

The Bell

Homecoming 2012
The Dietrich Honors Institute
Tomcats Around the World
...and much more



Mr. Thiel

David Miller celebrates 50 years of teaching at Thiel

A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

The state of education at all levels in the United States was a major topic of discussion during the recent elections. It also is something we discuss quite frequently here at Thiel College. The biggest issue facing Thiel and higher education in general is actually three intertwined challenges: cost, affordability and graduation rates.

The cost of providing quality higher education is growing, and it is becoming increasingly unaffordable for many students and their families. At Thiel, a typical student's college costs are covered by donor-supported scholarships, state and federal aid, loans and tuition paid by students and their parents. When things work out and students graduate, everyone wins. When it does not, then all involved question whether the investment was worth it. Graduation rates are key to the students' (and Thiel's) success. College presidents can focus on reining in costs and increasing affordability, but without graduating students, the investment equation will never work.

We continue to search for the correct balance of services and programs to support students on their way to graduation, while keeping costs in check and an eye on affordability. But at the same time, students need to be better prepared for the work and expectations that await them in college—namely learning to think, not just “do,” which will help them become critical and creative members of the workforce, their communities and the world.

At Thiel, we are working on that equation and believe that Thiel 2016, our new strategic plan, and its four pillars will make a difference. Those pillars—a Commitment to Academic Excellence and Relevance, a Commitment to a Culture of Caring and Confidence, a Commitment to Enhanced Facilities and Infrastructure, and a Commitment to Superior Delivery of Programs and Services—combine the best of the liberal arts tradition with career and life skills; foster the intellectual, social, ethical, leadership and spiritual development of our students; and support their classroom and co-curricular experience, giving them the tools they need to succeed in college and beyond.

The strategic plan is already making a difference on campus. This summer, we undertook an ambitious slate of revitalization projects as part of the commitment to facilities and infrastructure—from renovating classrooms and living spaces to replacing HVAC to paving parking lots—which have and will continue to make a big difference in the educational experience of our students.

This fall, the Dietrich Honors Institute welcomed its director and assistant director, Dr. Curt Thompson and Lisa Walton, and its first students—18 members of the incoming class entered as Dietrich Scholars. The DHI is a key program to the commitment to academic relevance, and we look for great things from this program and its students.

We are looking forward to Thiel's sesquicentennial in 2016—celebrating the college's 150th anniversary—and we have ambitious goals for that important milestone: raising total enrollment to around 1,200, improving the academic profile of the student body, a transforming capital campaign, just to name a few!

Please enjoy this issue of *The Bell*, featuring the accomplishments of various members of the Thiel community, on and off campus. Mark your calendars for Winter Weekend on Feb. 8-9, 2013, and plan to join us for this newest (and very fun!) Thiel tradition. Have a happy holiday season and we'll see you next year!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy D. VanAken". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.
President

Fall 2012

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ON THE COVER:

Professor David Miller and Tommy Tomcat share a moment in the Howard Miller Student Center.

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Investing in Thiel

Continuing the \$3-million renovation to Hodge Hall in 2011, this summer, Thiel College undertook an ambitious slate of campus revitalization projects, investing an additional \$3.4 million in campus upgrades.

The list of projects undertaken by the Thiel College Maintenance Department and an army of contractors and student workers was extensive:

- Roof replacements to the Academic Center, Howard Miller Student Center, Harter Hall (lounge area), Stewart Hall, 104 College Avenue and 123 College Avenue.
- Restroom renovations in Bane, Stewart, Florence West, Sawhill and Harter Halls.
- New electrical service in the gymnasium and Harter and Sawhill Halls.
- Corridor improvements in the Rhodehouse Memorial Science Hall and Bane, Stewart, Flo West, Sawhill and Harter Halls.
- Classroom improvements in Rhodehouse Science Hall.
- Parking lot improvements to the gym and Harter Hall lots.
- Window replacements in Stewart Hall.
- Façade improvements to Sawhill Hall.
- Replacement of the turf at Alumni Stadium.
- Numerous miscellaneous projects such as door replacement, heating control improvements, steam leak repairs, carpet installations and many more in a variety of locations on campus!

These enhancements have made a big difference in the lives of our students. Comfortable places to live and study help students succeed in and out of the classroom. Projects continue with plans to replace the chiller and heating plan in the Academic Center, install a new greenhouse outside of the Science Hall and construction of the first new academic building on campus in 40 years, the Dr. James Pedas Communication Center. Stay connected to Thiel to learn more about these and other exciting projects!



Welcome, Class of 2016!



Each year on Move-In Day, the incoming first-year students have their photo taken as a group—it's a special moment as it is the first time they are all together as a class! The more than 300 students were welcomed at Opening Convocation by members of the administration and current students. They recited a student pledge, vowing to give their

best efforts as students and citizens of Thiel and hold themselves to the highest standards of shared inquiry and academic integrity.

Move-In Day and Opening Convocation were a great success—many thanks to all the students, staff, faculty and alumni and community volunteers who make the day run so smoothly!

Auditing Class Presents to Board Committee



Students from an auditing class recently gained “real world” experience—without leaving campus.

The students in the auditing course, which is taught by Gary Witosky '79, attended a meeting of the Audit Committee of the Thiel College Board of Trustees to present the results of a project they have been working on in conjunction with Connie Jablonski, Thiel's controller. The class served as the audit team for the project, performing various auditing procedures to produce an updated and refined fixed asset listing for the College. In addition, the class made a series of written recommendations designed to improve and strengthen the College's policies and procedures in this area. The project began in fall 2011 as part of a student's internship with the Office of Financial

Services and continued through the spring during a second student internship. It consisted of creating an audit plan and an audit program, conducting fieldwork and compiling the conclusions into an audit report.

“Professor Gary Witosky's auditing class helping with Thiel College's fixed assets assessment is a great example of academic relevance at work on our campus,” said President Troy VanAken. “A true win-win situation for everyone involved.” Participating students included Adam Householder '12, Ellie Belleau '12, Brandon Bukovinsky '12, Tyler Ennis '12, Kristen Moreland '12, Kayla Ohlin '13, Michael Roberts '12 and Jacob Shaffer '12.

—Kayla A. Ohlin '13

Two Join President's Cabinet

Two professionals with decades of higher education experience have joined the President's cabinet in recent months.

Sam Siple, vice president for college advancement, has substantial advancement and executive leadership experience in education. His most recent positions include senior principal with Jerold Panas, Linzy & Partners, a campaign services and charitable resource development firm, and president of Eden Christian Academy in Pittsburgh, where he developed and managed a comprehensive fundraising program that yielded higher contribution and participation rates. Previously, he served for nearly 10 years at Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa., as executive director of public relations & marketing and later as vice president for institutional advancement. Siple holds a master's degree in organizational leadership and a bachelor's degree in broadcast communications, both from Geneva College.

Bob Schmoll joined Thiel as vice president for finance and management. He has nearly 30 years'



Sam Siple



Bob Schmoll

experience in higher education administration. He comes to Thiel from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kan., where he was vice president for finance and operations and oversaw accounting/business office, bookstore, computer services, facilities, financial aid, food service and human resources for the college. Previously, he served in several positions of increasing responsibility at Dana College in Blair, Neb., including executive vice president and chief financial officer. Schmoll earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Nebraska and bachelor's degrees in business administration and German from Dana College.

"I am happy that at a critical moment in Thiel College's growth, we have found two professionals who have proven track records of success in higher education and a dedication to the ideals of service, integrity and excellence on which Thiel was founded," said Dr. Troy VanAken, Thiel president. "We look forward to their contributions to the Thiel community."

Upcoming Admissions Events

If you know any prospective/incoming Thiel students, please encourage them to participate in one of our upcoming campus recruitment and enrollment events. Just register (or find more information) at www.thiel.edu/visitday or call 800-24-THIEL.

- Accepted Student Visit Day: Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Academic Scholarship Competitions: Jan. 19 & 27; Feb. 16 & 17.
- Campus Preview Day: Jan. 21
- National Girls and Women in Sports Visit Day: Feb. 2
- Accepted Student Visit Day: March 15
- Junior Visit Day: April 24



Using your smartphone, scan this QR code or enter www.thiel.edu/visitday into your browser to register for a campus visit day.



Teaching the Teachers

This summer, some Thiel College professors went “back to school” to explore ways to foster more engaged students in their classrooms.

Twenty faculty members participated in the first Dr. Edwin Hodge Jr. Institute for Teaching and Learning in May. This new initiative is aimed at engaging students more fully in seminar settings. The first year of the Hodge Institute focused on redefining the first-year seminar experience.

The eight-day institute featured writings and presentations from a variety of respected voices in higher education, including Dr. Julie Schell of the Mazur Group, Harvard University, who presented “Real Strategies for Improving Learning in Your Classroom.” The participants were able to share and revise the syllabi for their FYS courses based on the knowledge and mentoring presented during the Institute. They also received iPads to use in their courses as “technology in the classroom” is a focus of the both the Hodge Institute and Thiel College.

“The Hodge Institute was a significant developmental experience for the faculty who participated,” said Dr. Jennifer Griffin, assistant dean of the college and director of the First-Year Experience at Thiel. “The new and engaging pedagogies and practices that were taught in the Institute are impacting students in the classroom every day.”

Funding for the institute was secured through a grant from the Emma Clyde Hodge Fund and was made in honor of Dr. Edwin Hodge Jr., a past president and former chair of the Board of the Trustees of the College. The current funding was for a one-year program, but Thiel plans to continue the program focusing on core academic initiatives that enrich the classroom experience.



Update on the Pedas Communication Center



Recently, the philosophy of the Dr. James Pedas Communication Center project has grown from a single-use building aimed at the communication studies program at Thiel to a dynamic, integrated and technologically sophisticated building that inspires individual and collaborative learning in a creative and open space. While still home to the Communication Department, Dr. James Pedas '50 and his brother, Ted, wish the building to benefit all Thiel students by serving as a place where their presentational and communication skills can be honed and developed in an atmosphere of critical and creative thinking.

R.W. Larson Associates presented a design charrette, a collaborative consulting session, in June to key stakeholders in the Pedas Communication Center, including Jim Pedas '50 (pictured above).

“We see this building as having the potential to transform the center of campus and become the heart of learning at Thiel College,” said Dr. Troy VanAken, president of Thiel College. “We are hard at work finalizing what that philosophy will look like in reality with architects, project managers and faculty members as well as the Pedas brothers.”

Fundraising for this project is wrapping up this year, as Thiel works to reach a final \$1-million match to the generous gifts by Jim Pedas.

The groundbreaking for the project is anticipated for 2013 with completion in 2014. During Homecoming in September, the Class of 2012 dedicated their senior class gift at its future site (where the Financial Services Building currently sits)—a brick sidewalk that will be incorporated into the final design of the building and its grounds.

Are you interested in being a part of this exciting new project that will help shape the future of Thiel College? Contact Sam Siple, vice president for college advancement, at 724-589-2160 or ssiple@thiel.edu to learn how!

Welcome to “Interview Boot Camp”

Thiel College’s accounting and forensic accounting students get a leg up on the competition in finding a job or internship with a comprehensive interview preparation program sponsored and coordinated by the Thiel College Business Department.

Each October, a consortium of regional schools holds an Accounting Interview Day in Pittsburgh, an event that brings their students together with recruiters from top national and regional public accounting firms. Thiel’s students begin preparing for the event before the semester even starts, working on their resumes during the summer. In September, their resumes are polished, some being revised multiple times. Their resumes and a “wish list” of firms that they’d like to interview with are submitted to the consortium.

After reviewing the resumes, the firms chose who they would like to meet, and the preparation kicks into high gear. Students are coached on presentation and appearance. Bill King, an Ohio-based entrepreneur, engineer and career coach, volunteers his time



Thiel students learn how to “ace the interview” at a special presentation on campus.

to coach Thiel students through the interview process, including their “elevator speech,” how to use business cards and interview follow up. Sandy Parker '81, a retired vice president for PNC Bank, volunteers her time to conduct mock interviews with the students and videotapes the experience so students can see where they need to improve. Thiel accounting faculty are available for coaching as well, having

worked for some of the firms that the students are meeting with and can give valuable personal insight into the interview process.

“Our students have great success in landing jobs after graduation,” says Gary Witosky '79, accounting professor at Thiel. “We consider it a significant part of our responsibilities to properly prepare our students to take full advantage of these exciting career-related opportunities.”



Roth Legacy Continues

Thiel College was happy to welcome Elizabeth Clair Rice (pictured center) to campus as a member of the Class of 2016 this fall. Rice is the 52nd member of the Roth family to attend Thiel. She counts among her fellow Thiel graduate family members her great-great grandfather Rev. Theophilus B. “T.B.” Roth of the Class of 1874, Thiel’s first graduating class, and the fourth president (1893-1902) of Thiel College. Welcome Elizabeth!

Student Achievements



Thiel Student Teachers on the Job

Fourteen Thiel College senior education majors took to the field this semester to do their student teaching experience. They were (back row) **Heather McCloud** (Artman Elementary, third grade), **Rebecca West** (Artman Elementary, first grade), **Ashley Rable** (East Side Elementary, sixth grade) and **Monica Smith** (Clarion Area Elementary, fifth grade); (middle row) **Josh Shaffer** (Greenville High School, math), **Rebecca Betteridge** (Jamestown Elementary, sixth grade), **Abby Charsar** (Reynolds High School, English) and **Walter Santa** (Hempfield Elementary, first grade); and (front row) **Steve Toth** (East Side Elementary, fifth grade), **Phil Double** (Commodore Perry High School, history), **David Urey** (Reynolds Elementary, fourth grade) and **Rebecca House** (Jamestown Elementary, first grade). Not pictured are **Brittany Anderson** (McKeever & Oakview Elementary, kindergarten) and **Deryk Herold** (McKeever & Artman Elementary, kindergarten).

Students of the Month - Fall 2012

Students of the Month at Thiel are selected by faculty from among seniors with superior grade point averages. The honorees for fall 2012 were **Amanda Pye** (biology) and **Katey Ann Williams** (business communication) for October; **Stephanie Dulka** (biology/medicinal chemistry) and **Emily Whipple** (English/Secondary Education) for November; **Keisha Shaw** (political science) and **Eric King** (mathematics) for December.



FYS & Honors Students Collaborate

Dr. David Buck's Honors class and his First-Year Seminar course collaborated on a t-shirt design this fall. Students in his honors class each created a design, which was then voted on by the FYS class (pictured). The designs were based on the FYS class's theme of "How can I change the world?" The result was a shirt with a version of a quote from Gandhi.

Strategic Management Class Joins Forces with IlSCO Extrusions

In September, Prof. Angelo Giannini's strategic management class toured IlSCO Extrusions, Inc. in Greenville, Pa. This semester, the class worked with **John Thigpen '86**, IlSCO's general manager, to perform a cost benefit analysis and create a business plan linked to leasing a portion of the existing factory to an outside company. The class project manager is senior **Jonathan Hogan** and the team leaders are seniors **Alyssa Chine**, **Ryan Dixon** and **Andrew Garrett**.



Lambda Sigma Inducts 34 Members

Thirty-four new members of Lambda Sigma Society joined the society in April. Lambda Sigma Society is the National Sophomore Honor Society. It was founded in 1922 as the Society of Cwens and became co-ed in 1977. Thiel's chapter has been in existence since 1952. New members are **Jessica Bartko** (parliamentarian), **Elliott Beach**, **Alexis Bump**, **Amanda Callahan**, **Cassandra Marie Cook** (secretary), **Rebecca Crawford**, **Keeley Criswell**, **Deborah Donatelli**, **Katelyn Downey**, **Kristen Fedder**, **Andrew Gaul**, **John Grondwalski** (ritualist), **Anna Hart**,

Benjamin Hellner-Burris (treasurer), **Timothy Hutton** (fundraising chair), **Brooklyn Ishman**, **Nicholas Jones** (SGA representative), **Kristopher Karr**, **Danielle Massengill**, **Anne Mullhausen**, **Mallory Elizabeth Nims**, **Daniel Nolte**, **Elizabeth Onegow**, **Sean Oros** (philanthropy chair), **Brittany Allyn Patten**, **Taylor Runser**, **Emily Skebo**, **Jessica Rae Slupe**, **Laura Stump**, **Sara Toombs** (vice president), **Colin Vitale** (president), **Schanvel Wall**, **Duncan Wingard** and **Jessica Yozwiak**. Lambda Sigma's advisers are Mary Reames and John Hauser '71.

First Thiel Forum Held

The Faculty Executive Committee hosted the first **Thiel Forum Initiative** on Nov. 13 in the Sawhill-Georgian Room of the Howard Miller Student Center. The Thiel Forum is an opportunity for faculty, students, staff and

administrators to present their academic research, projects and publications. Faculty returning from sabbatical or who attained faculty awards can share their research and study experience with the College community. At the first

Forum, **Dr. Cynthia Kreisel**, history, and **Dr. Laurie Morocco**, communication, delivered presentations about their sabbatical experiences. Another Thiel Forum will be held in the spring semester.



Hall Publishes Review

Dr. Mary Theresa Hall, chair of the faculty and professor of English, published a book review of “Court Poetry in Late Medieval England and Scotland: Allegories of Authority” by Anthony J. Hasler in *The Sixteenth-Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*. Most of the chapters of the book were presented as part of a panel at the 2008 Lacanian Affiliated Psychoanalytic Workgroups conference and considers seven poets—Skelton, Dunbar, Douglas, André, Hawes, Lyndsay and Barclay—who wrote at the royal courts of England and Scotland between 1485, when Henry VII began his reign in England, and 1528, when James V ended his reign in Scotland. The study treats each monarch’s influence and authority on the political structures of England and Scotland from the psychoanalytic as well as the social, cultural, textual and rhetorical perspectives, thus providing multiple readings of court poetry, and discusses each poet’s relationship with his patrons and poetic predecessors.



Thiel Welcomes Two in Sports Info

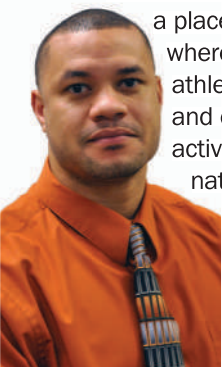
Thiel College welcomes two new members of the Sports Information Department this semester—**William Becque**, sports information director, and **Ed Topoleski '02**, assistant director. The two serve as the primary contacts for the various athletic programs; produce media guides, game notes, game programs, write press releases and feature articles for College marketing materials; utilize social media in departmental marketing efforts; and coordination of game-day staff.

Lenkner Presents at PLAA

Kayla Lenkner (pictured above), circulation librarian, gave a presentation titled “Making it Relevant: Creating Engaging Information Literacy Experiences for Students” at the Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference held in Gettysburg, Pa. on Sept. 30. Lenkner co-presented with Meggan Smith, a librarian at Gettysburg College. They discussed strategies for supporting upper-level undergraduate research through library instruction and librarian assistance, as well as their experience working closely with Gettysburg College Health Sciences faculty to integrate information literacy and library resources into the curriculum.

Webb Recognized by Alma Mater

Joe Webb, director of multicultural affairs, was featured in a recent edition of Marietta College’s alumni magazine. The article describes Webb’s search for stability and a future following a childhood spent in fostercare before finding a place at Marietta where he flourished in athletics, academics and extracurricular activities. Webb, a native of Donora, Pa., graduated from Marietta in 2007 with a degree in organizational communication.



Linn Attends Coach Academy

Jeff Linn, associate director of admissions and assistant wrestling coach, received a fully funded scholarship to attend the National Wrestling Coaches Association Leadership Academy in May. Linn was one of 24 coaches chosen

from among Division I, II and III coaches. The workshop included presentations from current and former head wrestling coaches from higher education institutions and featured Dr. Dan Gould of Michigan State University, a nationally renowned coaching development expert and the architect of the NWCA Leadership Academy.

Balas Takes PennACE Board Position

Heather Balas, director of career services, was named secretary of the PennACE organization (Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Employers) in May. She will serve a two-year term. PennACE is a collaborative organization of career development and recruitment professionals that provides professional growth and networking opportunities designed to enhance career development practices for Pennsylvania college and university students and graduates.

Despo Honored



Dr. Nick Despo, professor of biology, was named the Paul M. Rike Professor of Life Sciences at Thiel College.

Major Minor(s)

It is a classic story—student meets college. Student wrestles with the choice of major. A primary field of study is indeed a “major” decision, but a minor can be just as important. Minors can allow students to pursue a subject about which they’re passionate, provide additional training for a career path or improve a resume with additional skills and training—while improving graduate school chances. Recently, Thiel added several new interdisciplinary minors that may interest students looking to expand their academic horizons:

ETHICS

This program explores the interdisciplinary nature of ethics while strengthening critical thinking and analytical writing. Students will develop the ability to effectively resolve conflicts within an institution, identify conflicts of interest externally and evaluate concerns from a secularly ethical perspective. Minor in ethics at Thiel positions a graduate to apply to a growing number of graduate schools in applied ethics or display the ability to handle the analytical and ethical needs of a particular business, such as resolving workplace disputes or evaluating conflicts of interest, for example. Students will explore ethical theory in conjunction with case studies and internship experience in resolving concrete ethical dilemmas. The ethics minor includes courses in philosophy, criminal justice studies, communication and religion.



WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Students are introduced to how one's gender and sexual identity are formed and how gender or sexuality affects one's personality, individuality, behavior and opportunities in society and around the globe. After completing the program, students will achieve a more precise understanding of how individuals in diverse cultures learn, negotiate and accept or resist their gender roles, as well as the importance of gender both historically and in contemporary life. Additionally, students graduating from the program will be more marketable to graduate schools and more prepared for life in the world of business, science or academia where diversity is a part of everyday life. The program includes courses in the fields of criminal justice, communication, history, political science, religion and sociology as well as two introductory courses in gender and social theory.



FILM STUDIES

The film studies program covers film history, theory and analysis and includes a practical component for students interested in the film area of media communication. Students will learn to identify and understand the essential elements of filmmaking, evaluate the role of film in society, analyze film to determine how filmmakers use the elements of filmmaking to disseminate messages, examine how film relates to historical, artistic, scientific and other developments, and use media technology to make their own films. Students graduating with this minor will have reels to showcase to graduate schools and potential employers. Coursework encompasses the areas of communication, sociology, history, religion, art and criminal justice studies.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

The interdisciplinary public relations minor is designed for students interested in gaining a theoretical and practical understanding of the history, function and tools of public relations. Whatever the field, any professional needs to communicate effectively and persuasively to target audiences. Students will develop a critical awareness of public relations theory; learn about the historical development of public relations in a local, national and global context; gain an awareness of problems requiring professional communication and strategic/tactical advice and implementation; a broad working knowledge of PR practice; a critical awareness of PR research methods; and a knowledge of the legal, ethical and regulatory aspects of the field. The PR program includes courses in communication, fine arts and business administration.



For more information about these minor programs, please contact Dr. Matt Morgan (ethics) at 724-589-2030 or mmorgan@thiel.edu; Dr. Victor Evans (film studies) at 724-589-2018 or vevans@thiel.edu; Dr. Cynthia Kreisel (women's & gender studies) at 724-589-2033 or ckreisel@thiel.edu; and Dr. Laurie Moroco (public relations) at 724-589-2041 or lmoroco@thiel.edu.

Thiel welcomes five new faculty members:

Dr. Sarah Swerdlow joined the faculty as an assistant professor of biology. She most recently worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Swerdlow holds a doctorate from the pathology department of the cancer biology training program of Case Western Reserve University and a bachelor's degree in molecular biology/biotechnology from Clarion University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Russell B. Richins was named assistant professor of mathematics. He holds a doctorate and master's from the University of Utah and a bachelor's degree from Weber State University. Richins comes to Thiel from Michigan State University where he was a postdoctoral fellow at the Michigan Center for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

Dr. Jared Johnson took a position as assistant professor of English. He holds a doctorate from the State University of New York, Stony Brook, a master's from the University of Tennessee and a bachelor's degree from Flagler College in St. Augustine, Fla. He comes to Thiel from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Dr. Eugene Takeo Torigoe joined the faculty as an assistant professor of physics. He holds doctoral and master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and bachelor's degrees in physics and philosophy from Binghamton University in New York. He comes to Thiel from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.

Dr. Laura R.G. Pickens '06 moved from an adjunct position at Thiel to assistant professor of psychology. She holds a doctorate and a master's degree from Kent State University in Ohio and a bachelor's degree from Thiel College. Along with the courses she led at Thiel, Pickens served as a teaching fellow at Kent State.

New adjunct faculty for the 2012-2013 academic year include Emmett Rafferty, environmental science; Gregory Hungerford, sociology; Ronald Friend, communication; Burton Speakman, communication; Kimberly Banic, education; Erin McKinney, education; Kristina McCartney, education; Nancy Castor, education; Anthony Giaramita, business administration; Paulina Montaldo-Stader, languages; and Aaron Fairbourn, mathematics.



Pictured (l to r) are Dr. Eugene Torigoe, Dr. Sarah Swerdlow, Dr. Russ Richins, Dr. Laura Pickens and Dr. Jared Johnson.



Fleming Named Entrepreneur of the Year

"We are all entrepreneurs" was the message Kim Tillotson Fleming, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Hefren-Tillotson Inc., delivered in October when she received the 2012 Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year Award, which is given annually to a business owner who has demonstrated entrepreneurial leadership.

Fleming has served as president of Hefren-Tillotson—a privately held Pittsburgh-based firm offering comprehensive financial planning and investment advisory services for individuals, foundations, trusts and qualified retirement plans—since 1996 and, in December 2010, was elected to her current positions.

The company, started by Fleming's father in 1948, prides itself on strong family traditions that give them an uncommon perspective in serving its clients. Fleming shared that each employee in any successful company or business is an entrepreneur in their own right and brings different creative perspectives and ideas to the table.

Fleming is a graduate of Northwestern University with a degree in economics and holds several professional designations.

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 College.

Informing, Forming, Transforming

This fall, Thiel College enrolled its first Dietrich Honors Institute students—the very first Dietrich Scholars. These students will form the foundation of a transformational program filled with passionate and purpose-filled people. While the curriculum and academic format of the DHI program are currently before the curriculum committee of the Thiel College faculty for approval, the director of the DHI, Dr. Curtis Thompson, and assistant director, Lisa Walton, have launched the DHI with excitement and purpose. We've asked them to comment on the goals and plans for the Institute and the Dietrich Scholars.

Q: What is the mission of the Dietrich Honors Institute?

A: Educating in its deepest meaning is the process of shaping the human into the form of true humanity, into a knowledgeable human being of character committed to serving the greater good. The Dietrich Honors Institute endeavors to create full human beings whose breadth of knowledge, strength of character and thoughtfulness of action make them natural leaders in the world. The DHI curriculum and co-curriculum are designed to form students in this threefold sense of informing through the acquisition of knowledge, forming through the building of character and transforming through engagement in serving the larger world. With the DHI's emphasis on informing, forming and transforming, we have adopted a motto that reflects those dimensions of educating students: "Where ideas, character and action form leaders for the world."

Scriptures: Jewish, Christian, Islamic." In the senior year, Dietrich Scholars will take a capstone course in which they will present a major research project or creative achievement. Options are present for four courses to be taken during the sophomore and junior years, including two regular Honors



Q: What are the goals of the DHI?

A: The goals of the DHI flow from its mission and its intention to inform, form and transform students. These three areas each have three core goal values—Inform: general knowledge, critical thinking and interdisciplinary learning; Form: effective communication, collegial identity and ethical leadership; and Transform: diversity advocacy, civic engagement and project management. Under each of the nine core values are two essential learning outcomes, with these 18 essential learning outcomes articulating the fundamental goals of the DHI.

Q: What will the Dietrich Scholars be doing in the Institute?

A: Those in the Dietrich Honors Institute will be taking Honors and possibly Honors-enhanced courses and participating in co-curricular experiences. According to the proposed curriculum that is currently making its way through the approval process of the faculty, DHI students will take five courses in their first year. These five courses, the Questioning and Questing Sequence, consist of a First-Year Seminar entitled "Becoming Human: Love, Power, Justice;" the western civilization course "Creating Culture: Ancient, Medieval, Modern;" the course "Communicating Effectively: Grammar, Dialectic, Rhetoric;" the science lab-course "Emerging Reality: Universe, Life, Mind;" and the religion course "Interpreting

courses: "Understanding Globalization: Markets, Images, Sustainability" and "Appreciating Creativity: Artistic, Scientific, Societal." Two other Honors elective courses are to be taken during the sophomore or junior years. A flexible DHI track allows these four courses to be taken as Honors-enhanced versions of courses the student is taking in his or her line of courses required for fulfilling requirements for a major or majors.

Co-curricularly, Dietrich Scholars also will be able to contribute to the *Harlequin*, the DHI e-magazine featuring voices of creative expression on the Thiel campus; take part in local ventures such as kayaking on Pennsylvania waterways; go on field trips to places like Chicago, New York City, area museums and professional sporting events; function as DHI Ambassadors; work on publishing a book of essays by DHI Scholars annually; serve on the DHI Students Advisory Board or the Honors Council; work with faculty members on research projects; and present research papers at regional meetings of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Q: What does a Dietrich Scholar "look" like?

A: The "look" of the Dietrich Scholars will be marked by similarity at one level and great diversity at another level. Students qualify for being a Dietrich Scholar by having a 3.5 high school grade point average and meeting one of three additional requirements—1100 combined math/verbal score on the SAT, 24 composite score on the ACT or ranking in the top 15 percent of the high school class. Dietrich Scholars will look somewhat similar in that all will meet these requirements. On the other hand, we are seeking students who possess all kinds of special qualities and gifts, such as student government participation, exemplary leadership, community service/civic engagement, musical expertise in the areas of voice or instrument, theatrical expertise, journalistic proficiency, scientific achievement, advocacy for human rights, religious service, church ministry, social activism and many others.

Q: Why should students consider being part of the DHI?

A: Students should consider being a part of the DHI because in becoming a Dietrich Scholar they will be part of an exciting community of people where each individual brings their distinctive gifts. The distinctive curriculum will allow students to engage in exciting areas of inquiry in an interdisciplinary manner and at a level that allows creative approaches to the subject matter. All the DHI courses will be in the seminar format so students will learn through participation. Students in the Institute also will have the opportunity to live in the same dormitory. Premium housing will be available in Hodge Hall, which was completely renovated in 2011. This will allow Dietrich Scholars to get to know one another outside of class as well as in classes. Students in the DHI will be encouraged to participate in service projects, and this



Sara Gerdy, the first editor-in-chief of the Harlequin, and Sean Oros, a member of the Harlequin's Editorial Board, with Dr. Thompson during a publication brainstorming session.

engagement will help to expand them as persons. Upon accepting invitation to the DHI, students will receive a DHI membership card, which is good for a \$25 purchase in the Thiel Bookstore and a 10 percent discount on all non-textbook purchases through the student's first semester. In addition, Dietrich Scholars are allowed to register one day early, which helps alleviate being closed out of needed classes. We are striving to create an experience for Dietrich Scholars that will be enjoyable, meaningful and enriching.

Q: In four years, what will the DHI look like?

A: We envision the Dietrich Honors Institute, at the end of its four-year developmental phase, to be a vibrant community that includes 250 Dietrich Scholars. These individuals will be strong students who possess demonstrated gifts of various sorts. Participating in the Dietrich Honors Institute will mean being enriched by giving to and receiving from a diverse community of passionate and purpose-filled people. The full DHI curriculum will be in place, co-curricular activities will be in full gear and the Dietrich Honors Institute will be transforming Thiel College, just as was intended.

Editor's Note: The Dietrich Honors Institute is funded by a \$25-million fund bequeathed to Thiel College by William S. Dietrich II in honor of his parents. This gift was the largest in the College's history. During the four-year developmental phase of the DHI, the Institute's format and organization may grow and evolve. Discussions regarding scholarships for Dietrich Scholars are still ongoing. Stay tuned over the next several years for more exciting developments from the Dietrich Honors Institute!



A Zeal for Th

Professor David Miller reaches 50-year teaching miles

By Dana Black-McGrath



iel
tone.

David Miller's enthusiasm for Thiel often is contagious.

This year, Miller '61 marks his 50-year teaching anniversary at Thiel College, the longest tenure in the college's 146 years. "It has been 50 great years," the professor of economics and business administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics says emphatically.

It is a milestone of which Miller is deservedly proud—and a tenure that is six to seven years longer than any other, as he is quick to point out. He attributes the longevity of his career to his passion for his work.

"I love every year, and love what I do every day."

Miller's connection to Thiel extends even further than his teaching tenure: He also is a graduate, earning his Bachelor of Science degree in 1961. He went on to earn an MBA at the University of Pittsburgh in 1962 and started teaching at Thiel in 1963.

He is a tremendous asset and advocate for the College and frequently is called upon to speak at college events. After talking with him about what Thiel and his experience there have meant to him, it is easy to understand why.

"What greater joy is there in life than having the opportunity to impact the life of another individual in a positive way? I can't think of anything more gratifying," says the vibrant 73-year-old.

Through the years, Miller has witnessed considerable changes to the education landscape. That change, he says, has been quite gradual and not as pronounced as one might think given his five decades in the classroom.

The largest changes have come in the form of new technology, some very valuable, some questionable, in his opinion. For example, the most significant change in accounting is something that is quite simple—the hand-held calculator.

"In the 1970s, that would have cost nearly \$200, and now it costs just \$1," Miller says.

Such tools, he explains, may take away some of the burdens of work, but do not change the fundamentals of the task at hand. Technological advances have influenced other areas in his department as well. In the earlier days of his career, when teaching tax, the manual was very cumbersome, he remembers. Now tax computer programs make that process easier. In teaching advertising, instead of manual layouts, design programs now allow for creative and amazing elements that previously were impossible. But, Miller, explains, these are merely improvements in tools.

"These are all more facilitating types of things, but you still have to have the knowledge. You can't do taxes without knowledge of the tax code. You can't be an accountant without understanding credits and debits."

While computer programs and electronic devices may have taken away some of the burden, he explains, they have not changed the necessity of knowing and understanding fundamentals.

"A Kindle makes it easier to read a book, but you still have to read the book."

As a result, new technology has changed the way Miller and the rest of his colleagues are approaching their classrooms.

“In this electronic age, information is instantly available, so why should we spend time lecturing about something students have instant access to?”

So Miller, along with his colleagues, are reinventing their approach—something he refers to as, “flipping the classroom.” Instead of throwing out knowledge, he explains, they strive to get students involved in the actual thought process and engaged in the process of learning.

This shift is having a considerable impact on education, he says. It is a challenge that is exciting to Miller, although he admits such change is not always easy.

“We want to be leaders, not followers, in this,” he insists.

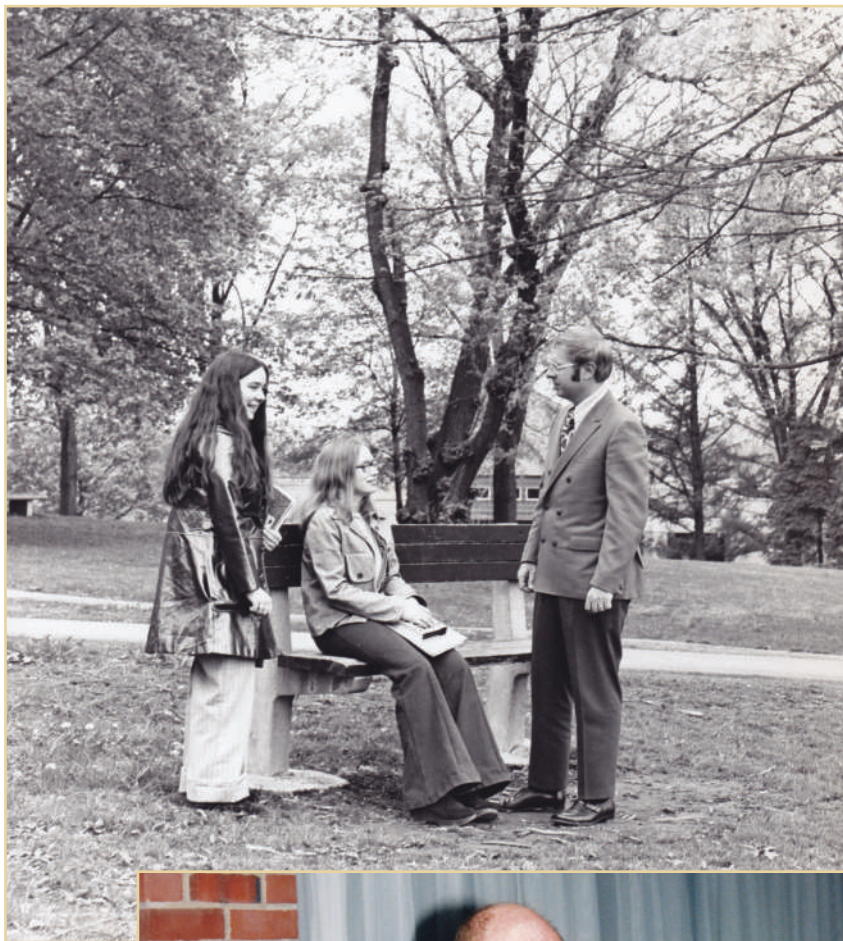
It is that type of forward thinking and adaptation that has helped to position Thiel students for success both on campus and in the professional arena after graduation, which is a source of tremendous pride for Miller.

“From the standpoint of the thousands of students I have had, I know in my heart that Thiel can prepare them as well as any institution for success, as evidenced by thousands of students, including my own two children,” he says. “It is such a delight to see.”

Miller lists the choice his own children made to attend Thiel among his proudest accomplishments. Both his daughter, Joy Miller '90, and his son, Michael '92, are Thiel graduates. When his children were college age, Thiel had a program in place that would have paid up to the amount of Thiel's tuition for them to attend the college of their choice. Although his daughter was accepted to many schools, she chose to study art at Thiel and later went on to earn an MFA at Kent State University. During her time at Thiel, she served as curator of the art museum on campus and now is curator for the Las Cruces Museum of Art in New Mexico.

“Thiel served her so well,” says Miller.

Likewise, his son, who studied computer science, has enjoyed an exceptional career and recently started a new position as director of platform engineering at Explorys in Cleveland, Ohio. But, in addition to his professional career, he also enjoys a love of the theater,



*(Top) Professor David Miller chats with students on campus in the 1970s.
(Bottom) Miller speaks at an event in the 1990s.*

an interest that was cultivated during his time at Thiel.

During his time as a student, he participated in theatrical productions, an enriching experience that sparked a new interest, which he continues to pursue today through his involvement with community theater.



(Top) Miller addresses students at a Senior Business Seminar. (Bottom right) Miller celebrates his 50 years of teaching.

“I think what is so impressive about Thiel is that, because of its size, and because of the opportunities provided outside of the classroom, it affords another enriching element of the institution to our students,” says Miller. “The classroom is the core of learning, but the experience beyond that is enriching and valuable.”

Miller also serves as executive director for the Haller Enterprise Institute at Thiel, a program that encourages students from all majors to start their own business as they pursue their education. It was established through a \$1 million gift from Henry Haller in the mid-1990s.

“That gift has made such a difference,” Miller says. He currently is teaching a class of 22 students who are working on business plans for enterprises they hope to develop.

“It is a great delight to me,” he says. “The students are so enthusiastic. It seems to be especially encouraging for them.”

Entrepreneurship is something with which Miller is well familiar. His own business pursuits include involvement in his family’s funeral home and furniture store business. He is the fourth generation to operate the family business and also is a licensed funeral director. At Thiel, he is coordinator of the mortuary science co-op program, which operates in partnership with the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science.

Miller’s largest entrepreneurial endeavor was Mercer Hydroponics, an operation that cultivated nearly 5,000 tomato plants without soil. Unfortunately, the business did not survive the region’s limited sunlight and the

spike in energy costs that occurred during the time the venture was operating.

“Not all businesses are successful, but that is the way entrepreneurship is,” Miller says. “You need to be able to accept failure, as bitter as it is.”

Miller continues his interests in rental properties and also operates an accounting practice. He serves as treasurer for Motivation Air, the company that operates Greenville Airport, and also serves as president of the Mercer County Historical Society.

At 73 years young, Miller is showing no signs of slowing down.

“My team of five or six doctors is keeping me pretty healthy,” he laughs, and, as for his future, “It is in the hands of the Lord.”

He says that as long as he is mentally and physically able, he intends to continue teaching.

“I hate golf; I hate tennis; and I have no interest in moving to Florida. I enjoy my life every day and hope it will go on for a while yet.”

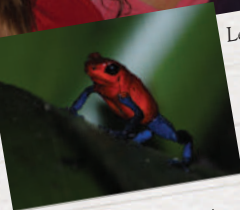


TOMCATS AROU

"With the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship, I studied in Costa Rica during the summer. While in Costa Rica, I took two classes: Spanish and cultural photography. The first weekend I went to the Pacific Coast, where I learned to surf and zip-lined in a butterfly forest. The next weekend, we stayed at a resort at the base of a live volcano. I went rappelling down waterfalls in the rainforest! I saw the cloud forests of Montverde and snorkeled in the Caribbean Sea. I slept in a filthy hammock in a hostel by the shore and wondered if I could bring everyone I knew and loved to live with me in Costa Rica. I had an amazing time, but I missed my family and friends. There were difficult, lonely and frustrating days during my time abroad. Now that I've been home and settled back into my normal routine, what I want most is to get out of my comfort zone once more."



Leah (right) with host family.



Leah Kook '14
San José, Costa Rica

"I interned in the capital of New Zealand, thanks to the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship. I worked at Sounz, the Centre for New Zealand Music, where I was their first office intern. I created a sampler of choral music to present at the New Zealand Association of Choral Director's convention, which was held toward the end of my time abroad. Not only was I able to complete and fulfill my studies in a broad range of choral music, but I also participated in convention workshops! My second job at Goodtime Music Academy was a further exploration in a contemporary view of the arts in New Zealand, as I worked alongside music tutors and assisted with primary school music performances. During my study abroad experience, I made a surprising self-discovery (as an actuarial studies major)—I would like to continue on to earn a Doctorate of Musical Arts in choral conducting!"

"Namaste! I am currently at the University of Hyderabad, a major institution in India for postgraduate studies and research. It is comprised of 10 schools of study, 46 departments and has more than 5,000 students enrolled. I have been in the country since July and will remain until the semester ends in December. I am enrolled in an international marketing class at the School of Management. My fellow classmates are Indian students working on their master's degrees in marketing and human resource management. I am immersing myself in the culture by taking basic Hindi, Yoga Jyoti and Kuchipudi dance courses. I travel to Mumbai, New Delhi, Agra, Pondicherry, Goa, Jaipur and many other cities around the country. A few items on my bucket list are to ride an elephant, attend an Indian wedding and dance in the Monsoon rains."



Audr
Hy

"This summer, we traveled with Dr. David Buck to Nicaragua for a two-week service project to benefit a group of poor single mothers called Women in Action. Nicaragua is the second most poverty-stricken country in the western hemisphere, but what Nicaraguans lack in material items, they make up for with their rich culture. We did two projects: roof repair and construction of a bio-gas fuel system. The work was laborious and dirty, but well worth it. 'I learned so much that it's hard to put in words. In simple terms, it opened my eyes. The trip made me see how amazing and easy we have it in the U.S. My heart broke every day for these people,' said Brooklyn. 'I wanted to go on the trip to find an appreciation for all the things I had, but I didn't get that. I realized that it's not what you have, but who you have in your life that's important,' said Rebecca."



Brooklyn Ishman '15
Rebecca Crawford '15
Managua, Nicaragua

ND THE WORLD



Joslyne Cook '14
Wellington,
New Zealand

"Annyeonghaseyo! Greetings from EWHA Womans University in Seoul, South Korea! I am a senior accounting and business administration major spending the fall semester abroad through Thiel's exchange program with EWHA. I am taking classes in business administration, intercultural communication, theology and literature. Seoul is one of the largest metropolitan cities in the world and it is full of wonderful opportunities. To date, I've been able to visit palaces, N. Seoul Tower, hike Mt. Bukhansan and even see Psy in concert performing 'Gangnam Style' for more than 80,000 fans! On another note, I'm enjoying the fantastic food—I've come to love (yes, I said LOVE) kimchi, a traditional Korean dish made of fermented spicy cabbage. I'm blessed to have this opportunity to broaden my horizons and to learn more about myself and the world."



Kayla Ohlin '13
Seoul, S. Korea



ey Rattay '12,
derabad, India

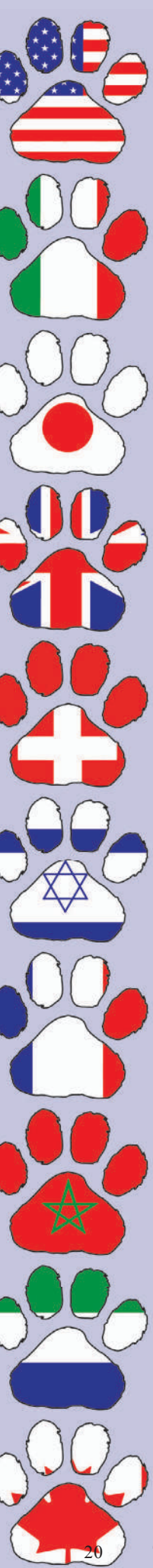
"Through the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship, I completed an eight-week internship at the ANZAC Research Institute. I worked in the Neurobiology Department researching Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) Disease, where I learned many new techniques and protocols. I saw firsthand the importance of research and its effect on patients and families. I was given a project directly associated with my supervisor's research, ran my own experiments and presented at department meetings. During my stay in Australia, I lived in the hospital accommodations with medical students, research students, nurses and doctors from other countries. It was amazing that people of all cultures could come together every night after work and talk for hours. My experience with the other students allowed me to learn about other countries, but also about myself. It was a trip of great self-reflection."



Emily Friedrich '14
New South Wales,
Australia

Thiel 2016, Thiel's strategic plan, includes a focus on celebrating diversity and a global perspective as part of the second pillar—a Culture of Caring and Confidence.

Study abroad/away is a transformative, life-changing experience and Thiel College is committed to making global travel and learning accessible for our students. Just look where our Tomcats have been recently!



Thiel College 2012 Homecoming



Dr. Bill Robinson at Thiel Players reunion celebration.



Homecoming weekend took Thiel College “Around the World” this year. The busy weekend featured classic events with a global twist—like the wine tasting and parade—and great new events like the Chris Cagle concert and the Around the World beer tasting—and Dr. Bill Robinson’s 30-plus years at Thiel were toasted by Thiel Players past and present. These photos are just a taste of all the fun had during the weekend. (For more photos from Homecoming, visit www.flickr.com/photos/thielcollege/sets/72157631644104078/show/.)

**See you on campus next year!
Homecoming 2013 will be Oct. 11-13.**



Thiel Players serenade Dr. Robinson.



Game Day Honoree, Dr. Robinson





Many thanks to the members of the Alumni Association



The Class of 2012 present their senior class gift - a sidewalk for the future Pedas Communication Center



Tomcats on the "Prowl"



Alums enjoy breakfast on campus.



Alums enjoy beers from around the world.



Chris Cagle performs for the Thiel crowd.



Students march in the Homecoming parade.

McClelland, Grube Reflect on “The Play”

There's The Drive, The Catch, the Immaculate Reception and many other famous football highlight plays. This one will go down in Thiel College history as The Play, mostly because The-Field-Goal-Turned-Touchdown-Pass-by-a-Defensive-End/Place-Kicker/Punter is just too long to survive long-term in football nomenclature.

So, for the record, it's The Play.

The Play started as a Not-Top-10er, a moment where it looked as if the Thiel Tomcats had squandered an opportunity in an overtime contest against the Geneva College Golden Tornadoes on Saturday, Sept. 15. The snap and hold on a potential go-ahead 22-yard field goal in overtime by Cody McClelland did not go smoothly.

But in a game of inches and seconds, Thiel's luck changed in an instant.

The ball bounced just once into the cradled hands of McClelland, who initially took off up the field to try to advance the ball on the ground. McClelland was immediately blanketed by defenders and was forced into his final option: a pass.

“I realized I couldn't get outside ... and I was like, ‘I might as well look inside and see if anyone released,’” McClelland said. “Then I saw Kyle [Turkalj] go into the flat and I saw [Berend] Grube just chilling in the middle.”

Grube, the team's starting tight end, had already received his marching orders. Hearing, “FIRE” and “FUMBLE” Grube abandoned



Cody McClelland and Berend Grube
after “The Play”

his blocking assignment in favor of a short-pass pattern into the end zone.

“I was supposed to go into the deep corner of the end zone, but I kind of saw the rush coming really hard from the edge,” said Grube. “So, I didn't expect whoever had the ball would be able to roll out and put it into the back of the end zone, so I was just trying to find an open window somewhere in the end zone not far away.”

While being tackled by a host of defenders, McClelland managed to get off a desperation lob to Grube, who made the catch that eventually lifted the Tomcats to a 21-14 overtime win over the Golden Tornadoes. Thiel's defense stuffed Geneva on its ensuing offensive possession to preserve the victory.

“I was laying on the ground and I looked and I just saw the

ball, and then I saw [Grube] go up and get it,” McClelland said. “I was freaking out. I just couldn't believe it.”

“It didn't seem real,” said Grube. “I was trying to do something with the ball. I was going to dunk at first, but then I knew that was going to be a penalty and they would have had the ball at our 10-yard line. So I was just happy, I was just running around. It's the most important touchdown of my career, pretty much, so I was just having a good time.”

The Play helped the Tomcats snap a 24-game losing streak that began in Week 9 of the 2009 season and led many at Alumni Stadium to shed tears of joy. The sounds of the victory bell rang across campus soon after the game ended as the team gathered around it for the first time in years.

The Play itself is pretty popular. The highlight was named the D3Football.com Play of the Week and has received nearly 6,000 views on YouTube. The Play was also hashtagged on Twitter to be considered for inclusion in ESPN's SportsCenter Top 10.

“I watched the YouTube video a few times, but not too much,” said Grube. “My parents back home [in Germany] watched it like a thousand times.”

Perhaps what is most important about The Play is its potential impact on the blue-collar Thiel football team, which withstood a pair of close losses in the first two weeks of the season.

—Ed Topoleski '02

Two Join Exclusive Club

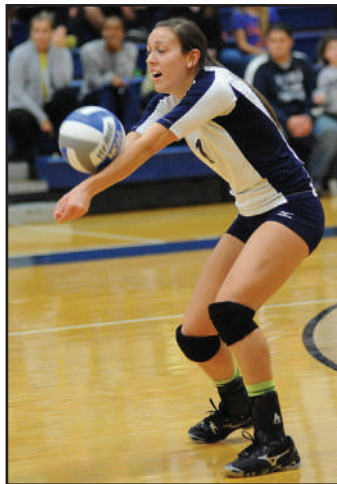
Before the 2012 season, just four Tomcats had amassed 1,000 career kills in the 30-plus year history of Thiel women's volleyball. Chrissy Toth '00 was the first, with an astounding 1,193 career kills. Jan Wilman '03 was the second, totaling 1,128 career kills. Six years later, Abbey Kiger '09 shattered Toth's career record, setting the new all-time mark at 1,239 kills. Kiger's teammate, Megan Kay '11, joined two years later when she finished her career with 1,116.

While leading Thiel to a 17-6 overall record and 11-2 record in Presidents' Athletic Conference play in late October, seniors Kelly Barzak and Alyssa Chine have cemented their places in Tomcat volleyball history. They rarely come off the court, as both have been starters for most of their collegiate careers, with Barzak playing in 97.7 percent (440 of 450 sets) of the team's sets and Chine in 92 percent (415 of 450). During that remarkable feat of consistency, Barzak and Chine have moved up the career ranks in several offensive and defensive categories.

Barzak, a senior from Warren, Ohio, began the season with 970 career kills. She recorded 32 kills in Thiel's first three matches, with her 1,000th coming against Ohio Northern on Sept. 1. Barzak hasn't slowed down and was just 9 kills (1,230) shy of breaking the all-time mark at press time. She also sits alone atop the all-time career blocks list, as she broke Jessica Erickson's '05 eight-year-old record of 358 total blocks, with her 359th coming in the Tomcats' 3-0 win over Penn State Behrend on Sept. 14. She currently sits with more than 425 career blocks.

Chine, a senior from North Jackson, Ohio, finished her junior year with 847 career kills. In her 20th match of her senior season, Chine became the sixth member of the 1,000 Kill Club, leading the Tomcats with 13 kills in a 3-1 loss to Bethany College on Oct. 11. Chine reached a similar milestone defensively earlier in the season, as her 15 digs against Case Western Reserve gave her 1,000 for her career. She currently sits fifth all-time with 1,215 career digs and became only the third Tomcat to record both 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs in a career.

—William Becque



(Above) Alyssa Chine



(Below) Kelly Barzak

Clune Named Women's Basketball Head Coach

Following a national search, Thiel College welcomes Rob Clune as the new varsity women's basketball coach.

Clune is very familiar with the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC), having served as head men's basketball coach at Bethany College from 1995 to 2002. During his tenure at Bethany, Clune successfully built the foundation for a championship basketball program.

Bethany won back-to-back PAC championships during the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 seasons and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Division III Tournament. Clune also recruited and coached four of the top six scorers in Bethany men's basketball history, including the first two Division III All-Americans. For his efforts, Clune earned PAC Coach of the Year honors in consecutive seasons.

He also was the head women's soccer coach at Bethany from 1995 to 2002. His 1999 team won the PAC championship and led the conference in every scoring category. Clune coached the top two scorers in Bethany women's soccer history.

Most recently Clune served as the men's head basketball coach at Allegheny College from 2002 to 2010, where his teams qualified for every conference tournament during his tenure. The Gators regularly were among the conference leaders in many offensive and defensive categories. Clune's 2009-2010 Allegheny team finished third in the tough North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and led the conference in scoring. Clune recruited and coached only the third Allegheny player in program history to be voted First Team NCAC in consecutive seasons.

Clune takes over a Thiel women's basketball squad that finished sixth in the conference last season. The Tomcats finished 2011-2012 with an 8-10 mark in the PAC. The Tomcats' eight wins were the most in conference play for the program since the 1987-88 season.

The Tomcats opened their 2012-2013 season at the LaRoche College tip-off on Nov. 16-17.



Taylor Breaks Thiel's Career Sack, Tackles for Loss Records

It's Tim Taylor's show. That's Tim Taylor the senior defensive end for the Thiel Tomcats, not the character played by Tim Allen on the 1990s hit sitcom "Home Improvement." Consider the defensive end Tim Taylor to be more of a producer than a star, a creator of quarterback mayhem and running back destruction, and now he has all the statistics to prove it.

A native of Girard, Pa., Taylor entered his senior campaign needing 9.5 tackles for loss and 7.5 sacks to become Thiel's all-time career leader in both categories. He made it his mission to achieve both personal goals, and he did not disappoint.

Taylor broke the career tackles for loss record on Sept. 29 against Waynesburg University, surpassing Jon Howson, who held the record since 2005. Two Saturdays later, on Oct. 13, Taylor racked up 3.5 sacks against Thomas More to become Thiel's career leader in sacks, surpassing Chris Lorber, who held the previous record (28) since 2007.

"It's pretty cool," said a humbled Taylor. "It feels good. It shows what's possible with hard work, and I hope that sets an example for other guys on the team who are younger... they can do just as well with a little extra work."

Taylor had to do a little extra work himself this season to reach his personal goals. As a junior, he set a single-season Thiel record for tackles for loss (22.5) and was named a First Team All-Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) selection. Taylor was honored again prior to the 2012 season when he was named a First-Team Preseason All-American by USA Football News. Due to his accolades, Taylor routinely faced double teams from opposing offenses his senior year.

"I've seen quite a bit of double teams," Taylor said. "I get tight ends to stay in or a running back that helps out, but I welcome it. It's a challenge for me to still get to the quarterback or the ball carrier, and if they're going to use two guys to block me then there are other guys who are going to have



(Above) Taylor taking on Juniata College on Sept. 1. (Left) Senior defensive end Tim Taylor.



one-on-one [blocking]."

Thiel was leading the PAC in total defense (281.6 yards per game) and sacks (24) at the printing deadline for *The Bell*. Individually, Taylor was leading the conference in sacks (10.5) and was second in tackles for loss (15).

Of course, records were made to be broken and, although it seems difficult to believe now, someone will likely topple Taylor's career numbers in the future. What may survive longer than Taylor's statistics

are the example and standard he set for younger players on the team.

"I try to set an example by working hard, being a good student and a good individual," Taylor said, "and I hope that resonates with some of the other guys."

After all, it is his show.

—Ed Topoleski '02

Hillier Pitches Professionally with CornBelters

Bobby Hillier '12 always had a strong right arm. It was a great asset for him at shortstop when making throws to first base from deep in the hole. Fate, in part, necessitated Hillier to put his arm to work in a different manner two weeks prior to his senior season with the Thiel Tomcats when he broke his left hand while batting.

Hillier, who throws in the low- to mid-90s, had always dabbled with pitching. Primarily because of his high velocity, he saw time on the mound late in games as a reliever.

After his left hand healed, however, Hillier's role with the Tomcats was switched from shortstop to full-time pitcher. The move ignited Hillier's career.

Hillier led Thiel his senior year with a 3.19 ERA. He tossed two complete games and registered 32 strikeouts. Opposing hitters batted just .263 against Hillier, who allowed only nine extra-base hits on the season.

After college, Hillier was nowhere near ready to hang up his cleats. One summer tryout led to a three-day tryout from June 13 to 15 with the Normal (Illinois) CornBelters of the Frontier League.

Hillier hit 95 mph on the radar gun during the first day of his tryout with the CornBelters and smashed three home runs. On the second day, he whiffed three of four batters he faced during live batting practice. The CornBelters signed Hillier the following day (June 15) at 5:30 p.m. Two hours later, Hillier donned his first professional baseball uniform.

"I was in shock," Hillier said of the signing and his first taste of professional baseball. "I almost wanted to cry because I finally proved everybody wrong that doubted me. It was probably the best experience of my life."

Hillier pitched 9 2/3 innings with the CornBelters over six weeks, collecting six strikeouts. He learned many valuable lessons along the way.

"You can't miss spots up there," Hillier said of the talent difference between batters he faced while at Thiel compared to those he faced while with the CornBelters.

"I could get away with throwing 94 like chest level or waist level and nobody would touch me but, up there, you do that and you're gonna get hit hard."

Hillier is finishing his degree in psychology this semester. He had a workout with the Frontier League's Gateway Grizzlies on Oct. 6, and he has been working with a professional pitching coach to fine tune his pitching skills. Hillier also expects to take part in Frontier League spring training in March.

—Ed Topoleski '02



Alumni Honored at Homecoming 2012

“Pay it forward” was the theme of the evening at the Alumni Awards Ceremony on Sept. 28. Attendees heard memories and stories from presenters and the awardees about the impact that Thiel College had, and continues to have, on their lives. Their generosity of spirit to the Thiel community is inspirational. Thiel is proud to celebrate this special group’s achievements and lives of service. Congratulations to all!

Distinguished Alumni Award

Recipients are nominated for outstanding contributions to their professions.

Rev. Donald R. '68 and Dr. Judith (Charlesworth) '68 Thomas

Rev. Donald R. '68 and Dr. Judith (Charlesworth) '68 Thomas have spent their careers and lives together helping others and making a difference in their community.

Don is a retired Lutheran pastor; he served for 29 years as pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Beaver, Pa., and is retired dean of senior camp at Camp Luther in the West Virginia/Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Judy is a retired special education teacher, having served for 27 years in the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit. Both retired in 2005.

After marrying in 1968, the Thomas' first lived in Philadelphia where Don attended seminary and later moved to Davis, W.Va., in 1970 where Judy began her teaching career and Don served his internship year. Don was ordained in 1972 and began ministry at Red House-Aurora Lutheran Parish. In 1977, the couple moved to Beaver, where Don began service at Holy Trinity and Judy began teaching in the Beaver Valley Intermediate Unit.

Both Don and Judy are involved heavily in their community. She serves as a substitute organist for various Lutheran churches and provides church groups with training to prevent child sexual abuse. In the past, she has been involved with the Girl and Boy Scouts and Camp Luther. He is a board member of Community Lutheran Partners. Previously, he served as a board member and chair for Glade Run and Passavant Health Center.

Judy holds a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in secondary education, special education certification from Frostburg State College, a master's in special education from Slippery Rock University and a doctorate in special education from the University of Pittsburgh. Don holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and a minor in psychology, a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminar in Philadelphia and a master's in health care administration from the University of Pittsburgh.

Service to Thiel Awards

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

Don Achenbach '77

Since his years as a student, Don Achenbach '77, operations manager for Crosstex International in Sharon, Pa., has ably carried on his family's long history of service to Thiel College.

Listeners of Thiel College football broadcasts will recognize Achenbach's voice as he serves as color commentator for the game broadcasts. He also puts that voice to use as master of ceremonies for Athletic Hall of Fame induction dinners and football banquets. He has served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Thiel Family Council, Haller Advisory Board and as chairman for his class reunion. He is a frequent attendee to alumni events, such as Winter Weekend, and volunteers for the Admissions and Career Services Offices. Achenbach even worked at Thiel College from 2003 to 2007 as vice president of facilities.

As a student, he was involved in the baseball and football programs. Achenbach graduated with a degree in business administration and has spent his career working in management positions in production and facility management for a variety of manufacturers in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Maryland.

Achenbach lives in Greenville with his wife, Susan. Their two daughters, Pam Achenbach '03 and Heather Achenbach Balas '01, as well as 15 other members of the Achenbach and Carpenter families are Thiel alumni. He is active in his church, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville, Pa., is a former member of Greenville School Board and enjoys spending time with his granddaughter, Sydney. Achenbach and his daughter, Pam, co-authored a children's book in 2011, “A Few of the Many Adventures of Oliver Tolliver.”

Rae Weiss Johnson '59

Rae Weiss Johnson '59 has played nearly every role possible at Thiel College—student, alumna, volunteer, spouse, friend and parent.

She was married to Dr. Marlowe Johnson H'02, founder of the Thiel Choir. She has been choir mom for 33 years and continues to host a choir alumni gathering every Homecoming. She also sang in the



Pictured (l to r) are Don Achenbach '77, Rae Weiss Johnson '59, Nathan Bissell '02, Dr. Judith (Charlesworth) Thomas '68 and Rev. Donald R. Thomas '68.

Alumni Choir under the direction of her husband. Johnson took classes as a nontraditional student and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1959. She is a regular attendee at student, faculty and staff events held on campus.

She served as executive president of Thiel Women's Club (14 chapters), an auxiliary organization, for two terms. She was co-founder of the National Honorary for Sophomore Women, CWENS (now Lambda Sigma), and served as their adviser for 20 years. She also was adviser to Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and completed two terms on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Johnson was the official college hostess during the tenure of Thiel's 18th president, Dr. Robert Olson '60, organizing activities and entertainment for the Board of Trustees and their spouses and hosted other campus events.

Johnson had a 31-year career as an elementary teacher in the Greenville School District. Her other community activities include a 15-year term as president of the Greenville community concert series and 20 years as a volunteer at the local hospital. She has been active in her church, Holy Trinity Lutheran, for 59 years. She is a past president of Lutheran Church Women, a member of the church choir and deacon.

Johnson has three children, Dr. Bruce Johnson, Lori Johnson McEwen and Wendy Johnson Ross, eight grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Young Alumnus Award

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

Nathan Bissell '02

Nathan Bissell '02 is a technical sales manager for manufacturing clients in, Ohio, western Pennsylvania and parts of West Virginia with Chemetall, a global company that develops, manufactures and sells industrial chemicals, focusing on the processes and treatment of metal surfaces and plastics.

Bissell earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry. As an undergraduate, he was involved in the Haller Enterprise Institute, the football program (quarterback) and the Thiel Players. Bissell began working as a service technician for GE Water & Process Technology and stayed with the company following its purchase by Chemetall, earning the VIP Award for top sales in 2008 and 2010. He earned an M.B.A. from Youngstown State University in 2010.

Bissell's entrepreneurial spirit has stayed with him after graduation, managing real estate investments and running Bissell Maple Farm in Rock Creek, Ohio, a sixth-generation family farm that produces maple syrup and other products. It has doubled sales growth the last three years. He is a board member for Ohio Maple Producers Association and member of Young Professionals of Ashtabula County. Bissell lives in Burghill, Ohio, with his wife, Kathy Jo (Divens) '01, and their two sons, Jonathan and Jared.

60th Annual Thiel College Christmas Festival

Dec. 2, 4 p.m.
Passavant Center

I ♥ Thiel Day

Dec. 7, 4-9 p.m.
Annual dome opening celebration.
Rissell-Schreyer Dome

Alumni Board Meetings

Feb. 9 & April 20, 2013

Winter Weekend 2013

Feb. 8-9, 2013
Visit www.thiel.edu/alumni for more details about winter's most exciting event as it becomes available!



Contact the Office of Alumni Services at alumni@thiel.edu or 724-589-2027 with questions or to RSVP for alumni events. Visit www.thiel.edu/alumni for more information about events as they are released or for any updates to this schedule.

Stay Connected

It's easier than ever to stay connected to your alma mater! Thiel College maintains Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and Tumblr pages where you can keep informed about campus life, celebrate our students' successes, keep up with your favorite athletic teams, find out about campus events you may want to attend and so much more. Just look for "thielcollege" on these sites ("thielhappenings" on Tumblr) and become our fan or follow us to stay connected! Other groups on campus maintain their own pages—such as the Langenheim Library or Tommy Tomcat himself—so look around!

And don't forget to keep your contact information up to date with Alumni Services! Email alumni@thiel.edu, call 724-589-2027 or visit www.thiel.edu/alumni/tell-us-more.htm.



Honor Roll of Generosity Now Online!

The Honor Roll of Generosity, which recognizes all donors to Thiel College from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012, is now available at www.thiel.edu/honor-roll. This publication is offered online only for a second year in a continuing effort to reduce production costs and to allow for real-time updates if needed. Please look through the publication thoroughly; based on giving history and involvement, you may be listed in several sections. For edits to the Honor Roll, please contact gifts processing at 724-589-2026 or advancement@thiel.edu.

Visit www.surveymonkey.com/s/9P5F6FS to fill out a survey (or fill out the form below and return to College Advancement, 75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125) and tell us what you think of the Honor Roll's format. Thank you for your support!

Name/Class Year: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My thoughts on the online Honor Roll of Generosity: _____

Society of 1866 Member Spotlight: David Hummel '83

Why did you join the Society of 1866?

"To give back to Thiel for all that Thiel has provided me."

What are the benefits of giving back to Thiel College through your estate plans?

"The joy and satisfaction of knowing I can help Thiel in the future."



Named for the founding year of Thiel College, the Society of 1866 gratefully recognizes and honors those who, with vision and generosity, have made provision for an estate gift to Thiel through their will, life insurance policy/annuity, IRA/pension, trust within a will, charitable gift annuity and charitable remainder annuity/unit trust.

For information on the Society of 1866, please contact Mario N. Marini '91, director of special & planned giving, at 724-589-2022 or mmarini@thiel.edu.

Thiel Alums Find a Great Fit at Thrivent



Pictured (l to r) Stefen Boehringer '09, Heath Kaydo '10, Steven Hill '08 and Steven Monnich '10 who all work at Thrivent Financial's Pittsburgh office.

A growing number of Thiel graduates have started their careers at Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, a not-for-profit, member-owned financial services organization that deals with insurance, investments and financial plans. Created in 2001 as a result of a merger between the long-established Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood, Thrivent is one of the only Fortune 500 companies that starts its business meetings with prayer.

According to Joe Zastrow, a partner at Thrivent, the company was born and raised on Lutheran and Christian morals and ethics over the last century. The willingness of Thiel graduates to help others and give back to the community makes them a great fit for the company.

"I hire financial representatives, so [many of our Thiel graduates] help set up financial plans, college funding, retirement plans and insurance plans to make sure that families are taken care of in the event of death or disability," said Zastrow.

Rachel Keene '08 is a community engagement coordinator at Thrivent. She works with volunteer chapter leaders and financial representatives to achieve the company's mission statement "to strengthen Christian communities by helping members be wise with money and inspiring them to live generously." Keene strongly encourages Thiel graduates to consider a career at Thrivent.

"We were voted one of the most ethical companies in the nation, which speaks for itself," she said. "We're not only ethical amongst our members and owners; we're also ethical with

each other. I'm part of a corporate team and we get together probably once a year, and it's one of the best weeks out of the whole year. We all get along and we all like each other."

Along with academic preparation, Keene credits the quality of the Thiel community with her success at Thrivent.

"Thiel is absolutely the epitome of a strong community. As a small college and a liberal arts college, you really do find your niche there, so you're in the right mindset after being a part of that community," she said. "It translates pretty easily to the Thrivent environment."

Other recent Thiel graduates currently employed at Thrivent include Steven Hill '08, Stefen Boehringer '09 and Heath Kaydo '10, among others. Zastrow hopes to continue to build Thrivent's relationship with Thiel in the future.

"I moved out here [western Pennsylvania] four years ago, and one of the people we had hired, Chris Brown '07, was a Thiel graduate, and he introduced me to the campus and some of the faculty and staff. I started to get a feel for what Thiel was like and the type of people who were working there," said Zastrow.

From his visits to the campus and his experience working with Thiel graduates, Zastrow believes that Thiel alumni share Thrivent's values and philosophy, making them perfectly suited for the company. "We have a natural connection with Thiel students that have that Christian background and philosophy," he said.

—Emily Whipple '12

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

ALAN FAGER '69

HOW DID THIEL PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?

There are some people who say that they wouldn't want to go to a small college such as Thiel. They say that there are limited offerings and fewer choices. For me, Thiel was exactly what I needed. Thiel had the caring professors. Thiel had the approachable professors. Thiel had the demanding professors—who knew you and knew if you weren't giving 100 percent—and let you know about it. Thiel was small so you had more opportunities to practice leadership and hone your personal and professional skills.

If I had gone to a larger school—at my age (only 17) and with my background—I would have been lost. I could never have had the rich, complete education that I received at Thiel. I wouldn't have had the professional successes that I have had because I wouldn't have learned as much about myself. Oh, and one more important thing—I wouldn't have met my wife Beckie (Land) '70, who also went to Thiel. We have been married for almost 43 years.

I think that what I got out of Thiel is pretty amazing. You wouldn't have predicted it when this skinny little kid with a “C” average came on campus for the first time. With Thiel's help and with abundant opportunities, I've had a pretty nice life so far.

WHY SHOULD A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT CONSIDER THIEL COLLEGE?

Thiel gives you a good academic education, but so do most other schools of higher education. The “value added” components of Thiel are the opportunities to interact with your professors, to be an active learner, and to get involved in activities and have a greater chance to have leadership roles. Thiel gives you the greatest learning of all—the opportunity to learn about yourself. At Thiel, you are only limited by your own imagination. As part of the Thiel Commitment, Thiel is developing a Career Services Department that will be able to follow and help students from the time they first enter campus life until long after they graduate. Thiel's commitment is for the student to be successful while on campus, but also long after he or she has graduated. Would I recommend Thiel to a prospective student? I'd be hard pressed to recommend another college over Thiel.

AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION IN AMERICA AND THE DIRECTION THAT THIEL COLLEGE IS TAKING?

Higher education is expensive, both in cost and in time. Students should want and expect an excellent academic education. Students should want and expect to have lots of opportunities to practice their social studies with “real world” opportunities in the activities, clubs, fraternities, arts and sports. Students should want and expect to have numerous opportunities to practice and develop leadership. Students should want and expect to have an active voice in their own learning. Students should want and expect to have their college personnel know them as real people—not just as students. Students should want and expect to graduate from their college with a deep understanding of who they are and how they fit—or may fit—in the world they are entering. Students should want and expect that their alma mater cares about them for the rest of their lives and will actively seek to assist whenever possible. Thiel's commitment is to make those things happen—one student at a time.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY?

My favorite Thiel memory—other than meeting my future wife, naturally—is my involvement with the Thiel Players. I started by painting scenery and having small walk-on parts. As a senior, I had one of the leads in all four of the major productions. Just before graduation, I was elected “Best Male Actor.” Two professors helped shape me as an actor and as a presenter and both are skills that served me well as a school administrator. Arthur Beers gave me my start. I had never been on the stage before college, and even then it wasn't until my sophomore year. He gave me a small part and was very encouraging even though I was really “green.” The next year Emmitt Bongar took over and gave me major parts in all of the plays. It was a lot of fun and—although I didn't recognize it at the time—one of the key skills that has helped me in the rest of my life. As a school administrator for 28 years, there were few experiences that prepared me better than Thiel Players. It gave me the ability to stand up in front of large crowds and speak with confidence. It helped me know that I could get up before anyone and project a positive image that represented me and my school district.



Alan F. Fager, Ed.D. '69 has had a long career in education. He began as a special education teacher in Ohio and moved up to guidance counselor, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent at various school districts. He currently is associate professor of educational administration at California University of Pennsylvania.

Meet the Boards



Officers for the Board of Trustees are, from left, Edward A. Bartko '72, Chair; Mark A. Benninghoff '82, Vice Chair; Chip Dufala '92, Treasurer; Susan R. Snowden, Esq., Secretary

Board of Trustees

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Alumni Association Board

Officers:

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Gil & Marge Dolinar
Ted Fiore
Dale & Leisel Lengyel
Sharon Schneider
John & Jane Tell
Rob & Marlene Williamson

Class Notes

1950s

MARY ANN (BROWN) REIMER '57 and her husband, Lawrence, are both retired and living in Beatrice, Neb., where they volunteer at Homestead National Park in addition to church work.

PAUL SHEFSIEK '57 continues involvement with the National Science Foundation. He recently evaluated the "Collaborative Research: Low Temperature Microplasmas for Thermal Energy Conversion" proposal in basic plasma science within the NSF/DOE Partnership.

1960s

REBECCA CAMPBELL '69 retired from Seton Hill University after nearly three decades. She served as director of CareerWorks and managed a comprehensive and centralized career service department that served more than 2,000 students and alumni.

1970s

REV. CARL E. KRAMER '70 was elected to the Saunders County Nebraska Historical Society. He is a pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Wahoo, Neb., where he and his wife, NINA A. KRAMER '71, live.

▼ LORA J. (THUNELL) LEKOS '75 is the environmental health & safety coordinator



for the County College of Morris in Randolph, N.J., which was awarded the Governor's Safety Award for Promoting a Safe and Healthy Workplace for an outstanding safety and health record

for calendar year 2011. This year, Lekos joined the Ridgewood (NJ) Camera Club and her submission "Great Egret with Chicks" (pictured) won an Honorable Mention award from the Photographic Society of America. As a first-year member in Camera Naturalists Camera Club, the highest ranked nature camera club in the world, she earned "2012 Image of the Year" in Open B category for her photo "Cattle Egret with Nesting Material." She is a member of the N.J. College of Health and

Environmental Safety Society and currently serves as secretary of the executive board.

DAVID PALESKY '77 retired from teaching in November 2011 after 22 years and opened an AFLAC agency that serves clients in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. He and his wife, CINDY (RUNYAN) PALESKY '80, celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary this year.

FIRDAUS KHARAS '78 produced and launched a new global animated mass-media campaign to spur millions of people who do not have access to electricity to move from harmful sources of energy like burning kerosene and cow dung to clean, renewable solar energies with Nokero International, which develops solar technologies. Kharas is an award-winning animation producer and director. His company, Chocolate Moose Media, is based in Canada and Switzerland.

WILLIAM G. BUCHANAN '79 has celebrated his 100th professional opera engagement in October with the Pittsburgh Opera's production of "Rigoletto," including chorus engagements and 15 roles. He continues to serve as chair of Area 8 (Pittsburgh) of the American Guild of Musical Artists and chairs the AGMA Executive Committee at Pittsburgh Opera. During the summer, he participated in the annual AGMA Leadership Conference in New York City. During the last year, Buchanan traveled to Spain, the Bahamas, New York City, Canada and Eastern Europe.

1980s

BRYCE HERRINGTON '80 was selected to the Westmoreland Museum of American Art Juried Biennial. His original watercolor cityscape, "Passing Storm," was part of the exhibition that ran from April to July and featured 101 artists within a 150-mile radius of Greensburg, Pa. He has been recognized as a Signature Member of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society and his painting, "Three Degrees," is included in the 33rd International Juried Art Exhibition of the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society. Herrington lives in Hermitage, Pa.

CARMEN COLON-BROWN '82 is a deaconess of the Lutheran Deaconess Association. She serves as the pastor of Vida Eterna-Iglesia Luterana, an outreach mission that helps the Latino community of Butler County, Ohio. Previously, she was an AmeriCorps Volunteer, serving

as a community health worker at Santa Maria Community Services. Colon-Brown was elected to the ELCA Eleventh Biennial Churchwide Assembly representing the Latino community and is the Latino Mission Developer for the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio, with her husband, CHARLES BROWN '82, and their two daughters.

MARSHA L. ADAMS '89 was inducted into her high school's (Madison High School) Hall of Fame in Madison, Ohio. She is a sixth grade teacher and volleyball coach in Geneva, Ohio.

2000s

NICOLE (ROWLES) PAULING '00 is a co-owner of Atomic Bounce, a bounce house and party/event planning company in York, Pa.

IVAN CILIK '01 was named to the Pennsylvania Institute of C.P.A.'s prestigious 40 under 40: PICPA Members to watch list for 2012. Cilik is a senior manager of audit and assurance services with ParenteBeard LLC in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the Pittsburgh Chapter Emerging CPAs Committee.

JILL K. (SCHULTHEIS) EGYUD '04 is a technology buyer at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, where she lives with her husband and daughter.

AMY M. (HOLZSHU) HOWSON '06 was nominated for and awarded "Teacher of the Year" at Townville Elementary School, where she teaches fifth grade in the Anderson School District 4. She and her husband, JONATHAN HOWSON '06, live in Anderson, S.C.

2010s

KATIE A. RUFENER '11 is teaching high school biology at Holcomb USD 363 in Holcomb, Kan. She writes, "A big thank you to the Education Department for helping me achieve this goal."

Marriages

AMY MCVEIGH '04 to Nathan Neelan on June 18, 2011.

KRISTEN ATWOOD '05 to Ian Durst on Aug. 11 in Freeport, Pa.

ROB REGNER '06 to Cara Regner on June 2.

Class Notes

Thiel Marriages



Pictured (l to r) are Sarah (Thompson) Becker '04, Melanie Henthorn '04, Amy (McVeigh) Neelan '04, Jan (Hudak) Ciccozzi '04 and Aimee (Koprowski) Plawecki '04.



Pictured (l to r) are Athena (Litwicki) Sypyt '05, Kristen Atwood '05, Megan Adams '06 and Sara (Klingensmith) Phillips '05.



Pictured (l to r) are (top row) Jason Kolos '04, Jason Wilk '04, Jeff Linn '02, Chris Brown '04 and Jonas Hatajick '07 and (front row) Leah (Perecko) Berry '07, Marc Berry '08, Erik Blackburn '04, Matt McAllister '06, Rob Regner '06, Cara Regner, TJ Albright '04 and Mallory Borelli '07.



Pictured (l to r) John G. Hartman and Randi L. (Popp) Hartman '99

STEVEN RICHARD HILL '08 to KATELYN EXLER '10 in June 2011. Steven works for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the couple lives in Pittsburgh.

SARAH BARCH '09 to Ronald Brumberg on June 2 in Dubois, Pa. Thiel alumni in the wedding included bridesmaids KELLE PEASE '09 and REBECCA WALTON '10; groomsmen BENJAMIN BARCH '11; and ushers CRAIG LEWIS '09 and KEVIN FARR '09. The couple lives in Columbus, Ind.

MADISON KENDERA '09 to GARRETT L. ANDERSON '10 on June 30 in Johnstown, Pa. Alumni in the bridal party included SARAH (MEADER) McCracken '09, ELYSE HOOD '09, STEPHANIE SIKO '07, DANIELLE REGER '09, MARENDA (MAGNONE) ZERONAS '09 and CODY KENDERA '10. Madison is an assistant laboratory analyst at Concurrent Technologies Corporation. The couple lives in Johnstown, Pa.

RANDI L. POPP '09 to John G. Hartman on June 16 in Pittsburgh. Popp is senior tax documentation specialist at BNY Mellon. They live in Bethel Park, Pa.

ALISON M. MASTALSKI '10 to JOHN CLUTTER '10 on May 26. Alison is logistics coordinator at Rampart Hydro Services. The couple lives in Pittsburgh.

Births

To JANIE (KOZAK) BURGH '92 and DALE BURGH '93: a daughter, Ainsley Grace, on Oct. 14, 2010. Janie is a teacher at Holy Cross Elementary School. The family lives in Saint Joseph, Mich.

To REBECCA (ADKINS) BORLAND '96 and her husband, Howard: a son, Ethan Howard, on July 3. She works at AmerisourceBergen and lives in Arnold, Pa., with her family.

▼ To AARON SKRBIN '01 and his wife, Rachel: a daughter, Madlyn on July 11. They reside in Elkridge, Md., where Skrbin is a project manager for NV Homes.



Class Notes

To EMILY (HARTMAN) KEMETER '03 and her husband, Paul: a son, Henry Louis, on March 24. They live in Norfolk, Va.

To STEPHANI (DAY) HULEC '05 and her husband, Stephen: a son, Maximus (Max) Robert, on Jan. 23. Hulec works at IMARC Research, Inc. They live in Lakewood, Ohio.

In Memoriam

JOYCE (BELL) ENGELBACH '31 of Warrenville, Ill., on July 4.

PAUL L. SCHMIEDEL '38 of Bisbee, Ariz., on March 30, at the age of 96.

LUCILLE (CAREY) STECKLER '38 of Stoneboro, Pa., on July 19, at the age of 92.

VICTOR E. LOSACANO '40 of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and Transfer, Pa., on Jan. 26,

at the age of 94.

HELEN M. CLARK '41 of Greenville, Pa., on May 23, at the age of 92.

EDWARD F. GOETSCH '41 of Dallas, Texas, on March 28, at the age of 92.

CHARLES H. PETERSON '43 of Erie, Pa., on Aug. 1, at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife, AGNES PETERSON '43.

JOAN ELIZABETH (STODDARD) BROWN '48 on July 28.

KENNETH GUINN '49 of Texas, on July 31.

REV. JAMES M. McCORMICK '50 of Zelienople, Pa., on Aug. 4. He is survived by his wife, GEORGINA McCORMICK '52.

ANNE (BOWERSOX) McLEAN '50 of Meadville, Pa., on July 21 at the age of 84.

She is survived by her husband, REV. NORMAN McCLEAN '48.

MARY MILLIKEN '50 of Greenville, Pa., on Oct. 24, 2011, at the age of 82.

REV. WALTER W. MATTSON '51 on Dec. 27, 2010.

BRUCE E. FERGUSON '52 on April 23.

MARILYN L. "MAE" PATTON '52 of Jamestown, Pa., on May 7, at the age of 82.

RUBY V. GAISER '54 of Greenville, Pa., on March 31, at the age of 80.

WILLIAM E. SCHNEE JR. '56 of Clovis, Calif., on April 13, at the age of 80.

REV. J. SAMUEL JOHNS '60 of San Antonio, Texas, on April 6. He is survived by his wife, CAROL SUE JOHNS '62.

NANCY LEE (RAMSEY) FLENNIKEN '61 of Streetsboro, Ohio, on May 28, at the age of 72.

PASTOR ROBERT J. HARTMAN '61 of Beaver Falls, Pa., on May 14, at the age of 72. He is survived by his wife, BARBARA HARTMAN '61.

MALINDA P. TEEL '64 of Grant Park, Ga., on April 16, at the age of 69.

JOAN MEIXELL '69 of Sugar Grove, N.C., on Dec. 27, 2011, at the age of 64.

DENNIS A. MATTEOTTI '71 of Southport, N.C., on April 20.

JOHN E. OSTROWSKI '71 of Steubenville, Md., on Dec. 26, 2011, at the age of 61.

KIM D. BRAZELTON '72 of West Hyannis, Mass., on May 15, at the age of 62.

MICHAEL W. HANNA '84 of Tallahassee, Fla., on Aug. 18, at the age of 49.

RODNEY M. CHESS '85 of Greenville, Pa., on June 29, at the age of 58.

Class of 1962



Thiel College was proud to welcome back 30 members of the Class of 1962 to a special 50th reunion dinner during Homecoming Weekend. Lots of stories were shared and new memories made. It was wonderful having these Tomcats back on campus once again!

Pictured from left to right are (first row) John Rauschenberger, Sally Griffith Ocker, Jane Mickley Heineman, Alan Heineman, Lois Weller, Elsa Calderwood Schlentner, Judith Moyle and Judith Bushman Mershon; (second row) Beverly Blistan Rauschenberger, Dr. Chris Shinkman and Ann Bruggeman; (third row) Nancy Wing, Carol Schau Miller, Maggie Dozer Frazier, John Foulk, Col. Dennis Weber, Larry Knapp, Nancy Allshouse Varley and Rev. William Bruggeman; (fourth row) Richard Ocker, Paul Parobeck, Douglas Fairfax, Rev. Dr. J. Paul Balas and Carol Edmiston Johns; (fifth row) Robert Thomas, Rev. James Stough, Dr. Jim McHugh, Dr. William Shaw, Carl Olson and Phillip Stutzman.

Friends

MARY L. BLAUSER of Greenville, Pa., who worked at Thiel College for more than 25 years, retiring from the Human Resources Office, on May 23. She is survived by her son, THE REV. DENNIS BLAUSER '74.

DR. PAUL MILLER RIKE H'70 on May 10, 2012.

DR. WALTER H. MASON, professor of biology, on April 24, at the age of 77.

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.**

Email: alumni@thiel.edu Fax: 724-589-2860

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 spouse a graduate of Thiel College? Yes No Year _____

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

New address/email Marriage New job Birth Recent honor or achievement Other

Home address _____

Seasonal address and dates (if applicable) _____

Email address _____ Phone _____

Children's names _____ Birth dates _____

Your occupation (title) _____ Employer (full name) _____

Business address (city, state) _____

Spouse's occupation (title) _____ Spouse's employer (full name) _____

Business address (city, state) _____

Note: News that appears in this issue arrived at the Alumni Office by Oct. 8, 2012. If your news was submitted after that date, it will appear in the next issue of *The Bell*. News for Class Notes, Marriages and Births must be reported either by or with the explicit approval of the subject(s) and are subject to editing for space, style and content. Photos become the property of the Alumni Office and may not be returned.

Class Notes & Photo Policy

- Please send us news after it has happened. No future events will be listed.
- News for Class Notes must be reported either by or with the approval of the subject(s). All notes are subject to editing for content, space and style. Photos become Thiel property and may not be returned.
- Photo Guidelines—Prints should be at least 2x3 inches for headshots and 4x6 for photos featuring groups. 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, email the file to alumni@thiel.edu. Digital photos should be a 300 dpi TIFF or JPG. Photos that are small and low resolution may not be usable. *Please include a description of the photo and the names and class years of alumni who appear.*

Get Involved—Stay Connected!

By Shawn E. Brooks '82, president, Thiel College Alumni Association Board of Directors

It is my honor and pleasure to write to you for the first time as the new president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. In addition to contributing annually to The Thiel Fund, I had always wanted to find a way to contribute in other ways back to the institution and the Association Board provided that opportunity.

Having served as a board member for the past two years, I have observed a growing desire and commitment on behalf of other board members to building and reaffirming the connection of our more than 14,000 members of the Thiel College family to each other and to the institution. To that end, the mission of the Alumni Association Board is to work with the Office of Alumni Services and College administration to develop ways to engage all alumni for life, to help sustain a culture of philanthropic support and to be a two-way channel of communication with the institution.

Whether it be at a Thiel football game, Homecoming or a regional alumni event, I have had the good fortune to meet a growing number of Thiel alum spanning many generations. As I listen to people recount stories of their time at Thiel, it is apparent that we all share a deep abiding love for the College. I am inspired by how many people attribute success in their lives to their time at Thiel. Not only do they feel that they received a world-class education in the classroom, but they also feel that the relationships they built

and the experiences they had outside the classroom have helped shape them into the remarkable men and women they have become.

Cultivating a strong and loyal alumni spirit is undoubtedly advantageous for members of our current student body. Publications such as the *Princeton Review* and *U.S.*

News and World Report factor alumni involvement into their equation when publishing rankings of institutions of higher education. The higher Thiel is ranked, the more valuable is a Thiel College education and diploma. Accordingly, the Alumni Association Board of Directors is very committed to exploring ways to cultivate a life-long commitment to our



Shawn Brooks (left) distributes the traditional flowers to new graduates on the Passavant Center stage during the 2012 Commencement ceremony.

alma mater and have begun discussions about how we can energize the alumni base to increase both financial and non-material support of the institution.

Throughout the coming months, in conjunction with the College, the Alumni Association Board will be developing pathways designed to increase alumni involvement, including a new class agent program, the development of Alumni Affinity Groups and the development of programs specifically for young alums. As always, if you have any interest or desire to get more engaged with the life of the College or if you have been looking for ways to become involved, you can contact the Office of Alumni Services at 724-589-2027 or alumni@thiel.edu to find out how you can make a difference.

Shawn Brooks '82, Ph.D., is president of the Thiel College Alumni Association Board of Directors and is associate dean of students and director of residence life at the University of Pittsburgh.



Like many Thiel graduates, you probably have at least one professor, coach or staff member who stands out in your memory. The one about whom you say *"I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for..."*

Dedication

The Thiel Fund

Inspiration



You're invited to visit www.thiel.edu/thielfund to honor a current or past Thiel College professor, coach or staff member with a gift to the 2012-2013 Thiel Fund.



THE HEART OF A THIEL COLLEGE EDUCATION IS ITS DEDICATED FACULTY AND STAFF—men and women who have committed themselves to their professions, their college and their students. **SHOW YOUR GRATITUDE WITH A GIFT IN HIS OR HER NAME TO THE THIEL FUND** as a testimony to a changed life—yours!

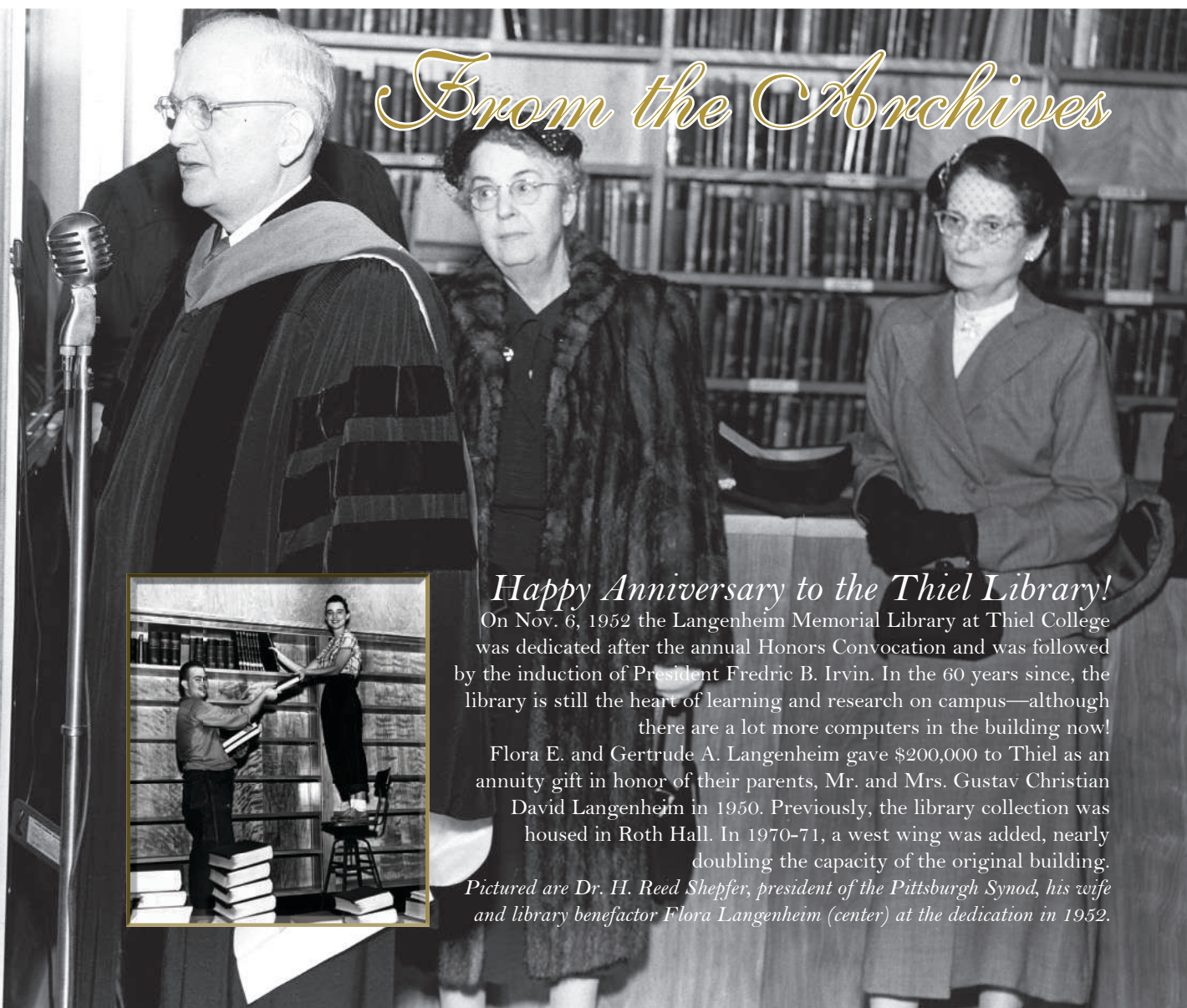


THIEL

COLLEGE

75 College Avenue
Greenville, PA 16125-2181

From the Archives



Happy Anniversary to the Thiel Library!

On Nov. 6, 1952 the Langenheim Memorial Library at Thiel College was dedicated after the annual Honors Convocation and was followed by the induction of President Fredric B. Irvin. In the 60 years since, the library is still the heart of learning and research on campus—although there are a lot more computers in the building now!

Flora E. and Gertrude A. Langenheim gave \$200,000 to Thiel as an annuity gift in honor of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Christian David Langenheim in 1950. Previously, the library collection was housed in Roth Hall. In 1970-71, a west wing was added, nearly doubling the capacity of the original building.

Pictured are Dr. H. Reed Shepfer, president of the Pittsburgh Synod, his wife and library benefactor Flora Langenheim (center) at the dedication in 1952.