

The Bell

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

**President Troy D. VanAken
announces \$60 million goal
for the largest fundraising
campaign in College's history** p. 24





MOVE-IN DAY MEMORIES, AUGUST 21



LIGHT OF THE WORLD, WORD OF GOD

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24 COVER STORY: INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

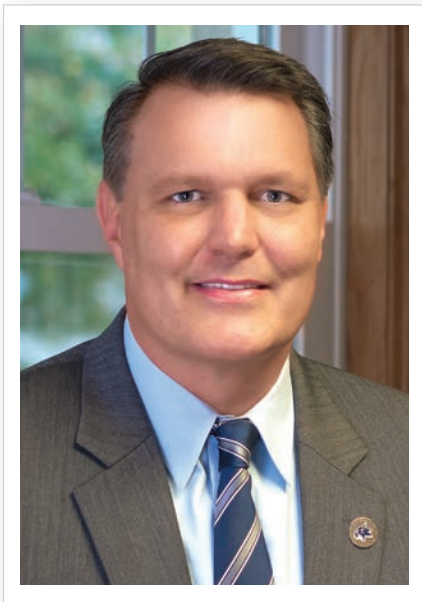
Gifts large and small are pushing Thiel College near its goal for the largest campaign in school history.



Rich Rock Media, LLC

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A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the leaves begin to fall and the temperature drops, my heart is warmed by your generosity. I write to you having recently revealed the public phase of our *Thiel 2016* Capital Campaign at Homecoming in October. At the *Thiel 2016* Campaign Gala, I announced a school-record \$55 million has been raised since the quiet phase of the campaign started July 1, 2009. We are within reach of our \$60 million goal by the end of 2016. Thank you for your help and continued support as we approach the finish line! (Read more about the *Thiel 2016* Capital Campaign on page 24.)

In addition to the Gala, there were many events to enjoy during our “Forever Gold” Homecoming Weekend. Highlights included our annual Blue-Gold Golf Outing, a Student and Alumni Networking Reception, the dedication of our newly renovated dining hall (now called TC Café), the Alumni Awards Luncheon and the Homecoming Parade. (Read more about Homecoming Weekend on page 10.)

We had six students work with faculty members over the summer to conduct research on various topics. These academic pursuits were funded by **Fred Haer '66** and his wife, **Jill (Shackett) Haer '66**, as part of a three-year gift to fund undergraduate research. (Read more on page 6.)

Thiel also welcomed six new full-time faculty members to campus this fall. These new faculty members allow us to maintain our small student-faculty ratio, while bringing fresh perspectives to our institution. (Read more on page 9.)

Excitement continues to grow for our upcoming sesquicentennial celebration in 2016. Festivities will commence with Founders' Day on Feb. 4, 2016. I invite you to join us for this event, and stay to enjoy Winter Weekend, featuring our 6th annual Black & White Ball, on Feb. 5-6, 2016. A full schedule of upcoming alumni events is available online at www.thiel.edu/alumni/events.

Again, thank you for your continued interest and support of Thiel College. Please enjoy this copy of *The Bell* and have a blessed holiday season!

Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.
President of Thiel College



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The Bell

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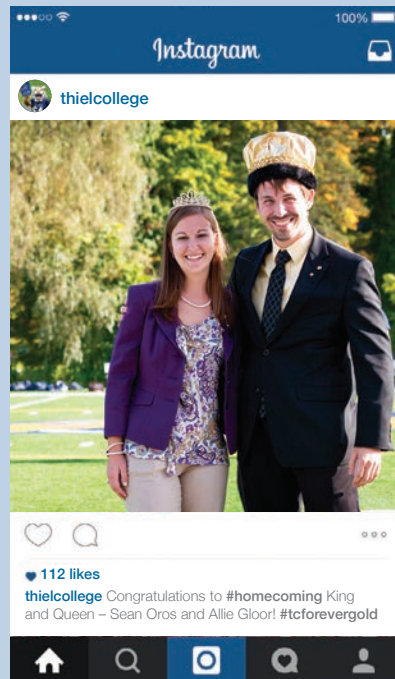
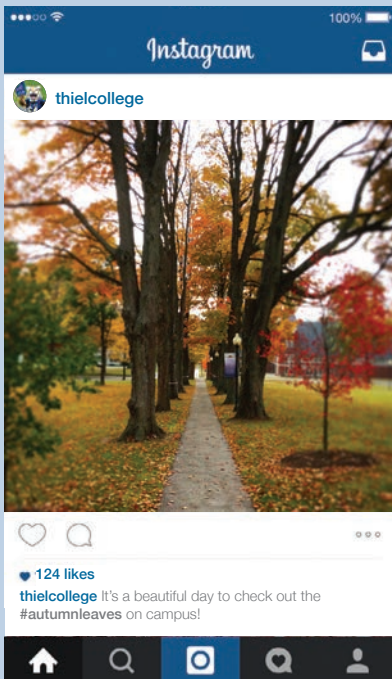
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As Seen on Instagram

Football games and fall foliage were the top posts on the Thiel College Instagram this semester.



Letters to the editor

Thiel College welcomes feedback from you regarding *The Bell*. Letters must contain a contact number (not for publication, but to allow for verification of sender). Letters can be mailed to **Thiel College Office of Communications and Marketing, 75 College Avenue, Greenville, PA 16125**; or e-mailed to pr@thiel.edu. Due to the volume of correspondence, we are unable to respond to or publish all mail received. Letters accepted for publication may be edited for length and clarity.

Get connected

You can find Thiel College on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **YouTube** and **Instagram**!



For news year-round, visit www.thiel.edu/newsroom.

Business Department and Haller Award Recipients Reunion ends summer on high note



Thiel College hosted its first-ever Business Department and Haller Award Recipients Reunion in early August. Nearly 30 alumni and friends of the College attended a dinner party to kick off the event on Friday, Aug. 7. The **Professor David Miller, M.B.A. '61** impersonation contest, which was won by **Professor Gary Witosky, C.P.A., C.G.M.A., M.Acc. '79**, and a special lecture by Miller were among the next day's highlights. Other events included a campus tour, a panel discussion on the state of the department and a reunion social.

The panel discussion included Miller, Witosky and three former professors from the department: **John Logan, C.P.A. '65**,

Jesse Ligo Jr., M.B.A., and **Joseph Scarpitti, M.B.A. '80**. During their time as Thiel students, Logan and Scarpitti attended courses taught by Miller. Miller said:

“One of the highlights of my 53 years at Thiel has been the opportunity for me to teach with former students.”

The most popular “takeaway” from the weekend may have been the limited edition Professor Miller bobbleheads that were made as souvenirs for those attending. A signed No. 1 edition later sold for \$500 in the *Thiel 2016 Campaign Gala* silent auction.

1 Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller, M.B.A. '61** addresses a near capacity crowd in the Stamm Lecture Hall 2 Professor of Business Administration and Accounting **Angelo A. Giannini, M.B.A.**, Board of Trustees member **Michael Zawoysky '79** and Vice President for Finance and Management **Bob Schmoll, M.B.A.** 3 Former Thiel College President **Robert Olson, Ph.D. '60, H'09** and **Jack Kuchcinski '99** 4 Chair of the Department of Business Administration and Accounting and Professor **Gary Witosky, C.P.A., C.G.M.A., M.Acc. '79** won the Prof. Miller impersonation contest. **Jim Frank '88** (left) and **Tom Lavelle '85** were the other top finishers in the contest. 5 **Damen Taylor '95**, former professor **Jesse Ligo Jr., M.B.A.**, and **Elizabeth Prada '04** 6 **Joseph Scarpitti, M.B.A. '80** and Board of Trustees member **Rick Huether '74** 7 Miller, Witosky, **John Logan, C.P.A. '65**, Ligo, Giannini and Scarpitti participate in a panel discussion 8 Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**, Miller, **Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71** and **Ruth Miller** at the welcome dinner 9 The weekend began with dinner at the Gallery Grille in Greenville, with nearly 30 in attendance 10 Lavelle brought a surprise for his impersonation—a “Miller’s of Mercer” jersey 11 **Brett Smith '14** and Miller smile with the most popular item from the weekend—the Prof. Miller bobblehead 12 **Sandy '81** and **Rich Parker '82**, wearing his Prof. Miller “Taking Care of Business” t-shirt



Watch a highlights video at www.thiel.edu/businessreunionvideo

View photos from the weekend at www.thiel.edu/businessreunionphotos

A Summer of Research



Assistant Professor of Biology **Delbert Abi Abdallah, Ph.D.**, worked on two separate projects for the institute. His first project looked into white blood cell defense against a specific pathogen. Biology major **Catherine McCormick '16**, of Cleveland, Ohio, was the apprentice researcher.

The research observed listeria—a food-borne bacterial pathogen that infects humans and can cause severe illness or death—and the pathogenicity of listeria bacterial strains that have some virulence factors deleted. The research focused on the immune response to these bacteria by looking at white blood cell defense mechanisms.

For his second research project, Abi Abdallah worked with biology/pre-medicine major **Beverley Kozuch '17**, of Templeton, Pa. They cloned genes of a parasite that puts more than 200 million people globally at risk for the potentially fatal disease Leishmaniasis.

Abi Abdallah and Kozuch collaborated with a faculty member at the University of Florida, who plans to use their findings as part of a larger study aimed at understanding the biochemical interaction through which some anti-parasitic drugs produce their pharmacological effects. Leishmaniasis is endemic in around 100 countries, affecting mainly those in Asia, Africa, South and Central America, and southern Europe.

Abi Abdallah earned a Bachelor of Science with a major in microbiology and cell science and a minor in chemistry from the University of Florida. He completed his graduate studies with a doctorate in immunology and infectious disease from Cornell University (2011). He was an adjunct professor at Tompkins Cortland Community College from 2013-2014 and also a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell from 2011-2013.



Assistant Professor of Psychology **Shannon Deets, Ph.D.**, researched how the brain is affected by dance that incorporates authentic movement. Psychology majors **Kourtney Polvinale '16**, of Brownsville, Pa., and **Kelsey Meyer '18**, of Cambridge Springs, Pa., were apprentice researchers on the project.

Deets' research, "Altered Consciousness Induced through Authentic Movement," looked at the electrical changes that take place in the cerebral cortex, as well as the physical, psychological, and spiritual experience of individuals who alter their consciousness while dancing.

"The GNC Faculty/Student Research Institute will significantly advance faculty-led research, provide yet another opportunity for the collaborative, hands-on learning that is a Thiel College hallmark of excellence, and prepare our students for advanced problem-solving," Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College Lynn Franken, Ph.D., said.

Deets focused on dance that utilizes authentic movement. Authentic movement is an expressive improvisational activity that is similar to dancing, but is spurred by internal stimuli. Findings from this study are being applied toward future research aimed at creating integrative therapeutic treatments for a variety of mental health and physical ailments—specifically autism, trauma and Parkinson's disease.

Deets has a bachelor's degree from Allegheny College, with a major in biology. She completed her master's in community counseling and her doctorate in counseling psychology at Gannon University. She is a licensed professional counselor and has completed additional training in psychotherapy, dialectical behavior therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy, hypnotherapy and a variety of types of play therapy.



Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Chris Stanisky, Ph.D.**, and biology major **Amber Martin '17**, of Allison Park, Pa., built a device to measure chemical reactions that take place in a microsecond, and then conducted experiments with the device.

"Many chemical reactions are so fast they are complete within a tiny fraction of a second, but modern electronics are sufficiently sophisticated to study these processes," Stanisky said. "Because the intermediates in these reactions exist for very short time intervals, we say they are 'transient.' This summer, a transient absorption spectrometer [was] built using pulsed light-emitting diodes to study fast chemical and biochemical reactions."

Now that the spectrometer is constructed, students and faculty can conduct other experiments.

Stanisky has a Bachelor of Arts with majors in chemistry and Latin and a minor in ancient Greek from Franklin and Marshall College. He received his doctorate in physical chemistry from Yale University. He conducted post-doctoral research at the University of Notre Dame.



Assistant Professor of Performing Arts **Pete Rydberg, Ph.D.**, and **Austin Hall '17** are collaborating on a research-based literary project. This work will ultimately yield a historical stage drama that explores the events that led to the Nazi Party's rise to power in post-World War I Germany. Hall, of Beaver Falls, Pa., is an English literature major and Presidential Scholar.

The docudrama will examine how evolving Germanic traditions simultaneously strengthened and undermined the stability of the Weimar Republic (1919-1933). The collapse of the Weimar Republic in 1933 opened the door for Nazi Party government control in Germany. Docudrama, sometimes called documentary theater or verbatim theater, attempts to capture complex social dynamics and movements using still images, video, audio

recordings and written texts as foundational material for the performance. This is the first phase of a more comprehensive research project to be headed by Hall that will result in a stage production.

Rydberg and Hall spent a week at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. collecting primary sources (documents, images, oral histories and videos) from the era as the first part of developing the documentary theater performance. The pair continues to work together on the outline of the performance piece. The final theatrical production will be presented in the 2016-2017 academic year.

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



Assistant Professor of English **Jared Johnson, Ph.D.**, traveled to Washington, D.C. to conduct research at the Folger Shakespeare Library. His research explored the concept of spiritual bondage in Christopher Marlowe's "Doctor Faustus" and Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Johnson investigated how the historical, social and psychological influences on early modern English theater audiences shaped their understanding of the supernatural. Johnson is writing an article for publication based on his research.

Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in English and philosophy from Flagler College, a master's in English from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and a doctorate in English and cultural studies from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. He was a study abroad assistant for the University of Georgia at Oxford Program in Oxford, England, and was a Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Watch the faculty mentors explain their projects on YouTube – visit www.thiel.edu/GNCresearchvideos

Inaugural Summer Media Camp held in James Pedas Communication Center



Thiel College's inaugural summer media camp for high school students took place July 13-17. Camp attendees worked with the state-of-the-art equipment in the James Pedas Communication Center to produce television and radio public service announcements (PSAs).

Area high school students **Taylor Saxton**, **Katie Hightree** and **Jimmy Bianco** attended the day camp focused on developing media creativity. The students worked with Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Accounting **Karen Shaffer, M.B.A.**, Media Production Engineer **Michael McElroy** and media communication major **Trent Keisling '15**.

"The summer media camp was a great opportunity for high school students to work together as a team, using advanced technology, to create radio and TV PSAs," McElroy said.

The students premiered their ads in front of about 20 family members, friends and College staff on the last day. Plans are underway for another summer media camp in 2016.

Thiel College group 'rises up' in Detroit in July



Cole Smith '18, **Melissa Allen '18**, **Pastor Jayne Thompson, M.Div., M.A., R.D.T.**, and **Joshua Kenst '18** took a photo with **The Reverend Elizabeth A. Eaton, M.Div. H'15** (center). Eaton is the first female presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and was the 2015 Commencement speaker at Thiel College.

Pastor Thompson and a contingent of Thiel College students and staff were among the 30,000 people in attendance at the ELCA's Youth Gathering in Detroit this July. The ELCA Youth Gathering brought together high school students and their adult leaders. The Gathering is a triennial event that takes place over five days and includes opportunities for worship, service, fellowship, study and holy play.

Campus Ministry is holding RiseUp at Thiel College, a follow-up event on campus Dec. 4. The event will overlap with the annual dome opener, include an overnight lock-in in the Lutheran Heritage Room and wrap up with service work at St. Paul's, a local continuing care community. To learn more, visit www.thiel.edu/riseup.

Summer brings campus improvements, Tomcat hijinks



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the newly minted TC Café during Homecoming weekend. Pictured (L to R) are AVI Fresh Resident Director **Jason Roller**, Vice President for Finance and Management **Bob Schmoll, M.B.A.**, President **Troy D. VanAken**, Student Government Association President **Kelsey Schneider '16**, and Vice President of Student Life **Mike McKinney, M.S.Ed. '02**.

Summer is always a great time for repairs and remodeling on campus, and this past summer was no exception. More than \$2 million in renovations were completed from May to August.

Project Highlights

- New equipment, cabinetry, flooring, chairs and serving lines installed in TC Café
- A new locker room, laundry room and boilers in the athletic facilities
- A unified space for Information Technology in the Academic Center
- A sidewalk along the north side of Amelia Earhart Drive
- A new cooling system, HVAC control system, carpet replacement, refurbished seats and a refinished stage in The William A. Passavant Memorial Center
- Various campus beautification and residence hall projects

The most memorable aspect of the summer improvements may have been the video that promoted them. Tommy Tomcat's dream sequence video that highlighted the summer projects was one of the most-viewed videos on the Thiel College YouTube channel this year. The lighthearted video was produced in-house at the James Pedas Communication Center by Media Production Engineer **Michael McElroy** and media communication major **Trent Keisling '15**.



New professors join Thiel College faculty

Kristin M. Carlson, Ph.D., was named assistant professor of languages and Chair of the Department of Languages. Carlson was a lecturer at Purdue University in 2014 and 2015, and graduate lecturer from 2009-2014 at Purdue. She received her B.A. in Spanish literature from Rider University and earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish linguistics from Purdue University.

Dane S. Claussen, Ph.D., is the Pedas Endowed Chair in Communication and professor of communication. He also serves as the executive director of the James Pedas Communication Center. Claussen was most recently a visiting professor of international journalism, School of Journalism and Communication, Shanghai International Studies University in China. While there, he designed the English-language master's program, Chinese Media and Global Corporate Communications. Claussen holds a B.S. in journalism from the University of Oregon. His graduate work includes an M.B.A. in corporate finance and labor relations/human resources from the University of Chicago and an M.S. in mass communications from Kansas State University. He earned his Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of Georgia.

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Shannon Deets, Ph.D.**, moved from visiting professor to tenure-track professor this academic year. Deets' research into dance's effect on the brain was one of six summer research projects that were part of the inaugural Greenville Neuromodulation Center (GNC) Faculty/Student Research Institute. Deets has a B.S. from Allegheny College, with a major in biology. She received her M.S. in community counseling and her Ph.D. in counseling psychology at Gannon University. She is a licensed professional counselor.

Christopher Fonner, Ph.D., joined the faculty as assistant professor of biology. He had been a teaching assistant at Duquesne University since 2009. Fonner received his Ph.D. in biology from Duquesne University (2015) and a B.S. in biology from Gannon University (2009).

Sheila Nowinski, Ph.D., joined Thiel as assistant professor of history this fall. Nowinski was most recently an assistant professor of history at Siena Heights University. She received her Ph.D. (2012) and M.A. (2008) in history from the University of Notre Dame. She also studied at Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium in 2003 after getting her B.A. from Boston College.

Noted Pittsburgh filmmaker **Ross Nugent, M.F.A.**, was added as assistant professor of communication. Nugent's experimental documentary "Steel Mill Rolling" was awarded a Jury's Choice first prize in documentary for the 2014 Black Maria Film Festival. Before coming to Thiel College, he was an adjunct faculty member at Pittsburgh Filmmakers and the University of Maryland University College. Nugent received a B.A. in film studies from the University of Pittsburgh in 2003. He earned his M.F.A. in film from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2011.

Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D., was named assistant professor of psychology. She earned her Ph.D. (2012) and M.A. (2009) in experimental social and health psychology from Kent State University. She received her B.A. in psychology from Waynesburg University (2007). Read more about Gallagher on page 18.

New full-time and adjunct faculty members joined each other for a group photo during New Faculty Orientation in late August. Pictured (L to R) are Claussen, Gallagher, volunteer Professor of Health and Physical Education **Jack Hayes**, Director of Student Health Services and adjunct Professor of Biology **Christine Cianci, R.N., B.S.N., M.S.**, Nugent, Carlson, Fonner and Nowinski.

Homecoming Goes *Gold*

The “Forever Gold” theme could be found everywhere during Homecoming 2015. The table settings, parade floats and even the Homecoming King crown stayed true to the theme.

The weekend kicked off Friday, Oct. 9 with two special events to unveil the public phase of the College’s *Thiel 2016 Campaign*. **President Troy D. VanAken** shared the news with the campus community in the morning and hosted a black tie *Thiel 2016 Campaign Gala* event for alumni, donors, friends and staff Friday evening. Friday’s schedule also included student and alumni networking events, various receptions, and culminated with a student pep rally and bonfire.

Saturday, Oct. 10 included traditions old and new. The 50th class reunion was held for the Class of 1965 in the morning. Shortly after, the Galleria Cafeteria received a new name at a dedication—the cafeteria was officially dubbed TC Café, based on student votes.

The Alumni Awards Ceremony, traditionally held on Friday night, debuted a luncheon format on Saturday. The event honored **Frank Maenpa, Ph.D. ’69**, **Paul Stibich ’05**, **Amanda (Rooney) Stierli ’07** and Phi Theta Phi alumni. Read more about the alumni award winners on page 42. The parade followed. Various reunions, the Tomcat Kids Zone, a football game and marching band performance also occurred Saturday.

The weekend ended Sunday in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel with the annual Service of Remembrance. *See you next year!*









1 Kayla Doran '17, Amanda Zimmerman '17, Courtney Logan '17, Jalaya Provitt '16, Kourtney Polvinale '16, Student Government Association President Kelsey Schneider '16, Kayla Cyphert '16 and Michael Russo '16
 2 Alexandra McClurg, MPAS, PA-C '12, Career Counselor Kelly Sanzari, M.A. '13 and Justin Scarpitti '11
 3 Morgan Gray '17, Hogan Zegarelli '17, Mika Pogosian '17, John Thiel '18 and Colin Murphy '16
 4 Alumni Board Secretary Dawn Salter '95, Alumni Board member Deborah Ajak Mogle '75, David Mogle '71 and Alumni Board member Damen Taylor '95
 5 Board of Associates member Matt Saur, J.D. '11, Board of Trustees member Rick Huether '74 and David Saur, M.S. '11
 6 Thiel 2016 Campaign Gala table setting
 7 President Troy D. VanAken, former Chair of the Board of Trustees Edward Bartko '72 and current Chair of the Board of Trustees Barry Stamm, M.D. '70
 8 Robert Burns, M.D. '74, Director of Athletics Jack Leipheimer '74 and Huether
 9 Rod Wilt '86, Pennsylvania State Senator Michele Brooks and Pennsylvania House of Representatives member Mark Longiotti
 10 Greg Zimmerman, J.D., and wife, Kelly
 11 Treasurer of the Board of Trustees

George "Chip" Dufala '92 and wife, Amy
 12 Dr. Annette VanAken and President VanAken
 13 Antonio Quarterman '08 and wife, Jessica
 14 Executive Director of the Capital Campaign Roberta Leonard and Associate Academic Dean and Professor of Psychology Jennifer Griffin, Ph.D.
 15 Professor David Miller, M.B.A. '61, Beth Ann (Knauss) Stormer '85 and Doug Stormer '85
 16 Terri Nairn, Associate Director of Athletics Amy Schafer, M.S., and Alumni Board President Joseph Nairn, D.Mgt. '79
 17 John Mouganis, Rebecca Mouganis and Stamm
 18 Joe George and Ruthanne Beighley, Esq. '73
 19 President VanAken announces the Thiel 2016 Campaign
 20 Eric Newman '99 and wife, Rachel
 21 Patricia Turcic, Board of Trustees member Barry Oman '74 and Patricia Murrin
 22 More than 100 alumni, friends, faculty and staff members attended the Thiel 2016 Campaign Gala
 23 AVI Fresh Resident Director Jason Roller, Vice President of Student Life Mike McKinney, M.S.Ed. '02, Schneider, President VanAken, Vice President for Finance and Management Bob Schmoll, M.B.A., and Director of Facilities Michael Shultz
 24 Class of '65 50th Reunion
 25 Izabella Griffith '15 and Spirit Coordinator

Kristie Hayes '26 Irene Hooks '18 and Carissa Jones '18 with a friend
 27 Rae (Weiss) Johnson '59, former Thiel College President Robert Olson, Ph.D. '60, H'09, and Bill Matthews '74
 28 Joslyne Cook '14, Loyal Jasper '16, Spencer Sulick '15, Katie Shaffer '17, Hannah Fernandez '16, Marissa Damon '15, Cassie Cook '15 and Katelyn Brunsgaard '17
 29 Equestrian Club
 30 Ashley Guillory '17 and Kenady Hubbard '16
 31 Phi Theta Phi alumni and students
 32 Tommy Tomcat
 33 Sigma Tau Delta English Club
 34 Organization of Black Collegians (O.B.C.)
 35 Megan Lee '19
 36 Administrative Assistant to the President Linda Nochtka
 37 Jordan Jeter '38 Homecoming Queen Allie Gloor '16 and King Sean Oros '15
 39 The Homecoming Court congratulates the Homecoming King and Queen after announcement
 40 Game Day Honoree and Board of Trustees member Ron Owen '71 kisses daughter, Lauren, at halftime
 41 The drum line participates in a drum battle
 42 Karen (Scroggins) Murdock '06, Dana VanKirk, M.Ed. '05, Tina Turner '07 and Marqueshia Torbert '07
 43 The Thiel Tomcats take the field
 44 Homecoming Court
 45 A group of alumni prepare for the parade



Attorney specializing in food and drug law named 2015 Haller Entrepreneur of the Year

James M. Parker, M.S., Ph.D., J.D. '64 was named the 2015 Thiel College Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year.

Parker is an attorney concentrating in food and drug law and President of Strategic Bioscience Corporation. He was honored at the annual Haller Enterprise Institute's dinner on Nov. 4.

The award was presented by **President Troy D. VanAken** and **Professor David Miller, M.B.A. '61**, executive director of the Haller Enterprise Institute. Members of the Haller Institute Advisory Board, as well as students from the Haller entrepreneurial class and Haller Scholarship recipients, were among the attendees.

"Dr. Parker is an adventurer, a committed scientist and leading authority in food and drug issues," VanAken said.

VanAken encouraged students to take note of Parker's accomplishments and consider the impact they could have on their own professional and entrepreneurial growth.

"Dr. Parker's lifelong academic explorations continue to open doors for him and lead to a fascinating life," Miller said.

Parker recognized and thanked the Thiel College faculty who were influential in his life's journey.

Parker has been President of Strategic Bioscience Corporation since 1994. He graduated from Thiel with a B.A. in biology. He received his M.S. in pharmacology and toxicology, and Ph.D. in pharmaceutical chemistry at Duquesne University. He started law school at Duquesne and graduated from the New England School of Law. He worked in the pharmaceutical industry with Telor Ophthalmic Research, Fisons Corporation and Fisons PLC for more than 12 years. At Fisons, he was head of International Regulatory Affairs in the United Kingdom and later Senior Vice President of Research and Development (U.S.). He has been in private regulatory affairs and legal practice since 1989. He is an adjunct at Boston College School of Law and has lectured domestically and internationally on food and drug issues.

Now in its 21st year, the Thiel College Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year award is given annually to a business owner who has demonstrated entrepreneurial leadership. The Haller Enterprise Institute—originally named the Thiel College Enterprise Institute when it was organized in 1983—was renamed in 1996 when Pittsburgh residents **Dr. Henry E.** and **Grace Mary Haller** provided a \$1 million gift to develop entrepreneurial education at Thiel College.

Parker lives in Stowe, Mass. with his wife, **Lynne**. They have three adult children.



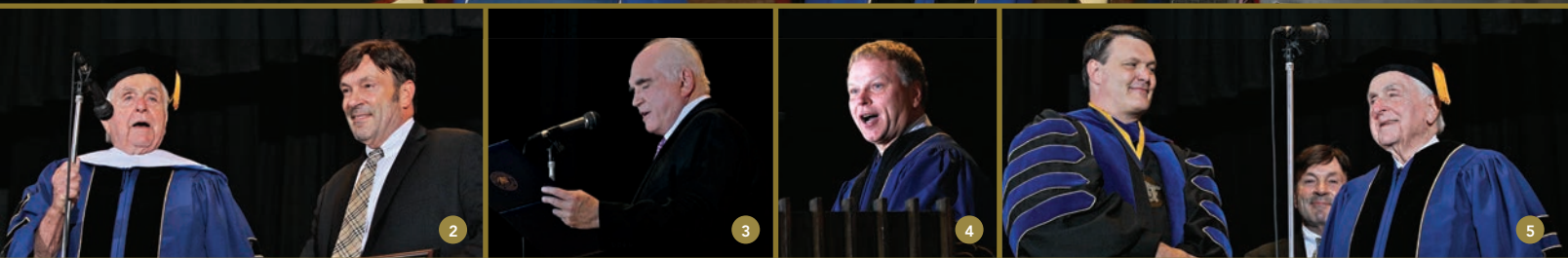
1 President Troy D. VanAken, 2015 Haller Entrepreneur of the Year **James M. Parker, M.S., Ph.D., J.D. '64**, and **Professor David Miller, M.B.A. '61**. Miller is the executive director of the Haller Enterprise Institute. **2** Parker with Board of Trustees member **Dale Deist, M.B.A.** Deist received the Haller Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2008. **3** **Andrew Thomas '16**, **Dylan Stevens '16** and Professor of Business Administration and Accounting **Angelo A. Giannini, M.B.A.** **4** Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Accounting **Karen Shaffer, M.B.A.**, Associate Dean of Career Development **Martin Black** and **Sean Ors '15**



Learn more about the Haller Enterprise Institute Advisory Board (top left), Entrepreneurial class (top center) and 2015-2016 Haller Scholarship recipients (top right) at www.thiel.edu/haller2015



Greenville businessman Childs awarded honorary degree at Honors Convocation



Exiting Board Chair Benninghoff '82 delivered keynote address

Thiel College honored Bail USA, Inc. founder and Chairman of the Board **Dr. Harvey Childs H'15** with an honorary degree at its Academic Honors Convocation on Nov. 6 in the William A. Passavant Memorial Center.

Childs has been a licensed bail agent for 50 years, and Bail USA has been a landmark Greenville business for most of that time. Today, it is a national bail bond underwriter for a billion-dollar, blue-chip insurance company.

Childs is an active and engaged member of the Thiel College community. He supports and participates in many on-campus activities. He was awarded the 2013 Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to Thiel College. Childs obtained a B.A. degree in Hispanic studies from the University of Seville in Spain and an M.A. degree from the Cultural Institute of San Lorenzo. He is fluent in five languages and enjoys Spanish and American history.

"Harvey has been a strong and consistent advocate for the institution and its students. He is a mentor to the young men and women of the College," **President Troy D. VanAken** said. "This is a richly deserved honor that recognizes the profound impact Harvey has had on Thiel College and the community. His contributions to Thiel have benefited our students, and in turn the world our graduates become citizens of."

During the ceremony, U.S. Representative **Mike Kelly**, R-3, presented a flag to Childs that had flown over the United States Capitol in Childs' honor. Retired Pennsylvania Supreme Court Chief Justice **Stephen Zappala Sr.** was also in attendance.

"I've gotten a lot of pieces of paper from colleges, but never one from my favorite college," Childs said at the ceremony. "Now I have it!"

The ceremony also featured former Chair of the Board of Trustees **Mark Benninghoff, M.B.A. '82** as the keynote speaker. He served as Chair from 2012 until this November. Benninghoff has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2006 and will serve one more year on the board.

Benninghoff's address focused on the extensive contact he had with Thiel in many different capacities. His relationship began as a member of the community—growing up in Fredonia, Pa. just seven miles from campus—then as a Thiel student, Board of Associates member, a Trustee, and most recently as Chair of the Board of Trustees.

He recognized and thanked many people he said were responsible for making him successful today, including his parents, grandparents, and **Professor David Miller, M.B.A. '61**.

Benninghoff is an associate director at Navigant Consulting. He lives in Pittsburgh with his husband, **David E. Kauffman, M.D.**, and their two children, **Carter** and **Charlotte**.

1 **Dr. Harvey Childs H'15** (right) enters the Honors Convocation with former Thiel College President **Robert Olson, Ph.D. '60 H'09** **2** Childs' son, **Alan P. Childs, M.A., Psy.D.**, joined him on stage during the ceremony **3** U.S. Representative **Mike Kelly**, R-3, delivers a special gift to Childs **4** Former Chair of the Board of Trustees **Mark Benninghoff, M.B.A. '82** shares his Thiel College journey in the keynote address **5** **President Troy D. VanAken** looks on as Childs begins a heartfelt speech about his "favorite college"



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Faculty and Staff News



Claussen book review printed in *Journalism History*

Professor of Communication **Dane Claussen, Ph.D.**, continued his academic research on anti-intellectualism in the American media with a book review published this summer.

A leading academic on the subject, Claussen reviewed Aaron Lecklider's "Inventing the Egghead: The Battle over Brainpower in American Culture" for the summer 2015 edition of *Journalism History*. The journal is published four times a year by the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University.

Claussen has created various papers and panel presentations at national conferences on the same topic. He is the author of "Anti-intellectualism in American Media: Magazines & Higher Education," which was based on his 1999 doctoral dissertation. It was the first study devoted to anti-intellectualism in the U.S. news media since the late George Hage's doctoral dissertation in 1956.

Claussen is also the Pedas Endowed Chair in Communication and executive director of the James Pedas Communication Center. More information on Claussen is available in the new faculty article on page 9.



Courtemanche research collaboration published in *The Washington Post*

The research that Assistant Professor of Political Science **Marie Courtemanche, Ph.D.**, and her collaborators conducted led to articles in three different publications—most notably *The Washington Post*.

Courtemanche and her co-authors were published in the Sept. 29 edition of *The Washington Post* as part of their analysis of Pope Francis and his visit to the United States. The article, "This chart explains why Pope Francis' call to welcome immigrants probably won't make a difference," was based on research printed in the spring edition of the *American Political Science Review* (APSR).

Courtemanche collaborated with **Pazit Ben-Nun Bloom, Ph.D.**, of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and **Gizem Arikan, Ph.D.**, of Yasar University on the paper "Religious Social Identity, Religious Belief and Anti-Immigration Sentiment," which was published in the APSR. The research for that paper also inspired a piece published online in August, "Praying for both teams: How religion both facilitates and dampens anti-immigration sentiment," for the London School of Economics.

Courtemanche has a Ph.D. from Stony Brook University and a B.A. in economics and political science from the University of New Hampshire. She taught at Texas Christian University, Providence College and Marietta College before coming to Thiel.



Hall book review appears in *Sixteenth Century Journal*

Professor of English and Faculty Chair **Mary Theresa Hall, Ph.D.**, had her book review of "Early Modern Writing and the Privatisation of Experience" by Nick Davis published in a leading journal on 16th-century literary issues.

The review ran in the spring 2015 edition of *Sixteenth Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*. In publication since 1969, the journal prints about 25 articles and more than 400 book reviews each year.

A reader of Davis' work will be impressed by the comparative analysis and research skills in his book and, if willing to invest in drawing connections among the various subjects discussed in the book, will realize the wide range of customs, ideologies, and communal experiences that permeate the Renaissance and contemporary time, Hall said.

Hall received her bachelor's degree in English and secondary certification in English and French from Seton Hill University; a master's in literature from Carnegie Mellon University; and a Ph.D. in English from Duquesne University.



Ashley promoted to Vice President for Technology and Marketing

Kurt Ashley, M.B.A., was promoted to Vice President for Technology and Marketing in October. In this new role, Ashley continues to lead the Information Technology division, which includes the Office of Communications and Marketing. He is a member of the President's Cabinet.

Ashley joined the College in 2011 as Chief Information Officer (CIO). During his tenure as CIO, he oversaw an institutional website redesign, pioneered the first campus-wide portal solution, boosted wireless networking with a 500-plus percent increase in access points, and led a 10-fold increase in internet bandwidth. Under his leadership, the Information Technology division also completed phone and email system transitions.

In February, his oversight expanded to include the Office of Communications and Marketing. This strategic realignment resulted in utilizing new digital advertising

mediums, an increased online video presence, and additional local and regional media coverage.

"I'm delighted to welcome Kurt into his new role at the College," said **President Troy D. VanAken**. "I've had the pleasure of previously working with Kurt at Albion College and it's been rewarding to see his professional and personal growth over the years. I'm very proud of the innovations he has accomplished and am excited for what's next with technology and marketing under his lead."

Ashley holds a master's degree in business administration from Cleveland State University and a bachelor's in business administration with a management of information technology major from Cleary University. Before arriving at Thiel, Ashley served as Director of Systems and Networking at Albion College, and also held positions in business and the healthcare industry. He resides in Clark, Pa. with his wife, **Denise**.



Sanzari '13 returns to campus as Career Counselor

Kelly Sanzari, M.A. '13 joined the Career Development Center (CDC) staff as a career counselor in July. She is working with Associate Dean of Career Development **Martin Black** on strengthening the CDC's programs, growing internship opportunities for students and increasing post-graduation career placement for alumni.

She is also collaborating with Black on Thiel's four-year blueprint, which is a personalized plan that takes students from the first to fourth year on campus with dedicated and goal-specific career counseling.

"Kelly's own very positive experiences as a student at Thiel provide her with unique insights into our current students' strengths and needs. I couldn't be happier with her addition to the the career center team," Black said. "She will be a key part of the Career Development Center's mission to provide top-tier services to students, alumni and employers. Kelly has proven to be a stellar advocate for all three of our client groups."

Sanzari graduated from Thiel College in 2013 with a B.A. in business administration and has an M.A. from Slippery Rock University in student affairs in higher education. She has diverse experience in higher education, holding positions in the offices of Admission and College Advancement at Thiel College, Graduate Admissions at Slippery Rock University and Campus Life at Edinboro University.



New Faculty Profile

Kristel Gallagher

Kristel Gallagher has a doctorate in psychology. So it's no surprise her academic pursuits include conducting research on why some things are easier for students to recall when they take tests, whether our clothing has an effect on our choice of healthy or unhealthy behaviors, and how people motivate themselves to live healthier lifestyles.

However, one of her most popular projects isn't clinical. There are no numbers to crunch—no data to pore over. It's much more anecdotal. It's just about people.

Gallagher created "The Humans of Northeast Pennsylvania (NEPA)" Facebook project for her social psychology class at Keystone College, before she arrived at Thiel College this fall. It is modeled after the "Humans of New York" photography blog. The popular blog has spawned two books that have both been on *The New York Times* Best Seller list.

Gallagher's project sends students out into the world with a camera and a question. Some students ask strangers to consider introspective subject matter such as:

- "What was your best day ever?"
- "If you had to give someone younger than yourself advice, what would it be?"
- "Who is the most influential person in your life?"
- "What do you define as true happiness?"

While others ask more light and humorous questions:

- "If you could be any animal, what would it be?"
- "How does your mustache directly impact your life?"

A quick portrait is taken during the interview. The response and photo are uploaded to Facebook, and provide

interesting and sometimes moving glimpses into the subject's life.

"The Humans of NEPA Project" won an Action Teaching Award honorable mention from the Social Psychology Network. Gallagher is recreating the project at Thiel College. "The Humans of Western Pa." uses student-collected portraits and stories from regional personalities.

Gallagher said the project teaches her students the value of being genuine and that every face has a story. She hopes "to highlight the fundamental human core that connects us all as social beings and inspire tolerance and acceptance of our differences."

"I created this project and feel it is very much representative of my approach to teaching about psychology," Gallagher said.

“It makes psychology real. It makes psychology interactive and it makes a difference in the world.”

Gallagher hopes students come away with two key lessons from the project.

"The first is that, as the saying goes, it is nearly impossible to hate someone whose story you know. The second, of course, is to love thy neighbor," she said. "These are certainly values

we need to embrace in our culture today. The challenge for students with this assignment is to step out of their comfort zones and reach out to people in a way that is somewhat unconventional. By doing this, they discover a hidden world that is—and always has been—right in their backyards."

Gallagher received her B.A. in psychology from Waynesburg University (2007). She earned her Ph.D. (2012) and M.A. (2009) in experimental social and health psychology from Kent State University. She was a teaching fellow at Kent State before starting at Keystone College in 2012.

Gallagher has had a big impact in the classroom in the short time she has been teaching. At Kent State, she received the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Midwestern Association of Graduate Students. She also received the "HAPPIE" award from *Happenings Magazine* as the reader-voted "Best Professor in Northeast PA."

Gallagher said she hopes to bring depth and thoughtfulness to Thiel College everyday. It's also the kind of thing she saw as she was investigating Thiel College.

"I am excited to bring my enthusiasm for teaching to Thiel College, where this approach to the classroom is the norm, rather than the exception," Gallagher said. "I know I will continue to grow and flourish here."

Outside of the teaching arena, her scholarly work focuses on the application of social psychology to health. She is an avid runner and enjoys being active. Gallagher likes to bake and has two cats, "whom I adore and talk about more than I probably should."



Alpha Chi inducts new class

Twenty-three students were inducted into the Thiel College Pennsylvania Theta Chapter of Alpha Chi on Oct. 2 in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. Alpha Chi, a national honorary fraternity that recognizes students who have achieved high academic standing, is one of only four national scholarship societies admitting superior junior and senior students of all majors for membership. On the 290 campuses

with chapters, Alpha Chi membership is the highest academic honor that can be awarded. Candidates for membership must have taken a distribution of courses reflective of the liberal arts tradition. In addition, seniors must have earned at least 65 credit hours at Thiel, have an overall GPA of at least 3.6 and be in the top 10 percent of their class. Juniors must have earned at least 46 credit

hours at Thiel, have an overall GPA of at least 3.7 and be in the top five percent of their class.

The new inductees are **Katie Allgeier, Natalie Beckwith, Elizabeth Carlson, Robert Carpenter, Amanda Cavender, Nathan Flory, Audra Franley, Sara Gerdy, Austin Hall, Victoria Harrison, Victoria Hermann, Sarah Jones, Taylor Ketler, Megan Kidder, Daniel Koller, Amber Martin, Shane Martin, Sara Matczak, Ashley McMillen, Joshua Nichols, Kale Postlewait, Tiffany Rohm, Kelsey Schneider, Kasandra Shawgo** and **Hanna Tegel**.

Current members are **Nicholas Cox, Allison Gloor, Cassie Graham, Emily Howard, Lora Kay, Kathleen Kent, June Longbine, Daniel Nolte, Jaden Nozicka, Sean Oros, Kourtney Polvinale, Ashley Reynolds** and **Kiara Weltner**.

Delta Sigma Phi recognized by its national organization

Delta Sigma Phi fraternity was presented with three awards from its national organization. The chapter was awarded the Pyramid of Excellence as one of the top three performing chapters in the nation, the GPA Sustainability Award for having a GPA above the all-campus average for two straight years, and the Centennial Celebration to commemorate their achievement as a 100-year old chapter.

*Pictured (L to R) are Delta Sigma Phi members **Morgan Gray '17** (president), **Elliott Beach '15** (alumni chair) and **Thomas Pulice '15** (new member educator), holding the awards given to the Thiel College chapter of Delta Sigma Phi from its national organization.*





International students visit 40 Eagle

President **Troy D. VanAken** and **Dr. Annette VanAken** hosted about 20 international students and members of the Greenville-based American Scholar Group for hors d'oeuvres at the President's residence in late September.



Pictured (L to R) are: front row — **Kristin Diegan '15**, **Bryan Smith '15**, **Kathleen Kent '15**; back row — **Kyle Dougherty '15**, **Darerrick Slater '15**, **Elliott Beach '15**, **Dan Nolte '15**.

Fall 2015 student teachers gain experience in area classrooms

Seven students conducted their student teaching this fall.

- Beach, Commodore Perry High School
- Diegan, Sharpville Elementary School
- Dougherty, Sharpville Elementary School
- Kent, Greenville High School
- Nolte, Jamestown High School
- Slater, Jamestown Elementary School
- Smith, Jamestown Elementary School

NYC recruiting event has students 'bullish' on their future



Contributed Photo: Alyssa Mondl '17

Eleven students traveled to New York City's Times Square for the third annual Selective Corporate Internship Program Business Partnership Summit & Career Expo. The event offered access to recruiters and panelists from Fortune 500 American corporations, including JP Morgan Chase, Cognizant, Bank of America and other industry leaders.

The event was hosted by Thiel College alumnus **Miguel Mancebo '77** and his wife, **Monica**, co-founders of the Selective Corporate Internship Program. The program is a charitable organization dedicated to providing America's top firms with a diverse pool of talent and opening doors for high achieving students from colleges and universities across the Northeastern United States.

The event took place in the offices of Thomson Reuters' New York headquarters at 3 Times Square. Students took in the 30th-floor views while at the event and then enjoyed the sights from street level, including a picture with the bull statue on Wall Street.

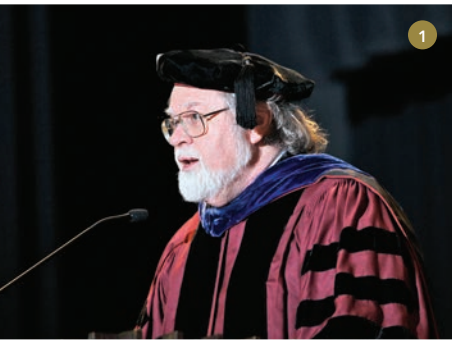


Labor Day white water rafting tradition continues to grow

On Labor Day, **President Troy D. VanAken** and **Dr. Annette VanAken** accompanied about 85 Thiel College students to Ohio State Park for white water rafting on the Youghiogheny River.

Students have made the trip the last three years. Director of Student Activities and Involvement **Than Oo, M.S.**, said the activity was part of new student orientation in the past, but the recent trips have been open to all students. The trip was also used as a training exercise for Greek Life coordinators and Activity Board members, Oo said.

Honors Convocation recognizes academic excellence



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2



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4



5



6

The Academic Honors Convocation was held Nov. 6 at the William A. Passavant Memorial Center. It is one of the College's most prestigious ceremonies, recognizing students for outstanding academic performance. This year, 439 students were acknowledged for academic achievement and scholarship.

All students who earned either an academic scholarship for the 2015-2016 academic year or Dean's List status during the 2014-2015 academic year were recognized.

The student members of Alpha Chi were seated on stage as part of the ceremony. Alpha Chi is one of only four national scholarship societies that admits membership to superior junior and senior students, regardless of their fields of study. On the 290 campuses with chapters, Alpha Chi membership is the highest academic honor that can be awarded.

Students were also lauded for participation in departmental honor societies; the Dietrich Honors Institute; Lambda Sigma, the sophomore honorary society; and

Les Lauriers, an honorary society for juniors and seniors that has a community service component.

In conjunction with the student honors, an honorary degree was conferred upon Greenville businessman **Dr. Harvey Childs H'15**, the founder and Chairman of the Board of Bail USA. The keynote speaker for the event was former Chair of the Board of Trustees **Mark Benninghoff, M.B.A. '82**. Read more about Childs and Benninghoff on page 15.



View additional photos on Flickr
www.thiel.edu/honorsconvo2015

1 Professor of Religion and Director of the Dietrich Honors Institute **Curtis Thompson, Ph.D.**, delivers the opening prayer 2 Members of Alpha Chi on stage for the event 3 The Thiel Choir, led by Professor of Music **Michael Bray, D.M.A.**, perform before the keynote address 4 Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.** 5 **President Troy D. VanAken** congratulated every student who crossed the stage 6 Faculty Marshal and Professor of English **Christopher Moinet, Ph.D.**, leads the processional



"Travel essentially enriches creativity, culture and one's own life." —**Sean Oros '15** on his summer study abroad experience in London



"While I definitely learned so very much about the healthcare practices in India and [about] the culture, I also was able to learn an unbelievable amount about myself. I came back a completely different person." —**Ivey Shorts '16** on her summer study abroad experience in India



Pictured (L to R) are **Megan Kidder '15**, **Yuki Matsuoka '15**, **Katie Allgeier '16**, **Shane Martin '16**, **Kourtney Polvinale '16** and **Kayla Cyphert '16**

Fall Students of the Month recognized

Six seniors were chosen for Student of the Month honors this semester. Students are selected for October, November and December in the fall.

The Student of the Month program recognizes seniors who represent all academic departments and programs at Thiel College. Students are nominated by professors, administrators and staff members. Awardees are chosen for the honor by the Office of Academic Affairs.

October

Megan Kidder

Graduation: December 2015

Hometown: Worthington, Pa.

Major: Actuarial studies

Postgraduate plans: Begin her career as an actuarial analyst in Pittsburgh

Clubs & Activities: Alpha Chi, Kappa Mu Epsilon, and Chi Alpha Sigma honorary societies; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Thiel Christian Fellowship; cross country and track teams

Kourtney Polvinale

Graduation: May 2016

Hometown: Brownsville, Pa.

Major: Psychology

Postgraduate plans: Attend graduate school for a master of arts in transpersonal counseling therapy or movement-based therapy

Clubs & Activities: Alpha Chi, Sigma Tau Delta, and Psi Chi honorary societies; Sigma Kappa sorority; Theta Alpha Kappa women's fraternity

November

Kayla Cyphert

Graduation: May 2016

Hometown: Austintown, Ohio

Major: Communication sciences and disorders

Postgraduate plans: Attend graduate school to obtain a doctor of audiology degree

Clubs & Activities: Zeta Tau Alpha women's fraternity, National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi), Les Laurier, Order of Omega honorary society, Junior Chamber of Commerce

Shane Martin

Graduation: May 2016

Hometown: Allison Park, Pa.

Major: Dual-degree engineering

Postgraduate plans: Work in the alternative energies field as an engineering consultant

Clubs & Activities: Alpha Chi honorary society, Dietrich Honors Institute

December

Katie Allgeier

Graduation: May 2016

Hometown: Erie, Pa.

Major: English

Postgraduate plans: Pursuing a writing job in Pittsburgh or Erie, Pa. and considering graduate school

Clubs & Activities: Alpha Chi and Sigma Tau Delta honorary societies; Sigma Tau Alpha; *The Thielensian* student newspaper; Dietrich Honors Institute

Yuki Matsuoka

Graduation: December 2015

Hometown: Tokyo, Japan

Major: Business administration

Postgraduate plans: Work at The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Co.

Clubs & Activities: Rugby club, Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE



by Dominick DiRienzo



photography by Rich Rock Media, LLC



JAMES PEDAS COMMUNICATION CENTER





Investing in the Future

Gifts large and small are pushing Thiel College towards the goal for the largest campaign in the school's history

President Troy D. VanAken is familiar with making speeches. In his six years as President of Thiel College, he has made hundreds of them. He has taken the stage or the podium, typically with microphone in hand. He has been in the spotlight and stood in front of an audience with a message to deliver.

Friday, Oct. 9, 2015 is different though. His pre-speech routine of refining and rehearsing is more intense and focused. Each syllable parsed. Each pause considered and measured. Never before in his time at Thiel has there been a message of this magnitude. In fact, no President of Thiel has made an announcement this big—this far reaching in scope—regarding the future of the College.

At the *Thiel 2016* Campaign Gala, he starts his speech by making a quick joke and then runs down a list of goals he's seen come to life since arriving in Greenville.

Then he pauses, gripping the podium for a moment, and proclaims the announcement more than six years in the making.

"An even greater reason for celebration is tonight's announcement that we have raised \$55 million towards the largest campaign goal in the College's history—\$60 million dollars!" VanAken says.

With that, the public phase of the largest capital campaign in the College's history—*Thiel 2016*—is formally announced during Homecoming 2015. The quiet phase of the Campaign began in 2009 and is close to the finish line of raising \$60 million by the end of 2016. But the effects of the money raised during the quiet phase can already be seen, and the focus of the upcoming initiatives has students considering the changes on the horizon for the College.

Growing up in Fowler, Ohio—a rural area about 20 minutes outside Youngstown—**Sean Oros '15** had no idea he would one day stand in the Roman Coliseum and think about the world and civilization in entirely new ways.

"I was homeschooled and the oldest of nine. I never pictured myself going abroad," Oros said. "The only time I

had been out of the country was a trip to Niagara Falls. I had a much more confined world. The [Dietrich Honors Institute] helped push the rest of it open. With these trips to the ancient ruins of Rome and Greece, my perspective has changed immensely."

Oros has since been back to Europe and traveled to Latin America on a service

trip. In 2011, he was a freshman when **William S. Dietrich II's** historic gift to the College made The **Kenneth '31** and **Marianna Brown '32** Dietrich Honors Institute (DHI) possible. The DHI is named for Dietrich's parents, who met while they were students at Thiel College.

Dietrich's \$25 million donation remains the largest in Thiel College's history.

"The DHI is all about engagement. The best way to describe the DHI is unlimited potential," Oros said. "The courses allow you to engage a topic and keep exploring."

Oros' description would likely please Dietrich. The successful Pittsburgh businessman dedicated much of his free time to scholarship. He authored "In the Shadow of the Rising Sun: The Political Roots of an American Economic Decline" and "Eminent Pittsburghers: Profiles of the City's Founding Industrialists," a collection of his essays.

An enduring commitment to similar principles led to another significant milestone during the quiet phase of the Campaign—the James Pedas Communication Center. **James Pedas '50, H'89** was the lead donor in making the \$6.8 million Pedas Center a reality.

"It's not about one person on anything. It's about a goal ... cooperation ... a team effort. And having the will and commitment and dedication to do it," Pedas said during a ceremony to dedicate the Pedas Center on Oct. 4, 2014. "It's not about one person. It's about Thiel and the students."

Trent Keisling '15 is a Pedas Fellow and one of the students benefiting from the building and the academic endeavors growing out of the facility.

"The Pedas Fellows program has had a huge impact," said Keisling. "Working with students is a huge aspect that I have loved. The success I had as a Pedas Fellow brought my plans to work in student life into a sharper focus."

The Pedas Center's benefits extend beyond the students. The showpiece structure is home to the Office of Admission, which allows every prospective student to see the Pedas Center and the advanced media technology available to all students.

The Pedas and Dietrich gifts were transformational for the College. They are among the many made during the Campaign's quiet phase. More than 8,400 donors have contributed to the Campaign, with 170+ individuals making gifts of \$10,000 or more. The Campaign currently stands at \$56 million and has already helped bring several high profile projects and initiatives to reality.

For example, the new turf and lights at Alumni Field increased the usability of the facility. Additionally, **Dr. William A. Schreyer H'90**, chairman emeritus of Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc., made the Rissell-Schreyer Dome possible. The dome covers the football field from December to April, providing valuable recreation and practice space during the winter. The dome shares its name with his great uncle **Charles D. "Tod" Rissell 1900**. Rissell is known as the "Father of Thiel Athletics."

Academics and scholarship remain at the heart of what the College plans to fund with the Campaign. During the quiet phase, **David Baughman's** \$3.7 million gift funded the Baughman Scholarships for nearby high school students. Other gifts have funded academic initiatives, like the faculty and student research institute and the Hodge Institute for faculty development.



Sean Oros '15 Dietrich Honors Institute

Majors: History, English literature and English writing

Hometown: Fowler, Ohio

Co-curricular activities: Alpha Chi, English Club, Kappa Sigma, Lutheran Student Movement, Phi Alpha Theta, Sigma Tau Delta

Postgraduate plans: Attending graduate school to study history, with a goal of teaching in higher education

Sean has traveled domestically and internationally through both the Dietrich Honors Institute (DHI) and other College-sponsored programs. The roots for those opportunities can be traced back more than 80 years ago when **Kenneth '31** and **Marianna Brown '32 Dietrich** met on campus and eventually married. In 2011, their son **William S. Dietrich II** honored his parents with the largest gift in the College's history. That generous gift provides funding for the DHI.

"The DHI expands the experience of being at Thiel and amplifies it so many more times," Oros said. "I have been to Chicago, New York, Washington, D.C., across Greece and Italy, and on a service trip to Nicaragua."

What is a capital campaign?

A capital campaign is a concentrated fundraising plan designed to raise a specified sum of money within a certain time period to meet a defined set of goals. Those goals can include the construction, renovation or expansion of facilities; the acquisition or improvement of land, equipment or other items; additions to a financial endowment; or any other outlined need of an institution.

Two characteristics set capital campaigns apart from other forms of fundraising activities:

- The gifts solicited are much larger than those generally sought during an annual fund.

- Pledges are emphasized as commitments payable over a number of years convenient to the donor or through the transfer of appreciated real or personal property.

Capital campaigns traditionally operate in two phases. The first is the quiet phase where the focus is on major gifts from donors who are close to the organization. The second portion is the public phase, which is where the *Thiel 2016* Capital Campaign is now. During the public phase, the focus is on expanding the outreach to a larger audience, on smaller gifts and reaching the goal.

—Lilly Family School on Philanthropy, Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis



Trent Keisling '15

James Pedas Communication Center

Major: Media communication

Hometown: Englewood, Fla.

Co-curricular activities: WXTC radio station, men's wrestling, Thiel Christian Fellowship, residence life staff, Pedas Fellows

Postgraduate plans: Starting work on his master's degree in counseling with a concentration in student affairs in higher education at Youngstown State University in January 2016

The \$6.8 million James Pedas Communication Center and the Pedas Fellows program are opening doors for students in any major to make unexpected connections. Trent has spent many hours in the Center, working for the Office of Admission, College Advancement, the Office of Communications and Marketing, and the Pedas Fellows. He's even made appearances at events and in videos as Tommy Tomcat, the College mascot.

He said the successes he experienced as a Pedas Fellow—mentoring and assisting students—helped bring his plans for graduate school and student life work into sharper focus.

Many of the skills he honed in his time at the James Pedas Communication Center have been invaluable in his current role as a resident director. They will also serve him well as a graduate student at Youngstown State University.

"It all comes down to communication. Working in Pedas and being a Pedas Fellow were big helps across the board," Keisling said. "Regardless of the department or job, the ability to communicate is crucial—whether it's day-to-day interactions or in the workforce."



1 Members of the Dietrich Foundation and family were present for the announcement of the Dietrich Honors Institute on Feb. 11, 2012. Pictured (L to R) are **Michael and Anne (Dietrich) Diemer, Ed Greffenstette, Rick Johnson, President Troy D. VanAken**, former Chair of the Board of Trustees **Edward Bartko '72** and **Dr. Annette VanAken**. 2 **Dr. James Pedas '50, H'89** (third from right) and his family cut the ribbon during the dedication of the James Pedas Communication Center on Oct. 4, 2014.

"The ability to work closely with faculty was a defining moment in my academic career. Thiel College's commitment to faculty and student research provides a foundation that can and will be the basis for continuing educational and professional success," said *Thiel 2016* Campaign Cabinet member **Carl Hoffman, D.O. '69, H'10**.

Hoffman is a member of the Board of Trustees. He is also President and Corporate Medical Director of PrimeCare Medical, Inc.

The Prof. David Miller, M.B.A. '61 Chair in Accounting

Molly Everett '14 was like many high school students touring a college campus. She was unsure and nervous about the huge decision in front of her. One person outside her family quelled her nerves—**Professor David Miller, M.B.A. '61**.

"Professor Miller didn't just influence my decision to attend Thiel College. He was the very reason I went," Everett said. "I remember sitting in his office with my dad on a college visit, and he exuded a passion and love for Thiel beyond words. He made me feel like I was already a part of the Thiel family. But it wasn't just that visit. Through my time at Thiel, Professor Miller over and over again showed his commitment to [the College] and the students."

That is just one example of the influence Prof. Miller has had. It is also one of the many reasons that part of the public phase of the Campaign includes raising the rest of the funds to endow an accounting chair in Miller's name. Faculty have been sparked by Miller too.

"I had Dave as a professor for several classes as many people did in the

'70s. It's been a great opportunity to come back and work with him," said Chair of the Department of Business Administration and Accounting and Professor **Gary Witosky, C.P.A., C.G.M.A., M.Acc. '79**. "He is the heart and soul of the department here. What a fitting way to recognize a lifetime of commitment to the institution. Nobody has taught, advised or influenced more students in the history of the College."

Miller is the longest tenured professor in Thiel College history. He has taught at the College since 1963, more than a third of the College's existence.

"I have had 53 years at Thiel. I have lived my dream," Miller said at the Business Department and Haller Award Recipients Reunion in August. "I have been asked, 'What does Thiel owe me?' My response is immediate. Thiel owes me nothing. I owe Thiel everything."

Track and field facility

For some track and field alumni, just getting to practice itself was a workout. When **Clyde Morgan '00** was a hurdler for the team, he and his teammates would run the two-and-a-half-mile roundtrip to and from practice at the Greenville High School track.

Later, when he took over as coach, Morgan transported the team to practice.

"I spoiled them a little bit," Morgan said.

Future generations of Thiel College track and field athletes are in store for better accommodations as part of the Campaign. Raising money for the first stages of a new track and field facility is one of the Campaign's goals. In May, a groundbreaking for the new track was



3 More than a half century of Thiel coaching history was on hand May 30 to mark the groundbreaking of the new track and field facility. Pictured (L to R) are **Charles “Bud” Manes ‘58, Bill Ross, Clyde Morgan ‘00** and current head coach **Steve Carr. 4 Professor David Miller, M.B.A. ‘61** delivered a poignant address to Business Department and Haller Award Recipients Reunion attendees on Aug. 6.

held. Plans call for a competition track with a practice field in the middle to be built near the softball and baseball fields on the northwest corner of campus.

Morgan Berg ‘16 attended the groundbreaking ceremony and admitted feeling a little envy when she was turning over a shovel of dirt for the new facility.

“It will be a huge step for Thiel College, and it is going to benefit the College in many ways,” Berg said.

Berg won the triple-jump and finished second at the Presidents’ Athletic Conference 100-meter hurdles championships in 2015 with a school-record time of 14.92. She said practicing hurdles on the turf is different than running on a real track surface.

“It is too soft of a surface and it becomes difficult to keep your speed up,” Berg said. “Overall, it effects all areas because we cannot practice with the facilities we compete on.”

The immediate benefits will be for the College’s track and field athletes, but the new track and field is expected to go beyond just upgrading facilities and attracting student-athletes. The complex will also create more practice space for teams that currently have to share Alumni Field. The facility will also be accessible by the community, strengthening the College’s relationship with Greenville and the region.

“This is a heck of an opportunity. We didn’t have the sense of a home field advantage,” Morgan said. “There is nothing like running at home with your professors, family and friends there. The atmosphere you can create is incredible.”

The Science Initiative

Chandler Daugherty ‘17 spends nearly as much time in the labs on campus as he does in the classroom. The chemistry major from Franklin, Pa. figures he spends 11 hours each week in the labs between his class work and when he works as a lab assistant.

As he thinks about his future and what waits for him after graduation, he knows new labs will be essential for Thiel College to attract and prepare students.

“Updated lab equipment will prepare Thiel College graduates for what they will find in the field,” Daugherty said.

The updates are necessary because innovation happens quickly in science, Chair of the Department of Biology and Assistant Professor **Sarah Swerdlow, Ph.D.**, said. When Rhodehouse Memorial Science Hall opened in 1959, the structure of DNA was just being discovered. The list of discoveries and breakthroughs that have come in the following years have been staggering.

Those discoveries have also opened career possibilities that did not exist a decade ago, and will create opportunities in the future that do not currently exist. According to the U.S. Department of Education, there will be a shortage of qualified science, technology, engineering and mathematics graduates in the next decade. The department estimates that medical scientist jobs could grow 36 percent between 2010 and 2020. Biomedical engineers are expected to see growth in their field by 62 percent.

Jennifer Rickens ‘17, a dual-degree engineering major from Pittsburgh, plans to be a biomedical engineer



Morgan Berg ‘16

Track and field complex

Major: Early childhood education

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Co-curricular activities: Indoor and outdoor track and field, soccer, Thiel Activities Board

Postgraduate plans: A teaching position

Morgan knew Thiel College did not have a dedicated track and field facility or training complex when she applied, but chose to attend anyway. A school-record holder in the women’s 100-meter hurdles, she hopes future track and field athletes won’t have to look past the College’s facility arrangements.

“I believe that when Thiel gets a track and field facility, the recruitment process for the sport will become easier and the numbers will rise,” Berg said. “The facilities have the capability of increasing the performance level of the team. A track would also benefit other sports and the student body as a whole.”

College officials broke ground on the complex in May. The new facility is expected to have a practice field in the middle, opening additional practice space for other sports.

Over the last several years, all of Thiel College’s outdoor competition teams—except one—have been brought back to campus and been given a home field. The track and field facility will bring the final team back home.

“The facilities will be an enhancement,” Berg said. “It will be a huge step forward for Thiel College.”



Jennifer Rickens '17 Science Initiative, Showcase Labs

Majors: Dual-Degree engineering

Hometown: Pittsburgh

Co-curricular activities: Lacrosse, soccer, Kappa Mu Epsilon, Lutheran Student Movement, Sigma Kappa, Thiel Christian Fellowship, Dietrich Honors Institute, Christian Athletes, Lambda Sigma, Student Athletic Advisory Committee

Postgraduate plans: Attending the University of Pittsburgh to complete her 3-2 program; interested in becoming a biomedical engineer, specializing in artificial hearts

It's easy for Jennifer to make the case for the showcase labs that will be part of the Science Initiative, even if she may not be at Thiel College when they are constructed.

"I believe the improvement of lab spaces will assist Thiel in attracting more science students to attend. They would be excited when they see the modern facilities Thiel has to offer and the inviting, learning conducive environments these labs would foster," Rickens said. "They also would simulate how experiments are done in real life."

The demand for biomedical engineers is expected to increase dramatically in the coming years, according to Department of Education forecasts. The department also predicts an increase in other science, technology, engineering and math occupations.

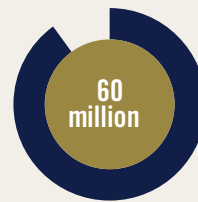
"The sciences are ever-expanding fields that should have educational resources which develop along with the advances of the fields themselves," Rickens said. "This growth can only be possible with the financial assistance of those who have experienced what Thiel so wonderfully has provided."

Financials 2015-2016

Endowment and long-term investments on behalf of the College
\$68 million

Operating budget
\$25.7 million

Current Progress



\$56 million raised
\$60 million goal

Commitment

More than **8,400** donors
170+ individuals have made gifts of **\$10,000** or more + **60** corporations or foundations have made gifts of **\$10,000** or more

who specializes in artificial hearts after she graduates.

"Considering I intend on going into such a high-tech field, having improved lab spaces would assist me in acclimating to the types of facilities I may be using in the future," she said.

To train students like Rickens, Thiel College's Science Initiative includes plans for an expanded science facility. The first phase of this plan—which would be funded in part by the public phase of the Campaign—is to build four showcase labs.

"The science building will have a huge impact because Thiel has a good reputation in the sciences," *Thiel 2016 Campaign Cabinet member Edward Bartko '72* said.

Bartko is the Chair of the Thiel Fund committee in the *Thiel 2016 Campaign*. He was a member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees from 1994-2003 and 2007-2013; serving as the Chair from 2009-2012.

Science students must be trained so they can work and excel in a hands-on laboratory environment, Swerdlow said.

"I believe the improvement of lab spaces will assist Thiel in attracting more science students," Rickens said. "They would be excited when they see the modern facilities."

The Thiel Fund

High-profile projects can feel like the focal points of a campaign, but giving to the Thiel Fund is another important way to support the Campaign and the College.

In fact, the Thiel Fund is likely why **Mercedes Quarles '16** matriculated to Thiel College. The self-described "city girl" from Cleveland wanted to attend

one of the nation's historically black colleges or universities when she was a high school student.

"But those schools were offering very little aid," she said. "I chose Thiel because of the financial aid I was being offered."

When gifts to the Thiel Fund are made without restrictions on their use, they give the College the flexibility to allocate resources strategically; taking advantage of unexpected opportunities to fund new educational programs and strengthen existing ones.

Quarles said when she looks around campus, she sees so many things that weren't there when she was a freshman. Many of those might seem inconsequential to the casual viewer, but they can improve student morale, she said.

"It might seem small, but something like the new sidewalk (along Amelia Earhart Drive). It could be a struggle to get back and forth to class, especially when the weather was bad," Quarles said. "It might not seem like a big deal, but it means a lot to the students."

Gifts to the Thiel Fund cover priorities that money from other sources might not be able to meet. These generous offerings, regardless of size, do more than just keep the lights on. They are vital to ensuring innovation and excellence at Thiel College.

"Because of the great education I received at Thiel College, I entered the professional world and competed against people from the elite schools of the country. I was able to stand tall against those individuals that came out of those better known schools," said Bartko. "I always felt it was my obligation to give back to Thiel College, so our graduates can break into elite organizations."

"The Thiel Fund helped me be where I am at today," Quarles said.

In addition to her academic and career-oriented goals, Quarles remains committed to campus and civic contributions. She works at the library and promotes programming on the College's WXTC radio station. She is a peer leader, works with international students, and is a member of Women Inspiring the Next Generation and the Organization of Black Collegians.

One of her goals as a peer leader is getting students involved and helping first-year students overcome any feelings of homesickness. As her emotional connection to the campus has grown, so has her awareness of the physical improvements happening.

"I can honestly say that the incoming freshmen are going to have a great year and great career at Thiel," she said.



Mercedesz Quarles '17 The Thiel Fund

Majors: Communication, sociology

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Co-curricular activities: Tennis, Active Minds, Organization of Black Collegiates, Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Thiel Soldiers for God, Women Inspiring the Next Generation

Postgraduate plans: Joining the Air Force and getting a master's degree in human resources

The Thiel College campus was something entirely new for Mercedesz. She remembers seeing the rural surroundings and calling her mother for reassurance and comfort. She went home many weekends during her first year.

The following year, she became more comfortable on campus and started taking on new roles. Now she aims to be a resource for other first-year students.

"I want to make sure the freshmen students are not intimidated. I want to get them involved. Don't just sit in your room. Don't go home every weekend. We have over 50 clubs. I try to get them up and going," Quarles said.

She said the Thiel Fund makes many of the activities she participates in possible, and provides the aid package that helped her family be able to afford Thiel College.

As his speech is winding down, there is a burst of applause.

"We need to continue our commitment to the sciences, endow the chair for Professor David Miller, build a track and field, grow the Thiel Fund and dream new dreams—ones that will make us stretch and grow; goals that focus on student success and engagement," VanAken says. "Together, we will build a stronger Thiel College that will continue to serve students for the next 150 years."

Moments later, glasses are raised and a toast is made. The glasses clink around the Lutheran Heritage Room and there is a brief respite to take in the journey to that point.

"Tonight, we will enjoy this moment. But it would be against my nature if I didn't acknowledge that we are not finished. Our journey continues," VanAken says. "For the President's Cabinet and those that work closely with me, they will tell you that celebration is a brief period of time and that tomorrow, or even later tonight, we will be reaching higher. We are committed to meeting the \$60 million goal. In fact, we wish to surpass it. We will surpass it."

And four days later, true to his word, VanAken is in Boston, Mass. in support of the Campaign. It is the first of 22 cities in the following days that Thiel College staff members will visit to meet with alumni and friends to brief them on the public phase of the *Thiel 2016 Campaign*.



Watch a special message from President Troy D. VanAken and Barry Stamm, M.D. '70 – visit www.thiel.edu/thiel2016video

Meet the *Thiel 2016 Capital Campaign Cabinet*

The Capital Campaign Cabinet has volunteered countless hours to ensure the success of the *Thiel 2016 Campaign*. They have been instrumental in determining and structuring projects and areas of focus. They have hosted and chaired events to promote the Campaign, and have worked tirelessly to engage and inform fellow alumni and friends regarding the current state of the College and the importance of this historic initiative. The *Thiel 2016 Campaign Cabinet* is composed of leaders who are invested in the success of the College. The campus community is thankful for their work.

Pictured (L to R): front row – Joseph Scarpitti, M.B.A. '80, President Troy D. VanAken, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Thiel 2016 Campaign Chair Barry Stamm, M.D. '70, Linda (Dean) Oman '75, Board of Trustees member Barry Oman '74 and Vice President for College Advancement Theresa Law, J.D., CFRE; middle row – Board of Trustees member Rick Huether '74, Board of Trustees member Paul Runge, M.B.A. '70, Board of Trustees member John Barr '70, former Chair of the Board of Trustees Edward Bartko '72, Board of Trustees member Dale Deist, M.B.A., and Board of Trustees member Michael Zawoysky '79; back row – Board of Trustees member Carl Hoffman, D.O. '69, H'10, Board of Trustees member Bob Burns, M.D. '74, Chair of the Department of Business Administration and Accounting and Professor Gary Witosky, C.P.A., C.G.M.A., M.Acc. '79, John "Jack" Martin, M.S. '75 and Executive Director of the Capital Campaign Roberta Leonard.



Leipheimer '74 set to retire at end of year

by Ed Topoleski '02

Director of Athletics **Jack Leipheimer '74** will retire at the end of December, after a 14-year career at Thiel College. Associate Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer, M.S.**, will succeed Leipheimer as the director of athletics in January 2016.

During his student years at Thiel College, Leipheimer was a four-year letter winner and three-year starter at tight end for the Tomcats. Leipheimer earned All-PAC accolades in 1973. He was also a member of the 1972 team that won the College's second PAC title.

Leipheimer took over as Thiel College's head football coach in January 2001. He and his staff went on to take the Tomcats to national prominence. After winning the 2005 Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) championship with a perfect 10-0 record, Leipheimer's Tomcats became the first team in school history to qualify for the NCAA Division III playoffs and win an NCAA Division III playoff game on campus. Leipheimer coached the Tomcats for eight seasons and compiled 36 wins, tying him for the third most in program history.

Leipheimer was named Thiel College's Director of Athletics in November 2008. The Cabinet-level position manages day-to-day operation of the Department of Athletics, including oversight of the College's sports, competitive cheer & dance teams, more than 30 coaches and staff members, and other athletics endeavors.

During Leipheimer's tenure, the College added six NCAA Division III sports programs, including men's and women's tennis, men's and women's lacrosse, men's volleyball, and women's bowling. Today, the Department of Athletics includes 23 NCAA Division III sports and more than 400 student-athletes.

Leipheimer was instrumental in several athletics facility improvements, including:

- New turf installation and competition-level lighting at Alumni Stadium
- Multiple improvements to Beechly Gymnasium, including a state-of-the-art athletic training room

- The addition of the Rissell-Schreyer Dome, an air-supported structure which covers Alumni Stadium during winter months
- The groundbreaking for a track and field facility, located at Tomcat Park

Leipheimer also played a role in the College's athletics fundraising endeavors. In 2015, Thiel College became the first institution in the PAC to endow a coaching position, the **Rod E. Wilt '86** Head Coach for Thiel College Wrestling.

In 2014, Leipheimer was appointed to the NCAA Division III Football Committee. Composed of eight members, the committee monitors all Division III teams during the regular season and identifies teams deserving of consideration for the national championship playoff bracket.

Though he will officially retire, Leipheimer will continue in a part-time role in College Advancement with a focus on fundraising for athletics.

"I am honored to have come back to my alma mater and made a positive contribution to the College," Leipheimer said. "Along the way, I was fortunate to work alongside talented and dedicated colleagues and coaches, as well as thousands of quality student-athletes. I am also humbled that President VanAken asked me to stay on in a part-time role focusing on athletics fundraising, and I look forward to continuing in that capacity."

"Leipheimer's personal philosophy has always remained the same—reach your full potential. It's a mantra he instilled in coaches and students, as he urged them to pursue excellence in all areas of their lives," **President Troy D. VanAken** said. "He has always stressed the importance of academic and athletic success to Thiel College's student-athletes. His tenure has included many milestones, and I'm looking forward to his continued dedication to Thiel College in this new role."

Schafer to assume role as director of athletics

Amy Schafer, M.S., is entering her 11th year at Thiel College. Schafer arrived in 2005 as the head softball coach.

In 2009, she was selected as the Department of Athletics Senior Woman Administrator. Schafer was named compliance & eligibility director, assistant director of athletics and the Chair of the Health & Physical Education Department in 2012. She was named the associate director of athletics in 2014.

Schafer was one of only 12 individuals selected for the 2014 NCAA Pathway Program, which assists administrators who wish to become directors of athletics through education, training and mentoring.

She has served various on- and off-campus committees, including the Division III Softball Regional Advisory Committee, the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) Top 25 Committee and the Thiel College NCAA Grant Writing Committee.

"I am excited for this opportunity to be the director of athletics," Schafer said. "I would like to thank President VanAken and Jack Leipheimer for their guidance and support, and I look forward to continuing the success of the Department of Athletics."

A 2003 Bethany College graduate, where she earned a bachelor's degree in physical education, Schafer earned a master's degree in sport management studies from California University of Pennsylvania in 2009.

Schafer was an NCAA Division III All-American catcher in 2002 while earning First Team All-Region accolades three times (2001-2003). She was also a three-time All-PAC First Team pick (2001-2003). Schafer was honored as a member of the NFCA All-Academic Team in 2002 and was named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll in 2001 and 2002.



1 Amy Schafer, M.S., and **Jack Leipheimer '74** **2** Leipheimer's Tomcats are the only football team in school history to qualify for and win a game in the NCAA Division III playoffs **3** Leipheimer led Thiel College to the 2005 Presidents' Athletic Conference championship with a 10-0 record **4** Leipheimer and his wife, **Patti**, during the 2012 Black & White Ball. They have been married since 1973 and have two adult daughters. **5 President Troy D. VanAken** and Leipheimer share a laugh during the track and field groundbreaking in May

Massengill '15 added to Department of Athletics 'roster'

by Ed Topoleski '02



Danielle Massengill '15 was named the coordinator of leadership & life skills development, assistant director of compliance and assistant softball coach in early August.

The two-year position is funded through the NCAA's Division III Ethnic Minority and Women's Internship Grant Program. The program provides funding for entry-level administrative positions at Division III institutions and conference offices to encourage access, recruitment, selection, and long-term success of ethnic minorities and women.

"I am very excited to welcome Danielle back," Associate Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer, M.S.**, said. "She will glean valuable information and lessons through the NCAA Division III Ethnic Minority and Women's Internship Grant Program, which will benefit Thiel and Danielle as she begins her career in collegiate athletics."

A native of North Bend, Wash., Massengill was a career all-star in the classroom and on the softball field for the Tomcats.

Massengill graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average, majoring in criminal justice studies, psychology

and sociology. An eight-semester Dean's List student, she earned Thiel's Dean's Key and was a senior class valedictorian. A member of Alpha Chi, Sigma Alpha Pi, Psi Chi and Lambda Sigma honor societies, she was one of Thiel's Students of the Month in May 2015. Massengill was named one of the PAC's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Scholar-Athletes of the Month in March 2014.

Massengill had an impressive athletic career at Thiel College, setting program records for career hits (185) and runs scored (115) in 2015. She was a four-time All-PAC First Team selection and a three-time National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Region honoree.

Following her senior season in 2015, Massengill was named to the Capital One Academic All-America® Division III Softball First Team, as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA). She was the first Academic All-America First Team selection in softball to represent the

Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) since 1995. Massengill was also a 2014 Capital One Academic All-America® Second Team selection following her junior season. Massengill said:

"I'm glad to continue working with Thiel athletics in this new capacity. The grant will provide me with the opportunity to share my knowledge with Thiel's student-athletes, while continuing to grow professionally."

Massengill is pursuing a master's in criminal justice with a focus in analysis of criminal behavior at the University of Cincinnati. She also serves in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

58 Tomcats Named to PAC Spring 2015 Academic Honor Roll

by Jaclyn Kuzma '17

Fifty-eight Thiel College student-athletes were named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Academic Honor Roll for the spring 2015 semester.

The PAC Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes on varsity sports teams who have earned a grade-point average of 3.60 or higher during a semester of competition. A total of 480 student-athletes were named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll for the spring 2015 semester.

The PAC aligned with the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) to create the single-sport Ohio River Lacrosse Conferences (ORLC & ORWLC, the women's league) in 2013, with the two lacrosse-only conferences recently completing their first season. Student-athletes from league schools competing in the ORLC and ORWLC are also eligible for PAC Academic Honor Roll recognition.



Spring 2015 Honorees

James Abbs, So.
Business Administration-Human Resources
Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Wexford, Pa./North Allegheny

Amy Abdelrasoul, Jr.
Biology
Women's Basketball
Brookfield, Ohio/Brookfield

Cara Baker, So.
Psychology
Softball
Corry, Pa./Corry Area

Morgan Berg, Jr.
Early Childhood/Special Education
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Cleveland, Ohio/Rocky River

Ian Bergbigler, So.
Business Communication
Men's Lacrosse
Butler, Pa./Butler Area

Amy Boxer, Sr.
Psychology
Women's Lacrosse
Erie, Pa./Villa Maria

Erik Braun, Jr.
Religion
Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Geneva, Ohio/Geneva

Sean Byham, Sr.
Biology
Wrestling
Saegertown, Pa./Saegertown

Caitlyn Carney, So.
Neuroscience/Psychology
Softball
Lake Milton, Ohio/Jackson Milton

Jessa Covine, Fr.
Undecided
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Cambridge Springs, Pa./Maplewood

Marco Crivelli, Jr.
Criminal Justice/Sociology
Wrestling
Clinton, Pa./Hopewell

Justin Dade, Jr.
Criminal Justice
Men's Basketball
Upper Marlboro, Md./Bishop McNamara

Kristin Diegan, Sr.
Early Childhood Education
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Hermitage, Pa./Hickory

Mary Kate Dougherty, So.
Criminal Justice/Sociology/Psychology
Softball
Depew, N.Y./Mt. St. Mary Academy

Patrick Fitzpatrick, So.
Undecided Business
Baseball
Pittsburgh, Pa./Bishop Canevin

Kevin Forrester, So.
Criminal Justice
Baseball
Canonsburg, Pa./Canon-McMillan

Ali Glover, Fr.
Accounting
Women's Golf
Erie, Pa./Fort LeBoeuf

Nick Grice, Fr.
Neuroscience
Baseball
McKeesport, Pa./McKeesport

Nick Guzma, Fr.
Binary Engineering
Wrestling
Clinton, Pa./Hopewell

Alex Hall, Sr.
Communication Sciences & Disorders
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Nonwin, Pa./Norwin

Chris Haray, Sr.
Business Administration/Management
Men's Lacrosse
Bridgeport, Conn./Notre Dame Catholic

Victoria Hermann, So.
History/Political Science
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Erie, Pa./McDowell

Alex Horvatits, So.
Early Childhood/Special Education
Men's Tennis
Lancaster, N.Y./Saint Mary's

Jeff Jenkins, Jr.
Business
Men's Golf
Pittsburgh, Pa./Chartiers Valley

Nic Jones, Sr.
Early Childhood/Special Education
Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Franklin, Pa./Franklin

Shay Kashey, Sr.
Biology
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Edinboro, Pa./General McLane

Trent Keisling, Jr.
Media Communication
Wrestling
Englewood, Fla./Lemon Bay

Taylor Ketler, Jr.
Business Administration
Women's Basketball/Women's
Outdoor Track and Field
Dalton, Ohio/Dalton

Dan Koller, Jr.
Biology
Baseball
Euclid, Ohio/Lake Catholic

Beverley Kozuch, So.
Biology
Women's Indoor and Outdoor Track and
Field
Templeton, Pa./West Shamokin

Jordan Lupori, Jr.
Conservation Biology
Baseball
Venetia, Pa./Peters Township

Zachary Macurak, Sr.
Business Administration
Men's Lacrosse
Bethel Park, Pa./Bethel Park

Trevor Martin, So.
Accounting/Business Administration/
Finance
Men's Tennis
Meadville, Pa./Meadville

Danielle Massengill, Sr.
Criminal Justice
Softball
North Bend, Wash./Mt. Si

Alyssa Mondl, So.
Accounting/Business Administration
Women's Basketball/Women's Golf
Akron, Ohio/Cuyahoga Falls

Steve Morgan, Sr.
Political Science
Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field
Raritan, N.J./Bridgewater-Raritan

Alexis Mowris, So.
Chemistry
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Saegertown, Pa./Saegertown

Jaden Nozicka, Jr.
Accounting/Business Admin./
Forensic Accounting
Baseball
Portage, Mich./Portage Central

Paige Onomastico, Fr.
Early Childhood/Special Education
Women's Lacrosse
Pittsburgh, Pa./Chartiers Valley

Sam Passafiume, Jr.
Business Administration
Baseball
Medina, Ohio/Medina

Thad Paunovich, So.
Communication Sciences & Disorders
Men's Tennis
Avonmore, Pa./Kiski Area

Carlie Provident, Fr.
Communication Studies
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Jamestown, Pa./Jamestown

Jennifer Rickens, So.
Applied Physics/Math/Binary Engineering
Women's Lacrosse
Pittsburgh, Pa./Chartiers Valley

Jerrold Roosa, Sr.
Criminal Justice
Wrestling
Randolph, N.Y./Randolph Central

Shyanne Sanders, Jr.
Criminal Justice/Sociology/Psychology
Softball
Herminie, Pa./Yough

Futoshi Sasagawa, Fr.
Business Administration
Men's Tennis
Tokyo, Japan

Kelsey Schneider, Jr.
Accounting
Women's Golf
Butler, Pa./Butler Area

Korinna Sherman, Fr.
Biochemistry
Women's Basketball
Poland, Ohio/Poland Seminary

Brittany Shumar, Fr.
Business Administration
Women's Basketball
Cleveland, Ohio/Villa-Angela St. Joseph

Jordan Smith, Jr.
English
Wrestling
Olean, N.Y./Portville Central

Abby Spriggs, Sr.
Media Communication
Women's Lacrosse
Westminster, Md./Westminster

Meri Steinmetz, Jr.
Fine Art/Psychology
Women's Indoor and Outdoor
Track and Field
Raritan, N.J./Bridgewater-Raritan

Hannah Stelmach, Sr.
Biology
Women's Lacrosse
Reading, Pa./Governor Mifflin

Hannah Stoneman, Jr.
Early Childhood/Special Education
Women's Basketball
Sugar Creek, Ohio/Hiland

Aaron Wakley, Sr.
Mathematics
Men's Golf
North East, Pa./North East

Kayla Welty, Jr.
Accounting/Business Administration
Women's Basketball
Portville, N.Y./Portville

Allison Williams, Jr.
Early Childhood/Special Education
Softball
Corry, Pa./Corry

Duncan Wingard, Sr.
Early Childhood/Special Education
Men's Golf
West Middlesex, Pa./West Middlesex



Track & Field COMES HOME

“We look forward to the construction of this facility and cheering on current and future Tomcats.” —Barry Oman '74

Thiel College officials broke ground on the new track and field facility May 30 at the northwest end of campus. The track and field facility will be located near the baseball and softball fields and will complete the Tomcat Park complex.

President Troy D. VanAken, current Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**, Board of Trustees member **Barry Oman '74** and Director of Athletics **Jack Leipheimer '74** spoke at the groundbreaking.

Members of the 35th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame induction class, Presidents' Athletic Conference Commissioner **Joe Onderko** and Pennsylvania House of Representatives for the 7th District Representative **Mark Longiotti**, as well as many alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the College were also in attendance. The groundbreaking was part of the College's inaugural Athletics Reunion Weekend.

“The completion of this project will bring all our current teams back on campus and provide valuable

competition and training space. But the track and field complex is about much more than just athletics; it will also serve as a connection to the community and strengthen Thiel College's ability to serve as a regional resource for recreation,” VanAken said.

The track and field complex concludes a series of initiatives that began with the construction of Alumni Stadium and expanded with the beginning of Tomcat Park, which houses the College's baseball and softball facilities.

¹ Pictured (L to R) are **Nic Jones '15**, **Andrew Crago '71**, **Carol Crago**, **William Lhotka III**, **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**, **President Troy D. VanAken**, **Dr. Harvey Childs H'15**, **Alan Childs, M.A., Psy.D., '60, H'09** and Presidents' Athletic Conference Commissioner **Joe Onderko**
² Former Thiel College President **Robert Olson, Ph.D., '60, H'09** and Presidents' Athletic Conference Commissioner **Joe Onderko**
³ Director of Planned Giving **Mario Marini '91**, **Tom Guskey, Ph.D. '72** and **Charles “Bud” Manes '58**
⁴ **Morris Hill '87** and **William Mills '08**
⁵ **Manes**, **Bill Ross**, **Clyde Morgan '00** and current track and field head coach **Steve Carr**
⁶ **Jones** ⁷ **Leipheimer** ⁸ **Stamm** ⁹ **Oman** ¹⁰ An architectural rendering by ThenDesign Architecture, Ltd.





Thiel College Board of Trustees

Profile of Distinction

John R. Frangakis, M.B.A., appointed 2008

John R. Frangakis, M.B.A., is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Reynolds Services, Inc. (RSI) in Greenville, Pa. Reynolds Services, Inc. is a tin mill service company that specializes in the distribution and sales of cut sheet, flat, rolled steel, steel coil and tin mill products. RSI has processing and distribution facilities in Greenville, Baltimore, Md., and Weirton, W. Va.

Frangakis has undertaken several business ventures, including Cross IT Services & Solutions, LLC, a cross-platform information technology computer consulting firm; Vulcan Engineering, LLC, an electrical engineering firm specializing in machinery drive and control integration; and Reynolds Transfer, LLC, a logistics and transportation company specializing in the hauling and international distribution of products.

He has a B.S. in economics from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz School of Business.

Frangakis has been a generous supporter of the community through the Frangakis Family Charitable Foundation. Frangakis family gifts have funded Thiel College projects like the Frangakis Family Media Lab in the James Pedas Communication Center. The family has also supported the theology and youth ministry major, and the marching band. In 2011, the Frangakis family was honored by Thiel College with the Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award.

As a member of the Board of Trustees, Frangakis has served as the Chair of the Enrollment Committee, Vice Chair of the Facilities, Physical Plant and Information Technology Committee, and as a member of the Executive Committee. In 2014, he was recognized as the Haller Enterprise Institute's Entrepreneur of the Year. Frangakis became Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees in early November.

John and his wife, **Teresa**, and their daughter, **Isabelle**, reside in Hermitage, Pa.

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

It gives me the opportunity to serve not only the College, but also the greater community at the same time.

What is your favorite memory of Thiel College?

Since I am a Board of Trustee member that comes from the community at large and am not an alumnus, my favorite memories come from my time spent serving the College while on the Board. I would have to say that my favorite memory of Thiel would be working with the many people that took the Pedas Communication Center from a dream to a reality. I loved participating in and hearing James Pedas' stories at the Pedas dedication ceremony.

My second-favorite memory is obviously the chocolate covered bacon at the Rissell-Schreyer Dome dedication ceremony.

Why is it important for community members to be involved with the Thiel College Board of Trustees?

Today's students are leaders in our community tomorrow. I have been blessed to have many Thiel students work for me as interns and then as employees after graduation. It is important for members of the community to be involved in the Board of Trustees or even just get involved in College outreach programs such as internships because they can help shape the future of these leaders and our community.

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

Make sure you utilize the tools and collaboration spaces in the Pedas Communication Center to the absolute maximum of your abilities. This state-of-the-art communication center can help you utilize the tools and develop a skill set that will help you succeed in your career.

As Thiel College heads toward its 150th anniversary in 2016, what do you think the future for the College looks like?

Wow! The future of the College is bright and exciting! I believe our 150th anniversary will mark the dawning of an academic renaissance at Thiel College, especially in the sciences.

What do you do in your spare time?

In my spare time, I love tinkering with electronics and home automation technology and spending time with my wife and daughter.

What are your words to live by?

I am a huge Disney fan, and my favorite quote resides in my email signature. It is:

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

- Walt Disney

I think that summarizes my belief that we should always have a continuous pursuit of knowledge and education. In that pursuit, we never know where life will take us.

What is the "one thing" you like best about Thiel College today?

We are blessed with fantastic curb appeal these days, but my absolute "one thing" that I like best about Thiel College is all of the great people—students, faculty, administration, employees, alumni, and others—that make the College feel like home. At Thiel College, I have met so many wonderful people and made wonderful friends that I will have for a lifetime. Sometimes it feels a little odd being a non-alumnus board member, but everyone always makes me feel like an important part of the Thiel College community.

Meet the Boards



Dr. Barry D. Stamm '70
Board of Trustees, Chair



John R. Frangakis
Board of Trustees, Vice Chair



George "Chip" Dufala '92
Board of Trustees, Treasurer



G. Leah Dever '74
Board of Trustees, Secretary

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Barry Oman '74
Ronald W. Owen '71
William V. Parker '75
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Dwayne F. Spurlock '81
Dr. Sarah Taylor-Rogers '69

Miles J. Wallace
Cathryn A. Zawacki '71
Michael G. Zawoysky '79

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Dr. James C. McHugh '62, H'02
Dr. Peter Mortensen H'05
Barbara H. Nakles
Dr. James Pedas '50, H'89
Edward G. Redman '60
Dr. Roy Strausbaugh H'14
Dr. John L. Vitale '47, H'90
Dr. Howard J. Weyers '56, H'11

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Nicholas Travaglianti '11
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The Hon. Roy W. Wilt '59, H'85

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Michael Stimac '08
Brianna L. Sweet-Lawn '13
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Dr. Christopher Shinkman '62
Paul Stibich '05
John Wotus '74



From your Alumni Director

“Many exciting things have been happening at Thiel College since the last edition of *The Bell*.”

Fellow Thiel College Alumni:

Many exciting things have been happening at Thiel College since the last edition of *The Bell*. Homecoming 2015 was a success, featuring the “Forever Gold” theme. Alumni and friends from across the country returned to campus to show their “Tomcat Pride.” The weekend kicked off with the *Thiel 2016 Gala*, where the *Thiel 2016 Campaign* was publicly announced. The class of 1965 celebrated their 50th reunion and rode in the annual parade in style! We rounded out the weekend with a Service of Remembrance, in honor of the alumni and friends we have lost over the past year.

The entire College Advancement division has been busy traveling across the nation to bring Thiel College to our alumni and friends. From September through November, we visited more than 25 cities around the country. We have seen more than 200+ alumni at these events, but we still want to see you. Regularly visit www.thiel.edu/alumni for information on upcoming events. If your city isn't on the list, don't hesitate to suggest someplace new for us to visit!

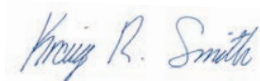
I am happy to share a new geographic-based alumni club model. Our first two alumni clubs have begun in Pittsburgh and Washington, D.C. These clubs meet regularly and are looking for new people to join. This innovative model replaces the previous class agent program. I do wish to thank everyone who donated their time writing class letters throughout the years, especially **Letha Adelman '61**. We hope to spark more interest in networking through a majority of cities and regions across the country. If you have an interest in forming a club in your area or would like to join an existing one, please email alumni@thiel.edu.

Pack your bags for Ireland in 2016! We are gearing up for an international alumni trip next May. The eight-day voyage will begin the week after Commencement. The College has selected AHI International as our travel partner. More information will be mailed shortly. If you are interested in the trip and cannot wait for the brochure, visit www.thiel.edu/alumni for more information.

The 2016 edition of the Thiel College Alumni Directory is on the press and ships in late January. Over the past year, you may have received many postcards and emails from me requesting that you verify your information. I thank everyone who took the time to complete that process. I know sometimes it was difficult to get through on the telephone or you weren't quite sure what was happening. However, I am here to say that we truly appreciate the commitment you put forth to help us maintain our database! If there are any remaining questions about the directory process, please contact me at alumni@thiel.edu.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow alumni for the support that has been shown. Your generous gifts to the *Thiel 2016 Campaign*, alumni event participation, interest and mentorship of Thiel students, and continued investment in your alma mater is truly amazing!

Go Tomcats!



Craig R. Smith '12, Director of Alumni Relations

Alumni Events

December 2015

- 8 Holiday Networking Event**
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
The Duquesne Club, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 8 Straight No Chaser Concert**
8 p.m.
Benedum Center, Pittsburgh, Pa.
- 10 Alumni and Friends Holiday Celebration**
Hosted by Ruthanne Beighley, Esq. '73 and Joe George
6 – 8 p.m.
Sharon, Pa.
- 18 Trans-Siberian Orchestra Concert**
8 – 10 p.m.
Giant Center, Hershey, Pa.

May 2016

- 10 – 18 International Alumni Trip**
Ireland

Please be advised that events and event dates/times are subject to change.



For a full list of alumni events,
visit www.thiel.edu/alumni/events.

Alumni Award *Winners*

Distinguished Alumni Award



The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to **Frank Maenpa, Ph.D. '69**, by Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.** Distinguished Alumni Award winners are nominated by their fellow alumni. They are approved for recognition by the Alumni Association Board of Directors for outstanding contributions to their professions.

Frank was the vice president of operations at the USB Products division of Affymetrix prior to his retirement. Before his position with Affymetrix, he and three partners owned and operated USB Corporation for 10 years. In all, Frank served the life science and clinical diagnostics industries from the same Cleveland facility for over 30 years. He established and maintained the analytical laboratory, quality systems, worldwide raw material supply chain and technical support for USB branded reagents under four different corporate ownerships. He also served on USB's Scientific Research Advisory Board. USB Corporation supplied critical, specialty reagents to a wide range of innovative molecular biology and life science laboratories, as well as most major clinical diagnostic companies around the world. The company was the first to develop a practical reagent system for DNA sequencing in 1987, which enabled the implementation of the Human Genome Project. Affymetrix supplies reagents and instrumentation for genomic analysis. Its GeneChip microarray systems provide innovative technologies that enable multiplex and parallel analysis of biological systems at the cell, protein and gene level. It can be used to understand underlying disease mechanisms, identify biomarkers for personalized medicine and create novel molecular diagnostic tests.

A lifelong member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Ashtabula, Ohio, Frank has served on the Building Restoration Task Force and the Stained Glass Window Restoration Task Force. He was Church Council President and on the Board of Directors of the Messiah Lutheran Church Foundation. Frank was a member of the national Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Task Force on Genetics and a voting delegate to the 2011 Churchwide Assembly.

Frank holds a B.A. in chemistry from Thiel College, an M.S. in chemistry from Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., and a Ph.D. from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Fla. Following graduation, he pursued postdoctoral research in macromolecular sciences at Case

Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, with a focus on analytical methods in biological systems.

At Thiel, he was a member of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity, serving as president in 1968-1969. Frank is a member of American Chemical Society (ACS), American Society for Quality (ASQ), AOAC International and contributor to the Food Chemical Codex.

Frank is a member of the Board of Trustees for Thiel College and is Vice Chair of the Student and Religious Life Committee. He also serves on the Academic Affairs Committee, Assessment and Science Steering Committees, and the *Thiel 2016* Campaign Cabinet.

Frank and his wife, **Diane**, reside in Ashtabula and have a son, **Ryan**, and a grandson, **Grady**.

"I consider this [Award] a reminder of my gratitude for my fellow classmates and faculty of Thiel College for whose support, guidance, challenge and inspiration I am forever grateful," Maenpa said.

Service to Thiel Award



The Service to Thiel Award was presented to 11 past and present Phi Theta Phi alumni by the 18th President of Thiel College, **Robert Olson, Ph.D. '60, H'09**. Service to Thiel award winners are nominated by alumni and College personnel. They are approved for recognition by the Alumni Association Board of Directors for their loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel College.

Phi Theta Phi began at Thiel College as a local fraternity in 1966. Two years later, the fraternity started a tradition that has become one of the most successful Greek philanthropy efforts in the College's history.

The brothers organize and conduct an annual Walk-a-thon for the Children's Hospital Free Care Fund. The first Walk-a-thon was in 1968 and raised \$1,100. The 100-mile walk from Greenville to Pittsburgh in December now raises about \$30,000 each year for Pittsburgh's Children's Hospital and has collected more than \$1.2 million over its 30-plus years.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives and the Pennsylvania Senate have recognized the chapter for its service. In 2002, the

The annual Alumni Awards Ceremony tried something new this Homecoming Weekend. The event, traditionally held as a dinner on Friday night, was redesigned as a Saturday luncheon. The event was as well-attended and the speeches were as heartfelt and poignant as previous years.

Director of Alumni Relations **Kraig R. Smith '12** and Alumni Board President **Joseph Nairn, D.Mgt. '79** kicked off the luncheon with remarks, followed by a greeting from **President Troy D. VanAken**. Alumni Board Vice President **Antonio Quarterman '08** gave the ceremony's closing remarks.

Association of Fundraising Professionals acknowledged them as an outstanding philanthropic organization.

"The money that goes to those patients, the families that receive the money ... It's bigger than us, but they do know that it's Phi Theta Phi and they do know it's from Thiel College," **Todd Pilipovich '00** said.

Young Alumni Awards

Young Alumni Award winners are nominated by the faculty and must have received their degree from Thiel College within the past 10 years. They are approved by the Alumni Association Board of Directors for their potential future accomplishments in their professions and in their service to the College.



The first award was presented to **Paul Stibich '05** by Director of Athletics **Jack Leipheimer '74**.

Paul is a shareholder and vice president at CAPTRUST Financial Advisors based in Akron, Ohio. He and his partners opened the CAPTRUST Akron office in January 2009 and are the advisors to 51 employers in northeastern Ohio and western Pa.

Clients refer to Paul and his partners as the 'Chief Retirement Officers' for their organizations as they find ways to enhance retirement plans, reduce costs and help hard-working Americans get to a dignified retirement. From 2009-2014, he and his partners were recognized as the Top 100 retirement plan advisors in the country according to *PLANSPONSOR* magazine. That team was also recognized in 2015 by *Crain's Cleveland Business Journal* as the second largest investment advisory firm in northeastern Ohio.

Paul started his career at Merrill Lynch specializing in 401k, 403B, pension and non-qualified retirement plans. While at Merrill Lynch, Paul was a member of their Retirement Plan Advisory Small Market FA Board from 2007-2009.

Graduating with a double major in accounting and business, Paul was also a four-year letterman and starter for the Thiel College football team. While at Thiel, he said he was fortunate to have been taught by **Professor David Miller, M.B.A. '61**, score the first points in Alumni Stadium and own several Thiel College records for points scored by a

placekicker. He credits his experiences at Thiel College—in the classroom and on the football field—for giving him the vision and work ethic to enrich the lives of those in the communities where he lives and works.

"I firmly believe that Thiel is one of the best decisions that I made as a young adult, that helped me become a young man," Stibich said.

Paul is a member of the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce, CAPTRUST Community Foundation and the Ohio Employee Ownership Center in Ohio. He is also a member at-large of the Thiel College Alumni Board. He donates his time and hosts quarterly volunteer events at the Akron-Canton Foodbank.

Paul and his wife, **Sara**, have been married two years and just had their first child, **John Paul**, on Nov. 4.



The second Young Alumni Award was presented to **Amanda (Rooney) Stierli '07** by Chair of the Department of Psychology and Assistant Professor **Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06**.

Amanda is the program coordinator for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Civic and Defense Initiatives. She conducts historical research to support program development and coordinates programs for military and government officials. Her previous roles with the Museum included focusing on teacher education and special programs, traveling exhibitions and the Center for the Prevention of Genocide.

She received a B.A. in history with a minor in sociology from Thiel College in 2007 and M.A.s in history as well as Russian and East European studies from Florida State University in 2010. She also studied abroad in Russia at Moscow State University in 2008.

"I put all of my faith in Thiel because if I had gone to a much larger school, I wouldn't have the connections that I have today," Stierli said.

She lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her husband, **Ed**, and their son, **Connor**.



Watch highlights from the ceremony at www.thiel.edu/tcforevergoldvideo

1960s

WADE K. BAIRD '63 was honored as a distinguished professor emeritus of Coastal Carolina University (CCU). Baird was a faculty member in the Department of Psychology from 1976-2006, and served as department chair from 1981-1987. He was named Outstanding Professor of Psychology/Sociology in 2003 by the Psi Chi psychology honor society chapter at CCU, which he was instrumental in establishing. He was also named Professor of the Year by CCU's Student-Athlete Association in 2005. He directed several programs at CCU, including Institutional Self-Study, Graduate Regional Studies and the Undergraduate Counseling Center. A native of Pittsburgh, Baird received his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh (1971).

PATRICIA (PRINGLE) MITCHAM '68 moved south in search of warmer weather. Mitcham and her husband, Charles, relocated to Simpsonville, S.C. from New Castle, Pa. The couple enjoys traveling and recently returned from a three-week excursion to China.

1970s

CARL LINDQUIST '72 and **MARY BETH (GRIMM) LINDQUIST '75** reside in Greensboro, N.C. Carl retired from the pastorate of the United Methodist Church in 2010 and retired again this summer from his career as an elementary school teacher.

DAVID PALESKY '77 and **CINDY (RUNYAN) PALESKY '80** reside in Gettysburg, Pa. In 2011, David retired from teaching and earned

a Ph.D. in Special Education from Capella University. The couple recently bought a "retirement home" in a senior community in Gettysburg. David spends most of his time with Masonic and Shrine activities. He is also a Zembo Shrine Clown and performs at Shrine circuses in Harrisburg, Altoona and Plymouth Meeting under the name "Junior."

1980s

RICHARD HARTENSTEIN '80 is a commercial salesman for Bridgestone. Hartenstein and his wife, Jody, reside in Montpelier, Va.

WALTER JOHNSON '85 is an administrator at the University of Rochester Medical Center and lives in Fairport, N.Y.

MONICA (FAY) ANDERSON '88 was named the first recipient of Franciscan University of Steubenville's Excellence in Teaching Award. This is the fourth major teaching award Anderson has received in her 23 years at Franciscan University. In 2000, she was honored with Franciscan's Senior Faculty Award. In 2005, she received the Excellence in Teaching and Service Award from the Theatre Division of the National Communication Association. In the fall of 2013, that same organization, now the Division of Theatre, Film and New Media, presented her with the Lifetime Award for Artistic Scholarship and National Leadership. She is a professor of drama and chair of the Department of Fine Arts at Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio.

LISA (LIPSCOMB) PERRY '89 has been promoted to Chief Development Officer at the Environmental Charter School in Pittsburgh, where she resides.

1990s

DALE BURGH '93 and **JANIE KOZAK '92** relocated to Cumming, Ga. after Dale received a promotion.

CHARLA (WEAVER) BENNAJI '99 is an instructor for Spanish and Literature at New College of Florida. She resides in Sarasota, Fla.

2000s

ERICA EDDINGS '02 is the assistant director for internships and placement at the University of La Verne. She lives in Los Angeles, Calif.

SHELBY SPENCE '06 is a teacher for the Charles County Board of Education and resides in La Plata, Md.

MEGAN ADAMS '06 is the location supervisor at UPMC and lives in Pittsburgh.

HEATHER (ANDRAKE) BIGGART '07 resides in Sharpsville, Pa. with her husband, Brock. Biggart is the payroll assistant at Comprehensive Children & Family Services.

SYRELL J. RODRIGUEZ CARRERAS '08 graduated from the Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton, Pa. in May and started working at York Hospital as a general surgery resident in June.

JOSHUA DI LUZIO '09 and **ALAN STEVENS '09** are celebrating their tenth anniversary of being together.

Di Luzio will be entering graduate school to become a behavioral health therapist with Primary Health Network in Sharon, Pa. Stevens sold his shares of a business he started in downtown Sharon to his business partner and is currently enrolled in a Point Park University graduate program studying fine arts writing for the stage and screen.

2010s

CLARISSA MILLER '11 is a graduate assistant at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

ADRIANNA REPERT '11 is a medical technician at Pyramid Healthcare.

EVAN DITTY '12 is the the coordinator of Greek Life and student leadership programs at Murray State University. Ditty graduated from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania with a Master of Arts in counseling in May.

AUDREY RATTAY '12 has been promoted to assistant vice president and director of marketing at Farmers National Bank. In this position, she manages product promotions, public relations, special events, advertising and marketing analytics. She joined the bank in 2013 as marketing coordinator. Rattay has been instrumental in leading successful marketing campaigns, enhancing the corporate brand image and developing specialized growth tactics for the bank.

KRISTIN WANSOR '13 is an outpatient mental health intern at the Community Counseling Center in Hermitage, Pa. Wansor anticipates graduating with her master's degree in mental health counseling from Slippery Rock University in May 2016.

CASEY ROSE '14 is a funeral director at the Hile Funeral Home, Inc. Rose lives in Karns City, Pa.

MARRIAGES



JENNA (GOWIN) FARLEY '08 to Matthew Farley on Aug. 29. The couple resides in Ravenna, Ohio.



LAUREN (WHETZEL) SIBURKIS '10 to Shane Siburkis on May 30. The bride's twin sister, **LINDSAY (WHETZEL) MATHES '10**, served as matron of honor. The couple resides in Philadelphia, Pa., where Lauren is the assistant director of communications at the University of the Sciences and Shane is a supply chain manager at IKEA North America Headquarters.



LAURA (DAVIN) PETRUCCI '11 to **GARY PETRUCCI '11** on June 13. Many Thiel alumni joined the couple on their special day!

BIRTHS

To **MEGAN (FRITZ) WADE '02** and her husband, Grant: identical twin boys, Alan and Sawyer, on June 1.



To **LORETTA (LOUGHNER) UNGER '05** and **JOSEPH UNGER '04**: a daughter, Lola Oliva, on May 26. The family resides in Blacklick, Ohio.



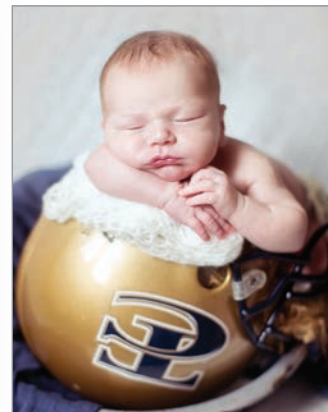
To **PAUL STIBICH '05** and his wife, Sarah: a baby, John Paul, on Nov. 4.



To **ANTONIO QUARTERMAN '08** and his wife, Jessica: a boy, Austin. Austin is accompanied by his big brother, Colt. The family resides in Pittsburgh.



To **KATHERINE (WALKER) HALADYNA '06** and **JOSHUA HALADYNA '05**: a daughter, Vivian Ann, on March 3.



To **MADISON (KENDERA) ANDERSON '09** and **GARRETT ANDERSON '10**: a son, Colt Levi, on July 10.



GATHERINGS

A group of Thiel friends enjoyed a four-day trip to the Laurel Highlands!

Pictured (L to R) are **ROSE (WOLFEL BRODY) SCHAUT '89**, **LORI BEASTON '88**, **LAURA (WERNER) ORCZECK '88**, **CHERYL (LONG) HENIGIN '89**, **PATTY (BEERMAN) WILSON '88** and **LINDY OLSON '88**.

In Memoriam

John E. Bright '50
 Jeanne (Hayes) Hershey '73
 Joan L. (Kline) Stoeber '51
 Dominic Lorenzo '52
 Janet L. (McCutcheon) Hahne '59
 Todd Alan Miller '83

James I. Mix '78
 Charles A. Peters '56
 Judith J. (Replogle) Clark '66
 Richard J. Rice '55
 Alfred F. Risavi '52
 Donald L. Schweingruber '63

Jana D. (Swartz) Harrison '71
 John S. Turnbull '62
 Lenora Doreen (Wesley) Craig '45
 Frank R. Zickar '51
 Ralph Zobel '70

CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION

Patricia (Murray) Callan '75 is a dedicated alumna who actively supports and promotes Thiel College. She is a lifelong advocate for her alma mater. It is with deep regret that we must sincerely apologize for inaccurately listing her as having passed in the spring 2015 edition of *The Bell*. We are overjoyed that Patti is with us, and continues to support the College.



UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI PROFILE

Whether it's a new email or mailing address, complete our online form to let us know how to stay in touch. Visit www.thiel.edu/alumni/keep-in-touch to update your alumni file. For more information, contact Director of Alumni Relations **Kraig R. Smith '12** at 724-589-2027 or ksmith@thiel.edu.

Thiel 2016 tours the nation

The *Thiel 2016* Campaign hit the road shortly after Homecoming 2015. The public phase of the campaign was announced during Homecoming weekend. In the 10 days following, **President Troy D. VanAken** and the College Advancement division traveled to 22 cities around the country. They met with alumni and friends and shared details of the largest fundraising campaign in the College's 149-year history.



Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** and his wife, **Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71**, **Jack '75** and **Karen Martin**, and **Dominic Dionisio '72** hosted the event in Erie, Pa.



Fred '66 and **Jill (Shackett) Haer '66** hosted the first stop of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign in Boston, Mass.



Kenneth '57 H'14 and **Joyce Bash** hosted alumni and friends at the Camelback Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz.



Joe Scarpitti, M.B.A. '80 and Chair of the Department of Business Administration and Accounting and Professor **Gary J. Witosky, C.P.A., C.G.M.A., M.Acc. '79** hosted the Cleveland, Ohio event.



Director of Alumni Relations **Kraig R. Smith '12** met with friends and alumni in Greenville, S.C.



Alumni and friends caught up over a round of golf at the Pittsburgh Field Club before the Pittsburgh *Thiel 2016* event.



Class of 1965 marks Golden Anniversary

The Class of 1965 celebrated their golden anniversary during Homecoming Weekend, which had the fitting theme of "Forever Gold." Twenty-two members of the class reunited during a breakfast held Saturday morning.

Class of 1965 photo

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Donald Lindman | 12. DaVee Artman |
| 2. Fred Goellner | 13. Eleanor (McPeck) Seiberling |
| 3. Kathy (McClelland) Lindman | 14. Sally (Fox) Roth |
| 4. Bob Brown | 15. Allen Scanlon |
| 5. Carl Sacherich | 16. John Logan |
| 6. George Partridge | 17. Linda (Woodward) Oliver |
| 7. Shirley (Sarvey) Bilowich | 18. Fred McCullough |
| 8. Jim Wehner | 19. Gist Wylie |
| 9. Gail (McClain) Owens | 20. Annette (Roberts) Heffelfinger |
| 10. Signe Mitchell | 21. Karen McCullough |
| 11. John Belohlavek | 22. Frank Volgstadt |



Barry with wife, Carol, at the Thiel 2016 Campaign Gala

Dear Alumni and Friends of Thiel College,

Each member of the Thiel College family has their own story of the important role the College played in his or her professional development and in their life. My story is centered on the quality educational experience and lifelong relationships I established as a result of the Thiel Commitment. I met my wife, **Carol**, at Thiel and we have enjoyed cultivating an even stronger relationship with the College some 40 years later. As an alumnus, I am deeply grateful for the personal and professional foundation Thiel provided. As a trustee and donor, I have had the good fortune to give back, helping to shape young lives and supporting continued growth and success of the institution.

I am proud to serve as chair of the largest campaign in the history of Thiel College, a new comprehensive campaign to endow the future of the College—*Thiel 2016*. This historic campaign is the result of years of careful planning and preparation by the Thiel College Board of Trustees and **President Troy D. VanAken**. Our \$60 million goal for the Campaign is within reach, with \$56 million raised as of the public announcement.

Thiel 2016 seeks to support four main initiatives. They are:

- New facilities for science
- The track and field complex
- Additional support for Thiel's endowment
- The Thiel Fund

Realization of these initiatives will result in a stronger Thiel College, with enhanced facilities and financial support for generations of students to come. More importantly, *Thiel 2016* will provide the tools necessary to prepare students for participation in meaningful careers and as engaged members of society. The expected growth for job opportunities in the sciences, along with our historical strength in science education, require that we invest in new instructional spaces for science education. The team building and leadership skills developed through athletics demand our commitment to new athletic venues. As we approach the celebration of Thiel's sesquicentennial, these investments will position Thiel for success over the next 150 years.

When I was asked to serve as campaign chair by President VanAken, I did not hesitate. I knew Carol and I wanted to be a part of actualizing the strategic plan and shaping the future of our alma mater. We are passionate about the future of Thiel College, and excited for the opportunity to utilize our talents (which Thiel helped us to develop) in this endeavor. Therefore, the decision to make our own Thiel Commitment was a simple one.

Please join Carol and me in supporting *Thiel 2016*. Together we will strengthen the institution, impact current Thiel students, and honor the legacy Thiel College and each of you leaves to future generations.

Sincerely,
Barry Stamm, M.D. '70

Along with serving as Chair of the Thiel 2016 Capital Campaign, **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** was also elected as the Chair of the Thiel College Board of Trustees in early November.

A native of Erie, Pa., Stamm has had a long career in ophthalmology with an emphasis in lens implant surgery and laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy. He practiced in his hometown for 30 years under Stamm Cataract and Laser Surgery, before selling the business in 2008. He has served on the Boards of Trustees at UPMC Hamot Medical Center and Sight Center of Northwest PA.

While at Thiel, he was a biology major and a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He received his medical degree from Hahnemann Medical College, now the Drexel University College of Medicine, in 1974. He enjoys sailing, golf, skiing and flying. He and his wife, **Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71**, have two children, **Brian** and **Ashley**.

give the gift of
graduation.

The world needs them. They need you.

Make your gift to the The Thiel Fund today!

No graduate gets there alone. Will you help them reach this milestone? Students who succeed are often helped by a supporter who offered aid, shared knowledge or simply believed in them. This season, you can help give the gift of graduation.

The
THIEL FUND

Committed to our Students. Investing in the Future.

www.thiel.edu/giving



Introducing the new logo for our sesquicentennial...



Join us for a yearlong celebration 150 years in the making, starting Founders' Day 2016

Learn more at www.thiel.edu/2016