

The Bell



‘No borders,
just horizons—only freedom’

-Amelia Earhart H'32





THIEL COLLEGE CLASS OF 2022

FAST FACTS ABOUT ★ THE CLASS OF 2022 ★

International students from South Korea and Pakistan join new students from 10 states to make up the 275 members of Thiel College's new students.

Three percent of the new class includes twins.

Four separate sets of twins began this fall at Thiel.



Thiel College

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

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The start of the 2019 academic year introduced several new initiatives on campus—the launch of new degree programs in Environmental Safety Management, Health Systems, and Exercise Science; a community service project by first-year students who collected more than 3,000 pounds of food for a local food pantry; and the new Common and Community Hours each week.



With the Common and Community hours, the campus is enjoying a mid-day reprieve from the breakneck pace of the academic day each Tuesday and Thursday, a welcome relief for faculty, students, and staff but also a time to come together as a campus. Opening Convocation, previously held during first-year orientation, inaugurated our Thursday Common Hour program, with all students gathered together to welcome new students and

celebrate the start of the school year. Other Common Hour programming this fall has included a concert by the Donald Sinta Quartet, here as part of Thiel's Con Spirito series, student presentations about their Practicum experiences, an overview of the Health Professions Institute by Associate Dean and Professor **Greg Butcher, Ph.D.** In the spring, the Common Hour will include several guest lecturers, including **Callie Crossley**, Thiel's first Woodrow Wilson Fellow and Executive Producer of the renowned documentary series, "Eyes on the Prize" and **Ruth Peterson, Ph.D.**, emerita professor and former director of the Criminal Justice Research Center at The Ohio State University. Peterson will inaugurate a new visiting fellows program, sponsored by **Robert Crutchfield, Ph.D. '71**, that will bring experts in the field of Criminal Justice to campus each year. On Tuesday, we have created Community Hour, during which a variety of meetings and gatherings can be scheduled. In this new hour, Chapel is filled with new joy and energy as Pastor Jayne Thompson opens the pulpit to guest speakers, including Professor **David Miller '61** and Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion **Anthony Jones**.



We persevere for greater peace and understanding

Our hearts and minds are with the loved ones of the victims and survivors, as well as the emergency responders at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue and the Thousand Oaks shooting.

The victims in Pittsburgh included Rose Mallinger, beloved grandmother of Eric and Amy Mallinger, both of the Class of 2015. The shooting in Thousand Oaks had a direct impact on California Lutheran University, a member—with Thiel—of the network of ELCA colleges.

The Thiel College community comes together with prayers for everyone affected by these senseless tragedies. We persevere in hope for greater peace and understanding in our world.

The goal of the Common Hour is well-aligned with Thiel's brand identity, newly distilled and refreshed. A thoughtful and nearly two-year process engaged a wide-range of campus stakeholders and has produced messaging that better captures Thiel's brand identity and promise.

The branding exercise has also been an opportunity to bring design continuity, changes that many eagle-eyed readers of Thiel College materials might have begun to notice. The updated look for the wordmark and logo now includes an interlocked TC on a shield. This addition freshens the College's identity but also remains true to the traditions that have represented the College.

Since its founding in 1866, Thiel College has always been an institution that welcomed a diverse student population and put them in touch with the tools to graduate as a civic-minded and professionally-prepared alumni. The messaging you will be seeing in the months and years ahead will focus on ideas of *belonging, connecting and becoming*. You will see evidence of those ideas as we explore the College's commitment to women as the theme of this edition of *The Bell*.

As an historian, I am always happy to see achievement celebrated. The College's commitment to women was an important part of the College's identity from its founding as a co-educational institution to its middle years—when Thiel College representatives met with Eleanor Roosevelt to discuss women's issues, and the College gave an honorary degree to **Amelia Earhart H'32**—and it continues today.

A little more than 152 years ago, **Louis** and **Barbara Thiel** made the first of several investments that led to the birth of Thiel College. In fact, if not for Barbara Thiel's efforts, the family's investment might have shrunk rather than grow before a final lasting gift was made to the College.

For a look at some of Thiel College's pioneering women, read the Final Word by **John Hauser '71**.

Those historic milestones carry over and, in this edition, you can read about the recent programs and accomplishments of women. Making history this year is first-year student **Mary Jones '22**, a musician, honors student, engineer and football player. Along with Mary's story, you can read about Thiel College graduates **Deborah Weible '84**, **Cia Cianci '91**, **Danielle (Hillwig) Doheny '10** and **Danielle Dwyer '11**. They each have found professional success since graduation and tell their Thiel story, their sense of belonging, and deep connections with faculty and staff.

In addition to the accomplishments of our alumnae and students, you will find news about campus programs and activities. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Liz Frombgen, Ph.D.**, hosted a women's conference on Sept. 25. Assistant Professor of History and Coordinator of the gender studies minor **Sheila Nowinski, Ph.D.**, is leading activities for gender studies, and Assistant Professor of Political Science **Marie Courtemanche, Ph.D.**, will soon publish her research on gender and scandals. In addition, Thiel College was among a handful of institutions awarded an "It's on Us" grant from the Pennsylvania Office of the Governor, and Psychology professors **Shannon Deets, Ph.D.**, and **Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06** attended a Title IX conference over the summer.

I am proud of all the alumni, students, faculty and staff at Thiel College. Enjoy this edition of *The Bell* and celebrate the Tomcat Pride of our shared accomplishment.

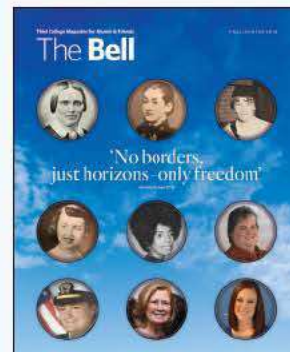
Go Tomcats!

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



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On the Cover

The quotation on the cover is from **Amelia Earhart H'32**. It serves as a reminder of the value of a Thiel College education for all. The College has always been a welcoming and open environment for students of all backgrounds to connect with each other.

Follow us on social media



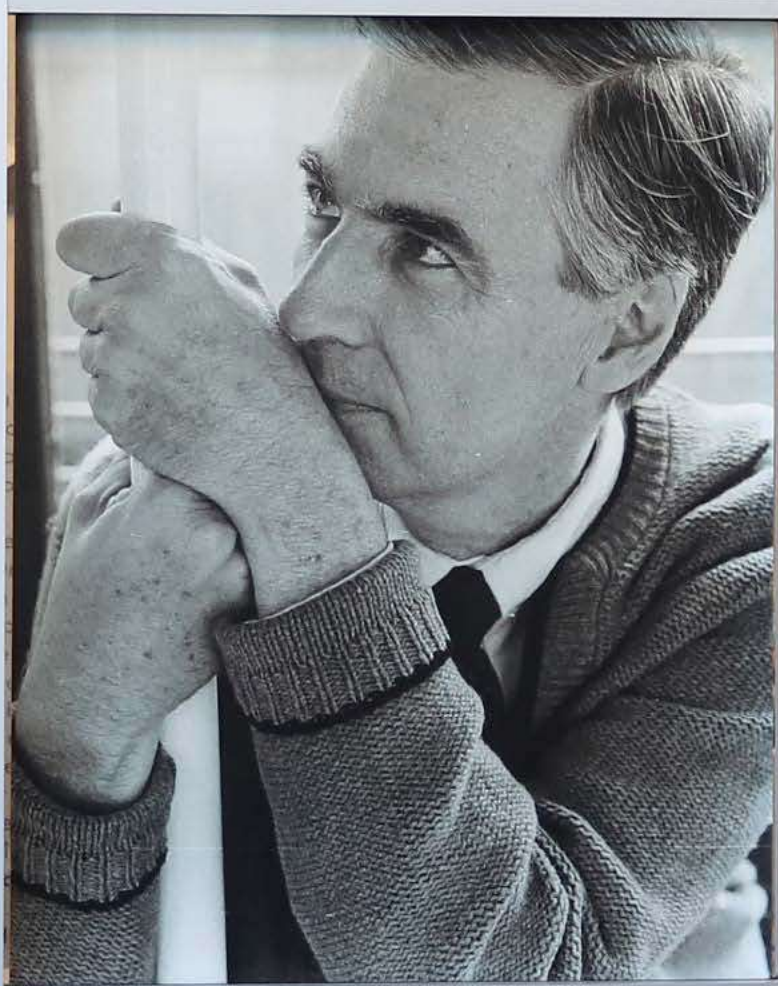
Letters to the editor

Thiel College welcomes feedback regarding *The Bell*. Letters must contain a contact number (not for publication, but to allow for verification of the sender). Letters can be mailed to **Thiel College Office of Communications and Marketing, 75 College Avenue, Greenville, PA 16125**; or emailed 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

Often when you think
you're at the end of so
you're at the beginning
of something else."

Fred M. Rogers



“It’s a beautiful day at Thiel College!”

James Okonak

Executive director of the McFeely-Rogers Foundation



Thiel College leaders celebrated the College’s ongoing relationship with iconic children’s advocate and television host Fred Rogers with representatives of the McFeely-Rogers Foundation and about 15 preschoolers on Oct. 30 when they dedicated the Mister Fred Rogers Room in the James Pedas Communication Center.

— faculty news —

College makes exclusive Forbes 200 list for grateful graduates

Forbes magazine singled out Thiel College for the second time in three years for the generosity of its graduates.

In the article, "Grateful Grads 2018 - 200 Colleges With The Happiest, Most Successful Alumni," *Forbes* uses several factors to rank the schools, including private donation rates, gifts per student and alumni participation rates. The article includes only private, not-for-profit colleges, and comprises many Ivy League institutions. Inclusion on the list signifies that a college has a history of producing graduates who consistently donate to their alma mater.

State awards Thiel College \$1 million for renovations to College's main academic space

Thiel College was awarded \$1 million for improvements to laboratories, classrooms and common areas through a state Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.

The grant funds will support improvements throughout the Academic Center as well as the creation of a community clinic supported by the College's communication sciences and disorders program.

Two faculty members attend intensive Title IX training session

Associate Professor of Psychology **Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06**, and Assistant Professor of Psychology **Shannon Deets, Ph.D.**, attended the Title IX Coordinator & Investigator Training Program in Harrisburg this summer.



Funded by Pennsylvania Governor **Tom Wolf's** "It's On Us PA" grant that Thiel College received in the spring, both faculty members attended a three-and-a-half-day intensive training class to improve relevant knowledge and skills needed to oversee Title IX compliance and sexual misconduct investigations. The "It's On Us" initiative seeks to improve education and increase support for faculty, staff and students by raising awareness and reporting of incidents of sexual assault.

**David Miller '61 celebrated 55th anniversary at start of semester**

Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller '61** is celebrating his 55th anniversary of

teaching at Thiel College.

Miller began teaching at Thiel College on Sept. 1, 1963. He is the longest-tenured professor in the College's 152-year history.

Thiel College, Evans Square partner to provide academic and cultural resources for senior residents

Thiel College and Evans Square, an independent senior living facility in Conneaut Lake, announced a partnership in September that grants residents access to all the academic, athletic and cultural programming at the College.

The program includes two specially created college-level courses available exclusively for residents of Evans Square that will be taught in the facility's Educational Innovation Center, which will be connected to Thiel College's network.

Evans Square is a 40-unit apartment complex. It opened this spring and was built by the Hudson Companies, a general construction, development, and acquisitions company located in Hermitage, Pa.

Neuroscience professor appointed to new role as associate academic dean

Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Department Chair **Greg Butcher, Ph.D.**, was appointed as associate academic dean for student success.

Anthony E. Jones begins role as new Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

Anthony E. Jones is the new associate dean for diversity and inclusion.

Jones started July 5. He leads efforts to foster and maintain an increasingly inclusive environment that welcomes, embraces, supports, and celebrates diversity in all its forms at Thiel College.



Professor recognized as a top teacher by Pennsylvania diversity publication

Professor of Biology **Fatimata Palé, Ph.D.**, was recently selected as an outstanding runner-up for the Professor of the Year competition in *Talk Magazine*, a Pennsylvania magazine covering diversity and inclusion issues in higher education.

Palé was one of three professors in Pennsylvania recognized by the 57-year-old African-American publication.

Thiel College new student enrollment up 19 percent over last year

The Thiel College Office of Admission exceeded its enrollment goal for the Class of 2022 and topped last year's new student population by 19 percent with the confirmation that 275 new students enrolled for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Thiel College's new student class includes first-year, transfer and international students. International students from South Korea and Pakistan join new students from 10 states. Three percent of the new class includes twins. Four separate sets of twins began this fall at Thiel. Eleven percent of the new students enrolled in new programs in exercise science, health systems and sports management.

— student news —

Faculty members and student repair and document art of pop artist Corita Kent

Professor of Painting and Curator of Art **Sean McConnor**, Assistant Professor of History **Sheila Nowinski, Ph.D.**, and student **Isabella Bungo '19** completed a 10-week artwork restoration and historical research project funded by a grant from the Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute at Thiel College this summer.

Bungo, of Pittsburgh, is a history major with a secondary education certification. She is a 2015 graduate of Fox Chapel High School. In September 2017, the Department of Art exhibited a show of women printmakers. Some of the featured prints on exhibition were from **Corita Kent**, a popular silk-screen artist, who worked in both Los Angeles and Boston. Through Nowinski and McConnor's combined

interest in preserving the College's Kent collection, they applied for a GNC grant to fully restore the collection. Many of the prints will be exhibited in February 2019 in the Weyers-Sampson Art Gallery at Thiel College.



Food drive yields more than 3,000 pounds of donations for Good Shepherd

First-year students and their peers, mentors and advisors collected more than 3,000 pounds of food during the College's inaugural food drive.

As part of a new community-service project initiative during the College's Welcome Week, students dropped bags off at homes throughout the Greenville community with a list of suggested non-perishable items for collection. Students returned to those homes to collect the filled bags. Food was sorted and donated to the Good Shepherd Food Pantry in Greenville.

In 2015, 12.8 percent of Mercer County residents and 19.5 percent of children struggle with food insecurity, according to Feeding America, a national non-profit hunger relief organization.

Admissions office creates new team of student workers to serve as ambassadors

The Office of Admission at Thiel College has created one of the largest groups of student employees in one department with its new Thiel Team.

The addition of 36 workers makes the admissions team more flexible, diverse, and relatable for prospective students and their families coming to campus. The students will give tours, complete mailings, compile research, help prepare for visit days, make phone calls and handle other office duties.

See more news in the Thiel College Newsroom!

www.thiel.edu/newsroom

Business leaders discuss impact Thiel's new Environmental Safety Management program can have on the region

ILSCO Extrusions president **John Thigpen '86** sees the potential for a coming boom.

Thigpen said in the Mercer County area there are 200 small and large manufacturing facilities with a workforce that is nearing retirement age with few Millennials and Generation X members in place to fill job vacancies as those experienced workers retire.

"There is an explosion coming," he said during Thiel College's launch event for its new Environmental Safety Management program at the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector.

Thigpen was joined at the October event by executives from the gas and oil industry and the geotechnical services fields along with about 50 business people, media representatives and Thiel College community members.

President of Zelienople, Pa.-based Deep Well Services **Mark Marmo '93** said he expects his company to add as many as 250 employees in the future. President of Pittsburgh-based Geo-Technical Drilling **Deborah Weible '84** said the College's new program will fill a growing need for small companies like hers by training graduates to be prepared for careers straight out of college.

Marmo described several career opportunities with six-figure salaries in his company.

"There are opportunities. There is room for lots of growth," he said.

Pennsylvania Representative **Mark Longietti** attended the event as did representatives from the offices of state Senator **Michele Brooks** and state Representative **Parke Wentling**.

As part of the event, **David Shafer** was introduced as the program coordinator. He has been active in the field of environmental safety for nearly 40 years as a consultant, government contractor, college educator and employer. As a certified environmental safety and health trainer, he has led safety training sessions and programs across the United States. Shafer has an extensive background in developing training courses, especially for the Environmental Protection Agency Hazardous Materials Incident Response Operations and Personnel Protection and Safety training courses.

"The potential growth for this industry will mean our graduates will be ready for high-paying jobs in the region and around the country," Shafer said.

Thiel's program is the only one in Pennsylvania that uses environmental science as its core element. The new program combines elements from its Department of Environmental Science and its distinguished Department of Business Administration and Accounting, which has been singled out as a department of distinction by Colleges of Distinction the last two years.

The new major will open opportunities in a variety of fields and locations such as hospitals, oil and gas activities, construction projects, educational facilities and manufacturing plants. New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania are all in the top five for employment opportunities for occupational health and safety specialists, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Thiel College Environmental Safety Management program coordinator **David Shafer** speaks during the College's program launch on Oct. 18 in the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector. President of Pittsburgh-based Geo Environmental Drilling **Deborah Weible '84**, Chief Executive Officer of Zelienople, Pa.-based Deep Well Services **Mark Marmo '93** and President of Greenville, Pa.-based ILSCO Co. **John Thigpen '86** are in the background.

Worth the 'Road Trip' for Alumni and Friends



Alumni and friends of the College were on the road in late September to make the trip back to Thiel College for Homecoming 2018. The theme for this year was "Road Trip" and provided a special guide that included car games, snacks, playlists and road trip movies and shows to get alumni in the right frame of mind to hit the road.

Although they made parts of their trip by airplane, **Nancy (Duncan) Marchesa '88** and **Carolyn (Elzey) Gillan '68** made it back to Greenville from California, while **Dan Maclea '78** and **Brittany DeCarmine '18** were also long-distance travelers, returning from Houston for Homecoming.

"Homecoming 2018 was a 54-hour celebration for many generations of alumni. Alumni registration and hospitality began with Thiel gift bags at 8:30 a.m. on Friday and the last alumni ate lunch in the cafeteria at 1:30 p.m. Sunday," Director of Alumni Relations **David Hummel '83** said. "The alumni office also mailed Homecoming gift boxes to members of

the class of 1968 who could not travel back to campus. It was truly a 'Road Trip' for many folks, including the local Girl Scouts who marched in the parade in cardboard box cars."

Beautiful weather and a campus that showed a few hints of fall had everyone in a celebratory mood.

Go to facebook.com/thielcollege and go to the Photos tab to see an album of alumni wearing Thiel gear.

27 with National Thiel Spirit Day. Alumni from around the country took selfies and photos wearing Thiel gear. **Jeremiah '10** and **Megan (Kay) Wagner '12** won this year's National Thiel Spirit Day photo contest for their wedding photo with a Thiel flag and more than three dozen alumni.

On Friday, the College inducted the newest members of the athletic Hall of Fame (read more on Page 22). **Beau Bilock '01, John Dickason, Tom**

Phillips '70 and **Laura Simonetti '05** were inducted during the 38th annual ceremony, which took place in the Lutheran Heritage Room. Also, on Friday, alumni participated in professional panels for students as well as a student-alumni networking reception. The Homecoming Court was announced at the student pep rally.

On Saturday, the festivities continued. Saturday's choir reunion spanned more than five decades of choir history when current choir director **Julie Neish, D.M.A.**, joined former director **Michael Bray, D.M.A.**, and **Rae Johnson '59**, wife of Thiel's founding choir director **Dr. Marlowe Johnson, D.M.A. H'02**, who passed away in 2002. Cookouts, special reunions for 5- and 10-year and 50- and 55-year graduates, corn hole and other yard games, vintage car cutouts around campus, the parade and inaugural bike race were among the exciting events on Saturday.

Members of Kappa Sigma fraternity also conducted their see-saw-a-thon fundraiser for their national organization's Military Heroes campaign.

ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

- Distinguished Alumni Award
Stephen Rowe, Ph.D. '65
David Fauth, Ph.D. '73
- Service to Thiel Award
Carol (Yeager) '71 and **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**
Christopher Shinkman, Ph.D. '62
- Young Alumni Award
Kyle Fielder '15
Antonio Quarterman, Ed.D. '08



The Homecoming court (L-R): **John Ganiear '22, Hannah Uschock '22, Stephen Borgen '21, Sydney Turner '21, King Jacob Naber '19, Queen Shelby Friedel '19, Jimmy Buckley '20 and Rebecca Dougherty '20.**



Elijah Williams '22, Jabez Watkins '21 and Renwrick Rivers '21 ride the Sigma Phi Epsilon float during the parade.



Members of the Class of 1968 wait on the float prior to the parade.

For more images from Homecoming 2018 go to <http://bit.ly/tchomecomingflickr2018>



The Class of 1968 and members of other 5- and 10-year anniversary graduations attended a breakfast in the Sawhill-Georgian Room on Sept. 29. Front row (L-R): **Marcia (Greene) Wingo '68, Diana (Blum) Voellinger '68, Anna (Satterfield) Bressman '68**; middle row: **Betsy (Hankey) Fackler '68, Paula (Durfee) Geleailen '68, Philip Joyce '78, Doris Childs '68, Jim Sobek '68**; back row: **David Whelan '68, Dolly (Skezas) Whelan '69, Dan McLea '78, Betsy (Irvin) Spruill '68, Larry V. Smoose '68, David Fauth '73.**



Department of Athletics Homecoming honorees front row (L-R): **Tom Phillips '70, John Dickason, Laura Simonetti '05, Beau Bilock '01**; back row: **Rick Speicher '74, Nick Grice '18, A.J. Corradi '18, Mark Batt '87.**



Alumni Award winners (L-R):
Barry Stamm, M.D. '70,
Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71,
Kyle Fielder '15, David Fauth '73,
Chris Shinkman, Ph.D. '62,
Antonio Quarterman, Ed.D. '08,
Stephen Rowe, Ph.D. '65.

Hear the alumni award winners in their own voices.
Watch the awards luncheon acceptance speeches.

<http://bit.ly/TCalumniawards2018>

Antonio Quarterman, Ed.D. '08
speaks after receiving the Young
Alumni Award during the alumni
awards luncheon.



Andrew Miller '20, Emily Harriman '22, Courtney Harriman '20,
Destiny Johnson '22 (in the Tommy Tomcat costume), Danyelle Lucido '19,
and Jess Vormelker '19 wave from their float in the Homecoming parade.



President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, and her husband, **Kent Taylor**, wave and hand out candy near the end of the parade route.



Parade attendees watch the floats pass.

CONTINUING THE LEGACY

The College's co-educational roots have helped students become accomplished alumnae

By Marjorie Bicknell

Marilys (Greiner) Johnson '58 likes to repeat a story her aunt—who was also a Thiel graduate—often told. Many years ago, Marilyns' aunt was at a party in Greenville where she heard several guests discussing the seriousness of Thiel's female students and the rigor of their studies. Naturally, because this was in a time when women were thought to go to college simply to "earn a Mrs.," the talk was more than a little disparaging. Marilyns' aunt had had enough and was on the verge of speaking up when she heard a booming laugh. It came from Thiel's president at the time. He had also overheard the conversation and thought their opinions were hilarious. Once he gained control of his laughter, he admonished the partygoers and corrected their misconceptions.

"My aunt always giggled about this," Marilyns said. "But it's true. I was an education major, but when I took biology, it was with the pre-med

students, math was with the math majors, English and history with the English and history majors. I wasn't taught just enough to manage a fifth-grade class. I received a real education."

Today, when men and women go to class together at the vast majority of colleges and universities, people think of co-education as natural. They forget that many prestigious colleges only began admitting women in the 1970s. By that time, Thiel had more than a century's experience educating men and women together. Thiel College was founded as a co-educational institution in 1866.

Thiel's belief that intellect, ambition and the desire to make the most of one's talents knows no gender is the reason so many Thiel students—men and women alike—go on to have careers and live lives that are so successful on so many levels.



Marilyns (Greiner) Johnson '58

Marilyns Johnson came to Thiel in 1954 to study education and is a great example of that belief. She arrived on campus when women's career paths were limited to teacher, secretary or nurse, and that career was to be given up for a higher calling—wife and mother.

While Marilyns' was similar to her peers. She found that Thiel was a place that let her grow in many ways. She sang in the choir and was elected president of her dormitory and had a great time during her four years on campus.

Thiel's belief that intellect, ambition and the desire to make the most of one's talents knows no gender is the reason so many Thiel students—men and women alike—go on to have careers and live lives that are so successful on so many levels.

She married shortly after she graduated in 1958, and with her husband, took a teaching job in Levittown, Pa.

"It was a new school district, and the area was growing so fast. I had around 30 children in my kindergarten class. It was a handful. But thanks to the confidence I acquired at Thiel, I knew I could handle it."

She stopped teaching to raise a family, but Marilyns didn't stop having an impact. She quickly joined the League of Women Voters in Bucks County and went to work in politics. "We learned about government. We did a lot of research. Learned a lot about how government worked and lobbied for the things we thought were important. That work saved us from becoming blobs!"

Eventually, Marilyns' work with the League of Women Voters led to a job writing a column about government in the local newspaper. She answered questions sent to the paper by readers, and when questions didn't arrive, she chose a topic she thought was important or interesting and wrote about that. To this day, Mrs. Johnson

stays active. "I write and tell my representatives what I think, even when I know they don't want to hear it."

It was a little over two decades later when **Deborah Weible '84** arrived on campus in 1980. Times had changed culturally, so much that she didn't realize that schools such as Harvard and Princeton had only begun admitting women in the late 1960s, but life at Thiel continued as a supportive and inclusive environment. All the colleges Deborah looked at were co-ed, but something about Thiel stood out and once she'd visited the school, she knew it was the only place for her.

"I was a geology major. It was a very small department. Most classes had only four or five or maybe six students in them, so you really had the professors kicking your butt," she said.

Deborah never felt as though her professors or the staff treated her any differently than the male students.

"We all got the same kind of personal attention and interest from our teachers," she said. "We also got along



Deborah Weible '84

great! I remember how everyone in a class would get together to study. There was no competition among us. That really helped me. Concepts really solidify when you are helping someone else to understand them."

Outside of class, Deborah enjoyed working in the theater. "Thiel encouraged everyone in theater to participate in all aspects (of campus life)," Deborah said.

Deborah enjoyed her time at Thiel and never felt that her gender held her back in any way, especially in getting a science degree. "I took all the courses I could, and when I got to the University of Pittsburgh for my master's degree, I discovered that I had taken twice as many classes in my field as the students who came from other schools."



1866

Thiel College founded with an initial gift of \$4,000 from **Barbara Thiel**.

1869

First female faculty member **Annie Downing** begins teaching

1875

Margaret Ross 1875, Ida Sheakley 1875, Mabel Templeton 1875, Mary Hulings 1875 make up the first co-ed graduating class.

“At Thiel, nobody ever even suggested that I couldn’t do whatever I wanted simply because I was a woman, so I never doubted myself.”

A similar base is being built now for students in the College’s new Environmental Safety Management program. This degree is unique as it is housed in the Department of Environmental Science and is Pennsylvania’s only program with environmental science as its core. That department also happens to be chaired by Thiel graduate **Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. ’06**, who is one of eight female Department Chairs at the College. It puts Thiel at the forefront of environmental safety management and will give our graduates high earning and career growth potential regardless of the industry they choose to work in, Reinsel said.

It was only after her education was complete that she ran into problems simply because she was a woman, Deborah said.

“Most engineers and geologists won’t work with a woman. I felt it all the time after I left school. So, I decided I wasn’t going to put up with it and started my own drilling company.” She was just 28 years old. Today, she is

the president of Pittsburgh-based Geo Environmental Drilling, Co.

She had met several men who were nice and gentlemanly and asked them to join her. They did, and today her company provides a wide range of environmental and geotechnical drilling services throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia. Today, the same people who doubted her abilities simply because she was a woman, constantly ask her to join their trade organizations. She refuses. “It’s an old boys’ club, and I’m doing fine on my own.”

What gave her the incredible confidence to strike out on her own? She credits two things—her father and Thiel College. “At Thiel, nobody ever even suggested that I couldn’t do whatever I wanted simply because I was a woman, so I never doubted myself,” she said. “My father helped me because he ran his own business, and all through middle school and high school I had to help. We used to do the books on Saturdays. Thanks to that, I knew about profits and loss, and how to talk to bankers about financing.”

Just three years after Deborah Weible graduated, **Cia Cianci ’91** arrived on campus. She chose Thiel because her brother had attended and because she had grown up in Greenville. The College was close to her home, and that meant she could commute. “I’d never really been anywhere before I came to Thiel,” she said. “But Thiel gave me the courage to go all around the world.”

Cia was a nursing student and when asked how Thiel’s dedication to co-education affected her time in the classroom, she laughed and said, “Who knows? There were only women in the nursing program.” Still, she feels that Thiel gave her a strong foundation. “I got a real base, you know? My professors pushed me and showed me how capable I was. They gave me the courage to try something new.”



Cia Cianci '91

1881

Clionian Society literary group for women founded.



1890

*Women’s residence Daily Hall was opened. The speaker for the event, **Rev. D.A. Giessinger** of Easton appealed to the College to “open every possible area of achievement. ... When she stands with queenly loyalty in the unhindered exercise of her divine vocation, the sweetness and the glory of the millennium will not be far away.”*

Her first step was with the Thiel choir. Cia, an alto, went along on a spring tour to Europe the year before she graduated, and the experience was transforming. Before that, she thought she'd be happy working as a pediatric nurse in the local hospital. Instead, she joined the U.S. Navy right after graduation and embarked on an adventure that took her to seven different postings over a 21-year career, including Naples, Italy, Guam, Okinawa, and a combat tour in Iraq. "I did surgery, pediatrics, internal medicine, military medicine, ICU, a little bit of everything."

Along the way, she picked up a master's degree in management from Thomas Edison State University in 2001 and her jobs changed from nursing to nursing administration. She was an assistant department head in Guam, started a clinic in Okinawa, rose to department head in Groton, Mass., and head of quality management for military medicine in Charleston.

Today, retired as a Lt. Commander, Cia works at the Virginia Military Institute, better known as The Citadel. "It's the perfect retirement job," she jokes. "Instead of working 60-plus hours per week, I now only work 37 and a half ... nine months out of the year!"

Cia still gets back to Greenville and her friends here. She says the deepest friendships she made were at Thiel. "They don't have a nursing program anymore," she said, "But I'm glad they had the program for me!"

20 years after Cia, **Danielle Hillwig Doheny '10** and **Danielle Dwyer '11** discovered that the adage, "The more things change, the more they stay the same," is certainly true when applied to Thiel College. Their chosen careers put them in two of the biggest "boys clubs" anywhere—politics and sports. Yet their experience at Thiel more than prepared them for those sharp-elbowed worlds.

Danielle Doheny came to Thiel to become a history teacher. After spending time in the classroom, however, she quickly discovered that she enjoyed classrooms more as a student than a teacher. Then she was given the opportunity to spend a semester in Washington, D.C. and she found the thing she loved—politics.

She quickly discovered that the skills history taught—writing, critical thinking, the ability to see an argument from both sides and bring up difficult subjects, or frame questions in a way



Danielle Hillwig Doheny '10

that allows the other side to contribute constructively—were the essential skills needed to get ahead in politics. And although she graduated in the middle of the recession, she quickly took her experience working on local political campaigns and turned it into a job on Capitol Hill.

"For much of my college career, studying history meant writing and debating on tough subjects, and my professors really pushed me," she said. "I was intimidated when I got to the Hill, but I wasn't for long. It's amazing how many people with degrees from good schools can't think for themselves. Too many people are waiting for someone to tell them what to do."

Thiel taught Doheny how to be an independent thinker and that was a good thing on The Hill, where it is largely a man's world. In her jobs as a staffer to various congressmen, she

1916

Sigma Theta Phi formed as the first sorority on campus. It became Chi Omega in 1950.

1923

Women's varsity basketball and field hockey played area colleges for the first time.



1925

Margaret Ross 1875 is the first woman granted an honorary master's degree.

got to work on energy, flood insurance, the environment ... and even spent time giving Capitol tours. "The history nerd in me loved it."

Then her career trajectory suddenly changed. Doheny's father was diagnosed with myeloma, a rare form of cancer, and she noticed a posting on a job board. It was for a director of public policy and advocacy—a lobbyist, in short—for the International Myeloma Foundation.

Today, as she advocates for people with a devastating disease, Doheny is often the only woman in the room, and she says she would love to see more women come to Capitol Hill. Still, she wouldn't trade her career for anything and credits Thiel for getting her where she is today.

Danielle Dwyer '11 feels exactly the same way. She had almost decided to go to another college when her travel volleyball coach told her about Thiel College. From the moment she set foot on campus, the friendliness drew her in, and she couldn't think of attending another school.



Danielle Dwyer '11

Dwyer's two loves were sports and broadcasting, and she pursued both avidly while at Thiel. She played volleyball and softball at the collegiate level all four years, and her teammates became her special friends, along with the sisters in her sorority.

When she wasn't on the field, she was in the communications department. "I was so involved that people all got to know me. I respected everyone and got that back from everyone else—my fellow students, the faculty and the staff. I always felt that everyone was in my corner."

Dwyer credits two people with really helping her discover her talents. She was interested in telling people's stories, and former Professor of Communication **Victor Evans, Ph.D.**, helped her to home in on that interest and provided the motivation and support to help her succeed.

In fact, Evans did such a good job of motivating Dwyer that she had the confidence to go out and create her own internship. Given her interest in Thiel sports, she approached **Kevin Fenstermacher**, the Sports Information Director at the time and asked him to create a position for her. He did. "But this was true about everything at Thiel if you ask and an opportunity isn't already there, your professors and the staff will say, 'Let me figure out a way to do this.' They were an incredible resource while I was on campus and I know if I reach out to them now, they'll still help me. They genuinely do care!"

Following graduation, she worked in advertising for a while but discovered that it wasn't the place for her. She had kept in touch with Evans and he encouraged her to shoot for a career in broadcasting.

Dwyer knew that getting a job took either luck or incredibly good skills, so she decided to go to graduate school in communications. That's when it became absolutely clear to her what Thiel had given her. When she entered her graduate class at the prestigious Columbia College in Chicago, she discovered that her skills were far ahead of her class.



1932

Amelia Earhart H'32
first woman awarded
an honorary doctorate
at Thiel College.



1938

Members of Thiel College's
Amelia Earhart Foundation meet
with First Lady **Eleanor Roosevelt**
and 60 prominent women of the
era including novelist Fanny Hurst
and actress Cornelia Otis Skinner.

Since leaving Columbia College, Dwyer has had an internship in Chicago and at Fox 29 in Philadelphia. Today, she is the sports anchor at WTOO, the Fox affiliate in Toledo, Ohio. She's created a program called Sport-A-Cat on which she interviews a different athlete on each program, she's the main weekend news anchor, and she's particularly proud of the fact that her station is the No. 1 in sports reporting in her market.

In two fields—broadcasting and sports—where men dominate, Dwyer is already knocking it out of the park. While a student, she received a Silver Pillar Award (the Emmy for Students), she's been nominated for an Emmy for Sports Reporting, and she's won the Edward R. Murrow Award for Broadcast Excellence in Sports Broadcasting. "I don't like to 'brag' about it, but I guess I've come a long way from TCTV!"

Successes like these are what inspired **Catherine Mott** to become a member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees. Although she never attended Thiel herself she learned about the College from her husband whose parents had attended Thiel...and she grew up in

Greenville, so naturally, she had a soft spot for her hometown college.

One of the reasons Catherine supports Thiel is because the College reaches a population where college will change a life. "Many of the students who come to Thiel are first-generation college students. They often need more support, and at Thiel they get it. The College is completely student focused. No one is ever a number at Thiel. The faculty and staff work on discovering each student's individual gifts so that they can reach their highest potential."

Catherine says that even in tough times this culture of caring prevails, and it makes her want to support Thiel even more than her alma maters.

As a successful venture capitalist, and this year's winner of the Haller Enterprise Institute's Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Catherine appreciates what it takes to forge a successful

"Many of the students who come to Thiel are first-generation college students. They often need more support, and at Thiel they get it. The College is completely student focused. No one is ever a number at Thiel. The faculty and staff work on discovering each student's individual gifts so that they can reach their highest potential."



Catherine Mott

career, so she knows what so many Thiel alumnae have accomplished ... and exactly what Thiel provided to help them on their way. Catherine is the second individual woman awarded the entrepreneur of the year award since the College began the award in 1995.

Back in 1866 when Louis and Barbara Thiel provided \$4,000 to establish the College and asked that it educate both men and women, they could have had no idea of the impact that their actions would have on the lives of so many women over the past 152 years.

1969

Connie Christy Danko '69
first woman elected senior
class president.



1970

Denise Terry '71 becomes
the first African-American
member of Chi Omega. The
Thiel College chapter fought
the national organization and
won over Terry's initiation.

1979

In her senior year,
Mary Chapin Hetrick '79
was the first woman to
be elected as president of
the Student Government
Association.

Gender issues explored by faculty and staff members

In addition to the accomplishments of our alumnae and students, faculty and staff members have been active championing women's issues.

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Liz Frombgen, Ph.D.**, hosted the Pennsylvania chapter of the American Council on Education women's network event on Sept. 25 in the Sawhill-Georgian Room. **Nicole Stokes-DuPass, Ph.D.**, associate vice president for institutional effectiveness and diversity and Professor of Sociology at Holy Family University began the discussion with an introduction to the Pennsylvania ACE.

In the spring, Thiel College was among a handful of institutions awarded an "It's on Us" grant from the Pennsylvania Office of the Governor, and as part of that grant, Psychology professors **Shannon Deets, Ph.D.**, and **Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06** attended a Title IX conference over the summer.

Assistant Professor of Political Science **Marie Courtemanche, Ph.D.**, will soon have her research on how scandals have a more detrimental effect on female candidates for elected office than on male candidates published. While political scientists have researched explanations for the dearth of women in elected office for decades, no consistent explanation has emerged. Courtemanche and her collaborators used an original experimental survey on an adult sample at the national level to examine whether gender stereotypes affect the evaluation of candidates running for office. They looked at situations where wrongdoing is alleged to explore whether evaluations are asymmetrically applied to men and women. They found that voters treated candidates differently, exhibiting a general preference for women. However, when malfeasance is alleged, women suffer greater consequences for wrongdoing under certain conditions, potentially as a result of a "backlash" effect for violating gender norms.



1988

The Thiel College women's basketball team is the College's first team to qualify for the NCAA basketball tournament.

1995

Nancy Ross Sederberg, Ph.D. '64 becomes first female academic dean at Thiel.



2000

Ruthanne Beighley, J.D. '73 is the first woman to chair the Board of Trustees, a post she held for three years.

Amelia Earhart H'32 – the first to be honored with a Thiel honorary doctorate

Back in 1932, most honorary degrees were given to men, so it was an unusual decision for a college to award one to a woman. However, Thiel had a lot of good reasons for giving Earhart an honorary degree. Her father and aunt had both attended Thiel and her grandfather was involved in the founding of the College. Most importantly, the dominant factor in Earhart's life—apart from flying—was her devotion to empowering women. The College gave an honorary Master's degree to **Margaret Ross 1875** in 1925, on the 50th anniversary of her graduation, but Earhart is the first woman at Thiel to be awarded an honorary doctorate.

Before her last flight, she told Thiel College President **Earl S. Rudisill, Ph.D.**, that she wanted to do something for Thiel College, and she was known to have said that the most satisfying recognition she received came from her father's college in the form of an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

While Earhart was unable to keep her promise to help Thiel, a group founded in her honor raised \$48,000 (\$800,000 today) to promote and strengthen women's activities and causes on campus.



“**Amelia Earhart was a historic visionary who endeavored to build a world where gender would not be a qualifier for accomplishment.** She was an innovator and made a profound impact on our nation and our College.”

~ Thiel College President Susan Traverso, Ph.D.



2015

Amy Schafer
becomes first
female Director
of Athletics.



2016

Susan Traverso, Ph.D.,
named 20th and first female
president of Thiel College.

PART OF A TEAM

Jones, just one of the guys.

By Ed Topoleski '02



Mary Jones '22 wore her Thiel College football uniform just like all the other Tomcats—a navy blue jersey with a gold No. 39 number outlined in white and tucked neatly into white pants with navy blue stripes.

Playing her trombone with the rest of the Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride at halftime of Thiel's home game against the Geneva Golden Tornadoes on the night of Saturday, Sept. 15, Jones was doing exactly what she set out to do—be a part of a team.

To say that Jones is getting the most out of her college experience is an understatement. A first-year student from Greenville, Pa., Jones is not only a member of the Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride but also a member of the Thiel College football team.

"I do think football's fun," Jones said. "I have fun on the field. I just wanted to be a part of a team. Football was something I never did. I like to try new things, and I thought this would be a great experience for me. Football camp was actually fun for me, I know a lot of players would probably disagree."

Jones thought about playing football in high school but she didn't have the time and her father, Thiel College Captain of Campus Police Tom Jones, was afraid that his 5-foot-4, 115-pound daughter would get hurt.

She instead turned her energies to physical fitness and took particular interest in boxing, Aikido and Taekwondo. She also competed in the pole vault and the 100-meter dash for her high school track & field team.

Jones was on campus during check-in day for football camp in August when she decided she wanted to be part of the team.

"It was mostly a spur of the moment thing," Jones said of her decision. "I [was working] for public safety, and I was asked to work the desk for the beginning of football camp. I saw everyone and I was like 'man, I could really try to prove myself here and be part of the team.'"

The rest, as they say, is history.

"Some guys weren't sure how it was going to be having a girl in the room," said Defensive Coordinator **Matt Arshinkoff**, who also coaches the team's defensive backs, Jones' position. "But she's been good. The guys really took to her."

It was a defensive backs meeting during camp that was a real difference-maker for Jones and her teammates, Arshinkoff said. To develop team-bonding, everyone in the room had a chance to talk about themselves and tell their story.

"She talked about what she went through in her life, and that's when she bonded with the guys," Arshinkoff said. "They bought into her at that point, and she became part of the group."

"The guys took to her and look out for her," Arshinkoff said. "She's really been a positive influence. She's taught us as much as we have taught her."

Her teammates even gave her a nickname "Little Mar," Arshinkoff said.

Jones saw playing time in a pair of junior varsity games against Saint Vincent and Geneva.

"It was really fun," she said. "I got like an adrenalin rush."

Jones is part of Thiel's cooperative Dual Degree Engineering Program (3+2) with the University of Pittsburgh.

Upon the completion of her course requirements, she will own a bachelor's degree from Thiel in binary engineering and a bachelor's degree from the University of Pittsburgh in engineering.

Jones is a member of Thiel's Dietrich Honors Institute. She is also involved with theater on campus and holds a work study job during the academic year at the Langenheim Memorial Library.

"It's not a bad thing to put yourself out there," Jones said. "If you put yourself out there in your school, people are gonna know your name, and that's a good thing."



“

"She's really been a positive influence. She's taught us as much as we have taught her."

Simonetti, Bilock, Dickason, Phillips inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame



Laura Simonetti '05, a standout in soccer, basketball and track & field, was among four new members inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame during the 38th induction ceremony on Friday, Sept. 28.

Simonetti earned 10 letter awards in three sports. She was a four-time All-PAC selection in soccer, including a First Team selection in 2001 and a pair of Second Team nods in 2002 and 2003. Simonetti is Thiel's career leader in assists (25). She ranks second in program history in points (71) and third in goals (23). Her 11 assists in 2003, her junior season, are the most in school history in a single season.

During her three-year basketball career, Simonetti scored 273 points while corralling 151 rebounds. She handed out 74 assists and came up with 70 steals. She also earned three letters in track & field, including in 2003 when she finished third in the long jump and triple jump at the PAC Championships.



Athletic Hall of Fame inductees: **Tom Phillips '70, John Dickason, Laura Simonetti '05 and Beau Bilock '01.**

Beau Bilock '01, John Dickason a longtime coach, administrator and faculty member, and **Tom Phillips '70** were also inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 28.

A four-year letter winner and two-year captain in baseball, Bilock was a two-time All-Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) honoree including first team accolades following his senior season in 2001. He owned a career batting average of .321 and tallied 118 hits during his four seasons. Fifty-one of his hits were for extra bases, including 31 doubles, 11 triples and nine home runs. Bilock's career slugging percentage was .421, and got on base at a .385 clip. He scored 75 runs during his career and recorded 72 RBIs.

Bilock was among the best hitters in the nation during his senior season in 2001. Among his NCAA Division III peers, Bilock ranked second in triples per game (.26), tied for 10th in doubles per game (.51) and finished 11th in slugging percentage (.843). Bilock hit .411 (56-127) in 2001, which ranked 41st-best in Division III.

An All-PAC First Team selection in 2001, Bilock went on to be named to the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III South All-Star Second Team. He was also an American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA)/Rawlings NCAA Division III All-Mideast Region Honorable Mention selection.

Dickason's career at Thiel College spanned more than three decades from 1969 through 2004. He was an associate professor of health and physical education from 1969 until his retirement in 2004, and he served two six-year stints as the director of athletics during the 1980s and 1990s.

Dickason coached several sports during his career at Thiel. He was an assistant football coach from 1969 through 1984 and helped the Tomcats win the PAC championship in 1972. He was the head men's basketball coach for five seasons (1975-80) and was the head men's tennis coach for three seasons (1980-82).

From 1985 through 2004, Dickason served as Thiel's head golf coach. He coached **Bill Wadrose '01**, a Hermitage, Pa. native, who was the PAC MVP in 2000 after earning medalist honors at the conference championships.

A native of Oberlin, Ohio, Dickason served as Thiel's associate dean of students from 1988-91 and was the treasurer for the PAC from 1984-2006. He was also involved with the PAC and Thiel Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Prior to arriving at Thiel, Dickason was a teacher and coach at Boardman High School (1963-69). He earned a bachelor's degree (1961) and a master's degree (1963) in physical education from Ohio University.

Dickason was his senior class president at Ohio University, and he was a starter at halfback and safety on the Bobcats' 1960 NCAA College Division championship football team. A three-time letter winner, he went on to win Ohio University's Senior Athlete of the Year Award (1960-61). The 1960 football team became the first team to be enshrined in the Kermit Blosser Ohio University Athletics Hall of Fame (2012).

Phillips quarterbacked the Tomcats for two seasons, including in 1967 when the team won its first Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) championship. He completed 31 passes, six of which were touchdown throws, for 366 yards in 1967. He also ran for 132 yards and scored two touchdowns on 72 carries.

Efficient is perhaps the best way to describe Phillips' play back in the late 1960s when the team only played eight games per season and power football still dominated the sport. Phillips threw 19 career touchdown passes, which ties him for the sixth most in program history, and his 112.3 career pass efficiency rating also ranks sixth in program history.

In 1968, Phillips owned a pass efficiency rating of 137.4, third best in program single-season history, and completed 53.2 percent of his passes, which ranks 11th in team history.

Phillips joins a long list of hall of famers who played on the 1967 championship football team.

Batt, Speicher, Corradi, Grice receive special recognition

By Ed Topoleski '02

Mark Batt '87, Rick Speicher '74, A.J. Corradi '18 and Nick Grice '18 received special awards at the 38th Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, which took place Friday, Sept. 28.

Batt received the Athletic Alumni Commendation Award, presented to a former Thiel student-athlete who has been an outstanding role model for youth and has made a significant contribution to the community through the venue of athletics.

A 1983 graduate of St. Mary's of Lancaster (N.Y.), Batt graduated from Thiel in 1987 with degrees in psychology and sociology.

A four-year member of Thiel's basketball team, Batt was a two-time All-PAC Honorable Mention selection (1985-86, 1986-87). He finished his collegiate career with 599 points, 241 assists, 100 rebounds and 84 steals.

Batt has coached basketball in Greenville and the surrounding community since 1990, including a stint at Thiel. He served two terms as the head coach for Greenville High School's boys basketball team. The Trojans won 75 games over his last four years as head coach, won two District 10 championships and made

three consecutive P.I.A.A. playoff appearances. In 2018, the Trojans won two state playoff games before falling in the quarterfinals in double-overtime to Lancaster-Mennonite.

Speicher received the Meritorious Service and Commitment Award, presented to recognize managers, trainers and other deserving individuals associated with Thiel College Athletics.

A graduate of Ferndale Area high School and a native of Johnstown, Pa., Speicher graduated from Thiel

in 1974 with a degree in business administration and a minor in economics. Speicher served as Thiel's basketball team manager all four years of his career at Thiel and was also a one-year member of the track & field team.

Speicher has been a P.I.A.A. referee and umpire since 1980 and was a radio broadcaster for Greater Johnstown High School sports on WCRO for 14 years. A lay minister at United Methodist Church in Johnstown, Speicher has also volunteered with several other organizations.



Mark Batt '87 and Don Achenbach '77.



Rick Speicher '74 and Don Achenbach '77.

Corradi and Grice were the recipients of the J. Lynn Trimble and Charles Evanoff Awards, which are given to a male and female athlete from the previous year's senior class who, in the judgment of the coaches, best demonstrated qualities of scholarship, leadership, character and sportsmanship in addition to participation in athletics. The Charles Evanoff Award is named after Thiel College Athletic Hall of Fame wrestler and football player **Charles Evanoff '64**. The J. Lynn Trimble Award is named after former Thiel volleyball and softball coach J. Lynn Trimble.

Corradi was a four-year starter and three-year captain for Thiel's softball team. A three-time All-PAC honoree, including First Team accolades in 2018, she collected 135 career hits, the eighth-most in program history. A career .323 hitter, she recorded 29 career doubles, the fourth-most in school history.

Corradi was named to the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District 4 First Team in May. A native of Youngstown, Ohio, Corradi is a graduate of Austintown Fitch High School.

A double major in biology and psychology, Corradi finished her collegiate career with a 3.88 grade-point average. She graduated summa cum laude and received the Dean's Key at graduation as an eight-semester Dean's List student.

She is a member of the following honors societies: Beta Beta Beta (biology), Psi Chi (psychology), Chi Alpha Sigma (college athletics), Lambda Sigma (sophomores), Les Lauriers (service) and Sigma Alpha Pi (leadership and success). A member of Sigma Kappa sorority, Corradi was a member of Thiel's Dietrich Honors Institute and was involved with the Health Professions Institute and Goal-Oriented Leadership Development.

Corradi is currently continuing her education at Youngstown State University where she is pursuing an advanced degree in physical therapy.

A four-year member of Thiel's baseball team, Grice served as team captain during the 2018 season and was a 2017 All-PAC Second Team selection.

A native of McKeesport, Pa., he is a graduate of McKeesport High School. A neuroscience major, he earned minors in biochemistry, chemistry and medical biology. He maintained a 3.78 grade-point average and graduated magna cum laude. He also received the Dean's Key at graduation after qualifying for the Dean's List each of his eight semesters.

Grice qualified for the PAC Academic Honor Roll three times. A member of Thiel's Dietrich Honors Institute, he is a member of the following honors societies: Beta Beta Beta (biology), Nu Rho Psi (neuroscience), Chi Alpha Sigma (college athletics), and Sigma Alpha Pi (leadership and success).

Grice was a career .309 hitter (109-of-354). He collected 47 career RBIs and 26 doubles. He also owned a career slugging percentage of .397 and an on-base percentage of .375.

Grice is currently pursuing a master's degree in biomedical sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and eventually plans to attend medical school to become a neurologist.



A.J. Corradi '18 and Don Achenbach '77.



Nick Grice '18 and Don Achenbach '77.

Department of Athletics adds two full-time head coaches



CARISSA EICHMEYER



GABRIELE EABORN

The Department of Athletics added two new full-time head coaches this fall. **Carissa Eichmeyer** was hired in August to lead men's and women's cross country, as well as serve as the distance coach for men's and women's track & field. **Gabriele Eaborn** arrived at Thiel in September to serve as head coach for men's and women's tennis.

Eichmeyer is Thiel's first head coach dedicated specifically to cross country and distance running since the late 2000s. Eaborn is the first head coach solely focused on coaching men's and women's tennis since 2013.

"I am extremely excited to be able to offer these two new full-time positions and fortunate that we were able to hire two highly qualified coaches," said Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer**. "These staff additions will not only help in recruitment, but also in the daily lives of our student-athletes as they strive to do their best in their chosen sports and in the classroom."

Eichmeyer has seven years of collegiate coaching experience. She spent the last three years as the assistant cross country and track & field coach at National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) member school Hannibal-LaGrange University, her alma mater. During her time coaching at Hannibal-LaGrange, Eichmeyer coached 15 school-record breakers, including six individual American Midwest Conference (AMC) champions.

"These staff additions will not only help in recruitment, but also in the daily lives of our student-athletes as they strive to do their best in their chosen sports and in the classroom."

Eichmeyer also served Hannibal-LaGrange as Director of the Mabee Sports Complex since August 2017, as well as an adjunct professor of Exercise Science since August 2016.

Prior to coaching at Hannibal-LaGrange, Eichmeyer spent four years at Eastern Mennonite University as the assistant cross country and track & field coach. At EMU, Eichmeyer mentored three Old Dominion Athletic Conference (ODAC) individual champions.

Eichmeyer is USA Track & Field Level I Certified and World Throws Coach Certified. She earned a bachelor's degree in physical education/health from Hannibal-LaGrange University in 2011 before completing a master's degree in sports management from Liberty University in 2016.

Eaborn served as a tennis instructor at Valley Brook Swim and Tennis Club, as assistant coach at Montour High School and as a youth instructor at North Fayette Tennis Program before arriving at Thiel.

A recent graduate of Westminster College, Eaborn was a four-year letter winner for the Titans. She collected more than 100 career victories and was part of two Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) championship teams. A three-time All-PAC honoree, she earned First Team honors as a freshman and junior.





— 1950s —

Thomas Guinn '50 and his brother **Roy Guinn '51** celebrated their 65th anniversary of ordination as Lutheran pastors this year. The photo shows Tom and Roy officiating at the wedding of Tom's granddaughter and the baptism of Tom's great-granddaughter. The ceremony was held on June 16, 2018 at Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Edward J. Kroen '52 has retired. He served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, flying 150 combat missions in Vietnam and spending three years in Japan. He also taught high school math for 20 years. He has visited 67 countries and taken 60 ocean cruises and 25 river barge trips. He enjoys spending time with his five children and five grandchildren. He resides in Satellite Beach, Fla.

— 1960s —

Henry C. Mixsell '68 has retired after 50 years of teaching in independent schools from Labrador, Canada to Washington, Conn.; Sewickley, Pa. back to Washington, Conn., then to New Haven and Hamden, Conn., and finishing at Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Greenfield, Mass., where his wife was Head of School for 10 years. They have moved back to Hamden and are near family and old friends. He is looking forward to continuing to fine-tune his photography skills and sing once again with the Salt & Pepper Gospel Singers in New Haven in between trips within the states and Europe. He is sorry he wasn't able to come to the 50th reunion, but will try to attend Homecoming in 2019.

— 1970s —

Dan MacLea '78 has retired. He was a Spanish major at Thiel and spent 10 years in broadcast media and 22 years in law enforcement. He resides in Houston, Texas.

— 1980s —

Sherwood F. (Freeman) Anders '83 and her husband, **Bob**, share that Bob retired as a brewer at Anchor Brewing in 2007, and she left her job as a marketing manager at Cupertino Electric. For the past 11 years, they have been dividing their time between California and Akumal, Quintan Roo, Mexico, which is about 60 miles south of Cancun. They drive back and forth with rescued dogs. They are all from the Akumal area. They call them beach mutts. They have two—Mambo, a golden retriever mix, and Marysol, whom they call a weagle—wiener dog and beagle. They also have four rescued jungle cats—Miska, Juba, Peanut and Mango. In 2017, Sherwood established a 501c3 nonprofit organization called beachmutts.org. Its mission is to raise awareness, education, sponsorship and funding for animal welfare organizations in the U.S. and Mexico. One of its main focuses is to provide free and low-cost spay/neuter services to the pets of the local residents in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. Beachmutts.org partners with Coco's Animal Welfare in Playa del Carmen and will be helping to sponsor a free spay/neuter clinic. They reside in Oceanside, Calif.





Thiel College graduate **Mark Batt '87** is the new Director of The Thiel Fund. Batt began Sept. 10. He directs the annual fund, which raises money for areas

of the greatest need and scholarship at the College. He will strengthen the fundraising link between the College and its alumni, friends, campus family members, parents, businesses and corporations and creates and executes the Annual Fund solicitation process, which includes planning direct mail campaigns, leading phonathons and conducting personal visits. Additionally, he will manage donor cultivation and contributor recognition.



Four former and the current Chair of the Thiel College Board of Trustees were on campus on Nov. 2 for board meetings. Pictured (L-R) **Edward A. Bartko '72 H'16**, **Dr. Roy Strausbaugh H'14**, new Chair **John Hudson**, President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, **Mark Benninghoff '82** and outgoing chair **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**.

— 2000s —

Mandy Lynn (Bulfone) Anderson '00 is a clinical director at George Junior Republic. Mandy, her husband, **Kristoffer** and their children, **Drake** and **Kade**, reside in Grove City, Pa.



Melissa A. (Fleeger) Helfer '02 was ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament on May 19, 2018. She serves as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Westminster, Md. She resides with her husband, **Donald**, and their children, **Madalyn** and **Isaac**, in Taneytown, Md.

Shelby S. (Spence) Fletcher '06 has accepted a job teaching high school English. She and her husband, **Ryan**, currently live in East Lansing, Mich.

Ronald C. Anderson, Ph.D. '07 is an Assistant Professor of Math and Computer Science at Thiel College. He successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation in electrical engineering at Texas Tech University. He graduated from Texas Tech University on August 11, 2018 and resides in Conneaut, Ohio.



Angela M. (Lia) Vogan '08 and her husband, **Rob**, live in Pickerington, Ohio with their son, **Camden**.

Danielle R. Reger Hoge '09 is a teacher with Hempfield Area School District. She and her husband, **Brian**, reside in Greensburg, Pa. with their son, **Maddox**.

— 2010s —

Kelly J. Sanzari '13 recently accepted the position of Director of Alumni Relations at Geneva College. She resides in Presto, Pa.

Elizabeth A. (Sitko) Stryffeler '10 is a project manager for Fannie Mae. She and her husband, **David '09**, reside in Youngstown, Ohio.

Robert Carpenter '17 was recently accepted as a graduate assistant at Westminster College in the Office of Institutional Advancement. He is responsible for student philanthropy as well as the student call center. He is pursuing a Master's degree in guidance counseling.

– marriages –



Megan (Kay) Wagner '12 married **Jeremiah Wagner '10** on June 23, 2018.

Rebecca (Campbell) Dougherty '16 married **Kyle Dougherty '15** on June 16, 2018. Many of their Sigma Kappa sisters and Delta Sigma Phi brothers were in attendance.



Cassie M. (Graham) Thomas '15 married **Ryan Thomas '15** on June 2, 2018 in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. Also, in attendance were Thiel alumnae **Tiffany Rohm '17**, **Julie Holler '16**, **Lizzie Crytzer '16**. Thiel alumni **Steve Morgan '15** and **Andrew Thomas '16** also attended the ceremony. Cassie is a biology lab instructor at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and Ryan is a licensed relationship banker at Citizens Bank in Latrobe, Pa. The couple resides in Greensburg, Pa.

Kara (Bussard) Russo '16 married **Nico Russo '16** in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel on June 16, 2018. Her bridesmaids were Kristen Bilby (maid of honor), **Victoria Foeks '16**, **Nicole Johnston '16**, **Alexis DeMott '18**, Ashley Gibson, and Courtney Cook. The groomsmen were **Gino Russo '19** (best man), **Joel Bussard '09**, **Sean Oros '15**, Cody Dargo, **Sam Sesti '18** and Andy Pavia. They also celebrated with many brothers and sisters from Kappa Sigma and Chi Omega as well as their family and friends. Nico is the district executive with the Boy Scouts of America. The couple resides in Ambridge, Pa.



– births –

Ella Michaelsen '06 welcomed a daughter, **Ella**, on January 30, 2018. Michaelsen has always gone by the name Greta and named the baby Ella. They reside in Falls Church, Va.



– gatherings –

Jane Ross-Stempel '70 visited Thiel College this summer and relayed tales of a recent Thiel alumnae gathering in Avalon, N.J. that included **Nancy (Lanier) Matson '71, Linda (Baynard) Hoover '69, Jo (Spiker) Devlin '70, Carol Sue Carlson-Jones '70, Cindy (Nelson) Skendall '71, Marnie (Gill) Joseph '70, Jane Ross-Stempel '70** and **Chris (Olsen) Snyder '70**.

Alpha Xi Delta sorority held a reunion on April 13-15 at Oglebay Park, W.Va. Some of the sisters had not seen each other since graduation! They had so much fun. They picked a date for another reunion next year.

Pictured are front row (L-R): **Kate Albright '80, Cheryl Ann (Voorhees) Sorbello '81, Bonnie (Wells) Bonner '80, Kelly (DeLaat) Gheres '82, Deb (Deaunovich) Madurski '82, Bev (Wright) Miller '79**; back row: **Mary (Cypher) Toalston '79, Barb (Mangine) Evanoff '80, Bobi (Drost) Cestoni '81, Shirley (Boucher) Gamble '80, Gayle (Phillips) Smith '81, Melissa (Pfundler) Landis '79, and Gail (Cassady) Steelman '82**.

They also video conference called with three sisters who were under the weather and were unable to attend: **Anne (Wilson) Hemmingway '80, Mert (Erhard) Hellein '78** and **Ginger (Rex) Weaver '80**.



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*Please contact
the Office of Alumni
Relations at
alumni@thiel.edu*

Eighty-two alumni from 1958-2017 and 20 active members of Thiel College's Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity attended the 70th anniversary celebration dinner held Saturday, Nov. 3 in the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector.



President of the alumni charter **Ryan Prescott '12** spoke during the dinner.

Former Chair of the Thiel College Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**, Sigma Phi Epsilon District Governor **Dr. Ron Binder** and member of the Board of Trustees **Paul Runge '70** were among the attendees.



– in memoriam –

A REMEMBRANCE OF ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED.

Carol Armour	James S. Holton '68	Kayla Nassan
Joan C. Aubel	J. Scott Horrell '71	Janice E. Painter '63
Robert H. Baker H'12	Eleanor Jamison	Lawrence A. Pfaff
Janis (Hackmann) Beall '72	Christopher Jayne	Nina (Braunger) Pratt '49
Nila A. (Kaufman) Beaver '47	Jeremy "Jer" L. Jewell '06	Loretta (Jane Urban) Richards '50
Norma Beckdol	Joanne Greer Keller '49	Philip E. Richards '57
Judy A. Carlson	Shirley Knapp	Patricia Rhodes Rozelle '47
D. Robert Christy '56	Katherine Ann (Custer) Koelkebeck '64	John H. Schueltz '49
William L. Egbert	John Lowry	Ralph E. Sechriest '58
Sarah Eutsey	William R. McWhirter	Jean V. Smart
Michael I. Frangoulis '76	Eleanor Merrow	Douglas Spurlock
Mary Ann (Weicksel) Fultz '47	Joan M. Miller Mezoff '48	Jennifer Lynn Thein '05
Shirley J. Graham	Norma J. (McCurdy) Miller '53	Stanley E. Wasilowski
Jerry Grimm	Janet Moats	George Wasser '48
Jean C. (Crawford) Harnett '53	Carolyn A. Moore '61	Joseph Werlinich '53 H'08
Sharon Harvey	Virginia B. (Burt) Morgan	Marguerite G. (Heise) Werner '48
Margaret Haworth	Mary M. Moss	John C. Wilson
Bryan Joseph Henlen	Samuel C. Mullin '52	Barbara J. (Wasser) Yewell '43



Duquesne hosted symposium in memory of alumnus Madura

The American Chemical Society Graduate Student Symposium Planning Committee selected Duquesne University to host its fall 2018 symposium entitled "Frontiers of Computational Chemistry: Bridging the Gap Between Theory and Experiment – A Symposium in Memory of Dr. Jeffrey D. Madura."

The students applied to host the symposium because of the support of **Jeffry Madura, Ph.D. '80** and his encouragement for them to develop leadership qualities. The students invited distinguished and respected scientists to present their work and had an overwhelming response from researchers who wanted to honor Madura's legacy. The symposium was in Boston in August.

Madura passed away March 14, 2017. He was a 1980 graduate of Thiel College and received his Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Purdue University. He joined Duquesne in 1998 and rose to the rank of professor. Jeffrey is the son of **Bonnie Madura** who worked in Thiel College's Langenheim Memorial Library.

Barbara Thiel set the standard for women's impact at Thiel College

By John Hauser '71



Leading up to this Final Word you have read about many of the recent alumnae who have had an impact, and it is important to note, there might not have been a Thiel College if it hadn't been for **Barbara Thiel**. As **Dr. Roy H. Johnson H'69** wrote in his "History of Thiel College," Louis Thiel had purchased shares in the Columbia Oil Company and vowed to tithe any earnings from this stock 'to the interests of His Holy Kingdom.' As Dr. Johnson relates on page 5:

Then came the great news—oil had been struck in the Titusville area. Soon a broker offered \$10,000 for the stock. A. Louis Thiel readily signed, but in Mrs. Thiel...they met with unconquerable opposition. Mrs. Thiel was a sagacious woman, and from the broker's anxiety, concluded he was trying to get the better of them." In a few months the stock was worth more than \$40,000.

Thiel Hall began in 1866 as a co-educational academy. When its charter as a college was received in 1870, Thiel College admitted co-eds. While the first class to graduate in 1874 consisted of six men, the Class of 1875 included four women among the eight graduates. By our 65th anniversary in 1931, of the 805 who had been graduated by the College, 304 were women, almost 40 percent of the total.

Following are some of the 'firsts' for women at Thiel:

- The first woman to hold a faculty position was **Annie Downing**, who taught English at the academy in the 1869-70 school year as well as being the head of the Academy boarding hall from 1868-1871 when the College moved to Greenville. Women started teaching in the music conservatory beginning in 1877, but it wasn't until 1890 that **Emma Kaehler** was hired to be a professor of German and taught a course required of all students (German) from 1890-1893. Today, 26 of our 61 full-time faculty members are women.
- The position of Dean of Women was added to the administration in 1907. The most well-known woman to hold this position was **Ella Grace Hunton 1900 H'45**, who served from 1922-1944, as well as teaching Spanish and

Latin from 1922-1955. She is also known as the author of the Thiel Alma Mater and had a residence hall named for her in 1956. Two other residence halls, Florence West Hall (opened in 1966) and Elizabeth Stewart Hall (opened in 1968) recognize women who have had a significant impact upon our institution.

- Academic Deans at Thiel were traditionally male until **Dr. Nancy Ross Sederberg '64** assumed that role in January 1995. Today, **Liz Frombgen, Ph.D.**, serves as Dean of the College and Vice President for Academic Affairs, the third woman to hold that post. She succeeded **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.**, who was Vice President of Academic Affairs from 2010 until 2017.
- The Lutheran church did not ordain women until 1970 and it was another 22 years before Thiel had its first female campus pastor: **Dr. Christine Blice-Baum**, the first of three women to hold that position. Our current pastor, **Jayne Thompson**, was appointed in 2015.
- It took more than a century for a woman to hold the office of senior class president. **Connie Christy Danko '69**, who later became a member of the Thiel Board of Trustees, was elected president of the Class of 1969. In her senior year, **Mary Chapin Hetrick '79** was the first woman to be elected as president of the Student Government Association.
- In 1925, Thiel awarded an honorary Master of Arts degree to **Margaret Ross 1875** (the first class to admit women). **Amelia Earhart H'32** was the first to receive an honorary doctorate when she received the Doctor of Science degree in 1932.
- **Eleanora Demmler**, of Evans City, broke the gender barrier in 1926 when she joined the Board of Trustees. Today six Board members are women. In 2000, **Ruthanne Beighley, J.D. '73** was the first to chair the Board of Trustees, a post she held for three years.

All of these "firsts" paved the way for **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, to become president in 2016. I am convinced that her predecessors, upon meeting her, would agree that it was about time!



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Save the date 2019 Events

Founders' Day
Feb. 7

Honors Convocation
Feb. 8

Con Spirito Concert: Dorian Wind Quintet
March 21

145th Commencement Exercises
May 5

