

# The Bell



## Opportunities & Outcomes

*also inside*

Internships with Results!

New Thiel Technology

Homecoming 2013

# A Message from the President



Often times when I am asked to write the letter for *The Bell*, I share information regarding the previous few months at the College. This time, instead of looking back, I want to look forward—to a future that I believe will be a bright and historic time for Thiel College.

As President of Thiel College, my primary responsibility is to ensure that Thiel continues to serve current and future generations of students while remaining a place of pride for our alumni. We have made great strides in recent years and will continue to grow, build and educate the fine young men and women who study here.

Within the next few months, the Dr. James Pedas Communication Center will be fully constructed. The faculty of the College has been hard at work for the past two years developing a new core curriculum that incorporates competencies in presentation literacy, as well as an emphasis on global awareness. The new core curriculum will be supported by technology-enhanced small group spaces, in addition to larger classrooms within the new Pedas center.


When we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Thiel in 2016, we will be able to deliver unprecedented improvements across all areas of the College made possible through a robust fundraising effort and centered on the ideal of commitment—to students, alumni, community, and to the Thiel College learning experience.

I hope that you plan to visit us in the upcoming new year and see first-hand how our College is moving forward. If that is not possible, please plan to attend one of the many alumni events that will occur nationwide over the next several months (see page 28 for details). Students and alumni are the very heart and soul of Thiel College. Please consider ways in which you might engage with Thiel College students—attending events, and through mentoring, internship, employment or scholarship possibilities. Our Career Development Center and Alumni Offices are working diligently to build and sustain important connections to you.



*The James Pedas Communication Center is taking shape!  
As of Nov. 9, the cement slab has been poured  
and the steel beams are being set.*

Please enjoy this issue of *The Bell* and on behalf of the entire Thiel College family. We wish you a joyous holiday season!

  
Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.  
President

Fall 2013

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

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**EDITOR & DESIGNER**  
Jennie Kather

**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**  
Martin Black  
Vicki Cousley  
Dr. Firdaus J. Kharas '78, H'07  
Jonathan Shearer  
Brianna Tiedeman '15  
Ed Topoleski '02  
Colin Vitale '15  
Stephanie Wilson '04  
Gary Witosky '79

**CLASS NOTES**  
Jennie Kather

**PHOTOGRAPHY**  
Jennie Kather  
Leary Studios  
Rich Rock Media, LLC  
Kirk Shimshock  
Sports Information  
Tiffany Wolfe

**PRINTER**  
Knepper Press, Pittsburgh

**ON THE COVER:**  
Martin Black, Associate Dean for Career Services and senior Keeley Criswell discuss graduate school options in the Career Development Center.

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# New Campus Spaces

For the third summer in a row, much of Thiel College was under construction as our maintenance department and many local contractors continued to enhance facilities and improve student spaces with a lofty list of campus renovation projects. A few of the highlights include:

## *Bly Auditorium Renovation*

The largest and busiest classroom on campus is also now the most modern. After a complete summer-long renovation, Bly Hall now has a state-of-the-art audio and visual system with the most current available components. All seating and carpet were replaced and acoustical wall treatments were installed. Lighting upgrades include the installation of LED bulbs.



## *Training Room Upgrade*

An entirely new area in the Risell Gymnasium has been created to meet the needs of our student-athletes and athletic trainers. Enhancements in the gym also include expanded offices for staff trainers, additional storage areas and remodeled visitor and home-team locker room.



## *A Year-round Greenhouse*

On the north side of Rhodehouse Science Building, a new greenhouse was installed. The structure will be a year-round-use facility with stand-alone water, heating and electrical services.



Other campus improvements include: all new furnishings and updated flooring and paint in Florence West residence hall; a complete remodel of the first floor of Roth Hall so that it now can serve as a one-stop shop for students and visitors who need support from academic records, financial services or human resources; and a new IT Solution Center on the first floor of the Academic Center. (For more information on campus technology upgrades, see page 19.)

# Celebrating the History of Thiel College

# 150

1866

2016

*Editor's note: The following is the second installment of Thiel College history; a continuation of where we left off in the spring 2013 issue. The Rev. W.A. Passavant had decided to use the \$4,000 gift from A. Louis and Barbara Thiel to found "an educational institution of high order in connection with the Lutheran Church" where "the children of our church and the young men studying for the ministry could obtain a thorough classical education." The following is an excerpt from "The History of Thiel College 1866-1974" by Dr. Roy Johnson.*

Passavant's choice of a location was Phillipsburg "in view of the accessibility to western Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia and because certain buildings were offered for immediate sale." This Beaver County village opposite the confluence of the Big Beaver and Ohio Rivers was some twenty-five miles west of Pittsburgh. Directly across the Ohio were Rochester, Freedom and Beaver.

In many respects, Phillipsburg was an ideal community in which to live and study. It had a lovely setting on the river bank with surrounding hills. There were few distractions or temptations in the quiet community of some four hundred. Certain disadvantages, however, were soon to bring dissatisfaction and spur a movement for relocation. The railroads were on the opposite side of the river and there was no bridge. A steam ferry connected with Rochester, but access to Beaver was by skiff. The Ohio current was swift and there were ice gorges in winter.

Once his decision was made, Passavant acted with characteristic dispatch. He arranged the purchase of the Hotel of Cinotti, the water cure sanitarium with its large ball room and bowling alley, for \$4,500 and an adjacent lot on which it was planned to erect a teacher's house for \$875. Without the knowledge of the donor, he decided to call the new enterprise Thiel Hall.

After supervising the furnishing of the building, Passavant undertook to recruit a student body and faculty. His travels leading to the founding of institutions of mercy in some seven states had given him a wide acquaintance with administrations and clergy. Reserving for himself the title of superintendent, he chose the Rev. E.F. Giese, formerly of Milwaukee, as principal. When he faced the Synod examining committee, the Rev. Giese impressed the members with his knowledge of Greek and qualifications for leadership. Selected to assist him was the Rev. William Kopp, a graduate of Augustana College and Seminary at Paxton, Ill., who has been described by a colleague as "a devout earnest man of excellent scholarship and ripe judgment...a teacher beloved by his pupils." A sister-in-law of Passavant, Mrs. M.W. Downing, was in charge of the dining room.

Thiel Hall opened the fall term, 1866, with only five students, but by the year's end, thirty were enrolled. Opportunely, the Pittsburgh Synod held its annual convention at Rochester in 1866. The sessions were stormy because of an impending schism due to doctrinal differences. From 1867 to 1919, there were two Pittsburgh Synods, one affiliated with the General Council and the other with the General Synod. The latter supported Gettysburg College and Seminary.

It was a welcome relief from much bickering when, on a beautiful autumn morning, October 21, 1866, the delegates were ferried across the Ohio to inspect the building and its facilities and to listen to the dedicatory address, one in English by the Rev. C.P. Krauth, visiting delegate from the controversial Pennsylvania Synod, and one in German by the Rev. A.L. Wensel, Pastor of Second German Church, Pittsburgh.

Dr. Passavant then sketched the history of the project and pointed out the needs of the churches in western Pennsylvania for trained personnel. He invited the visitors to enter the building "passing under the long arbor of that season of the year still covered with the foliage of the grape" for the service of dedication. The principal, Professor Giese, pronounced the benediction. The benefactors, A. Louis Thiel and his wife were present. The following advertisement appeared in the August 22, 1867 issue of *The Lutheran and Missionary*, edited by Passavant.

## THIEL HALL A CHURCH AND CLASSICAL SCHOOL

**The Scholastic year of this Institution, located at Phillipsburg, Beaver County, Pa., begins on**

**Monday, September 24, 1867**

**The system of study is complete and thorough, and students are prepared for business or college.**

## GERMAN, FRENCH, AND VOCAL MUSIC

**are taught without extra charge, and nearly all study the former.**

**The instruction of the School has been committed to the hands of the Rev. Professors E.G. Giese and William Kopp, late of Augustana College and Seminary, Paxton, Illinois, whose character and qualifications are a guarantee that the School will be a truly Christian and scholarly one.**

**For terms and information, apply to the  
Rev. W.A. Passavant, Pittsburgh, Pa.**

# Faculty & Staff News



## *Balas Receives Keystone Award*

Heather Balas '01, career development center, was awarded the 2013 Keystone Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Employers (PennACE). The

award goes to a member within the first three years of membership whose dedication and service has been identified as a keystone to the future of the organization. Balas currently serves as secretary and chair of the program committee for the 2013 conference.



## *Evans Receives Development Grant*

Dr. Victor Evans, communication studies, recently received one of five National Association of Television Production Executives (NATPE) Summer Faculty Development Grants. The grant requires him to re-

enter the television industry and update his skills while also learning the latest trends in media so as to better prepare students for jobs after graduation. Evans will be hosted by WPXI in Pittsburgh under the supervision of News Director Mike Oliveira.



## *Johnson Presents Paper at Marlowe Conference*

On June 28, Dr. Jared Johnson, English, presented a paper titled "'Every ones price is written on his backe': The Spectacle of the Slave Market in Marlowe's 'The Jew of Malta'"

at the Seventh International Marlowe Conference. In his presentation, Johnson theorized the national and historical significance of the Admiral's Men's

performance of the slave trade at London's Rose Theater in 1592, nearly seventy years before England's full-scale involvement in human trafficking.

Sponsored by the Marlowe Society of America and held at Mary Baldwin College and the American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriar's Playhouse in Staunton, Va., the symposium gathered leading scholars in early modern studies from a broad range of colleges and universities, including Oxford, Yale, the University of Toronto, and the University of Melbourne. In addition to featuring a diverse group of exciting speakers, the conference featured a live performance of Marlowe's "The Massacre at Paris" by the American Shakespeare Center at the Blackfriar's Playhouse and a screening of Douglas Morse's recent film adaptation of "The Jew of Malta" at the Visulite Theatre.



## *Hall Book Review Published*

Dr. Mary Theresa Hall's book review of "Imitation and Praise in the Poems of Ben Jonson" appeared in the spring 2013 issue of *The Sixteenth-Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies* (vol. xlv/1). In

his book, Richard S. Peterson casts Jonson as both a classical and contemporary author and situates him as a bridge between the ancients and the moderns. By providing multiple literary examples of Jonsonian poems in the tribute tradition, Peterson renders Jonson, Shakespeare, and select other Renaissance contemporaries as laborers whose turns of phrases "on the anvil" of their manuscripts rendered them transformers of literature, not merely rivals and victims of sarcastic jabs.

By providing depth and relevance to Jonson's energetic and allusive style, Peterson elucidates, transforms and universalizes Jonson's poems of imitation and praise. Peterson's book focuses on Jonson's celebratory poems rather than his satires and love poems and is an excellent resource for both scholarly enhancement and the teaching of a collegiate British Literature course.

# Faculty & Staff News

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## *Hecking Presents Paper at National Conference*

On July 17, Dr. Patrick Hecking, physics, presented a paper titled "The Elitzur-Vaidman Bomb Game as a fun-filled lab exercise" at the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) conference in Portland, Ore. The

Elitzur-Vaidman gedanken (thought) experiment is an illustration of the mind-boggling paradoxes of quantum mechanics. It has been verified in physical experiments by Zeilinger et al. Experiments of this kind are generally too difficult and involved to be performed in undergraduate labs; however, Dr. Hecking developed a game board and score sheet for a paper-and-pencil version suitable for a lab, which he demonstrated at the conference.



## *Professor, Alumna Receive Young Leader Awards*

Melissa Oakes '03, (top left) assistant professor of accounting and Jacquelyn Belsito '11, senior tax associate with Sisterson & Co., in Pittsburgh, were chosen to receive the Pennsylvania Institute of CPA's (PICPA) Young Leader Award. The award recognizes PICPA members under the age of 40 who demonstrate a commitment to the accounting profession through active PICPA or community volunteer activities. Both were recognized



at the PICPA Leadership Conference this fall.



## *David Miller '61 Receives Distinguished Service Award from PIMS*

Professor David M. Miller '61, business administration, was the commencement speaker at the 147th commencement exercises

at the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science (PIMS) on Saturday, Sept. 7. Following his address, PIMS presented him with an award for distinguished service "in recognition of his unselfish devotion to public service, professional commitment to his peers, and countless contributions for the betterment of funeral service and his chosen academic communities." This year marks the 50th anniversary of Miller's own graduation from PIMS. He also serves on the PIMS Board of Directors.



## *McConnor Earns First Prize at Exhibition*

Prof. Sean McConnor, art, had two paintings exhibited in the 77th National Midyear Exhibition at the Butler Museum of American Art in Youngstown, Ohio. He was awarded first prize for his painting *Vase, Book, and Letter*. His works

*Vase, Book, and Letter* and *Still Life with Stripe* were accepted among 91 works exhibited. Works were chosen from more than 800 entries submitted by artists from all 50 states. The jurors were Jerald Melberg, owner of the Jerald Melberg Gallery, Charlotte, N.C. and landscape painter Thomas McNickle. The exhibition was held from June 30 through August 18.



## *New Leaders for Campus Ministry and Student Activities*

There are two new faces in the Student Life Department this year. Thiel College welcomed the Rev. Jayne Thompson (pictured center) as campus pastor in August and Than Oo (far left) in July as director of student activities and involvement.

Rev. Thompson comes to Thiel College from University Lutheran Church of the Epiphany and Lutheran Campus Ministry, St. Cloud, Minn., where she has served as campus congregation pastor since 2005. Her prior appointment was serving as campus pastor at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan. Before transitioning to campus ministry in higher education, Rev. Thompson was pastor for Affirmation Lutheran Church, Boca Raton, Fla., and associate pastor for Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Tampa, Fla.

As campus pastor, Rev. Thompson will oversee campus worship, advise campus ministry groups, provide pastoral care to members of the Thiel Community and facilitate spiritual information. She will also offer support in the College's effort to identify, attract and enroll Lutheran students. Likewise, she will nurture relationships with congregations

in Greenville and the surrounding areas. Pastor Thompson will also teach in the Department of Religion.

"We are thrilled to welcome Pastor Thompson to the Thiel community," said Mike McKinney '02, dean of students. "Her proven record of success in leading campus ministry programs, worship and building community will definitely help to enhance the spiritual life of the College."

Thompson earned her Master of Divinity degree in pastoral care/youth and family ministry from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. and her bachelor's in psychology and religion from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. She also earned a master's in theatre from Kansas State University and is an endorsed registered drama therapist.

Oo joins Thiel from Binghamton University in Binghamton, N.Y., where he worked in the Office of Campus Activities as a graduate coordinator and resident director. As director of student activities and involvement, Oo is responsible for the planning and implementation of a vibrant student activities

program. He will oversee the Thiel Activities Board (TAB) and Greek life programs. He also will work with numerous clubs, organizations and student leaders to provide programs and experiences ranging from social activities to community services and other co-curricular opportunities.

Oo earned his master's degree in student affairs administration from Binghamton University and his bachelor's degree in business administration in hospitality management from the State University of New York, College of Technology at Delhi.

"We are very excited to have Than joining the student life team at Thiel College," said McKinney. "His experience in student activities, coupled with his background in hospitality, will bring many new ideas and improve the quality of the out-of-class experience for our students."

Scan the QR code to find out more about student life.



## Batchelor Named Pedas Endowed Chair

Associate Professor of Communication and Pedas Endowed Chair in Communication, Bob Batchelor, Ph.D., will also be the executive director of the new James Pedas Communication Center.

Batchelor worked previously at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, where he was an assistant professor in the school of journalism and mass communication. Prior to his time at Kent State, he was a public relations instructor at the University of South Florida, Tampa, Fla.

He is the author or editor of more than 21 books, including *The 1900s*; *The 1980s*; *The 2000s*; and *American Pop: Popular Culture Decade by Decade* (4 volumes), *Cult Pop Culture* (3 volumes) and



*John Updike: A Critical Biography* (2013).

"Employers tell us again and again that what they really desire in young workers is the ability to communicate, think critically and understand contextual links that lead to higher order skills," said Batchelor. "The new communication center will be a home for students

to build these skills as a part of their overall education."

"Bob Batchelor is a renowned scholar and skilled teacher, as well as an experienced administrator in both academe and the corporate world," said Lynn Franken, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college. "He will work with faculty and staff to develop the Pedas Center into an intellectual hub at Thiel and for the local and regional community."

Batchelor earned his doctorate in English at the University of South Florida and a master's in history from Kent State University. He earned his bachelor's degree in history, philosophy and political science from the University of Pittsburgh.

## Rydberg is New Director of the Thiel Players

Pete Rydberg, Ph.D., is Assistant Professor of Performing Arts and Director of the Thiel Players. Prior to his appointment at Thiel College, Rydberg was an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Music at Viterbo University, La Crosse, Wis. He had also served as a lecturer of theatre history, theatre pedagogy and drama in education at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and senior lecturer in the Department of Theatre and Drama at the University of Wisconsin – Madison.

In his new position at the College, Rydberg will teach courses in theater history, performance and design and stage multiple productions each year. He will



also serve as an academic adviser to students and the adviser for Alpha Psi Omega, Thiel's honorary theater fraternity. Rydberg also will actively recruit students interested in the performing arts and will pursue upgrades to the William A. Robinson Theater.

"Pete is an experienced hand at developing interesting theatre

seasons," said Franken. "He was at work for almost two months over the summer, refreshing spaces, costumes, publications and working with me to create an individual strategic plan for Theatre."

Rydberg earned his doctorate degree in theatre and drama with an emphasis in theatre for young audiences and his master's in theatre and drama from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He earned his bachelor's from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., also in theatre in drama.

Under Rydberg's direction, Thiel College will host its first High School Shakespeare Festival on January 23, 2014. For more information, visit [www.thiel.edu/theaterfestival](http://www.thiel.edu/theaterfestival).

## Thiel Welcomes New VP for Communication and Marketing

Jacquelyn P. Muller has been appointed vice president for communication and marketing.

Muller, who has more than 20 years of higher education experience in integrated communications, media relations, reputation management and branding, advertising, and public affairs, joins Thiel College from Pittsburgh-based Education Management Corporation (EDMC), where she served as vice president for corporate communications and public relations. Previously, she led communications at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania as chief communications officer, and as assistant to three university presidents.



"We are overjoyed to welcome someone with Jacki Muller's expertise to Thiel College," said Dr. Troy D. VanAken, Thiel College president. "With all of the exciting things happening on campus, her previous success and experience in the field of communication and marketing, combined with an obvious dedication to higher education, will play an important

role in this position and in the future of the College."

In her new position at Thiel College, Muller will provide leadership for all communications and brand-building efforts in partnership with Thiel's faculty and professional staff, guiding strategy across the College in support of its mission to provide students with a quality higher education.

Muller earned a Master's degree in English and a Bachelor's degree in communications from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. Muller currently resides in Cranberry Township, Pa., with her husband, Jack, and daughter, Sophia.

## Spring 2014 Campus Visit Days

To register, scan the QR code, visit [www.thiel.edu/visit](http://www.thiel.edu/visit) or call 800-24-THIEL.



### Campus Visit Day

**Monday, Jan. 20 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

All interested high school students (sophomores, juniors and seniors) are welcome and can learn about admission, academics, financial aid and student life during this great introduction to campus!

### Academic Scholarship Competitions

**Saturday, Jan. 25 • Sunday, Jan. 26 • Saturday, Feb. 1 • Sunday, Feb. 2**

Qualified students will receive a formal invitation and must be present on one of the competition days to compete for up to a full-tuition scholarship.

### Accepted Student Visit Day (overnight) Friday, March 14, 11:30 a.m.

Students can experience college life at Thiel College by staying overnight on campus, interacting with current and future students and participating in other scheduled campus activities.

### Junior Visit Day Wednesday, April 9 • 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Get a jump start on your college search! Visit classes, have lunch in the cafeteria and meet with current students and professors. All interested high school juniors are encouraged to attend.

## Joe Roosa '80 Named Entrepreneur of the Year

"Be bold and always act with a sense of urgency," were a few words of wisdom shared by Joe Roosa '80 who was presented the 2013 Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Roosa, president of Roosa Corporation—a regional company specializing in retail center development—in Salamanca, N.Y., graduated from Thiel College with a B.A. in business administration and political science.

He also relayed to the more than 80 students, faculty, staff and friends of the College in attendance that he "got his first hands-on experience and became equipped with the tools he needed to succeed at Thiel College and gained the confidence and credibility to put his company where it is today."

The portfolio of properties that the Roosa Corporation has developed includes shopping centers, office buildings, residential properties and apartments. Prior to owning and operating the Corporation, Roosa worked as a bus driver in New York City and saved enough money to start his first business. His first store, Movie World, opened in 1985. In 1995, Joe was named to Business First of Buffalo's list of "Top Forty Under Forty" Western New York leaders. In 1996, he sold Movie World to competitor Blockbuster and in 1998, Joe bought undeveloped land and constructed his first commercial shopping center. Now Roosa Corporation owns and manages more than 15 properties in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut and Arkansas.



In 1996, Henry E. and Grace Mary Haller of Pittsburgh provided Thiel College with generous financial support resulting in the renaming of the Thiel Business Institute as the Haller Enterprise Institute. Their \$1 million gift was earmarked for the development of entrepreneurial education, a discipline for which the College has become increasingly well known.

## Dave Andrews '63 Receives Honorary Degree



David R. Andrews '63, President, CEO and CFO of Washington Tool & Machine Company, received an honorary doctor of humanities degree at the Thiel College Honors Convocation on Nov. 8.

Andrews graduated from Thiel College in 1963 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. His service and dedication to his alma mater includes membership on the Alumni Board, service

as a past president of the College's Alumni Association (14 years) and membership on Thiel Board of Trustees—a role he was committed to from 1983 to 1999 and again from 2000 to 2012. He served as the Board treasurer and also was the chair of the Finance and Investment Committee. In 2010, Andrews and his wife, Mary Jo—who met as students at Thiel College—were presented with the Distinguished Service to Thiel Alumni Award.

## Thiel's Moving Billboard



For the second time in three years, Thiel College has teamed up with community partner and world-renowned charter bus company Anderson Coach and Travel to install a bus wrap that will serve as a moving billboard for the College. Keep your eyes on the highways for the new Thiel College bus that will be travelling the country!

# Student News



## *Alpha Chi Inducts 21 Students this Fall*

On Friday, Sept. 27, the Theta Chapter of Alpha Chi, a national honorary fraternity that recognizes students who have achieved high academic standing, inducted the following students for membership: Kelsey Adair, John Beal, Alexis Bump, Keeley Criswell, Deborah Donatelli, Jenna Farina, Andrew Gaul, Jenna Green, Kayla Hibbard, Samantha Hoffman, Nicole Jeschelnig, Erika Leonhard, Chelsea Maukonen, Joseph Michaleski, Chelsea Mikos, Sean Oros, Kelsey Robertson, Melanie Soros, Hannah Stelmach, Joshua Stewart and Leanna Yeager. Founded in 1922, Alpha Chi is one of only four national scholarship societies admitting to membership superior junior and senior students, irrespective of their fields of study. The objectives of Alpha Chi are the promotion and recognition of scholarship. On the 290 campuses with chapters, Alpha Chi membership is the highest academic honor that may be awarded.

## *Student-Teachers Take to the Field*



Two education majors received on-the-job training this semester as they completed the final step in the teacher certification process. "The student teaching experience provides an opportunity for the teacher candidates to test their understanding of the

disciplines taught throughout their coursework at Thiel and refines their instructional techniques," said Toni Mild, Director of Teacher Education.

Cassidy Kravec (left), mathematics, secondary education major from North Huntingdon, Pa., divided the semester between the Conneaut Valley High School and middle school in Conneaut Lake, Pa. Ryan Pepper, chemistry, secondary education major taught in the Commodore Perry High School (Hadley, Pa.) and in the Jamestown (Pa.) High School. Both students also are members of the Kappa Delta Pi education honorary.

## *Feature Twirler Wins National Title*



Spencer Sulick, junior early education major and feature twirler, from Sharon, Pa., attended the America's Youth on Parade (AYOP) competition at the University of Notre Dame this summer and came home with the National Title in the Beginner

Open Solo division and two second-place prizes in beginner Open 2-baton and Beginner Open Strut.

Sulick also competed at the Twirling Unlimited competition held at the beginning of July in Canton, Ohio, where she won first in Beginner Best Appearing, third in Open Solo, sixth in Miss Summertime, sixth in the Beginner Pageant and seventh in Open 2-baton. Her small strut team won first place and her duet strut won the International Duet Strut Title.

# *'CommCats' Travel to Regional News Station*

## *WPXI opens media students' eyes to the future*



*by Brianna Tiedeman '15*

This semester, media communication students enrolled in the Announcing and News Production courses taught by Dr. Victor Evans, were provided the opportunity to travel to Pittsburgh's home for local and state-wide news, WPXI.

"[WPXI] is very supportive of having students visit for tours," Dr. Evans said.

Students who took advantage of this opportunity included senior Tyler Buffington; juniors Ronnell Hunt, Amy Mallinger, Natasha Breneman, Brianna Tiedeman; and sophomore Trenton Keisling.

"One of the biggest reasons I love taking students to a news station is because they can actually see what it is they would be doing in the future," Evans said after the trip. "I think WPXI is a place where they can see from all sides—the anchors, the control room, the producers—exactly what they do day-to-day and how it comes together. That's really invaluable because it's important that students see the end goal."

The 'CommCats'—as they call themselves—were able to watch the production of the six o'clock evening news from both the newsroom and control rooms, have a question-and-answer session with news anchors David Johnson, Lisa Sylvester, and chief meteorologist Stephen Cropper, and were given a tour of the entire facility.

Within the Announcing class, students are rotated on a semester-wide schedule through the roles of news anchor, entertainment anchor, sports anchor, weather anchor and field reporters. These positions are active in every newscast aired on TCTV, the Thiel College television station.

The News Production course follows the opposite track. Instead of announcing, students produce the newscast, rotating through the teleprompter, camera positioning, writing the newscast in its entirety, running the switcher and controlling the audio functions within the TV studio.

A student in the News Production class certainly felt the impact for which Evans was striving. "Today I realized I chose the right major at Thiel," said Ronell Hunt. "When I was in the van pulling up to the WPXI studio, my heart began to pound hard, almost like I was seeing my true love for the first time. It only got better from there as I entered into the establishment; in all truth, it brought tears to my eyes."

As a student in both the Announcing and News Production classes, Amy Mallinger took advantage of the trip to WPXI and shared her experience as well. "It opened my eyes to what really goes on in a news station," she said. "It also helped me see what I should do when I announce the news. I really liked how we got to sit in on a live newscast."

Tyler Buffington, another student enrolled in both classes, said, "The technological advancements that WPXI has their hands on are really exciting. And it would definitely make them one of the the best news stations to work for."

# TRAVELLING TOMCATS



by Colin Vitale '15

When little more than pizza sauce commercials make up the average person's understanding of Italian culture, the opportunity of visiting "The Boot" can sound quite intriguing. Upon hearing that the Dietrich Honors Institute had such a chance for an Italian escape, six lucky students packed their bags and the realization that Ragu would never again be acceptable sank in.

The ten-day trip led the scholars and Institute chair Dr. Curt Thompson on a whirlwind tour of Italy's most notable cities, including Rome, Naples, and Florence. The students' first destination, however, was the true city of bridges: Venice. The overnight flight drained most of the group's resolve, but a relaxing ferry trip to the heart of the city gave them a chance to rest and break the ice with their travelling compatriots. Students and community members from three other colleges were present, ranging from black to white, young to old, and everywhere in between. Every traveler found comfort in one simple consistency—no one spoke Italian.

This wouldn't be a problem, though: the British tour guide proved to be a wealth of intercultural communication skills. Once the guide acquainted his followers with major landmarks, including the gondola ports and the Plaza de San Marco, they were allowed the afternoon to explore Venice's endless roads, alleys and canals and the shops each had to offer. A flower-themed scam artist and a fancy collectible spoon later, the group sat down to a four-course meal at a local eatery featuring their own saxophone serenade on staff.

The second day provided a more educational look at the town. The travelling Tomcats and their



newfound friends were treated to a Murano glass-blowing demonstration; with lightning speed, artists pulled polished horse figurines out of blobs of molten glass with haste. After this, the group split up; half went to the ports to ride gondolas while the others found generous locals to recommend somewhere for lunch. More free time capped the day as some went shopping and others jawed with the natives about architecture and history.

Day three of the trip began in Florence, the fine arts capital of the world. What Florence most instilled in the travelers, however, turned out to be a knack for bartering. Endless rows of questionable merchants lined the roads, each more hungry for business than the last. The city's fame for priceless leather also dripped down to the gutter-level economy; some of the most convincing salespeople peddled form-fitting jackets and blazers that could trick even miserly shoppers. A day later, though, the city would prove to be worth so much more than aesthetic beauty and shifty vendors.

The morning began quite early in order for the travelers to make the line to see Michelangelo's "David." A ban on photography was hardly enough to stop the sniper-level camerawork of a Thiel student who shall remain unnamed for international security purposes. Florence's finer things were well-appreciated that morning, but the most useful sight of the day was yet to be seen. After surviving the merciless and fairly priced onslaught of backwater businesspeople the day before, a leather workshop showed just how phony the merchants' pitches turned out to be; genuine Florentine leather could only be found on the other side of the city, where two students journeyed to purchase souvenirs. Can it still be called a "souvenir" if it costs more

than \$500? Florentine leather jackets are pricey, but quite irresistible, in more ways than one.

The hedonism of Florence's shopping circuit was quickly offset by a day at Assisi, Italy's spiritual capital. Copious availability of gelato, however, had the group digging into their pocketbooks once more. Sorrento and Pompeii were closing in, as well; guided tours through all the aforementioned boosted the scholars' appreciation for Italian culture. This left only Naples and Rome.

Napoli tested the group's acquired language skills. Southern Italy is much less tourist-oriented, which means fewer English speakers abound. Some contend, though, that this made Naples the best destination for true Italian immersion. Once nerves about the city supposedly being run

by the Italian crime syndicates of myth subsided, the group enjoyed what might have been the best pizza in the country. Not even the legendary food, however, could contend with the majesty of Rome.

The structures, the views—the things for which textbooks are written—lay before the starry-eyed Tomcats. The Coliseum, the Basilica, the Trevi Fountain, all cemented the fantastic experience of the trip simply by existing. That said, no one objected to taking closer looks.

This is simply the first step in a beautiful new direction in which the DHI is headed; many exciting excursions await these students and more like them as the Institute continues to evolve. Until that time, *arrivederci, amici*, and the DHI hopes you'll join them next time.

Colin Vitale is a junior communication studies major and sociology minor from Pittsburgh. He is a men's volleyball player, a resident assistant, was the president of Lambda Sigma honor society (2012-2013), a writing lab tutor and a world traveler.

## *In Pursuit of Pacioli—A Short History About the Father of Accounting*

by Gary J. Witosky '79

Although there were many memories from my summer vacation to Italy, the highlight was visiting Sansepolcro, the birthplace of Luca Pacioli who is best known as the Father of Accounting. Pacioli (1445-1517) was a Franciscan friar who was an accomplished mathematician, scholar and teacher. He published several works on mathematics, most famously the *Summa de arithmetica, geometria, proportioni, et proportionalita* which was one of the first books printed on the Gutenberg press in Venice. In addition to containing all of the collected mathematical knowledge of the time, it was the first book published containing Hindu-Arabic arithmetic and algebra and also the first treatise on double-entry accounting, which had been practiced in and around Venice since the mid-14th century. This treatise on accounting was subsequently translated into numerous languages and contributed significantly to the spread of double-entry accounting throughout Europe and, ultimately, the world. Remarkably, double-entry accounting is still practiced today, virtually unchanged from what Pacioli described over 500 years ago.

Excerpt from Witosky's presentation at the October 2013 Thiel Forum. Gary J. Witosky '79 is an associate professor of business administration at Thiel.

*Witosky poses with Arianna Antonelli (an Italian foreign exchange student hosted by the Witosky Family in 2012-13) near a statue of Pacioli in Sansepolcro, Italy.*



# Opportunities & Outcomes

by Vicki Cousley



*Emily Friedrich '13 and Dr. Erwin Montgomery at Greenville Neuromodulation Center in Greenville, Pa.*

It's easy to spot students who know their destinations.

There's the obvious: good grades, determination, boundless energy. But there also is the realization that where they've been plays a big part in getting where they are going.

For two recent Thiel graduates and two seniors, where they have been includes internships at two major corporations owned by Thiel alumni who serve as current members of the Board of Trustees.

Emily Friedrich '13, who earned her degree in neuroscience in May, and Bethany Hines, who

plans to graduate next semester after studying forensic accounting, accounting and business administration, worked last summer at FHC, Inc. in Bowdoin, Maine owned by Fred Haer '65. Tim Taylor '13, a recent graduate with a degree in biology and John Amorose, who plans to do the same next May, worked with Dr. Carl A. Hoffman '69 H'10 at his family-owned and operated corporation PrimeCare Medical Inc. in Harrisburg, Pa.

Friedrich worked two summers directly with Haer, dividing her time between FHC and as a Vira I. Heinz scholar in neurobiology and

genetic research in Australia. Her work last summer culminated in her appointment as a research and administrative assistant in Haer's new Greenville Neuromodulation Center, located on Main Street in Greenville, across the street from Greenville Neuromodulation Services. While the latter supplies technical support for hospitals all over the world that use Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) to bring relief to those suffering a variety of brain disorders, the clinic will offer treatment using DBS. Target opening is early 2014. Friedrich works closely with Dr. Erwin Montgomery, medical director

of the clinic and Greenville Neuromodulation Scholar of Neuroscience and Philosophy at Thiel College.

Haer, who graduated from Thiel College with a degree in chemistry, noted that this was the fourth year his corporation accepted interns in all of FHC's various departments. Hines worked in the accounting department and found herself getting experience she didn't think possible as an undergraduate.

"My manager had me working with outside auditors. It was very intimidating, since these are the top-notch professionals in the accounting world. They allowed me to share my ideas, though, and my manager told me I did a great job," Hines said. Hines' experience also included conducting a presentation to FHC auditors on converting U.S. dollars to euros for the firm's European accounts. A Youngstown, Ohio native, Hines is planning a career with the FBI.

"FHC places a lot of confidence and trust in who they bring in," added Friedrich. "I had a newfound confidence after the first year and it gave me even more energy and excitement to continue in that field."

That field for Friedrich is clinical neuropsychology. She plans to earn both her master's and doctorate degrees with a goal of doing research in brain disorders. At first a molecular biology major at Grove City College, plans changed and Thiel's neuroscience program was a perfect fit for the West Middlesex native.

Both women found a second family during their time in Maine. They shared an apartment at the home of Haer and his wife, Jill (Shackett) '66, and easily fit in to the routine of FHC – a routine that both said makes employee contentment a priority.

"The first day there, Fred took me around and told me, 'Everyone wants to know your name,'" Friedrich noted. "Fred is really involved," Hines added. "He makes rounds to every department four times a day. Everyone knows how much he cares."

Taylor and Amorose found that same sense of family in their work with Hoffman, who graduated from Thiel College with a degree in biology and is in his seventh year as a Trustee. The two young men divided their time between living in Carl and Theresa Hoffman's home, and at the home of Hoffman's nephew in Philadelphia.

PrimeCare Medical, Inc. provides contracted medical services to county jails and juvenile detention centers throughout the northeastern part of the country. Started by Hoffman in 1986, PrimeCare was

*From left: Tim Taylor '13, Dr. Carl Hoffman '69 H'10 and John Amorose at PrimeCare Medical, Inc. in Harrisburg, Pa.*



the result of Hoffman's losing his job as a part-time physician at the State Correctional Institution at Camp Hill because he was told corporations were going to take over inmates' health care.

"I decided to become one of those corporations," Hoffman noted.

Taylor and Amorose were PrimeCare's first two medical interns. Hoffman said he met the two, got to know them and designed the internship with them in mind.

"This was fashioned for these young men," Hoffman noted. "I have become very close with both and am enjoying pushing them as hard as I can to help them achieve their goals."

These goals for both include careers as physician's assistants. Taylor, of Erie, Pa., is in graduate school at Chatham University and will attend physician's assistant school after earning his master's. Amorose, a senior biology major

**“Thiel is my first love; it gave me my first shot at what I wanted to do with my life.”**

*—Dr. Carl A. Hoffman '69, H'10*

from Plttsburgh, is planning to follow a similar track.

The two were taught simple medical procedures the first day of their

internship, and then were sent out to the field to work with PrimeCare's staff physicians, PAs, nurse practitioners and psychologists. They rotated through several correctional facilities to observe and care for the inmates.

Neither said they were daunted by their patients' backgrounds. Amorose said they were cautioned about asking inmates personal questions and said it was a good lesson in providing non-biased care – a trait, he noted, all health care professionals need to make their own.

"It was just like a normal family practice...they were just all wearing the same clothes," Taylor quipped.

All four agreed that the experience they received as interns will be

## Internships, reports Forbes.com, are the

**F**ifty years ago, the word 'intern' conjured up the image of an exhausted future doctor. Thirty years ago, internships were available in only a few select occupations.

Today, a student with a mind to the future can pretty much find an internship in any field. It may not be easy, but the opportunities are there.

Heather Balas '01, director of career development for Thiel, said her office sees a steady stream of students who say they need internships. Read that—"need," not "want."

Supporting that are the results of an Internships.com survey conducted last December. More than 7,300 students and recent graduates were polled, along with 300 professionals. It was found that 69% of companies with 100 or more employees offered full-time jobs to their interns in 2012.

Thiel typically places about 20 interns during the fall semester and 40 during the spring, Balas

noted. Summer statistics vary when there are more opportunities. Fall 2013 saw 23 interns placed, with the majority of them working off campus.

Internships give students invaluable hands-on training and exposure, but also can allow them to "test drive" careers and also, when paid, earn money to finance their educations. Some offer credit, while others are paid. Lucky interns get both.

Balas noted that, over the last two years, Thiel has had 167 interns combining for more than 450 credit hours earned in the field. Thiel requires a minimum of 50 hours of work per credit earned.

Thiel students seeking internships must come through her office whether they are seeking credit or not, Balas emphasized. Interns who don't are not covered by the College's liability insurance. No insurance, no credits, she noted.

Balas has a number of companies on her list and is able to make a fit between most students and

priceless as they continue to prepare for their careers.

"I had an interview recently at a physician's assistant school and they wanted me to explain what I knew. I can answer that off the top of my head because I lived it," noted Taylor.

"Living it" seem to be the words Hoffman and Haer swear by when it comes to giving back to Thiel. Besides serving as Trustees—Haer is three years into his second term—and providing generous and frequent financial support, the two have shown their commitment to helping to mold the future for Thiel students, one intern at a time. Haer opens his internships to Thiel students and those from schools

near Bowdoin. Hoffman said that only one intern at PrimeCare has not been from Thiel and called the program "very select."

"Thiel is my first love; it gave me my first shot at what I wanted to do with my life," said Hoffman. "Thiel prepared me to grow up...prepared me to realize what academia is all about and prepared me to get into medical school."

Hoffman noted the influences of his Thiel adviser, Dr. Fred J. Brenner '58, and Dr. Chauncey G. Bly H'84, former Thiel president, who had the young medical school hopeful to their homes for Sunday dinners.

Haer expressed similar affection for his alma mater, and called his involvement a "two-way street."

"We (FHC) have felt a great loyalty and are grateful for the opportunities in Greenville," he said. "We're trying to do our part to help the local economy and have had a lot of help and support from Thiel to do that."

Both men plan to continue and expand their internship programs, thanks in part to the positive experiences they have had with their former interns. Haer said he is working on a plan to offer an internship at the Greenville clinic that will run during the regular school year.

## new interviews in the job search process.

workplaces. If no fit is found with companies that have offered Thiel internship opportunities, Balas starts "cold calling" to find them.

New opportunities are always sought, she added. She noted she is excited to talk with alumni or friends who may be willing to offer practical work experience to Thiel students.

They will be in good company. According to Forbes.com, more than half of the employers surveyed said they planned to expand their internship programs, a statistic backed up locally by Fred Haer '65 and Dr. Carl A. Hoffman '69, H'10, two Thiel alumni and Trustees who offer Thiel students internships in their corporations.

Balas said the College is continuing to increase its emphasis on persuading students to do internships by talking about the opportunities in every First-Year Seminar course and in classroom presentations.

"We start freshman year to emphasize the importance

***NPR's "Marketplace" teamed with the Chronicle of Higher Education in March 2013 in surveying 700 employers to find "What Employers Really Want in a College Grad." The answer? Internships! Internships scored higher in importance than the candidate's institution, college major, even GPA.***

of internships to help students add practical experience to their education and as a way to help with major expenses. And we encourage them to try internships in different areas if they have multiple interests," Balas noted.

Being in the right place at the right time doesn't hurt either. John Amorose, Emily Friedrich, Bethany Hines and Tim Taylor, interns last summer with Haer and Hoffman, made all the right moves to be noticed by those in the know.

In some instances, a professor will pick up on a student's enthusiasm and will advise him or her of an opportunity. Good grades, of course, get noticed, but so does involvement in the school. All four of the abovementioned former interns were very involved in their college careers, as sports leaders and in academic organizations and programs. Amorose said he first met Hoffman at a reception for honors students.

"People ask 'why is it so important (to be in such programs)?' That's the point of all the extra work. It opens up opportunities," Amorose said.

*Below: Bethany Hines '14 and Tim Williams, general manager of FHCs Greenville Neuromodulation Services, in Greenville, Pa.*



## *Career Development Center Implements a Four Year Career Curriculum*

Shortly after his arrival at the Thiel College Career Development Center this past July, Associate Dean, Martin Black was pleased to find a rich inventory of career resources already in place. "My colleague, Heather Balas, had clearly worked hard to stay current with student needs," said Black. "But if success is measured in getting students into the Center, too much success creates its own challenges," obligating a career adviser to short sessions and shorter follow-up. "By doubling fulltime staff to two, the administration has opened up enough breathing room for us to give students the time they need, but also allow us to challenge every student at Thiel to visit us at least once per term." Hence Black's 'Career Curriculum': "Students need a road map," he says, "simple, but not simplistic; generic, but adaptable to individual needs."

The plan is indeed a simple one: for each class year starting with freshman year and continuing through senior year, there are a series of expectations:

- Schedule advising sessions
- Attend specific workshops designed to build career skills and a professional portfolio
- Register for an employer event
- Engage with an alumnus/alumna mentor
- Build a professional social media profile

Students are also expected to get off campus:

- Conduct an informational interview
- Secure an internship
- Land at least one job interview (or graduate school acceptance) prior to graduation.

Black is certain that activist career outreach to students will be universal across campuses in the next few years: "The job market demands savvy customers," he says. "Unless you have a secure spot in a family business, you need to have your career well in hand long before you hit graduation day. Luckily, Thiel's size, engaged faculty, activist athletic program and tight community make a plan like this achievable."

**Does your employer need a full- or part-time intern? Scan the QR code or email [careercenter@thiel.edu](mailto:careercenter@thiel.edu) and let us know!**





## A New 'Solution' for Campus Technology

Along with the Bly Hall renovation (see pg. 2), summer improvements included an update to the Information Technology Support Center, also located in the Academic Center.

The Center has been rebranded as the Solution Center and features a more collaborative environment for students and faculty. Enhanced technology, comfortable chairs, and a coffee bar make it a relaxing spot for students while they're waiting for technical assistance, computer repair or working together on a class project.

"We wanted to make this an inviting space for students to visit," said Dr. Jennifer Behm, Director of IT Support Services and Instructional Technology. "It provides a centralized location to interact with new technology on campus, while receiving top notch technical support from our expert staff."

The Solution Center is staffed Mon. – Fri. from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is an authorized repair center for Lenovo branded computers.

## Experience a Brand New Thiel.edu

The Thiel website experienced a complete makeover this summer! The new website launched in late August after a year of design and development. This was the first complete redesign since 2005. It transitioned the site from a static to a responsive layout, providing a better experience on mobile devices. The Faculty & Staff Directory, Search, and Calendar were completely rebuilt for improved usability.

All academic departments include two new documents: fact sheets and curriculum guides. Fact sheets

give prospective students a printable overview of the department. Curriculum guides allow current students to download a course checklist for major requirements. Alumni stories were another addition to the department pages.

Information Technology partnered with Public Relations and Admissions on a new virtual campus tour and an improved online application.

"Our goal was to keep the layout simple and clean to make information

more accessible," said Kurt Ashley, Chief Information Officer. "We've transformed the homepage to be more dynamic with upcoming events and 'What's New' blocks providing new content regularly."

Future plans include a news blog, updated course offerings, and a campus portal that will serve as an 'intranet' for current students, faculty and staff.

Visit [www.thiel.edu](http://www.thiel.edu) to experience the new website for yourself!  
The virtual campus tour is also now live at [www.thiel.edu/tour](http://www.thiel.edu/tour).

# 2013 HOMECOMING

Proud  
of our  
Past



Homecoming King, senior **Casey Rose** of Clarion, Pa., and Queen, senior **Alana Smith** of Struthers, Ohio.



Students take the opportunity to converse with alumni and begin "building for their futures" at the Student-Alumni Network Reception.



There's no better way to celebrate Homecoming than to ring the victory bell after a Tomcat win against Saint Vincent College 30-3!

Cheerleaders gear up for the weekend at the pep rally.



Homecoming Game Day Honoree **Jim Bittel '60** and family (20 children and granddchildren!) gather on the 50 yard line to be recognized at halftime with Dr. VanAken and family.



Faithful participants start off the weekend at the Blue-Gold Golf Outing first thing Friday morning.



Young alumni pose for photos at the Alumni Tent Party on Friday evening.



Zeta Tau Alpha alumnae smile for a camera before the parade.



Generations of alumni are "called to the board" with Professor David Miller '61 at the dedication of Bly Hall.

Hundreds of alumni and friends gathered on campus to celebrate Homecoming Weekend 2013 as Thiel College remains "Proud of our Past" and continues "Building for the Future." Traditional annual events such as the Blue-Gold golf outing and the annual homecoming parade were well attended as old memories were shared and new ones were made. In keeping with the theme of the weekend, two new campus spaces were dedicated: a basketball court near the townhouses on lower campus and the completely renovated and technologically-enhanced Bly Hall auditorium. New events, including the Alumni Tent Party following the pep rally and fireworks Friday night and the 5K Run/Fun Walk, gave visitors something to look forward to and will keep them coming back for more! Mark your calendars for Homecoming Weekend 2014 on Oct. 3-5 when we plan to dedicate the new James Pedas Communication Center. See you next year!

A crowd turns out for the Class of 2013 gift dedication and alumni basketball match-up on lower campus.

(From left) Dr. David Buck, history, Dr. Dan Eppley, religion and Dr. Matt Morgan, philosophy, swept the 40-50 men's category at the inaugural 5K Run/Fun Walk.



# DOTUN AKINWALE GOES PRO

Dotun Akinwale '13 was focused, calculated and persistent during his collegiate career at Thiel. When he was not in the Academic Center laboring for his Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration, he was working out in the Paul Bush '66 Memorial Fitness Center to prepare for basketball season on the hardwood floor of the Beeghly Gymnasium.

The former 6-foot-1-inch guard has a new uniform these days. He has traded in his navy blue and old gold uniform with T-H-I-E-L splashed across the chest for new colors and gear. He now favors blue, black, silver and white, and a tightly wound necktie.

A 2013 graduate, Akinwale has executed the most successful drive to the basket in his career in landing a front office internship with the NBA's Orlando Magic.

"It was always a dream of mine to work in the front office for an NBA team," said Akinwale. "I feel extremely lucky; it's really hard to get into the NBA."

Akinwale's front office internship is the culmination of more than two years of hard work and dedication, not only to his duties as student and basketball player, but also to a campaign of résumé-building, networking and self-promotion.

Akinwale knew he wanted to work in sports in some capacity by the end of his sophomore year, he said. He then spent the next two summers working for Sports Management Group Worldwide, Inc. (SMGW). Located in Fairfax, Va., SMGW represents professional athletes throughout the country.

"I thought I wanted to be an agent," said Akinwale, explaining his summer employment with SMGW. "After my junior year, I decided I wanted to work in the NBA in the front office, and I started to map it out.



"I didn't know anyone," Akinwale continued. "I just started trying to make contacts."

There were many phone calls and emails along the way, mostly to people whose statures and reputations as professional sport managers might intimidate most college students. There was plenty of rejection along the way, too. Akinwale heard more than his fair share of 'we're not hiring', 'we'll keep your résumé on file' and 'we'll keep you in mind if anything opens up'.

Finally, Akinwale contacted George Rodman, the basketball operations manager for the Orlando Magic. Rodman kept in touch with Akinwale for months, but he was not certain if the team was going to hire a basketball

## Former Tomcat lands internship with NBA's Orlando Magic

by Ed Topoleski '02



operations intern for the 2013-2014 season.

Months went by, and Akinwale began to consider applying to graduate schools. In the fall, Akinwale finally learned that the Magic planned to hire a basketball operations intern, and his networking success earned him an interview for the position via Skype with Rodman and other front office personnel. Akinwale's first interview led to a second Skype interview with general manager Rob Hennigan and vice president/assistant general manager Scott Perry.

On the night of his second interview, one of the team's human resources employees called Akinwale to offer him the internship. Without hesitation, he accepted the offer.

Akinwale arrived in Orlando on Sept. 29 and started his internship the next day.

"The internship has been great so far," Akinwale said. "It's a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun. There's always something to do, but it's one of those things where I wake up every morning and I'm so excited to go into the office."

As part of his basketball operations internship, Akinwale has been busy updating and maintaining the Magic's player database, scheduling scouting credentials for the team's scouts and front office staff, and creating documents for use in staff meetings. He is also responsible for in-game charting of opponents' performances and generating mini scouting reports on several players per game, as well as breaking down video.

"He's such a great kid," Thiel's eighth-year men's basketball head coach Tim Loomis said of Akinwale. "He did all of our film work last year, and I think that helped him. Of course, he's a really bright kid. Administrative, front office: I think he's that kind of guy."

Akinwale's internship is not free from typical intern duties. He makes copies, takes lunch orders and makes runs to the airport. It's well worth it to get his foot in the door with an NBA team, though.

"A lot of the guys in the front office started off as interns," he said. "They all know what it's like to do the little things to help build on the bigger things. They're really great to work with, and they have been very helpful."

A native of Boyds, Md., Akinwale wears new colors and a grown-up's uniform. He now does most of his work inside Orlando's \$380 million Amway Center, but he is still focused, calculated and persistent in continuing to pursue his professional NBA career.

## *The Future Looks Bright at Thiel College's Alumni Stadium*

For the first time in the history of Thiel College, the Tomcats hosted a night football game at Alumni Stadium on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. against the Westminster Titans.

Installed in August by Qualite Sports Lighting, LLC, the addition of competition-level lighting at Alumni Stadium has been a goal of the Athletic Department for some time.

"We are very excited about the addition of competition-level lighting," said Thiel College Director of Athletics Jack Leipheimer '74. "We are very thankful for the generous donations we received to complete this important project, which benefits our athletic teams, intramurals programs and the local community."

The new competition-level lights are mounted on four cement bases: two 75-footers on the home side of the field and two 80-footers on the visiting side of the field. The two taller poles support 23 lights while the structures on the home side of the field consist of 21 lights, for a total of 88 lights illuminating the stadium.

Adding competition-level lighting has not only added an element to on-campus games at Alumni Stadium, but it has also eased the difficult task of scheduling practices for Thiel College's 22 NCAA Division III programs and its intramurals programs. In addition, the lights present a "wow factor" for potential recruits, many of whom come from high school programs that have competition-level lighting.

"Practice scheduling has certainly been eased," said Leipheimer, "and, more importantly, recruits have taken notice of the lights. We believe we have only begun to see the benefits of adding competition-level lights."

The new lights have enabled Thiel College to offer its multipurpose synthetic grass turf facility at Alumni Stadium to others in the community. The College recently hosted a football game between Greenville High School and Reynolds High School. Thiel did not charge either school for use of its facility, and funds generated from tickets, programs and concessions solely benefited the high schools.

"We were very excited to be able to host the strong traditional rivalry on our campus between Greenville and Reynolds," Leipheimer said, "and with the addition of the lights we look forward to hosting other similar community events in the future."

Qualite Sports Lighting, LLC has decades of experience installing lighting systems for thousands of customers. The lights that Thiel College selected for its multipurpose facility are the 1,500-watt Pro Series with visor fixtures, which are backed by a 25-year warranty. The Pro Series comes with the Qualite ReQuest Unit, a versatile remote wireless management system that is utilized to schedule and control facility lighting. The ReQuest Unit allows for instant light operation and scheduling, which reduces the need for on-site staff.

## Thiel Athletics rolls out new mobile platform

The new platform for on-the-go Tomcat fans to follow is [www.thielathletics.com/mobile](http://www.thielathletics.com/mobile), powered by Sidearm Sports.

When users simply type thielathletics.com on a mobile browser, they will automatically be redirected to the new adaptive site. However, the URL for the mobile-specific site is [www.thielathletics.com/mobile](http://www.thielathletics.com/mobile). The adaptive athletics website replaces the previous mobile site and provides access to all content created on the desktop version of thielathletics.com in an easier-to-navigate interface with touch screen menus makes it easier for fans to access live video, game recaps and box scores from their mobile devices.

For fans looking to follow the Tomcats on-the-go, a variety of other social media methods are available as well. The Tomcats are on **Twitter** (@thielathletics), **Facebook** (facebook.com/TCAthletics) and **Instagram** (@thielathletics).



## Hayes Named Cheer and Dance Coach



Kristie Hayes was tapped as head cheer and dance coach in the fall 2013.

Hayes arrived in Greenville after serving as the head cheerleading coach at Saint Francis University last season. In addition to her coaching duties with the Flash, she served as the assistant marketing coordinator, helping to facilitate the promotional activities taking place during Saint Francis home games.

Hayes has spent the past eight years with the Universal Cheerleaders Association in Pittsburgh. While there, she served as the head instructor and trainer for the northeast region and was responsible for teaching new material, choreography and tryouts for athletes of all ages.

She graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in communication and a minor in sports management.

## Women's Bowling Added to Sports Roster

Women's bowling, which will initially be a club sport for the 2014-2015 season, will become the 23rd varsity sport sponsored by Thiel in the 2015-2016 academic year, bringing the total to 11 women's sports and 12 men's sports.

"When we began to explore adding another sport, we wanted to provide additional opportunities for female student-athletes that would also increase our compliance and commitment to Title IX," Leipheimer said. "Women's bowling accomplishes these goals, and it is also a cost-effective sport that continues to grow rapidly at the national level."

Since the NCAA officially offered a championship opportunity in the sport of women's bowling in 2004, it has been one of the fastest-growing NCAA championship sports. Thiel becomes the 10th NCAA Division III institution to add women's bowling and the 63rd school overall in the nation.

The NCAA conducts a National Collegiate Championship in the sport, which means that Thiel would compete against schools from all three NCAA classifications if it were to advance to the national finals.

Dan McMillen '86, men's and women's golf coach, will coach the new team. McMillen is no stranger to the bowling alley. Prior to playing golf professionally for 25 years, McMillen competed at the junior and high school levels.

"We are thrilled to be able to offer a 23rd varsity sport, especially one that is so popular in Pennsylvania," McMillen said. "Having recently chartered a NCAA DIII women's golf team (in 2009), it excites me to recruit to Thiel more student-athletes who wish to compete at the collegiate level in the sport they love."

Thiel's women's bowling team will compete and practice at Celebrity Bowl in Greenville, Pa.

## Seven Alumni Award Winners Say “Thank You”

Billed as one of the favorite events of the year by faculty, staff and students, the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony that kicks off Homecoming Weekend reminds attendants of the deep and long-lasting connections Thiel College creates and supports. This year's event was no different. Seven honorees from all walks of life took to the podium and each said “thank you” in unique ways, but a common theme was the impact that Thiel College had in shaping their intellectual curiosity and setting a firm foundation to launch their careers.

### *Distinguished Alumni Award Winners*

*Recipients are nominated for outstanding contributions to their professions.*



*Dr. William Reinhart '61*



*Michael A. Lanciotti '78*



*John E. “Jack” Martin '75*

**Dr. William Reinhart '61**, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, has spent decades as a professional ophthalmologist and corneal transplant surgeon and has been nationally recognized for his contributions as a physician, scientist and educator. He graduated from Thiel College with a bachelor's degree in physics in 1961. While a student at Thiel, he was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and the football team. William earned his M.D. from CWRU School of Medicine in 1968. His professional appointments include: professor of ophthalmology at CWRU; associate ophthalmologist at University Hospitals of Cleveland; medical director, The Cleveland Eye Bank; active staff in the Department of Surgery/ Ophthalmology MetroHealth Hospital, and active staff in the Department of Surgery/Ophthalmology at the Cleveland Veterans Administration Hospital. From 1996 to 2011 he was recognized by Cleveland Magazine as one of its “Top Doctors.” In 2003 he was listed

in Consumers' Research Council of America's “Guide to America's Top Physicians” and named one of the Best Doctors in America. Also in 2011, CWRU School of Medicine announced a \$1.5 million endowed chair: The Silvia Baslew Page-William J. Reinhart, M.D. Research Chair in Ophthalmology funded by patient Silvia Baslew Page.

**Michael Lanciotti Jr. '78** was described in *Management Today* as a “very strong leader and very business savvy...the epitome of a CEO.” Mike has been the CEO of Renegade Custom Coaches and Trailers in Bristol, Ind., producing motor coaches, trailers and specialty vehicles in thousands of custom options since 2008. In 2013, Renegade forecasts sales in excess of \$55 million. Prior to joining Renegade, Mike was the President and Chief Operating Officer of Lock Joint Tube, manufacturers of mechanical and structural grade steel tubing in four plants located in Indiana, Texas and Tennessee. Before that, he served as Vice President at Jackson Tube Service, another welded steel tube manufacturer in Piqua, Ohio. While a student at Thiel, Mike

was a member of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, the wrestling team, the newsletter committee and a library employee. After graduating Thiel with a degree in accounting, he earned his executive M.B.A. from Baldwin Wallace College.

Owner and supervisor of Dusckas-Martin Funeral Homes and Crematory, Inc., in Erie, Pa., **John “Jack” Martin '75** has had a very diverse professional life. After graduating from Thiel with a bachelor's degree in psychology and education, he became a teacher and coach and was named Teacher of the Year in 1985. Jack earned a Master of Science Degree in counselor education from Gannon University. From 1986 to 1989 he was Thiel's Alumni Director and then became Director of Development at Gannon University. He earned an Ed.D. in higher education administration from the University of Akron and then accepted the position of Vice President for Advancement at Edinboro University. Throughout his career, he also worked part-time at the family-owned funeral home in Erie, Pa. He earned an associate's degree in mortuary technology at

the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and has been supervisor/director of Dusckas-Martin Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc. since 2002. In 2012, Jack was named one of

four nominees for "National Funeral Director" in American Funeral Director Magazine. As a student at Thiel College, Jack was a member of The Thiel Choir and Sigma Phi

Epsilon fraternity. He was also one of the first disk-jockeys on WGRP (now WXTC)—the Thiel radio station—and notably, the first-ever to play Lynard Skynard's "Free Bird."

### ***Service to Thiel Award Winners***

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

### ***Young Alumni Award Winners***

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



*Raymond B. Hanlon '74*



*Dr. James Bloomfield*



*Branning Street '06*



*Grant Alexis '05*

As member and then President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 2006 to 2012, **Ray Hanlon '74** reached out to many classmates, explored ways to better utilize alumni board members and attended many alumni events and Homecomings to engage and encourage alumni to support Thiel College. A dedicated member of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, Ray joined other board members, alumni, students, community leaders, staff and faculty and presented Thiel 2016 to the Board of Trustees in November 2011. While a student at Thiel, Ray was involved in intramural athletics, Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, the psychology club and the varsity tennis team. He earned his Master of Science Degree from Millersville University in 1977, professional psychology license in 1988 and has his A.B.D from the University of Pittsburgh in 2002.

**Dr. James Bloomfield** began his tenure at Thiel College in 1965 as an instructor of history. After more than 40 years of service as assistant, associate and professor of history, he retired and was named Professor Emeritus of History in 2006. Since his retirement, he has remained a dedicated member of the campus family by teaching as an adjunct in the Department of History. Well

respected by his students and colleagues, Jim is a professor who taught in the classical tradition with polished, articulate lectures. In 2005, Jim received the Distinguished Teaching Award at Thiel's annual Founders' Day celebration.

**Branning Street '06** is a kindergarten teacher described as young, vibrant and making a tremendous difference in the lives of his students. With dual degrees in elementary education and English/secondary education certification from Thiel, he is currently working on a master's degree in literacy from the University of Pennsylvania. In the 2010-2011 school year, he became a technology specialist for grades K-6. He has tutored struggling students one-on-one to pass the Ohio General Test (OGT). He also serves on a committee to rewrite the curriculum maps and plans the curriculum for seventh-grade language arts for the Warren City School district. Branning also teaches and coordinates activities as the Youth Director at the Fifth Avenue Community Church in Youngstown, Ohio. As a student at Thiel, Branning was involved in Alpha Chi, Les Lauriers, Lambda Sigma, Kappa Delta Pi, Sigma Tau Delta, the Thiel Players, the English and Art Clubs and was editor of *The Phoenix*.

**Grant T. Alexis '05** is Attorney-Advisor for the Office of Administrative Law Judges, U.S. Department of Labor, in Washington, D.C. He earned his bachelor's degree in history and a master's in international law and politics from Georgetown University. He has worked as a litigation clerk for an intellectual property law firm in Washington, D.C. and a program analyst in the Justice Department's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training (OPDAT) where he received a Department of Justice Performance Award. He has been a judicial intern for a federal judge in Santa Ana, Calif.; an intern in the law department of an international investment bank; volunteer mediator; business law clinic student attorney; and an ombudsman for the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. He received his J.D. from the University of Minnesota Law School in 2012 and has been a Pennsylvania Bar Member since October 2012. At Thiel, he was a member of Phi Alpha Theta, Pi Sigma Alpha, Lambda Sigma and Alpha Chi. He attended Ewha Womans University in Korea his senior year. In his junior he participated in the Washington Semester program where he served as a general litigation intern in the Office of the Attorney General.

## From the Alumni Relations Office



Greetings from Thiel College where our campus landscape will soon be dusted with snow. Though cold weather is upon us, it is a beautiful picture painted around the academic buildings and administrative offices. It is truly an honor to be serving my

alma mater as the Director of Alumni Relations. Thank you for your warm welcome as I have transitioned over the past few months into this role. I look forward to meeting you on campus at events this year, or through special projects I have brewing for us to work on together! There are plenty of opportunities to make sure you are engaged with your alma mater this fall and I hope you will be able to join us for one or more of our alumni events. Watch your email for the monthly Pawprints e-newsletter for more event information and alumni news. We look forward to catching up with you soon!

*Stephanie Wilson*

Stephanie (Hills) Wilson '04  
Director of Alumni Relations

## Society of 1866 Member Spotlight: Signe Mitchell '65



"Thiel College is and has been a school which has much to offer its students. It was my home of further learning from 1961 to 1965; and years later, I continue to recall many good classes which were offered, along with fine professors, and opportunities for added activities and interests. A blessing of dear friends began there and continues to last—always.

The Society of 1866 gives a way to continue support of Thiel College. It is my true belief that the College will grow and work to expand and be present for students for many years—years of hope, years of new and expanded studies, years of growth in life's values, and years of my alma mater for generations to come."

# Upcoming Alumni Events

Mark your calendars for the following Thiel Alumni Events in your area!  
Visit [www.thiel.edu/alumni/events](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni/events) often for updates and more information.

### Friday, Dec. 6

Annual Dome Opening Event at Thiel College

### Sunday, Dec. 8

Annual Christmas Festival  
featuring Thiel College Choirs and Bands

### Wednesday, Dec. 11

Erie Alumni Event - Erie Otters Hockey Game

### Thursday, Dec. 19

Pittsburgh Alumni Event - Party & Play at Dave & Buster's

## 2014 Alumni & Friends Gatherings

Jan. 20	Scottsdale, Ariz., hosted by Ken '57 & Joyce Bash
Feb. 6	Founders' Day at Thiel College
Feb. 7-9	Winter Weekend at Thiel College
March 2-8	Choir Tour Events (Southern Ohio) Southern Florida Alumni Events
March 15	Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Ravel Bolero at Heinz Hall
April 12	Spring into Action-Alumni Volunteer Day
May 4	Commencement

Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@thiel.edu](mailto:alumni@thiel.edu) or **724-589-2027** with questions or to RSVP to alumni events.

Scan the QR code to visit  
[www.thiel.edu/alumni/events](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni/events)  
for updates, more information or  
to RSVP for events!



## Renewed Class Agent Program

As ambassadors for the College, Class Agents act as liaisons between their classmates and the College, building a sense of community by collecting up-to-date information about personal or professional accomplishments of their classmates which enables the Office of Alumni Relations to better serve and engage alumni.

The Thiel Fund attempts to raise \$1 million each year. Gifts to The Thiel Fund ensure that the love of learning, the genuine interest shown by faculty and staff, social activities, leadership and teamwork opportunities, and lifelong relationships that alumni found at Thiel will be available for generations of students. Gifts

**MISSION STATEMENT**  
*Class Agents are advocates for Thiel College—a group of alumni volunteers who energize their class by participating in Thiel happenings and encouraging others to do the same, helping current students in a variety of ways and generally supporting the efforts and mission of the College.*

to The Thiel Fund support four priority areas of campus life that affect the lives of Thiel students: academics, annual operations, athletics and scholarships.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who step forward each year to help Thiel College alumni keep

in touch through the Class Agent program. We couldn't do it without you! However, there are still many years that are not represented by a class agent. Should you happen to know any interested alumni from missing class years, please let us know! We are currently looking for agents for the following class years: 1946, 1949, 1950, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1973, 1974, 1980, 1986, 1987, 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2012 and 2013.

To volunteer or nominate a Class Agent, contact Stephanie Wilson, Director of Alumni Relations at [swilson@thiel.edu](mailto:swilson@thiel.edu) or **724-589-2027**.

## Planning a Successful **CLASS REUNION**

**Wondering what it takes to plan your class reunion during our annual Homecoming celebration?**

The time to start planning is now! In 2014, we will celebrate reunions of class years ending in '4' and '9'.

Typically, reunions are planned in five-year increments; however, any class is welcome to plan reunion activities at any time. Get a group of your classmates together, form a reunion committee and designate a chairperson. As a committee, you should discuss what type of activities you would like your group to organize or participate in (e.g. sitting together at the reunion dinner, creating a float or walking with a banner in the parade, donating a class gift back to the College, etc.). The committee chairperson should then contact the Office of Alumni Relations to facilitate your plans.

**The Office of Alumni Relations is responsible for the following in facilitating reunion plans:**

- Assisting with the production of all reunion correspondence, including "save-the-date" mailers, events promotion in Homecoming brochure (deadlines apply to participate) and registration materials.
- Communicating plans in the year before the reunion.
- Assisting and supporting committee chairs in planning and providing historical reunion information.
- Coordinating with various campus departments, including facilities, food services, A/V and IT services, special events to prepare campus for returning alumni and provide support for reunion events.

Look for the "Class Reunion Planning Guide" to be published at [www.thiel.edu/alumni](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni) by the end of this year. To start planning your class reunion, email [swilson@thiel.edu](mailto:swilson@thiel.edu) or call **724-589-2027** today!

# The Rev. Dr. David P. Gleason



## WHAT HAS FUELED YOUR COMMITMENT TO STAY ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR ALMOST A DECADE AND A HALF AS A NON-ALUMNUS OF THE COLLEGE?

At the first meeting of the Board of Trustees that I attended almost fifteen years ago, I was struck by the depth of commitment that was evident in the administration, faculty and staff of the College. Their genuine concern for students and their pride in the institution were readily apparent. There was even an evident willingness to make personal sacrifice in order to keep that commitment. That is still the case.

## WHY SHOULD A PROSPECTIVE STUDENT CONSIDER ATTENDING THIEL COLLEGE?

Precisely because of that commitment. The administration, faculty and staff care about students and their success. There is a willingness to go beyond routine responsibility in order to help students achieve. There is healthy concern not only for academic success but also for the well-being of the *whole* person. Administrators, faculty and staff are eager to foster relationships with students and to encourage students in their relationships to one another.

## WHAT HAVE YOU FOUND TO BE THE MOST CHALLENGING ASPECTS OF SERVICE ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES? AND THE MOST REWARDING?

Certainly the most challenging aspect of service on the Board has been to recognize and work with the financial limitations of the institution. Thiel has neither a large endowment nor a wealthy constituency. The economic life of the institution is very much driven by tuition and by the number of students enrolled. That makes growth and risk-taking difficult. In the past fifteen years, however, I have seen the administration and the Board face those realities squarely and not be daunted by them. It is deeply gratifying to witness the work of people willing to move ahead and take on new challenges with the confidence that the work will be accomplished and the challenges will be met.

## WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE CURRENT DIRECTION THIEL COLLEGE IS TAKING?

I heartily endorse Thiel's strategic plan and its "four pillars." The plan is well-formulated and enjoys strong support within the campus community. I would only underscore that Thiel is a college of the Church and, as such, bears a responsibility to serve the Church in its broadest possible dimensions. The Lutheran tradition that gave birth to the college is one that cultivates deep concern and motivation for service in the world. It maintains that all vocations are godly, insofar as God is glorified through them and his people are lovingly served.

That same tradition also maintains that the formation of community, even communities comprised of students, faculty, administrators and staff, is a godly endeavor. Christian faith and life are all about relationships: relationships to God and to one another. Therefore, Thiel has the responsibility and goal of deepening such relationships and of helping students relate to the world and people around them. The College must be a community that helps all of its members grow in service to the world and to one another, and thereby to God.

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE A CURRENT THIEL COLLEGE STUDENT?

I would encourage all students to see themselves as integral parts of the College community. They should never drift into isolation. If they have academic problems, there are teachers who will help them. If they feel socially adrift, there are fellow students and others who will welcome them in. And if they want a rich, full and abundant experience of learning, Thiel will open it to them. They need only open themselves to Thiel.

## WHAT ARE "YOUR WORDS TO LIVE BY?"

Everything we say and do, *everything* we say and do, is a witness to our faith. It will either be a good one or a bad one.

*The Rev. Dr. David Paul Gleason retired after more than forty years of parish ministry in central Pennsylvania; suburban Washington, DC; and Pittsburgh. His last pastorate of just over 24 years at First Lutheran Church in downtown Pittsburgh was the longest in the history of the parish. Beyond his service in the Church, Pastor Gleason has served on the Board and Executive Committee of the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, on the Ethics Committee of Magee Women's Hospital, on the Advisory Board of the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership at the University of Pittsburgh, and various civic committees in Pittsburgh. Pastor Gleason holds a B.S. in education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, an M.Div. from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and a D.Min. from the Graduate Theological Foundation of Notre Dame, Indiana, in ecumenical studies. He and his wife, Joyce, reside in the North Hills of Pittsburgh. They have three adult children, Michelle, Eric and Michael; and two grandchildren, Charlie and Miles.*

*"My family and I have had a long-time relationship with Pastor Gleason at our church in Pittsburgh. His devotion to the worship and ministry at First Lutheran Church has produced a young, more vibrant, strong, faithful inner-city congregation. His dedication to the Thiel College Board of Trustees and other areas of service is equally impressive."*

— Dr. Glen Johnson H'88, Thiel College Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus

# Meet the Boards



*Officers for the Board of Trustees are, from left, Mark A. Benninghoff '82, Chair; Dr. Barry Stamm '70, Vice Chair; Chip Dufala '92, Treasurer; Susan R. Snowden, Esq., Secretary*

## Board of Trustees

### Officers:

Mark A. Benninghoff '82, Chair  
Dr. Barry Stamm '70, Vice Chair  
George "Chip" Dufala '92 Treasurer  
Susan R. Snowden, Esq., Secretary  
Dr. Troy D. VanAken, Ex-Officio

Dr. Frank T. Baker\*  
John M. Barr '70  
Dr. Robert O. Blomquist H'99\*  
Dr. Robert D. Burns '74  
Lewis (Lou) P. Carbone '71  
Jason E. Chappell '96  
Connie L. Danko '69  
G. Leah Dever '74  
Ronald H. Doerr  
Rev. Brian Evans '03  
Dr. Alan F. Fager '69  
John R. Frangakis  
Fred Haer '65  
Dr. Carl A. Hoffman Jr. '69, H'10  
Dr. Robert Holderer  
John Hudson  
Rick Huether '74  
Dr. Glen R. Johnson H'88\*  
Dr. Cara Hoehn Lopic '92  
Dr. Fred Luchette '76  
Dr. Frank Maenpa '69  
Dr. James McHugh '62, H'02\*  
Catherine V. Mott  
Barbara H. Nakles\*  
Barry Oman '74  
Ronald W. Owen '71  
Donald R. Owrey '89  
Dr. James Pedas '50, H'89\*  
Rev. Daniel Smail '97  
Dr. Roy Strausbaugh\*  
Dr. Sarah Taylor-Rogers '69  
Dr. John L. Vitale '47, H'90\*

Miles J. Wallace  
Dr. Howard J. Weyers '56, H'11\*  
Rod E. Wilt '86  
Elaine M. Woloshyn '74  
Michael G. Zawowsky '79  
\*Emeriti

## Board of Associates

Glen Augustine  
James D. Bittel Jr. '60  
Dale W. Deist  
Robert C. Denove '75  
David L. Hofius '64  
Michael J. Kuder  
Cris Loutzenhiser  
Sue A. Nicklin  
Lee Ann Nucirino '87  
William V. Parker '75  
Leo M. Phillips '84  
Glenn C. Riley  
Paul H. Saternow '71  
John E. Thigpen '86  
Nicholas Travaglianti '11  
Jeffrey A. Wallace  
The Hon. Roy W. Wilt '59, H'85

## Alumni Association Board

### Officers:

Chuck Goodrick '74, President  
William Matthews '74, Secretary  
Raymond Hanlon '74, Immediate Past President

Michael Allen '90  
Dr. Karen Ely '84  
Norman Hasbrouck '74  
David Hummel '83  
Rachel Keene '08  
Alison Kuder '05  
Janet Scofield McClintock '64  
James McRoberts '58  
Joseph T. Nairn '79  
Antonio Quarterman '08  
Dawn Salter '95  
Dr. Christopher Shinkman '62  
Marion Shoemaker '63  
Kraig Smith '12  
Paul Stibich '05  
Brianna Sweet-Lawn '13  
Damen Taylor '95  
John A. Wotus '74

## Thiel Family Council

Joe Bailey  
Brenda Baird  
Tracie Crane  
Tonya Cyphert  
Ted Fiore  
Dale & Leisel Lengyel  
Sharon Schneider, chair  
Rose Marker-Faour  
Ray and Bonnie Panasko

# Class Notes

## 1960s

JEANNE (MCDERMID) BROWN '66 and her husband are both retired and relocated to Michigan where they enjoy the cool weather, golf and fishing.

MELVIN REISZ '68 graduated from Hamma School of Theology in 1972, drove to Maine and became a goldsmith, then a silversmith and then began working with colored gems and diamonds. Over 40 years, he grew Summerwind Jewelers & Goldsmiths into a significant downtown jeweler in Portsmouth, N.H. His daughter became a gemologist and is the second generation working in the business. He and his wife purchased property and recently designed and built a vacation/retirement home in Beaufort, S.C.

JOHN TOMLINSON '69 was inducted into the Bucks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame on April 11. He accumulated more than 300 wins as Central Bucks East High School Head Wrestling Coach from 1969 to 2003. For his athletic and coaching achievements, Tomlinson has been named to six Halls of Fame, including both Central Bucks High Schools East (2004) and West (2000), Thiel College (1974) and both the Southeast and Pennsylvania Wrestling Halls (2003). In 2000, John received the Lifetime Achievement in Wrestling Award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

## 1970s

GAIL (GUTHRIE) SAUTER '73, lives in Orem, Utah with her husband GARY '72. She's had careers in speech pathology and special education.

DAVID JOHNSTON '73, is an IT Manager at Duke Energy in Charlotte, N.C. His oldest daughter is attending graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill, and his youngest daughter is a student at North Carolina State University. He and his wife live in Concord, N.C.

JANE (CULLEN) MARSTELLER '77, was hired as a family adviser by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. She and her husband, Bryan, a program specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, reside in York, Pa., and are the proud grandparents of six granddaughters and a grandson.

## 1980s



◀ MARK CONRAD '83, received his master's degree in rehabilitative sciences from the Venango College of Clarion University on May 18. He was also honored as the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student by the rehabilitative sciences faculty at a special honors ceremony held at Clarion University on April 21.

## 1990s

CARL M. BAYER '92 received his master's degree in the management of information technology from the University of Virginia's McIntire School of Commerce. He resides in Bristow, Va.

CHAD BURNHEIMER '95 earned a master's degree in teaching and learning with technology from Ashford University in 2009 and a master's in educational leadership from Edinboro University in 2011. He recently relocated to Wellsburg W.Va., and accepted a position with Hancock County Schools as an assistant principal at Weir Middle School.

KEN NEWMAN '96 was appointed assistant to the superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Pleasant Valley School District. He was also recognized for 10 years of service to the district. He lives in Brodheadsville, Pa.

ALISON BOYLE '97, a certified volunteer administrator and coordinator of volunteer services with Gwen's Girls Inc., was presented with the annual EVIE award for Outstanding Volunteer Administrator in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Boyle resides in Pittsburgh.

SEAN DETAR '98 started his 15th year of employment with U.S. Steel Corporation. He is an application architect. He started his career as an intern while at Thiel and was interviewed for employment by a fellow alum TRACI (HUDSON) VAUGHAN '94.

## 2000s



◀ IVAN CILIK '01 was named partner in ParenteBeard's audit and accounting services group. He has 13 years of public accounting experience, with extensive experience in technical accounting, auditing, SEC reporting, internal control and Sarbanes and Oxley compliance expertise. ParenteBeard is ranked among the top 25 accounting firms in the U.S. He and his wife JOCELYN (BROWN) '00 live in Cranberry Township, Pa.

BRIAN R. SCOTT '01 graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a master's degree in social work in May 2013. He is LTC coordinator with United Healthcare. He and his wife reside in Lake Worth, Fla.

CRYSTAL (MOORE) MCCABE '03 is a full-time instructor for Grand Canyon University, in Phoenix, Ariz. She and her husband MICHAEL MCCABE '04, a counselor in the Cartwright School District, are both pursuing doctoral degrees in industrial and organizational psychology. They reside in Phoenix, Ariz., with their two children Gavin and Noah.

SHAUNTE M. ROGERS '07 is currently pursuing a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling at Youngstown State University.

ANGELA P. BOWE '08 celebrated her one-year anniversary as a full-time physical therapist assistant at the Whitestone Care Center and enjoys her time with her elderly patients.

ANTONIO QUARTERMAN '08 is now the Director of Student Life at Community College of Allegheny County. He also serves as a chair of the student life committee for the Thiel College Alumni Association Board of Directors. He and his family reside in Pittsburgh.

## 2010s



◀ DANIELLE (HILLWIG) DOHENY '10 (left) attended a gathering at the Nation's Capital where 2013 Miss America, Mallory Hytes Hagan, spoke on women's education. Hillwig is legislative assistant to a member of the House of Representatives.

# Class Notes

SARAH DIFRANGO '11 of Beaver Falls, Pa., previously an operations manager for Dollar Bank, is now a compliance analyst at BNY Mellon.

JONATHAN HOGAN '13 of Ephrata, Pa., is a field underwriter, manager and agent for Lincoln Heritage Life Insurance Company and, as of Nov. 5, was deployed to the United Arab Emirates for five months.

## Marriages

NATALIE (KENNEDY) REED '01 to Jacob Reed on Oct. 20, 2012. JOYCE (HAHN) PARKER '01 served as a bridesmaid. The couple lives in Medina, Ohio.



◀ ASHLEY (WILLIAMS) HANEY '09 to LEE HANEY JR. '08 on May 25. Thiel alumnae and sisters of

Alpha Xi Delta ANNIE FOWLER '09 and SARAH BERKEY '07 were bridesmaids. JEFFERY KING '08 was the best man. Ashley is the assistant director of residence life at Robert Morris University. The couple lives in Moon Township, Pa.

CRAIG LEWIS '09 to ELIZABETH (YURKY) LEWIS '12 on Aug. 3 in Edinboro, Pa. Thiel alumni in the bridal party included: ANGELA BLACKBURN '11, KEVIN FARR '09 and MELVIN ROUNDTREE '09 and more than 30 Thiel alumni were in attendance. The couple honeymooned in Riviera Maya, Mexico.



◀ JENNIFER L. (KELLER) REED '11 to JOHN A. REED II '11 on July 13 in the Johnson Memorial Chapel at Thiel College. NICK TRAVAGLIANTI '11 served as best man and JOEL BUSSARD '09, BEN BARCH '11 and KATIE SOURBEER '11

were members of the wedding party. She is a teacher with Extended Day Services and he is a funeral assistant for four funeral homes. They reside in Millvale, Pa.



◀ JOSEPH HERTZOG '13 to Mark Klinger in a union ceremony at St. Andrew's Lutheran

Church in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Aug. 4 followed by a reception aboard the Gateway Clipper Princess. Thiel alumni in attendance included: ABBY KUSSEROW '13, EMILY WHIPPLE '13, ANDREW GARRETT '13, COURTNEY BECKER '13, ANNIE CAMP '12 and JOEL BUSSARD '09. Hertzog is currently a student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

## Births

To DANA (CIMBALA) RIFFER '93: a daughter, Chelsea Elizabeth, October 16, 2012. Chelsea joins two big brothers Alex and Brandon. The family lives in Irwin, Pa.

To SARAH E. (BILLOW) SNYDER '02: a son, Mason Lawrence, on December 7, 2012. Snyder is a supervisor for Northumberland County Adult Probation.

To LINDSEY (BONA) AMAR '07 and her husband Jesse Amar, Thiel College professor of art: a daughter, Lily Rose, on July 12.



◀ To HEATHER (ACHENBACH) BALAS '01, her husband, Dr. Michael Balas: a daughter, Clara Kristine, on February 21. She joins older sister Sydney, age 4. Heather is the Director of Career Development at Thiel College and Dr.

Balas is professor and chair of the biology department at Thiel College.



◀ To STEPHANIE (HILLS) WILSON '04 and her husband, Joe: a son, Clark Joseph on April 29.

Stephanie is now the Director of Alumni Relations at Thiel College.



◀ To JUSTIN '05 and DR. LAURA (GLASS) '06 PICKENS: a son, Grayson Ryder on

May 10. He joins older brother, Lucian Emerson. Justin is a quality control specialist for USIS and Laura is assistant professor of psychology at Thiel College.

## In Memoriam

MARY E. (WILLIAMS) BECKER '33 of Sharon, Pa., on April 23 at the age of 100.

EVELYN (SHEPARD) SEKULA '42 of Sacramento, Calif., on Aug. 22 at the age of 93.

THOMAS M. MESSER '43, H'02, New York City, on May 15 at the age of 93.

MARY E. (LACKEY) PACKARD '46 of Rainbow City, Ala., formerly of Greenville, Pa., on May 16 at the age of 88.

BARBARA C. (HEASLEY) BURGESS '48, of Zelenople, Pa., on Nov. 25, 2012, at the age of 84.

MARY E. (ROTH) CUPPS '48 of Butler, Pa., on Aug. 15 at the age of 87.

ELI H. SHOCKEY JR. '49 of Union Springs, N.Y., on April 16.

RAYMOND V. DUNMIRE '50 of Maylene, Ala., on May 24 at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife RUTH DUNMIRE '52.

JOHN P. KUNKLE '50 on Dec. 26, 2012, at the age of 94.

JOHN H. SCHMIDT '50 of Plymouth, Mich., on May 30 at the age of 86.

JOHN M. BENTLEY '51 of Manitowish Waters, Wis., on April 30 at the age of 83.

DONNA LEE (MITCHELL) MATHAY '51 of Upper St. Clair, Pa., on Sept. 23 at the age of 84.

BETTY LOU DUFFORD-BRICKNER '52 of Sellersburg, Ind., on April 12 at the age of 82.

SUE A. (SANDBURG) HIMMELMAN '52 of Palm Harbor, Fla., on April 29, 2011, at the age of 78.

DR. FREDERICK N. STEWART, LT COL. USAF. RET. '53 on May 4 at the age of 83.

# Class Notes

DOLORESE J. "DOLLY" (MCDANNELL) FIRTH '53 of Spartansburg, Pa., on May 17 at the age of 82.

LOUANN K. (FIKE) HARKINS '54 of Oberlin, Pa., on July 28, 2011, at the age of 80.

JOHN A. MCKALLIP '54 on July 18 at the age of 81.

ROSE MARIE (LARSEN) HESS '55 on Aug. 27.

DAVID J. ANDERSON '56 of Harrisburg, Pa., on Oct. 3 at the age of 80.

ROBERT B. FISHER '56 of West Salem Township, Pa., on May 28 at the age of 83.

WILLIAM S. DUNDER '57 on July 29 at age 82.

JANICE MARIE (ARNEMAN) COOPER '57 of New Albany, Ohio, on May 6 at the age of 77.

KNUTE E. HAMRE '58 of Surprise, Ariz. on June 2 at the age of 79. Hamre was a Service to Thiel Alumni Award recipient in 2011.

DR. CHARLES J. INACKER '58, on Aug. 6. Inacker was a member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees from 1990-1999 and 2005-2008.

LUTELLIS BAUMGARTEL '59, in Nov., 2009.

CARL J. STRUTZ '59, of Mars, Pa., on Jan. 6, at the age of 80.

CLEONE L. (DAUGHERTY) WITTE '59 on May 15. She is survived by sisters, PATRICIA (DAUGHERTY) HAUSER '63 and KATHLEEN DAUGHERTY '67.

DAVID "DAVE" MOYLE '64 of Pearl River La., on May 18 at age 70. He is survived by his wife JUDITH (BAISLER) MOYLE '62.

WILLIAM J. "JACK" MCGEE JR. '65 of Kingfield, Maine on May 22 at the age of 88.

CHARLES EUGENE FRENCH '67 of Richfield, Ohio, on July 1 at the age of 68. He is survived by his wife, PATRICIA (RHOADES) FRENCH '68.

MARY BETH (BARTON) SHAFER '68 of Newport, Pa., on May 2 at the age of 66.

JOHN S. NOWAKOWSKI '70 of Bethlehem, Pa., on Sept. 8, 2012.

ROBERT J. NEUBERT '72, of Amherst, N.Y., on Sept. 6 at the age of 62.

JOHN R. BENIGAS '73 of Farrell, Pa., on Aug. 11 at age 61.

JOHN SCHRAMKO '73 of Westminster, Mass., on Feb. 1 at the age of 61.

MARJORIE B. HALLER '75 of Pittsburgh on May 7.

ZOFIA A. LUKSIC '76, on March 27.

EDWARD J. DELMOUR '79 of Oakland, N.J.

SUSAN (STONE) HUBER '83, of Fredonia, N.Y., on June 9, at the age of 52. She is survived by her husband TODD '82, sister ROBIN (STONE) DOUGLAS '84 and parents BOB '59 and SANDY (WESTON) '60 STONE.

JOAN L. SHACKLOCK '88. on Aug. 10 at the age of 52.

RALPH J. BARRA III '90 of Union City, Pa., on Dec. 26, 2012.

TROY J. HARPER '91 of Brookville Pa., on June 21 at the age of 43.

LORA S. COVERT '92 of Hermitage, Pa., on April 12 at the age of 52.

PATRICK J. DIPAOLO '92 on Aug. 22 at the age of 44.

CARL S. KRVAR '93 of Brookfield, Ohio, on August 2. He was 48.

CLYDE V. FRAGAPANE II '11 of Greenville, Pa., on Oct. 13 at the age of 24.

## Friends

DOROTHA E. ANDERSON of Greenville, Pa., on April 19 at the age of 96. Anderson was the recipient of the A. Louis and Barbara Thiel Founders' Day Award in 1995 and named Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year in 2009.

WILLIAM E. BLACK of Leesburg, Pa., on June 4 at the age of 90.

UTA S. CHILDS of Greenville, Pa., on April 5 at the age of 68. Childs was the recipient of the A. Louis and Barbara Thiel Founders' Day Award in 2013.

EDWARD G. CORBETT of Brunswick, Maine, on Aug. 21 at the age of 83. He was a former associate professor of biology at Thiel College.

JULIANA M. DENZINGER of Greenville, Pa., on April 17 at the age of 26.

JEAN MARIE LITTELL of Hilton Head Island, S.C., on May 23 at the age of 88. She is survived by her daughter SUE ANN (LITTELL) DAHL '75.

WAYNE R. PETRARCA, professor emeritus of health and physical education at Thiel College, on Aug. 4 at the age of 75.

## Class of 1963



Thiel College welcomed back 26 members of the Class of 1963 for a special 50th reunion dinner during Homecoming Weekend. These alumni shared fond memories and made new ones!

Pictured from left to right are (first row) Mary Jo (Enlow) Andrews, Judy (McDonald) Miller, Maribeth (Loos) Steketee and David Andrews; (second row) Judy (Merkle) Roach, Cynthia (Hinners) Altschuler and Gretchen (Young) Gibbs; (third row) Pat (Daugherty) Hauser, Martha Anne (Druschel) McIntosh, Nancy (Holl) Headrick and Marion (Norris) Shoemaker; (fourth row) Bill Hauser,

Donald Titzel and Sara (David) Narcisi; (fifth row) Carolyn (Schuck) Haas and Richard Schultz; (sixth row) Joel Haas, Mardith (Osborne) Reimold, Harry Neal and Bruce Schrader; (sixth row) Clinton Bowman, James Kollar, George Owens, John Urich, Roy Shelton and Sam Falck.

# Got News? We want to hear it!

Help to keep us and other alumni up to date on what's going on in your life.  
Please fill out this form and mail to:

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Children's names (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_ 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 April 1, 2013. 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.

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## 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 may 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.

# Thoughts on Nelson Mandela *by Dr. Firdaus J. Kharas '78, H'07*

Like much of the world, I am keenly watching the health of Nelson Mandela, or Madiba, as he is more commonly called in South Africa. I thought I would share some personal thoughts with you.

I confess that I actually wrote to Madiba while he was still in prison and I was a student. Here's how it came about:

As a student at Thiel, I used to do a lot of Model UN simulations, under the guidance of Professors Herring and Wilt. Among the first assignments we got was to represent South Africa. It was a wonderful assignment—not one we sought, but one we were really happy to have.

South Africa was still a member of the UN, but its seat in the General Assembly was suspended. In Model UN debates, it was pilloried and denigrated, which meant it was the complete center of attention. There was no better country to represent in Model UNs!

I won the Best Delegate award both times I was the South African Ambassador (one was at Princeton and I can't recall the other). In those days, little Thiel College was a powerhouse in Model UN debates, and we went on to win the national championship in New York in 1978.

My acting in defense of apartheid was nothing more than an actor who portrays, say, Hitler. My belief against apartheid only grew stronger as I recited the statements in favor of it while pretending to be its Ambassador.

So I thought I would write to Nelson Mandela. I wrote a fairly lengthy letter of support and mailed it to him at his jail. Of course, he never got the letter nor did I get any form of reply. Years later, though, I got to tell him about my letter.

Before he was released, I participated



*From Model UNs at Thiel to the real UN. Kharas representing Canada in the United Nations General Assembly.*

in many international meetings where the name Nelson Mandela frequently came up. I got to vote for him to receive an honor from the international non-governmental community, and I heard his name frequently during some of the most troubled times in South Africa while sitting this time in the real UN General Assembly, listening to 85 Heads of State and Governments, including President Ronald Reagan.

The first time I actually met Madiba was in Toronto, at a dinner hosted by the then-Canadian Secretary of State, the Right Honorable Joe Clark (I am Canadian). Canada played a leadership role under Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Secretary of State Joe Clark to bring down apartheid.

It was a wonderful dinner, full of joy that Madiba was free at last. There was much celebration. The protocol was odd—a dinner that had all the trappings of an official State Dinner, but it was just a normal dinner since Madiba was not yet president and so it was not hosted by the Governor-General and not held in the capital, Ottawa. I still have the embossed menu from that dinner.

I recall Joe Clark asking us to stay in our seats at the end of the dinner and Winnie and Madiba (they were still together) would come to meet us at our table. To half the room's horror, we realized on our side that we would only meet Winnie and not Madiba as they had split up, greeting guests at different tables. So, ignoring the request from the Secretary of State, others and I got up from our table and crossed over to meet Madiba on the other side of the room. I don't know if Winnie shook many hands that night!

Years later, I had dinner in South Africa's Parliament. It was a small dinner, but the room was full of historical figures, including many of South Africa's heroes who were incarcerated with Nelson Mandela on the now-famous Robben Island prison. It was a huge privilege to talk to them for over two hours.

I found that Madiba was a difficult man to talk to. I would say something, but my words would be met initially with silence. He thought for a while before saying anything. At first, I wasn't sure if I should keep talking or wait. Then, I realized,

*Kharas pictured with professor emerita Dr. Sonya Wilt after receiving his honorary Doctor of Humanities degree in 2007.*



he'd respond. Not really talk, but rather more like pontificate. It was as if he felt he had to say something important with every sentence. Or perhaps he was just being careful in what he said.

These icons of South Africa weren't men to discuss the weather. We talked about the state of the world. And history. And I probed about how they hid manuscripts in the cleaning closet in the jail. And we talked much about the goodness of people.

I talked with Ahmed Kathrada who spent more time at the Robben Island jail than Madiba did. At the end of the dinner, Ahmed gave me a wonderful note scribbled on a napkin since neither of us had a piece of paper. It was he who recently gave President Barack Obama and his family a tour of the Robben Island prison, a haunting place I have visited several times. You would not believe the size of the cells where these heroes spent so many years.

It was a colossally unnerving, exhilarating, inspiring, and, as today's students would say, an awesome evening. I met Madiba a few other times, but that night stands tall in my memory.

Many others will have been touched by Madiba in much more profound ways than I was. I do not claim to know him, but shaking his hand and being able to mumble, "thank you, thank you," was so profound I'm not sure much more was ever necessary. I am so, so glad just to have a few personal memories of him.

Nelson Mandela was to human rights in his time what Mozart was to music in his time: a towering figure whose legacy will last long, long after he is gone. Let us give thanks for who he was and let us pray that we see another Mandela on the world stage soon.

# The THIEL FUND

Committed to our Students. Investing in the Future.



## Meet Cyril '14

Fort Deposit, Md.  
Media Communication  
SGA Media Board Manager, Thiel Athletics PA Announcer, TCTV (television station) and WXTC (radio station) manager, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity

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So that you can see what a difference you can make in the life of a Thiel College student, let me tell you a bit about myself. I found my passion for media communication at Thiel College and, thanks to the support of Thiel College alumni and friends, I was given the opportunity to complete an internship with the Aberdeen Ironbirds broadcasting minor league baseball games. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for my professors—for how much they have challenged and encouraged me over the past four years. I am also awestruck by the outreach of our alumni who are willing to mentor and network with our students. Specifically, Pete Steffens '70 has personally made a difference in my life by becoming a mentor that I can rely upon to help guide me through my academic and pre-professional growth. I know that when I graduate I will be well-prepared for my professional life.

At Thiel, students receive individualized attention, are encouraged to discover our passions and follow our hearts. I am so excited that for the first time in more than forty years Thiel College is seeing a new academic addition to campus. The Pedas Communication center will be situated in the heart of campus and will also focus on the heart of a liberal arts education: communication. Having the ability to communicate effectively helps inspire all facets of an educational experience, whether studying accounting, neuroscience or anything else.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities I have been given at Thiel College that would not be possible without generous donors like you. Your gift to The Thiel Fund helps to ease the financial burden on students and their families and, in turn, allows students to focus on their education and achieve their goals and dreams of making the world a better place.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Cyrill Parham

Dear Friend,

If you're like me, Cyril's story is a powerful reminder of how a gift to Thiel College can change the course of a young person's life. Scholarships funded by alumni and friends have supported Cyril as he pursues his dreams.

Your gifts to The Thiel Fund matter. Cyril and other students depend on your generosity so they can fulfill their academic goals. I invite you to change the life of a student through a gift or pledge to Thiel College. Please give before December 31 to receive the tax-deductible benefits for this calendar year and help us continue to serve students.

Thank you for your continued commitment to students success. These fine young men and women are the promise for our future.

Sincerely,

Leta Jeffers

Director of the Annual Fund

To make a gift to The Thiel Fund, please visit [www.thiel.edu/giving](http://www.thiel.edu/giving) or call 724-589-FUND (3863).



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75 College Avenue  
Greenville, PA 16125  
[www.thiel.edu](http://www.thiel.edu)

## Then...



From the 1955 *Endymion*: "Helping to contribute to the musical activities throughout our campus was the much-improved Thiel band." Left to right: J. Bennett, K. Kuhn, J. Delo, P. Shefsiek, R. Demetter, S. Miller, K. Martz, P. Mathay, D. Bischoff, E. Gilliland, J. Timm, M. Greiner, P. Brew, J. Engelman, C. Benning, F. Blankenbuehler, B. Heisser, J. Keil. (Below) The Tomcat Marching Pride, now in its fourth year and some 90 students strong, marches down Main Street in Greenville during the 2013 Homecoming parade.

## ...and Now

