

Thiel College Magazine for Alumni & Friends

# The Bell

FALL/WINTER 2014



## COMING HOME

College events, campus create cherished memories p. 16

**WALKING THE WALK:**  
Phi Theta Phi fundraiser celebrates 45th year of raising funds for Children's Hospital p. 6

**JOINING GENERATIONS:**  
Thiel students, St. Paul's residents make lasting connections p. 8

**FLYING WITH THE FALCONS:**  
Air Force basketball coach remembers his Thiel College roots p. 20

## OPENING SHOT



Members of the Thiel College horn section pause for a moment of reflection



prior to performing before the Tomcats Homecoming game on Oct. 4.

## A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Each fall we invite Thiel College alumni, friends and family back to campus to celebrate Homecoming. The time leading up to Homecoming is full of the pride and anticipation of seeing all those close to Thiel “come home.” But, that invitation for alumni, friends and family is open all year, and we hope that feeling of “coming home” lasts long after they visit.

In the last few months, we have had many Tomcat Pride points to celebrate. We dedicated the new state-art-of-the-art James Pedas Communication Center with more than 250 friends and alumni of the College. The computer and editing labs, television and radio studios, newspaper office, collaborative spaces and classrooms in Pedas are busy as students transform the building at the heart of campus into a hub of creativity. Also worth noting are the technological infrastructure improvements that have created a totally wireless campus, the debut of Neuroscience as its own department, a significant increase in first-to-second-year student retention and implementation of a new core curriculum. Also this summer we undertook an ambitious slate of revitalization projects as part of the commitment to facilities and infrastructure – from renovating classrooms and living spaces to replacing HVAC and paving parking lots all of which has an impact on the student, staff and faculty experience at Thiel College.

Each of those institutional accomplishments is worth celebrating, but I recognize the wonderful individual accomplishments that create that feeling for students, too. Like the bonding over blistered feet and aching muscles following the Phi Theta Phi Walk-A-thon (Page 6), the memory of meeting a spouse on campus (Page 24), the discoveries made during Opening Convocation (Page 14) or the pride surrounding an athletic accomplishment (Page 18).

All of those, whether they are institutional or individual, are not only great things to come home to Thiel to see, but they are also laying the groundwork for the next generation of alumni to come home to relive. As part of the planning process for the proposed new science center, a successful reunion specifically for science alumni and faculty was held last summer (Page 15). This summer, reunions for alumni from athletics and the business department are planned. And right around the corner are Founders Day (Feb. 5), Winter Weekend (Feb. 6-7) and Commencement (May 3).

I hope that you will return to campus soon. If that is not possible, then I hope you are able to attend one of the many alumni events that will occur over the next several months (see a listing on Page 25). Facebook, YouTube, Flickr are also great ways to stay connected, but as Alumni Board president Dr. Joe Nairn points out in his essay on Page 34, they cannot replace the feeling of being on campus or speaking directly with a familiar face.

Alumni and students are the heart and soul of Thiel College. When your time as a student is done the best way to improve Thiel for future generations is to stay connected. I also encourage you to think of ways you might get engaged with students either by attending events, mentoring current students or internship or employment possibilities.

Please enjoy this issue of The Bell and on behalf of the entire Thiel College family, we wish you a peaceful and prosperous new year.

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

Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.  
President



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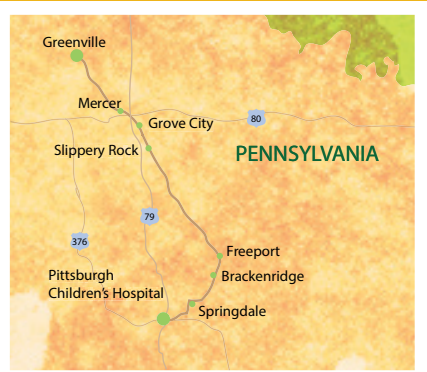
**34 THE FINAL WORD**



**ON THE COVER:**

Homecoming King Timothy Hutton and Queen Jessica Yozwiak created memories at Homecoming 2014.

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THE 45TH ANNUAL  
PHI THETA PHI FRATERNITY

# 100 Mile Walk-A-Thon

for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Free Care Fund

by Emily Earnhart

**A**l Gesler '90 knows how tough the Annual Phi Theta Phi Walk-A-Thon can be, but he also appreciates how lucky he is to be able to participate in the event again. Gesler became the Thiel College Director of Major Gifts in October and served this year's Phi Theta Phi Walk-A-Thon as a driver.

"Seeing the impact this event has on the lives of these young people, getting to see their faces and being involved with

their recoveries... that (experience) is it for me." Gesler said. His introduction to Walk-A-Thon began with meeting some of the area's young patients. "Recipients are often from Greenville, Erie and other areas of Western Pa.," Gesler said, "and that is an important part of volunteering for the annual event."

Phi Theta Phi, a local fraternity, held its 45th Annual Walk-A-Thon to raise money for Pittsburgh Children's Hospital the first

weekend in December. The fraternity's participation in Walk-A-Thon can trace its roots back to 1968. It has collected more than \$1.25 million since then for the Free Care Fund.

To ensure the mission of Children's Hospital (established in 1890), a Free Care Fund had been established so that no child would be denied medical care. Today, the Free Care Fund at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh



Foundation helps ensure that no child from the tri-state area will be denied care because of an inability to pay.

Phi Theta Phi continues to be a top community leader in raising support for Children's Hospital each year, a Children's Hospital spokesperson said. This year, they collected funds at Pittsburgh's Light Up Night on Friday, Nov. 21, 2014 and also by walking 100 miles from Thiel College to Children's Hospital collecting donations throughout their journey which began Friday, Dec. 5 and ended at the hospital on Saturday, Dec. 6.

"Their motto along the walk, as well as a majority of the signs said, 'Big kids helping the little kids' and they truly exemplify that," said Molly Vogel, Development Coordinator, Annual Giving, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation. "The group has collectively raised over \$1.25 million dollars in support of the Free Care Fund and we are lucky to have such dedicated and lasting partnerships with the brothers and alumni."

To get such a walk up and going is a process, in itself. The fraternity chairman must secure dates, accept donations, and plan and manage the event process. The fraternity held a kickoff breakfast for the families of members, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, supplying fuel and inspiration to the participants pre-walk. Past participants were in attendance to share and support the event and its success. The participants were provided transportation, through arrangements made by Phi Theta Phi Chairman, Andrew Thomas. Thomas also

coordinated the sponsored meal stops with Greenville, Sharon and Mercer businesses, and arranged for permits for street access and security with local city officials.

This event, and last year's events are special in the lives of the Thiel community. The 2013 donation honored the memory of the late Bill Proper, Phi Theta Phi alum and chairman of the 1982 Walk-A-Thon event.

This year's Walk-A-Thon organizers expect the event will have raised more than \$30,000.

## Family makes donation in honor of former walk chairman

For the second straight December members of Thiel College alumnus Bill Proper's family made an additional \$1,000 donation to the funds raised by the Phi Theta Phi fraternity during the group's annual charity walk to raise funds for the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Free Care Fund.

Proper, 50, died in October, 2011. He was chairman of the fraternity's 1982 walk that raised \$31,017.

Martin Kinnunen '83, who also is a Phi Theta Phi brother, met the fraternity at the hospital following the walk and presented Matthew Graham '14, chairman of the 2013 walk, with the check.

"Over the years (Bill Proper) remained passionately proud of the Walk and our fraternity and the alumni who have supported it," Kinnunen said. "Bill believed with his whole heart that no child in our region should ever be denied medical care for financial reasons."

### FREE CARE FUND

When the Pittsburgh Hospital for Children opened its doors on June 5, 1890, its mission was to provide care to sick and injured children in Pittsburgh, regardless of their families' ability to pay. To ensure this mission is met year after year, Children's established the Free Care Fund. Today, the Free Care Fund at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Foundation helps ensure that all children receive the medical care they need, and that no child from the tri-state area will be denied care because of an inability to pay. A family might need free care for a lot of reasons: a working parent loses insurance between jobs; a child has a chronic illness, and the cost of care exceeds what insurance will pay; or a child has an illness that requires experimental treatment. Each year Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC provides more free and uncompensated care. In 1996, the figure was \$8.4 million. In 2007, it was more than \$31 million.

## facts & figures

- Walk from Greenville, Pa. to Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh 100 miles
- First walk was in 1968 and raised \$1,100
- As a whole, the group has raised more than \$1.2 Million for the Free Care Fund At Children's Hospital
- 2000..... Walk-A-Thon surpassed the \$1 Million mark in total donations to the Free Care Fund
- 2002-2004 ... No walk was held
- 2005..... The Phi Theta Phi Alumni Association continued the tradition of the Walk-A-Thon, starting from Youngstown State University with the help of nine YSU Penguin Icebreakers and 10 Phi Theta Phi Alumni.
- 2007..... Walk-A-Thon left with everyone departing from Thiel College.
- 2008 ..... Twenty YSU Penguin Icebreakers and 20 Phi Theta Phi alumni and other guests participate.
- 2009..... Fortieth anniversary of the Walk-A-Thon, which raised more than \$20,000 for the first time since 2001.
- 2010..... Thiel College permitted the re-establishment of Phi Theta Phi as a chapter with seven new members making the trip for the first time alongside 15 alumni with and raised \$30,736.26
- 2014..... Walk-A-Thon was held Dec. 5-6. The group's fundraising goal was \$35,000.



# Joining Generations links two campuses

ST. PAUL'S CONTINUING CARE COMMUNITY RESIDENTS, THIEL COLLEGE STUDENTS CONNECT, LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

by Sarah Jefferson '14

Thiel College and St. Paul's Continuing Care Community have a lot to offer each other. The Joining Generations Program has been connecting the two campuses since 2005, though they have been neighbors for over 130 years. The purpose of this partnership is to allow students and residents to learn from each other and gain new perspectives through their experiences. Thiel students interact with the community at St. Paul's through a variety of service and academic projects as well as internships. The value of this connection is proven every year as it improves the quality of life for residents at St. Paul's as well as Thiel students.

## About Joining Generations

Dr. James Shaffer was inspired to start Joining Generations because he realized the opportunities it would open up for students and residents. He was a professor of psychology at Thiel from 1970 to 2009. He, along with staff from St. Paul's and Thiel College, visited Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y. and were inspired by the program between the college and Longview Retirement Community. Those who went became members of the core committee responsible for overseeing the activities and advancement of the Joining Generations Program. Dr. Shaffer now resides at The Colony at St. Paul's and attends sports events and other activities at Thiel College. He also attends the spring initiations of the Psi Chi psychology honorary society, which he helped to establish when he first came to Thiel. His connection to both facilities fuels his enthusiasm for Joining Generations.

In 2013, a formal agreement was signed

between St. Paul's and Thiel, validating the importance of the partnership.

"The residents have decades of life experience to share with students, which is beneficial to them as they start their careers in college and beyond," Thiel College President Troy D. VanAken said.

He added that as the students prepare to be leaders, volunteering and interning at St. Paul's is a great opportunity to master the skills they need to be effective.

St. Paul's Executive Director G. Bryan Oros agrees that Joining Generations is a great program. "It gives our residents the opportunity to interact with college students, enjoy the social opportunities at Thiel College, and it provides opportunities for students to learn from residents' experiences," he said. "When you see pictures from events like the Snowflake Ball and the students' and residents' smiling faces, you know it is great for both groups."

## Beyond the classroom

Thiel College classes come to St. Paul's to get practical application of what they are learning in the classroom. In addition to the real world application of what they have learned in class, students also learn about what life at St. Paul's means for the residents and come to appreciate the value of having a long-term care facility in the community.

"The residents love having them visit," Villas Administrator Tammy Lininger said. "It helps create a thriving environment where they can feel productive sharing their experiences and knowledge."

She also believes that learning goes both ways – as the students learn from the residents they also give back and teach them about things such as technology and current trends.

Students from Thiel have conducted interviews and surveys with St. Paul's residents to get hands on experience



The Joining Generations Program has connected Thiel College and St. Paul's Continuing Care Community since 2005.

outside the classroom. One class conducted satisfaction surveys and asked residents about life at St. Paul's.

"It was a lot of fun because everyone was welcoming and happy to talk," student Brittany Patten '15 said.

Student Kristin Madigan '15 added, "The nurses and staff were all so helpful and kind, especially when we got lost. It was a great experience."

Adele Lehosky is a resident at the Ridgewood at St. Paul's and has been involved with Thiel academics in several ways. She raised five children with special needs and has spoken to Thiel communication classes about what effect their disabilities, including deafness, has had on their lives, especially in communication abilities. She was able to help students make decisions about their career paths, influencing several to become speech pathologists and audiologists. Lehosky was delighted with the students' intelligence and the questions they came up with, and also was able to impress upon them the difference technology makes.

"Some students asked why I didn't research my children's disabilities on the computer. I reminded them that 50 or 60 years ago we did not have the kind of access we do today," she said.

Adele also enjoys when students visit St. Paul's to talk and play games as part of classes and service projects. To her, the best part of the connection between Thiel and St Paul's is "learning from the students as they learn from us. They give so much back and are so smart at their age" she said. "Thinking back, I don't think I was as smart at 19."

#### Giving and getting

Thiel students who come to St. Paul's for service projects say they have gained as much from the experience as they have given. Whether it is escorting residents to the popular Snowflake Ball, helping with Christmas decorations or the car cruise, students can make a difference and a connection at St. Paul's. Mimi Dreher is the Life Enrichment director for The Villas and coordinates resident activities. She says that one of the best parts of the Joining Generations program is when "residents get to see Thiel students at their best."

"They are impressed with the students for being polite and helpful and contributing to their community," she said.



This past Christmas season, members of the Organization of Black Collegiates at Thiel helped residents who live in The Colony put up holiday decorations. Jadon Holloman '14 recalled how helping one resident was especially meaningful. Polly Oden had large Christmas wreaths for outside her home. She had recently lost her husband and having visitors from Thiel there to help her prepare

the players the importance of giving back to the community and getting to know the older generation and residents at St. Paul's. The players dance and talk with residents at the event and leave with a real appreciation for the time spent there.

"It showed me that you can continue to live your life no matter what age you are," Thiel

“

It helps create a thriving environment where [our residents] can feel productive sharing their experiences and knowledge.

for Christmas was a big help. Polly is a Thiel graduate herself, as are members of her family, including her husband, grandfather and daughter. She met her husband at Thiel in 1947, where both were involved in Greek life.

The sisters of Sigma Kappa have especially enjoyed volunteering at St Paul's. Gerontology and Alzheimer's are among their philanthropies, and St. Paul's provides them with a unique opportunity to help with Alzheimer's patients and contribute to community life with their elders. They regularly volunteer to help with bingo and on Wednesdays transporting residents to midweek worship services.

The football team also regularly helps with the Snowflake Ball in January. Since 2008, football coach Kurt Reiser has encouraged senior players to volunteer as escorts to the event. Reiser said the goal is to impress upon

football player Jason Crystal '15 said. "During the ball I realized that I actually had common interests with some of the residents. It kind of shocked me that some of them knew about current pop culture, which was pretty cool in my opinion. I would definitely come back and do more volunteer work."

#### A holistic internship

Internships are offered at St. Paul's for a variety of positions. They include accounting, administration, human resources, marketing, information systems, spiritual service, social services, and recreation or fitness. These internships often go beyond the stated focus and allow students to interact with the community and get to know the residents and staff. This opens minds and allows for a more diverse experience than that of a typical office setting. Human Resource Specialist Tina

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

## Fifth Annual Band Day highlighted by impressive turnout

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS FROM ACROSS THE region helped set what Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride director Andy Erb believes was a school-record for participation at the fifth annual Band Day.

The 137 aspiring musicians, some as young as eighth grade, from more than 50 high schools, in three states, lent their talents to the band for a halftime performance during the Oct. 25 night football game in front of a highly-charged Thiel crowd. It was just the third night football game in Thiel history.

The band students' preparation was brief and impressive. With an afternoon-long practice, the students joined the 100-member Marching Pride and entertained the crowd with three 80s anthems including "Any Way You Want It," "867-5309 (Jenny)" and "Thriller," as well as the "Thiel Fight Song."

This experience, to be part of college game entertainment for a night, is "a wonderful chance for high school students to get a hands-on, college-band experience for a day," Erb said. "High school football Fridays are an important institution in Western Pennsylvania, but so are college football Saturdays for many dedicated and accomplished college musicians. We are happy Thiel College can offer band day participants a taste of the collegiate atmosphere."

The collegiate experience is not lost on these students who, along with a chance to play with peers and more advanced musicians and directors, also get the opportunity to interact with college administration through a presentation introducing Thiel traditions to students and their parents.

"Several current TTMP members were introduced to the college through band day," Erb said.



A school-record 137 attendees, some as young as eighth grade, from more than 50 high schools, in three states, lent their talents to the band for a halftime performance during the Oct. 25 night game.



These students are non-music majors, who incorporate music into their education, which is why the number attending this event has doubled in its five years and was the most the program has ever hosted, Erb said.

The Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride has been featured at many local and regional band festivals including a performance at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Since 2010, this event in October has helped to kick-off excitement and participation of future Thiel College students. Band Day is not just an opportunity for the musicians, but also for the community to see an expanded musical performance and for attendees' family and friends to see their young musicians perform on a college stage, Erb said.

For more on the Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride contact Director Andy Erb by email at [aerb@thiel.edu](mailto:aerb@thiel.edu), phone 724-589-2282 or go to [www.thiel.edu](http://www.thiel.edu).



THIEL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES member Dale Deist met and had his picture taken with Pearl Harbor survivor Delton Walling in Honolulu recently. Deist is the founder of Deist Industries/Bucks Fabricating in Hadley and became a trustee in November.

# Fall Students of the Month recognized

ELIZABETH ONEGOW, SEAN OROS, SHAYLA PERCY, STEVEN MORGAN, KAYLA HIBBARD AND JOHN RIGGANS were named Students of the Month during the fall 2014 semester.

The Student of the Month is among the most prestigious academic awards Thiel College grants each school year. Only six female and six male students each academic year are chosen.

Onegow, of Essex, Vt., and Oros, of Fowler, Ohio, were students of the month for December 2014. Onegow is a senior English and religion major who will graduate in May. Oros is a senior history and English double-major who will graduate in May.

Morgan, of Raritan, N.J., and Percy, of Lyndora, Pa. were students of the month for November 2014. Morgan is a senior business administration and political science major and will graduate in May with a minor in economics. Percy is a senior neuroscience major who plans to attend the Medical College of Wisconsin in the fall of 2015.

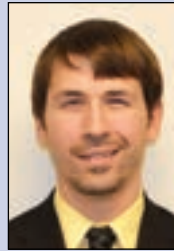
Hibbard, of Greenville, Pa., and Riggans, of New Castle, Pa., were students of the month for October 2014. Hibbard plans to be a teacher and will student teach this spring. Riggans is a senior biology major. The senior transfer student plans to attend medical school.



Elizabeth Onegow



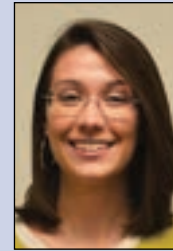
Steven Morgan



Sean Oros



Kayla Hibbard



Shayla Percy



John Riggans

## JOINING GENERATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Cascio oversees the internship component of Joining Generations. She believes the internship experience is important for students as they learn real world lessons and get exposure to the kind of work they will have in their careers in a realistic environment. In addition to learning from their own experiences, Cascio points out that they can also discuss career and life experiences with the residents.

"Residents have a wealth of knowledge with careers and can help students gain insight about what they want in a career," she said. "Between the experience in the internship and listening to resident's stories, students are better able to decide if the career choice is right for them."

### Growing the program

Members of the core committee of Joining Generations are excited about the future of the program and have goals to increase its effect on both campuses.

St. Paul's residents and staff enjoy seeing students and being able to connect to life at Thiel. The impact on residents when they see fresh faces cannot be understated. Dr. Shaffer points out that seeing young people gives



residents the opportunity to connect with current trends and see this generation contributing to the community and in a different light than what they might see on television. Colony resident Mary Alice Dean started an endowment fund called The Mary Alice Dean Joining Generations Endowment Fund to help pay for the Joining Generations program. She knows that St. Paul's residents and others in the community enjoy being connected with an institution of higher learning. Residents enjoy participating in Thiel events and activities as well. They audit classes, attend lectures, attend plays, and enjoy when

students come to visit them at St. Paul's.

"It draws residents at St. Paul's and students closer to the Greenville community, as some residents are not from Greenville originally and neither are many Thiel students. They can connect with each other and form friendships," Dr. Shaffer said.

Anyone who wishes to contribute toward the success and community building activities of Joining Generations may do so by contacting Director of Development Diane O'Brien at 724-588-9613, ext. 1237.

## Greenville businessman named Thiel College's Entrepreneur of the Year

THE FRANGAKIS FAMILY HAS HELPED MAKE THIEL COLLEGE A special place. Those generous gifts to the college are just one facet of the impact John Frangakis and his family have made.

Their companies have made substantial and lasting economic contributions to the Greenville, Mercer County and Shenango Valley communities, which is why West Middlesex resident John R. Frangakis was selected as Thiel College's Entrepreneur of the Year at the Haller Institute's annual banquet on Oct. 22.

Frangakis is the Chairman and CEO of Reynolds Service, Inc. in Greenville. Reynolds Service, Inc. is a tin mill service company that specializes in the distribution and sale of cut sheet, flat rolled steel, steel coil, and tin mill products. Frangakis' entrepreneurial spirit has led to other business ventures including Cross IT Services & Solutions, LLC; Vulcan Engineering LLC; and Reynolds Transfer LLC.

The success of Frangakis' businesses has enabled him and his family to give back to the community through the Frangakis Family Charitable Foundation. In addition to the generous support of Thiel College, benefactors have included the Presbyterian Church of West Middlesex, The Presbyterian Church Disaster Relief Fund, and the American Red Cross. John also has been active as a member of the community. He has been involved with the Greenville-Reynolds Development Corporation and has served as an Elder with The Presbyterian Church of West Middlesex.

This award joins a list of other distinguished honors John and his family have received. In 2011, the Frangakis Family was honored by Thiel with the A. Louis and Barbara Thiel Service Award. John



Thiel College President Troy D. VanAken (left) and Professor David Miller (right) congratulate John Frangakis (center) after he was recognized as the Haller Institute's Entrepreneur of the Year.

continues to serve Thiel as a member of the Board of Trustees. Frangakis gifts funded the Frangakis Family Media Lab in the new James Pedas Communication Center and helped pay for the Theology & Youth Ministry major and marching band at the College. As a member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees, John's key roles have included the chair of the Enrollment Committee, vice chair of the Facilities, Physical Plant and IT Committee and member of the Executive Committee.

John R. Frangakis lives in Hermitage with his wife, Teresa, and their daughter.

### About the Haller Institute banquet

*The Thiel College Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year annual banquet enables entrepreneurial students to meet successful business owners from across the state. The presentation awards the achievements of these students who have engaged in collaborative coursework geared to the development of a business. Through the support of the Haller Enterprise Institute program, highly motivated students from any major are encouraged, through financial and academic support, to begin their own business while they continue their education. The Institute is named after Henry E. and Grace Mary Haller, major benefactors to the College with a keen interest in entrepreneurship. The purpose is to encourage, promote and support entrepreneurship in Thiel students, regardless of their major or field. For more information, visit <http://www.thiel.edu/the-haller-enteprise-institute>.*



## Buck named Assistant Dean of the Core Curriculum

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, Dean of the College Dr. Lynn Franken announced in September that Dr. David Buck, Chair and Professor, Department of History, has been appointed to the role of Assistant Dean of the Core Curriculum. In his new role, Dr. Buck will coordinate all aspects of the new core, including staffing, faculty development, budgeting, and assessment.

Since arriving on campus in 2005, Buck has become an integral member of the Thiel College community. Last spring, he led a group of 10 Thiel College students on a service trip to Nicaragua. In 2011, he was named Thiel College's Professor of the Year.

## Student helps Thiel College produce its most viewed institutional video

HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE WILLING TO GIVE UP VACATION time, a chance for sun and relaxation to stay in school to work on campus and help complete a promotional video? Trent Keisling, a junior communication major at Thiel College, made that commitment to the college by staying on campus this summer and it paid off for both in an unexpected way.

Keisling, 21, an Englewood, Fla. native, stayed on campus this summer to work in the Office of Admission, but also contributed by producing a record-breaking promotional video titled "Discover the Difference." With over 2,000 views on YouTube, Keisling worked on the video that highlighted big changes taking place on campus and in the classroom over summer break. From personal interviews of faculty and students to shots of new campus facilities, the video offered looks at some of the new features on campus.

Keisling played multiple roles: videographer, voiceover commentator and editor in the 2:45 minute video. The video profiles changes to the core curriculum, the newly opened \$6.5 million James Pedas Communication Center, and other campus improvements. The video also highlights Homecoming weekend and its theme of "Discover the Difference."

"This experience made my summer," Keisling has said of his work. "Everyone on campus went above and beyond to produce a quality in-house video that showcases the Thiel Commitment. This hands-on experience will be a valuable asset going forward."



Trent Keisling (right) films Thiel College Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the College Dr. Lynn Franken (left) during production of the "Discover the Difference" video.

In addition to its obvious value to the creative portfolio of Keisling, the video is a great example to future students of the quality of a Thiel communications education. Its use of new media has been commented on by staff and faculty who are encouraged by the possibilities: "This video highlights how successful Thiel's commitment to new media can be in reaching a digitally-engaged audience," Associate Director of Web Development Jonathan Shearer said. "In less than a month, this video surpassed expectations and stands as the most-watched in college history."

Interim Director of Marketing and Public Relations Dominick DiRienzo said Keisling's involvement was a vital part of the video's completion.

"Trent brought a fresh eye and enthusiasm to the project. It's a great example of the commitment our students have to Thiel College. We look forward to partnering with more students in the future, especially with the opening of the James Pedas Communication Center."

## Gesler named Director of Major Gifts

AL GESLER '90, THE FORMER DIRECTOR OF CHURCH RELATIONS at Thiel (2002-2008), joined Thiel College as the Director of Major Gifts in early October.

Gesler returns to Thiel from Penn State Erie The Behrend College, where he had been fundraising for athletics and the school of science since 2008.

"We are enthusiastic about the addition of Al Gesler to our College Advancement staff," Vice President of College Advancement, Theresa Law, said. "We are excited that he is bringing his talents and his passion back to us. Adding Al Gesler to our College Advancement staff will support the college in generating resources, especially in preparation for celebrating Thiel College's 150th Anniversary in 2016. We are growing our staff



because we recognize the department's role in the college being able to achieve its vision over the next several years will be critical."

"This is an exciting time to be at Thiel College. We have a historic fundraising goal in front of us and a once in a lifetime anniversary that only a handful of institutions across the country get to commemorate," Gesler said. "On top of those impressive milestones, I am returning to an institution of prestige and proud academic accomplishment that I know is special. I look forward to meeting with donors and alumni to successfully increase the involvement of Thiel's alumni and friends."

For more information about giving to Thiel College, please contact Al Gesler at (724) 589-2005 or by email [agesler@thiel.edu](mailto:agesler@thiel.edu).

## Rains don't dampen Opening Convocation

OPENING CONVOCATION CAN BE A WHIRLWIND. Parents and students arrive on campus Friday with questions to ask, discoveries to be made and boxes to unpack. Thiel College staff had to weather a storm of a different kind this year.

Thursday, Aug. 21, more than three inches of rain fell in a short amount of time, sending a flash flood through campus. Thiel staff members worked late into the night and early Friday morning to clean up campus before the 275 new freshmen and their friends and family arrived.

While there was still some water damage from the flood and more rain came Friday, the campus opened for students without delay.

Members of the class of 2018 arrived on campus for move-in day and orientation activities and were greeted at their dormitories by members of the President's Cabinet and the Thiel football team, residence and student life staffs, and many others, who helped students get settled.

The final census reported 322 new incoming students. There were 275 freshmen, five international, 15 transfer and 27 international exchange students. In addition to the 322 new incoming students, 752 students returned to Thiel for the fall 2014 semester, raising the total head count to 1,074. The return of nearly 70 percent of Thiel's first-to-second-year students set a new retention milestone for the College and exceeded the normal retention for many small private liberal arts institutions.

The new students were welcomed at the opening convocation ceremony following move-in activities. President Troy D. VanAken hosted and joined faculty and staff in welcoming new students as well as their parents and other friends of the college. Dr. Lynn Franken, Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the College; Mike McKinney '02, Vice President of Student Life; and Kelsey Schneider '16, President of the Student Government Association, also addressed the students. During the opening convocation, students recited the pledge, vowing to give their best efforts as a student and as a citizen of the community and hold themselves to the highest standards of shared inquiry and academic integrity.

A welcome picnic for new students and their families followed the ceremony.



## Vallar new Vice President for Enrollment Management



LARRY T. VALLAR WAS appointed the Vice President for Enrollment Management for Thiel College in July.

Vallar will serve as Thiel College's chief enrollment officer responsible for recruitment and admissions

efforts with a focus on retention and persistence strategies that enhance the student experience and emphasize graduate success. He has 28 years of diverse higher education and business experience and most recently served as the vice president for enrollment management at Wheeling Jesuit University in Wheeling, W.Va. Previously, Vallar was the vice president for enrollment management at Olivet College in Olivet, Mich. where he also earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration.

In making the announcement, Thiel College President Troy D. VanAken said, "We are fortunate to have attracted a professional of Larry's stature to the College's leadership team. He possesses a demonstrated track record in the areas of enrollment, student services and retention management. As we continue to grow as an organization, his efforts will be vital to our ability to attract qualified students, increase enrollment across all disciplines, and in our work together for the benefit of students pursuing a degree from Thiel College."

## Communication and Marketing adds pair to staff

THE THIEL COLLEGE COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT HAS ADDED NEW FACES, TOO.

Dominick DiRienzo has been named interim Director of Marketing and Public Relations and Josh Ebel has been added to the staff as a graphic designer. Ebel started in mid-October and has been designing publications, mailers and marketing material. He is an Edinboro University graduate with a bachelor's degree in graphic design. DiRienzo started in April as Assistant Director of Public Relations. He is an Edinboro University graduate with a bachelor's degree in communication arts.

## Familiar face moves into role as Director of Alumni Relations



KRAIG SMITH '12, TOMCATS ASSISTANT WRESTLING coach and former Coordinator of Recreational Sports and Events Specialist, became the new Director of Alumni Relations over the summer.

Smith was a member of the alumni board and understands the issues facing the alumni population and can also act as an intermediary between current and former students.

Theresa Law, vice president for college advancement is "very pleased that Kraig is joining the advancement team. As an alumnus and former member of our Alumni Board, he is already immersed in the issues and needs of our alumni population."

"He will help us continue an aggressive expansion of our alumni relations efforts, and brings a fresh perspective to his role," she said.

The addition of Smith is important as the College prepares for the upcoming Sesquicentennial in 2016.

Smith has already attended alumni events both large and small and said he looks forward to meeting many of the 10,000-plus members of Thiel's alumni network at events around the region and country.

Smith said Founder's Day Celebration (Feb. 5) will provide him another unique opportunity to engage with the College community.

"I'm thrilled to have been trusted with this important position especially as the college looks toward a monumental anniversary," Smith said. "Through my association with the school as a student, coach and staff member, I already know many alumni and through this new position, I hope to meet many more of Thiel College's 10,000-plus accomplished and proud alumni."

Smith has already participated in several leadership events and is seeking an even more advanced role for the Director of Alumni Relations at Thiel College.

Contact Smith, at [ksmith@thiel.edu](mailto:ksmith@thiel.edu) or by phone at (724) 589-2027.

## Faculty, alumni return to make science reunion a success

Thiel College welcomed alumni, friends and current and former faculty for a first-of-its-kind event on campus last summer. More than 40 attendees came for the college's first science reunion.

Alumni and current and former faculty renewed old friendships, made new connections and heard about changes that are taking place at Thiel College. They also learned about ideas for the proposed science building and modifications to the science department. Alumni couple David '82 and Linda Lauffer '81 also attended the reunion and donated the money for a tissue culture room. The donated room adds to the expansion of the laboratories.

There were several faculty members on hand for the reunion, including Dr. Bruce Armitage, Dr. Richard Bennett, Dr. J. Henry Barton, Dr. Jenni Griffin, Dr. Sarah Swerdlow, Dr. Christopher Stanisky and Dr. Anna Reinsel. Thiel College officials were happy to have Dr. Edward Safford and wife, Peggy, make the trip from Illinois for the reunion, and Dr. Joyce Cuff participated from Africa via Skype.

## Coming home invitation open all year

Over a lifetime, many places become home. While away at college, family members might have asked students “when are you coming home?” But as they settled in at Thiel, made friends, joined organizations, got jobs and assumed more adult responsibilities, college started to feel like home.

Graduation, the geographic separation that often follows and the assumption of new responsibilities can push those feelings to the back burners only to be rekindled during the fall tradition of Homecoming. Coming home, though, is a feeling that can and should last throughout the year for alumni and friends of Thiel College. During the fall semester, coming home could have meant trips back for the enthusiasm and excitement of Opening Convocation where the class of 2018 was welcomed, the ceremony and reverence of Honors Convocation, where alumni Melanie Friend '03 and Dr. Kenneth Bash '57 came home to be honored. Coming home could mean a trip back for the pageantry and excitement of home football games, including two under the lights at Alumni Stadium. During the Oct. 4 game, Homecoming 2014 and all of its events and formal reunions were celebrated. Friendships were rekindled, connections were renewed and wonderful tributes to Thiel College were made by Alumni Award winners Ronald Legler '90, Michael Stimac '08 and Joseph Scarpitti '80. The James Pedas Communication Center was dedicated during homecoming, but friends and alumni can still return to get a first-hand look at the state-of-the-art equipment and computer labs as well as collaborative spaces that give students access to environments and equipment that surpasses much of what is available in the professional world.

This winter and spring presents many more opportunities to come home. Come home for Founders Day, which honors Thiel College’s formation and this year will recognize the school’s 18th president Dr. Robert Olson '60 as its Founders Day award winner as well as recognizing staff and faculty who have strived to make Thiel College a special place. Winter Weekend, commencement, Con Spirito, art and cultural events are prominent happenings in the winter and spring. Reunions for the business department athletics are scheduled for this summer.

## Winter Weekend Schedule

**THURSDAY, FEB 5.**

Founders Day Celebration

**FRIDAY, FEB 6.**

6-7:30 p.m.

Alumni & Student Networking Reception  
Sawhill–Georgian Room

8 p.m.

Winterfest Activities

Various Locations

**SATURDAY, FEB 7.**

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Alumni Brunch  
Galleria Dining Hall

6:30-8 p.m.

Alumni Dinner

Howard Miller Student Center (Reservations)

8 p.m.

5th Annual Black & White Ball

Lutheran Heritage Room

“

Alumni need to know Thiel College will always open its arms to alumni.

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS KRAIG SMITH

### 2014 Honors Convocation



**DR. BASH '57** received his Bachelor of Science in economics from Thiel College, graduating Magna Cum Laude, and his Master of Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Finance and Commerce in 1959. He received his CPA Certificate in 1960. Dr. Bash has had a distinguished professional and civic career. His dedication to his field helped him climb the corporate ranks, and his work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and support of Thiel College are unwavering commitments and passions. Giving back has been a lifelong priority for Dr. Bash and can be seen in his involvement in the church, community and College.

Dr. Kenneth Bash '57 was honored for his professional accomplishments and commitment to Thiel College with an honorary degree during Honors Convocation in November.



**MS. FRIEND '03** earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from Thiel College, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She received the Thiel College Excellence Award and graduated second in her class. She received her Juris Doctor from the College of William & Mary, Marshall Wythe School of Law in 2006. She joined the firm of

CowanGates, PC, Richmond, Virginia in 2007 and became a principal in 2013. Her community involvement includes work with the Pro Bono Protective Order Program, representing victims of domestic violence. Ms. Friend has served on the board of directors for the Chesterfield Innovative Academy for Girls. Ms. Friend and her husband, John Cox, live in Richmond, Va.

Melanie Friend '03 was the keynote speaker during Honors Convocation.

### 2014 Alumni Awards



**RON LEGLER '90** received his B.A. in political science and history from Thiel College. While a student he was active in Phi Theta Phi, but his work with Thiel's theater club seemingly had the greatest impact on his future. He joined the PACE Theatrical Group in 1990 as Director of Group Sales. After 11 years, he was hired as the President and CEO of the Florida Theatrical

Group. Ron recently took a position as the president of the Hippodrome Theater at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center in Baltimore.



**JOSEPH SCARPITTI '80** graduated with his B.A. in business administration and went on to earn his M.B.A from Bowling Green University in 1982. His service to Thiel has spanned three decades and included positions on the Thiel College Alumni Board and the Thiel College Board of Trustees. He routinely and consistently volunteers to serve as a guest lecturer for the Business, Accounting and Psychology Departments. Joe has been on staff as an adjunct professor at both Thiel College and Mount Union University.



**MIKE STIMAC '08** studied English and secondary English education at Thiel College. He went on to become a language arts teacher and Department Chair at the Oil City Area School District. Mike is currently the principal of Clarion-Limestone Area Junior/Senior High School. In addition to teaching duties, Mike oversees the departmental budget and works with his colleagues to design curriculum for students. In 2012, he completed a Masters of Education from Gannon University. He specialized in Curriculum and Instruction.



THIEL COLLEGE PRESIDENT TROY D. VANAKEN (LEFT), TOMMY TOMCAT AND Joy Cone owner Joseph George (right) were on hand to celebrate the fourth annual opening of the Rissell-Schreyer Dome. Joy Cone officials attended the event to promote the launch of a new cone product. Joseph’s wife, Ruthanne Beighley, is a 1973 graduate of Thiel.

# Society of 1866 – Leaving a legacy

## ALUMNUS MICHAEL SCHLUETER '73 OUTLINES REASONS TO GIVE TO THIEL

Thiel provided me with the educational, social, moral and spiritual foundation that prompted me to always do my best and approach life with confidence, motivation, conviction, responsibility and an awareness to give back to my community.

I originally chose Thiel in 1969 because I knew I would receive a well-rounded education, obtain individual academic attention, get exposure to excellent professors, be a part of a small student population, be provided with spiritual guidance and socially participate in the Greek system (Phi Theta Phi fraternity), all on one serene campus setting. It was the best four years of my life, and I will always be grateful for these and other such experiences!

My life following Thiel has been varied, eventful and adventurous. I earned two graduate degrees from Pepperdine and National universities and received professional certificates in network management, project management and this year, in "Lean Mastery" from Loyola Marymount University.

I lived and worked in Japan and traveled extensively throughout Asia for several years. I served my country both as a Captain in the United States Marine Corps and in federal service as an employee in the Department of Defense.

As a passion/hobby, I worked evenings and weekends in professional theater in San Francisco enjoying affiliation with a dozen different musicals from "The Lion King," "Cats," "Rent" and "Jesus Christ Superstar" to "Phantom of the Opera" to name a few favorites!

In my primary profession, I enjoyed a long and enriching career in healthcare, most recently as a senior project manager for Kaiser Permanente Foundation Health Plan in southern California.

Some of my volunteer activities included being a community and small claims court mediator, a Shanti volunteer and a crisis intervention specialist in domestic violence. I also volunteered to care for infants/premature babies in a large hospital setting, help struggling veterans and read to children through the public library system. I was an advocate for seniors and currently volunteer at my church.

I am considering retirement in mid-2015 and relocating my life from California to eastern Tennessee or western North Carolina for the mountains, forests, change of seasons, natural beauty, history and smaller, less complex, city life. (This move will allow me to be closer to Thiel and will result in more campus visits!)

As a member of the "Society of 1866", I am proud to commit to Thiel specific financial assets as identified in my family trust. I've recognized the value of my education at Thiel, how it has continuously benefitted me throughout my life and served as a springboard to other "open doors" and life opportunities.

I strongly encourage others to see the worthiness of their Thiel education by committing their assets to assist the school and future students.

For more information about legacy gifts to Thiel College contact Mario Marini '91, Director of Special and Planned Giving, at 724-589-2022 or by email at [mmarini@thiel.edu](mailto:mmarini@thiel.edu).

## Thiel College alumni make an impact on The NRP Group

THIEL COLLEGE ALUMNI HAVE MADE A BIG impact on The NRP Group LLC, one of the nation's leaders in the multifamily housing industry. Since 2011, four alumni have been hired in various positions at NRP's Cleveland, Ohio office. Nick Travaglianti '11, Alyssa Chine '13, Joel Bussard '09 and Taryn Benner '14 are now colleagues taking their careers to new levels.

The NRP Group is a full-service developer, general contractor, and property manager providing a broad range of services. NRP has developed and constructed well over 23,000 residential units in 13 states and now manages more than 100 properties in 11 states. NRP has built its reputation on a total commitment to quality plus a belief that honesty and integrity matter. It's a reputation that has attracted key investors and a talented team of more than 500 employees, including Thiel graduates.

Travaglianti, through connections with college faculty and personal friends, was able to reach out to fellow Thiel College graduates when open positions were available with NRP. He also worked closely with Thiel College's Career Services department to network with upcoming Thiel College graduates.

Travaglianti earned his bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration. He was offered an internship position with NRP's Management Accounting Department in 2011 before transitioning into his current role as HR & Payroll Administrator.

Chine earned her bachelor's degree in accounting and business administration. She began her career at NRP in 2013 as a Property Management Accountant.

Bussard earned his bachelor's degree in international business with a minor in economics. He began his career working for the UPMC Health Plan in their Commercial Member Services Department. He started with NRP in 2013 as an accounts payable associate and was promoted to operations project manager in 2014.

Benner earned her bachelor's degree in media communications, communication studies and public relations. She began her career with NRP in 2014 as a marketing coordinator.



From left to right, Alyssa Chine '13, Joel Bussard '09, Taryn Benner '14 and Nick Travaglianti '11 have leveraged the Thiel College alumni network to land jobs with The NRP Group LLC, one of the nation's leaders in the multifamily housing industry, at its Cleveland, Ohio office.

# Nineteen Tomcats named to fall All-PAC teams

by Ed Topoleski '02

Nineteen Tomcats were named to All-Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) teams this fall. Of those 19, three were first team picks, including Morgan Berg, Jason Crystol and Steve Morgan.

A junior midfielder, Berg finished the 2014 season fourth in the PAC with 31 points and 13 goals. Berg was a second-team pick as a sophomore.

Berg was one of two soccer players to earn All-PAC recognition this fall. The other was senior forward Francis Ahia, who picked up his second career honorable mention selection. Ahia tallied 16 points and scored six goals in 2014. He concluded his career with 48 points, the fourth-most in school history.

Crystol, a senior, headlined the football team's 12 All-PAC picks by earning his second consecutive first-team nod and his third career conference postseason honor. Another senior, inside linebacker Wes Schmidt, was named to the All-PAC second team. Schmidt, an honorable mention pick as a junior, made 86 tackles in 2014, tying him for the seventh-most in the PAC.

Ten football players were named All-PAC honorable mention selections, including freshman wide receiver Marcus Johnson, who was also named the PAC Newcomer of the Year. Johnson racked up 827 receiving yards, the third most in the league, on 46 receptions. His eight touchdowns catches tied him for the fifth most in the conference. Johnson also averaged 109.9 all-purpose yards per game, good for eighth most in the PAC.

In addition to Johnson, wide receiver Ron Howard, quarterback Ryan Radke, fullback Rich Smallwood and tackle Chase Good were named to All-PAC honorable mention team on offense.

Howard caught 36 passes in 2014 for 404 yards and two touchdowns. Radke threw for 2,042 yards and ran for 904 yards, accounting for 2,946 yards in total offense, the second most in the PAC. Radke threw 19 touchdown passes and scored 10 touchdowns on the ground.

Smallwood helped pave the way for Radke and tailback Taylor Fink. He rushed for two touchdowns and caught 13 passes, two of which were for touchdowns, for 97 yards. Good, who protected Radke's blindside, earned his first career All-PAC nod.

Five Thiel football players were named to the All-PAC honorable mention team on defense, including: defensive end Cody McClelland, defensive tackle Reily Shane,

outside linebacker Jack Sindlinger, defensive back Martae Hainesworth and cornerback Chris Jones.

McClelland recorded 39 tackles this season, 7.5 of which were behind the line of scrimmage. He also notched four sacks and intercepted a pass in Thiel's 42-21 win over Grove City on Saturday, Nov. 15, which he returned 15 yards for a touchdown.

Shane finished fourth on the team with 44 tackles in 2014. Sixteen of his tackles were for a loss of yards, the fifth most in the PAC. He also tallied six sacks, tying him for the sixth most in the conference. McClelland's All-PAC honorable mention selection was the third of his career while Shane earned his second honorable mention.

Sindlinger picked up his second All-PAC honorable mention pick. He finished second on the team this season with 84 tackles. He broke up seven passes, recorded five tackles for a loss of yards, recovered two fumbles, forced a fumble and picked off one pass.

Hainesworth's All-PAC honorable mention selection was the third of his career. He finished third on the team in 2014 with 51 tackles while also recording eight pass breakups and two interceptions. Jones' All-PAC nod was the first of his career. He made 32 tackles on the season to go along with five pass breakups and two interceptions.

Morgan finished sixth overall (27:10.7) at the PAC Championships, earning All-PAC first team honors in the process. Morgan was a four-time All-PAC pick, including a pair of second-team selections. Fellow cross country runner Meri Steinmetz was an All-PAC second team selection



Thiel College cross country runner Steve Morgan was a first-team All-PAC selection this fall.





Jason Crystal (50) was the only Thiel College first-team all-conference football team member.



Junior midfielder Morgan Berg scored 13 goals this season and was a first-team All-PAC pick.

after finishing 11<sup>th</sup> overall (24:22.6) at the conference championships. Steinmetz was also an All-PAC honorable mention pick as a freshman and sophomore.

Three women's volleyball players also earned All-PAC recognition, including seniors Alex Hall and Lauren Downs and freshman Veronica Brueggman. Hall and

Downs were second team picks while Brueggman earned an honorable mention.

A three-time All-PAC honoree, including a pair of honorable mention selections, Hall finished fifth in the conference in kills per set (2.95), eighth in digs per set (3.58) and 10<sup>th</sup> in service aces (33).

Downs finished third in the PAC in digs per set (5.39). She had a career-high 43 digs in a five-set victory over Westminster on Oct. 21, which was the second most in school history and fifth most in PAC history. Brueggman led the team with 69 blocks, which was the eighth most in the conference. She also tallied 218 kills, the second most on the team.

## Game Day honorees acknowledged for service to Thiel

THIEL COLLEGE HONORED FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE AND alumni at halftime of all five home football games this year.

David Baughman and Northern Mercer County Foundation were the honorees Sept. 13 during the Tomcats home opener and second night game in school history. The Marion G. Resch Foundation Day was Sept. 20. Dr. Barry '70 and Carol Stamm '71 were honored during Homecoming on Oct. 4. Professor Gary Witosky '79 was honored Oct. 25. Barry '74 and Linda Oman '75 finished the season by being honored Nov. 8.

Thiel College commemorated the generosity of Baughman, a Greenville native and life-long resident of the borough. He passed away in November 2012 and bequeathed \$3.7 million to the college. The gift, the second largest estate gift in Thiel history, funds the Emerson A. Baughman, Agnes F. Baughman and David E. Baughman Endowed Scholarship, which provides scholarships for students from Commodore Perry, Greenville, Jamestown and Reynolds school districts.

The Marion G. Resch Foundation was established in 2000 in memory of the late Marion G. Resch. The Resch Foundation is committed to promoting the education of young people throughout the Mahoning

Valley. The Resch Foundation supports both college scholarships for students from the Mahoning Valley and early intervention programs to support younger students with college aspirations.

Witosky is an advocate for students and steadfast supporter of his alma mater. He began his career in public accounting and his professional journey eventually led him back to Thiel where he helped the administration before returning to the classroom to teach.

The Stamms met at Thiel and have remained committed to each other and the College since their graduation. Barry is the chairman of the Thiel 2016 campaign, the largest fundraising campaign ever undertaken by the school. He and Carol have worked tirelessly on behalf of the students of Thiel College and are passionate about the progress the institution is making and the successes it has had. They have hosted and attended numerous alumni events and are vital members of the Thiel College community.

The Omans were recognized for continued dedication to the College and commitment to its students. Barry and Linda are the only husband-wife combination of Thiel graduates to have been inducted into the Thiel Athletics Hall of Fame for their individual accomplishments. Barry Oman, who is a volunteer assistant coach with the football team, was inducted in 2005 for his outstanding performance in football, while Linda Oman, who is on the Capital Campaign Committee and photographs many events for the college, was inducted in 1992 for her basketball career. She was also enshrined into the Hall of Fame in 1997 as a member of the undefeated women's basketball teams from 1970-1973.

# Pilipovich Soars High

HEAD COACH OF AIR FORCE ACADEMY'S MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM RESPECTS HIS THIEL ROOTS by Ed Topoleski '02

Dave Pilipovich was in agony Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012 when the Pittsburgh Steelers were upset 29-23 in overtime by the Denver Broncos in an AFC Wild Card game. A 1986 Thiel alumnus and native of Duquesne, Pa., Pilipovich recalls watching the game on television from an office on the campus of the United States Air Force Academy, where he currently serves as head coach of the men's basketball team. Engrained in his mind is the image of Denver quarterback Tim Tebow throwing a quick slant to Demaryius Thomas, who ran 80 yards to the end zone on the first play from scrimmage in overtime to knock his beloved Steelers out of the playoffs.

"We're diehard Steelers fans," Pilipovich said, speaking for himself and his family. "I threw a remote control against the wall when Tebow threw the game-winning TD pass in overtime."

You can take the Steelers fan out of Pittsburgh, but not the Pittsburgh Steelers out of the fan. The same rings true for Tomcat Nation. Now in his third full season leading the Falcons, Pilipovich has certainly not forgotten where he came from.



## Thiel Beginnings

Pilipovich grew up in Duquesne, once a proud steel town turned rust belt, like so many others along the rivers in western Pennsylvania. He arrived at Thiel in the fall of 1982 after matriculating from now defunct Duquesne High School.

"I just felt like [Thiel] was a neat campus and it had everything I wanted. I was a DIII athlete but looked for a quality education," Pilipovich said, also listing close proximity to Duquesne and the ability of his parents to participate in his collegiate experience as keys in making Thiel his college choice.

A 6-foot-1-inch, 170-pound guard, Pilipovich and the Tomcats won just three games during his freshman campaign (1982-83). The Tomcats won four games in 1983-84

and went on to a tremendous 30-year career as head coach of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's (RPI) men's basketball team, which included three NCAA Tournament berths and one Sweet 16 appearance.

Pilipovich played his final two basketball seasons at Thiel for Robert R. "Posey" Rhoads. "He was a great coach and mentor for us," Pilipovich said of Rhoads. "He really kept things loose and simple."

Under Rhoads, the Tomcats went 11-11 overall and 8-4 in the Presidents' Athletic Conference during Pilipovich's senior season (1985-86). Thiel lost to Hiram by a point (70-69) in the last regular season game during the 1985-86 season. A win would have given the Tomcats a chance to play for the conference title.

“

I just felt like [Thiel] was a neat campus and it had everything I wanted. I was a DIII athlete but looked for a quality education.

under the direction of new head coach Mike Griffin, who had a profound impact on Pilipovich.

"We struggled to win games that year, but [Griffin] taught us so much in terms of teamwork, and I really thought we grew a lot as young men," said Pilipovich, who had previously envisioned a career in business. "The way he treated us and molded us, I thought, 'you know what? This is something that I want to do.'"

Griffin left Thiel after the 1983-84 season

Pilipovich was a four-year letter winner with the Tomcats and served as captain his senior year. He played in 52 career games, scoring 110 points while grabbing 30 rebounds and recording 30 assists and 19 steals.

He also met his wife, Kelly '85, at Thiel College. The couple has two children, a son, Kyle, and a daughter, Kelsey.

## Along the way

Soon after graduation, Pilipovich connected with Tim Loomis, who is in his ninth season



AIR FORCE ACADEMY MEDIA RELATIONS

After his time at Florida Atlantic, Pilipovich made stops as an assistant coach at: Georgia State, Robert Morris University, Eastern Michigan and the University of Michigan before accepting the assistant coaching job at Air Force in 2007. He was named associate head coach at Air Force in 2011 before eventually taking over as head coach.

### Flying with the Falcons

Pilipovich was in his fifth season as an assistant with Air Force's men's basketball team when on Feb. 8, 2012, he was promoted to head coach after the former head coach was relieved of his duties.

"When you get into coaching, you always look forward to becoming a head coach," Pilipovich said. "It was bittersweet to be honest with you, but you have to move forward."

The Falcons did just that. After Pilipovich took over as head coach, they won two of their next three games. Air Force went on to defeat 13<sup>th</sup>-ranked San Diego State, marking the first win in program history over a team ranked in the top 20 in the nation.

The following season (2012-13), Pilipovich led his team to an 18-win season, the fourth most in a single season in program history. Two of the team's wins were over ranked opponents, the most in a single season in program history, including an 89-88 victory over 12<sup>th</sup>-ranked New Mexico. Pilipovich also coached the Falcons to their first postseason road win with a 69-65 win at Hawaii in the first round of the CollegelInsider.com Tournament.

"Treating players the right way and making sure it's working for them," Pilipovich said when asked what was the key to his immediate success with Air Force. "We challenge them to be better players. We have to make sure that they're enjoying it,

and we try to keep it simple. We try to play an exciting style of basketball that is fun for the players and our fans."

The Falcons went 12-18 in 2013-14, but there are good reasons to believe that they will get back on track this season.

### Onward and Upward

With four starters and 11 letter winners returning this season, expectations are high for the Falcons this season.

Senior guard Max Yon, a three-year letter winner, leads the team with an average of 14 points per game while senior forward Kamryn Williams, another three-year letter winner, is averaging 8.2 points and 4.8 rebounds per game.

At the printing deadline for this edition of The Bell, the Falcons owned a 4-3 record after defeating Grambling State, 59-34, on Dec. 3.

"With our players coming back and the players we have coming in, we're excited," Pilipovich said. "We're definitely a 'we' team. Last year we were kind of a 'me' team, but [this year] they're team-first."

### Back to Thiel

Though he is quite busy with his coaching duties, Pilipovich still makes time to follow Thiel's men's basketball team. He texts or calls Loomis, especially after big wins and tough losses.

Loomis returns the favor, following the Falcons and his former understudy.

"I see his games on TV, and he'll ask me what I thought," Loomis said. "He follows every game that we have, and I follow every game that they have."

Bonds between coaches survive the test of time, and coaches rarely forget where they came from.

as head coach of Thiel's men's basketball team. Back then Loomis was the head coach of the California University of Pennsylvania men's basketball team, where he won 72 games in six seasons and, in 1985, he was named the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Coach of the Year after his team won the PSAC title.

It was Loomis who gave Pilipovich his first gig as a men's basketball coach, hiring him as a graduate assistant with the Cal U Vulcans.

Loomis became the head coach of the Florida Atlantic University Owls in 1989 and hired Pilipovich as his assistant. Pilipovich was later promoted to associate head coach at Florida Atlantic, a title he held from 1991-94.



HEAD FOOTBALL COACH KURT REISER (LEFT) AND PROFESSOR DAVID MILLER hold the Mercer County Cup following the Thiel Tomcats 42-21 win over Grove City in the season finale. With the win the Tomcats finished the 2014 season with a 4-6 record, the best finish since the 2006 team went 5-5. It was also Thiel's first win over Grove City since 2006.

# Mallinger new Block King

SENIOR FORWARD SETS NEW CAREER BLOCKS RECORD by Ed Topoleski '02



Move over Joe Herrmann, there's a new Block King on campus. Senior forward Eric Mallinger set a new career standard on Nov. 22 when he recorded three blocks against Allegheny, surpassing Herrmann's former record (112).

At the time, Mallinger was unaware that he set a new career record for blocks.

"Last year I glanced at it, but I actually had no idea that I broke it this year," he said. "It was a big surprise when I saw it [on [thielathletics.com](http://thielathletics.com)]"

At the printing deadline for this edition of *The Bell*, Mallinger had 115 career blocks and counting.

"It's a big accomplishment. I feel like I left a mark in Tomcat history," Mallinger said.

Mallinger is coming off a junior season in which he was named to the All-PAC second team. He scored 249 points last season to go along with 214 rebounds and 67 blocks. His 67 blocks were the most by a Tomcat in a single season.

"I set out to block everything," Mallinger said. "If I have a chance to block it, I'll block it."

Mallinger played four years of volleyball at Taylor Allderdice in Pittsburgh and one at Thiel, which he believes helped him sharpen his blocking skills.

"That definitely helped a lot with my timing," he said. "I think it's all about good timing and a good sense of where everything is on defense."

## Thiel athletics social media best in the PAC

THROUGH 2014, THIEL COLLEGE ATHLETICS RECEIVED statistical recognition for its social media presence, marketing and promotion of its 25 programs.

According to D3SocialMedia.com, Thiel athletics was ranked as owning the best social media presence in the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) and ranked second in Pennsylvania among all Division III institutions behind only Lebanon Valley College. Thiel athletics' social media presence was ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in the nation among all Division III institutions.

D3SocialMedia.com rankings are calculated based on total likes and/or followers per total enrollment. Penalties are enforced for the absence of any of the three required accounts including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Institutions are also highly encouraged to use a universal name for all social media outlets for user-friendly access.

"Social media has really changed the game for small-college athletics. It wasn't all that long ago when athletics



communications professionals, coaches and administrators were pretty limited in what we were able to do to promote our

student-athletes, athletic programs and institutions in general. Social media has certainly changed that," said PAC Assistant Commissioner and Director of Communications Kevin Fenstermacher, who worked at Thiel for more than a decade in a variety of roles.

"It's evident that Thiel has really bought in, expanding its own social media footprint to really become a key source of sports information. From promoting stakeholder engagement through Twitter and Instagram, to working with current students to produce YouTube-based weekly highlight shows, Thiel is certainly

# IT's infrastructure improvements increase access to Internet, technology

CLOUD COMPUTING, AN AGGRESSIVE MOBILE STRATEGY, better Internet connectivity and convenient single sign-on access highlight improvements from the Thiel College Information Technology division in recent years.

The work started with the launch of the redesigned Thiel website in August 2013. The website is built on a responsive framework, providing an optimized layout across all devices. Responsive websites recognize when a user is on a smartphone or tablet, and alter the site to fit the screen of the device.

Following the successful website unveiling, the Thiel Hub launched in September 2014. The Thiel Hub is the first campus-wide portal solution in Thiel College history. Students, faculty and staff now have single sign-on access to files and applications from any device.

Web improvements, combined with increased usage of smartphones, have resulted in a more than 20% increase in mobile traffic in the past year. Mobility requires convenient access to data connectivity. To address user needs, Information Technology significantly enhanced wireless networking (Wi-Fi) on campus. Since July 2011, wireless access points have increased from 66 to 412. This 524 percent increase in access points has added wireless coverage to all Thiel buildings.

The enhanced services and greater wireless coverage require adequate Internet connectivity to support them. To this end, Information Technology replaced its Internet firewall and router this summer, and ordered additional Internet bandwidth. Today, Thiel has an aggregate of 1Gbps of Internet connectivity from its two providers. This is a 10-fold increase over the 100Mbps single Internet connection Thiel had in July 2011.

Since July 2011, wireless access points on campus have increased from 66 to 412. This 524 percent increase in access points has added wireless coverage to all Thiel College buildings.

"These improvements are part of a comprehensive strategy to enable Thiel College to exceed the connectivity expectations of students, faculty, staff and community members who use our campus," Chief Information Officer Kurt Ashley said. "Increased Internet capacity and redundancy position us to take advantage of cloud computing services."

One cloud service Thiel uses is Office 365. This new email system, which launched in January 2013, provides a mobile-optimized interface and significant improvements over the previous system. Office 365's current mailbox capacity is 50GB, which is 250 times larger than the 200MB provided in 2012.

"In addition to helping with operational efficiency, a robust technology program in higher education can help prepare students for the world that awaits them after graduation," Thiel College President Troy D. VanAken said. "I'm very proud of the work Thiel College's Information Technology division has accomplished the last several years on both of these important fronts. This strong technology foundation will serve Thiel College well for many years to come."



helping lead the way for other small colleges to recognize the significant benefits of a robust social media presence."

The Thiel College athletics social media accounts are managed through the sports information department led by the Director of Sports Information Ed Topoleski '02 and Assistant Director of Sports Information Cyrill Parham '14.

"Such a high ranking is a testament to our sports information staff here at Thiel," said Jack Leipheimer '74, Thiel's director of athletics. "I am extremely proud of the hard work they have put in."

Thiel Athletics utilizes multiple forms of social media including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube. Alumni and friends

can connect with Thiel Athletics on Twitter and Instagram by searching @ThielAthletics and with the username Thiel College Athletics on Facebook and YouTube.

While social media platforms have certainly added value and depth, the No. 1 source for Thiel College athletics information remains ThielAthletics.com, where fresh content is generated daily. ThielAthletics.com also contains a high definition webcast player, where most home games are broadcast in real time via Boxcast, which is compatible with desktop computers, tablets and smartphones.

THIEL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

# PROFILE OF DISTINCTION

## WILLIAM V. PARKER



William V. Parker is the Principal of Global Engagement Solutions, LLC, an international consulting firm providing advisory, business development and strategic planning services for commercial and government clients. He is an Associate at PACE Government Services a global business development and government affairs firm based in Washington, D.C. with offices in Tokyo, Honolulu and Berlin. Bill also serves as a Senior Program Advisor at Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation; Special Advisor for International Affairs to the Space Foundation and a member of the Military Advisory board of directors for Bellevue University, Bellevue, Neb.

**Current Hometown:** Derwood, Md.

**Family:** Wife, Carol, and two adult children.

**Current Occupation:** When not traveling around the world, I maintain an office in Crystal City, Va., just across the Potomac from Washington, D.C. My firm consults and works with firms attempting to do business either in the United States or abroad. I volunteer with the Space Foundation to encourage youth to embrace science, technology, and math education. ([www.spacefoundation.org](http://www.spacefoundation.org)) Space exploration offers a wonderful way to combine those disciplines.

**Why is being a part of the Board of Trustees important to you?**

Many of my lifelong friendships were made because of my interactions on the Thiel campus. Serving on the Board for the next nine years, I believe, is just a natural extension of a way to give back to the students, faculty and alumni of the institution. Obviously, alumni engagement is paramount to the success of any university and/or college. Thiel is no different. Getting alumni to participate in the life of this institution is one of my/our top priorities as Board members.

**Why should other alumni consider giving back to their alma mater?**

I've had the opportunity to work with President Troy D. VanAken as a member of the Board of Associates, and in that time I've learned that his vision for Thiel is big and it is inspirational. You can't walk around campus without noticing some of his vision actualized. We have new

at Thiel, represent a varied yet holistic slice of American life beneficial to the growth of a fine institution of higher learning.

**From your vantage point as an alumnus, and now as a trustee, what advice would you be willing to offer Thiel College students pursuing their degree?**

For better than 30 years, I have been intimately involved with international educational and cultural exchange as a Foreign Service Officer and I remain focused on the recruitment of international students to share and strengthen the Thiel experience. I have met some extremely talented Thiel students and I encourage them to study things foreign and interact with those who might be perceived as being different. As Thiel approaches its 150th anniversary, use the Peadar Communication Center and engage the world. Modern Thiel students have virtual tools that we couldn't even imagine possible. Use the assortment of virtual engagement tools to communicate with your global peers.

**What are your "words to live by?"**

Mahatma Gandhi said, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever," I believe these are great words to live by!

**Why is being part of the Board of Trustees important to you?**

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience many foreign cultures and lands as the son of an American diplomat. I was encouraged to engage new people and challenges and this impacted

## Getting alumni to participate in the life of this institution is one of my/our top priorities as Board members.

classrooms, technologies, students and professors who are defining what these new areas and structures mean and, in the process, redefining the entire College. It is an exciting time to be at Thiel and an exciting time to be alive and engaged. What a great and important experience!

**What are your important memories of Thiel?**

The most important experiences in your life are the ones that change how you look at the world. Thiel will provide that and some! I guess this sums up my Thiel and overall life experiences. Having the honor to serve on the Board of Trustees is a culmination of engaging new and thoughtful people all connected in many ways to the extended Thiel family. The Board members, like many of my former classmates

my Thiel student days as well as my willingness to serve on the Board of Trustees. The Board is composed of many talented people all of whom are very dedicated to making Thiel the remarkable educational institution it is today. However, by widening our lens to include some of my old classmates, especially the professionals in Pittsburgh, the Thiel story and tradition will only benefit.

We, on the Board, are about staying connected with the Thiel family. As I look ahead, I know that our greatest strength is in our people in the incredible Thiel community. So when you see this old man wandering the campus, stop me and engage. One never knows what wondrous thoughts we might exchange! Go Tomcats!

# Let's keep in touch!



Join us for an

## Alumni Event

near you!

**THIEL**  
COLLEGE

### JANUARY 2015

#### January 15

##### Happy Hour

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Latitude 360 – Pittsburgh, PA

#### January 23

##### 100 Days to Graduation Dinner for Seniors

Thiel College – Greenville, PA

#### January 24

##### Hershey Bears Hockey Game

7:00 p.m.

(Hosted by Carl Hoffman '69)

Giant Center – Hershey, PA

### FEBRUARY

#### February 5

##### Founders Day at Thiel College

Thiel College – Greenville, PA

#### February 6-7

##### Winter Weekend

Feb. 6: Alumni and Student  
Networking, 6-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 7: 5th Annual Black & White  
Ball, 8:00 p.m.

Thiel College – Greenville, PA

#### February 10

##### Alumni Event

6:00-8:00 p.m.

(Hosted by Ken '57 and Joyce Bash)

Scottsdale, Arizona

### March

#### March 10

##### Happy Hour

6:00-8:00 p.m.

Grille 66 & Bar – Ft. Lauderdale, FL

#### March 11

##### Alumni Luncheon

(Hosted by Pete Mortensen H'05)

12:00 p.m.

Royal Poinciana Golf Club – Naples, FL

#### March 12

##### Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Boston Red Sox Spring Training Game

1:05 p.m.

McKechnie Field – Bradenton, FL

**Tickets:** \$45 (includes game ticket  
and a picnic lunch)

#### March 13-14

##### NCAA D-III Wrestling Championships

(Hosted by Carl Hoffman '69)

Giant Center – Hershey, PA

#### March 24

##### Con Spirito Concert Series

7:30 p.m. (Pre-reception at 6:30 p.m.)

Thiel College – Greenville, PA

### APRIL

#### April 10

##### Dirty Dancing

8:00 p.m.

Benedum Center – Pittsburgh, PA

#### April 19

##### PaintNite – "Sunday Funday"

2:00-5:00 p.m.

Roland's Seafood Grill – Pittsburgh, PA

#### April 24

##### Happy Hour

(Hosted by Bill Robinson)

Philadelphia, PA

### MAY

#### May 6

##### Congressional Country Club

6:00-8:00 p.m.

(Hosted by Ed Bartko '72)

Washington D.C.

#### May 29-30

##### Athletics Reunion Weekend

May 29: Annual Blue/Gold Golf Outing

Shotgun start 9:00 a.m.

Greens of Greenville

May 30: Athletics Reunion

May 30: Hall of Fame Dinner

Thiel College – Greenville, PA

### JUNE

#### June 20-21

##### Alumni Weekend at Hershey Park

Hershey Park – Hershey, PA

### TBD

##### Hippodrome Theatre Event

(Hosted by Ron Legler '90 &

Rick Huether '74)

Baltimore, MD

### POTENTIAL SPRING 2015 EVENTS

##### Pittsburgh Penguins Hockey Game

(Hosted by Kevin Hart '86)

### MAY 2016

### TBD

##### Thiel College Alumni

Trip to Ireland

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

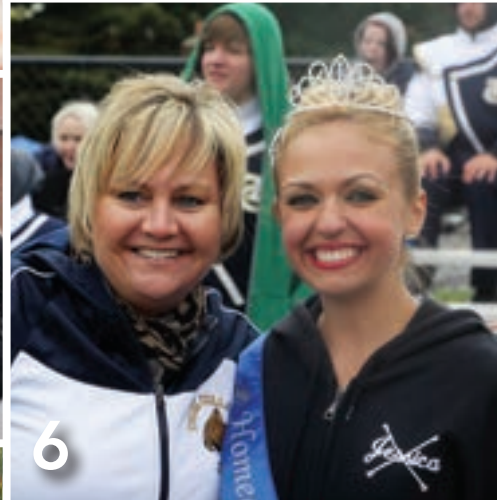
Visit: [www.thiel.edu/alumni/events](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni/events)

Kraig R. Smith,

Director of Alumni Relations

724-589-2027 | [ksmith@thiel.edu](mailto:ksmith@thiel.edu)

# ‘Discover the Difference’ ~



# Homecoming 2014



10



11



12



13



14



15

- 1 Dr. James Pedas '50, H'89 (center) and his family listen to a speaker during the dedication of the James Pedas Communication Center.
- 2 Dr. James Pedas '50, H'89, the lead donor for the James Pedas Communication Center, speaks during the dedication of the \$6.8 million state-of-the-art communication center.
- 3 Dr. James Pedas '50, H'89 and his family cut the ribbon during the dedication of the James Pedas Communication Center.
- 4 Vice President of Enrollment Management Larry Vallar and Board of Trustees member John Frangakis await the start of the James Pedas Communication Center dedication.
- 5 From left, Morgan Berg '16, Director of Alumni Relations Kraig Smith '12 and Emily Skebo '15 take a moment to pose before the dedication of the James Pedas Communication Center.
- 6 Sonya Lapikas and Thiel College senior feature twirler Jessica Yozwiak '15 pose for a picture during Homecoming festivities.
- 7 The football team wasn't the only team in action during Homecoming. Jacob Hayden '16 and his Thiel College Huskies rugby club teammates were on the field as well.
- 8 A Thiel College student in a purple bodysuit hands out candy during the Homecoming parade.
- 9 Tomcat Marching Pride director Andy Erb flashes some of his rifle spinning skills prior to the Homecoming parade.
- 10 Dr. Jay Breckenridge '64 shares a picture on his smartphone while Barbara Bernhardt '64 looks on during the all-years reunion gathering on Oct. 4.
- 11 Students Kelley Bellia '15 (left) and Rebecca Campbell '16 (right) smile while watching the parade.
- 12 Gabriella VanAken, Thiel College President Troy D. VanAken, Game Day honorees Dr. Barry '70 and Carol Stamm '71 and Dr. Annette VanAken look at the framed material presented to honorees during the Homecoming football game.
- 13 Members of Sigma Kappa and Sigma Phi Epsilon ride in their organizations' Homecoming parade float.
- 14 Floats and marchers weren't the only Homecoming parade participants. Members of the Thiel College equestrian club rode their horses through the streets of Greenville.
- 15 The brothers of Delta Sigma Phi and sisters of Alpha Xi Delta and their pirate ship sailed through the Homecoming parade.

# Got News? We want to hear it!

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

*Please fill out this form and mail to:*

**ALUMNI OFFICE, THIEL COLLEGE, 75 COLLEGE AVE.,**

**GREENVILLE, PA 16125**

**E-mail: [alumni@thiel.edu](mailto:alumni@thiel.edu) Fax: 724-589-2860**

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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Dec. 1, 2014. If your news was submitted after that date, it will appear in the next issue of *The Bell*. News for Class Notes, Marriages and Births must be reported either by or with the explicit approval of the subject(s) and are subject to editing for space, style and content. Photos become the property of the Alumni Office and may not be returned.

## Class Notes & Photo Policy

- Please send us news after it has happened. No future events will be listed.
- News for Class Notes must be reported either by or with the approval of the subject(s). All notes are subject to editing for content, space and style. Photos become Thiel property and may not be returned.
- Photo Guidelines—Prints should be at least 2x3 inches for headshots and 4x6 for photos featuring groups. Both color and black & white are acceptable. Photos can be mailed to Alumni Services, Thiel College, 75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125. To submit a digital photo, email the file to [alumni@thiel.edu](mailto: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.

# Class NOTES

## 1960s



**JEFF BROOKS '66** has written two novels, "Life During a Nation's Death" and "Kickoffs and Kegs, Small College Days." Jeff and his wife, Barbara, reside in Winston Salem, N.C.

**CONNIE (CHRISTY) DANKO '69** resides in Niskayuna, N.Y. with her husband, William Danko. Connie is a retired Occupational Therapist. Her daughter Christy is a tenured math education professor at Hood College, son Todd just earned his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and Mechanics, and son David works for Lockheed Martin.

## 1970s



**JON MILLS '70** was honored by the Theatre of Western Springs with their lifetime achievement award. He was named an Active Laureate. Jon resides in

Elk Grove Village, Ill. with his wife, Debby.

**KAREN CLINE '72** retired as a physical therapist with over 40 years in the field. She resides in Torrance, Calif. with her husband, Dennis. They enjoy traveling the national parks and visiting with their children and new granddaughter.

**VICTORIA A. BRADY-BRUST '75** retired from Independence Blue Cross in Philadelphia after 37 years of working in information systems. Victoria and her husband, James, are enjoying retirement at their new residence in Ocala, Fla.

## 1980s

**DOUGLAS JONES '84** lives in Dublin, Ohio with his wife, Staci. Douglas and Staci were married in January '14. Douglas was recently promoted to Director of Marketing and Design for WBNS-10TV.

**TED WESTIN JR. '86** is the Broker/Owner of Westin Real Estate & Tax Service in Cresson, Pa. Ted and his wife, Mary Beth, have two daughters. Their daughters, Sarah and Hannah, recently danced in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with Spirit of America Dancers group.

**GREGORY PERRINE '88** is now the IT Director for the Mercer Country Regional Council of Government in Hermitage, Pa.

## 1990s

**ERIN (SHAFFER) SNYDER '94** and husband, **SHANE SNYDER '94**, reside in Oro Valley, Ariz. Erin is now the President of Total Environmental Solutions, Inc. They have three children, a son, Ian, and twin daughters, Gwen and Adele.

**JOSEPH GELETKA '99** was recently named Deputy Superintendent of Atlanta ISD in Atlanta, Texas. Joseph and his wife Rebecca reside in Atlanta, Texas.

## 2000s

**MELISSA (LEWIS) KEEBLER '00** is the Assistant to the Provost for Communications & Projects at the University of Pittsburgh. Melissa recently moved from Camp Hill to Pittsburgh to accept this new position.

**TYLER KRIVOSH '03** and wife Beth Krivosh reside in New Castle, Pa. with their sons Luke and Louie. Tyler is the Railroad Manager at NLMK-PA and Beth works in Logistics at Sharon Coatings LLC.

**JASON PETERSON '03** and wife, Shana, reside in Franklin, Pa. with their two daughters, Isabella and Lillian. Jason recently graduated from Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University with a Masters Degree in Ministry Leadership.

**NICOLE (STEVENSON) HILKE '05** is the owner of The Rolling Needle. Nicole and her husband, Craig, live in O'Fallon, Mo. and were expecting their first child in December.

**JOSEPH BOYOU '06** is a Sergeant in the United States Air Force. He is stationed at Keesler Air Force Base in Miss. Joseph recently became an author and had his first book "A Life of Resiliency" published in September.

**SARA (HAZELTINE) NESBITT '07** is the Program Coordinator in the Center for Social Concerns at Gannon University. She anticipates graduating in December '14 with her Master's of Arts in English. Sara and her husband **STEPHEN NESBITT '08** reside in Erie, Pa.

## 2010s

**SARAH WEIKART '12** lives in Pittsburgh, Pa. Sarah works at Tarasi & Tarasi Law P.C. as a Law Clerk.



**WILLIAM ROOSA JR. '12** bicycled from Salamanca, N.Y. to Daytona Beach, Fla. from Aug. 24-Sept. 13. Billy lives in Austin, Texas where his KangaWoosa Kettle Corn Company continues to thrive.



**RYAN PRESCOTT '12** is the Director of Sales and Marketing for E-L-F Entertainment. **THOMAS "SETH" BELL '14** is an intern at E-L-F Entertainment and a Brand Ambassador for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

**KAYLA OHLIN '13** has been licensed as a Certified Public Accountant by the Ohio State Board of Accountancy. Kayla is employed by Schroedel, Scullin & Bestic, LLC. in Canfield, Ohio.

**HILLARY HAMBLETON '14** is a staff accountant at KFMR and resides in Pittsburgh, Pa.

## MARRIAGES

**ANGELA (BOWE) MARANUK '08** to John Maranuk on May 31. The couple resides in Kunkletown, Pa.



**REBECCA (HOUSE) DOUBLE '12** to **PHIL DOUBLE '12** on July 12. The wedding was held at Thiel on a beautiful summer afternoon. The couple lives in Camden, S.C. Phil teaches seventh grade social studies and Becca teaches fifth grade.



**ALLISON (HALL) STEEL '11** to **JOSH STEEL '10** on June 21. Other Thiel Alumni in attendance were **ROBERT SHEW '11** (groomsman) and Melinda Shew (bridesmaid), **ADAM TROUP '11** (groomsman), **KATIE RUFENER '11** (maid of honor), **JUSTIN MUNZ '10**, **JACKIE BELSITO '11**, **ANDY STINE '11**, **ROB TIBBITT '13**.



**LINDSAY (WHETZEL) MATHES '10** to Greg Mathes on June 7. The couple resides in Mentor, Ohio.

**ALYSSA (BARTLETT) BUCKNER '14** to Andrew Buckner on June 21. The two reside in Hickory, N.C.

**HEATHER (MCCLLOUD) BAKER '12** to Alan Baker on July 27. The couple resides in Weirton, W.Va.

## BIRTHS

To **MARGRET (MORRIS) BOWMAN '09** and Cory Bowman a daughter, Ainsley Elizabeth, on May 3.



To **CARA (HOEHN) LAPIC '92** and **DAN LAPIC '95** a daughter, Maizie, on Sept. 2.



To **STEPHANIE (HILLS) WILSON '04** and Joe Wilson a daughter, Carmella Mary, on November 14. Carmella joins big brother

Clark. Stephanie is now the Director of Advancement for Kennedy Catholic Family of Schools in Hermitage, Pa., and the family resides in Greenville, Pa.

To NICOLE MCNEAL '05 and Richard McNeal a son, William David, on March 27.



▶ To DANA (VANKIRK) BROWN '05 and KYLE BROWN '07 a daughter, Bria Marie, on May 14. The Brown family resides in Elkton, Md. with their two daughters, Aleena Rose and Bria Marie. Dana was recently promoted

to Building Coordinator for Special Education in Cecil County, Md.



▼ To JENNA (MOHR) MILLER '10 and ALEC MILLER '13 a daughter, Alijah Claire, on Oct. 11. The family resides in Greenville, Pa.



▼ To MEREDITH (NAGLE) TOTH '10 and STEVE TOTH a son, Rowen Patrick, on May 1. Steve is a pharmaceutical sales representative for Astra Zeneca. The Family Resides in Mentor on the Lake, Ohio.



▶ To Heather Claus and TIMOTHY CLAUS '98 a daughter, Evelyn. The family lives in Reading, Pa.

To Sarah Johnson and DAVID JOHNSTON '01 a son, David Andrew, on July 29. The family resides in Glenshaw, Pa.

## GATHERINGS



A group of friends spent a long weekend together in Boone, N.C. this summer. From left to right: TRACEY (LOVE) FASONE '82, MAUREEN (RADDICK) SULLIVAN '81, MARY (NATHAL) ARTZBERGER '82, LYNN (BAILEY) BOYLE '82, BETH SCHERZER '84, PATTY (KNAPP) BISHIRJIAN '81, SANDY (COTTERMAN) PARKER '81.



The Sawhill Suite spent their annual weekend getaway this year in Boiling Springs, Pa. From left to right: PAMELA BRADEN '69, LOUISE PIERCE '67, JANE (SHRODER) DYER '68, JANET (BUCK) ROMICH '67, ELLEN (JOHNSON) ZIEGLER '69.



ERIN (BETZ) SHANK '07 was ordained as a Deacon to the transitional diaconate at St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklin, Pa. Other Alumni in attendance: THE REV. TIM ALLEMAN '99, AMBER NICHOLS '07, THE REV. DENNIS BLAUSER '74, LAURA BETZ '09, THE REV. DEBORAH JACOBSON '79, EMILY ECKERT '07, AND THE REV. JOHANNA (BLAUSER) BAKER '04.



Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity Brothers in Gettysburg for an annual reunion. Front row left to right, JOHN WILHELM '69, JERRY SELZER '65, DALE SPARBER '71, HAL NASH '67, JOHN TRICE '67 and Fritz Weber. Back row left to right, MILES "MIKE" LEMLEY '65, PHIL JOHNSON '67, JEFF BROOKS '66, EDWARD "LEO" WHITE JR. '68, KINCH BOWMAN '68, AL BOWMAN '66 and WALT ROLPH '67.

## IN MEMORIAM

Donald N. Ondo  
 Karolyn Krial Skegas, 1943  
 Carl F. Zager, 1966  
 Socci L. Bucciarelli  
 Gerald Webber  
 Herman Heise, 1948  
 John P. Woods, 1958  
 George W. Adams, 1975  
 Joseph F. Uchino, 1951  
 Wesley F. Armstrong, 1949  
 Suzanne Calvin, 1953  
 Gary Zajac, 1977  
 Louis T. Almen  
 Judith G. Newton  
 Thomas R. Anderton, 1972  
 Glenn Cooper  
 David G. Seiple, 1962  
 Lloyd H. Green  
 Harry C. Miller  
 Edward J. Sloan  
 Donald Smith  
 Joseph Sherry

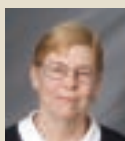
James H. Lewis, 1943  
 Robert E. Duff, 1950  
 John A. Rodgers, 1982  
 Jay A. Ward  
 Janet A. DiClaudio, 1975  
 Fadra Oesterlin Allshouse, 1959  
 Emily Bobby  
 Edmund C. Benton, 1953  
 Patricia Baird  
 Patricia J. Homer, 1958  
 William R. Sumners  
 Russell Pflasterer  
 Donald Melvin  
 John Sharp  
 Jessie Stuver  
 Bill Banick  
 James H. Mapstone-Knamm, 1966  
 Naomi Ferguson  
 Emmet W. Bongar  
 Raymond G. Smith, 1954  
 Norman G. Hasbrouck, 1974  
 Mellie Cardoza Ghost, 1945

David R. Andrews, 1963 H'13  
 Jeff Savchuk  
 Daniel L. Billingsley  
 Alfred Artzberger, 1950  
 Dorothy Peronteau  
 Karen M. Legin Surgent, 1968  
 Robert G. Roberts  
 Regis J. Malie  
 James E. Barrows  
 Patricia McMillen, 1954  
 Thomas F. Dout, 1975  
 William E. Johnston, 1956  
 C. Neilson Herrick, 1983  
 Robert W. Faber, 1954  
 Betty J. Snodgrass  
 Ralph E. Blair, 1956  
 Lynn Ann Adams, 1983  
 Peter R. Wishart  
 Shirley Hellyer  
 Robert R. Weisner  
 Margretta Judy  
 Blaine E. Anthony

## Four notable members of Thiel family pass away over summer

### THE THIEL COLLEGE FAMILY LOSES SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTORS

*Dr. Judith Newton (June), Dr. Jay Ward (July), Norman Hasbrouck '74 (August) and David Andrews '63, H'13 (September) passed away this summer.*



**Dr. Newton** was a professor of mathematics and computer science and department chair at Thiel College. She taught at Thiel from 1973-2014 and was named Thiel College's Professor of the Year in 2000.



**Dr. Ward** was a professor of English and former department chair at Thiel College. He joined the staff as an assistant professor in 1978 and worked for Thiel until 2008. He was recognized with numerous awards, including Professor of the Year, President's Award for Teaching Excellence, and the Distinguished Scholar Award.



**Hasbrouck** was a 1974 graduate, a former Thiel College employee and president of the Thiel College Alumni Board. He was an admissions counselor at Thiel from 1976-80, he moved on to become the Dean of Admissions at California University of Pennsylvania. He was active in the community as a soccer official, Rotarian, and local school board member. He died while refereeing a soccer match.



**Dr. Andrews** was a 1963 graduate and was awarded an honorary doctor of humanities (2013). He was the CEO and CFO of Washington Tool & Machine Company. His service to Thiel included work on the Alumni Board, and Board of Trustees, where he served roles including President, Board Treasurer, and Chair of the Finance Committee.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



CHRISTINE HAMMOND '77 has been named the sixth president of Mid Michigan Community College (MMCC). Prior to accepting her new role at MMCC Dr. Hammond served as the Chief Academic Officer at North Central Michigan College. Dr. Hammond's career has encompassed numerous leadership experiences in student and academic affairs across a variety of institutional settings with significant expertise in institutional research, curriculum alignment and development, and strategic planning. She began her career in residence life and student affairs.



MARGRET NORRIS '74 has been named the Chief Operating Officer at CommunityOne Bank in Charlotte, N.C. Norris's background in various areas of bank operations extends for over thirty years. Most recently, she has held the position of Senior Executive of Operations and Technology at CommunityOne Bank. Prior to coming to CommunityOne, Norris held the position of Senior Vice President Wholesale Merger Conversion Event Manager of Wells Fargo / Wachovia Bank. Norris, a 1974 alumnae of Thiel earned a B.A. in Accounting and Business. She is also a Certified Public Accountant.



LEWIS (LOU) CARBONE '71 was a keynote presenter at the United Arab Emirates Governmental summit in Dubai that brought together 4,500 attendees and 60 speakers from around the world. Experts from leading airlines, hotels, banks, architectural firms and tech companies shared how their companies are providing great experiences for their customers. Mr. Carbone's presentation was "The Secret: Delighting Your Customers." The organizers of the Dubai summit invited Mr. Carbone to speak at the conference because they knew of his long-standing reputation and expertise in the field of customer experience and customer experience management.



## Thiel Remembers...

AMY LORRAINE (JOHNSON) TUA '90, died in a car crash in 2013 but her memory will carry on thanks to her family and employer Children, Youth, and Family Services for Allegheny County. Her husband, Kenneth, started a campaign and raised \$3,200 to dedicate a children's playroom in her honor last January. Tua, 45, was a proud alumna, who always wore her class ring, and was asked back to Thiel on several occasions by her professors to sit on panels, as well as making an annual trip promoting and recruiting for Children, Youth, and Family Services for Allegheny County, her husband said.



## Class of '64 celebrates 50th reunion



First row: Carol McQueen (1), Bonnie Hardy Kays (2), Lois Schoenberger (3), Marian McCall (4), Gretchen Zotter (5), Susan Lytle Mueh (6), Anne Anderson (7), Jim Thomas (8), Jim Bock (9)  
 Second: Diane Yoder (10), Alice McCammon (11), Janet McClintock (12), Ginger Tourtellott (13)  
 Third: Marilyn Hutfilz (14), Laura Faith Bock (15), Susan Boehm (16), Linda Seckar (17), Ardeth Smackey (18)  
 Fourth: Linda Baine (19), Judy Crissman (20), Flora Ann Bensink (21), DeAn Foulk (22), Leslie Titzel (23)  
 Fifth: Jim Parker (24), John Reed (25), Bill Wise (26), Barbara Bernhardt (27), Bill Ghrist (28)  
 Sixth: Dave Hofius (29), Dave Dietz (30), Jim Frantz (31), Terry Myers (32)  
 Seventh: Jay Breckenridge (33), Bill Sellers (34), Ed Yates (35), Fred Musloff (36), Willis Woods (37)



# 'Coming home' to Thiel reawakens the most powerful memories

by Joe Nairn '79

BEFORE DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS, COMING HOME was the truest way to reconnect with family and friends. Phone calls are and were a poor substitute for the sights, smells and textures of home. But in today's digital age we can use Skype, FaceTime, or any of a number of communication technologies to connect over very long distances, making the face-to-face, place-to-place contact possible, if still incomplete. There is something about seeing, feeling, and smelling home that creates that sense of connectedness that digital technology only approximates.

I have lived outside western Pennsylvania for over 30 years now, but the sense of nostalgia, of "homecoming" that I get from even simple things like a Thiel College sign on Interstate 79 or 80 evokes strong feelings. My wife, Terri, laughed every time I honked the car horn in salute to the Thiel College exit signs, but it was an affirmation for me. No matter how much time passed, Thiel always held a special place in my life. I grew up there in many ways; intellectually, physically, emotionally, and personally, my career started at Thiel, my path as an adult; first credit card, first apartment lease, first utility bills, all began there.

There are as many Thiel perspectives as Thiel alumni. None of us experienced the college exactly the same way, yet we have all been shaped and sent forward with a shared history. For some of us that history might include a life-changing trip down Brother Martin's Walk, an unforgettable tour with the Thiel Choir, the shared lessons learned on athletic teams, the enduring bonds of Greek life, while we all experienced different lives at Thiel it is still "home" in an important, if symbolic sense.

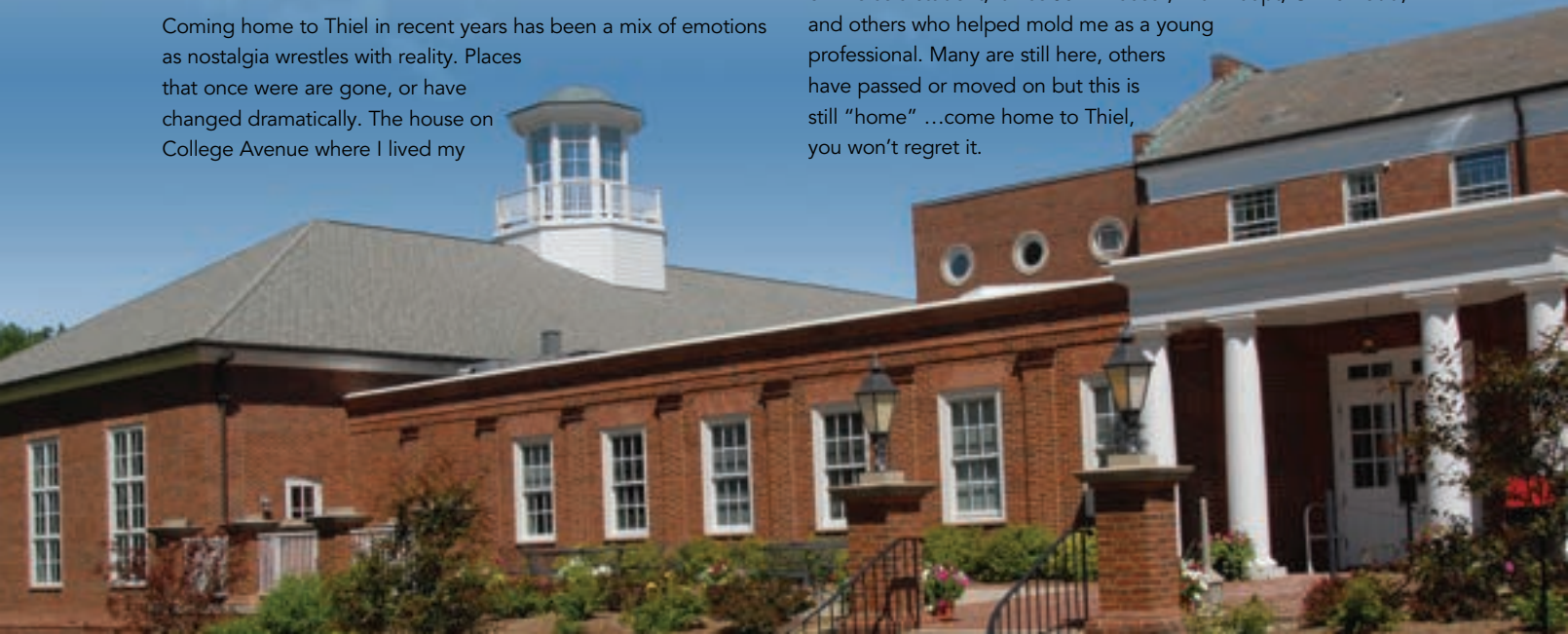
Coming home to Thiel in recent years has been a mix of emotions as nostalgia wrestles with reality. Places that once were are gone, or have changed dramatically. The house on College Avenue where I lived my

"I'm comin' home,  
Made up my mind  
That's what I'm gonna do  
Can't love nobody on the telephone  
I'm comin' home to you"

~ROBERT EARL KEEN

senior year is gone, home now to the Chapel (ironic, I know). But Greenville Hall still stands at the heart of the campus. The rocks are still painted by campus groups. The spirit of the campus persists, no matter how the physical landscape changes. As Thomas Wolfe noted far more eloquently than I am capable, you can't go, "back home to the old forms and systems of things which once seemed everlasting but which are changing all the time"... however we return to see a Thiel that is "changing all the time" while remaining fixed in our memory.

Come home. Come home to Thiel and relive memories, create new memories, and visit those places that meant so much as we grew into the selves we are now. Every alum I speak to has a Thiel story, a place, an event, a professor who shaped them, an experience that gave their life meaning or direction. For me, it was Al Hull, Dave Miller, Bob Olson, and Sunny Wilt who made impressions on me as a student, it was John Hauser, Dick Haupt, Omro Todd, and others who helped mold me as a young professional. Many are still here, others have passed or moved on but this is still "home" ...come home to Thiel, you won't regret it.



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## For the Archives



### Football find

These photos did not come from the Thiel College archive, but they have been added to it. A grandchild of Charles '43 and Agnes (McDonald) Peterson '43 found several pictures of what according to the notations on the back of the photographs is Thiel College's 1947 Homecoming game against Edinboro. The relative was going through his grandparent's belongings and found several pictures from this game and forwarded them on to Thiel College.