

Thiel College Magazine for Alumni & Friends

Fall/Winter 2017

The Bell

Building on the Foundation

Haer Family Science and Arts Connector,
Track & Field Complex enrich College's
traditions of outstanding achievement



A student finds a moment alone during a busy first-year student move-in day.



Thiel College

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On the cover

The new Haer Family Science and Arts Connector was dedicated at Homecoming 2017.



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Pageantry, reunions and traditions always make Homecoming a special time, but this year Thiel College had two exceptional events to celebrate. We dedicated the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector and the Track & Field Complex, leading to the largest number of alumni attending Homecoming in our history. See Page 8 for a recap of Homecoming 2017, and read **John Hauser's '71** thoughts on Page 48 on what draws alumni home to Thiel.

These new facilities reinforce that the College's foundational principles of educating the whole student still carry on today. Whether in the classroom or on the playing field, students are learning at Thiel. We are grateful for the investments by donors and friends of the College that made it possible to provide such remarkable venues for the growth and development of students.

Since its founding, the College has been committed to teaching across the broad range of liberal arts subjects. Its scope, as explained by Rev. William A. Passavant in 1875 included "natural and exact sciences" but also "the philosophy of the mind, the principles of language, the laws of logic and the rules of rhetoric."

In this spirit, the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector—named for alumni **Jill (Shackett) '66** and **Fred Haer '66**—is a place where students and faculty from the full spectrum of academic programs can come together to collaborate on faculty-student research, interact around ideas, and hold formal and impromptu gatherings. Students will be able to unwind in a comfortable place and admire the view of the east woods, or find a private spot to study—just steps away from peers and academic resources vital to student success. The 7,850 square feet of lab, class, office and collaborative space both strengthens the College's science programs and enhances the entire academic profile of the school. New equipment will enrich the

Haer Family Science and Arts Connector and is a direct result of a \$100,000 gift from **Frank Maenpa, M.D. '69**. It will ensure that students and faculty have the necessary tools to engage in scientific research and discovery. Enhancing the facility is science-themed artwork throughout that remind all that breakthroughs in the arts and sciences are interrelated voyages into the unexplored.

Doubtless, achievements on campus will also be in the competitive arena. The new Track & Field Complex, with a competition surface and grass infield, adds practice, intramural and recreational space. Thiel has a history of outstanding accomplishment in track & field even without a home facility (four of the five newest members of the Thiel Athletic Hall of Fame participated in track & field). Now with dedicated space for student-athletes to train, the College's cross country and track & field programs will find even greater success, thriving under the direction of coach **Will Mills '08**.

The track also strengthens our connection to Greenville as we welcome the local community to exercise there. Friends and community members joined alumni and students to be among the first official competitors on the new surface, running a 5K race moments after the ribbon was cut at the dedication. Read more about the track dedication on Page 26.

Included in the mailed editions of *The Bell* is the Thiel College calendar, featuring photos exploring just a sample of donors' commitment to Thiel. Each gift is a celebration of the gratitude for the life-changing experience the College offered them.

I appreciate your continued support for the College, its history and its future. In the joy of all that Thiel has provided to its alumni and continues to provide to students, I wish you the very best and a wonderful holiday season.

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



Students, alumni and friends—show the world your Thiel College spirit. Whether it's spring break, summer break, a school trip, study abroad or family vacation, take a photo with Thiel gear in front of a landmark and post to social media using **#ThielonTour**. Go to www.thiel.edu/thielontour to see the gallery or get more information.



 **thielcollege**
Thiel College

thielcollege Thiel College took over #Peru! @kaytee_candela shared this photo from Machu Picchu using #ThielonTour. Don't forget to share your photos with us from your #travels this summer!

Follow us **@thielcollege** to see more!



 **Alyssa Adkins**
★★★★★ · October 17, 2017

I visited Thiel College today and I absolutely loved it. I'm actually committing to this school. Love the atmosphere around the campus and everyone is so friendly! I'll be attending here in the Fall of 2018, and I can't wait to start my journey! It's very beautiful campus very well kept up.

Follow us **@ThielCollege** to see more!

Final Word reminds alumnus about the value of Thiel's liberal arts education

I was so inspired by [the **John Hauser '71**] "Final Word" in the [The Bell Spring/Summer 2017] edition. I am excited that Commencement 2017 begins a new era at Thiel, and I wish President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.** the greatest success. I know that when I look back on my four years, it went by in an instant. That time is now filled with many great memories, and I am so very thankful the lessons I learned in the classroom, in competition for the Tomcats but most especially for the amazing and enduring relationships with my professors, classmates and fraternity brothers.

Graduation was exciting but it was tempered by the realization that we had to go out into the world and make our own way. During the turbulent times of the late '60s and early '70s, that would not have been possible without the foundations we had not only from our parents but also from the culture that existed at Thiel. It was one of treating everyone fairly and honestly and a vision of . . . "you can succeed at anything if you apply what you have learned and work hard enough."

Now that I am much, much older, I agree that having a liberal arts education has been a great advantage. When I interview job candidates today, I see people with huge student loan debt with degrees in some kind of subject with the word "Studies" after it. Unfortunately, most of these people are not prepared and to make matters even worse, they have come to expect to start a job, be highly compensated and to get the "corner office" in their first week. These are the people who received participation trophies all of their lives.

These are the people, products mostly of large universities, who have been taught what to think, not how to think.

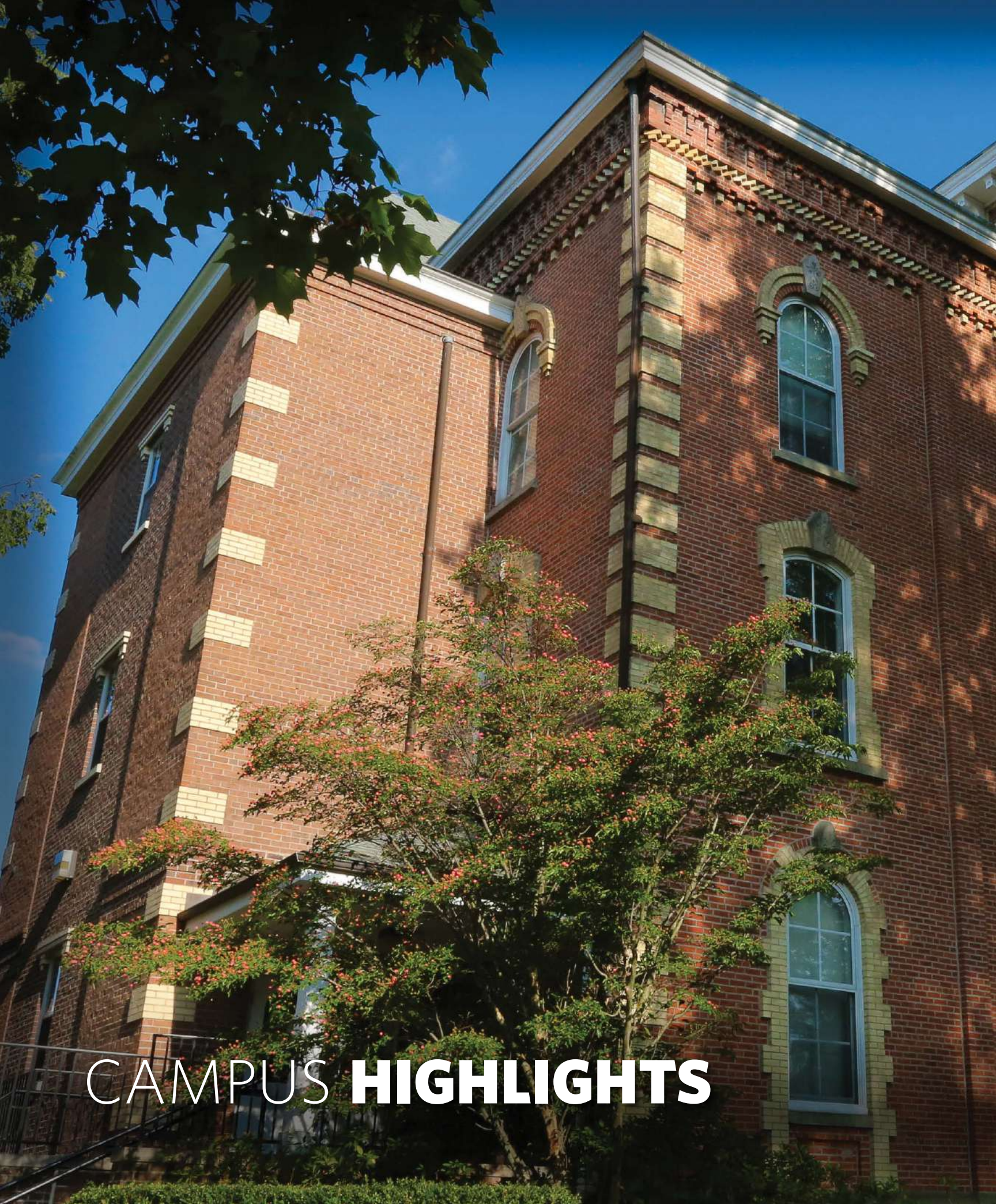
Thiel's commitment to allow students to think for themselves is what will take them successfully into the 21st century. Not as followers, but as leaders who know how to effectively create change and who don't need participation trophies.

Regards,
Frank Newnam '71

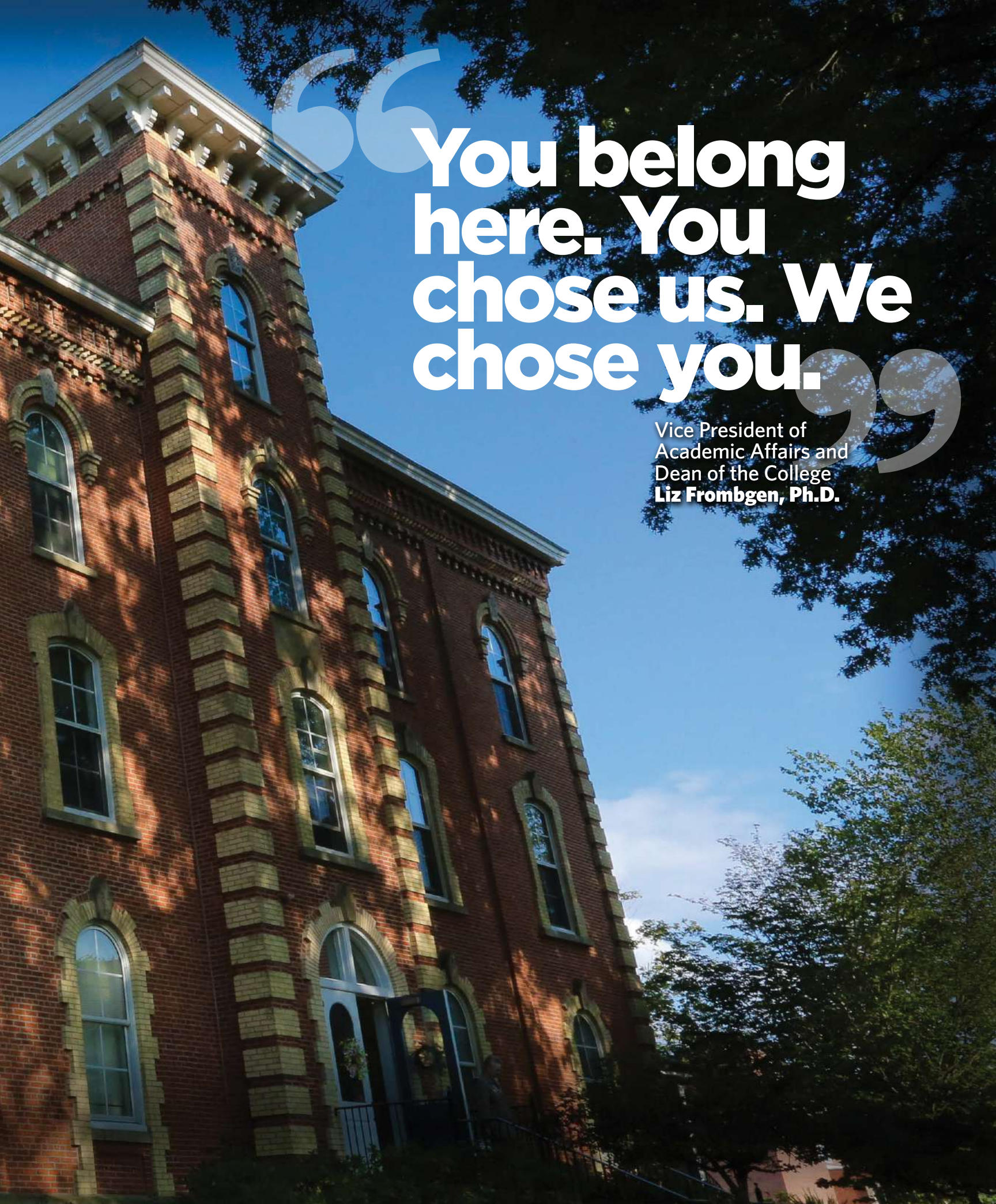


Letters to the editor

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.



CAMPUS **HIGHLIGHTS**



**You belong
here. You
chose us. We
chose you.**

Vice President of
Academic Affairs and
Dean of the College
Liz Frombgen, Ph.D.



Class of 2021 is an exceptional blend of talents and diversity



Associate Professor of English **Jared Johnson, Ph.D.**, debuted as faculty marshal this year. Following the assembly in the gym, he led first-year students on the traditional march along Brother Martin's Walk with their classmates to Opening Convocation in the William A. Passavant Memorial Center.

Thiel College welcomed one of its most diverse new student classes in its 151-year history in late August for its move-in and Opening Convocation.

Welcome Weekend started with first-year student move-in on Aug. 25 and continued through the weekend with activities focused on enhancing the first-year student experience. The remainder of the student population moved in Aug. 27 and classes began on Aug. 28.

Thiel College's first-year class included 243 students. Students came from 16 states, and 24 percent of the incoming students are from ethnically and racially diverse backgrounds. About 10 percent of the first-year class includes international students from Australia, Bangladesh, Germany, Japan, Pakistan, Poland, South Korea, Sweden and Vietnam.

"The Thiel College community is excited to welcome new and returning students to campus," Thiel College President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, said. "Each fall we get a burst of energy and enthusiasm with their arrival. This year's group brings a wide array of talents and perspectives to our campus to create a vibrant, welcoming and inclusive learning environment."

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.

Adding to the excitement are new facilities and initiatives aimed at helping students become motivated to succeed in college.



➤ See more photos from throughout the day at Thiel College's Flickr gallery at <http://bit.ly/tcmovein2017>.

COMING

EKEND





Traditional events and landmark dedications draw big crowds back for Homecoming

Homecoming 2017 was a record-breaker as the College hosted the most alumni in its history for the annual fall tradition. Alumni and friends of the College celebrated the theme “Something Old and New, Something Gold and Blue” on Oct. 13-15.

The theme captured the significant changes on campus, while still recognizing the traditions and connections that make Thiel College special.

The dedications of the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector and the Track & Field Complex were the marquee events during Homecoming 2017. More than 200 people attended the dedications, including state Representative **Mark Longietti** and a member of the office of state Senator **Michele Brooks**.

College leaders were joined by community members and alumni to dedicate the new \$4.5 million science connector. The science connector adds 7,850 square feet of classroom and collaborative space and opens the door for future expansion of the College's science facilities and programs. Prior to the science building dedication, the College dedicated its new Track & Field



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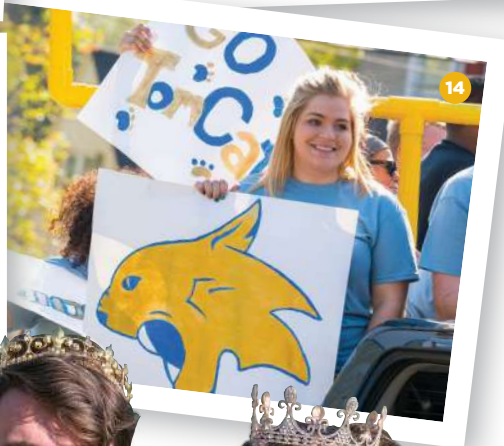
1 Kent Taylor, Barbara Deist, and her husband, Dale, a member of the Board of Trustees. **2** A family strolls along Brother Martin's Walk during Homecoming 2017. **3** Alumni and friends of the college painted Brother Martin's Walk during a sip and paint event hosted by artist and alumna **Connie Dusak '95**. **4** Homecoming 2016 king **Loyal Jasper '17** takes a selfie with this year's Homecoming king **Michael Lehman '18**. **5** Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**; **Dana DePaulo '18**; **Hillary Leipold '18**, **Damen Taylor '95**, **Brittany DeCarmine '18**, member of the Board of Trustees **John Barr '70**. **6** The Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride help kick off the parade. **7** Professor emeritus **Michael Bray, D.M.A.** and his wife, **Becky**, chat with Professor emeritus **Joyce Cuff, Ph.D.**, during the football game. **8** **John Harman '57** and his wife, **Audrey, Janet McRoberts '57** and **Jim McRoberts '58** were among the attendees at the third annual Gala.

Complex. That ceremony culminated with a 5K fun run and walk that signified the first official College event on the track.

Other Homecoming 2017 events included a performance of the Milton String Quartet as part of the Con Spirito Chamber Music Concert Series, a paint and sip session, alumni-student

networking event, book reading from the novel "Between the Innings" by **Dan Kirk '92**. Friday's festivities were highlighted by the student pep rally and the third annual Thiel Gala and silent auction.

➤ Experience the sights and sounds of Homecoming 2017 with the highlights video <http://bit.ly/tchocohighlights17>.



9 Student floats celebrated Homecoming 2017's theme of 'Something Old and New, Something Gold and Blue.' **10** Associate Dean of Career Development **Martin Black**, **Marian (Norris) Shoemaker '63** and **Trevon Wilmer '21** speak during the alumni-student networking event in the James Pedas Communication Center. **11** Crowds gathered along College Avenue to catch a glimpse of the parade as it made its way toward campus. **12** The fall installment of the Con Spirito Chamber Music Concert Series featured the award-winning Milton String Quartet on Oct. 13 in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. **13** Member of the Board of Trustees **Dominic Dionisio '72** and **James Frits '71** pause for a photo during the third annual Thiel Gala. **14** Students celebrate some Tomcat pride during the parade. **15** Homecoming king **Michael Lehman '18** and Homecoming queen **Dana DePaulo '18**.





Lieutenant Governor Michael Stack III tours campus, attends class, meets with students before presentation

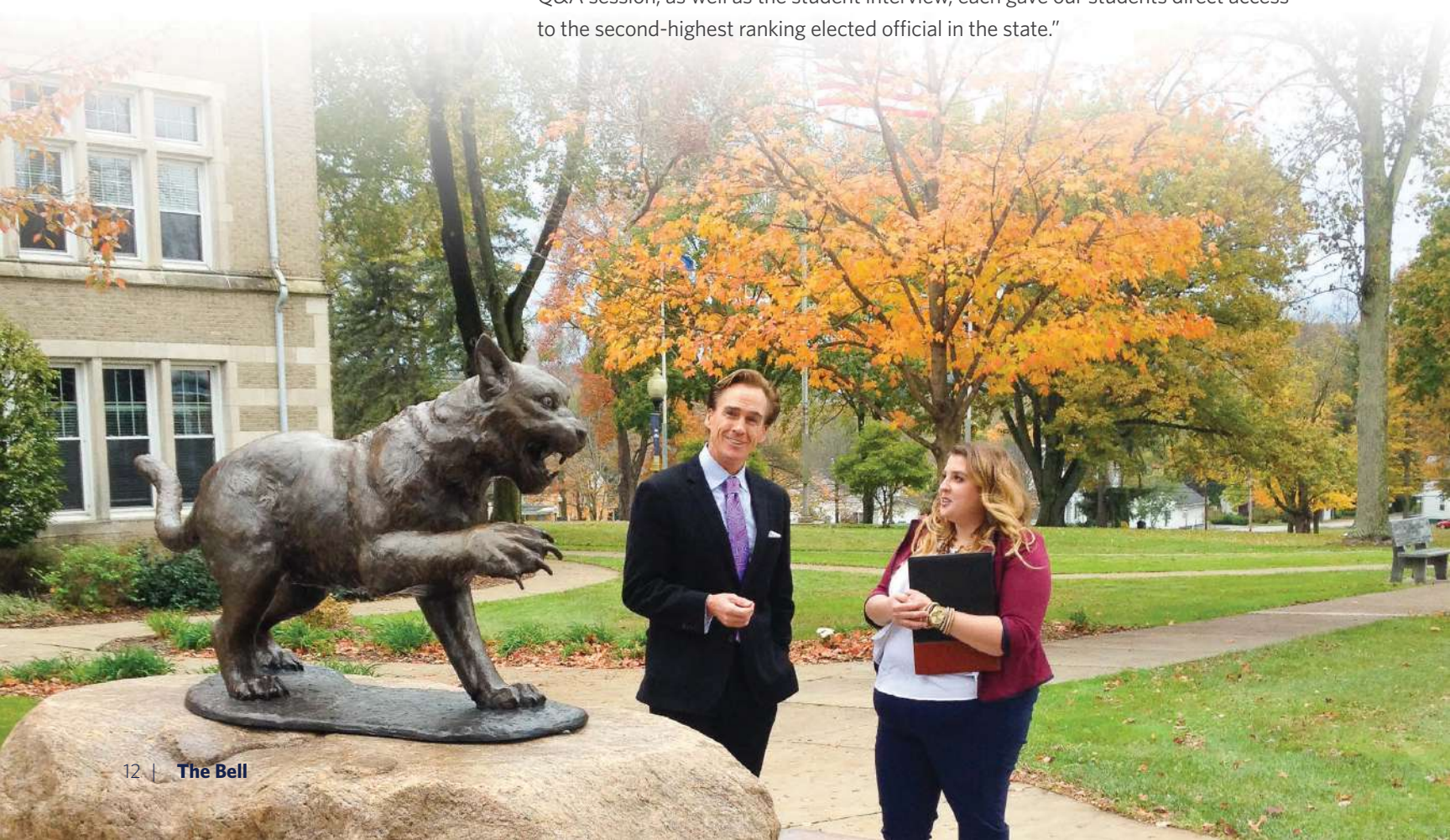
Lieutenant Governor **Michael Stack III** participated in a variety of student-centered events on campus on Nov. 2. He attended part of state Senator **Michele Brooks'** Government Day activities. Brooks' event is hosted by Thiel and informs regional high school students about the state government. Following the Government Day activities, Stack spoke at combined public speaking and criminal justice class, fielded questions in a Q&A session with Thiel students and conducted interviews with student media.



He toured Thiel College's new Haer Family Science and Arts Connector and the green-building certified James Pedas Communication Center before taking the podium at 6 p.m. in the Stamm Lecture Hall of the Pedas Center for the "Pathways to Pardons" event, which explained the process for obtaining a pardon or expungement of a past criminal conviction in Pennsylvania.

The Thiel College Department of Political Science was an event co-sponsor. State legislators Brooks and **Mark Longietti** also participated in the Nov. 2 open forum.

"We are excited to have had this opportunity for our students," Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Liz Frombgen, Ph.D.**, said. "The class and Q&A session, as well as the student interview, each gave our students direct access to the second-highest ranking elected official in the state."





Thigpen and Galbo recognized for entrepreneurial efforts by Haller Institute

The Thiel College Haller Enterprise Institute honored **John Thigpen '86** and **Greg Galbo '18** as its Entrepreneur and Student Entrepreneur of the Year at the Oct. 25 Entrepreneur of the Year Award Dinner and Ceremony. Both honorees are residents of Hermitage, Pa.

Thigpen graduated from Thiel College in 1986 with a degree in accounting and business administration. After leaving Thiel, John moved to Erie, Pa. where he worked in public accounting. He became a licensed C.P.A. in 1989 and received his M.B.A. from Penn State Behrend in 1994.

The veteran businessman is an advocate for manufacturing and economic development in Mercer County. He is the leader of ILSCO Extrusions in Greenville Pa., an aluminum mill and business park that sits on 165 acres with almost 700,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space. Once home to the world's largest ladder manufacturer and then transformed into a more limited aluminum extrusion facility, the plant shut down in 2009 during the recession. Thigpen was the president of Signature Aluminum, the company that closed. His strong desire and plan to restart the Greenville site caught the interest of

ILSCO Corporation and they purchased the idled plant in 2010. Since then, Thigpen has guided the company to seven years of increasing employment and success.

Thigpen resides in Hermitage Pa. with his wife, **Jodi (Fisher) Thigpen '87**. They have two adult daughters, **Lauren** and **Christine**.

Galbo, a 2014 graduate of Hickory High School, is an accounting and business administration major. A resident of Hermitage, Pa., Galbo is a member of the Dietrich Honors Institute, the accounting club, and the men's golf team. He is a recipient of the Presidential Scholarship and Heuther Endowment for Business Scholarship. His entrepreneurial efforts include being a reseller for automotive parts and athletic shoes.





Reinsel putting her philosophy on science to work in land of the vikings

by Dick Davis

Sometimes the best things in life just happen. Just ask **Ann Reinsel, Ph.D. '06**.

From 2002-2006, Thiel College student Anna Reinsel had no plans to become respected academic Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. '06. However, by 2011, she became just that, earning the titles of Associate Professor of Environmental Science and Chemistry and Department of Environmental Science Chair at Thiel.

After earning her doctorate in analytical chemistry from the University of Akron and scouring the job market, Reinsel noticed a Thiel faculty opening for a position teaching half chemistry and half environmental science. Exactly her expertise, Reinsel applied and the rest, as they say, is history.

"It has been a very good thing," Reinsel said, "and quite a cool journey. I credit all my chemistry professors while I was at Thiel for teaching and preparing me."

One of those professors, **Henry Barton, Ph.D.**, is now an adjunct in Reinsel's department after his recent retirement from Thiel.

Reinsel is eagerly anticipating using her locally-generated expertise in Iceland next spring when she leads a Thiel Study Abroad experience. The educational eight days will be based in Reykjavik, Iceland's capital and largest city.

Thiel's faculty-led Study Abroad program promotes international exploration in May of every year. Last year, 14 students went to Peru, while 11 toured Spain, with each tour, a three-credit course is combined.

"Iceland is a truly beautiful country," Reinsel said, "and committed to renewable energy. I am especially looking forward to a glacial walk and touring a geothermal plant."

Those real-world experiences blend seamlessly with Reinsel's professional philosophy.

"Scientific knowledge is one of the keys to achieving a sustainable future. Environmental science is an interdisciplinary field that provides a big-picture understanding of the world and our influences on it while chemistry provides a way to analyze the composition of our Earth's materials," she said. "My analytical chemistry classes focus on learning the techniques and instrumentation used to collect, interpret and report data."

Her goal is "for students to be able to take the concepts and strategies gained from my classes and apply them to other classes, both science and non-science, and to all aspects of their lives."

Iceland seems like the perfect setting for Reinsel's goal to be applied.



Archivist installed as president of national sophomore honor society

Thiel College archivist **John Hauser '71** was installed as the president of the national Lambda Sigma honorary society for sophomore students.

Hauser became an adviser for Lambda Sigma when the Thiel chapter was installed in 1977 and has served as an adviser to both the Thiel and University of Pittsburgh chapters. He joined the national board in 1999 and served as ritual adviser and vice president. His installation as president of Lambda Sigma was Sept. 24.

Lambda Sigma Society is a national honor society for second year students and is a certified member of the Association of College Honor Societies since 1981.



Thiel connections led Witosky full circle

by Dick Davis

Thiel's first David M. Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting and Professor of Business, Administration and Accounting and Department Chair **Gary Witosky '79** talks of the Thiel "circle of life" in bolstering his career and sustaining the college.

"David Miller taught my first Principles of Accounting class and was quite an inspiration to me," Witosky says. "**John Logan '65** (a former professor) taught several of my upper level accounting classes, so I had a solid foundation to enter the job market."

When Witosky retired from the private sector in 2002, Miller offered an adjunct position teaching managerial accounting. Witosky accepted and renewed his Thiel "circle of life" journey.

After graduating from Thiel, Witosky earned a master of accountancy from

Stetson University (Florida), became a certified public accountant as well as a chartered global management accountant. His professional experience includes more than 20 years in public accounting and private industry. He concluded his six years in public accounting as an audit manager at Ernst & Whinney (now Ernst & Young) in Cleveland. In private industry, he served as treasurer and corporate controller of Park Corporation, treasurer and chief financial officer of American Axle & Manufacturing, Inc., and president and chief operating officer of Colfor Manufacturing, Inc.

Since joining Thiel, he subsequently served as the College's interim vice president of finance in 2004. In March 2007, Witosky was appointed the interim senior vice president of the College by **Robert C. Olson, Ph.D. '60, H'09** as part

of a two-person team appointed to help lead Thiel in preparation for the search for its 19th president. Upon completing this assignment, he returned to the faculty in 2009 becoming department chair in 2015.

"The endowed chair in the name of Professor **David Miller '61** is quite an honor," Witosky said. "Miller has taught more students at Thiel than anyone. Not only to be among them but to receive this chair position is an amazing honor for which I am extremely grateful."

"I truly enjoy teaching and love hearing about the successes our alumni are achieving in their careers and lives. I am hopeful one or two of my students will come back to Thiel to teach and continue our 'circle of life.'"



Associate Academic Dean Mary Theresa Hall returning focus to the classroom

Associate Academic Dean and Professor of English **Mary Theresa Hall, Ph.D.**, is returning to a full time role in the Department of English in January 2018. Hall was named Associate Dean in August 2016. She worked on the College's Middle States Monitoring Report and other important Academic Affairs initiatives in her time.

"I am deeply grateful for her wonderful work as the Associate Academic Dean and her mentoring of students," Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Liz Frombgen, Ph.D.**, said. "I am grateful that our students will benefit from her being in the classroom."

Also, this summer Hall had her book review of "Male Friendship and Testimonies of Love in Shakespeare's England" by **Will Tosh** published in the summer 2017 edition of Sixteenth Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies.



Student activities director participates in diversity discussion at conference

Thiel College Director of Student Activities and Involvement **Than Oo** was part of a panel discussion on “Diversity on Campus” for the College & University Public Relations and Associated Professionals Fall West Workshop on Monday, Oct. 16.

Oo was joined on the panel by administrators from Duquesne University and Pennsylvania State University New Kensington. The group discussed working with diverse student populations, using unique perspectives to solve problems and conveying the messages that campuses are a safe place for all students.



Shannon Deets addresses dance arts experts in Erie

Thiel College Assistant Professor of Psychology **Shannon Len Deets, Ph.D.**, was the keynote speaker at the banquet of the Mercyhurst University chapter of the National Honor Society for the Study of Dance Arts on Sept. 23.

Deets spoke to members of the society about her research exploring the connection between consciousness and dance. She also discussed her career trajectory and the specialized way that Deets has been able to incorporate dance into her academic, therapeutic, and research interests. Deets’ research is unique in that it occurs at the crossroads of the philosophy of consciousness theory and the practical applications of mental health therapy.



Gallagher wins award and grant and has articles published

Thiel College Assistant Professor of Psychology **Kristel M. Gallagher, Ph.D.**, culminated an active summer with the receipt of a research award and grant from two national organizations, along with two publications.

Gallagher’s research award was presented by the American College Health Association for her recent work on the health behaviors of Thiel College students who are the first in their family to attend college.

Gallagher also co-authored an invited chapter in “The Wiley Encyclopedia of Health Psychology.” The chapter, detailing the health outcomes associated with low health literacy, was written with University of Florida Psychology Professor **Amber Emanuel, Ph.D.**

Gallagher was also awarded a grant from the Society for the Teaching of Psychology, a division of the American Psychological Association, to develop a teaching resource for college instructors on the implementation of social-emotional learning techniques in the classroom.

Gallagher also published an article in the journal *College Teaching* describing her classroom research that examines how the stories and jokes used by professors in their teaching can enhance student test performance.



Claussen takes on editorship of Newspaper Research Journal

Thiel College James Pedas Professor of Communication **Dane S. Claussen, Ph.D.**, has been appointed as the next editor of *Newspaper Research Journal*, the prestigious scholarly journal published quarterly since 1979 by the Newspaper and Online News Division, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Claussen—who also is Chair of the Department of Media, Communication and Public Relations and Executive Director of the James Pedas Communication Center at Thiel College—is the former publisher and editor of daily, weekly, biweekly and monthly newspapers in Wisconsin, Oregon and Washington state and a former newspaper management consultant and media mergers/acquisitions broker. Throughout his teaching career, he has taught newspaper-oriented courses such as news writing, feature writing, opinion writing, public affairs journalism, news editing, and newspaper/magazine management, as well as other media courses.

The transition from *Newspaper Research Journal*’s current co-editors, **Sandra H. Utt** and **Eleanor Kelley Grusin**, both of the University of Memphis, began in September. Professors Utt and Grusin have edited the journal since early 2001. Claussen will take over starting Jan. 1, 2018 and continue through Sept. 30, 2021.

Students looked deeper into nicotine exposure data for summer research institute

Undergraduate and high school researchers worked with Thiel College faculty members this summer to expand on nicotine research that began as a part of the Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute last year.

In a collaboration between the Thiel neuroscience and psychology programs, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Department Chair **Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06**, Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Department Chair **Greg Butcher, Ph.D.**, Thiel students, and local high school researchers capitalized on research conducted last summer on adolescent exposure to nicotine in rodents.

Butcher and Pickens are continuing their research with the help of Thiel students **Theresa Kretzmer '20**, **Gage Gladysz '20** and **Maggie Nee '20**, as well as two area high school students. Kretzmer, of Hermitage, Pa., is a 2016 homeschool graduate and psychology major. Gladysz, of Greenville, Pa., is a 2016 Greenville High School graduate and neuroscience major. Nee, of Erie, Pa., is a 2016 McDowell High School graduate and neuroscience major. The students helped to shape a new focus for the research.

Ritchie conducts amphibian research with Biology professor

The research completed in summer 2016 by Thiel College Assistant Professor of Biology **Christopher Fonner, Ph.D.**, on amphibian population decline generated two new research questions for this past summer's Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute.

In the summer 2016 project, Fonner focused on whether sex and gender differences in salamanders affected their susceptibility to a deadly fungal pathogen. In 2017, he worked with undergraduate research assistant **Amy Ritchie '18** to test if infection by the same pathogen impacts mating rituals between male and female salamanders. At the same time, they classified and isolated strains of bacteria residing on the salamanders' skin that might help the amphibians fight the pathogen.

Ritchie, of Madison, Ohio, is a senior biology and conservation biology double-major and a 2014 graduate of Madison High School.

Nine students earn roles in communication program as Pedas Fellows

Nine students from a variety of majors make up the 2017-2018 Thiel College Pedas Fellows.

- **Abigail Bowser '20** is a psychology major from Freeport, Pa. She is a 2015 graduate of Freeport Area High School.
- **Brian Brink '21** is a media & journalism major from Meadville, Pa. He is a 2009 graduate of Silver Creek Central School in Silver Creek, N.Y.
- **Taylor Guth '20** is a secondary education mathematics major from Ellwood City, Pa. She is a 2016 graduate of Lincoln High School.
- **Laura Hardner '20** is an English and psychology major from Erie, Pa. She is a 2016 graduate of Erie Collegiate Academy.
- **Paige Onomastico '18** is an early childhood education & special education major from Bridgeville, Pa. She is a 2014 graduate of Chartiers Valley High School.
- **Payton Patterson '18** is a media communication major from East Palestine, Ohio. He is a 2014 graduate of East Palestine High School.
- **Alex Pollock '20** is a computer science major from Monroeville, Pa. He is a 2016 graduate of Gateway High School.
- **Xin Ning "Eunice" Tan '19** is a business administration & accounting major from Klang, Malaysia. She is a 2013 high school graduate.
- **Keenan M. Weimer '19** is an English studies major from Duncannon, Pa. He is a 2015 graduate of Greenwood High School.



Fall Students of the Month recognized

October



Jessa Covine

Hometown: Cambridge Springs, Pa.

High School and graduation year: Maplewood Junior/Senior High School, 2014

Major: Accounting and business administration

Post-graduation plans: Get a job at an accounting firm for 5 to 10 years and study for the CPA exam

Clubs and Activities: Member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Chi Eta Sigma business honorary society, Global Club, Outdoor Recreational Club. She has been on Dean's List six semesters and is a track & field team captain

Civic or Community Activities: Special Olympics volunteer, Three Rivers Adaptive Sports Clinic

Parents: Bonnie and Frank Covine, of Cambridge Springs, Pa.



Samuel F. Sesti III

Hometown: Avalon, Pa.

High School and graduation year: Northgate Middle/Senior High School, 2014

Major: Early childhood/special education

Post-graduation plans: To become an elementary school teacher or special education teacher and eventually a principal or special services director

Clubs and Activities: Member of Kappa Delta Pi, the national education honorary; Lutheran Student Movement; Kappa Sigma fraternity; Alpha Chi, the national junior/senior academic honorary; Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride, concert band, concert choir, the Thiel Players; Pi Nu Epsilon, the national music honorary; Alpha Psi Omega, the national theatre honorary; Order of Omega, the national junior/senior Greek life leadership honorary; National Society for Leadership and Success; Les Lauriers, the junior/senior service honorary; Lambda Sigma, the national sophomore academic honorary; the ultimate frisbee team

Civic or Community Activities: Member of the Department of Education Relay for Life team since sophomore year and Thiel's Chapel staff all four years; Eagle Scout

Parents: Janet M. and Samuel F. Sesti Jr., of Avalon, Pa.

November



John Thiel

Hometown: Pickerington, Ohio

High School and graduation year: Bishop Hartley High School, 2014

Major: Math and computer science

Post-graduation plans: Seek an entry level software development position

Clubs and Activities: Member of Kappa Mu Epsilon the national math honorary society; Delta Sigma Phi fraternity; varsity soccer, ultimate Frisbee; and Student Athlete Advisory Committee. Student Government Association treasurer

Civic or Community Activities: Eagle Scout

Parents: David and Joyce Thiel, of Pickerington, Ohio

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



Alayna Sharp

Hometown: Franklin, Pa.

High School and graduation year:

Rocky Grove Junior/Senior High School, 2014

Major: English secondary education

Post-graduation plans: Enrolling in Youngstown State University's Counseling Master of Science in Education program. Remain at Thiel as a Resident Director for two years while completing master's program

Clubs and Activities: Member of Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education; Sigma Tau Delta, English honorary society; Dietrich Honors Institute; National Society of Leadership and Success; president of Sigma Kappa sorority

Civic or Community Activities: Active in her late aunt's memorial non-profit organization, Jamie's Kids, which helps children in Venango County elementary and secondary schools, receive school supplies and Christmas gifts if their parents are unable to afford them

Parents: Jeffrey and Virginia Sharp, of Franklin, Pa.

December



Rebecca Adams

Hometown: Hermitage, Pa.

High School and graduation year:

Mercer Area Junior/Senior High School, 2014

Major: Actuarial studies, accounting, and business administration

Post-graduation plans: Begin working as either an accountant or an actuary

Clubs and Activities: Feature twirler for the Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride band and member of Business and Accounting Club, Chi Eta Sigma, Thiel's business honorary, National Society of Leadership and Success, Thiel College Relay for Life; and president of Kappa Mu Epsilon, the national math honorary society

Civic or Community Activities: Hermitage Goodfellows

Parents: John and Linda Adams, of Hermitage, Pa.



Sarah McConnell

Hometown: Blairsville, Pa.

High School and graduation year:

Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School, 2014

Major: History and computer science

Post-graduation plans: Pursue a doctorate in history and become a professor

Clubs and Activities: President of Thiel's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the International History Honorary Society; vice president of Thiel's chapter of Kappa Mu Epsilon, the National Math Honor Society; member of Les Laurier and was a member of Lambda Sigma, the sophomore honorary society; archive assistant in the Langenheim Memorial Library

Parents: Dennis and Bonnie McConnell, of Ashland, Neb.

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

Wrestler, actor, pastor, producer, Hunt maintains busy, eclectic post-graduate career

by Dick Davis



Ronnell Hunt '15, a communication and media studies graduate, leads a busy professional life in the Pittsburgh area as a WPXI-TV production assistant, co-host of Chair Shot Reality online wrestling show, as well as starting a professional wrestling career with the "Ring of Honor" company, operating his voice-over business, and serving as associate pastor of a New Castle, Pa. church.

Recently he's found time to get "featured extra" roles in regionally-filmed productions such as "Castle Rock," a Hulu television series written by Stephen King; Lifetime movie "Prepared for a Purpose" starring actress/singer Toni Braxton; and a Showtime mini-series "Escape at Dannemora" with actor/producer Ben Stiller.

Getting enough sleep might be the one thing he says he needs to devote more time to, but Hunt always has time to extoll the virtues of his alma mater.

"Thiel kept its commitment from my freshman year through my senior year," Hunt said. "Everything I'm doing now from my job with WPXI, to the voice overs, and to broadcasting and video production, Thiel prepared me for those. All four years of college, no matter what I needed, someone from Thiel helped me along the way."

He recalls several Thiel staff who provided assistance including **Vicki Poe, Carol Jones '75** and former Professor **Victor Evans, Ph.D.** Hunt will never forget Poe's energy and enthusiasm while she conducted his tour of campus while considering Thiel. He says Jones's input and direction on some learning classes were invaluable. Professor Evans, Hunt said, taught him broadcasting and voice techniques that he always uses.

The WPXI position was his dream job that he started while completing his senior year at Thiel. Hunt was busy starting the new job while finishing classes, serving as station manager for TCTV (Thiel TV), and deejaying three radio shows each week. At Chair Shot, Hunt has a weekly show where he analyzes World Wrestling Entertainment shows and keeps viewers connected on television and online.

Highlights of his college career include being chosen Thiel's senior class orator where he spoke on behalf of his class at commencement and receiving a "Golden Mic" trophy at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System's conference in New York City. Hunt was selected as one of the top five student radio station managers in the country and earned the award after being selected from more than 200 applicants.

Also at Thiel, Hunt served two years as a resident assistant in Hodge and Florence West dormitories, was on the football team, and was a member of the Organization of Black Collegiates and the Thiel Activity Board.

The full schedule Hunt maintained as a student at Thiel has carried over to a full and productive professional and personal life.





Fardosa Hassan

Two events mark start of College's yearlong Interfaith Series

On Nov. 8, Thiel College hosted its latest event, Luther 500, in its yearlong Interfaith Series.

Thiel hosted events to explore spiritual diversity to coincide with the anniversary of the Reformation begun by Martin Luther in 1517.

Thiel College Professor of Religion and Faculty Chair **Dan Eppley, Ph.D.**; Rev. **Brian Riddle '07**, Gannon University Associate Vice President, University Mission & Ministry **Michael Kesicki** and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Seattle University Professor of Christian Ethics **Cindy Moe-Lobeda, Ph.D.**, participated throughout the Luther 500 event.

The first event of the Interfaith Series was an appearance by **Fardosa Hassan**—the first Muslim chaplain in the 148-year history of Augsburg University—in late September.

The College will host a continuing series of events examining and discussing religion throughout the 2017-2018 academic year.



Campus takes a break to welcome Dustin Slomainy back from deployment

Dustin Slomainy returned from his third tour of duty to visit campus on Sept. 22. He plans to re-enroll in spring 2018. Slomainy was deployed with the U.S. Army Reserves in Kuwait. Slomainy is a 2005 graduate of Valley High School in New Kensington, Pa.

Kappa Sigma See-Saw-A-Thon raises \$3,600 for Military Heroes Campaign

The 23rd annual Kappa Sigma See-Saw-A-Thon raised \$3,605 for the fraternity's philanthropic cause, the Military Heroes Campaign. Fraternity brothers rode the seesaw nonstop from noon Oct. 5 until noon Sunday, Oct. 8.

Members of the fraternity collected donations as they rode a 25-foot-long metal seesaw on the lawn near the College's Howard Miller Student Center for 72 consecutive hours.



THIEL COLLEGE

BASEBALL TEAM

receives international exposure

by Jim Kaufman



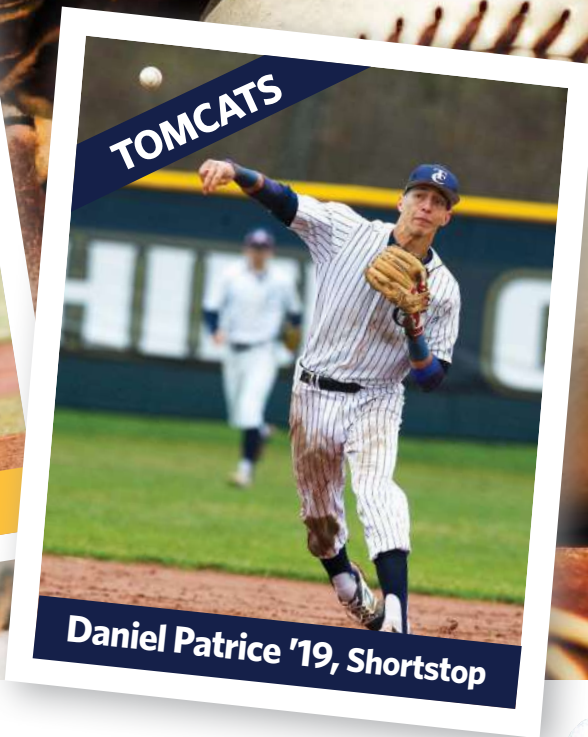
Thiel College baseball has been well known as a consistent contender in the Presidents' Athletic Conference since **Joe Schaly** took over the program in 1999 but the team and its exposure has now stretched much further than western Pennsylvania.

Former Tomcat starting pitcher **Matt Elko '17** received no shortage of accolades for his performance on the field for the Tomcats, so it comes as no surprise from those around him that he would take his career to the professional ranks.

"Matt was one of the best all-around players to ever put on a Thiel uniform," Schaly said. "He signed a professional contract as a pitcher, but he was also one of the best hitters in the PAC. Matt worked extremely hard and his impact on our program has continued beyond his playing days."

Elko's superb career as a Tomcat was capped off in 2016 as he was named the PAC Player of the Year, the fifth Thiel player in school history to earn the distinction. In 2016, Elko led the conference in batting average (.423) while having the lowest earned run average (1.96) and opponent batting average (.191). On the mound, Elko had a 5-2 record with 72 strikeouts and two shutouts while only allowing 13 earned runs and 42 hits on the year. At the plate, Elko had 55 hits and eight doubles while getting on base at a .461 clip. Elko was also a three-time All-PAC first-team selection during his career.

You can now find Elko still on the mound, but, instead of at Tomcat Park, he has moved on to the PECOS League. Elko played professionally for the Santa Fe Fuego in 2017 collecting two wins in five starts and striking out 38 batters.



Perhaps a current Tomcat that is on a similar track to Elko is junior shortstop **Daniel Patrice '19**. Patrice, a two-time All-PAC honorable mention team honoree is coming off a summer that included playing in an international U-23 baseball tournament in Taiwan for his native country France.

In his sophomore campaign, Patrice led the Tomcats and ranked seventh in the PAC in batting average (.373) and was second in the conference in doubles (15). As Patrice heads into the 2018 season expectations are high that the shortstop will continue to grow as a player.

"Daniel has developed into one of the hardest hitters to strike out in the PAC, and he has been very good with runners in scoring position," Schaly said. "He is capable of playing several positions, and he has become a leader on our team."

Patrice joins a number of veteran hitters returning for a Tomcat offense in 2018 that was third in the conference in batting average (.293), runs (235) and hits (371) last year.

Thiel finished the 2017 season with another trip to the PAC baseball championship tournament, placing fourth in the conference with a record of 21-19 overall and 13-11 in conference. The Tomcat baseball team will begin the 2018 season in Fort Myers, Fla., at the Gene Cusic Classic over spring break.



Fifty-four Thiel College student-athletes were named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll for the Spring 2017 semester.

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

A record total of 530 student-athletes were named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll in the Spring 2017, a 17.3 percent increase in honorees from the Spring 2016 class, which featured 463 student-athletes.

James Abbs '17
Business Administration
Men's Track and Field
Wexford, Pa. / North Allegheny

J.T. Bowen '20
Accounting
Baseball
Erie, Pa. / Cathedral Prep.

Alonzo Brown '19
Political Science
Men's Basketball
Largo, Fla. / Pinellas Park

Alana Callahan '17
Biology
Softball
Austintown, Ohio / Austintown Fitch

Caitlyn Carney '17
Neuroscience, Psychology
Softball
Lake Milton / Jackson Milton

Gavin Colligan '20
Chemistry
Wrestling, Men's Outdoor Track & Field
Portville, N.Y. / Portville

A.J. Corradi '18
Biology
Softball
Youngstown, Ohio / Austintown Fitch

Jessa Covine '18
Accounting, Business Administration
Women's Track and Field
Cambridge Springs, Pa. / Maplewood

Drew Dellert '18
Accounting
Baseball
Dover, Del. / Poly-Tech

Mary Kate Dougherty '17
Criminal Justice Studies,
Sociology, Psychology
Softball
Depew, N.Y. / Mount Saint
Mary Academy

Jack Fontana '20
Biology
Men's Lacrosse
Olmsted Falls, Ohio / Olmsted

Kevin Forrester '17
Criminal Justice Studies, Sociology
Baseball
Canonsburg, Pa. / Canon-McMillan

Madison Fuller '19
Early Childhood, Special Education
Softball
Elyria, Ohio / Elyria

Alec Gamble '20
Business Administration
Baseball
Pittsburgh, Pa. / Montour

Caleb Garvey '20
Business Administration
Wrestling
Johnsonburg, Pa. / Johnsonburg

Andrew Giesey '20
Business Administration
Baseball
Penn, Pa. / Penn Trafford

Chase Gifford '20
Chemistry
Softball
Buffalo, N.Y. / City Honors School

Gage Gladysz '20
Neuroscience
Wrestling
Greenville, Pa. / Greenville

Giuliano Graziosi '17
Business Administration
Wrestling
Hanover, Pa. / Hanover

Nick Grice '18
Neuroscience
Baseball
McKeesport, Pa. / McKeesport

Taylor Guth '20
Mathematics, Secondary Education
Women's Indoor Track and Field
Ellwood City, Pa. / Riverside

Nick Guzma '18
Binary Engineering
Wrestling
Clinton, Pa. / Hopewell

Corrine Hankin '19
Business Administration
Women's Indoor Track and Field
Franklin, Pa. / Franklin

Courtney Harriman '20
Mathematics, Secondary Education
Women's Basketball
Geneva, Ohio / Geneva

Victoria Hermann '17
History, Political Science
Women's Track and Field
Erie, Pa. / McDowell

Alex Horvatits '17
Early Childhood, Special Education
Men's Tennis
Lancaster, N.Y. / Saint Mary's

Macy Jordan '19
Early Childhood, Special Education
Women's Lacrosse
York, Pa. / York Suburban

Jessica Kelley '19
Early Childhood, Special Education
Softball
Freeport, Pa. / Freeport

Kristyn Kinner '19
Psychology
Women's Lacrosse
Alba, Pa. / Troy

Ashley Koser '19
Criminal Justice Studies
Women's Track and Field
Palmyra, Pa. / Palmyra Area

Beverly Kozuch '17
Biology
Women's Track and Field
Templeton, Pa. / West Shamokin

Noah Lazek '20
Criminal Justice Studies, Sociology
Men's Lacrosse
Washington, Pa. / Trinity

Sojung Lee '17
Women's Outdoor Track and Field
Seoul, South Korea

Danyelle Lucido '19
Computer Science
Women's Basketball
Grove City, Pa. / Grove City

Will Malady '17
Business Administration
Men's Golf
Meadville, Pa. / Meadville

Jake Marino '18
Early Childhood, Special Education
Baseball
Pittsfield, Pa. / Youngsville

Jayson Maxwell '20
Environmental Science
Baseball
Newport, N.Y. / Notre Dame

Colton McCright '19
Early Childhood, Special Education
Men's Golf
Greenville, Pa. / Greenville

Grant Milne '20
Biology
Men's Track and Field
Portville, N.Y. / Portville Central

Vince Mion '19
Business Administration
Wrestling
Mount Oliver, Pa. / Carrick

Alyssa Mondl '17
Accounting, Business Administration
Women's Basketball, Women's Golf
Akron, Ohio / Cuyahoga Falls

Thad Paunovich '17
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Men's Tennis
Avonmore, Pa. / Kiski Area

Miranda Reesman '19
Neuroscience
Softball
Vandergrift, Pa. / Leechburg

Kyle Reib '18
Biology
Men's Lacrosse
Erie, Pa. / McDowell

Jennifer Rickens '17
Applied Physics, Mathematics, Binary
Engineering
Women's Lacrosse
Pittsburgh, Pa. / Chartiers Valley

Deanna Shaw '18
Psychology
Women's Lacrosse
York, Pa. / Eastern York

Korinna Sherman '18
Biochemistry
Women's Basketball
Poland, Ohio / Poland Seminary

Brittany Shumar '18
Business Administration /
Political Science
Women's Basketball
Cleveland, Ohio / Villa-Angela St. Joseph

Alexa Sichko '17
Early Childhood, Special Education
Women's Track and Field
Irwin, Pa. / Penns Manor

Alex Streich '19
Accounting, Business Administration
Wrestling
Warren, Pa. / Warren

Vince Vahaly '17
English
Wrestling
Bentleyville, Pa. / Bentworth

Jess Vormelker '19
Early Childhood, Special Education
Women's Basketball
Orwell, Ohio / Grand Valley

Justin Walter '19
Early Childhood, Special Education
Wrestling
Hermitage, Pa. / Hickory

Lauren Wolfe '17
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Women's Lacrosse
Anita, Pa. / Punxsutawney



Thiel Tomcats **MEN'S BASKETBALL**

plays exhibition game against YSU for hurricane relief



The Thiel College men's basketball team played an exhibition game at the Beeghly Center in Youngstown, Ohio, against the Division I Youngstown State University Penguins on Oct. 24.

Proceeds from the exhibition game benefited hurricane relief efforts in Houston, Florida and Puerto Rico.

The Tomcats fell to the Penguins 106-74 but gained experience against a local Division I team and raised money for a worthy cause.

"Not only do I like playing against Division I and Division II teams, but so does our team," longtime head basketball coach **Tim Loomis** said. "It's more beneficial to play against Division I and II teams, it does nothing but help your team."

Senior guard **Mert Ozkaynak '18** led the Tomcats with 18 points against the Penguins while senior forward **Josh Lumbus '18** scored 13 points and led the team with nine rebounds.

In their final exhibition game before the start of the regular season, the Tomcats took on the Division II Edinboro Fighting

Scots on the road. The game was tied at halftime (34-34) and with 5:48 remaining in regulation (68-68) after senior forward **Avril Campbell '19** dunked on a pass from sophomore guard **Nyric Gosley '20**, but the Fighting Scots pulled away late to earn an 86-77 win.

Tyreik Burton '19, the reigning Presidents' Athletic Conference Player of the Year, led the Tomcats with 29 points against the Fighting Scots. A senior point guard, Burton made 10-of-12 shots from the floor, including a 6-for-7 effort from beyond the 3-point line.

Ozkaynak scored 14 points and led the team with 10 assists while Campbell scored 12 points and led the team with 10 rebounds against Edinboro.

The Tomcats were predicted to finish fourth in the PAC men's basketball preseason coaches' poll. The Tomcats garnered 74 points. Saint Vincent was predicted to win the conference with 92 points and four first-place votes while Thomas More (90 points) and Westminster (76 points) were predicted to finish second and third.



Tomcats predicted to finish fourth according to PAC Men's Basketball Preseason Coaches' Poll



Track & Field Complex UP AND RUNNING



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

The Thiel College community dedicated its new Track & Field Complex during Homecoming 2017. The \$3.2 million project, funded partially through the Thiel 2016 Campaign, is the final piece of Tomcat Park, which also includes the College's baseball and softball fields.



"Today is really a historic moment for Thiel College," **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said at the dedication. "Athletics and our scholar-athletes are an important aspect of Thiel College, and they are vital to this institution's continued success."

In addition to the track & field facility, concrete walking paths now connect all three venues at Tomcat Park. Concession and storage space was also added.

"This story includes the generosity of donors and the vision of leaders who knew this space would complete an investment in athletics," said President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**

"This is where our athletes learn lessons, lessons that are greater than wins and losses. Lessons about integrity, unity, sportsmanship and character that will enrich their lives long after the competition on the field has ended. Lessons about teamwork, perseverance, respect; concepts that will translate into their personal and professional lives."

The completion of the Track & Field Complex is the most recent in a series of athletics facility initiatives, which has included the Rissell-Schreyer Dome, new FieldTurf and competition-level lighting at Alumni Stadium, as well as enhanced athletic training and locker room facilities at Beeghly Gymnasium.

The dedication of the Track & Field Complex concluded with a 5K race, which was sponsored by Thiel's track & field and cross country teams. The 5K began and finished at the starting line of the track.

As for the student-athletes who will get to use the track for practice and competitions, they're excited and thankful for the opportunity.

"We are more of a team because we have our own track," said senior sprinter **Jessa Covine '18**, a 2014 Maplewood High School graduate from Cambridge Springs, Pa. "It's nice to have our own home, and I'll get to come back and watch the team compete in meets."





HAER FAMILY SCIENCE AND ARTS CONNECTOR

shines during Homecoming dedication

More than 200 people share in the celebration and unveiling of the new facility's name



Fred Haer '66 said the lineage of the new \$4.5 million Haer Family Science and Art Connector can be traced back 53 years to his time as a student at Thiel.

Fortunately for current Thiel students, the construction time for the new 7,850-square-foot science facility was only slightly more than a year. During the Homecoming dedication on Oct. 14, President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, revealed the official name of the building, the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector, honoring member of the Board of Trustees **Fred Haer '66** and his wife, **Jill (Schackett) Haer '66**.

Member of the Board of Trustees and steadfast advocate for faculty and students **Carl Hoffman Jr., D.O. '69, H'10** offered the invocation for the Connector during the dedication, recognizing the "eager students" and "dedicated faculty" the facility will bring together.

"(Just over) a year ago we broke ground for this vital campus enhancement. And I shared then that I believed the science connector would be a showcase for student learning, achievement and success," Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** said. "This project has always been grounded in the fundamental belief that science education is enhanced by the interactions between faculty and students. Those opportunities, whether in the classroom or during specialized research, are a vital part of the liberal arts academic experience at Thiel College."

The state-of-the-art complex includes four labs that will enable more robust faculty and student research projects. Open collaborative areas on both floors of the atrium are linked to

laboratory spaces dedicated to histology, environmental science, data analytics, and faculty and student research. The structure connects the Rhodehouse Memorial Science Hall and the Academic Center at their eastern ends.

"From the beginning, this connector was a metaphor for us," Haer said. "And for the connections we made between each other, and between the sciences and liberal arts."

Faculty emeriti **Joyce M. Cuff, Ph.D.**; **Nicholas G. Despo, Ph.D.**; **Emerson F. Heald, Ph.D.**; and former faculty member **Edward Safford, Ph.D.**, attended the dedication. Each had areas in the new building named for them as did **Nathan Harter, Ph.D.**; **Richard Bennett, Ph.D.**; and **Judy Newton, Ph.D.**

"From the beginning, this connector was a metaphor for us," Haer said. "And for the connections we made between each other, and between the sciences and liberal arts."

Among the lab spaces are a microscopy room and a "dirty lab," with access directly outside that allow for testing of environmental science materials.

According to the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in life, physical and social science occupations is projected to grow 10 percent from 2016 to 2026, faster than the average for all occupations, meaning there will be another 122,900 jobs that don't exist right now.



Named areas of the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector:

FIRST FLOOR:

Professor Judy Newton Data Analysis Laboratory

Donated by
Prof. Judy Newton

Maenpa Conference Room

Donated by the family of
Dr. Frank Maenpa '69

Burns Field Biology/ Environmental Science

Donated by
Dr. Robert Burns '74

Bennett, Heald, Safford Office Suite

Donated by Dr. Dick Bennett,
Dr. Emerson Heald, and
Dr. Edward Safford

SECOND FLOOR:

Dr. Nathan Harter Atrium

Donated by
Daniel and Dottie Spence in
honor of his grandfather

Dr. Joyce Cuff Research Laboratory

Donated by Dr. Carl '69, H'10
and Theresa Hoffman H'16
In dedication to Thiel College
and our students.

Dr. Nicholas Despo Microscopy Laboratory

Donated by Dr. Carl '69, H'10
and Theresa Hoffman H'16
In dedication to Thiel College
and our students.



The demand for expertise in the sciences, particularly in occupations involved in biomedical research, psychology, energy management, and environmental protection, is expected to be the reason for the spike. Employees in the life, physical, and social science occupations earned \$63,340 annually in May 2016—about 70 percent higher than the median annual income for all occupations of \$37,040.

“From my first day on campus, conversations about the Connector centered around the design, construction, academic programs, faculty-student research, donor engagement and student success. At the heart of these discussions has been the commitment to create an inspiring space that would bring together the sciences, humanities, social sciences and professional students,” Traverso said. “This new facility—means more than a physical bridge between the science building and the Academic Center.

“It means the connections between disciplines, between faculty and students, between academic research and real-world application. For years to come, this space—this connecting space—will succeed in creating connections, and in those connections we will see innovation and creativity.”

Traverso said the building also celebrates another type of connection.

“The connection between the College and our alumni, friends and partners,” she said. “Without their support—their connection with Thiel—none of this would be possible.”

Haer said he looks forward to the collaborations that will

spring from the spaces and labs in the building.

“(The connector) is a building that can inspire and facilitate faculty and student research and other collaborative interactions,” Haer said.

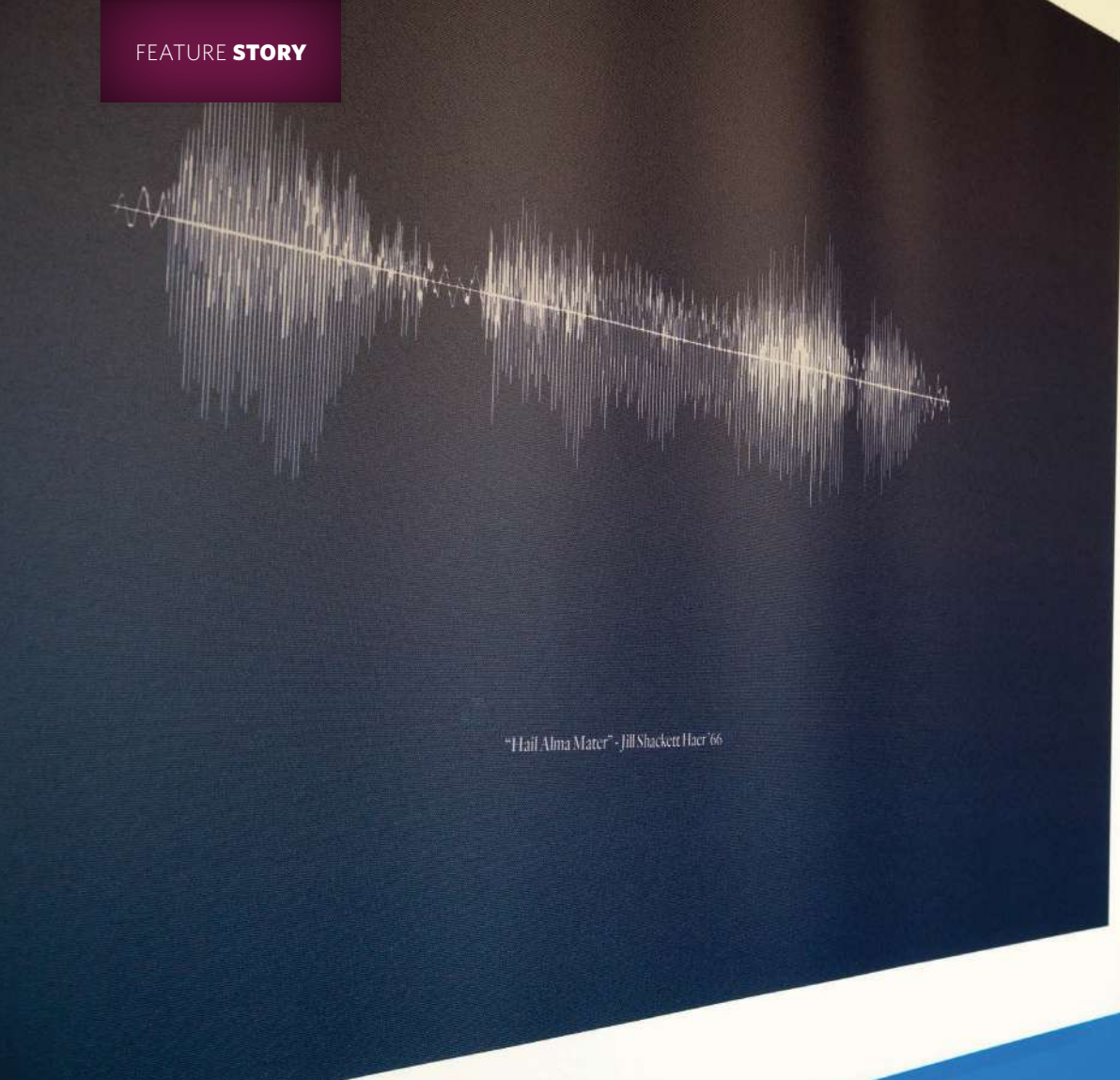
Haer and his wife have been ardent supporters of research at Thiel College. They funded the Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute in 2014. The gift paid for multi-year research projects and a summer research institute that focused on connecting science and liberal arts at Thiel College.

The institute is open to all Thiel College faculty members, but maintains an emphasis on interdisciplinary science activities.

In 1970, the Haers founded FHC, Inc. The company’s microelectrode recording and stimulation technology serves neuroscientific research and neurosurgical operating rooms with more than 7,000 unique metal microelectrodes and a broad range of state-of-the-art research and clinical instruments. FHC translates the most promising concepts to leading-edge tools and techniques. As the holder of numerous patents and recipient of many Small Business Innovation Research grants, FHC continues to advance the understanding and practices of neuroscience. Greenville Neuromodulation Services, a wholly owned subsidiary

“(The connector) is a building that can inspire and facilitate faculty and student research and other collaborative interactions,” Haer said.





"Hail Alma Mater" - Jill Shackett Haer '66



of FHC, Inc., supports the neuroscience industry with a full range of services for medical professionals involved in the treatment of movement disorders is located in Greenville, along with the nonprofit GNC.

Additionally, the Haer Family Symposium at Thiel College was named in honor of the Haers. The annual lecture series ran from 2013-2016. The first installment of the series had international experts in Greenville to discuss deep brain stimulation. The second event had best-selling author **Sandeep Jauhar, M.D.**, and John's Hopkins economist and author **Douglas Hough, Ph.D.**, discussing the "Health Care Conundrum." The series focused on inspiring students, faculty and staff to pursue innovative multidisciplinary research, applying knowledge and breaking new ground in service to humanity. The 2016 symposium featured the internationally renowned expert on sports-related concussions **Michael Collins, Ph.D.**

Haer said it will be gratifying to come back in four or five years and see that Thiel's reputation as a place where people collaborate, where people in the academic departments work closely together with each other and students.

Students began using the space shortly after the dedication and throughout the fall semester.

They have discovered some of the quiet study spaces where they can focus on work, but remain connected to the community. Students in need of a quick breather from their laptop or textbook can find a short chat with a passing friend or a spontaneous conversation with a professor in the connector.

The building has inviting spaces, modern architecture and science-themed art. A map of the brain, an eye chart, a canvas print of a soundwave file of the alma mater and various molecules rendered in a graphic representation remind viewers that scientific and artistic discoveries can be connected.

"It is a convenient place to work that is by my classes in the Academic Center," environmental science major **Talia O'Brien '19** said. "It's a spacious and good atmosphere for work getting done."

Psychology major **Theresa Kretzmer '20** said the connector is convenient because it's attached to the Academic Center.

"It's a good space to work with other students on projects," she said. "The (portable) whiteboards are an awesome way to study, especially for science-related classes."

"The connection between the College and our alumni, friends and partners," she said. "Without their support—their connection with Thiel—none of this would be possible."

- President Susan Traverso, Ph.D.



Mark Marmo '93 is chief executive officer for Deep Well Systems, an oil field service company. He has established a powerful leadership team for the company resulting in a fivefold revenue increase in three years while expanding the company's workforce from 25 to more than 160 employees. The success has been driven by Marmo's strategic vision, Deep Well's reputation for safety and industry-leading customer service, and the expertise and commitment of the DWS team. Despite the 2016 downturn in the oil and gas industry, Marmo's ability to make difficult decisions without compromising safety or quality ensured Deep Well's sustained growth and financial strength.

Prior to joining Deep Well, Marmo was the director of financial planning and analysis at Talisman Energy. In this role, he was responsible for supervising six business analysts in multiple locations, providing commercial guidance/analysis for current and upcoming projects and assessing all operational information submitted by the Pittsburgh and Houston offices.

Marmo earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration and accounting from Thiel. He lives north of Pittsburgh and enjoys spending time with his two children as well as hunting, fishing and farming.



Mark Marmo '93

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

I believe it's our duty to give back and pay it forward. Being in the position I am in allows me to hopefully change lives for the better. I believe my industry and our company can help Thiel grow enrollment and place future graduates into well-paying jobs.

Why should alumni consider giving back to their alma mater?

Again, it's all about paying it forward—our adult lives, for the most part, started at Thiel—any direction and mentorship we can give can go a long way.

Describe your areas of interest related to Thiel College through your service on the Board of Trustees.

Enrollment and helping to place graduates into the Pittsburgh-area economy that is about to explode.

How have your perceptions of Thiel College evolved from when you were a student to now as a Trustee?

The culture at Thiel is so impressive, what President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, and people like Vice President of College Advancement **Roberta Leonard** have done in such a short time is very impressive.

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

While at school, use all of the resources you have to gain real work and world experience.

What does the future for the College look like?

I believe Thiel has the potential to add programs that will sustain the College for the next 100 years.

What are your "words to live by?"

Culture eats strategy for breakfast, and a team can accomplish anything when they work together.

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

Dr. Traverso's vision.

What is something you try to do every time you return to campus?

I walk by the rooms I had my accounting classes in and think back to how far I have come.

What is your proudest accomplishment?

Watching my children grow into great human beings.

What do you do in your spare time?

Exercise, enjoy the land I have and guide my children for their futures.

Current hometown:

Harmony, Pa.

Family:

Wife and two children

Current Occupation:

Chief Executive Officer for Deep Well Services, located in Zelienople, Pa.



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Board of Trustees, Chair



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John Wotus '74

College comes together to recognize contributions of graduates during Alumni Awards ceremony

Distinguished Alumni Award



George A. Summerhill Jr. '59 was born and raised in Natrona Heights, Pa. His father was a steel worker, and his mother owned a country store. He graduated from Har-Brack High School in 1955 and followed his older sister, **Arlene '57**, to Thiel College. He was active at Thiel in student affairs and in Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He met his future wife, **Arlene Rupert '59**, in his freshman year. He and Arlene graduated from Thiel in May 1959 and married in August 1959. They both went to graduate school in Pittsburgh and have been married for 58 years. They are the proud parents of sons **Craig, George III** and **Bradley**. They have one

granddaughter, **Sophia**, who is a junior in high school.

After graduating from Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1961, Summerhill was employed in paper manufacturing, paper converting and wholesale paper distribution for 41 years. He retired in 2002 from International Paper Company. He and Arlene have lived in Reno, Nev. for more than 41 years.

Summerhill has been very active as a volunteer in his community and in church-related activities. He has been a member of Rotary International for 40 years—he has attended 22 International Conventions of Rotary International—and a charter board member and officer of Silver Sage Manor, Inc., a non-profit developer of affordable senior housing in Nevada for more than 26 years. Giving back to his community and to Thiel College has been a rewarding experience for Summerhill in so many ways. Helping to provide new housing to seniors on

fixed incomes has been a wonderful and enriching journey for him.

Summerhill's hobbies include gardening, golf, all sports, reading, playing bridge and traveling. He and Arlene have traveled to all 50 states and more than 40 foreign countries in five continents (missing only Africa and Antarctica).

Distinguished Alumni Award



Marvin E. Hill '88 earned a Bachelor of Arts in business administration with a minor in Spanish from Thiel College. He is also a graduate of the North Carolina State University, Administrative Officers Management Program. In May 2016, he



earned an executive Master of Business Administration from Kent State University.

Hill has been a state trooper for 25-plus years and working in law enforcement for more than 27 years. He started with the Ohio State Highway Patrol in May of 1992 and earned his commission the following November. He was named the Warren Post Trooper of the Year, District 4 Trooper of the Year, and in 1999, earned the Ohio State Highway Patrol's most prestigious award, "State Trooper of the Year."

In 2000, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant and transferred to the Medina Post to serve as an assistant post commander. In 2006, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant and transferred to the Ashtabula Post to serve as post commander. In 2007, he became the Warren District Criminal Patrol Supervisor. In 2009, he was promoted to the Northeast Region Cleveland and Warren Commercial Enforcement Unit. On Dec. 23, 2016, Hill was promoted to staff lieutenant and serves as the Assistant Warren District Commander.

Hill is originally from Warren, Ohio and still resides in the area. Law enforcement runs in his family. Hill's father, **Morris Sr.**, is a retired detective from the Warren (Ohio) Police Department.

Hill is the vice president of Love Charity Alms, a nonprofit organization that helps families in crisis and awards three high school scholarships annually. LCA was founded by his late mother, **Martha J. Hill**, for whom the scholarship is named. He is also the owner of Marvin Hill Products, LLC, an online law enforcement novelty store.

Service to Thiel Award



Joseph T. Nairn, D.Mgt. '79 is the founding President of the Rural Regional College of Northern Pennsylvania, a position he took in July 2017. The RRC is modeled after community colleges to provide affordable and accessible post-secondary education for students in a nine-county region covering Erie, Crawford, Warren, Venango, Forest, McKean, Elk, Cameron, and Potter counties. The college is a true "startup," beginning as a partnership with Gannon University, school districts and IUs, and Community and Career Education Centers across the region.

Nairn is a native of Aliquippa, Pa., where he attended Hopewell High School. After graduation, he accepted a position as an admissions counselor at Thiel and recruited prospective students from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. In 1983, He earned a Master of Education in student personnel services in higher education from the University of Vermont. In 2013, he earned a Doctor of Management in community college policy and administration through the University of Maryland University College.

Nairn has served two different terms on the Alumni Association, most recently as president in 2015. He has been active with the college, hosting events in Rochester including alumni gatherings and student functions. He and his wife hosted a postgame meal for the women's volleyball team following a tournament near their home and entertained Thiel's cycling club on its bike trip to Maine in 2015.

He joined the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. and spent 25 years working in orientation and special programs, the School of Engineering Technology, the College of Applied Science and Technology, and part-time and graduate enrollment services.

Nairn retired from RIT in 2008 to accept a position as executive assistant to the president at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, N.Y.

Young Alumni Award



Walter Luis Rosado, Ph.D. '07 is a decorated U.S. Army combat veteran of overseas military operations under the Global War on Terrorism to include the Iraq Campaign. His military awards include the Army Combat Action Badge and the Army Commendation Medal.

He works as an organizational change management consultant for HM Health Solutions, a major healthcare technologies firm. Prior to working at HM Health Solutions, he spent four years working in human resources and finance at Carnegie Mellon University.

He holds a Ph.D. from Robert Morris University and an M.S. from Duquesne University. He earned his B.A. from Thiel College in 2007. While at Thiel he majored in history and was involved in the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, the wrestling team, and student government.

He has been involved with the Aspinwall Volunteer Fire Company since 2000 and the UPMC Cancer Centers Patient Assistance Fund since 2006.

He resides in Pittsburgh.

1970s



Attending the wedding of their son Stephen Newnam in Puerto Vallarta, Frank and Kathy were joined by **Bruce Bischoff '72, Cherie (Newnam) Bischoff '72, Frank Newnam '71, Kathy (Ferrier) Nall '72** and **Erin (Newnam) Rushman '99**.

Debra (Bice) Folkedahl '75 retired after 40 years in disability law. She was an attorney, judge, and ultimately Chief Judge for the Social Security Administration. She resides in Weatherby Lake, Mo.

Kathryn Held, Ph.D., M.D. '75 is an officer on the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. She was first elected to the council in 2006 and served on the Board of Directors from

2008-2014. She was vice president from 2011 to 2016. Held is currently the secretary/treasurer, as well as the co-chair of program area committee 1 on basic criteria, epidemiology, radiobiology, and risk. Held also served as chair of the program committee for the 2011 annual meeting on "Scientific and Policy Challenges of Particle Radiations in Medical Therapy and Space Missions." Held was a member of Scientific Committee 1-22 on radiation protection for astronauts in short-term missions and Phase I of Scientific Committee 1-24 on radiation exposures in space and the potential of central nervous system effects. Held is an associate radiation biologist in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Professor of Radiation Oncology (Radiation Biology) at Harvard Medical School. At MGH, Held leads a team that is involved in research on molecular mechanisms for the induction of bystander effects by high energy particles in cells and tissues, characterization of charged particle beam induced DNA damage responses and cell killing, development of a cancer screening platform for personalized radiation medicine, and mechanisms for regulation of DNA damage response by cell-cell communication. Held also teaches radiation biology to radiation oncology medical and physics residents and graduate students at

MGH/HMS and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She has served on review panels for numerous federal agencies including the National Institutes of Health, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command programs and other organizations such as the Radiological Society of North America.

1980s

Beverly Latza '82 is enjoying retirement after 27 years with the Internal Revenue Service. She lives in Kansas but will move to Pittsburgh in fall 2018.

David '77 and **Cindy (Runyan) Palesky '80** live in Gettysburg, Pa. David started a new career as an Allstate agent after 22 years in education. Cindy works for Anthem Insurance as a claims reviewer. David is still clowning for the Zembo Shrine and is a member of the Gettysburg Lions Club, Carlisle Masonic Lodge and Royal Arch Masons. They will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in March.

Pamela (Manes) Darley '85 and her husband, John, reside in Orlando, Fla. where she works as a freelance animation artist.

Maureen (Radick) Sullivan '81

works for American HealthCare Group as Manager of Supportive Services. She resides in Pittsburgh with her husband, Dan.

Firstronic named **Kurt Rich '88** business development manager. Previously, he served as business development manager at Fabrinet.

1990s



Michelle (Stahl) Reefer '90 married Mike Reefer on Sept. 26, 2015. Many Zeta Tau Alpha sisters from 1989 and 1990 attended the wedding. Michelle is CEO of the Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County.

Christine (Lyons) McKinley '93 lives in Grand Junction, Colo. She is employed by Walmart as a market human resource manager.

Nickole Nesby '92 was named to Talk Magazine's 100 Influential Pennsylvanians recently. Nesby lives in Duquesne, Pa.

2000s

Bridget (Hurt) Pennington '07 recently accepted a position as human resource specialist at Caroline County Public Schools in Denton, Md. Her husband, **Anthony Pennington '07**, is an eighth-grade science teacher at Lockerman Middle School.

Angela (Bowe) Maranuk '08 lives in Effort, Pa. with her husband, John. She is employed by Guardian Rehabilitation Services (Brookmont Care Center) as a physical therapist assistant.

Megan Adams '06 is employed by UPMC as an IOT specialist and resides in Pittsburgh.

Patricia (Piotrowski) Lorraine '02 resides in Clearview, South Australia, Australia and works as an area manager for Anytime Fitness.



Maggie Giel-Bovaird '09 celebrated Homecoming 2017 alongside her son, Bryce. It was Bryce's first of many TC homecomings!

Grant Alexis '05 lives in Germany and is a Judge Advocate and is active in the US Army.

Sarah (Meader) McCracken '09 graduated from Edinboro University with a master's degree in social work in May 2017.

Justin Ehrman '08 works for Allegheny Health Network as a senior property accountant. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Jane.

2010s

Hanna Fernandez '16 resides in Tulsa, Okla. and is a special education teacher for Tulsa Public Schools.

Chen Fu '10 and **Xiaodan Tang '09** live in Wynnewood, Pa. where Chen is the associate director of AON. The couple welcomed a child, Sean Fu on April 22, 2013.

Kelly Sanzari '13 accepted a position with the Alzheimer's Association as associate director of donor relations. Sanzari resides in Pittsburgh.

Kara Bussard '16 works for Boy Scouts of America as a district executive.

Kristi (Guritza) Patterson '16 and **Jacob Patterson '15** live in Chapel Hill, N.C. Kristi works for Rabon & Dailey, LLP as a staff accountant.

Brenden Lowery '12 accepted a new position as lead quality engineer with Cable Manufacturing & Assembly, Inc. in Bolivar, Ohio.

MARRIAGES



▲
Elizabeth (Peck) '05 married Jason Mack on July 15, 2017. She is a biology teacher at Hungerdon Central Regional High School in Flemington, N.J. and a biology senior adjunct at Rowan College at Burlington County in Mt. Laurel, N.J.



▲
Nikki (Colpo) '06 married Nick Galbo on May 6, 2017 at The Mansion in Butler, Pa. Thiel attendees included: **Bob Munch '05; James Fawcett '08 and Christy (Allen) Fawcett '08; Jason Shazer '06 and Lexi (Way) Shazer; Josh Haladyna '05 and Katie (Walker) Haladyna '06; Jack Cooper '05 and Lorraine (Scholze) Cooper '07; Lindsay Reinhard-Stewart, and Jonas Hatajik '07.**

Vickie (Boyer) '11 and Connor McKee were married on Jan. 30, 2016 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Coplay, Pa. where her father is pastor. Many Thiel alumni were present to celebrate: bridesmaid **Rachel Yorlets '11, cellist Jaime (Kirchhofer) Harper '11, Sarah Barefoot '08, Maggie Babinka '08, Gil Dolinar '07, Nathan Leard '04, Bryan Montozzi '11, Elizabeth (Martin) Mulligan '11, Kate (Exler) '10 and Steven Hill '08, and Amanda (Lichtenwalner) '10 and Nick Scaife '08.** Vickie and Connor reside in Schnecksville, Pa. ▶





Casey Rose '14 married **Kelsey (Smith) '15** on Sept. 2, 2017 at St. Paul Roman Catholic Church in Butler, Pa.



Lucas Munson '06 and Sabrina (Klick) were married in October 2016. Thiel alumni at the wedding included **Larry Klick '12, Vince Piekarski '04** and **Jeff Linn '02**.

John Tell '12 and Sarah (Miles) got married on Sept. 23, 2017 at UPMC Park in Erie, Pa.

Anne (Orelli) '05 married Peter Petrella on July 29, 2017 in Riviera Maya, Mexico. **Ernie Orelli '03** and **Adam McCormick** were both present at the wedding. The couple has a daughter, Neena Giuliana. Anne is vice president of student services at Argosy University.



Katelyn (Downey) '15 married **Andrew Smith '14** in Thiel College's David Johnson Memorial Chapel on Aug. 6, 2016. Several Thiel alumni were in the bridal party, including: **Bill Frizzi '14, Dan Landowski '14, Nate Blazeovich '14,** and **Timber Walker '16**.

BIRTHS



To **Deanna Gartrell '09** and **Steffon Portik '09**, a son: Cayden Kennedy Portik on August 25, 2016. The family resides in Salineville, Ohio.

To **Matthew Christian '11** and wife, Meaghan, a son: Lincoln Matthew on July 3, 2017.



To **Katie (Walker) '06** and **Josh Haladyna '05**, a son, Duke Dean, who was born Aug. 1, 2017 in Willoughby, Ohio. He has an older sister, Vivian Ann.

To **Heather (White) Keppler '11** and husband, Brett, a boy, Bentley Keppler on May 29, 2015. The family resides in Bowling Green, Ky.

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 to update your alumni file. For more information, contact us at alumni@thiel.edu.

Alumni can join Thiel on Tour in Iceland, New Zealand, Australia & China

During May 2018, Thiel College will travel to Iceland and Australia/New Zealand. All alumni (and family and friends) are invited to join students, faculty and staff on the trips.

Iceland

The trip to Iceland will be led by Professor of Environmental Science Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. The eight-day trip is targeted to leave on or about May 16. The tour provider, EF Tours, asks for leeway on departure dates to help arrange the best flights, hotel accommodations, and the like.

The cost is \$4,325.

For more information, contact Dr. Reinsel at areinsel@thiel.edu or 724-589-2821.

Australia and New Zealand

The "Thunder Down Under" trip to Australia and New Zealand is being led by Professor of Performing Arts Pete Rydberg, Ph.D. The 12-day trip is scheduled to depart May 17, 2018.

The cost is \$4,800.

For more information, contact Dr. Rydberg at prydberg@thiel.edu or 724-589-2029.

China

Plans are also underway for a May 2019 trip to China. As with the trips to Iceland and Australia/New Zealand, the departure will be mid-May.

The approximate cost is \$4,780 and \$5,684 for an extra three days in Hong Kong.

For more information, contact Professor of Sociology Cynthia Sutton, Ph.D., at csutton@thiel.edu or 724-589-2084.

Majestic Hot Dogs

Since 1920



GATHERINGS/ THIEL ON TOUR

A group of Thiel alumni from the 70s had an amazing time together at Homecoming! Back at their old stomping grounds, the group is pictured at the Majestic.

1950s Thiel College alumni **Thomas Guinn '50** and **Marianne Guinn '52** and **Bill Satterfield '50** and **Nancy Satterfield '52** celebrated their 66th wedding anniversaries with family in Martha's Vineyard in June. Congratulations!



The Jamestown (Pa.) High School class of 1967 had its 50th reunion at the beginning of September. A number of Jamestown graduates attended Thiel. They gave credit to the College for the career success they had in life. Among the Jamestown classmates who graduated from Thiel: **Linda (Holman) Camlin '81**, **James Crawford '75**, and **Patty (Henegan) Lederer '71**, **Ken Kashner '71**, **Joan (Slywczak) Petersen '71**, and **Mark Werner '71**. We honored **Jana (Harrison) Swartz '71** in memorium.

Pictured: **Mark Brown '71**, Marilyn Yanda Acheson, Myra Shannon Brown, Linda Copenhaver Donner, **Linda (Holman) Camlin '81**, Christine Hurley Durrett, **James Crawford '75**, Merle Davenport, Bonnie Durney Edge (at back), **Patty (Henegan) Lederer '71**, Joanne Wilson Davenport, **Ken Kashner '71**, Mary Kay Nottingham, **Joan (Slywczak) Petersen '71**, Marie Skelton Schlosser (partially hidden), **Mark Werner '71**.

HOMECOMING REUNION



CLASS OF 1967:
Dick Wardian, Marcia (Nelson) Vancini, George Webb



CLASS OF 1967:
Ruth (Chadwick) Brown and James Ummer H'07



CLASS OF 1982:
Lisa Bernett, Beverly Latza



CLASS OF 1987:
Shawn Orczeck, Beverly (Anawalt) Miller, Andy Yoos

Reunion Breakfast

First row (L-R): **Diane (Plant) Newell '75, David Newell '77, Cindy (Runyan) Palesky '80, Beverly Latza '82;** second row: **Paul Brown '66, Ruth (Chadwick) Brown '67, James Ummer '67, H'07, Mary Davis Baden '83;** third row: **Dave Palesky '77, Janet Ummer, Beverly (Anawalt) Miller '87.**





New scholarship honors decorated soldier killed in action

On Nov. 11, **Richard Gloyer**, father of U.S. Army Sergeant First Class **Ryan Gloyer '04** attended Thiel College's annual scholarship luncheon to symbolically launch a new scholarship in his son's name.

Ryan Gloyer was a psychology and education double major who graduated from Thiel College with honors in 2004. Gloyer was killed in action in Afghanistan in November 2016.

Senior education majors at Thiel College will be eligible for an award from the \$60,000 Gloyer Scholarship starting with the 2018-2019 academic year. Gloyer's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star with V device, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Army Commendation Medals, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Ranger tab and the Special Forces tab. He served the Army as a member of the elite Special Forces Green Berets. This was his third deployment to Afghanistan.



Respected Duquesne professor Jeffrey Madura '80 passes away

Jeffrey Madura, Ph.D. '80, a professor of chemistry and biochemistry at Duquesne University passed away in March 2017. He was 59.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry from Thiel College in 1980; a doctorate in physical chemistry from Purdue University in 1985; and was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Houston from 1986-1990.

Madura joined Duquesne in 1998 and served as chemistry and biochemistry chair from 2000-2010. He was awarded various honors including the Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar award in 1997; the 2002 Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences award for Excellence in Service; the 2007 Bayer School Award for Excellence in Scholarship; and the Presidential Award for Excellence in Scholarship in 2007. In 2013, he was selected as Duquesne's inaugural Lambert F. Minucci Endowed Chair in Engineering and Computational Sciences. He also received more than \$10 million in external research funding during his career.

Madura is survived by his wife, **Colleen**, and sons, **Brandon** and **Peyton**.

A remembrance of alumni and friends of the College who have recently died.

Dorothy F. (Floyd) Babcock '47
 Sally Bachovchin-Janocko '68
 Marsha A. Barkay '75
 Judith Bartholomew
 Elaine (Mawhinney) Brady '68
 Herbert F. Burger '52
 Edward E. Carlson
 Mildred Courtley
 Shirley A. Davis
 Charles L. Deemer '77
 Paul Eugene Fauth '48
 Martha J. Ferry
 John W. George '89
 Thorne L. Hays '70
 R.O. "Deke" Kaufman Jr. '67
 Lisa Landfried-Nezdoba '82
 Jerry Levis
 Paul E. Marley '54
 Haldane P. Marts
 Mary Mechenbier
 Richard H. Miller
 Vada M. (Stewart) Moore '46
 Donna Murphy
 Louis R. Omatz
 Francis X. Petrini
 Elizabeth J. (Easterlin) Price '42
 Barbara Reed
 Cheryl C. Ringer '88
 Phyllis (Head) Rugg '58
 Nancy C. (Ross) Sederberg '64
 Eleanor Snyder
 Barbara Stitt
 Willis Taylor '51
 Claude A. Thompson '87
 Lois Unangst
 Nancy E. Wing '62
 John A. Yocca



Community, campus and current students all central to Homecoming

by John Hauser '71

According to the “History of Thiel College 1866-1974” by **Roy Johnson, Ph.D.**, the five alumni who were the first to be graduated from Thiel met to form an Alumni Association shortly after their Commencement Week in 1874. They planned to have an annual dinner, beginning in 1875, in conjunction with the graduation of the subsequent classes of the young institution. In 1916, Thiel joined other colleges in the newest trend: having alumni come back to campus in the fall for a football game, which is what we have been doing ever since.

Homecoming 2017 was, in many ways, much like the 101 fall Homecomings that preceded it: old friends getting together to reminisce about the “good ol’ days” when times were seemingly simpler and lives not as complicated; the College all spruced up to show off our new facilities and plans for the future—making us wish we were younger and just ready to embark on our college days instead of those days being behind us; and the maddeningly eternal youth of college students (this year’s first-year class was, after all, born in 1999!)

Examining the following three reasons more closely validates why we have Homecoming.

Getting together as a community of alumni reinforces our shared belief in and love for our alma mater. Whether we are graduates of 50 years or walked across the stage to get our diploma less than six months ago, we share a common bond that brings us back to the campus where so much of our

adult lives began: the beginning of friendships that last a lifetime, the foundation for our careers, and the formation of a belief system that is unique to us as individuals while, at the same time, is strikingly similar to those who also share the Thiel Experience.

We owe much to our alma mater for the role it played in shaping our lives: the professors who motivated us and introduced us to ideas and opportunities we had never known, the staff who took care of us and made sure we survived our years at Thiel, the friends who stood by us when we needed them and were there when we celebrated happy times.

That’s why we come back—to relive, even for a few hours, what it was like to be a college student and how great an influence this campus had on us.

The “state of the campus” is another component of Homecoming that cannot be overlooked. We want our College to succeed and continue to prepare the newest generation of students for careers that we can only imagine will be available when they are graduated. The Haer Family Science and Arts Connector and the Track and Field Complex were two new facilities dedicated this year.

“If this had been here when I was here...” is a comment I heard many times during Homecoming weekend—and since then as alumni view the videos of the dedication ceremonies. And, while we sometimes have to tear down the old to make way for the new (Harter Hall for the Science Connector and Coaches Corner for the Pedas Center a few years ago) the net gain is well worth it. All of this, of course, is accomplished because dedicated alumni and friends donate their time and treasure to ensure that we are preparing for the future and not stuck in the past. Homecoming—and the dedication of facilities—enables us to celebrate our past while showing that we are focused on the future.

Finally, the current students are a reason we come back. Seeing bright, involved and motivated students reaffirms our belief in the Thiel Experience. We know that our investment in these students, through The Thiel Fund, endowed funds for scholarships, programs and professors, and improved facilities, will be repaid many times over through their contributions to their professions, their communities and their families.

Homecoming is one of my favorite weekends at Thiel. If you are not one of the thousands who have come back, I hope you’ll make plans to come back next fall to celebrate our past and look forward to our alma mater’s bright future.

**Homecoming
is one of
my favorite
weekends
at Thiel.**

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graduation.

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COLLEGE

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SAVE
THE
DATE

SPRING EVENTS

Founders' Day, February 1

Academic Honors Convocation, February 2

Con Spirito, March 26

Commencement, May 6