

# The **Bell**

## A Landmark Era

New facilities and initiatives  
making connections that matter  
for students and alumni

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LIGHT OF THE WORLD, WORD OF GOD

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## A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

December first was the five-month anniversary of my engagement with Thiel College. My husband, Kent, and I so appreciate the warm welcome everyone has extended to our family as we join the Thiel community.

These months have been invigorating and inspiring. We have enjoyed meeting new people—on and off campus—who are deeply committed to the College and the community. There is still much to learn, many perspectives to consider and a myriad of stories to understand.

Still, I want to take this moment to acknowledge everyone, especially the Board of Trustees, who has welcomed and supported us in these early weeks on campus and in Greenville. It was a great pleasure to meet many of you at various alumni events and special “Meet the President” gatherings, and I look forward to more opportunities to engage with Thiel’s impressive alumni network. (See Page 41 for a list of upcoming alumni events.)

Homecoming was a highlight of the fall semester. The alumni and friends who visited campus had a wonderful weekend, reconnecting with the College, rekindling friendships and making new connections. (See Page 8 for a recap of Homecoming events.)

An especially exciting element of that weekend’s celebrations was the science connector groundbreaking. This new facility will strengthen faculty and student research and foster interdisciplinary inquiry. (Read more about the science connector on Page 22.) The vision and financial support for the science connector will have a lasting impact on the College’s academic programs.

The *Thiel 2016* Campaign has been a remarkable success, and we hope to finish strong this December. Since I have taken office, an additional \$1 million has been raised, putting the current total at more than \$64 million. I encourage you to help us maintain the campaign’s fundraising momentum with your continued financial support through the end of the campaign and beyond.

A new strategic plan is taking shape. This collaborative process—involving trustees, faculty, staff and students—has mapped out ambitious goals centered on student success and institutional vitality. The Thiel 2021 strategic plan will guide our work over the next five years as we increase enrollment and strengthen educational excellence.

As we celebrate the sesquicentennial, I encourage you to join us on campus for our Founders’ Day celebration Thursday, Feb. 2, and for the Presidential Inauguration and Commencement Exercises May 5 and 7. It is truly a landmark year as we celebrate the College’s rich 150-year history and look forward to Thiel’s continued success opening educational opportunities for students from a wide range of backgrounds.

Susan Traverso, Ph.D.  
20th President of Thiel College



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Thiel College is a liberal arts, sciences and professional studies college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



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## 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.

# Impatience as a virtue

His eagerness drove **Glen Johnson H'88** on to great personal and professional accomplishments

 *The Reverend David Paul Gleason, D.Min., D.Hum. H'16*



*Rev. David Gleason H'16 and Glen Johnson H'88 share a moment before the 2016 Commencement Exercises.*

He stopped to see me after a visit to the Social Security office. He was clearly flustered. Standing squarely in front of my desk, he blurted out, "Pastor, do you know what you have to do when you go to the Social Security office? You have to stand in line! I'd be happy to pay someone to stand in line for me." **Glen Roger Johnson H'88** was not a patient man. He may very well have been the most impatient person I ever met.

Patience is extolled as a great virtue, implying that impatience is a noteworthy weakness, but Glen turned impatience into a strength. His impatience made it possible for him to accomplish tasks set before him while looking ahead to something more. Whether it was a list of chores on the farm in Lake Lillian, Minn., where he grew up, or selling the financial products of Federated Investors to bankers across the country, Glen impatiently pushed himself and those around him to get things done in order to move ahead.

He pushed himself in his early years of high school, near the end of World War II, to step in to coach his own high school

baseball team because no one else was available. While he admitted to being only a fair ballplayer, he pushed himself with sheer determination to land a tryout with the St. Louis Cardinals. He didn't make the cut but he got to try.

After a very difficult, post-war year at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., Glen impatiently moved on to the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis where he began acquiring the skills in sales and marketing that would later serve him well.

After schooling, he made a brief attempt to go back to the family farm. Fortunately, that brought him the love of his life, LaVonne H'16. It also brought the realization that he needed to do more than

farm. He scraped together funds to buy a small local newspaper, moved it to his hometown and single-handedly published the *Lake Lillian Crier*. That, in turn, introduced him to politics. It pushed him to enter fully into the political world, eventually becoming one of Hubert Humphrey's campaign managers, then state director of the U.S. Savings Bond Program in Minnesota, then national director of the Savings Bond Program, then an under secretary of the Treasury in the Johnson administration. And so it goes. One move after another accomplished with a determination driven by impatience and by a desire to know what would be next. He wanted to see things happen, now.

His eventual vocational destination



was Federated Investors in Pittsburgh. As President of Multi-Trust Systems, Federated Securities Corporation, Glen was responsible for marketing and selling Federated's services to approximately 2,400 community banks scattered across the United States. His impatience with the task moved him to persuade Federated to purchase its own plane so travel time could be minimized. With the proper tools at his disposal, Glen succeeded in selling Federated to 2,200 of those community banks. He was a born salesman. His political connections also made him an effective lobbyist for Federated's fiscal interests.

Always impatient to see tasks successfully completed, he was also impatient with himself. He was compelled to accomplish promptly whatever work he saw before him. I once called him only to be told that he was in Minnesota for a meeting. I assured his secretary that there was nothing urgent. Ten minutes later Glen called to say, with a noticeable quiver in his voice, that he had checked in with his secretary and knew that I called. He phoned as he was walking to his car with a wind chill factor of 42-below-zero. When Glen saw something to do, he did it.

Much of what he did brought joy to others. He delighted in playing host and entertaining whether the entertainment was related to business, fundraising, or pure pleasure. He and LaVonne together brought joy to co-workers, employees, board or committee members, and fellow church members. They hosted Thiel's

Board of Trustees in their Pittsburgh and Florida homes on numerous occasions. Glen also found pleasure in entertaining family and friends scattered across the country and in providing whatever might bring them happiness. I, along with many others, was the joyful recipient of hockey, football, and baseball tickets. When I called during the game or the day after, the delight in Glen's voice was evident. He found as much satisfaction in bringing joy to others as in experiencing the games for himself.

As his pastor, I witnessed Glen's impatience even in the church. A planned capital campaign had to succeed and quickly, so he made his own financial commitment and encouraged others to "get on board." As a good churchman, he threw his backing behind virtually every ministry our parish tried to carry out. Building projects, educational programs, outreach to those in need, the music program, the arts, all received quick and strong support. I was profoundly grateful to have Glen and LaVonne both as parishioners and friends.

It was Glen's dedication to the church that persuaded him to serve on Thiel's Board of Trustees. He maintained a strong commitment to the place of the church in higher education. As president of the board in the 1980s, he saw the financial needs of the college and insisted that Trustees be required to make significant financial commitments to the school. Together with LaVonne, Glen made his own financial commitments to Thiel.

They are evident in buildings, music programs, and ongoing support for the mission of the college. They are most visible in Thiel's beautiful David Johnson Chapel, a testimony to the Johnson's commitment to the role of faith and the church in the life of the college.

Both Glen and LaVonne possessed a deep and abiding Christian faith that allowed them to see with gratitude how God had blessed them in the life they shared for 67 years. Their faith also sustained them through the harshest blows life can deliver. No trauma is greater than the death of one's child. Glen and LaVonne faced that trauma twice with the untimely deaths of two of their three children, David and Lori. Their faith brought them both consolation and hope. It is the very faith incarnate in Thiel's chapel and in their deep commitment to the Christian life of the college.

**Glen's passing in early August was a sad loss for many. He was for me a mentor, friend, fellow sports fan, great storyteller, and a true brother in Christ. I miss him terribly. But his commitments, most often formed with a tinge of impatience, are with us still and will continue to be as we impatiently look ahead to what is to come. That is certainly true of his commitment to Thiel. Thanks be to God.**



## President Traverso greets her inaugural class

Move-in and Opening Convocation mark traditional welcome for new students

Just over three weeks after her official start date, President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, was welcoming more than 300 other new faces to Thiel College. The Class of 2020 was greeted by the new president as she met students during the traditional first-year student move-in on Aug. 26 and then at other events throughout the day, including the Opening Convocation ceremony.

This year's group included first-year, transfer and international students. The new students moved into their rooms, picked up their laptops, made their traditional march along Brother Martin's Walk and were admitted into the incoming class during Opening Convocation.

"This is a special year for these students. They stand at the starting line of a four-year journey full of promise and opportunity, but it is also special for me, too," said Traverso, who took office Aug. 1 as the College's 20th president. "I consider myself a first-year, too. I am getting to know our students and campus better and will be sharing the stories of our talented and creative students with alumni and friends of the College."

This year's class represents a 37 percent increase over last year's incoming class. The class comprises 17 states, and the top five states represented are Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Maryland and Florida. The Class of 2020 also makes up the largest class for the College's Dietrich Honors Institute since its inception in 2012.





# THIEL:

## *Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow*

Campus celebrates 150 years of history during Homecoming 2016



In its sesquicentennial year, Thiel College celebrated Homecoming 2016 with both new and traditional events for students, alumni, friends of the College and community members. The theme was “Thiel: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow.”

In the week preceding Homecoming weekend, Thiel sponsored a number of activities. A Color Dash 5K was held on Sept. 25. The Color Dash—sponsored by ILSCO Extrusions, Inc.—had more than 300 participants.

Other celebrations included the National Thiel Spirit Day on Tuesday, Sept. 27. Alumni around the country were encouraged to show their school spirit by wearing blue and gold or any Thiel branded clothing and posting photos of their outfits to social media with the hashtag #TC150, which led to thousands of impressions.

St. Paul’s: A Continuing Care Community sponsored “Thiel History Time,” where Thiel College alumni shared stories from past generations in the James Pedas Communication Center.

The invite-only, formal Sesquicentennial Gala, Blue-Gold Golf Outing, and student and alumni networking reception as well as a student pep rally kicked off the weekend on Sept. 30.

Class reunions, a groundbreaking ceremony for the College’s new science facility, the Tomcat Kids Zone, a parade and the football game were also on Saturday. Planning is underway for next year’s Homecoming celebration, so save the date for Oct. 13-15, 2017.



View images from Homecoming at <http://bit.ly/tchomecoming2016photos> and the Homecoming highlights video <http://bit.ly/tchomecoming2016video>



**1** Grant '07 and Rachel (Kick) Cooper '06 show their son, Harrison, around campus. **2** The inaugural Color Dash 5K kicked off the weeklong schedule of events for Homecoming 2016. **3** The Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride participates in the Homecoming parade. **4** Jennifer (Barnes) Morgan '03, Marquisnia Torbert '07, Sekea Murray '04, Vice President for College Advancement Roberta Leonard, Dana VanKirk '05, Alumni Board member Mike Allen '90, Alumni Board President Antonio Quarterman '08 and Clyde Morgan '00 pose for a photo during the Sesquicentennial Gala. **5** Robert Carpenter '17, Marion (Norris) Shoemaker '63, President Traverso and Gretchen (Young) Gibbs '63 interact at the Student and Alumni Networking Reception. **6** Amber Fox '17 and Loyal Jasper '17 enjoy their coronation as Homecoming Queen and King. **7** Students walk down Brother Martin’s Walk before the parade.



## Best and brightest recognized; Harrisburg healthcare executive awarded honorary degree

PrimeCare Medical, Inc. Executive Vice President **Theresa Hoffman** was awarded an honorary degree during Academic Honors Convocation on Nov. 4 in the William A. Passavant Memorial Center.

More than 300 students from across several departments were recognized during the ceremony for academic achievement and scholarship. 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 field of study. Students were also recognized for 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.

“Theresa Hoffman has been a leading advocate for Thiel College and its students. She and her family have provided generous gifts of time and resources to create opportunities for the young men and women who attend Thiel College,” Vice President for College Advancement **Roberta Leonard** said. “Theresa has hosted, met and networked with students. She has been an outstanding supporter of the institution and has earned this rich honor with her and her family’s longstanding commitment.”

With her guidance and oversight, PrimeCare Medical, Inc. has provided internships for Thiel College students. The Hoffman’s support has included opening their home and providing housing for Thiel College interns.

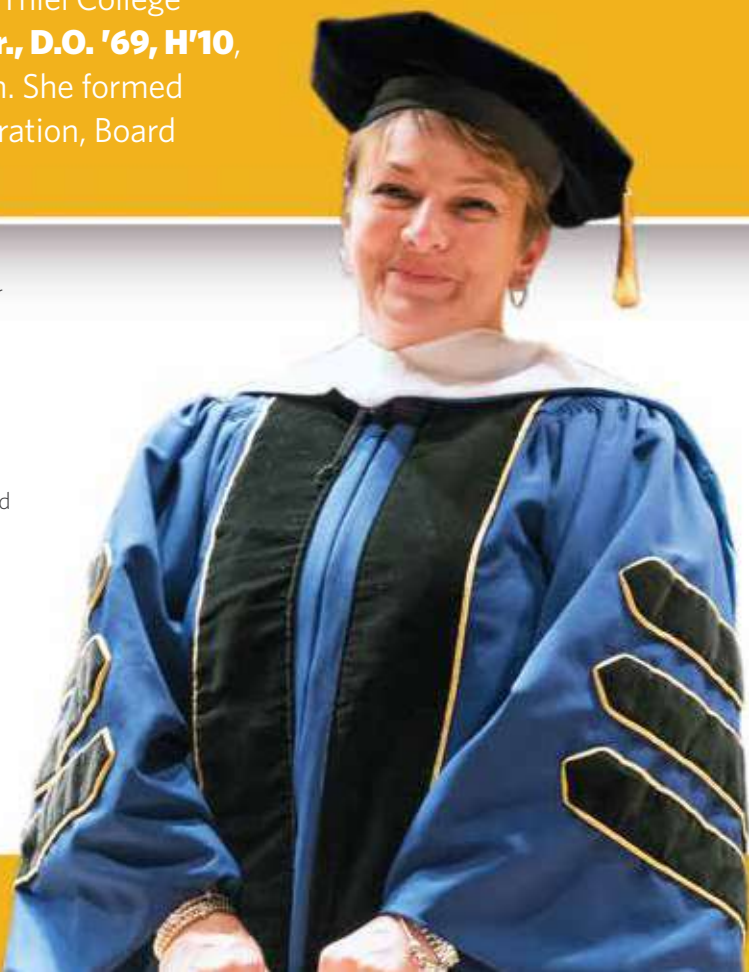
In honor of her inaugural year, President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, gave the keynote address during the Convocation ceremony.



When **Theresa Hoffman** was introduced to Thiel College by her husband of 20 years, **Carl Hoffman Jr., D.O. '69, H'10**, she connected immediately to the institution. She formed lasting friendships with the faculty, administration, Board of Trustees, students and staff.

Since taking office on Aug. 1, President Traverso has made a clear commitment to student success and engaging Thiel's first-year student population.

Hoffman graduated from Bishop McDevitt High School in 1981. She began her professional career immediately after high school working in the travel industry and then in the law field. She moved on to handle digital equipment accounts for several years before accepting a position as a special assistant to the president at PrimeCare Medical, Inc. in December 1995. She assumed more responsibilities and was elevated to executive vice president in May 1996. She oversees the financial review and approval of all corporate bills and corporate event planning. She also reviews all corporate policies and human resources issues and handles management of all corporate employees.



View additional photos on Flickr  
<http://bit.ly/honorsconvo2016photos>

## Stamms named Haller Entrepreneurs of the Year

The Thiel College Haller Enterprise Institute named **Carol (Yeager) '71** and **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**, founders of Stamm Cataract and Laser Surgery, as the 2016 Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneurs of the Year at the annual award dinner Oct. 19.

“Barry and Carol Stamm have a commitment to excellence that extends to every part of their professional lives,” Vice President for College Advancement **Roberta Leonard** said. “Their business, their entrepreneurial ventures, as well as their commitment to Thiel College are all founded in that commitment. They believe not just in what we can currently do, but what is possible in the future.”

**Brant Dencher '17**, a senior business administration major from Hermitage, Pa., was named the student entrepreneur of the year.

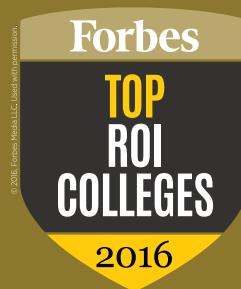
Carol Stamm began her career in the Department of Business working for Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller '61**. A native of Bolivar, Pa., she was a Dean’s List student, a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, and a sweetheart of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. After graduation, she worked in the banking industry before taking a leadership role at Stamm Cataract and Laser Surgery, which she cofounded with her husband.

Barry Stamm serves as the chair of the Thiel College Board of Trustees. A native of Erie, Pa., he 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 he and his wife sold the business in 2008. He was a biology major and a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Thiel. He received his medical degree from Hahnemann Medical College, now the Drexel University College of Medicine, in 1974.

The Haller Enterprise Institute encourages students from any major to begin their own business while they continue their education. The Institute is named after **Henry E.** and **Grace Mary Haller**, major benefactors to the College with a keen interest in entrepreneurship. In 1998, Grace Mary passed away. Henry passed away in March 2012, and Mrs. **Linda Haller H'13** remains a constant advocate for student success and currently serves on the Haller Enterprise Institute’s Advisory Board.



# Colleges of Distinction and Forbes' Grateful Grads Index



## Thiel wins national recognition as College of Distinction

**Thiel College's innovative application of high-impact educational practices earned it honors as a 2016-2017 College of Distinction. The designation recognizes select schools for excellence in student-focused higher education.**

To be considered for this recognition, colleges and universities must demonstrate results across four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community and successful outcomes. High school counselors and educators nominate institutions, and each school is evaluated on key indicators including student engagement, student empowerment and curricular innovation. Colleges judged to be excellent in each of the four distinctions and that have demonstrated dedication to enriching student outcomes through creative learning opportunities are then invited to join Colleges of Distinction.

"We're so happy to award Thiel College for developing skills relevant to graduates' lives," said **Tyson Schritter**, executive editor for Colleges of Distinction. "High student engagement in college is one of the keys to a successful undergraduate education. With an increasing emphasis on hands-on learning techniques, Colleges of Distinction applauds Thiel College for practicing methodologies that prepare students for their futures."

The annual process to select the nation's Colleges of Distinction also includes a review of each school's first-year experience, as well as its general education program, strategic plan, and alumni success and satisfaction measures.

"Colleges of Distinction is more than an annual ranking of colleges and universities. We only include colleges that offer every student a holistic and valuable experience," Schritter said. "The Colleges of Distinction have earned solid reputations for serving their students and nurturing success. Like Thiel College, our member schools provide the affirming undergraduate experience every student deserves."

Read more at [collegesofdistinction.com/school/thiel-college/](http://collegesofdistinction.com/school/thiel-college/).

## College named to Forbes' Grateful Graduates index

**Thiel College was ranked among the top 200 institutions nationwide on Forbes' Grateful Graduates Index 2016.**

Inclusion on the list signifies that a college has a history of producing graduates who consistently donate to their alma mater.

In the article, titled "2016 Grateful Grad Colleges: The Top 200 Show-Me-The-Money Schools," Forbes uses several factors to rank the schools, including private donation rates, gifts per student and alumni participation rates. The article includes only private, not-for-profit colleges, and comprises many Ivy League institutions.

Thiel's network of 10,000 active alumni helped it gain this distinction. Successful fundraising activities from the *Thiel 2016* Campaign and generous independent donations such as the \$150,000 pledged upon the appointment announcement of President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.** contributed to the ranking.

"The best colleges are the ones that produce successful people who make enough money during their careers to be charitable, and feel compelled to give back to their alma mater," Forbes Managing Editor of Investing, Markets and Personal Finance **Matt Schifrin** said.



## Witosky named David Miller Endowed Chair for Accounting

Professor of Business, Administration and Accounting and Department Chair **Gary Witosky '79** became Thiel College's first David M. Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting during the Sesquicentennial Gala celebration Friday, Sept. 30.

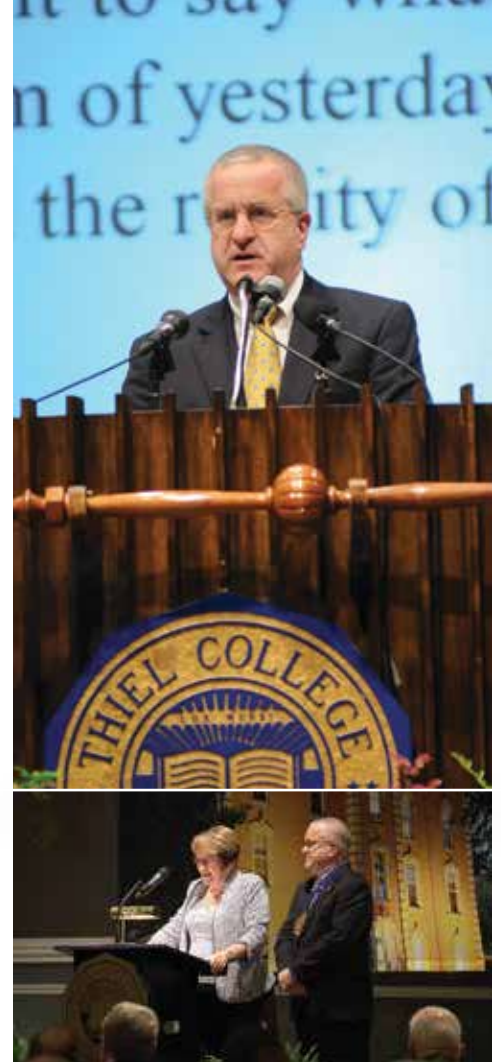
Witosky earned his bachelor's degree from Thiel College in 1979. He began teaching at Thiel in 2002 and received a Master of Accountancy from Stetson University in 2012.

"It is both an honor and a privilege to be the first person to hold the Professor David M. Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting. To my good fortune, Dave was my first accounting professor in Principles of Accounting. His incomparable teaching ability provided me the solid base I needed to be successful in the rest of the accounting curriculum and his boundless enthusiasm lit a spark which resulted in a passion for accounting that carried beyond my studies and into my professional career," Witosky said. "Dave's influence on me during my time at Thiel has played a significant role, not only in my career, but in my life and I know that

thousands of other alumni could make this same statement. Since returning to Thiel in 2002, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Dave as we continue to provide a high-quality education which prepares our students for careers and lives of meaning and purpose."

The creation of the endowed chair was announced in May 2014, and was funded through the *Thiel 2016* Campaign. The position was created in honor of Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller '61**, who is the longest tenured professor in Thiel College history.

"I am delighted that Gary Witosky was named to the chair," Miller said. "I can't think of anyone more qualified or better fit to receive this distinction. As a former student and very successful business person, Gary returned home to Thiel and has made numerous impactful contributions. He has been unfailingly generous with his time and talent and has invested in a number of projects. I am honored and so thankful that he is the first to hold the David Miller Chair."



## New faculty members join Thiel College staff

**Michael A. Morgan, Ph.D.**, Department of Political Science; **Guy Gadola**, Department of Mathematics and Computer science; and **Svetlana Kulikova, Ph.D.**, Department of Media, Communication and Public Relations joined the Thiel College faculty this fall.

Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science **Jie Wu, Ph.D.**, also rejoined the College's faculty.

Most recently, Morgan served as a visiting professor in the department of political science at Marietta College and has also served as a graduate student instructor at the University of Kentucky. His primary research agenda focuses on international relations and comparative politics. He has taught classes on terrorism, sociology,



(L to R) Svetlana Kulikova, Ph.D.; Guy Gadola; Michael A. Morgan, Ph.D.; Jie Wu, Ph.D.

American foreign policy, contemporary global conflicts and the international political economy.

Gadola's professional experience includes employment as a process control engineer at the John Maneely Company in Wheatland, Pa.; as a systems engineer and information analyst at Electronic Data Systems in Warren, Ohio; and also as a senior design engineer at Joy Mining Machinery in Franklin, Pa. He knows several programming languages and systems and has trained and supported industrial software users. Gadola worked as a teaching assistant for Java and assembly language courses at the University of Pittsburgh.

Kulikova leads the media, communication

and public relations department's new public relations, advertising and integrated marketing communication major, teaching primarily public relations courses. Her academic and professional experience includes an assistant professorship at Georgia State University in the department of communication and roles as journalism department chair and public relations director for American University of Central Asia. She also worked as a media and publications consultant in non-profit and international organizations, including the International Research and Exchange Board, the Urban Institute, and the National Democratic Institute. Her main interests are international public relations and post-Soviet journalism.



## Psychology professor one of five in state selected for Emerging Leaders Program

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Shannon Deets, Ph.D.**, is one of five psychology professionals and the only one with clinical and academic experiences chosen for the Emerging Leaders Program of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association.

The program included training in leadership styles, a discussion of the administrative structure of the Association, a meeting with the board of directors

and work with a mentor to begin a research project. Deets was inaugurated on Sept. 17 in Harrisburg and will also travel twice more to Harrisburg to undertake additional leadership training designed to prepare her for active participation in leadership roles within the PPA. Individuals were identified as emerging leaders in a selective process overseen by the PPA Leadership Development Committee.

## Hall, Buck get new titles for Academic Affairs

Professor of English **Mary Theresa Hall, Ph.D.**, and Professor of History **David Buck, Ph.D.**, were each appointed to additional roles in Academic Affairs this fall.

Hall was appointed associate academic dean after 17 years of service to Thiel College.

Buck was promoted to associate dean for core curriculum from assistant dean for core curriculum.

Hall's responsibilities include collaboration with Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.**; development of affiliation agreements; assessment oversight of academic departments; student academic issues; new student registration and orientation; serving as liaison to the Office of Admission; new faculty mentoring; and oversight of the Thiel Forums and the Student-of-the-Month program.



## Perez hired as new academic adviser within Division of Student Life

**Angelica Perez** was appointed to a new academic adviser position within the Division of Student Life in July.

Perez will advise first-year students majoring in business or criminal justice, students enrolled in the College's new Associate to Bachelor's Program, and students engaged in the exploratory program. In addition to assisting with course scheduling and success planning, Perez will focus much of her attention on helping students fully engage in campus life.

Perez received a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in political science from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in 2011, as well as a master's degree in counseling in 2014. She earned post-master's certification in human resource management from Villanova University in 2015. In the past, Perez has served as an addictions counselor and treatment team coordinator. She was recently employed as a student success coach at Clarion University of Pennsylvania.



## Roberta Leonard named vice president for college advancement

Thiel College announced this fall that **Roberta Leonard** has been appointed to the position of vice president for college advancement.

"Roberta's remarkable talent for relationship-building has broadened and deepened the College's stakeholder groups," President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, said. "She understands the importance of celebrating the accomplishments of students, faculty and alumni, and she has a proven track record of attracting external support to the College. I am confident Roberta will bring effective leadership as vice president for college advancement. Building on the success of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign, she will meet and—no doubt—exceed new goals as we together advance the College."

Over the past 15 years, Leonard held several positions in College Advancement, including director of corporate, foundation, and government support; executive director of donor services; and executive director of the Capital Campaign. Last spring, she was appointed interim vice president for college advancement. In that role, she oversaw the *Thiel 2016* Campaign as it surpassed its \$60 million goal, and supported the College's transition to Traverso, who took office Aug. 1, 2016.

Recently, Leonard was also named to the Thrivent Fellows Program. The program is a rigorous 12-month executive fellowship designed to develop the leadership capacity of staff members at colleges and universities affiliated with the Lutheran church.



# Faculty Spotlight

## Sheila Nowinski

History is sometimes reduced to events and a few pivotal people; and the context and consequence of that history are lost, which is why Assistant Professor of History **Sheila Nowinski, Ph.D.**, has taken an approach that she calls social history.

“It is really just a focus on ordinary people and their lives and how they change,” she said. “There are trends that definitely intersect with politics and big dates, but I focus on the ordinary, not the big. What are the consequences for the rest of us?”

Nowinski, who began teaching at Thiel in the fall of 2015, specializes in religion and social change. She delves into how religious institutions and people have shaped the modern world and how social, economic, and political developments have in turn altered religion. Her research is on Catholicism in 20th century France, particularly on the role of a rural Catholic youth organization in the social and economic modernization of the French countryside.

She started a new project this year, with the support of a Thiel College Faculty Scholarship Award, on French debates about priestly celibacy in the 1960s-1970s. She is looking at how the public image and role of celibate priests change in the context of the sexual revolution and what these debates revealed about the public’s assumptions about masculinity and male sexuality at a time of shifting values and practices in France. She will present this work at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Denver in January 2017.

But it is not just her research that aims to bring context and meaning to the events of history.

She has worked with students to have them utilize the Thiel College archive. In its 150 years, Thiel College has had many intersections with people and events in the United States’ history.

The College awarded an honorary degree to **Amelia Earhart H’32**. It had faculty and staff at the White House to meet **Eleanor Roosevelt**, honored a sitting United States Vice President, and allowed its facilities to be used during World War II for training and housing soldiers. Due to the work of one her students, **Hans Myers ’17**, the College community was reminded of the sacrifice five young men who were students or graduates of the College made during World War I.

“We have wonderful history majors at Thiel, which makes my job very rewarding and fun. Thiel history students are always asking questions—that curiosity motivates them to dig in the library, the

archives, online databases, wherever they can find answers," Nowinski said. "Working with Hans has been fun. I've been impressed with his thorough use of the Thiel archives. It is a great resource to have on campus. He also took the initiative to request service records from the National Archives. Unfortunately, those records were destroyed in a fire many years ago. Hans' work illuminates Thiel's link to the Great War, a global conflict, and reminds us of its terrible cost. His work reveals how the war and the sometimes overlooked influenza pandemic of 1918 were intertwined, amplifying the deadlines of each."

When Nowinski sends students out to conduct research, she said they usually come back with more questions.

"It can be hard because in many cases, I don't have answers that are clear. I see my role as guiding students through this process, helping them to refine their questions to get richer answers," Nowinski said. "History students learn to formulate good questions and to ask them at the right time."

Along with her current research, her article "French Catholic Activism in Algeria between Colonization and Development, 1930-65" was published in the journal *French History* in 2013. The online journal includes articles covering a wide range of inquiry across the arts and social sciences, as well as across historical periods, and book reviews. The journal provides a broad perspective on contemporary debates from an international range of scholars, and covers the entire chronological range of French history from the early Middle Ages to the 20th century. She studied at the 18th annual Holocaust Education Foundation Summer Institute on Holocaust and Jewish Civilization at Northwestern University in 2013. The program was an intensive two-week course of study designed to broaden and deepen the background of current and prospective Holocaust educators.

Nowinski came to Thiel College in the fall of 2015. She was an assistant professor of history at Siena Heights University in Adrian, Mich. 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.

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**"Historians are funny. We are the only discipline that studies something that doesn't exist,"**

Nowinski said. **"The past is gone. But there are things we can know and learn about from that past."**

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## Thiel Students Made Supreme Sacrifice in 'Great War'

 Hans G. Myers, '17

**Five students made "the supreme sacrifice," during World War I as a plaque in their memory in the Langenheim Memorial Library proclaims.**

**Edwin Kishler** was "one of the most popular men that ever attended college," according to an obituary in the *Thielensian*. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1917 and died on June 25, 1918 in the Battle of Belleau Wood. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. He was the only Thiel College graduate to die in combat in the war.

**Trueworthy Durgin**, a native of Racine, Wisc., was assigned to the Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago as an engineering instructor. He died of the Spanish flu—the deadliest viral health pandemic in history—on Oct. 1, 1918.

**William Shannon Wright** was from Ellwood City, Pa. Wright enlisted in the Army on July 14, 1918. He was a victim of the 1918 Spanish flu on Oct. 22, 1918.

**Francis L. Harter**—no relation to Professor **Nathaniel Harter** of "Harter Hall" fame—enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1917. Harter died on Jan. 8, 1918 from pneumonia as a result of the Spanish flu.

**Thomas Hunt**, of Hadley, Pa., enlisted in the Army in September 1918. He died of Spanish flu on Oct. 15, 1918.

The five Thiel soldiers who died in World War I are memorialized on campus. A plaque in their honor hangs in the Langenheim Memorial Library and a sundial near Roth Hall was dedicated by the Class of 1919.

## Camille Radford '18 in Thailand with veterinary groups

**Camille Radford '18**, of Baltimore, spent two weeks in Thailand over the summer caring for elephants and other animals. As part of a veterinary training program, Radford and other volunteers learned about the treatment of dogs, rabbits, cats, water buffalo and elephants.

Radford—a biology and English major at Thiel—is a 2013 graduate of Baltimore City College High School. She traveled to Thailand with the Boston-based group Loop Abroad. Their veterinary service program takes college students overseas to learn alongside local veterinarians from two different shelters in Thailand.



## Thiel Equestrians hosted their first Intercollegiate Horse Show Association competition

The Thiel College Equestrians hosted their first Intercollegiate Horse Show Association competition on Oct. 15 and 16.

The event was held at an equine facility in Coolville, Ohio. In accordance with Association rules, Thiel provided horses on which all students competed.

"This event represents a significant step in the evolution of the Thiel College Equestrians," equine instructor **Jenna Malnar** said. "Our students have made tremendous commitments to the program, and the opportunity to host an event themselves is a great reward for their efforts."

## Cycling club rides to Maine for brain awareness campaign



Nine members of the Thiel College Cycling Club departed on the 800-mile, 10-day "Brain Campaign 2 Maine" in May.

The riders made the trek from Greenville, Pa. to Bowdoin, Maine to raise awareness for the prevalence of neurological disorders and draw attention to Thiel

College resources associated with its Department of Neuroscience. They conducted several service projects at various stops along the way.

The group stopped in Canandaigua, N.Y. and—with the help of Rochester, N.Y. resident **Joe Nairn '79**—made multiple presentations to children from that area on the importance of exercise for brain health.

The trip connected three organizations with Thiel College ties. Bowdoin is the home of FHC, Inc., a neuroscience research and medical device firm that serves as the umbrella corporation for Greenville Neuromodulation Services (GNS) and the nonprofit Greenville Neuromodulation Center (GNC). Neuroscience students at Thiel can conduct research or participate in

internships with the GNS and GNC as a part of their studies. FHC founder and alumnus **Fred Haer '65** and his wife, **Jill (Shackett) Haer '66** received the cyclists at the end of the trip.

Students **Cody Wagner '19**, **Frank Jackson '18**, **Hunter Young '18**, **Nick McNutt '17** and **Vince Vahaly '17** made the trip. Alumni **Izabella Griffith '16**, **Ty Hendzell '16**, **Fred Kiser '66**, and Associate Dean of Career Development and trip leader **Martin Black** were also on the ride.

The Thiel College Student Government Association, more than 80 alumni, and many friends and family members of the riders provided funding for the trip.

## Recent accounting graduates continue tradition of success

**Kelsey Schneider '16**, an associate with S.R. Snodgrass, P.C., has passed all four parts of the Certified Fraud Examiner's Exam. The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners is the world's largest anti-fraud organization. The Certified Fraud Examiner credential denotes proven expertise in fraud prevention, detection and deterrence.

**Jessica (Bittler) Hoffman '14**, senior associate with Arnett Carbis Toothman, and **Hillary Hambleton '14**, associate with Clifton Larson Allen, have passed all four parts of the Certified Public Accountant Exam.

**James Kara '08** recently completed a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in finance from Ashland University (Ohio). Kara is an auditor with Jack Casinos in Cleveland. He also has been a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) since 2014.

### Job Offers/Placements among Dec. '16 and May '17 accounting graduates:

**Alyssa (Murphy) Babcock**, Campbell & Sherbondy, Greenville, Pa.  
**Brittany Bates**, Kreider & Company, LLC, Meadville, Pa.  
**Hailey Becker**, Donnelly & Boland, CPAs, Pittsburgh  
**Alyssa Mondl**, Baker, Tilly, Pittsburgh  
**Jaclyn Kuzma**, Citizens Bank, Pittsburgh  
**Kelly Thompson**, Plante Moran, Cleveland  
**Dan Wiegmann**, Grossman, Yanak & Ford, LLP, Pittsburgh  
**Trevor Martin**, Hill, Barth, and King LLC



Go to the Thiel College Newsroom to stay caught up on all the happenings on and around campus  
[www.thiel.edu/newsroom/press-releases](http://www.thiel.edu/newsroom/press-releases)

# 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. All six students will graduate in May 2017.

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



### Robert Carpenter

**Hometown:** Ulysses, Pa.

**High School:** Northern Potter Junior/Senior High School

**Major:** Early childhood and special education

**Postgraduate plans:** Attend graduate school for education and possibly teach abroad

**Clubs & Activities:** President of the Thiel College Class of 2017; resident assistant; treasurer for the Greenville Junior Chamber of Commerce; Alpha Chi national honor society National Council; Dietrich Honors Institute Student Advisory Board; study abroad in New Zealand at Lincoln University



### Audra Franley

**Hometown:** Jefferson, Ohio

**High School:** Jefferson Area High School

**Major:** Religion and parish education

**Postgraduate plans:** Attend graduate school to obtain Master of Arts in religion, followed by Ph.D. in religion and teaching at the college level

**Clubs & Activities:** Pi Nu Epsilon national music honor society; Sigma Tau Delta international English honor society; Order of Omega Greek leadership honor society; Theta Alpha Kappa religious studies and theology national honor society; Alpha Chi national honor society; Les Lauriers scholarship, leadership and service honorary society; president of Chi Omega women's fraternity; the Thiel Choir; Chamber Singers; volunteer at the David Johnson Memorial Chapel; Lutheran Student Movement; Thiel Student Support Network

## November



### Morgan Murphy

**Hometown:** New Castle, Pa.

**High School:** Shenango Junior/Senior High School

**Major:** Biology

**Postgraduate plans:** Attend physician assistant school

**Clubs & Activities:** Beta Beta Beta national biology honor society; Order of Omega Greek leadership honor society; Sigma Kappa sorority; Dietrich Honors Institute; Health Professions Institute; Running Club; TC Spirit Squad



### Nathan Flory

**Hometown:** Export, Pa.

**High School:** Franklin Regional Senior High School

**Major:** English, with a minor in religion

**Postgraduate plans:** Pursue a Master of Divinity

**Clubs & Activities:** Lutheran Student Movement; Dietrich Honors Institute; Thiel Choir; The Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride; Concert band; Sigma Tau Delta international English honor society; Theta Alpha Kappa religious studies and theology national honor society; Pi Nu Epsilon national music honor society; Alpha Chi national honor society; Les Lauriers scholarship, leadership and service honorary society; Lambda Sigma national sophomore honorary society

## December



### Austin Hall

**Hometown:** Beaver Falls, Pa.

**High School:** Riverside High School

**Major:** English with a minor in classical languages

**Postgraduate plans:** Attend graduate school to study German history, attain a doctorate and teach on the collegiate level

**Clubs & Activities:** Dietrich Honors Institute; Alpha Chi national honor society; Founder and President of VAQ humanities research honor society; Kappa Sigma fraternity; Phi Alpha Theta college history honor society; Alpha Psi Omega college theatre honor society; Sigma Tau Delta international English honor society; Sigma Alpha Pi national society of leadership and success; Lamda Sigma national sophomore honorary society; Thiel Players; Tomcat Political Society



### Jennifer Rickens

**Hometown:** Pittsburgh, Pa.

**High School:** Chartiers Valley High School

**Major:** Binary engineering, physics and mathematics

**Postgraduate plans:** Finish engineering degree at University of Pittsburgh and pursue a doctorate in biomedical engineering

**Clubs & Activities:** Dietrich Honors Institute; Sigma Kappa Sorority; Health Professions Institute; Lacrosse, Soccer, Sigma Alpha Pi national society of leadership and success; Kappa Mu Epsilon mathematics honor society; Order of Omega Greek leadership honor society; Les Lauriers scholarship, leadership and service honorary society; Lutheran Student Movement; Thiel Christian Fellowship; Thiel Activities Board

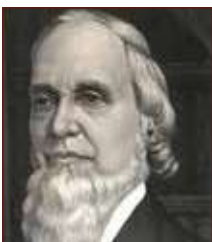
# 10 people from Thiel College's history you should know

Amid the celebration of its 150th anniversary, Thiel College archivist John Hauser '71 takes a look at prominent figures in school history

*John Hauser '71*



**LOUIS AND BARBARA THIEL** immigrated to the United States from Prussia (now Germany) in the mid-1840s. Apprenticed as a baker, Louis and a partner opened a dry goods store in Pittsburgh. While the venture was unsuccessful, the Thiels invested in the newly-formed Columbia Oil Company, committing to tithe any of the earnings on this stock. When the Drake's Well hit oil in 1859, the value of their stock soared, and, in 1864, they sold the stock for \$40,000. Both of the Thiels were reared as Roman Catholics but became Lutherans when they came to the United States. They shared their good news with their minister, who contacted William Passavant, then president of the Pittsburgh Synod. Their decision to give \$4,000 was the impetus needed for Passavant to found Thiel Hall in 1866, which became Thiel College in 1870. Louis Thiel died at age 59, just two months before the College was chartered. Barbara Thiel died in 1871, just 13 months after her husband.



**WILLIAM A. PASSAVANT** was born in Zelenople, Pa. in 1821. He graduated from Jefferson College (now Washington & Jefferson College) and

Gettysburg Seminary. From the beginning of his ministry, his charisma and drive enabled him to found five new churches in the Pittsburgh area, Passavant Hospital (now a part of UMP) and Passavant

Children's Home. He also helped to organize the Pittsburgh Synod of the Lutheran Church and served as its president for six years and an additional eight years as Missionary Superintendent, resulting in the establishment of 60 additional congregations. It was through Passavant's vision and leadership that Thiel College was founded as "an educational institution of high order in connection with the Lutheran Church."



The **Rev. Dr. HENRY WARREN ROTH** was Thiel's first president, serving from 1870-1887. A dynamic young minister who was called by the Trustees to be

the president of a new institution, he also served as President of the Pittsburgh Synod, President of the Thiel Board of Trustees, Dean of the College, Chaplain, Treasurer and faculty member during this 17-year tenure. He was also superintendent of the boarding hall on campus where his wife served as matron. Thiel was originally located in Monaca, Pa. but moved to Greenville after its first year. Roth oversaw the relocation and construction of a campus with three buildings, the addition of a conservatory of music and the tripling of the student body during his tenure.



Thiel's fourth president, the **Rev. THEOPHILUS B. ROTH 1874**

was a member of the first graduating class from Thiel College and the younger brother of

Henry Warren Roth. Also a minister, he was the founder of nine mission churches prior

to his return to Thiel. During his tenure from 1893-1902, the music and art departments expanded, business and education departments were added and electives offered with four degree options, a response to the change in how society viewed higher education from what had been a "classical" education. T.B. Roth brought stability to the College after what had been a chaotic six years since his brother's resignation in 1887.



**AMELIA EARHART H'32** was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She was also the daughter of Edwin S. Earhart 1886

and the first woman to receive an honorary degree from Thiel College. Prior to her attempt at an around-the-world flight, she expressed an interest in helping Thiel. After her disappearance over the Pacific in 1937, the Thiel trustees incorporated an Amelia Earhart Foundation in her memory and a luncheon was hosted at the White House by Eleanor Roosevelt to kick off the fundraising.



**GRACE HUNTON 1900 H'45** has a long history with her alma mater. Valedictorian of her class, she was Dean of Women from 1922-1944 and professor of Spanish and Latin

from 1922 until her retirement in 1953. She is also the author of the Thiel Alma Mater. Hunton Hall was named in her honor. Even after her retirement, she attended important college functions and marched in the convocations until her death in 1971.



**JOHN B. "JACK" STOEBER** served as professor of physical education from 1925 until his retirement in 1963, Director of

Athletics from 1929-1956, Dean of Men from 1945-1962 and Professor of German 1943-1945. Over the years, he coached football, basketball, wrestling, swimming, track, cross country and tennis. A revered mentor and coach, he produced three undefeated football teams: 1941, 1946 and 1950. He developed the intramural program and the 1935, 1943 and 1950 *Endymions* were dedicated to him. The newly-constructed student union was dedicated as "Coach's Corner" in his honor in 1963 and Alumni Stadium surrounds Stoeber Field.



**CHAUNCEY G. BLY H'84** was the dynamic 13th President of Thiel College. A physician, he was the youngest college president in the nation when he

was selected in 1961. Bly served for 13 years, overseeing the largest expansion of facilities in Thiel's history, including 10 buildings and athletic facilities. It was a time of great social change for the nation and the college. Bly Lecture Hall in the Academic Center is named in his honor. He died in 1994.



**ROY H. JOHNSON H'69** was a professor of history from 1929-1969. His "History of Thiel College 1866-1974" chronicled Thiel's development over

its first 108 years. Active in civic affairs, among his contributions were serving as a delegate to the Pennsylvania Constitution Convention, co-chair of the Mercer County Bicentennial Commission, Vice President of Lutheran Brotherhood of America, and President of the Mercer County Boy Scouts. The 1959 *Endymion* was dedicated in his honor and Roy Johnson Drive was named for him in 1962. Johnson died in 1984.

## Everyone has a Thiel story worth sharing

 John Hauser '71



**Forty-nine years ago this past September, I started my love affair with Thiel College when I moved into Middle Dorm (now Florence West Hall) to start freshman orientation. I made friends that first day with men who are still among my closest friends and with whom I celebrated our 45th class reunion at Homecoming 2016, reliving our stories about those formative four years: of professors who inspired and challenged us, our exploits as members of Phi Theta Phi, and how our futures were shaped by Thiel people and events.**

**It is where I met my wife, Nancy (Gibson) '75, and while it took us 35 years before we were married, it started because of Thiel, both as students and, later, when I, as a member of the development staff, visited her as an alumna. As President Susan Traverso said to Nancy, "I hear John tried to get you to put Thiel in your will and you ended up getting in his will."**

**All of us who have a love of this institution—whether as a student, a professor or staff member, a volunteer as a board member or as a member of the Thiel Women's Club—have stories of our own to tell about our experiences, both individual and shared, that contributed to our lives and helped to make us who we are today.**

**As the college archivist, I volunteer my time to help preserve these stories so that future generations of Thiel students will**

**understand that they are part of something that has been around for 150 years. When Professor of English Chris Moinet, Ph.D., brings his first-year English composition students to the Archives to do a research paper on something that happened at Thiel before they were born (which, for this first-year class, is 1998) or Professor of History David Buck, Ph.D., uses his Intro to Historical Methods class to research the buildings on campus and for whom they were named, we keep these stories alive.**

**The celebration of Thiel's sesquicentennial is an opportunity not only to remember the stories of the past but also to create new experiences and stories that will shape the futures of students for the next 150 years. The lives of the founders of Thiel, William Passavant and Louis and Barbara Thiel, are stories that we should never forget. At the same time, we shouldn't forget the other stories of those whose contributions of time, talent and treasure shaped this institution.**

**What's your story? Share it with me at [jhauser@thiel.edu](mailto:jhauser@thiel.edu), write to me c/o Thiel College, or make an appointment to stop by the Archives (724-456-4066) and we'll record it so that the story that is Thiel College is a complete one.**

# Connections that Matter

New initiatives capitalize on the achievements of the *Thiel 2016 Campaign* to connect students to success.

 Caleb McCracken

In April, **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, and her husband, **Kent Taylor**, were making the long drive across the heart of Pennsylvania, on their way back to Elizabethtown. As they passed the farms and rolling hills, they talked about the instant connection they felt to Thiel College, the campus community and the Greenville region after their time spent there during the presidential search process. So it was fitting that a few months later she was standing at a podium on a beautiful fall day, talking about a facility that will be a tangible connection and a physical representation of the momentum of the successful *Thiel 2016 Campaign*.



Architect rendering  
of science connector



## The Science Connector

And so, on that morning of Saturday, Oct. 1, President Traverso, members of the Board of Trustees, staff, faculty, and the student body broke ground on a new, fully-funded \$4.5 million science connector expansion. The structure will connect Rhodehouse Memorial Science Hall with the Academic Center at their eastern ends, providing a link between the various facets of the educational environment at Thiel.

President Traverso was joined by Kent; Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** and his wife **Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71**; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.**; Vice President for Finance and Management **Robert Schmoll**; Chair of the Neuroscience Department **Greg Butcher, Ph.D.**; Professor of Chemistry and Interim Chair of the Department of Biology **Kathy Frantz, Ph.D.**; Chair of the Science Initiative **Robert Burns '74, M.D.**; **Theresa H'16** and **Carl Hoffman, D.O. '69, H'10**; **Fred '65** and **Jill (Shackett) Haer '66**. They were also joined by three students: neuroscience major **Caitlyn Carney '17**, physics major **Michael Long '18** and environmental science major **Matthew Babeji '19**.

As the groundbreakers turned over shovels full of earth near the northeastern corner of the Academic Center, they smiled for the cameras and those smiles spread among the more than 150 people who had witnessed the ceremony.

"The science connector is a dream come true for Thiel College," said **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.**, vice president for academic affairs

and dean of the college.

Many of the attendees had participated in long hours of research, planning and collaboration to get to that point. Throughout the process, the Thiel community was challenged to be good stewards of the investments of donors while looking for innovative and creative ways to meet the needs of today's scholars.

"From the very first day of planning, our wish was to make science visible by revealing and exploring its essential links with teaching and learning across the disciplines of the College," Franken said. "This new facility will inspire and enable connections of many kinds: faculty and student research collaborations; science, arts, and humanities partnerships; and campus and community alliances."

As an addition to the Rhodehouse Memorial Science Hall, the science connector carries on a tradition of commitment to the sciences at Thiel College. Dedicated in 1959 by the then Vice President **Richard Nixon H'59**, the science hall carried significance for higher education across the United States, especially in light of the race for technological and scientific superiority against the Soviet Union. Since that time, Thiel has continued to champion the sciences while providing a global perspective and interdisciplinary focus to students.

The new project is anticipated to add 7,850 square feet of academic space. The consolidated science education areas will create a more efficient and student-friendly

center. This state-of-the-art complex will include four enhanced labs that will enable more faculty and student research projects. Open collaborative areas on both floors of the atrium are linked to enhanced laboratory spaces dedicated to histology, environmental science, data analytics, and faculty and student research.

"As our society strives to solve vexing issues in science and medicine, as it looks to produce new knowledge to improve the quality of life for future generations, and as it seeks out ways to protect and sustain our natural environment, we will depend on today's college students—students at Thiel—to see the world differently, through new lenses, with creative ideas and new approaches," Traverso said at the groundbreaking. "At Thiel, we are committed to preparing students who are ready to take on and solve society's most pressing challenges."

Liberal arts colleges constantly face the challenge of taking a holistic approach to teaching the sciences, which tend to be very specific and focused. Thiel is addressing this challenge in physical space, by constructing a link between the spaces where the sciences are studied to where many of the core classes are taught. As the College physically bridges the gap between the Academic Center and Rhodehouse Hall, it expects to see new collaboration and interaction between the sciences, arts, humanities and professional studies. These steps get at the heart of what it means to be a liberal arts institution.



## GNC Faculty/Student Research Institute

This project, although monumental, is not the first initiative Thiel has undertaken to bring the sciences and liberal arts together. Thiel College has made a commitment to providing opportunities for faculty and students to collaborate across disciplines and to conduct original research.

The Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute is aimed at bringing interdisciplinary academic activities together around research. The institute began last year and continues through 2017 to connect students with faculty members for funded research projects on a topic of their choice. This summer, a variety of student and faculty members came together to make connections that will be valuable to all those involved. The variety of subjects researched—from “damage control” health habits to amphibian population decline to political gender bias—testifies to the way in which the institute strengthens the academic endeavor of the College as a whole.

One such project saw neuroscience and psychology faculty members and students collaborating to study the long-term effects of nicotine exposure during adolescence. Studying adult rats, the team generated several research questions. First, under the supervision of

Assistant Professor of Psychology and Department Chair **Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06**, undergraduate student researchers **Korinna Sherman '17** and **Evan Youker '18** investigated whether adolescent nicotine exposure leads to any cognitive impairments in adulthood by testing for deficits of spatial learning and memory ability in the animals. Following this, Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Department Chair **Greg Butcher, Ph.D.**, supervised the student researchers in an investigation of the neural consequences of adolescent nicotine exposure in the hippocampus—an important structure of the brain involved in learning and memory. The project generated data that can be used in several academic courses taught in the Neuroscience and Psychology departments to provide students with legitimate exposure to data collection. Pickens and Butcher are continuing data analysis on their findings throughout this academic year.

Another project from this year’s slate of research institute endeavors was conducted by senior **Austin Hall '17** and Assistant Professor of Performing Arts **Pete Rydberg, Ph.D.** Because Hall and Rydberg were able to use resources from the institute to perform research at the Library of Congress, they debuted their original documentary theatre performance

“Berlin ist Gefallen!” (“Berlin has fallen!”) in early September. Hall worked with Rydberg to research the cultural turmoil that preceded the rise of Nazi Germany in the early 20th century. The connections they made wove together a narration from source documents, music, images and video into a show that both entertained and informed. Surveys of the audience were taken before and after performances to evaluate how much individuals learned.

Thiel College is helping members of its community make these connections and gain these experiences to further their work and lives. Director of the Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute and Assistant Professor of Biology **Delbert Abi Abdallah, Ph.D.**, wants more scholars to engage with these kinds of activities.

“This type of scientific research involving students helps them gain transferable skills that are crucial for their success in graduate and professional schools,” Abi Abdallah said. “Intense research [like this] is possible at Thiel College and is available to all students interested in furthering their education and in strengthening their [academic portfolios], as well as broadening their research experiences past what is required in classes.”



To read more about the Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute and see video interviews with researchers, visit [www.thiel.edu/researchinstitute](http://www.thiel.edu/researchinstitute).

## Renovated Lab Spaces

As connections like these are made across departmental bounds, Thiel continues to look for ways to bolster the campus experience. One such effort has been the renovation of two lab spaces. Rhodehouse Memorial Science Hall labs 205 and 209 were renovated with new

equipment, workspaces and layouts this summer.

“The enhanced lab spaces in Rhodehouse Hall have enhanced scientific teaching in a variety of ways.” Assistant Professor of Biology **Christopher Fonner, Ph.D.**, said. “For example, the new projector allows

for the use of online interactive lab videos, images and tools to aid in experimentation. More importantly, the smaller, mobile benchtops allow the instructor to better interact with students and promote more discussion based reviews and activities and also allow the professor to seamlessly engage each individual student.”

## The Tomcat Statue

Connections and growth at Thiel are more than academic—the social connections are symbolized by a new meeting spot at the heart of campus. Just before Homecoming 2016, the College unveiled a gift from the Class of 2015. In the center of upper campus—where Brother Martin’s Walk meets two major pedestrian arteries between Roth Hall, Greenville Hall, the Howard Miller Student Center and the James Pedas Communication Center—now stands a statue of the Thiel Tomcat. A

bronze rendering of Thiel’s athletic mascot, the Tomcat roars proudly on a boulder in the center of a four-foot-tall raised stone garden bed.

The Tomcat statue has quickly become a natural point of connection for students, faculty and staff walking across campus. During Homecoming weekend, the Tomcat was the subject of many selfies and group photos, as well as a convenient meeting place for old friends to find each

other and reminisce. To those who travel by it every day, the statue serves as a reminder of the vibrant community shared by all people on campus.

The boulder on which the Tomcat stands is pink granite. It was pulled from the ground during earth work for the track and field complex.



# Homecoming 2016

With the Tomcat statue in place, the campus turned its mind toward the construction project ahead. Breaking ground on the science connector during Homecoming was an easy decision. The hundreds of alumni and friends who make the trip back to the College every fall for Homecoming weekend serve as a remarkable reminder of how Thiel is the hub for a deep web of connection. The campus is full of hand-shaking, hugging and laughing as old friends are reunited and new friendships are forged. A project meant to embody this connection, it seemed appropriate to include the groundbreaking ceremony in the schedule

of events. And the theme of connection continued throughout the weekend.

An annual tradition during Homecoming, the Alumni Awards Luncheon gave further testimony to the impact that Thiel's vibrant, connected community has on the lives of students and alumni. Upon receiving this year's Distinguished Alumni award, Professor Emeritus of Sociology for the University of Washington **Robert Crutchfield, Ph.D. '71** reflected on how meaningful it was to him that the Thiel community had connected him to the help he needed as a struggling student

worried about whether he could continue his education.

"The ... thing I have to thank Thiel for is the opportunity to have the career and to have the life I've had," Crutchfield said. "So thank you Thiel. Thank you for everything."

This kind of story was told over and over by grateful alumni who have felt the impact of the Thiel community firsthand. The connections the College made for them in their studies, careers and friendships brought them back to campus to experience anew the place where those bonds were forged.



*Robert Crutchfield  
with his brother James*

## Looking Ahead

December marks the close of the historic *Thiel 2016* Campaign. Surpassing its \$60 million goal, the campaign has now raised more than \$64 million.

Funding from the campaign has enabled the college to invest in a myriad of essential projects. Along with the full funding of the science connector, the

*Thiel 2016* Campaign funded phase one of the track and field project, new seats in the William A. Robinson Theater, and renovations of the William A. Passavant Center, Bly Auditorium, TC Café, and various classrooms. It also provided monies for the Rissell-Schreyer Dome and new turf and lighting in Alumni Stadium.

The Dietrich Honors Institute, Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute, the David M. Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting (which was given to Professor of Business, Administration and Accounting and Department Chair **Gary Witosky '79**), Pedas Endowed Chair in Communication, Dietrich Honors Institute Endowed Chair



# President Susan Traverso

*Traverso with Alumni Board  
President Antonio Quarterman '08  
and Vice President of Student Life  
Mike McKinney '02*

In her inaugural year, President Traverso is committed to giving students connections that spur them on to careers and lives of meaning and purpose. Her commitment to student success means she has empowered the campus to focus on connecting students to the opportunities that they need to reach their full potential—from the first trek with their classmates past the Tomcat up Brother Martin's Walk to their final walk at Commencement.

Traverso is confident that she can work with Thiel's network of over 10,000 engaged alumni to continue to provide opportunities for students.

"It is of vital importance that we can

maintain the strong relationships we have with our alumni base," she said. "Our alumni are our best advocates for the College. They know the remarkable impact that we have on the lives of our students every day, and we will continue to rely on them to support us both financially and by giving our current students the chances they need to succeed in their lives and careers."

Traverso will also continue to look to the Career Development Office to provide internship experiences and career counseling to students. The Career Development office reports that 94.3 percent of 2015 Thiel College graduates reporting were employed in their field or attending graduate school within six

months. Over the last three years the College has seen at least 94 percent placement, a result of the preparation students receive in and out of the classroom. Also for three years running, all accounting majors have found jobs in their field within six months of graduation and this year, 100 percent of education graduates found jobs in their field within that time period as well.

"After the close instruction, programming and mentoring by our superb faculty, along with career road trips, a mock interview program, multiple internships and an award-winning senior seminar, our students are fully prepared to enter the workforce," Associate Dean of Career Development **Martin Black** said.

and the **Rod E. Wilt '86** Head Coach for Thiel Wrestling were established through the campaign as well. Thiel has the first endowed coach in the Presidents' Athletic Conference, and one of the few in the nation. The James Pedas Communication Center and its state of the art communication technologies, which are available to students of all majors, was

also funded through the campaign. It is one of the most valuable campus assets Thiel College offers to students.

"It has been inspiring to watch the Thiel community come together to support this campaign," Vice President for College Advancement **Roberta Leonard** said. "Thiel 2016 was designed to impact every

aspect of the student experience. Our donors were engaged, our alumni stepped forward and our students received the benefits of their generosity. This campaign was about building capacity and strengthening the institution, and we are looking forward to another 150 years."

# Sharing cultures, creating lifelong friendships

Thiel College Host  
Family Program  
brings people together

 Beckie Erwin



## All people, no matter their culture, appreciate the importance of friendship—and more deeply, family. The Thiel College Host Family Program helps to build those special relationships between international students and local community host families.

"The Thiel College Host Family Program was created in 2011 for our many brave and talented international students to have familial support during their time at Thiel College," program founder and director **Shannon Reesh** said. "Our international students travel such a distance and really miss their families back home."

Reesh designed the program with the theme, "sharing cultures, creating lifelong friendships." She is thankful for local families who support the students living so far from home. "Many wonderful families in the community have graciously opened their hearts and homes to our students," she said. "Our families provide our students with amazing opportunities to learn about American family life."

During these past five years, **Don** and **Rita Clemente** of Greenville have hosted 16 exchange students, most from EWHA Women's University in Seoul, South Korea, and this past summer, took a trip of a lifetime to reunite with 14 of them and their friends in their home country.

**Steve** and **Carol Hosmer**, residents in The Colony at St. Paul's in Greenville, are also host parents in the Thiel program, and they made the journey to South Korea in 2015 to visit their students and their families. For them, the adventure of hosting students began in the fall of 2011 when they attended an international dinner at St. Paul's. The meal was prepared and served by Korean students studying at Thiel.

"We enjoyed the food and meeting the many lovely and interesting girls," they said. "This began a wonderful experience that continues to this day. We have learned many things about Korean culture and education, learned to cook delicious Korean food and have enjoyed preparing many meals with our girls. We have also learned what fun it is to have these young women share their lives and their stories with us."

**Songyi Jung**, one of their first students, thoroughly enjoyed her experience with

the Hosmers. "When I focus on my time in the international program, I think of Mama's (Carol) Chicago pizza and related memories while we cooked," she said. "I will always remember our excursion to the corn maze and ghost house. It was a true American experience. You never think of a corn maze in Korea, and the number of pumpkins thrown away for decoration."

By the end of 2015, the Hosmers had hosted 12 students, many of whom had asked them to visit Korea. In June 2015, they made that journey overseas.

The Hosmers and Clementes believe that getting to know people from different parts of the world helps create a better understanding of humanity at large. "The more we can learn, the more we can enjoy all that this wonderful world has to offer," the Hosmers said.

For Don Clemente, the trip to South Korea was remarkable and he especially loved experiencing the culture of the students he and Rita have hosted over the years. As a host parent, he said it is important to take time to build trust with the students.

"Nobody knows anyone at first so we have to develop a trust," he said. "Once that trust is built, it's like you've known each other forever. Even any language barrier disappears. We become a family."

He enjoys being around for the students to offer advice or support in whatever life issues they are facing.

"Having Don and Rita through the host family program at Thiel was a blessing, literally," said **Jiyoon Kim**, who considers herself a Clemente. "It's been almost two years since I've come back to my country, Korea, and I still think them as my parents. They not only helped me adjust to American life but even completely changed my life in so many positive ways." According to Rita, the best part of the South Korea trip for her was meeting her students' families and sharing meals with

them, which is very essential to Korean culture. "They were so gracious and welcoming. I loved being there with them," she said.

Taking a trip halfway across the world is not a requirement of host families. The program only asks that families find time to spend with the students who are far from home, especially during the holidays when the college campus is closed and the students might otherwise be alone. Some of the students use this time to travel the United States, but some stay in the area to share in the holiday traditions of their host families. They enjoy worship experiences, family dinners, cooking, movies, shopping, bowling, sightseeing, and any other activities their host family enjoys. Even after their American experience, students continue to stay in touch through texting and other online communications.

The students normally spend one semester with their host parents, which amounts to three or four months. Some are fortunate to be assigned to their families for an entire school year. For the first time, the Clementes will host **Eunice Tan**, a freshman from Malaysia, for her entire four years at Thiel College. "It's been such a great experience to be host parents," Rita said. "The girls bring a lot of joy into our home."

It can be said that embracing people of other cultures is a direct road to a peaceful world. At least one road now leads from Greenville to South Korea, and back again. Jiyoon Kim expressed how being part of a host family can change a person, saying, "My Greenville parents taught me how to love others unconditionally. I received so much love from them. This is not because I am special; this is because they carried out their giving virtue. I learned great love from my American parents and to share love with others in need. It is an invaluable, huge lesson in life that I will never forget, and it entirely changed how I see the world."

The Thiel College Office of International Student Affairs has a continuous need for host families in the Greenville community. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the Thiel College Host Program should contact Shannon Reesh at **724-589-2126** or **sreesh@thiel.edu**.

## Narrow loss eight years ago fuels Mills' desire to lead cross country, track & field programs

 Cyrill Parham '14



It was April 26, 2008, at Cameron Stadium on the campus of Washington & Jefferson College. The Thiel College men's track & field team was competing at the Presidents' Athletic Conference Track & Field Championships and were neck-and-neck against the Grove City Wolverines, the three-time defending league champions.

In his senior season, **Will Mills '08** had just broken PAC records as part of the 4x100 and 4x400-meter relay teams and qualified for All-PAC honors in the 200- and 400-meter dashes. Mills, along with the rest of his teammates were patiently waiting in the infield for the final results.

"The team was rallied around Coach **(Clyde) Morgan** awaiting for the results of the meet," Mills said. "The feeling of being around the team and knowing that we worked hard and gave it our all was a great feeling."

"It was a very emotional day," Morgan said. "Will was a captain and a leader of the team, and had the team emotionally prepared to go out and represent Thiel and leave it all on the track."

As the public address announcer at Cameron Stadium was reading off the men's results, all that was left was Thiel and Grove City for the final two spots in the standings. Unfortunately, Thiel narrowly missed dethroning Grove City as PAC champions by seven points.

"Even though we didn't win the meet, everyone on the team felt like winners because the entire team worked hard and couldn't have been any prouder," Mills said. "At that moment, I knew I had that 'Ah-huh' feeling that couldn't be explained. That definitely

struck a chord with me because looking back on it, that is a feeling that I would want my student-athletes to feel. To have that sense of achievement and camaraderie within the team."

Fast-forward to present day where Mills is in his first semester as the head coach of Thiel's cross country and track & field programs. He is in the process of building the programs back into perennial powers in the PAC.

"Will had his eyes on returning to Thiel for a while," Morgan said. "He laid a great foundation of work by being a successful high school track & field coach (at West Allegheny) and Thiel couldn't have found a better person to lead those programs."

Mills was a four-year captain for Thiel's track & field team and won nine PAC titles. Along with his teammates, Mills still holds school indoor records in the 4x100-meter (2006, 1:13.30) and 4x200-meter (2007, 1:31.75) relays.

Mills began coaching track & field at West Allegheny High School in March 2009, concentrating on sprint, hurdle, relay and jump events. West Allegheny's boys and girls teams combined to win six section titles during Mills' tenure. The Indians won four individual outdoor state medals and, under Mills, three relay teams qualified for the outdoor state championships. In 2011, Mills took over as head coach of West Allegheny's indoor track & field program. Eight individuals and two relay teams qualified for the indoor state championships under Mills' tutelage, and four student-athletes reached the medal stand.

Mills earned a bachelor's degree in history from Thiel in 2008. He went on to secure a master's degree in secondary education



from Slippery Rock University in 2011. Mills served as a U.S. government and modern world studies teacher at Hill House Passport Academy Charter School in Pittsburgh the last two years. He holds Level 1 certification through the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.

Upon returning to Thiel this summer, Mills has eased into his new coaching role.

"(My first couple days on the job) were a bit hectic," Mills said. "Between getting to know everyone on campus, to setting up my office and trying to build a vision for the program for the upcoming season."

"Summer progressed well throughout the year, getting better and better each week," Mills said. "One of the benefits of having her on the team was that she helped the other girls improve, as well. They all trained together and all shared the same goals in order to get better day by day."

Mills inherited track & field teams that hope to contend for PAC Championships, but he understands the challenges in rejuvenating a program.

"We have to take it day by day," said Mills. "We are looking to be better than we were last year, and that starts by working hard every day in workouts and practices. We finished seventh in

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**"Even though we didn't win the meet, everyone on the team felt like winners because the entire team worked hard and couldn't have been any prouder,"** Mills said. **"That definitely struck a chord with me because looking back on it, that is a feeling that I would want my student-athletes to feel. To have that sense of achievement and camaraderie within the team."**

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Mills took over cross country and track & field programs with a wealth of history, especially among area schools. The cross country program has a combined nine PAC Runners of Year awards. The track & field teams have won nine PAC titles and picked up 18 PAC Most Valuable Player awards.

**Summer Wark '17**, one of Mills' current student-athletes, earned All-PAC second team laurels after finishing in 14th place at the 2016 PAC Cross Country Championships.

the PAC last year, so I expect us to finish sixth or better at the conference championships and shock some people with our improvement."

With construction of Thiel College's very own track & field facility at Tomcat Park underway, the future of Mill's cross country and track & field programs looks bright.



# Sound start for Blume, Tomcats Radke inks name in record books

 Ed Topoleski '02

Under the direction of first-year head coach **Dan Blume**, the battle cry for the 2016 Tomcats was "Restore the Roar". After finishing with a 4-6 record and retaining possession of the Mercer County Cup for the third consecutive season, the Tomcats are well on their way.

"I was happy with how we progressed," Blume said, two days after his team closed out the season with a 47-41 win over the Grove City Wolverines. "I think we were competitive most of the year. We could have very easily won six games, but we're also not naïve enough to not realize that we could have went 2-8."

Those two close losses Blume referred to came against Saint Vincent (32-30) and Geneva (35-27) in Weeks 3 and 5, respectively.

"We're continuing to learn, grow and develop within the system," Blume said. "I think guys

developed more confidence as the season went on. If we can keep a lot of these young pieces in place on offense, we have a chance to be pretty explosive."

The Tomcats racked up an average of 443.3 yards per game in 2016, the fourth most in the PAC, and scored an average of 33.9 points per game, the fifth most in the league.

Senior quarterback **Ryan Radke '17**, who earned All-PAC first-team recognition and was named the team's offensive MVP, led Thiel's high-scoring offense. He also etched his name in Thiel's record book.

"You could argue that Ryan won us three football games," Blume said. "If we needed a play we were probably calling Ryan's number, sprinting him out with a run-pass option. He's a tremendous athlete ... there's a reason he holds so many records."

Radke led the PAC with 3,417 total yards this season. He finished second in the conference in rushing (1,109), fourth in touchdown passes (21) and fifth in passing yards (2,308), passing efficiency (139.4) and all-purpose yards (1,109).

Radke concluded his career as Thiel's all-time leader in passing yards (6,521), rushing yards (3,004), total offense (9,525) and passing touchdowns (55).

Of course, Radke had dangerous weapons to throw to, especially this season with the additions of freshmen **DeShawon Bracy '20**, **Jaquan Hicks '20** and **Eugene Bailey '20**, along with senior **Alex Horvatits '17**.

"If all three of them stay," Blume said, speaking of Bracy, Hicks and Bailey, "I think that's probably the most dynamic wide receiving corps to come through the PAC ever."

Bracy, who was selected for the All-PAC honorable mention team, led the league in yards per catch (22.3) and ranked fourth in the conference in receiving yards (916). He collected two 200-plus receiving yard performances during his freshman campaign.

Hicks caught 29 passes for 344 yards and three touchdowns while Bailey caught 23 passes for 395 yards and three touchdowns. Horvatits chipped in with 22 catches for 274 yards and three scores. Perhaps more importantly, Horvatits provided valuable senior leadership for the younger receivers. The Tomcats earned their fair share of national recognition with three players earning a place on D3football.com Teams of the Week, including nose tackle **Joe Krimm '19**, Hicks and Bracy. In addition, senior free safety **Trevor Martin '17** was named to the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District first team.

With a year of firsts out of the way, Blume and his dedicated staff are eager for the 2017 season.

"I think we have a good group coming back," Blume said. "We got a pretty good freshmen class last year, but this will be our signature class."



# 64 Tomcats named to PAC Spring 2016 Academic Honor Roll

Sixty-four Thiel College student-athletes were named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll for the Spring 2016 semester.

The PAC Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes on varsity sports teams who have earned a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale during their semester of competition.

A total of 459 student-athletes were named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll for the Spring 2016 semester.

Thiel College and Saint Vincent College tied for first place in the PAC Academic Honor Roll during the 2015-16 academic year.

Thiel's 64 honorees are listed below.

**James Abbs**  
Business Administration  
Track & Field  
Wexford, Pa./North Allegheny

**Cara Baker**  
Psychology  
Softball  
Edinboro, Pa./Corry

**Natalie Beckwith**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Golf  
Tallmadge, Ohio/Tallmadge

**Loren Bell**  
Business Administration  
Track & Field  
Canton, Ohio/Glenn Oak

**Morgan Berg**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Track & Field  
Cleveland, Ohio/Rocky River

**Ian Bergbigler**  
Business Communication  
Lacrosse  
Butler, Pa./Butler Area

**Khari Bess**  
Business Communication  
Basketball  
Waldorf, Md./Maurice J. McDonough

**Veronica Brueggman**  
Communication Sciences & Disorders  
Track & Field  
South Park, Pa./South Park

**Isabella Bungo**  
History/Secondary Education  
Softball  
Pittsburgh, Pa./Fox Chapel

**Alana Callahan**  
Biology  
Softball  
Austintown, Ohio/Austintown Fitch

**Kamau Clanagan**  
Business Administration  
Track & Field  
Braddock, Pa./Woodland Hills

**John Clark**  
Web Development  
Track & Field  
Morrisdale, Pa./West Branch

**A.J. Corradi**  
Biology  
Softball  
Youngstown, Ohio/Austintown Fitch

**Filippo Costanzo**  
Neuroscience  
Baseball  
Brunswick, Ohio/Brunswick

**Jessa Covine**  
Accounting/Business Administration  
Track & Field  
Cambridge Springs, Pa./Maplewood

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

**Mary Kate Dougherty**  
Criminal Justice Studies/Sociology/Psychology  
Softball  
Depew, N.Y./Mount St. Mary Academy

**Michel Duncan**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Wrestling  
Harrisburg, Pa./Harrisburg

**Drew Duras**  
Business Administration  
Baseball  
Saegertown, Pa./Saegertown

**Cole Duskey**  
Mathematics/Secondary Education  
Tennis  
Orrville, Ohio/Orrville

**Jon Fennick**  
Criminal Justice Studies  
Tennis  
New Castle, Pa./Neshannock

**Kevin Forrester**  
Criminal Justice Studies/Sociology  
Baseball  
Canonsburg, Pa./Canon-McMillan

**Alicia Glover**  
Business Administration  
Golf  
Waterford, Pa./Fort LeBoeuf

**Danielle Gomula**  
Psychology/Sociology  
Track & Field  
Macedonia, Ohio/Trinity

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

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

**Jeff Jenkins**  
Accounting/Business Administration  
Golf  
Pittsburgh, Pa./Chartiers Valley

**Taylor Kettler**  
Business Administration  
Basketball/Track & Field  
Dalton, Ohio/Dalton

**Luke Kochka**  
Communication Studies  
Basketball  
Monroeville, Pa./Gateway

**Dan Koller**  
Biology  
Baseball  
Euclid, Ohio/Lake Catholic

**Jessica Lovell**  
Business Administration  
Basketball  
Washington, Pa./Trinity

**Danyelle Lucido**  
Computer Science  
Basketball  
Grove City, Pa./Grove City

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

**Colton McCright**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Golf  
Greenville, Pa./Greenville

**Vince Mion**  
Business Administration  
Wrestling  
Mount Oliver, Pa./Carrick

**Bryan Mitchell**  
Criminal Justice Studies/Sociology  
Baseball  
Cleveland, Ohio/Padua Franciscan

**Alyssa Mondl, Jr.**  
Accounting/Business Administration  
Basketball/Golf  
Woodsfield, Ohio / Cuyahoga Falls

**McKenna Morian**  
Criminal Justice Studies/Psychology  
Softball  
Conneaut Lake, Pa./Saegertown

**Jaden Nozicka**  
Accounting / Business Administration/  
Forensic Accounting  
Baseball  
Portage, Mich./Portage Central

**Chris Nuss**  
Business Administration/Forensic Accounting  
Wrestling  
West Homestead, Pa./Central Catholic

**Paige Onomastico**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Lacrosse  
Bridgeville, Pa./Chartiers Valley

**Sam Passafiume**  
Business Administration  
Baseball  
Medina, Ohio/Medina

**Thad Paunovich**  
Communication Sciences & Disorders  
Tennis  
Avonmore, Pa./Kiski Area

**Miranda Reesman**  
Neuroscience  
Softball  
Vandergrift, Pa./Leechburg

**Joelle Reitz**  
Neuroscience  
Lacrosse  
DuBois, Pa./DuBois

**Jennifer Rickens**  
Applied Physics/Mathematics/  
Binary Engineering  
Lacrosse  
Pittsburgh, Pa./Chartiers Valley

**Shyanne Sanders**  
Criminal Justice Studies/Sociology  
Softball  
Herminie, Pa./Yough

**Paige Scherer**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Lacrosse  
Cranberry Township, Pa./Seneca Valley

**Kelsey Schneider**  
Accounting/Business Administration/  
Forensic Accounting  
Golf  
Butler, Pa./Butler Area

**Garret Schweitzer**  
Business Administration  
Wrestling  
Spartansburg, Pa./Corry

**Deanna Shaw**  
Psychology  
Lacrosse  
York, Pa./Eastern York

**Korinna Sherman**  
Biochemistry  
Basketball  
Poland, Ohio/Poland Seminary

**Brittany Shumar**  
Business Administration/Political Science  
Basketball  
Cleveland, Ohio/Villa Angela-St. Joseph

**Alivia Sidley**  
Exploratory  
Basketball  
Thompson, Ohio/Ledgemont

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

**Trent Smith**  
Political Science  
Baseball  
Franklin, Pa./Franklin

**Dylan Stevens**  
Business Administration  
Tennis  
New Castle, Pa./Neshannock

**Hannah Stoneman**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Basketball  
Sugarcreek, Ohio/Hiland

**Alex Streich**  
Accounting/Business Administration  
Wrestling  
Warren, Pa./Warren

**Vince Vahaly**  
English  
Wrestling  
Bentleyville, Pa./Bentworth

**Jess Vormelker**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Basketball  
Orwell, Ohio/Grand Valley

**Justin Walter**  
Early Childhood/Special Education  
Wrestling  
Hermitage, Pa./Hickory

**Kayla Welty**  
Accounting/Business Administration  
Basketball  
Portville, N.Y./Portville Central

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



## Thiel College Board of Trustees Profile of Distinction Dwayne Spurlock '81

Dwayne Spurlock, Thiel College Class of 1981, is the CEO and Founder of eKidzCare, ePeople and ePeople, LLC. The winner of the Pittsburgh Business Times Diamond Award, the Saint Barnabas Leadership Award and ranked 14th on the Pittsburgh Business Times Fast 100, Dwayne has built three successful businesses.

The companies employ more than 1,000 people in the healthcare industry, provide high paying, professional jobs and are part of the fabric of the healthcare economy in western Pennsylvania. "I am very proud of what we have achieved and of the contributions we have made to our employees and our community," Spurlock said. "As the son of a blue-collar town, creating well-paying and meaningful jobs is something that is very important to me."

**Appointed to Board:** 2015-2018    **Family:** Wife and three children.  
**Current Hometown:** Mars, Pa.    **Current Occupation:** CEO/Founder eKidzCare

**Why is being a part of the Board of Trustees important to you?** Being on the board puts me in touch with the feelings and challenges I had as a college student and gives me the opportunity to help a new generation of students, who are facing similar challenges.

**Why should other alumni consider giving back to their alma mater?** Like many of us who received help while we were here, current Thiel students need financial support also. Giving to Thiel lets us return the help we received and lets us help prepare the current generation for success.

Thiel's unique educational experience is not replicated at state schools and larger universities. It is an educational experience that needs to be treasured, protected and preserved—especially during this difficult time in higher education. Thiel's culture of academic achievement and service has produced generations of community leaders, and its mission needs to continue.

Please strongly consider Thiel in your annual giving.

**What faculty significantly impacted your education and life at Thiel College?** There were many faculty members that impacted my life at Thiel. In my major, Professors **John Logan** and **David Miller '61** had the greatest impact on me. Professor Logan provided a framework for critical thinking that I have used in my career and still use today. Professor Miller demonstrated such a love for his job and has served as a great role model for me as to what the role of "work" should mean in your life.

**What is your favorite memory of Thiel College?** I have always considered Thiel a supportive and engaged place. It was a great place to study and to learn how to push yourself both academically and in developing life skills.

**Describe your areas of interest related to Thiel College through your service on the Board of Trustees.** I serve on the enrollment and student life committees both of which are very involved with students.

As a student, the school nurtured and supported my interests, connected me with people that helped me on my path to success and taught me the power of giving back and helping those around you. As a young person, I was trying to find my place in the world just like many of the Thiel students I see now when I am on campus. So these committees are very rewarding to me. When I was a student, I was the recipient of these gifts. In my role as a board member, I am able—in some small way—to return these gifts.

Being on the board also allows me to give back to the College as well as the community. The community has seen many economic changes since the 1970s, but one thing that has remained constant is the College. For example, I can remember playing basketball at the College as a young man in high school. I can remember my friends and I sneaking out before campus security caught us. Now I look back and chuckle as I serve as a board member. These memories allow me to have a clear vision for how integrated the community and the campus are.

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

I would encourage all students to push themselves in the classroom and take advantage of the great services that are offered to you as a Thiel student. This is the time in your life to take challenges and challenge yourself. Take risks today, that you won't be able to take later in your career. Finally, believe in yourself, dream big and never sell yourself short.

**As Thiel College celebrates its 150th anniversary, what do you think the future for the College looks like?** I believe Thiel College finds itself celebrating its 150th anniversary during a very dramatic time in American history. I believe the future of the College will evolve from the dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to shape the College as an industry leader in higher education. I am confident with the continued support of alumni volunteers Thiel will continue to thrive for the next 150 years.

**What is your favorite quote?** My favorite quote is from Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." This quote reminds me that by being of service to others, I am put in touch with the highest and most noble purpose of the human condition. And in that service, I find myself and I find peace. I feel this concept is lived and taught at Thiel.

**What is the "one thing" you like best about Thiel College today?** The focus on developing both the student and the person is the thing I like most about Thiel College. Returning to the board after 30 years, it amazes me that the College has been able to maintain this culture after all these years.

**What is something you try to do every time you return to campus?** One of my favorite things to do when returning to campus is to attend a student event. I am a Tomcat athletics fan and Blue-Gold Club supporter. I always like to stop and cheer on the Tomcats and participate in the annual Blue-Gold golf outing when my schedule permits.

**What are you most proud of?** I am most proud of my family and my achievements in business. Family is an amazing gift and I have been very blessed. In business, my company is a pediatric focused home health agency that employs more than 1,000 people and provides high-quality healthcare options to children with medically complex health care needs. Our experience and dedication in the industry has made the lives of our children and families more comfortable, enjoyable, and fulfilled during their difficult times. I love what I do and have been able to marry my Thiel education with something I am passionate about.

**What do you do in your spare time?** My favorite thing to do in my spare time is spend time with family and friends. Since my company is such an expression of who I am, it is a 'labor of love' and I find myself engaged in a community socially that is very involved in pediatric healthcare issues. I have also been fortunate to be able to travel throughout the country and to do and see some amazing things.

# Meet the Boards



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



**John M. Barr '70**  
*Board of Trustees, Vice Chair*



**Barry Oman '74**  
*Board of Trustees, Treasurer*



**G. Leah Dever '74**  
*Board of Trustees, Secretary*

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# Alumni Award *Winners*

## Distinguished Alumni Awards



**Robert D. Crutchfield, Ph.D. '71** is a professor emeritus at the University of Washington. In 1979, Bob joined the faculty of the Department of Sociology at the University of Washington, where he remained until retiring this past spring. During his tenure, Bob received the University's Distinguished Teaching Award, served as chair of the Sociology Department and as an associate dean of the graduate school, and directed the Institute for Ethnic Studies in the United States.

He worked for a year with the Mercer County Juvenile Probation Office before moving for two years to Erie to work for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole. He earned an M.A. and Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology and in 1998 was elected as the organization's vice president. He was elected to the Council of the American Sociological Association and as chair of the ASA's section on Crime Law and Deviance. His teaching and research publications focus on crime, delinquency, and race in the criminal justice system.

He is the author of "Get a Job: Labor Markets, Economic Opportunity and Crime." He has served on several National Academies of Science committees and study panels. Bob served on the Board for The Sentencing Project and serves on the Science Advisory Board for the Office of Justice Programs in the U.S. Department of Justice. Bob's proudest accomplishment was helping to raise his daughter, Danielle, who served on the White House staff for the first six years of President Barack Obama's administration.

Robert thanked Thiel for the "opportunity it gave me to have a career... to have the life I have had. Thank you, Thiel. Thank you for everything!"



**Donald L. Schweingruber, Ph.D. '63** was hired to be the first Dean of Student Affairs at Bluffton College (now Bluffton University), where he worked for the next 33 years until his retirement in 2005. He retired as Vice President and Dean of Student Life. Don built the Student Life department at Bluffton and created many of its programs, including the Leadership Development Program and Campus Judicial System. He worked with his wife to start Bluffton's Elderhostel Program. His other contributions included developing the Institute for Learning in Retirement and proposing the institution's Satisfaction Guaranteed Program. In 2001, he received the Larry Jones Memorial Award for his contributions to the college's athletic program.

He passed away on Sept. 12, 2015.

At Thiel, he was a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, served as president of the student body, and played baseball for four years. He was the Presidents' Athletic Conference batting champion in his sophomore year and an All-PAC outfielder in his junior year.

Don continued his education at Miami University of Ohio, where he met his wife, Nancy. He received a master's degree from Miami University in 1965 and a Ph.D. in student personnel administration in higher education from Michigan State University in 1971.

In addition to his involvement with undergraduates at Bluffton, he was active in mentoring graduate student interns enrolled in Bowling Green State University's Student Affairs program. He received a "Friend of the College Award" from BGSU in 1991 and the DeCrane Supervisor of the Year Award from its Student Development Association in 1999.

Don was recognized by state and national professional associations for his leadership in the field of Student Life. He served as president of the Ohio College Personnel Association (1978-79) and the Ohio Association of Student Personnel Administrators (1994-1995).

Don's wife, Nancy, accepted the award for him.

She said it was great honor to accept the award from Thiel College "and all of you who helped to shape his life."

The annual Alumni Awards ceremony was one of the highlights of a busy Saturday during Homecoming 2016. This year saw the first posthumous recipient in the event's history. **Don Schweingruber, Ph.D. '63** was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He passed away in September 2015.

Director of Alumni Relations **Kelly Sanzari '13** and Alumni Association Board of Directors President **Antonio Quarterman '08** started the luncheon and President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D** followed with a special greeting.

## Service to Thiel Award



**Paul J. Miller '69** is a retired Greenville High School English teacher. He started at Lakeview High School in 1969. He took a position at Greenville High School in 1970 and remained there until his retirement in 2006.

He coached junior high basketball and was the yearbook adviser, athletic director, theater director from 1980-2006, newspaper adviser, and assistant forensics coach. He founded and ran Greenville High School's Shakespeare Festival from 1984-2006. He volunteers with the local chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and the Thiel College theater as needed.

His honors and awards include selection to three National Endowment for the Humanities projects, dedication of two Greenville yearbooks, top ten finalist in 1990 Pa. Teacher of the Year competition, Louis Thiel Distinguished Service Award in 1990, local Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter Distinguished Alumni award in 2008, and Sigma Phi Epsilon District 7 Distinguished Alumnus award in 2009. His publications include "The First 100 Years Are the Most Fun," the history of the local Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter in 2014; "A Company of Players," the history of Thiel College theater in 2015; and "A Joyful Noise," the history of music at Thiel College, in 2016.

Paul often quotes William Shakespeare when he is asked to help on a project, "In for a penny, in for a pound."

He ended his address with the saying, "I will continue to do as much as I can (for Thiel College). In for a penny, in for a pound."

He married Faith Ann Gilliland on June 16, 1973. Their son, Ross Alan, was born Nov. 17, 1976.

## Young Alumni Award



**Mathew J. Saur, J.D. '11** is a corporate associate at the law firm of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP in New York City and a co-founder of DormRoom To BoardRoom—an education start-up company focused on teaching graduate students interpersonal and career development skills.

At Cravath, Mathew focuses his practices on multi-million and multi-billion dollar mergers and acquisitions and financings for both corporate and private equity clients, including numerous Fortune 100 companies.

Mathew serves on the Board of Associates of Thiel College and has formed—along with his brother and fellow Thiel alumnus, **David '11**—the Saur Brothers Scholarship at Thiel. Mathew holds dual degrees from Thiel College in business administration and international business. At Thiel, he was a member of the football team, served as Student Government Association president and a resident assistant for the student life office. Mathew also holds a law degree from Notre Dame Law School.

Mathew described how important Thiel College was for himself, but also for his brother David '11.

"This award is not just for me," he said. "It's for my brother as well because everything we do, we do together. I want to thank everyone (at Thiel) for everything they have done to touch both our lives."



Watch highlights from the ceremony at  
<http://bit.ly/tchomecoming2016video>

# Alumni News

## 1950s

**EDWARD PINCH '58** was inducted into West Middlesex High School's Athletic Hall of Fame after 35 years of service as basketball coach and athletic director.

## 1960s

**LTC NICHOLAS DIAKIWI '62** is now retired from the U.S. military.

## 1970s

**WILLIAM UPTON '75** is the Director of Business Development for Greenapple Business Services and resides in Pittsburgh.

**DAVID FOX '77** earned his Ph.D. in Forest Resource Conservation from The University of Florida where he serves as a lecturer in the School of Forest Resources and Conservation. Fox's dissertation focused on the ecological importance of *Sabal palmett*, Florida's state tree. David hopes that his encore career will focus on teaching and mentoring the next generation of natural resource managers. Fox and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Gainesville, Fla.

## 1980s

**GREG RAMSEY '82** relocated to Raleigh, N.C. from Buffalo.

**DAVID HUMMEL '83** is now employed by Your Town Realty as a realtor. He and his wife, Twila, welcomed their first granddaughter, Brinley, in April.

**LISA (LIPSCOMB) PERRY '89** was named Associate Executive Director at Jeremiah's Place, a 24-hour crisis nursery in Pittsburgh.

## 1990s

**ELIZABETH GODFREY '98** earned her Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma. She is employed by Highmark Health as a business analyst.

**JAMES DePHILLIPS '99** has been certified as a Registrant of the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists.

**CHAD BURNHEIMER '95** completed the Pennsylvania State Superintendent's Certification Program at Edinboro University in Dec. 2015. Burnheimer is a principal for Woodland Hills School District.

## 2000s

**RICH HELTZEL '09** lives in Chicago and is employed by Accurate Group, LLC. Heltzel is the Vice President, Director of GroundWork Operations and Process Management.

**HEATHER (JOHNSON) VESTER '05** was published in the fall newsletter of the North Carolina School Counselor Association titled "Start the Year Off Right with an Emphasis on Attendance." Vester is a school counselor at Bailey Elementary School and lives in Nashville, N.C.

**KELLY (RHODES) ASTOR '02** and **FLOYD SNYDER '03** were chosen as Keystone Technology Integrator Stars.

**MELISSA (LEWIS) KEEBLER '00** is now assistant director of annual giving at Duquesne University. Keebler and her husband, Josh, have two children, Nathalie and August.

**KATHERINE (KOCES) HELIKER '00** is an environmental engineer at THG & Associates in Meadville, Pa.

**SYRELL RODRIGUEZ CARRERAS '08** started her second year of general surgery residency at York Hospital in York, Pa.

**MICHELLE BLASKO '04** works for Talbott STEAM Innovation School in Colorado as assistant principal.

**NAKISHA (LOGAN) PEOPLES '02** is a member of The United States Air Force. She and her husband, James, have a son, James Christopher.

**HEATHER (ANDRAKE) BIGGART '07** is a payroll assistant for Comprehensive Children & Services in Sharon, Pa.

**CHRISTOPHER KLINE '01** resides in Forest, Va. where he's employed at Western Governors University.

**SIXTO RIVERA '07** lives in Portland, Ore. and works for The American Red Cross as a manufacturing instructor.

**ANYA LOUKIANOVA '05** received her Ph.D. in Policy Studies (International Security and Economic Policy) from The University of Maryland. She will be a Stanton Fellow at RAND. Anya and her husband, Tim Fink, live in Alexandria, Va.

**JESSE PROIE '09** is a sales manager for CarRight and resides in Coraopolis, Pa.

## 2010s

**HEATHER SNYDER '10** is now a technical program manager at Amazon Web Services and resides in Seattle.

**GREG ANDRLE '10** completed his master's degree from Chatham University and is now employed by Unit4 Business Software as an implementation consultant. His role is to support, train, and implement ERP software systems for clients. He was recently transferred to the Asia-Pacific region and is living in Singapore.

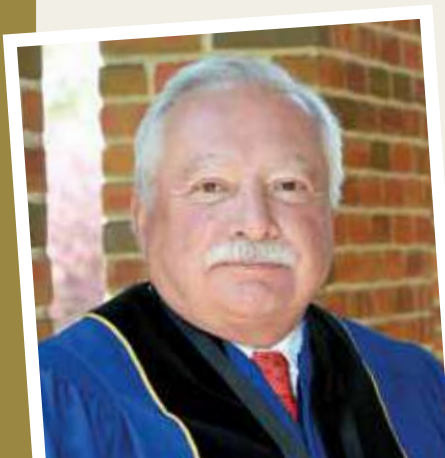
**BARBARA (HORN) FERGUSON '12** works at University of Rochester Medical Center Strong Memorial Hospital as a web specialist.

**MEGG ANDREWS '13** is a senior analyst at Denli Sourcing Solutions.

**AMANDA PYE '13** graduated from The University of Findlay (Ohio) with a doctorate of physical therapy and became a licensed physical therapist. She recently accepted a full-time position with the Crystal Clinic Orthopedic Center in Akron, Ohio.

## Thiel Fund File

Ed Bartko '72, H'16



**Home:** Charleston, S.C.

**Professional Experience:** I was a partner (I also hold a license from Virginia as a Certified Public Accountant) with PricewaterhouseCoopers and worked at PwC (Legacy Coopers & Lybrand prior to its merger with PW in 1998) for 30 years in Washington, D.C. Joined FTI Consulting in Washington, D.C. in August 2002 as a senior managing director in its corporate finance segment, where I started FTI's Transaction Advisory Service group. I retired from FTI in

**ETHAN LUDWIG '13** is a member of The United States Navy and is stationed in Pensacola, Fla. as a naval flight officer. He will be promoted to Lieutenant JG in December and currently flies a T-45 Goshawk Tactical Training Jet in training to graduate with his Naval Flight Officer Wings and fly in the F/A-18 Super Hornet Fighter Jet.

**KATIE SOURBEER '11** is a second grade teacher for Norwin School District.

**KRISTIN WANSOR '13** earned an M.A. in clinical mental health counseling from Slippery Rock University. Wansor is an outpatient mental health and substance abuse therapist at Community Counseling Center of Mercer County in Hermitage, Pa.

**KAYLA THORNBURG '11** is a speech-language pathologist at Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Thornburg also works for the Washington Hospital and Concordia visiting nurses as a speech therapist.

**DAMIAN BUCCILLI '14** is a planner for the municipality of Penn Hills, Pa.

**KRISTI GURITZA '16** works for Sистерson & Co. LLP as a general associate in Pittsburgh.

**DANIEL MARTINO '12** graduated with a M.A. in English and creative writing (Fiction) from Southern New Hampshire University. He now works as a grant writing assistant for Primary Health Network in Sharon, Pa.

**CASEY ROSE '14** is a funeral director/branch manager for Jamison Funeral Home, Inc. and Huff Funeral Home, Inc.

**LEANNA YEAGER '14** works at Leetonia Exempted Village School District as a high school English teacher.



**CHELSEA COSTELLO '14** is now employed by Suit-Kote in Meadville, Pa. as human resource coordinator. Costello recently traveled to Kenya on a missions trip with Living Waters Church.

**KEISHA SHAW '13** is employed by The City of Philadelphia as a human resource analyst.

## MARRIAGES

**KERRY DREIBELBIS '97** was married on May 21, 2016. She has a 6-year-old daughter, Emma Elizabeth Dreibelbis Farley. The family lives in York, Pa.



**ADRIENNE (MOWRY) LIGUORE '05** to Lou Liguore on Nov. 13, 2015. The couple is in the process of buying their first home and lives in Youngstown, Ohio.



**ALANA (SMITH) MARSHALL '14** to Micah Marshall on Aug. 6.



**PETER "ZANE" GARZA '13** married Kali Bennett on Aug. 6 in Panama City Beach, Fla. Garza is a diver for The U.S. Navy and the couple resides in San Diego. Thiel alumni

in attendance included **BRYAN VILLEGAS '11, SHAWNIECE (BOSS) VILLEGAS '12, BRIAN DAVIS '15, TERRY GENSEL '13, AND ETHAN LUDWIG '13.**



**LISA (MANNA) WATTS** married Anthony Watts on July 9 at Glen Ellen Farm in Maryland.



**KELSEY (WISE) MONTOZZI '15** married **BENJAMIN MONTOZZI '16** on July 8, 2016 in Washington, Pa.



**SHELBY (SPENCE) FLETCHER '06** to Ryan Fletcher on July 7 at Mount Vernon in Alexandria, Va. Alumni attending included **MELISSA SPENCE '10, PEGGY DeVENY '05, NANCY (HEINBOCKEL) REINHARDT '05, ALLISON WYNN '09, AMANDA (ROONEY) STIERLI '07.** The wedding was photographed by **ELLA "GRETA" MICHAELSEN '06.**

**PATRICK MILLER '08** to Alexandria Reszkowski on Oct. 31, 2015. Miller started a new career as multi-media account executive at The Erie Times-News in August.



**COREY BROWN '12** to Casey Brown on July 3. Alumni in attendance included: **JEFF LINN '02, ALEC '13 and JENNA (MOHR) MILLER '10, ROBERT '08 and JESSICA (SOMMERVILLE) PHILLIPS '08, RYAN DAWES '12, and BRIAN HILLS '79.**

April 2011. I am on the Board of Directors for LOGIX Communications based in Houston, where I serve as the chairman of the audit committee.

**Hobbies:** I love to play golf.

**Involvement at Thiel:** I have served for 15 years on Thiel's Board of Trustees in various roles including chair of the Board of Trustees, vice chair of the Board, treasurer of the Board and committee chair for the Finance and Investment Committee, the Audit Committee and the

Presidential Review and Compensation Committee. I have also spoken at various times to students from the Department of Business Administration on matters that will be important to them when they join the workforce. I served as a member of the Thiel Campaign Committee and leader for The Thiel Fund segment of the *Thiel 2016 Campaign*.

**Reason for Giving Back:** I was the first in my family to attend and graduate from college. I received an excellent

education from the Business Department under Professor David Miller's leadership, which prepared me to contribute day one when I joined PwC and provided me with confidence to help me succeed.

I believe it is important to provide Thiel with the working capital it needs each year to carry out its mission and to help keep tuition as low as possible. I have given to The Thiel Fund every year since I graduated from Thiel.

**BIRTHS**



To **JULIE (SAXON) KOVALCIK '06** and James Kovalcik: a daughter, Lauryn Nadine, on Nov. 30, 2015. The couple resides in Holiday Park, Pa. and also has a son, Allen Edward.

To **MELISSA (KEENER) JANOSKI '05** and Ryan Janoski: a son, Isaiah, on Feb. 1. The couple also has a daughter, Lilyann. Keener is employed by UPMC as a medical aesthetician.

To **TERRY GENSEL '13** and Emily Brosky: a son, Jackson Miles, on Aug. 26. Gensel is a patrolman for the Leetsdale Borough Police Department.



To **MALLORY (LUCCHETTI) KURNOCK '06** and Jerry Kurnock: a daughter, Camdyn Isabella, on Dec. 20, 2015. Mallory is a licensed care manager at Community Care Behavioral Health - UPMC.



To **PAMELA ACHENBACH-COVERT '03** and Jeremy Covert: a son, Alexander Finn, on April 5, 2016.



To **ROMAINE (REAGLE) SHAFFER '10** and **JOSHUA SHAFFER '12**: a son, Ryker Reagle Shaffer, born on July 1.

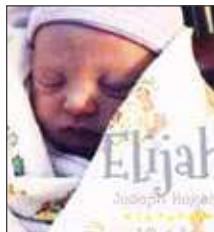
To **BRENDEEN LOWERY '12** and Melissa Albury: daughters, Lyla and Leighton, born on Dec. 18, 2015. Lowery is employed by The Timken Company as a senior quality analyst.



To **SARAH (FAUNCE) SCHWAB '13** and Corey Schwab: a daughter, Lennyn Emily, on Sept. 15.



To **MEREDITH (NAGLE) TOTH '10** and **STEVE TOTH '12**: a daughter, Linnea Rey, on May 29.



To **JONATHAN '13** and **KELSEY (ADAIR) HOGAN '14**: a son, Elijah Joseph, on Oct. 6.

**GATHERINGS**



A group of Thiel alumni held their annual gathering at the home of **TOM REYNOLDS '73** in Corning, N.Y. Pictured from left to right are: **JAMES BRENNER '74**; **BILL TUBERSON, '71**; **CHERYL (COLLINS) ROSSI '73**, **JOHN ROSSI '72**, **JOHN STICKLES '72**, **TOM REYNOLDS '73**, **JANIE (DAVIS) MINTON '74**, and **NORMA KLINE '74**. The group also took time to remember their fellow classmates who have passed away: **DOUG SNYDER '72**, **JOHN SCHRAMKO '73**, **WALT ZOTTER '73**, **GEOFFREY ROSSMAN '74**, and **MICHAEL HOLLAND '75**.



**PHILIP JOYCE '78**, Professor of Public Policy and Senior Associate Dean at The University of Maryland School of Public Policy, crossed paths with **ANYA LOUKIANOVA '05** during commencement as she received her Ph.D. He first met Anya while visiting Thiel during her senior year at **ROBERT OLSON'S '60** retirement celebration. They did not meet again until coming to Maryland in 2011 through the Ph.D. program.

**Thiel Fund File**  
**Yosief T. Woldegebriel '15**



**Home:** Warminster, Pa.

**Professional Experience:**

Sales tax accountant at De Lage Landen in Wayne, Pa.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy playing soccer, basketball. Enjoying time with family and traveling. A recent hobby I have added has been brewing my own beer.



**TED BAUMHAUER '79** was doing some work in Oregon at the Willamette Valley Medical Center when he discovered that **DEB (MALAFA) '77** and **JOHN BUERKLE '76** live in Newberg, Ore. They had a chance to meet up and “talk Thiel.”

## OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS



**ROBERT WILLIAMS '46** celebrated his 100th birthday on June 17! The celebration took place during a Kiwanis Club meeting and was held at St. Paul's: A Continuing Care Community in Greenville, Pa., where Williams resides.



**DON '77** and **PAMELA '03 ACHENBACH** have published their second children's book, “Oliver Toliver and the Spelling Bee.” Building on the characters from their first book, “A Few of the Many Adventures of Oliver Toliver,” the writing duo tell the tale of 10-year-old Oliver Toliver, who is competing in a school spelling bee when he and the other contestants are swept off to a beehive where the must spell their way out of danger. Don is general manager of a plastics company in Ohio and serves as Chief Storytelling Officer for zaam inc. a consulting firm found at [www.zaam.ca](http://www.zaam.ca). He is married, has three grandchildren and lives in Greenville, Pa. His daughter, Pamela, is finishing her Ph.D. at Indiana University of Pa. and teaches at Butler County Community College and online. She is married and has a son. She and her family reside in Springfield, Ohio. Both books are available at Amazon and Barnes and Noble.



**CHERIE BISCHOFF '72** was recently inducted into the St. John's Jesuit (SJJ) Hall of Fame. Cherie is a New Castle, Del. native and received her B.A. in 1972 from Thiel College. Cherie began her career at SSJ in

1973 as the school's first female employee. During her time at SJJ, Cherie was a French teacher and academic assistant principal. Cherie worked at SJJ for 42 years and retired in 2015. She resides in Toledo, Ohio, where she is active in the community, a member of Olivet Church, and a volunteer for the American Red Cross and Toledo Food Bank. Cherie and her husband, **BRUCE BISCHOFF '72**, have two daughters, Meredith and Lindsay, along with a granddaughter, Evelyn, and two grandsons, Ram and Ryan.

## Alumni Events

➤ For a full list of alumni events, visit [www.thiel.edu/alumni/events](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni/events).

### December

- 14 Alumni & Friends Holiday Celebration**  
5:30-8 p.m. • 1355 Yahres Road, Sharon, Pa.  
Hosted by Ruthanne Beighley, Esq.'73 and Joseph George
- 16 Trans-Siberian Orchestra Alumni Event**  
8 p.m. • Giant Center - Hershey, Pa.  
Hosted by Dr. Carl '69 and Theresa H'16 Hoffman  
Tickets are \$35

### January

- 10 Erie Otters Hockey Game: Alumni Event**  
7 p.m. • Erie, Pa.  
Hosted by John “Jack” Martin '75 and Karen Martin. Tickets are \$25

### February

- 4 Founders' Day Celebration**  
Thiel College
- 4 Thiel Players Reunion and Performance**  
11 a.m. dry run • 3 p.m. public performance  
William Robinson Theater, Thiel College

### May

- 5 The Inauguration of President Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**  
Thiel College

### TBD Alumni Events

- Paint & Sip Alumni Event**  
Cranberry Township., Pa.
- Hershey Bears Hockey Game: Alumni Event**  
Hershey, Pa.

**Involvement at Thiel:** I was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, and the men's soccer and tennis teams. I was the executive board treasurer for the Student Government Association and was sophomore class vice president. I participated in the peer leader and tutor program.

**Reason for Giving Back:** Thiel has given me the building blocks for great success. The professors I had through my four and a half years have been great mentors and role models to me. I had a lot of high moments and a few low, but through it all Thiel College never faded away. In respects to my major, I owe a great deal to the Department of Business Administration because they showed me

that I can compete with graduates from any university.

My parents have taught me that giving back is a big way of showing respect to those who have dedicated so much time to help us reach the goals and levels that we are at today. I have learned a lot and thank God always for that. Thiel College will always be a special place to me.

## Miller completes third Thiel College history book



**Michael Bray, D.M.A.** (left) and **Rae Johnson '59** (center) pose for a photo with **Paul Miller '69** and his recently completed third Thiel College history book.

“A Joyful Noise!” was written by **Paul Miller '69** and focuses on music and its place at the College during its 150-year history. The Alumni Office has copies for sale. Miller has also written histories on the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity on campus and The Thiel Players.

“To me the most important part of Thiel’s identity as a liberal arts college is ‘arts.’ Theater, literature, art and music are the most direct ways for us to connect with the great thinkers of the past and to get an appreciation for what connects us as human beings with those of previous centuries,” Miller said. “The happy combination of the sesquicentennial celebration, my being retired, the college archives, and the ability to contact many alumni via email resulted in last year’s theater history and this year’s history of music at Thiel. My hope is that these works can show how the arts have enriched generations of Thiel students and provide momentum to carry that enrichment into the future.”

**For more information or to reserve a copy, contact the Office of Alumni Relations, [alumni@thiel.edu](mailto:alumni@thiel.edu). Proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the Thiel Players, the Thiel Choir and the Thiel Fund.**



## Class of 1966 marks Golden Anniversary

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Bill Scherer              | 10. Richard Meeker              |
| 2. Lori (Lindstrom) Anthony  | 11. Billie (Dragan) Hollenbaugh |
| 3. Norma (Krieg) McCullough  | 12. David Hollenbaugh           |
| 4. Jane (Henderson) Anderson | 13. Fred Kiser                  |
| 5. Linda (Person) Zwicke     | 14. Rev. Dr. Martin Roth        |
| 6. Marilyn (Bowman) Converse | 15. Esther (Mostoller) Weigle   |
| 7. Dr. Linda Hiles           | 16. Fred Haer                   |
| 8. Carol (Hild) Lehman       | 17. Jill (Shackett) Haer        |
| 9. Robert Derrickson         | 18. Andrew Ross                 |
|                              | 19. Jim Bergman                 |



### UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI PROFILE

Whether it’s a new email or home address, complete our online form to let us know how to stay in touch. Visit [www.thiel.edu/alumni/keep-in-touch](http://www.thiel.edu/alumni/keep-in-touch) to update your alumni file. For more information, contact Director of Alumni Relations **Kelly Sanzari '13** at **724-589-2014** or [alumni@thiel.edu](mailto:alumni@thiel.edu).

## IN MEMORIAM

Guyton C. Thigpen '49  
Max Homer '59  
Emogene L. Turcic  
Matthew R. Edney  
Justin M. Snyder  
Carolyn J. Worley  
John F. Waldron '53  
Leo Fry  
Joanne Marie Uzarski  
Herbert L. Bresnan '60  
Helen Acker  
Jacqueline J. Moon '50  
Brenda Bruno  
Beulah Keck  
Ernest A. Schmidt  
Brenda L. Goldner '86  
Robert H. Hill '42  
Marjorie Zarecky  
Twylah Claire Benson  
James J. Sipe  
James R. Judy  
Patricia Arkilander '47

James H. Fry '44  
Glen R. Johnson '88  
Paul R. Plummer  
Robert L. Smith '75  
Clara (Roth) DiMaria '54  
James J. DiMaria '52  
Madalina Garofalo  
Richard J. Schroeck  
Joshua Wade McFarland  
Lawrence Eakin  
Diane R. Shaddinger '70  
George A. Kraynak  
Joseph E. Langdon  
Mary L. Hutton 1951  
Arnold Daniel PalmerH'76  
Jay Hartman  
Joan S. Heald  
Raymond H. Evans Jr. '50  
Grace E. Schindel '48  
Antony Stallwood  
Dana P. Arneman '52  
Ryan Gloyer '04



## Shannon Reesh offers tribute to Ryan Gloyer '04

Sergeant First Class **Ryan Gloyer '04**, of Denton, Pa., died as a result of injuries sustained in combat in Kunduz, Afghanistan on Nov. 3. Gloyer won the Thiel College Young Alumni Award in 2007 for his service and contributions to his community, country and alma mater. Assistant Dean of Student Life and Director of International Student Affairs **Shannon Reesh** got to know Ryan as a student.

Reesh shares her memories of Gloyer.

**R**yan Gloyer was a special person to so many. He was such a talented soul. He was the kind of friend who you could never have enough time with. Enough time to share laughs with or as Ryan would say, "enough time to solve the world's problems with." I am grateful to have so many memories of time spent with him. He had the quickest wit of anyone I have ever known.

He was a leader, and when he led, it was by doing and accomplishing the very best. He was very energetic, adventurous and extremely diligent. This world has lost an amazing person.

Ryan Gloyer, you had such a profound effect on those who knew you well. Your ways of persevering, educating, sharing your viewpoint, finding humor in the most unconventional ways and ways that were just laugh out loud funny—I will forever miss.

My thoughts and prayers go out to you, your family who loves you so much and others closest to you who are grieving your loss. I was blessed to have known you Ryan. It was an honor to have called you my friend.

*Peace to you always.*

## Being engaged alumni

### A message from the Thiel College Alumni Association Board of Directors

The Thiel College Alumni Association Board of Directors would like to update the Thiel College family on our board's progress toward our goals with a biannual report. As we move forward, we would like to invite you, our friends and family within the Thiel College community, to join us in bolstering Thiel's presence, both nationally and internationally, and in strengthening the academic experiences of current students.

One of our first accomplishments of the year was to recreate our board's mission statement; we are proud to announce our new mission:

***"To advance Thiel College by facilitating engagement between alumni, current and prospective students, and to serve as ambassadors of the institution."***

We invite you to help us to carry out these goals.

When we invite you to return to campus, or to other alumni events, your time and experience are highly valued. If you are interested in serving as an alumni mentor; a guest lecturer; volunteering with any of our student organizations; assisting with Thiel's athletic events; or participating on the alumni board, the Board of Trustees; or serving on the Thiel Family Council, please contact **Kelly Sanzari '13**, Director of Alumni Relations, at [ksanzari@thiel.edu](mailto:ksanzari@thiel.edu)

We, the alumni board, would also like to personally invite you to return to Thiel College to attend the inauguration of President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, on Friday, May 5.

## Reflections from Thiel College's first Oxford scholar



The perfect shot, I thought, as I snapped a photograph of the sunset reflecting off the center glass pane of the Bridge of Sighs. I tried to view as many of the 42 sunsets as I could during my time in the city. Dreaming spires and ivory towers were never places with which I thought I would be associated. Neither did I ever anticipate for my undergraduate studies to take me across the Atlantic Ocean and more than 3,500 miles away from Greenville. Once there, most of my travel was by foot. I walked in the shadows of those spires, following the concrete sidewalks in paths first forged by academic giants almost a thousand years ago. It was in this environment that I glimpsed what it means to be an Oxford student.

For six weeks, from May 24-July 5, 2016, I studied at the University of Oxford in England through the Oxford Study Abroad Programme. I was paired with **Dr. Andrew Teal**, the chaplain of Pembroke College—one of the 38 colleges of the university—who served as my mentor during my time there. Under his guidance, I studied the place of religion within the realm of postmodernism: its skeptics, pluralities and uncertain future. We are celebrating our sesquicentennial at Thiel College, which is quite a worthy accomplishment, but that benchmark is dwarfed by Oxford's nearly 1,000-year history. To study there was a phenomenal experience, one which I never imagined possible a few years ago.

It may seem to some that I earned this prestigious opportunity, and, to a certain degree, perhaps I did, but honestly, I was the beneficiary of a long chain of events. Hard work by so many others went into the fulfillment of this opportunity.

The founding of the Kenneth and Marianna Brown Dietrich Honors Institute in 2012 was instrumental in providing a myriad of new academic opportunities to Thiel students. In fall 2013, the first class of DHI scholars arrived to begin their Thiel journey. I was fortunate to be included in their numbers. Guided by the creativity, diligence, and wisdom of DHI Director **Curtis L. Thompson, Ph.D.**, we

students have flourished in accepting the opportunities presented to us and creating new opportunities of our own.

In May 2017, the first full class of DHI scholars will graduate. We have experienced four years of a newly integrated curriculum that developed as we progressed at Thiel, one semester at a time. Through it, we have learned to communicate effectively, appreciate creativity, and contribute culturally as we continue to become human. Each semester, trips have allowed many of us to explore cities such as Washington D.C., Nashville, Chicago and Toronto. DHI scholarships have helped countless students experience study abroad tours in a wide variety of countries, including Greece, France, Spain, Germany, Italy and South Africa. These travels—both domestic and abroad—allow students to build bridges between Greenville and the rest of the world. The bridge I helped form between Thiel and Oxford is only one of many such connections that give students a more expansive view of the world we are about to influence.

Many DHI scholars are bound for graduate school as our next step, though we will certainly take our Thiel experiences wherever we go. Two years ago, the phrase "DHI and" was used to emphasize the multi-faceted roles which DHI students hold on Thiel's campus. The DHI scholars include students from all majors, athletes, band and choir members, fraternity brothers and sorority sisters, and members from almost all student clubs on campus. This diverse conglomerate of scholars is the community we call the DHI. We remember our past and the donors who made possible the DHI's existence, we do our best to shape Thiel's campus today, and the first full group of near-graduates is prepared to leave Thiel and make our contribution to the world at large.

Nathan Flory '17 became the first Thiel College student to study at the University of Oxford in England this summer. The Dietrich Honors Institute student from Export, Pa. is an English major with a minor in religion. He will graduate in May.

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# *Save the Date*

The Inauguration Ceremony of  
**Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**  
the 20th president of Thiel College



**Friday**  
**May 5, 2017**