Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, the oldest church in the Holy Land still in use; and the outside of a mosque in Jerusalem.



Time for Some Action

Women's lacrosse program ready to get its inaugural season underway

After making the decision to bring men's and women's lacrosse to campus in December 2009 and watching the men's program successfully complete its first season in 2011, the time has come for the women's team to officially begin its first year of intercollegiate competition. With a roster of 18, the team may have its hands full during its initial season competing as a NCAA Division III member, but for these women the start of the season can't come soon enough.

"I am very excited for the first year. We have already started nontraditional season practice and I know that everyone on the team can't wait for the actual season to start. It is definitely exciting to be a part of the first-year program because many students have never seen a women's lacrosse game before or have ever heard of lacrosse in general. It is just really exciting to be a part of the inaugural team at Thiel," said Kelley Bellia, a first-year neuroscience major from Beaver Falls, Pa.

Bellia and the other members of the program's first full recruiting class arrived on campus this fall, but joining them on the roster are a number of women who teamed up with the program after the College announced its intention to add the sport in 2009.

"Being a first-year program did aid me in deciding to come to Thiel. I wanted to go to a small school where I knew I could play lacrosse right away. I knew that by attending and being on its first-year team I could definitely play as a freshman, whereas

at other schools you may never see the field until you're a junior or senior. It was also just cool to know that you are a part of the first women's team and are a part of establishing a legacy," said Bellia.

Heading into the 2011-2012 academic year, Thiel joins a steadily growing group of 216 Division III schools with a women's lacrosse program, and is one of just 37 schools sponsoring the sport in Pennsylvania. What was once a niche sport in the Mid-Atlantic and New England states is now one of the fastest-growing games in the country.

"I think the campus will really enjoy the women's lacrosse program because we are new to the school and a lot of people do not even know what lacrosse is—it really is nothing like men's lacrosse; we play differently so it will be exciting to see how fans react to the new style of play. As we start our first full year some expectations of our team are, first and foremost, perform well as a team in the classroom and to make sure we are all doing our jobs by going to classes and making sure we are doing what we are supposed to be doing," said Casmeir Mahdi, a first-year early childhood education major from Odenton, Md.

Handling the head coaching duties is Kati Robbins, hired in early September to replace Whitney Turnbull, who after a year of laying the groundwork for a successful program, left Thiel in August.

"It is a huge honor to be the first head coach of the women's lacrosse program. Whitney [Turnbull] did a



great job recruiting high-caliber players to Thiel who want to be a part of a new program and made the transition very easy for me to come in and focus on coaching and recruiting," said Robbins. "The young women on this team are just as excited I as I am for games to begin and to build the Tomcat women's lacrosse tradition. It really is an exciting time in women's lacrosse and I am excited to build this program from the ground up and increase the awareness of women's lacrosse in western Pennsylvania."

Robbins arrived at Thiel after serving as the head coach of NCAA Division II member St. Andrews Presbyterian College since 2009. Following the 2011 season, a pair of Robbins' players were named to the usacollegelacrosse.com NCAA Division II women's all-American team, while another was selected to the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association (IWLCA) all-South region second team.

Prior to becoming the head coach at St. Andrews, Robbins was the head coach at her alma mater, Wittenberg University, from 2006 through 2009. In her final season at Wittenberg, she led her Tiger squad to a North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) final four berth, the program's first since 2003.

Before entering the head coaching ranks Robbins served as an assistant at Gwynedd Mercy College (2003), College of Wooster (2002-2005) and Franklin and Marshall College (2006).

A 2002 Wittenberg graduate, Robbins was a four-time all-NCAC selection as a member of the Tigers women's lacrosse squad and was named to the Brine regional all-American squad on four occasions.

"I have high expectations for the first season of women's lacrosse. Our schedule pits us against top teams in the region like The College of Wooster and Kenyon College. Also, we are playing some new programs like Otterbein College and Olivet College. If the team works hard this offseason we have a pretty good chance of producing a winning record in our first season," said Robbins. "That will be a huge goal for us, but is a goal I feel we can accomplish. Having a roster primarily full of freshmen can be a challenge with learning the speed of the game but it's also exciting because they will be able to go into every game with no pressure on their shoulders. Any team that has a new coach taking over will have a learning curve with new drills, expectations and rules, but it has been an easy transition because the team is excited to learn."

Robbins and the Tomcats will embark on a very ambitious 16-game schedule in 2012, beginning with a game at Ohio Wesleyan University on Feb. 25, 2012. But for those who can't wait for the team to play its first official contest on campus Feb. 29, 2012 against Saint Vincent College, the Tomcats will host a scrimmage against Waynesburg University on Feb. 15, 2012.

Thiel Coach Qualifies for U.S. Olympic Trials

Assistant cross country and track and field coach Jed Christiansen ran to a 14th-place finish at this year's 34th annual Bank of America Chicago Marathon in October, and in doing so secured a spot in the 2012 U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials in Houston, Texas. It was his first full marathon.



Christiansen was just the third American competitor to finish, completing the race in a time of 2:18:31 (a pace of 5:18 per mile). A time of 2:19:00 was required to qualify for January's trials.

"I think it is important to dream in life. So many people don't really believe that they can achieve much, but with God's help, a lot of hard work, and great perseverance, even that which seems impossible can be achieved. Limits can be broken," said Christiansen.

Christiansen, a native of Greenville who is in his second year as a member of the Tomcat athletic department, graduated from Calvin College in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in K-12 physical education and a minor in health. A four-year member of the Knights' cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field teams, Christiansen was an eight-time All-American and helped lead the Knights' cross country team to a Division III national championship in 2006.

Christiansen will compete at the trials for the opportunity to represent the U.S. at the 2012 Olympic Games in London, England. The top three male and female finishers at the Houston event will comprise Team U.S.A.

"There are a lot of great runners that try over and over to make the trials and don't quite make the cut, so it is pretty incredible that I was able to do it my first shot. I'm still in some disbelief that I was able to," said Christiansen.

Just minutes after completing the marathon Christiansen's thoughts were, as usual, with his Thiel runners and what his experience, and performance, could do for the program.

"My focus is on giving this program everything I have, and my motivation going into the Chicago Marathon was knowing that I needed to do my best because this team could feed off of that success and it would give prospective student-athletes the confidence that they will be coached at a high level when they're deciding to attend Thiel," said Christiansen."

Tomcats in Spain

Thiel women's volleyball makes trip to play overseas

Most collegiate student-athletes only get to travel within the United States for their sport, but the Thiel volleyball team was able to travel to a different country. This summer, our team went to Spain for 10 days, traveling to Madrid, Toledo and Barcelona. It was a completely different experience going from city to city because each was unique in its own way.

We went on walking tours and were able to see some incredible sights and also learn a lot about the culture and history of Spain. Some of the biggest and most memorable sights we saw were the Royal Palace, the park where Gaudi lived, the Plaza Mayor, the bull fighting museum and arena, the Salvadore Dali museum and several cathedrals filled with intricate details on the inside and outside. Our tour guide was fantastic and made sure that we saw everything we possibly could, and every place that we went was absolutely beautiful.

"There were so many things to see and do that were so different from what we do in the U.S., but we were able to relate them to things that we do at home. For example, the bullfight that we went to in Madrid was a tradition and a pastime for the people in Spain just like a baseball game would be for people in the United States. Also, it was really neat to be in the city of Madrid in the Plaza Mayor, especially at night, because it felt like we were in a big city like what would be compared to New York City with a big night life," said senior outside hitter Megan Kay.

One of the best experiences that I had in Spain was the bullfight. We witnessed the long-time tradition of bullfighting, which takes place in a huge arena with stone bleachers. There are three bullfighters who each fight two bulls. This was definitely one of the most interesting things that we did in Spain and it was an extremely unique experience.



(Above) The team outside of the Dali Museum with Tori Grafeman, an American living in Barcelona who plays volleyball on a professional Spanish team. (Below) The Thiel team poses with one of the Spanish teams post-match.

We also tried a lot of different food in Spain. All of the restaurants were fantastic. At some, we were served three-course meals. At other times, we went to buffets and the selection of food at the buffets was outrageous. There was a huge selection of different foods. They had varieties of meats, fish, pastas, vegetables, fruits, desserts and basically anything! We definitely left every meal with full stomachs and we enjoyed trying new things.

During our Spain trip, we played four volleyball matches against teams in Madrid and Barcelona. It was exciting to play volleyball in a different country.



The main difference that we had to get used to was the volleyballs. In Spain, they use completely different volleyballs than we do in the United States, so we had to adjust to that challenge. We played some pretty good competition and finished with two wins and two losses. We even got to play against some professional volleyball players, which was a great experience for all of us.

The TCVB Spain trip was a huge success. Everybody really enjoyed it and had so much fun experiencing a different country. It was also a great team bonding experience for all of us and it brought us closer together. We are all thrilled that we got to go on such a wonderful trip.

The Spain trip was the second international excursion for the women's volleyball team since Coach Steve Brewer took over in 2006. The program made a trip to Barbados prior to the 2008 season.

"Having the opportunity to take my teams overseas has been outstanding. Allowing the girls to see all the wonderful things about other cultures, while at the same time realizing all the things that make our own country so great, makes the international experience much more than just a volleyball vacation. The entire experience makes you realize, and appreciate, all of the things we take for granted as U.S. citizens," said Brewer.

—Alyssa Chine '13

A Tomcat Takes on the "Big City"

Planes are zipping by. Traffic noise always a constant. Construction equipment up and running at 6 a.m. Mass transit everywhere. This does not sound like Greenville, Pa.; population 6,000. This is our nation's capital—with a population of about 605,000.

This semester, I took my studies to Washington, D.C., for my final three months as a Thiel student. I am a part of a program called LCWS (Lutheran College Washington Semester). The program brings 30 students from across the globe to study in D.C. and teach two classes per week. Wednesdays are designated for field trips to D.C. landmarks like the State Department, White House, Capital Building and Pentagon. So what have I been doing with all of my time? That's the really fun part...

4001 Nebraska Avenue NW is where I can be found on just about any given day. I was presented with the opportunity to intern at possibly one of the coolest places in the DC Metro area, NBC Washington. I work in the sports department of one of the 12 cities in the U.S. that have four major sports teams. There is never a dull moment here as sports and news are always going on!

In the beginning I would watch the games on my television, which I transferred to my computer. From that point I would take any and all exciting plays and "clip" them, which means record and add them to a folder. As I was doing this, one of the stations' producers would take my clips and turn it into a

highlight reel, which is what gets aired every day. My mornings usually consists of locker room press conferences with the Redskins and Capitals. With basketball season right around the corner we'll be adding Georgetown University, George Washington University, Howard University and the University of Maryland to our lists of things to do.

This opportunity is something I never really thought would happen and my new life in Washington, D.C. is something that can't be summed up in 500 words or less. What can be is that this experience taught me that what I've done with my life during my time at Thiel has definitely played a role in my recent opportunities, and hopefully, the many more to come.

The hours spent in the Academic Success Center, talking with alumni, coaches, faculty and staff has prepared me for the real world and my life outside of Greenville. These people have taught me that, while my time was absolutely precious at Thiel, there are so many more things out there! Thanks to Thiel College and the people who have worked with me over the past three years, I have been able to experience just that with this LCWS experience.

—Nina Gabrelcik '11

Editor's Note: Gabrelcik has been writing about her experiences as a Thiel student-athlete in *The Bell* since 2008. She graduated in May 2011 with a degree in media communications/communication studies.



Gabrelcik with her sister, Camillee, and her mother, Debra Hagan, outside the NBC studios in Washington, D.C.

Congratulations Distinguished Alumni!

Thiel alumni can boast a wide range of accomplishments, life experiences, successes and just great stories. At the annual Alumni Award Ceremony at Homecoming 2011, Thiel honored some of its most successful, dedicated and promising alumni—all of whom have benefited in a profound way from their Thiel educations. Their inspiring stories were shared with students, staff and faculty, alumni and friends on Friday, Sept. 23. Thiel is proud to celebrate this special group's achievements and lives of service. Congratulations to all!

Service to Thiel Award

Recipients are nominated for loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel.

Knute Hamre '58

Homecoming wouldn't be Homecoming if Knute Hamre wasn't on campus. Despite living in the western United States, Hamre is a frequent and consistent visitor and active supporter of Thiel.

Hamre graduated from Thiel with a bachelor's degree in economics. While a student, he was a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity and served as a class officer during his freshman, sophomore and senior years. He was a recipient of the Elizabeth Steward Award and the Student Union Scholarship Award and Scholarship Chairman as well as being a member of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges."

Hamre worked for the Travelers Corporation for 30 years, retiring in 1992 as employee benefits manager. He previously worked at Bell Telephone of Pennsylvania and was a member of the U.S. Army.

Hamre has given back to his alma mater with service as a member of his class reunion committee and often works as an unofficial organizer for Homecoming attendance among his fellow Delta Sigma Phi alumni. He is a constant advocate for Thiel with other alumni, encouraging them to give of their time, talent and treasure to the institution.

Hamre lives in Surprise, Ariz., where he enjoys his life-long hobbies of fishing, hunting and reading. He often visits family in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia.

Jim and Lucy '72 Shaffer

Dr. Jim and Lucy Shaffer have been long-time supporters of Thiel College for more than 40 years.

Jim served as a professor for 39 years in the Thiel Psychology Department before retiring in 2009. He joined the faculty as an assistant psychology professor in 1970, became an associate professor in 1975 and was promoted to full professor in 1981. He served as chair of the psychology department from 1991 to 2003 and was a member of many College committees, including Faculty Council. He was the coordinator of the gerontology minor program and founder and faculty adviser of Psi Chi honorary.

Jim also was a driving force behind the creation of

Joining Generations, a partnership between Thiel and St. Paul's, a continuing care community, in Greenville that has provided many opportunities for growth and learning for Thiel's students. Jim earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's and doctoral degrees in psychology, all at West Virginia University.

Lucy graduated from Thiel in 1972 with a degree in psychology. While attending Thiel, she put her nursing degree from St. Luke's School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio, to good use as the school nurse. She later worked at Greenville Hospital and the Mercer County Area Agency on Aging. Lucy continues to be an active supporter of the Thiel Scholarship Luncheon and the Thiel Players.

Jim and Lucy have seven children and 14 grandchildren and are members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville and reside in the Cottage Colony at St. Paul's.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Recipients are nominated for outstanding contributions to their professions.

Dr. Mark Funkhouser '71

An internationally known expert on performance auditing and an authority on governance, Mark Funkhouser holds a bachelor's degree in political science along with a master's of social work, an M.B.A. and a doctorate in public administration and sociology. He has held a variety of positions during his 40-year career, from vocational rehabilitation counselor to assistant professor to state and city auditor. He served as the mayor of Kansas City, Mo., from 2007 to 2011. He has been named director of the GOVERNING Institute, a new initiative focused on state and local government performance, innovation, leadership and citizen engagement.

The author of "Honest, Competent Government: The Promise of Performance Auditing," a book that shows how auditing can increase citizens' trust in government, Funkhouser also has written numerous articles and essays. He has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Local Government Auditors and the UMKC Bloch School of Business & Public Administration Alumni Achievement Award.

Funkhouser is a regular keynote speaker for conferences and events hosted by a variety of



Pictured (l to r) are Dr. Mark Funkhouser '71, Barbara (Lopez) Kunz '79, Knute Hamre '58, Brett Stedman '04, Lucy Shaffer '72 and Dr. Jim Shaffer.

organizations, and has been featured on many local and national broadcast media programs. In 2003, Mark was named one of GOVERNING magazine's "Public Officials of the Year."

He now lives in the Washington, D.C. area, with his wife, Gloria Squitiro, his daughter, Tara, and his son-in-law, Charles.

Barbara (Lopez) Kunz '79

Barbara Kunz is the president of the Health and Life Sciences Global Business (HLSGB), a member of the executive committee and an officer of the institute for Battelle, the world's largest, independent research and development organization.

Kunz and her leadership team deliver systems solutions to support clients within the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical devices, diagnostics, agriculture and food industries, as well as the large biomedical research interests of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agencies. Kunz leads Battelle's efforts in areas such as systems toxicology and systems biology, the integration of life sciences and medical device engineering capabilities, child and maternal health, infectious disease research, and public health and environmental health.

Kunz joined Battelle from Fisher Scientific International, where she held the position of senior vice president and general manager for Fisher Biosciences. Prior to Fisher, Kunz held executive management roles in DuPont, ICI and PPG Industries. She led the integration of a major

technology acquisition into DuPont's specialty business, managed ICI's Latin America regional business during the most volatile currency period in history and served as global science and technology director for ICI's performance products business.

Kunz spent eight years as a research scientist and holds 13 patents. She has a bachelor's degree in chemistry, a master's in polymer science and an M.B.A. She is the chair of the board of trustees of the Ohio State University Medical Center and serves on the Nationwide Children's Hospital Research Institute Board and many other corporate and non-profit boards.

She lives in Powell, Ohio, and has two children, Emily and Peter.

Young Alumni Award

Recipients are nominated for their potential for future professional accomplishments and service to the College.

Brett W. Stedman '04

Brett Stedman is an associate with Ekker, Kuster, McConnell & Epstein, LLP of Sharon, Pa., Mercer County's largest law firm. His areas of practice include, but are not limited to, civil litigation, commercial litigation and criminal law.

A native of Potter County in north central Pennsylvania, Stedman graduated summa cum laude from Thiel, as salutatorian of the Class of 2004, with a bachelor's degree in political science.

In 2007, he graduated cum laude from the Duquesne

Continued on page 30

Pittsburgh Alumni Network Night

Dec. 1., 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Bar Louie Station Square, Pittsburgh

Rissell-Schreyer Dome Opening Celebration

Dec. 9, 6-10 p.m.
*Alumni Stadium, Thiel College
 (See page 15 for details.)*

Alumni Basketball Day

Jan. 28, 2012, 10 a.m. start
Women's & men's basketball alumni are invited to come back and celebrate Thiel's basketball tradition with a day of events.

Winter Weekend 2012

Feb. 10-12, 2012
Save the date for the winter's most exciting event! (See page 8 for details.)

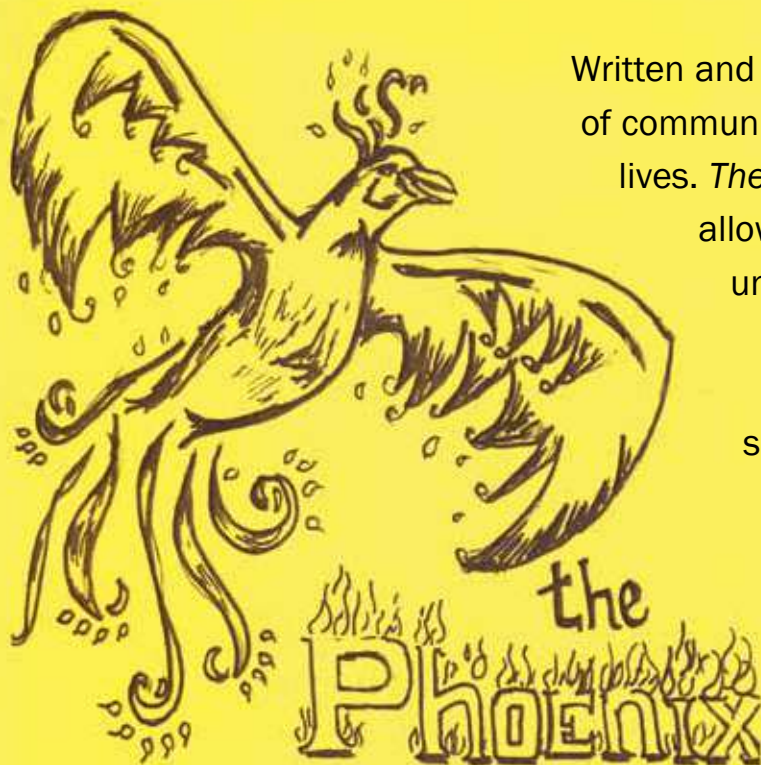


Continued from Alumni Award Winners, page 29

University School of Law. Prior to joining Ekker, Kuster, McConnell, & Epstein, Stedman was a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Christopher J. St. John of the Mercer County Court of Common Pleas.

Stedman serves on the Thiel College Haller Enterprise Institute Advisory Board and has been a member of the Alumni Board of Directors. As an avid sports fan, he spends time throughout the summer months on the area's many golf courses. In the fall and winter, he regularly attends Penn State football games. He is a member of the Shenango Valley Young Professionals and is active in the United Way of Mercer County, serving as chair of the golf committee in 2010 and 2011. Stedman resides in Hermitage, Pa.

Alumni—Show us your creativity!



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, art pieces, photos and short stories), please submit them to editor Amy Matchett at amatchett@thiel.edu or adviser Dr. Mary Theresa Hall at mthall@thiel.edu by Jan. 5, 2012. Please limit entries to two pages, single spaced.

Congrats, Class of 2010!



The Class of 2010 won the second annual President's Cup for the 2010-2011 fiscal year with giving participation of 22 percent.

The President's Challenge is a competition among the graduates of the past 25 years to increase their class giving. On Oct. 1, at the home game versus Thomas More College, Justin Munz '10 accepted the honor on behalf of his class. The award was presented to Munz by President Troy VanAken.

The race is on for this year's President's Challenge winner for classes from 2002 to 2011—donate to The Thiel Fund today to put your class in the lead! Just visit www.thiel.edu/advancement/giving.htm to make an online gift.

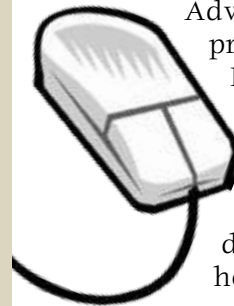
We've Moved!

Thiel's Office of Career Services moved back to the first floor of Roth Hall over the summer. The office is now located across the lobby from the Records Office. Feel free to stop by and visit Career Services' new home—and use some of the services available to alumni, including resume review, job search databases and much more!



Honor Roll of Generosity is Now Online

For the first time, the College Advancement Office is producing the annual Honor Roll of Generosity, which recognizes all donors to Thiel College during the period of July 1, 2010 to June 20, 2011, as an online document. The online honor roll is available at www.thiel.edu/honor-roll.



As an online document, we are able to make updates to the document nearly immediately and reduce the cost of producing the document while improving its overall design.

The online Honor Roll of Generosity is available now. Please be sure to look through the publication thoroughly; based on your giving history and involvement with Thiel, you may be listed in several sections!

For edits to the Honor Roll of Generosity, please contact gifts processing at 724-589-2026 or via e-mail at advancement@thiel.edu. Thank you for your support of Thiel College!

BOARD PROFILES OF DISTINCTION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

RON OWEN '71

WHY IS BEING PART OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IMPORTANT TO YOU AS AN ALUMNUS OF THE COLLEGE?

I grew up in a middle-class family in Pittsburgh with three brothers and a sister. I was the first member of my family to attend and graduate from college. It was a frightening experience to go away to college and be away from my family while entering this new world of higher education. When I visited President Olson to discuss joining the Board of Trustees, I reminisced with him about the previous visit to the executive office of the College while I attended Thiel. The discussion back then never touched upon a future position on the Board! Thiel College was a life changer for me in many ways. I believe strongly in supporting in any way persons or organizations that have helped me in my life. I am honored to be a Thiel trustee and being able to give back both financially and with my time.

WHAT IS YOUR CAREER OR LIFE PHILOSOPHY?

I believe that you must force balance into your life. My foundation block is to "Work Hard and Play Hard." I must admit that during times of my elevation to a senior leadership position at a Fortune 500 company, I was out of balance. My two girls' school and academic activities were a good tool for me to force balance. I can recall conducting soccer practices in my business attire when I didn't allow enough time for a change of clothes. My first job was delivering newspapers. I evolved to a caddy, a construction worker, painter and a list of other jobs too long to mention. I wanted to demonstrate to a future employer that I was not afraid to work. My real desire with my career was to be a banker. The "work hard" philosophy allowed me to advance from a starting position as a management trainee as a bank teller to senior vice president of marketing in 13 years. My work ethic was built around a basic philosophy—conduct your personal affairs in a manner that you could always be in a position to tell your parents what you did and be passionate about your job.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS THE VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION LIKE THE ONE THIEL PROVIDES?

Graduating from high school at 18 years of age and moving on to college brings a high level of anxiety. At that time, it is very difficult for most individuals to try to make a curriculum decision as to what their specialty will be for life. A Thiel College education allows you to create a well-rounded background which will better prepare one for the various opportunities that will be presented to them as they move along in their life's journey.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY?

I began my freshman year at Thiel in a most unique manner. Five of my high school classmates decided to come to Thiel at the same time. The environment of coming to Thiel, already having friends, was a real bonus. However the added benefit was being able to build new relationships with many new students. I enjoyed playing football at a high level during high school years. Being able to participate in this activity at a collegiate level was a memory I treasure to this day.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THAT A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT TAKE A LOOK AT THIEL COLLEGE?

The life value of matriculating at a liberal arts college is invaluable. With the continuing escalating costs of getting a college degree, you want to make sure you get the best value for your investment. Coming to Thiel College will not permit you to get lost in a crowd in your classes. The faculty/student ratio allows for individual attention when it is needed. You will be treated as a person, not just a number.



Ron Owen '71 is senior relationship executive at First American in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the advancement and audit committees of the Thiel Board of Trustees. He also is a member of the board of the Pennsylvania Parents Advisory Council, vice president of the Chapel Gate Swim Club and past president of the Churchill Club. Owen and his wife, Judi, live in Pittsburgh.

BOARD OF ASSOCIATES:

CARA HOEHN LAPIC '92

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BE A PART OF THE BOARD OF ASSOCIATES?

Thiel has a special place in my heart. I want to stay connected and to continue to explore ways to give a little something back.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THIEL'S CURRENT DIRECTION?

I am optimistic, energized and excited about Thiel's future. The more time I spend with the Thiel team, the more I am impressed by the quality of people. I am confident that the team wants the best for the students and has the capability of actually delivering on The Thiel Commitment. I hope all those connected with Thiel partner to discover how they can contribute to the cause.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY?

An impossible question as I can't pick just one!

WHAT PART OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT/SERVICE WITH THIEL POST-GRADUATION ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I'm proud of the school, so any small way in which I can contribute is meaningful and important to me. I've especially enjoyed interacting with the students at the Business Honors Seminar in past years and being involved on the Strategic Planning Committee of late.

Cara Hoehn Lopic '92 is senior product manager at BNY Mellon, specializing in foreign exchange and cash products. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Thiel and a doctorate in business administration from Robert Morris University. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, volunteering and riding horses. She is a member of Toastmasters and does research in the fields of information systems and communications.



ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

RAY HANLON '74

WHY SHOULD ALUMNI CONSIDER BEING A PART OF THE ALUMNI BOARD?

Early in my career, I would find myself acknowledging how well prepared I was, academically and professionally. Thiel provided essential intellectual, scholastic and social opportunities. Anyone who has similar connection and benefit from Thiel might consider giving back by participating on a Board for the purpose of contributing talents toward keeping the opportunities Thiel provides students going strong.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL THE ALUMNI BOARD CONTRIBUTES TO THE COLLEGE?

Alumni represent having been through the Thiel experience; then engineering and implementing a life. This means that alumni are a rich resource for understanding how the college mission has impacted the lives of its graduates and their work and social communities. Advancing the mission of the College not only requires financial support by alumni but also their ideas, insights and assistance in reinforcing the mission and vision of the College.

HOW DO YOU FEEL YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THIEL COLLEGE POST-GRADUATION HAS AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

I am the type of person who seeks understanding of how and why life experiences and opportunities evolve and interact. Thiel affected me in so many positive ways that the experiences remained in my awareness of where I came from as I progressed through the normal stages of family and career life development. In looking back, it really is no surprise that I would find myself re-engaged with the College by serving on the Alumni Board, and in effect realizing that my experience at Thiel and my subsequent career and life validate one another.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY?

It is very hard to isolate a favorite Thiel memory: My circle of friends; the intimacy of knowing nearly everyone on campus; bus trips to football games; returning to campus after breaks; playing handball with my roommate late at night; stealing off to the pottery studio to mix clay and glazes in the quiet late of nighttime solitude in the Art Department; the extraordinary concerts on campus; sitting in classes during junior and senior years appreciating that I was really beginning to make sense of liberal education and being in awe of learning and insight to knowledge; traveling to Germany during the January term; competing in intramurals; Sunday dinners in the cafeteria; and Brother Martin's Walk after a significant snow fall.

Raymond B. Hanlon '74 majored in psychology at Thiel. For the past 28 years, he has worked at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Department of Anesthesiology, Division of Pain Medicine. Besides fulfilling clinical duties, he lectures in various university and medical departments and mentors and supervises doctoral students and clinical psychology interns. He and his wife of 32 years, Donna, live in Portersville, Pa., and have two adult sons, Aaron and Sean.



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:

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Mark A. Benninghoff '82, Vice Chair
David R. Andrews '63, Treasurer
Susan R. Snowden, Secretary
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Connie L. Danko '69
Ronald Doerr
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Dr. Sarah Taylor-Rogers '69
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Miles Wallace
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Rod Wilt '86
Elaine M. Woloshyn '74
John E. Zawacki '71

*Emeriti

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Alumni Board

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James McRoberts '58, Vice President

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Al Gesler III '90
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Dawn Salter '95
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Richard Simpkins '68
Paul Stibich '05
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Ted Fiore
Dale & Leisel Lengyel
Eric & Carla Magnone
Sharon Schneider
John & Jane Tell

Special thanks go to these outgoing Board of Trustees members:

- Dr. Robert Burns '74
- John Hudson
- William Phillips '54
- Dr. Roy Strausbaugh
- Joseph George
- Bishop Kurt Kusserow '85

Thank you for your years of service to Thiel College!

Class Notes

1940s

REV. PAUL E. FAUTH '48 reached his 60th wedding anniversary in August 2010 and the 60th anniversary of his ordination in May. He and his wife, Grace, have five children (including DAVID '73, DANIEL '76 and TIMOTHY '78), seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They live in Lander, Wyo.

1950s

DALE C. FORD '50 published a book in June, "My Two Hot Wars & One Cold War," about his years as a fighter pilot and a flight test engineer. He flew 100 combat missions over North Korea and tested the world's first supersonic bomber, the B-58. Ford lives in Aledo, Texas, with his wife, SHIRLEY (BORTZ) FORD '50.

PATRICIA L. (GLESSMAN) MORRISON '54 lives in Linesville, Pa.

DR. MINORU YAMADA '58 served as the first Japanese juror at the International Singing Contest of Italian Opera held in Moscow, Russia, in September. A video of Yamada performing as a guest artist in "Dream Journey" of the Hyogo Artist Association is available on YouTube.

RAY DOOLITTLE '59 and his wife, BERTIE (BECKMAN) '58, have been retired from education (he was a principal and she was a science teacher) for 20 years, but have been on many trips, including to Hawaii and Sweden. They have three grandchildren and Ray has been busy with carpentry and masonry projects. The Doolittles write that "we have been very blessed."

1960s

JAMES E. STOUGH '62 lost his wife of nearly 49 years, Janet, in June. He writes that "life is taking on a different twist for me now with the paperwork and housework all to do myself."

HOWIE BERGESEN '67 completed the 10-mile course of the annual open-water Kingdom Swim in Lake Memphremagog, Vt., which is held each year in July.

GARY FINCKE '67 won the Stephen F. Austin University Press Poetry Prize with his 12th book of poems, "The History of Permanence," which was published in September. An earlier collection, "Writing

Letters for the Blind," won the Ohio State University Press Poetry Prize. He also has published four collections of stories, including "Sorry I Worried You," which won the Flannery O'Connor prize, and two nonfiction books, including "Amp'd: A Father's Backstage Pass," which is about his son's career as the lead guitarist for platinum-selling rock band Breaking Benjamin. Fincke is the Charles Degenstein Professor of Creative Writing at Susquehanna University.

1970s

MARTIN D. AHL '70 retired from Allegheny College as controller in April 2010 after 26 years. Upon his retirement, the college honored him with the Robert T. Sherman Distinguished Service Award. Ahl lives in Meadville, Pa.

CARL E. KRAMER '70 serves as an adviser to the Wahoo Kiwanis Aktion Club along with his duties as president of the Kiwanis Club. He served for eight years as a member of the Board of Trustees of Midland Lutheran College, now Midland University, in Fremont, Neb. He lives with his wife, NINA (ANDERSON) KRAMER '71, in Wahoo, Neb.

DR. ROBERT CRUTCHFIELD '71 was named an ASC Fellow by the American Society of Criminology. ASC Fellows are recognized for having made a scholarly contribution to the intellectual life of the discipline. Crutchfield is a professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Washington in Seattle where he focuses on criminology, deviant behavior and social control.



▲ ELAINE SURMA '78, regional director for the Bureau of Narcotics for the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office, gave a drug-awareness presentation to the new Thiel College resident assistants and resident directors on Aug. 19 in the Sawhill-Georgian Room.

▼ ROB BASKIN '79 and MARILYN (DOUGLASS) CROCKETT '79 are working on a U.S. Geological Survey project on Washoe Lake, Nev. Baskin works for the USGS out of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Crockett is retired from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. Both were geology majors at Thiel. The project involves working with sonar to find fault zones under water bodies in the western United States.



1980s

AMY (MYERS) NOBLE '83 is a full-time children's librarian at the Greenville Area Public Library and full-time grandmother, better known as "Oma." She writes that "both work and home keep me very busy. If you are ever in the Greenville area, please stop into the library and say hello."

MARK THOMPSON '84 is the director of admissions and marketing at the AIB College of Business in Des Moines, Iowa.

MARK J. DOWDELL '87 was promoted to assistant regional director of the Inspections Program of the Philadelphia regional office of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He lives with his wife, ANITTA L. DOWDELL '86, in Yardley, Pa.

1990s

ANDREA HALL '95 was ordained in the Assemblies of God International Fellowship. She has participated in mission trips to Kenya, Haiti and Santo Domingo. Hall works as a special needs paraprofessional in Midview Local School District. She lives in North Elyria, Ohio, with her daughter, Katelynn, who was born on Sept. 9, 2010.

SARA MECHLING SHAFER '98 received her B.S.N. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in December 2010. She

Class Notes

became a registered nurse in February. She is working as a nurse in the medical ICU of Allegheny General Hospital. She and her husband, Ryan, live in Kittanning, Pa.

2000s

TARA RAUCH '01 received the American Eagle Award in fall 2010 from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in recognition of her dedication to public service and for making a difference in the lives of her fellow employees. She is a human resources specialist for the U.S. Department of Transportation and has been responsible for her agency's summer intern program for the past two years. She lives in Alexandria, Va.

SHANNA JEANNETTE (LEIPHEIMER) BOSSLER '02 was promoted from assistant director to associate director of undergraduate admissions at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa. She lives with her husband and two children in Mount Penn, Pa.

JENNIFER L. CRISAN '05 is an honors pastry arts student at Le Cordon Bleu Institute of Culinary Arts in Pittsburgh. She lives in Pittsburgh.

TIFFANY J. BANAS '08 completed a master's degree at the University of Central Florida in May and accepted a position as a speech language pathologist at Lake Mary Health and Rehabilitation. She also is an Amway Global independent business owner. Banas lives in Heathrow, Fla.

ANNETTE D. RODRIGUEZ CARRERAS '08 was accepted to Boston University School of Medicine's Division of Graduate Sciences. She is pursuing a master's of science in forensic anthropology.

Marriages

JOHN HAUSER '71 to NANCY GIBSON '75 on June 4. Thiel alumni in attendance included (from left to right) ROBERT HAUSER '65, WILLIAM HAUSER '63, PATRICIA DAUGHERTY HAUSER '63, JOHN GIBSON '71, the bride and groom, CYNTHIA HOOD ALLSHOUSE '90, DAVID HAUSER '77 and VIRGINIA HAUSER TRYGSTAD '73. The couple resides in Greenville, Pa.

NANCY (PRIBBLE) WERT '77 to Ronald Wert Sr. on June 25. The Werts met on a mission trip to the Gary, Ind., area and



Nancy Gibson '75 and John Hauser '71



Leah Pereko '07 and Marc Berry '08



Sarah Sumner '12 and Jeremiah Jones '10

have since gone on mission trips to New York, Georgia and Alabama. They have also worked on Habitat for Humanity

Homes and volunteer at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport, Pa. They live in Woolrich, Pa.

Class Notes

LEAH PEREKO '07 to MARC BERRY '08 on July 17, 2010 in Pittsburgh. Alumni in the wedding included KRISTINE LANGFORD '07, ZACHARY PARIS '07, ANTON URBAN '06 and WALT ROSADO '07. The couple resides in Frederick, Md.

JONATHAN BAIRD '08 to Melissa Lanyi on July 9 in North Huntingdon, Pa., with the reception at the Grand Hall at the Priory in Pittsburgh. Alumni in attendance included FRANK ILY '08, DEREK BENEDICT '08, AARON TERDLE '08 and ROBERT SHRADER '71. Baird works at Dick's Sporting Goods and lives in Coraopolis, Pa.

KASSANDRA (GOMEZ) STERNS '09 to Charles Stearns on May 22. The couple lives in Clairton, Pa.

JEREMIAH JONES '10 to SARAH (SUMNER) JONES '12. Jeremiah is a pharmacy technician and Sarah is a model. They live in Mercer, Pa.

Births

To DAVID SCHREIBER '00 and his wife, Alyssa: a son, Jackson Reid, on May 9. The family resides in Medina, Ohio.

▼To NICOLE (WILLRICH) '03 and NICK COUGHLIN '03: a son, Nolan Charles, on Sept. 20. Nolan joins big brother, Noah Richard. Nicole is a portfolio manager for ProCAM, LLC in Fairfax, Virginia. Nick is an auditor for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C. The family lives in Manassas, Va.



To ATHENA LYNN (LITWICKI) SYPURT '05 and her husband, Nathaniel: a daughter, Addisyn Lauren, on April 13, 2010. Sypurt is a caseworker at Armstrong County Children Youth & Family Services. The family lives in Arnold, Pa.

RICHARD McNEAL '06 and NICOLE (NOLAN) McNEAL '05: a daughter, Lydia Shea, on Oct. 10, 2010. Nicole is a middle school teacher with the Fulton County Schools

and Richard is employed by Emory University. They live in Atlanta, Ga.

▼To KYLE BROWN '07 and DANA (VanKIRK) BROWN '05: a daughter, Aleena Rose, on May 25.



In Memoriam

MARY JANE RICHWALSKY '35 of Sheffield, Pa., on June 14 at age 97.

DR. JAMES C. McELREE '39 of Greenville, Pa., on June 4 at age 93.

MARY SANKEY RACEK '41 of Fox Chapel, Pa., on July 4 at age 93.

FLORENCE A. "NINA" (GREGORY) DuMARS '44 of Adrian, Mich., on April 16 at age 88.

ELIZABETH A. "BETTY" (EATON) BAKER '48 of Blue Bell, Pa., on April 23 at age 85.

ROBERT E. RYHAL '50 of Hempfield Township, Pa., on Aug. 17 at age 84.

REV. DAVID H. SCHMID '50 of Plantation, Fla., on May 11.

FLORENCE (HARTOS) SHERMAN '51 on July 20.

ALICE W. GERBERDING '52 of Hermitage, Pa., on July 2 at age 80. She is survived by her brother, ROBERT SIEGNER '42.

ALVIN DALE McCANDLESS '52 of Wooster, Ohio, on June 2 at age 83.

ROBERT MODER '52 of Fort Myers, Fla., on June 15 at age 83.

REV. DAVID R. SCHWEINGRUBER '52 of Erie, Pa., on June 1 at age 82.

HELEN M. (BARBER) NALL '54 of Clarion, Pa., on April 13 at age 79.

CHARLES H. WAGONER '55 of Sebring, Fla., on Dec. 4, 2010.

WILLIAM N. FLOROS '56 of Hermitage, Pa., on June 23 at age 77.

LILY SOLOMON '56 on June 10.

JESSIE H. WILT '58 of Latrobe, Pa., on June 7 at age 74.



Professor David Miller '61, Ruth Miller, Michael Miller '92, Wendy Miller, Adam Michael Miller (Thiel graduation date: 2033), Ned Adams and Charlotte Adams at Adam's baptism in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel on Aug. 14. The Millers and Adamses are grandparents to Adam.

Class Notes

PASTOR HOWARD RAVENSTAHL '60 of Pittsburgh on May 17 at age 72.

MAE (NEWTON) LEE '61 in October 2010.

RONALD L. MYERS '61 of Morro Bay, Calif., on June 12 at age 74.

MICHAEL V. PALAMARA '61 of Penn Hills, Pa., on March 24 at age 77.

PATRICIA (BEYER) COLLIER '65 of Rochester, N.Y., on March 21.

DOROTHY J. MARPLE '65 of Ambler, Pa., on Aug. 8. Marple was the dean of women and foreign student adviser at Thiel from 1953 to 1961. She received an honorary doctorate of letters from Thiel in 1965.

GEORGE ROBERT MERK '65 of Tampa, Fla., on June 10 at age 68.

ARTHUR R. PATTERSON '65 of Greensburg, Pa., on April 27 at age 67.

STEPHEN PAUL GERHARD '67 of Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 20 at age 65. He is survived by his wife, BARBARA JEANNE (FOREMAN) GERHARD '68.

JOHN T. ZALINSKI '69 of Poolesville, Md., on March 5.

DOUGLAS MENGLE SNYDER '72 of Schwenksville, Pa., on April 11.

EDWARD DEICHMAN JR. '75 of Midlothian, Va., on June 23 at age 58.

MEGAN M. (HICKEY) TWICHELL '96 of Delmont, Pa., on July 9, 2010, at age 35.

Still Together After All These Years



The Class of 1961 gathered for a 50th anniversary dinner at Homecoming 2011. Thanks to all those who came to the special event! Pictured are (front row, l to r) Carolyn (Neil) Shaner, Martha (Schmidt) Burkett, Bonnie (Youkers) Sowers, Pat Stearns, Carolyn "Suze" (Stineman) Schroeder, Jeannette Amick, Barbara (Kelch) Toy and Sally Ann (Condie) Krozley; (second row) Judy Pekich, Frank Stratiff, Nancy (Jones) Rambarger and Letha (Morton) Adelman; (third row) Jean (Kohlhaas) Byers, Linda (Reed) Schaeffer, Wayne McWilliams, Arnold "Arnie" Moon and Marilyn (Johnston) Brown; (fourth row) Elizabeth "Betty" Thul, Beverly (Titus) McQuone, Dian (Darby) Dow, Jim McClimans, Clyde Moffett and Tom Schaeffer; and (top row) William Reinhart, William "Bill" Heider, Gary McQuone, Anthony Krozley, Clyde McGee, Russell "Rick" Marburger, Lana (Huey) Mozes, Janet (Stone) McGuire, Dan Ackerman and David Miller.

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, 2011. 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 to Alumni Services, Thiel College, 75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125.

To submit a digital photo, e-mail the photo file to 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.*

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.**

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

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

To give online, visit 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) _____

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A Year in the Life of a Volunteer

by Dr. Joyce Cuff

We at Thiel often talk about the value of capstone experiences for our students that call upon them to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways in service to others. In this sense, my 13 months in Karatu, Tanzania, clearly qualifies as a capstone sabbatical. The medical facility where I worked opened just three years ago as the first step in the realization of a dream of Dr. Frank Artress and his wife, Susan Gustafson, to bring together the broad-based experience and expertise of Tanzanian medical personnel and the more highly specialized and technology-supported

expertise of health care practitioners from western countries. FAME (Foundation for African Medicine and Education) was born out of that dream. The FAME medical dispensary serves the area around Karatu, a large village and stop-over point for many safari companies, and is now complemented by a FAME mobile unit that travels to a rural children's village and surrounding community and a more scattered population living "in the bush." To access this remote population, every month the mobile unit, packed with supplies and medical personnel, travels four to five hours on dirt roads that are often no more than paths or dry river or lake beds. Once on site, the clinic serves about 300 patients over three days.

While I was at FAME, a free-standing clinical laboratory was completed and a 36-bed hospital is due to open sometime in the coming year. I had the opportunity to help to design and oversee construction of the clinical lab facility, to assist the laboratory staff in improving the accuracy and consistency of their testing, and to expand the spectrum of tests being done in the lab and on mobile outings. There were countless opportunities to collaborate with Dr. Frank about individual patients, interpretation of specific tests, courses of treatment and additional approaches to laboratory testing under enormous logistical and economic constraints.

Dr. Joyce Cuff is the Paul M. Rike Professor of Life Sciences and has been a professor of biology at Thiel College since 1981. Experiencing the biological and cultural diversity of the world is a major interest of hers and she has traveled extensively, including Tanzania, Ghana, Kenya, Zimbabwe, China, India, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Belize, British Columbia, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, France and Italy.



Top: The mobile van is always a welcome sight. Local residents wave at the van as it drives past. Above: Dr. Cuff laughs with another happy patient.

The work itself, both in the dispensary and on the mobile clinics, was emotionally challenging but richly rewarding. People who had never received any medical attention other than that provided by their traditional healers would sometimes travel great distances often across a fairly barren landscape to reach us. Although often

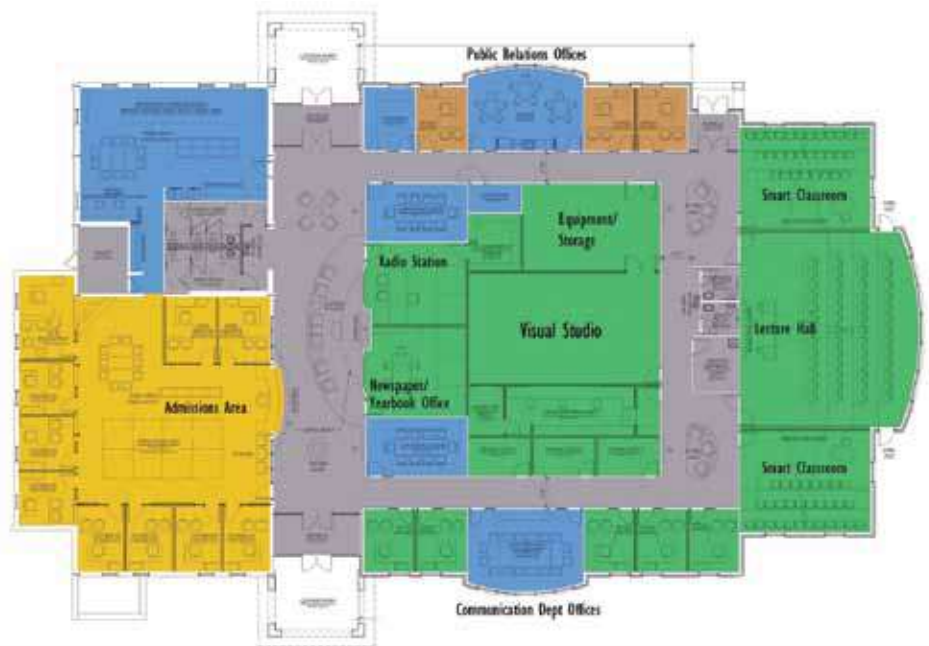
surprised and occasionally horrified that we would want a sample of their blood, urine or stool, the patients were incredibly compliant. Fortunately, their compliance usually paid off well and sometimes the interventions were life saving. A baby strapped to the back of a man bicycling to the mobile clinic site as we were driving back to Karatu was diagnosed and treated for malaria on the dirt path we were following; a tuberculosis patient walked for two days to get to the mobile clinic and then was transported by FAME staff to the nearest TB hospital; a young child was so dehydrated from an infection that she was in a coma when her parents brought her in and was up and walking by the end of a day of IV fluids, oral rehydration therapy and antibiotics; at the dispensary a child was monitored and kept alive long enough for FAME to arrange for heart surgery to be performed in Germany. That young girl is now happy and healthy and attending school for the first time. These are just a few examples of the impact of FAME, the organization with which I had the joy of working during my capstone sabbatical.

Dr. James Pedas Communication Center

Through the generosity of Jim Pedas '50, president and owner of Circle Companies in Washington, D.C., and his family, as well as other donors, Thiel has now raised a significant portion of the funds needed to break ground on the proposed 16,000-square-foot Dr. James Pedas Communication Center. This center has been a dream for several years and, with only \$1.5 million left to raise, the Pedas Communication Center and the benefits it will bring to Thiel's students are closer than ever!

Some project highlights include:

- A prime location at the heart of campus and near Greenville Hall and the Academic Center;
- Offices for the Department of Communication faculty;
- Macintosh computer lab;
- A visual studio with an announcing booth, viewing and editing area, and editing suites;
- A new radio studio with DJ booth and editing and production areas;
- A 50-seat lecture hall and two 30-seat "SMART" classrooms;
- New offices for the College's Admissions and Public Relations Departments;
- And much more!



Proposed interior layout of Pedas Communication Center.

There is no substitute for hands-on experience using state-of-the-art equipment and technology—and with your help, Thiel's students will soon have the competitive edge in the communication field. Give to the Dr. James Pedas Communication Center today!

For more information, or to give to the project, contact the Office of College Advancement at 724-589-2160 or advancement@thiel.edu.



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From the Archives



Completed in two phases, construction on Hodge Hall, which was originally named “East Hall,” began in 1957. The second phase was completed in 1961. The dormitory was named for Dr. & Mrs. Edwin Hodge Jr., past president of the Board of Trustees. Hodge housed female students until 1970 when it became a men’s dormitory. Today, it is a co-ed residence hall. (For more on the renovation of Hodge Hall, see page 14.)