

The Bell



YEAR-ROUND CAMPUS

Graduate students, summer programming create four seasons of community engagement



The Memorial Bell

Bob Phillips '08 rings The Memorial Bell announcing the call for Opening Convocation.

*The Memorial Bell is in recognition of James Gabagen, son of Jim '60
and Chris (Brayshaw) Gabagen Mong '63, who died at the age of 10.*



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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,

This year's Homecoming was the largest ever. Alumni and friends from across the country returned to campus for a beautiful October weekend, while others from around the world joined the celebration remotely.



Highlights from Homecoming included the induction of the 2005 football team into the Athletic Hall of Fame; the dedication of the President's residence as the Heitzenroder House; the groundbreaking of the gateway to the Barry '70 and Carol (Yeager) '71 Stamm Track & Field Complex; the naming of the College archives for John Hauser '71, H'20; along with the return of other traditional events and gatherings. Homecoming was also an opportunity to celebrate two 50th-year reunions, with the Class of 1970's celebration delayed one year but joyous, nevertheless. About 60 members of the Class of 1971 joined Homecoming. Together they raised \$112,500—the largest class gift in the history of the school—to improve and preserve the upper-campus Quad, an important gathering and event space for students and alumni, alike.

The enthusiasm on campus this fall will continue into the spring semester with several important campus events, including the dedication of the renovated Rhodehouse Science Building, Founders' Day, Academic Honors Convocation and Commencement. In the past, the weeks following Commencement served as a quieter time on campus with occasional events, visitors and building projects, but with the addition of five graduate programs, staff-led camps and clinics and a more robust event schedule, the College is transforming from a fall/spring campus to a four-season home for academics and activities. When the next group of graduate students arrives this coming summer, we will welcome the first students in our newest master's degree program in clinical mental health counseling.

This program joins business administration, communication and leadership, physician assistant studies and speech-language pathology. In his Final Word, Hauser reminds us that the College has always had activities during the summer months; however, the new graduate programs and a year-round academic calendar are setting the College on a new path of educational vitality. As the College continues to innovate, our commitment to educational excellence and ethical leadership will remain central to Thiel's mission. Balancing the need to evolve with cherished traditions and values, the College will continue to thrive.

Go Tomcats!

Susan Traverso
Susan Traverso, Ph.D.

President of Thiel College

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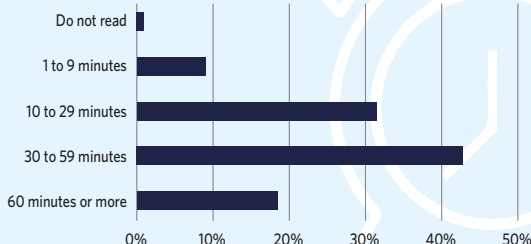
On the Cover

In popular culture, the collegiate academic year is thought of as a fall to spring arrangement. And for many years, with a few notable exceptions, that was the ebb-and-flow of things at Thiel College—quiet summers followed by the burst of energy and excitement each fall. For this issue, we explore how the growth of graduate programs, increased summer programming and a more robust event schedule have created a year-round academic calendar at the College.

Readership Insights

Last year, we asked the readers of *The Bell* to complete a survey. Here are some of the findings.

How much time do you typically spend with an issue of *The Bell*?



Print is still king!
 73.2% of the 516 respondents said they preferred reading the print edition.

Checking in on classmates
 Class Notes has the highest interest rating with 60.9% of respondents saying they were 'very interested' in that element of *The Bell*.

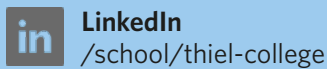
Thank you to all the readers who took time to submit a survey and provide valuable feedback, praise and constructive criticism. As we continue to refine and improve the magazine, we will use that feedback to guide us through future editions.

Social Season

Thiel College's social media channels were busy showcasing the arrivals and summer activities that were happening in and around campus. Many of the events were focused on the arrival of graduate students, including the first group of physician assistant studies students, but others highlighted things like the communication and leadership students' work in the community garden.



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 Ave., Greenville, PA 16125**; or emailed to **pr@thiel.edu**. Letters accepted for publication may be edited for length and clarity.

— faculty & staff news —

Abalos named Director of Nursing Program

Sarahbeth Abalos, Ph.D. was named the director of the new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program that began in Fall 2021.



“It is an honor and a privilege to have been chosen as the director and to have the opportunity to re-establish the tradition of nursing at the College,” Abalos said. “I am looking forward to sharing my passion for nursing with the students by providing nursing education that is focused on meeting the diverse needs of our local community and beyond.”

Students in the program are admitted to both the College’s Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and Sharon Regional’s Registered Nurse program.

Snyder named Library Director

Tressa Snyder was named the Director of the Langenheim Memorial Library this summer. “I am truly honored to be leading the library into the future, building active partnerships across campus, and improving access and services to the campus community,” said Snyder.



Arbogast appointed VP for Finance and Administration

Amy Arbogast was appointed Vice President for Finance and Administration this past summer. Arbogast is a member of the President’s Cabinet and is



Alumnus leads conversation on race and justice

Robert Crutchfield, Ph.D. '71, a Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of Washington, delivered a Common Hour lecture “Race and Justice: Black Lives Matter?”

Crutchfield received his bachelor’s degree from Thiel College in 1971 before continuing his education at

Vanderbilt University where he earned his master’s and doctoral degrees.

Crutchfield showed through the use of statistical information and sociological studies the disparities between minority populations and the overall population.

Watch the presentation <https://bit.ly/ThielCrutchfieldPresentation>

the College’s chief financial and administrative officer.

Lippert chosen to participate in art seminar

Professor of Art and Western Humanities **Ellen Lippert, Ph.D.** participated in the 2021 Council of Independent College’s seminar “Materiality, Knowledge, and Art in the Early Modern Globe, 1350-1650.”



“This seminar was of particular interest to me since I’ve been wanting to incorporate Thiel’s art collection into my art history and humanities classes,” said Lippert. “I think working with artifacts hands-on, rather than just reading about them in a text or visiting in a museum, will help

students to consider them as objects in their world.”

Branch-Trevathan selected a top honors professional

Assistant Professor of Religion and Department Chair **George Branch-Trevathan, Ph. D.** was awarded the Northeast Regional Honors Conference 2021 Honors Professional of the Year Award in the Faculty Category.



To qualify for this recognition, the honors professional must continually demonstrate a dedication to honors education at his/her honors program/college. Winners are passionate about honors, an advocate for students and embody the values of his/her honors program/college.

— *student news* —**Sanders awarded full scholarship from ELCA**

Makenna Sanders '21 was awarded the Fund for Leaders full-tuition scholarship from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to be used at any of the eight affiliated seminaries in the United States. He began attending Pacific Lutheran Theological in May after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the College.

**First-years, faculty, and staff collect three tons of food**

The College's third annual community service and learning project for first-year students collected and distributed more than 6,000 pounds of non-perishable food items for food pantries at the Good Shepherd Center and the Salvation Army during Welcome Weekend at the start of the semester.

Deckinger participates in regenerative medicine program

Katrina Deckinger '22, a biochemistry major, participated in the University of Pittsburgh McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine summer school program during summer break.

Undergraduate students who take part in the Institute's summer school program learn about regenerative medicine and become engaged in research at the University of Pittsburgh.

Campbell takes part in ACLU program

Meadow Campbell '24, a political science and public policy major, was selected to participate in the American Civil Liberties Union National Advocacy Institute College and Community Program held virtually this summer.

"I was enthusiastic to join the ACLU for a second time to deepen my knowledge on policy," Campbell said. Campbell previously participated in the ACLU's Institute for high school students.

**First nursing students in nearly 20 years receive white coats**

As part of Thiel College's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, the first class of nursing students since 2002 participated in their white coat ceremony this fall.

"As the inaugural director of the Nursing Program at Thiel College, I am delighted to announce the B.S.N. Class of 2025," Program Director **Sarahbeth Abalos, Ph.D.** said. "The students are a diverse and exceptional group who display academic excellence and possess the core values of nursing. The program is committed to emphasizing the social mandate of nursing to prepare the students to address the region's unique needs and advance the population's health."

See the complete inaugural class at
<https://bit.ly/thielnursingstudents>

**State, Greenville recognize Phi**

The Phi Theta Phi fraternity recently received a proclamation from Evan Hereford, mayor of the Town of Greenville, and citations from the region's three state legislators recognizing the organization's fundraising efforts for Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh through its annual 100-mile walk to Pittsburgh.

The mayoral proclamation, received by president **John Ganiear '22** on behalf of the fraternity, declares the week of November 29 to December 4, 2021, to be the "Phi Theta Phi Walk-A-Thon Days" in Greenville.

**Kappa Sigma holds 2nd 9/11 stair walk**

The Kappa Sigma fraternity hosted a symbolic walk at Greenville's Plimpton Graul Amphitheater in Riverside Park in memory of the first responders who perished in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Participants walked 13-and-a-half laps around the amphitheater to symbolize the 4,452 steps emergency personnel ascended to rescue those trapped in the World Trade Center towers. **Brian Albaugh** and **Steve Thompson** represented the Greenville Fire Department at the event as well as **Alex Martin '24**, a volunteer fireman at Hempfield Fire Department.

One big celebration

Thiel community gathers for largest Homecoming ever

Members of graduating classes spanning 66 years were among the attendees celebrating the largest of the 107 Homecomings in school history, Director of Alumni Relations **David Hummel '83** said.

Members from the classes of 1957 to 2023 and alumni from 23 states were among the approximately 1,000 people in Greenville for Homecoming in the first weekend of October.

The dedication of the President's residence as the Heitzenroder House as well as dedications of the entrance to the Stamm Track & Field Complex and Class of 1971 Quad were celebrated as were the return of the parade, which followed a new route along Eagle Street in the Town of Greenville before ending in front of campus.



Barry Stamm, M.D. '70 and **Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71** are joined by The Thiel College cheer team. They were on hand for the dedication of the entryway at the Stamm Track & Field Complex.



The 2021 Homecoming Court from left to right, **Deanthony Pendleton '25**, **Hannah Stoughton '25**, **Austin Siko '24**, **Emily Irons '24**, **Donald Pattison '23**, **Abriana Forsythe '23**, with king **Charlie Lichtenwalter '22** and queen **Morgan Costello '22**.



Wendy (Gustavson) Heitzenroder '70 and **Rev. Dr. Frederick Heitzenroder '70** were on hand for a dedication to recognize that the President's residence on 40 Eagle Street will be known as the Heitzenroder House.



Go to **Thiel College's YouTube channel** to watch the Alumni Awards ceremony, the Stamm Track & Field Gateway dedication, the Service of Remembrance and the World Wide Zoom Event.



Members of the Class of 1971 gather on the Quad following the ceremony where they donated \$112,500 to the College to name the area the Class of 1971 Quad. Planned improvements include paved areas, landscaping and an irrigation system for the Quad.

Class of '71 presents largest class gift in school history to renovate and preserve the Quad

The Class of 1971 donated \$112,500 to Thiel College to create an outdoor gathering space on campus that will improve and maintain the Class of 1971 Quad for student and community use.

“What really got us ultimately excited was the fact that the

administration said that typically, what was something in the neighborhood of a \$20,000 to \$25,000 gift...we said, ‘we should do something bolder,’” said **John Zawacki '71**, a former president of the class and a former member of the Board of Trustees.



President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, **John Hauser '71, H'20** and Library Director **Tressa Snyder** hold up a banner during the announcement that the Thiel College Archives have been named in honor of Hauser.



Members of the Class of 1970 celebrated at the traditional 50th reunion breakfast on Saturday. The annual event was put off a year due to Covid. Bottom row (left to right) **Charlene (Halsey) Lambert '70**, **Christine (Olson) Snyder '70**, **CarolSue (Carlson) Jones '70**, **Jane (Ross) Stemple '70**; Second row **Paul Steffens '70**, **Barry Stamm '70**, **Jackie (Craig) Abrams '70**, **Marnie Gill-Joseph '70**, **Jean (Riddle) Clark '70**; Third row **Jon Mills '70**, **John Schultz '70**, **John Barr '70**, **Jo (Spiker) Devlin '70**, **Harvey McGowan '70**; Top row **Doug Bohman '70**, **Gary Weddle '70**, **Cary Lambert '70**, **Paul Runge '70**.

WILD WITH PRIDE





9



10



11



12

1. **Aniya King '25** was all smiles during the parade.
2. **Reagan Hayne '24, Mei Williams '23, Emily Peters '25, Payton Blankenbeckley '24 and Izzy Iliev '24** showed off their Wild with Pride fashion sense during the football game.
3. The Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride were stars of the parade.
4. The egg toss was among the popular student pep rally activities on the Friday night of Homecoming weekend.
5. Alumni toured the renovated spaces at Stewart Hall after the dedication of the entryway to the Barry and Carol Stamm Track & Field Complex.
6. **Charlie Lichtenwalter '22** celebrates his Homecoming king win.
7. From left to right alumni award recipients: **David Saur '11, Damon Dohar '92, Cindy Farrell '77, Andy Crago '71, John Barr '71, and Kevin Hart '86** pose with their alumni award certificates. **Danielle Dwyer '11** was also an alumni award winner but was unable to attend the awards luncheon.
8. (Left to right) **Devin Christian '23, Alrick AJ Francis '22, Marvin Prentice '71 and Damen Taylor '95** were among the attendees at the Organization of Black Collegiates cookout during the Homecoming football game.
9. **Megan Diggans '23** and Tito the cat (maybe a distant cousin to Tommy) enjoy the cat-friendly spirit of Homecoming.
10. **Andy Crago '71, Marvin Prentice '71, Brad Hughes '71 and Robert Crutchfield, Ph.D. '71** pause for a photo at the Stamm Track & Field Complex.
11. Bobo the horse returned to the parade for a third year, playing a character from *Where the Wild Things Are*.
12. Alumni gather in front of the Alpha Xi Delta house before the parade.

New scholarship will extend Barton's legacy of environmental science teaching to future students

By Molly Shepler '22

Donna Barton, the widow of the late Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science **Henry Barton, D.A.**, and Professor of Environmental Science **Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. '06**, are working to develop a scholarship in honor of Barton's 32 years of work and dedication to Thiel College.

Barton taught environmental science classes at the College from 1979 to 2011. After he retired, he continued to teach several courses in the department as an adjunct. Reinsel, who began in her position as a professor at the College in 2011, not only took his classes as a student at Thiel but also fondly remembers teaching alongside him in those years after his retirement. Her perspective and input have been valuable to the scholarship development process.

"Donna wanted to set up a scholarship fund in Henry's name," Reinsel said. "We have been working to gather support from alums who might be willing to donate money toward the cause so that it can continue for years to come."

The current criteria for the scholarship includes that applying students must be environmental science majors who have completed at least one year of course work toward the major and have at least a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

Barton said, "I don't think it should be limited to Mercer County, nor does it have to be need-based. Henry's interests were worldwide,



Above: Attendees to the Professor Henry Barton celebration of life look over some of the photos he took during his travels. Below: Friends, family and students gathered for a photo during the celebration of Barton's life that was held in the Lutheran Heritage Room in September.



so I don't see any reason to limit it to students in one geographic area."

Reinsel agreed with Barton's choice. "I think that encompasses Dr. Barton really well," said Reinsel. "His interests truly were worldwide, so it makes sense for something in his name not to be so limiting."

To keep Barton's legacy alive, members of the Thiel College community are invited to donate to this scholarship fund to help ensure that

future environmental science students continue to have valuable learning experiences and opportunities.

Get involved

For more information on contributing to this or any Thiel scholarship, contact alumni@thiel.edu.

The College receives \$1.5 million to support endowed scholarships and promote student academic success

By Molly Shepler '22

Several generous donors gave back to the College community this fall, leading to the establishment or strengthening of eight endowed scholarships in memory of Thiel individuals and families.

"Most people give because when they were students, someone supported them, and they want to give back," said **Roberta Leonard**, Vice President for College Advancement. "When people give to scholarships, they're really giving to student success."

Endowed scholarships provide thousands of dollars in financial aid to Thiel students every year, but they also allow the names and legacies of those they honor to live on in perpetuity, Leonard said. Every student who receives an endowed scholarship becomes part of the story of those honored individuals or families, their legacies, and their journeys, she said. Endowed scholarships allow their stories to last far beyond their own lives since students continue to benefit from their generosity and dedication to Thiel College year after year.

"I hope these endowed scholarships inspire students to be philanthropic and to think about how they might give back in the future to help students in the same way they were benefited," said Thiel College President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.** Each year, student recipients of these scholarships are invited to attend an event where they can meet and form relationships with the donors who made their scholarships possible.



Endowed scholarship recipients from the 2019 Endowed Scholarship Luncheon. Endowed scholarships are part of the more than \$14 million in grants, aid and scholarships given out by Thiel College last year.

"A Thiel College endowed scholarship allows donors to have a direct impact on current students, at the same time providing endowed funds that support the College and secure the legacy of the gift forever," said Director of Planned Giving **Mario Marini '91**. "To me, this type of scholarship is the most efficient and worthwhile way that donors can provide benefits to as many deserving students as possible."

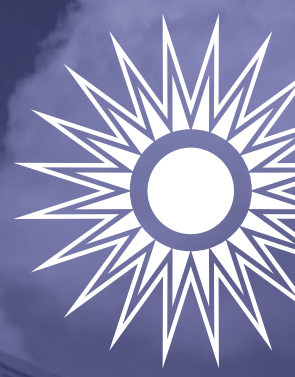
Six new endowed scholarships have been established this year, and two other endowed scholarships previously established have recently received significant additional investments that will allow them to benefit many more students.

The gifts have led to the creation of or support of:

- The David '71 and Deborah '75 Mogle Endowed Scholarship;
- The Gary J. Witosky '79 Endowed Scholarship;
- The Camillo Cianci II Memorial Scholarship;
- The Sawvel Memorial Presidential Award;
- The William E. and Dorothy (Floyd) Babcock Scholarship;
- The Carl, D.O. '69, H'10 and Theresa Hoffman H'16 Scholarship;
- The James Traverso Scholarship;
- The Eleanor Wallace Caswell Class of 1922 Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The David '71 and Deborah '75 Mogle Endowed Scholarship was created by **David Mogle '71** in memory of his wife, **Deborah Mogle '75**. The

Story continues on Page 20



Four Seasons

of opportunities

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Five new graduate programs offering more year-round possibilities

By Carol Brzozowski

Five new graduate programs are putting Thiel College on the map for offering more year-round opportunities for students to advance in their careers.

The new offerings have been joined by the return of the traditional high school band camps and the Northwest Regional Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's annual meeting.

Rounding out the robust summer activity on campus are a number of sports camps.

Barry Stamm, M.D. '70, an Erie, Pa.-based ophthalmologist, chaired the Board of Trustees when the last strategic plan was developed to set the stage for the five new graduate programs.

"The board and faculty were interested in developing more extensive and in-depth educational opportunities for students at Thiel and in particular to meet some of the career educational needs of many of our graduates," says Stamm.

"These programs would allow graduates to be better prepared for the workforce needs and would take the college beyond the level of just an 'undergraduate only' institution."

Those new graduate programs include:

- The 11-month Master of Arts in Communication and Leadership enables graduates to combine interpersonal skills with the ability to influence and guide members of an organization through balancing classroom and experiential learning.
- The Master of Business Administration program combines an innovative curriculum with professional experiences for recent college graduates who are looking to continue the momentum of their undergraduate work while adding a graduate degree to their portfolio in less than a year.
- A Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's degree program, which begins in Fall 2022.
- The Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies offers two paths: an accelerated five-year program for highly-motivated high school seniors and a 27-month post-baccalaureate program for those who have



completed a Bachelor of Arts or Sciences degree.

- The Speech-Language Pathology program is designed to provide scientific and cultural foundations of human communication, disorders and differences to apply in practice through clinical practicum experiences. The program augments the Bachelor's degree in communication sciences and disorders and leads to a 15-month Master's degree.

"We knew we needed to take the College in this direction, so (developing the post-graduate programs) was also a big factor in who we hired as Thiel's next president in 2016," said Stamm, who chaired the 2016 Capital Campaign and currently serves on the Campaign Cabinet with his wife, **Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71**. "All the new graduate and undergraduate programs, like the new nursing program, are designed to address and bolster the short supply of graduates currently needed for jobs in the area."

"With the growing medical needs of many communities and the shortage of graduates to fill these rolls, the College felt it was an opportunity to provide educational and training avenues for students interested in pursuing them," says Stamm.

"Students who take the opportunity to enroll in these programs and complete them in good academic standing will stand an excellent chance of finding employment in these areas because we are really underserved in many of these special areas. I see it as a win-win for both the students and the College."

Tyla Belton '21, G '22, is a student in the Master of Communication and



*Rod E. Wilt '86 Head Coach for Thiel College Wrestling **Craig Thurber** hosted his first youth wrestling camp in 2004. Pictured above in that first camp is **Gage Gladysz '20, G'21**, who is in the middle of the front row. Alumnus **Cam Cianci '19** is in the front row, second from the right, and **TJ Fisher '19** is in the front row, far right. Fisher was a valedictorian in 2019. Also pictured in the top row (left to right) are **Rod Wilt '86, Mike Menold '96, Jeff Linn '02** and **Thurber**.*

Leadership program. Belton earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science with minors in legal studies and women and gender studies.

Belton says she selected Thiel College because she felt an immediate sense of community and belonging.

"When I first arrived on campus, everyone who approached me was very kind," she says. "They immediately knew my name and my major and were interested in my future goals. I decided to continue my years at Thiel because the staff and faculty truly wanted me to succeed. I was provided with several opportunities to advance my goals and gain experience in different fields."

"Thiel has provided me with the experience of working in higher education, specifically in student affairs. Through my graduate assistantship, I have had the opportunity to craft surveys to assess the wants and needs of graduate students and have begun to develop programming to better the experience

of graduate students both on and off-campus."

Outside of the classroom and on the athletic fields, there have been other summer opportunities.

The Rod E. Wilt '86 Head Coach for Thiel College Wrestling, **Craig Thurber**, has been part of a program that brings students to the Youngstown, Ohio area for visits each summer. Unable to do it in 2020, the visit resumed this summer.

Thurber has traditionally held youth wrestling camps during the summer. **Gage Gladysz '20, G'21** was a member of the first graduating speech-language pathology class this summer.

Men's and women's volleyball teams held skills and prospects camps that included attendees from the region and neighboring states.

Dylan Lasher '14, the men's volleyball coach, helped women's volleyball coach **Tyler North** run two of the three women's volleyball day camps for high school students.



Cheer and dance coach **Randall Burnett G'22** (right foreground) said he has seen the College develop into a hub of year-round activity in Greenville.

Overall, both the men's and women's volleyball camps were considered a great success "with a ton of positive feedback from the parents and athletes," says Lasher. "We are looking to expand on hosting a three-day to four-day overnight volleyball camp for high school athletes to experience a week of training and play."

Lasher also worked with men's soccer coach **Zack Walters** on hosting Thiel's first-in-years youth all-sports camp in July with about 20 attendees.

"This was a five-day camp for kids grades two to eight where they would get a chance to play just about every sport in the book," he says. "This was a great experience for these kids and a phenomenal opportunity for us to

“ Thiel has always held a special place in my heart since being a student and a Tomcat cheerleader here. The college provides a sense of community and belonging. This is why I chose to earn a Master's degree from Thiel. ”

| **Randall Burnett G'22**

reach out and get engaged with the local community.”

Randall Burnett G'22, has been at Thiel College since 2018 as a cheer and dance coach and is a student in the Master of Communication and Leadership program.

“I choose Thiel College because I wanted to become a bigger part of the college community and have a degree

from the institution that my athletes are currently working on obtaining,” he says.

Burnett adds that for himself and his job as a cheerleading coach, communication and leadership are very important aspects for the success of his team and his career and the Communication and Leadership degree “is a perfect fit. The program



Through a program sponsored by the Marion G. Resch Foundation, high school students from the Youngstown, Ohio area spend time on campus each summer experiencing life as a college student.

has reinforced my leadership style, but has also given me the opportunity to explore new areas that can help me become a better collegiate cheer coach and recruiter.”

The cheer and dance program has experienced tremendous growth under Burnett’s direction, “which also relates back to my leadership style and creating a welcoming culture but pushing each individual to be better athletes and competitors,” Burnett said.

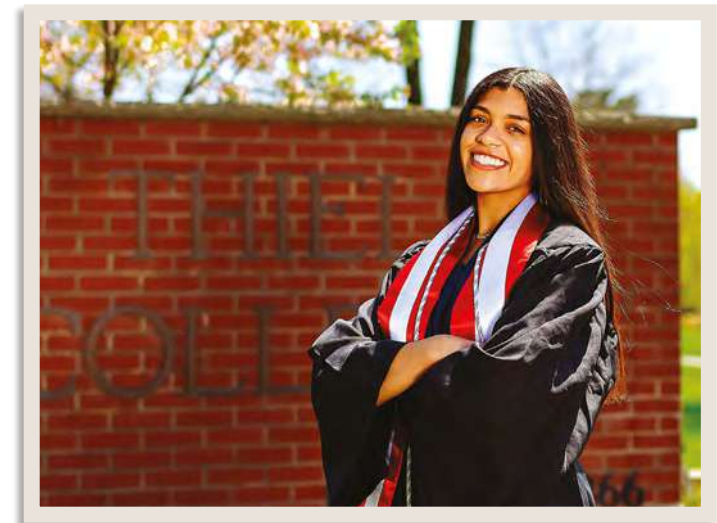
The program has attracted 21 cheerleaders and four dancers from throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and as far as Las Vegas, Nevada.

“This year’s team is super talented and has already won a bid to the National Cheerleaders Association College Cheer Nations in Daytona, Florida this April,” Burnett said. “The cheer and dance program has a rich history at the college and we’re excited to represent the institution on a national level.”

Burnett notes he’s “definitely seen growth of the campus being utilized all 12 months, but we have room for growth during June and July. As a child, I attended camps hosted at the college for athletics and science, so being able to offer those again could also grow the institution’s outreach in local communities.”



*Men’s soccer coach **Zack Walters** led a summer camp for children in July. The camp had 20 attendees. Camp organizers hope the camp grows into an annual event.*



***Tyla Belton '21, G'22** is a student in the Master of Arts in Communication and Leadership. She is one of 62 graduate students who began classes this summer.*

Induction symbolizes lasting testament



From 2005 to today, the impact of Tomcats historic football team is still felt

Thirty-one members of Thiel College's historic 2005 football team came back for Homecoming to celebrate the team's induction into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame.

The list of records and accomplishments of that legendary team is lengthy. An abbreviated rundown includes these highlights:

- went 10-0 in the regular season and won the program's third Presidents' Athletic Conference title and first since 1972.
- first team in program history to earn an NCAA Division III playoff berth
- the first to host an

NCAA Division III playoff game

- the first to win an NCAA Division III playoff game (vs. Johns Hopkins, 28-3).

Altogether, the Tomcats set 24 school records in 2005 and were ranked as high as No. 15 and in the top 20 in the final rankings by three polls.

Twenty Tomcats earned All-PAC recognition in 2005. Two players from the team were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame as individuals in 2019 - offensive tackle **Dave Hendricks '05** and running back **Steve Minton '05**.

"Being selected for induction into the Athletic



Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor for the 2005 team," said **Jack Leipheimer '74**, who was the head coach of the Tomcats from 2001-08.

"It is a final testament to the dedication and hard work of the players, coaching staff and administration."

Leipheimer was the PAC Coach of the Year, the AFCA

Division III Region II Coach of the Year and the Football Gazette's South Region Coach of the Year in 2005. Leipheimer is the co-defensive coordinator and linebackers coach for former head coach **Mike Winslow '04**, who coached Thiel's wide receivers in 2005.

continued from Page 13

Mogles were residents of Hermitage, Pa., who continued to attend many events on campus and remained highly involved as active members of the Thiel community, and Deborah was a longtime member of the alumni board. This annual scholarship is awarded to a full-time junior or senior Thiel student majoring in business or a related field who demonstrates financial need.

The Gary J. Witosky '79 Endowed Scholarship was established by the friends and classmates of **Gary Witosky '79** to honor his incredible commitment to student achievement.

Witosky has been Professor of Business Administration and Accounting at Thiel College since 2002. He is also the David M. Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting. He has profoundly influenced his students during his time as an instructor, and it is for that reason that this scholarship was formed to aid more students in his name, even after his retirement in 2023. This scholarship will be awarded annually to full-time junior or senior students majoring in accounting. Students must show financial need, and preference is given to first generation students.

The Camillo Cianci II Memorial Scholarship was formed in memory of the late **Camillo Cianci '83** by his family and friends, including his wife, **Christine Cianci '96**, the Thiel College Director of Campus Health and Wellness Services. Cianci was a business administration and accounting student. Following his graduation, he was a longtime successful business owner in the Hermitage and Greenville communities. Two full-time students majoring in business administration or



*An endowed scholarship in the name of Professor of Business Administration and Accounting, David M. Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting **Gary Witosky '79** was among the eight scholarships created or strengthened this fall.*

accounting will be annually selected to receive this scholarship. The scholarship has received an initial gift of \$50,000 through fundraising efforts organized by friends, family and the Thiel community.

The Sawvel Memorial Presidential Award was established in the will of **Nettie S. Sawvel 1905** to honor **Dr. and Mrs. Franklin B. Sawvel, Mrs. Lotta Sawvel Tillotson, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard F. Sawvel**. Dr. Franklin Sawvel was a Professor of English at Thiel and served as the sixth president of the College from 1914-1916. Recently, after meeting with students at the College and being impressed with the influence had on them by this scholarship, **Harley P. Weyand Jr.** left a generous contribution from his estate in support of the Sawvel family and the Sawvel Memorial Presidential Award. Students who are descendents of the Sawvel family are given first priority in the awarding of these funds.

The William E. and Dorothy (Floyd) Babcock Scholarship has been providing financial aid to students since the 1990s, but a recent investment of significant additional funding will allow many more students

to benefit from the Babcock family's generosity in the future. To qualify for this award, students must be sophomores, juniors, or seniors who demonstrate financial need and have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.

The Carl and Theresa Hoffman Scholarship was established in honor of **Carl '69, H'10 and Theresa Hoffman H'16** by a colleague to celebrate their longtime commitment to the College. This award is meant to assist students interested in pursuing any medical professions, whether those be degrees in nursing, biology, physician assistant studies, or others. Carl Hoffman, D.O. was a physician, and Theresa was an officer in PrimeCare, the company they founded together, which is now a leader in correctional healthcare.

The Dr. John Nichols Scholarship was established by him and his wife to support math or actuarial studies students. Nichols was a longtime member of the Thiel College faculty.

The James Traverso Scholarship was created by an anonymous colleague in honor of **Jim Traverso**, the older brother of Thiel College President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**

— 1950s —

Barry Evans '54 and Ginny Burke Evans retired to Villages, Fla. in 2000. They just celebrated their 65th anniversary. Barry writes a weekly column called "Life in the Villages." He obtained a master's degree in governmental administration from the Wharton Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania alongside **Shel Schweikert '54**. He then spent 42 years in the city manager field managing communities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia, Minnesota, and Florida.

Donald H. Amy '56 and his spouse, Sue, live in Edmond, Okla. Donald is retired.

— 1960s —

Rev. Phillip E. Vender '67 and **Harriet J. (Porter) Vender '67** moved to McLean, Va.

— 1970s —

Brian Best '71 lives in Nevis, Minn.

Scott Russell '71 and his wife, Amy, reside in Ridgefield, Conn. Scott is a member of the Alzheimer's Association National Board of Directors, serves as an Alzheimer's Association ambassador, and was chair of the 2014 Advocacy Forum. His book "Silly Mr. Scott" was published by AuthorHouse in 2013. He has also been involved with the Mind and Research program at Brown University. For all his work with Alzheimer's, Scott has won numerous awards.

Dennis A. Casey '72 and **Nedra B. (McDonald) Casey '72** are retired in

Butler, Pa. They have twin daughters, Meredyth Pribis and Meagan Fredrick. Dennis retired in 2016 after 42 years in the health benefits administration industry, specializing in self-insured health and welfare plans. Nedra taught third grade in the Freeport Area School District in Freeport, Pa. for 35 years. Along with their daughters, they now enjoy spending time with their six grandchildren and the delightful chaos that entails.



Neal O. Hively '72 and Lee Codd retired in 2017 to Melbourne, Fla. He obtained his M.Div. from Gettysburg Seminary in 1976,

was ordained by the LCA Central Penn Synod in 1976, and served four parishes (40+ years) in that synod and in the Lower Susquehanna Synod, including 22.5 years at Trinity in Chambersburg, Pa. He received his Master of Sacred Theology from Gettysburg in 1984 and his Doctor of Ministry from Philadelphia Seminary in 1990. He is the author of 19 volumes about settlers in York and Adams counties. He now enjoys supplying churches with temporary pastoral leadership, serving as an interim pastor at pastorally vacant parishes, and participating in church and bell choirs. Lee and Neal enjoy travelling. They would love to hear from classmates.

Aleta J. (Buzard) Keck '72 and Robert L. Keck Jr. live in Littlestown, Pa. Aleta retired from the federal government in 2014.



She loves reading, gardening, and sewing. She belongs to the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She enjoys spending time with their large families and doing family research.

Nancy V. (Joseph) Kuss '72 and John Kuss moved to Dublin, Ohio. Nancy is retired.



Renée Rewiski '72 lives in Hawthorne, N.J. She works as a tour guide for Free Tours by Foot.

Nancy (Siciliano) Kremm '75 and **John Kremm '75** live in Gibsonia, Pa.



Elise Corson Nairn, the granddaughter of **Joe Nairn, D.Mgt '79**, was baptized Oct. 15, 2021 by **Fr. Lance Robbins '78** at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Webster N.Y. Pictured are Nairn's son, Thomas, and daughter-in-law, Ashley, granddaughter, Elise and Fr. Robbins.

— 1980s —

Danna M. Thorson '80 lives in Merchantville, N.J.

Peter J. Digel '84 and Pamela Ann Smeigh Digel reside in Smethport, Pa.



The Thiel Fund File

A short profile of the people who donate to The Thiel Fund, the College's largest source of unrestricted funds.

Jane L. (Mickley) Heineman '62

Hometown: Erie, Pa.

Professional Experience: Math teacher, McDowell H.S., Erie Pa. (38 years)

Hobbies: She enjoys golf/bowling and is an avid supporter of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Pirates and Penguins.

Involvement at Thiel: Alpha Xi Delta (member of the first pledge class), intramurals, resident assistant and worked as student assistant to Professor Emeritus of Mathematics Nelson Yeardeley, Ph.D. (1953-1977).

Reason for Giving Back: Jane is grateful to Thiel, as was her late husband, **Alan Heineman '62**, for their college experience. "The Thiel community was incredibly supportive and adaptable to both our academic goals and our career aspirations."

— 1990s —

Carolyn C. Forbes '92 and **David M. Wilson '92** live in Shippensburg, Pa. Carolyn works as a food server for Aramark and David works at Home Depot. They have a son, James L. Wilson.

Kimberly A. (Yakemowicz) Leone '92 and Robert Leone live in New Kensington, Pa. Kimberly is director of administration and development for Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County.

Wally Boozer '95 lives in Andover, Kan. where he works in human resources as head of talent acquisition for Royal Caribbean.



Kerry A. Dreibelbis '97 and his wife, Kristina, live in York, Pa. Kerry works as a member of maintenance at Penn State Harrisburg where he is celebrating 11 years of service. The couple has been married five years, and they have two children, Emma (age 10) and Luke (age 2). Two years ago, they made a life-changing decision to adopt their amazing son Luke. They love spending time with each other.

Lori E. (Balderach) Pino '99 and **David A. Pino '96** reside in New Castle, Pa. with their three children, Jacob, Andrew, and Alexa.

— 2000s —

Lydia (Smith) Speice '01 and Christopher Speice live in Grove City, Pa. Lydia works as a lead quality engineer for Wabtec. Lydia and Christopher have triplets, Adam, Regan, and Robert Speice.

Nathan Leard '04 graduated from Carnegie Mellon University's Tepper School of Business with a Master of Business Administration and lives in Pittsburgh.

Ryan R. O'Connell '05 lives in Virginia Beach, Va. He works as an aviation ordnanceman for the U.S. Navy. He has two children, Aiden and Teagan. Ryan was a member of the 2005 Thiel football team.

Katherine (Walker) Haladyna '06 and **Joshua Haladyna '05** moved to Kirtland, Ohio. They have three children, Vivian, Duke, and Francesca.

Heather L. (Andrake) Biggart '07 and Brock E. Biggart live in Sharpsville, Pa. Heather works as a behavioral health technician for Comprehensive Children & Family Services. They have a daughter.

Kelly (Parsell) Ehrman '07 and her spouse, Robert Ehrman, live in Ford City, Pa.

Brandon J. Mundy '07 lives in Struthers, Ohio and is in medical retirement from the U.S. Army.

Sarah L. (Meador) McCracken '09 lives in Scott Air Force Base, Ill. In October 2020, she received her clinical social work license from the state of North Carolina where

Elliott C. Beach '15

Hometown: Oxford, Miss..

Hobbies: He enjoys running, traveling, reading and spending time with his wife, **Kelley Bellia '15**.

Involvement at Thiel: Delta Sigma Phi, Phi Alpha Theta, Kappa Delta Pi, History tutoring, Lambda Sigma, Les Lauriers and currently serves on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Reason for Giving Back: "As a beneficiary of various scholarships during my time at Thiel, I cannot think of a greater way to support current and future generations than to give back to my alma mater. Thiel has provided me immeasurable support over the years, and I am grateful to find opportunities to give back!"



The Thiel Fund File

A short profile of the people who donate to The Thiel Fund, the College's largest source of unrestricted funds.

she works for a business providing teletherapy to the military community at large. In March, she was hired as a civilian by the Air Force as a community readiness specialist where she is the program manager for Air Force Families Forever. She also completed her requirements to become a certified mental health integrative medicine provider to offer holistic approaches for improving mental health challenges.

Steffon '09 and Deanna (Gartrell) Portnik '09 live in Painesville, Ohio. They have a son, Cayden Rylan. She is employed by Target.

— 2010s —

John G. Newman '11 and his wife, Jean, moved to Monterey, Calif.

Erica (Riola) Clements '12 and Wyatt Clements '14 live in Duncansville, Pa. with their daughter, Annabelle

Clements, who was born on August 28, 2020.



Dan Gainey '13 and Alyssa (Chine) Gainey '13 live in Rocky River, Ohio. Dan works as the admissions and facilities director at St. Adalbert School. Dan and Alyssa have a daughter, Mia, who was born on August 12, 2020.

Marshaun Hainesworth '13 opened Hermitage Nutrition in the spring of 2021. He also owns University Nutrition in Youngstown, Ohio. He lives in Warren, Ohio.

Keisha Shaw '13 lives in Harrisburg, Pa. and works as an HR recruiter/generalist for Fresh Express.

Alexis M. DeMott '14 lives in Greenville, Pa. and works as a high school English teacher for Pymatuning Valley Local Schools.

Amanda L. (Baur) Martin '14 and Richard Martin live in Springdale, Pa. Amanda works as an account manager II for NFP.

Elliott C. '15 and Kelley (Bellia) Beach '15 live in Oxford, Miss. Elliott graduated from Indiana University-Bloomington in May 2021 with an M.S. Ed. in higher education and student affairs and a certificate in institutional research. He and his wife moved to Mississippi while Kelley continues her medical school journey.

— marriages —

Harrison Clark '16 lives in Nashville, Tenn. where he works as a sales consultant for Carl Black Nashville.

Rebecca Leonard '16 lives in Youngstown, Ohio and works as a therapist for Alta Behavioral Health Care.

Daniel M. Forringer '17 and **Samantha (Deems) Forringer '17** live in Apopka, Fla. where Daniel works as a care advocate for AdventHealth.

Kristen L. Kluck '17 moved to Erie, Pa. and works as an administrative assistant for Schaffner, Knight, Minnaugh & Co., P.C.

Victoria E. Thompson '18 lives in Chicora, Pa. She became activity professional certified on Aug. 21, 2021 and completed MEPAP 2 on May 31, 2021. She works as a life enrichment director at Sunnyview Nursing and Rehabilitation and owns a small business, "Knead Bread?".

— 2020s —

Alexandra J. Helbig '20 completed her Master of Bioethics degree at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and is excited to announce that she has accepted a research assistant position with The University of Oxford in Oxford, England, and the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics in Baltimore, Md., where she will be working on a research project under the Oxford-Johns Hopkins Global Infectious Disease Ethics Collaborative (GLIDE) that is focused on understanding and mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on a global health level.

Jessica D. Peters '21 lives in Waterford, Pa.



William Mills '08 and **Sarah L. (Berkey) Mills '07** on June 19, 2021. The couple lives in King of Prussia, Pa.

John G. Newman '11 and Jeanchiara David on March 15, 2021. John's next duty station will be the Presidio of Monterey where he will learn Japanese at the Defense Language Institute, and he has a follow-on assignment to be an exchange officer in Japan for three years.



Kristen E. (Wansor) Jones '13 and Greg Jones on May 22, 2021, in Sharon, Pa. **Emily (Whipple) Malovich '13** and **Chelsea Spahr '13** were part of the bridal party. The couple resides in Jamestown, Pa.



Joslyne (Cook) Counselman '14 and Josh Counselman on May 30, 2021, at Williams Country Club in Weirton, W.Va. Aimee Gillispie was the maid of honor along with fellow bridesmaids: **Chanel Jenkins '13**, **Jaclyn Kuzma '17** and groomsman **Regis Wagner '12**. Many other Thiel alumni were in attendance. Josh and Joslyne live in Ross Township, Pa., and Joslyne is building her practice as a financial advisor with Thrivent.



Erika (Leonhard) Williams '15 and Dillon Williams on Aug. 8, 2020, at The Atrium in Prospect, Pa. **Lisa Leonhard '14** was the maid of honor and **Catherine (Cate) McCormick '16** was a bridesmaid. Other alumni in attendance included: **Rory Duncan '14** and **Ashley (Tigner) Duncan '14**, **Ethan Bayne '14** and **Jenna Farina Bayne '15**, **Fatema Essagee '15**, **Jessica (Slupe) Bowser '15**, and **Kelsey Schneider '16**. The couple lives in Pittsburgh where Erika is completing work for her Ph.D. in counselor education and supervision at Duquesne University. Dillon works as a staff accountant for Allegheny Technologies Incorporated.



Amanda M. (Lopez) Pyles '16 and Kirkland Pyles on Sept. 30, 2017, in Erie, Pa. They live in Waterford, Pa. where Amanda works as an office assistant for UPMC Hamot and Kirkland is a FedEx driver. They have a cat, Gray Catsby, and a dog, Freddie.



Austin G. Hall '21 and Erica B. Peters were married in December 2021 in their hometown at Mercer United Methodist Church.

– births –



To **Kasi (Wagler) Shawgo '16** and her spouse, Austin Shawgo a son, Sawyer James Shawgo, on July 19.



To **Cam Cianci III '19** a daughter, Logan Caroline.

Thiel Connect
New online networking platform helps you succeed before, during and after college through connections and community.

Join our community
connect.thiel.edu

– gatherings –



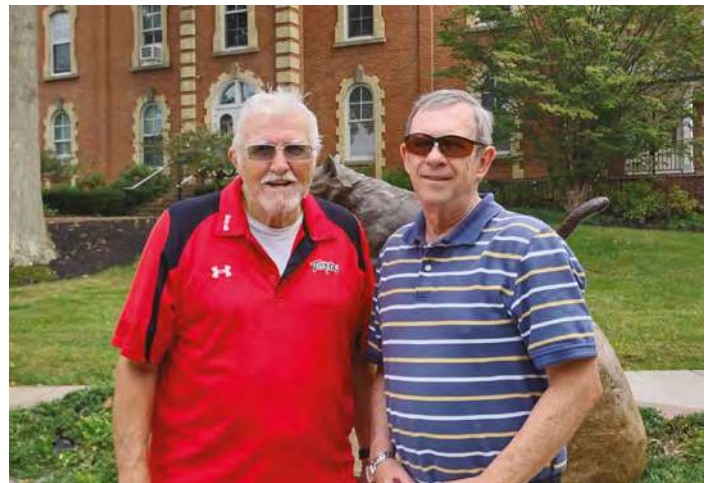
Roberta (Bert) Anderson Skopow '62, Katheryn (Kay) Rockey Buffington '62, Judith (Judy) Nelson Johnson '62 and Jane Mickley Heineman '62 get together monthly as Thiel is one of the ties that bind them.



Pat (Sable) Lortz '71 and Mary Ellen "Micki" (Voss) Taylor '71 in left photo and **Rae Johnson '59** and Mary Ellen in right photo. The alumnae met in the Lutheran Heritage Room during Homecoming.



John F. Logan '65 and **Catherine Mott** took this picture of Thiel pride while in Banff and Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada.



Phil Olson '64 met up with **Paul McGaughey '64** at Thiel this summer. They met as first-year students in 1960. Paul traveled from Pittsburgh and Phil from Maryland.


TELL US WHAT'S NEW IN YOUR LIFE!
Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@thiel.edu

– gatherings –



Delta Sigma Phi fraternity visit: **Bill Matthews '74, Wayne Mathias '72, John Timulak '71, Frank Kimmel '71, Rick Encapera '71, Bill Johnston '72, Dom Dionisio '72, David Petak '72, Wayne Clow '73, Chuck Ricci '72, Chuck Young '72, Don Lawry '72.**



Nikki (Colpo) Galbo '06 and Matt Voelker '06 together at Matt's bar, Nadine's, celebrating St. Patrick's Day and the return of Thiel football.



Barry Oman '74 and his grandson, **Bryson Oman Zuchslag**, Class of 2033.

2022 Alumni Awards nominations now open

Alumni are encouraged to nominate a deserving alumnus/alumna for one of three awards. The categories are Distinguished Alumni (individuals are nominated and chosen for their outstanding contributions to their professions), Service to Thiel Award (individuals are nominated and chosen for their loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel College) and Young Alumni (nominees must have received their Thiel degree within the past 10 years and are nominated for their potential for future accomplishments in their professions and service to Thiel).



Follow the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/TAlumniawards2022> to nominate a Tomcat.

Wilt remembered as influential Thiel mentor

Sonya “Sunny” Anne (Mugnani) Wilt, Ph.D., formerly of Greenville, Pa. and residing in The Villages, Fla., passed away on October 30, 2021. She was born on March 7, 1937, in Charleroi, Pa. She graduated from West View High School north of Pittsburgh in 1955. She earned her B.A.



degree from Muskingum **WILT** College in 1959, her M.A. degree from the University of Pittsburgh in 1962, and was conferred a Ph.D. in Speech Pathology and Audiology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1975.

She was married to **Roy W. Wilt Sr. '59** on August 6, 1960. She is survived by her husband and her two sons, **Roy Wilt Jr. '86** and **Rod E. Wilt '86**.

She is also survived by Rod Wilt's wife, **Jill (Gardner) Wilt '85**, who served as the alumni director at Thiel 30 years ago and grandson **Roy Wilt III '23**.

Sunny began her career at Thiel College as a Professor of English and Communication in 1966. She founded and co-chaired the Department of Communication Arts and Sciences in 1991 and instituted a major in speech and hearing.

She retired from active teaching in 1998, and was conferred Professor Emeritus status by the Board of Trustees. The Dr. Sonya M. Wilt Outstanding Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Student of the Year Award is named in her honor.

She was a special mentor to many students over the years, and she loved Thiel College and all of her colleagues

with whom she had the opportunity to teach and serve.

“Mrs. Wilt was the most memorable faculty member I knew at Thiel, and she had a profound influence on my life. As a mediocre physics major and struggling athlete, she convinced me that I had talent as a speaker and helped me develop that talent in immeasurable ways,” **Thomas Guskey, Ph.D. '72** said. “She remained my model as a teacher and someone I strove to emulate throughout my academic career. There is no one I admired more.”

Memorial contributions can be made to the Dr. Sonya M. Wilt Endowed Scholarship c/o Thiel College, 75 College Avenue, Greenville, PA 16125.

Tree dedicated for trustee and environmental steward Taylor-Rogers

Sarah “Sally” Taylor-Rogers, Ph.D. '69 passed away on June 23, 2021.

She earned her B.A. degree in political science from Thiel College in 1969



TAYLOR-ROGERS before obtaining her public administration master's degree in 1971 and her Ph.D. in 1976 from Syracuse University.

She is survived by her husband, John Whitson Rogers, daughter, Renee L. Rogers, son-in-law, Steve

Witting, and granddaughter, Olivia Rose Witting.

Taylor-Rogers was the first woman to serve as Secretary for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. She served for five years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers where she helped oversee the Washington, D.C. Water Supply Study. In 2004, she became the Assistant Director of the Maryland Center for Agro-Ecology, Inc., and later the Acting Director in 2014 before her retirement in 2017. Her research on conservation and agricultural/forest lands



Members of the Board of Trustees and the President's Cabinet were among the attendees during a tree dedication ceremony for **Sarah Taylor-Rogers, Ph.D. '69** in early November.

preservation furthered the Center's mission of promoting the economic viability of agriculture/forestry while keeping the environment in mind.

Thiel College awarded Taylor-Rogers with an honorary doctoral degree in 2019 to celebrate her extensive accomplishments in her field and her 27 years of dedication to the College.

– in memoriam –

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

L. Edward Allison '79
 William E. Babcock '47
 Marian A. (Oakes) Baird '66
 Mary (Donnan) Baker
 Eloyd W. Baldwin '52
 Lorretta J. (McConnell) Ball '67
 Dr. J. Henry Barton
 Herbert Bresnan Jr.
 Robert D. Brettell '86
 Adele (McCauley) Butler '50
 Richard P. Carland '71
 Lucille Christopher
 Rev. David W. Clark '69
 Rev. Dr. John R. Cochran H'80
 Elio F. Conticelli
 John F. Coppola '69
 Scott R. Cunningham '72
 Dorothy J. (Fleegle) Davies '51
 Mark E. DeHaven '77
 Theresa Diefenderfer
 Allen G. Dietz '59
 Paul E. Erb '72
 William L. Ewald '57
 William L. Fay
 David L. Floch
 David R. Foulk '66
 Claudia Geroni
 Daryl B. Girton '72
 Michael A. Goodiel '67
 Frank M. Grimaldi '72

Ronald K. Guy '71
 Thomas A. Haase '77
 Tong Ho Ham
 Amanda Marie Hardesty
 Donald D. Harig
 Phyllis Ann (Good) Hoople '72
 David M. Hruska '73
 George Harvey Hunter
 Richard H. Jackson '50
 Carl W. Jessy '67
 Grace M. Johns
 Ruth Ann (Johnson) Jones '51
 James G. Judy '90
 Rev. Warren S. Karshin '61
 Norman Kashner
 Wendy S. (Storrs) Keller '70
 Mary H. Kroen
 Pat (Auhl) Leepa '59
 William S. Lefes '51
 Linda Darlene (Dinger) Lindner '71
 Carol A. Locke
 James H. Loutzenhiser
 David Lyon
 Sabra A. (Todd)Massey '70
 James R. McClimans '61
 Dorothy McClure
 Elaine McDonald
 Julia Melvin
 Linda K. (Savage) Miller '66
 Gayle D. Miller '89

Robert Rees Miller '52
 George M. Mirabal '60
 Diane A. Moser
 Rev. Robert J. Newpher
 Janice L. (Black) Novak '95
 Robert J. Nystrom '88
 George E. Owens '63
 Ronald S. Palyo
 Elaine L. Posta '60
 Glenn Preston
 Enick B. Raber
 Eric J. Radachy
 Cynthia L. (Snader) Rosinski '73
 Riki Sakai '09
 Christopher A. Savach '93
 Sheldon S. Schweikert '54
 Dr. Chad M. Sed '75
 Katherine Rose (Zgonc) Slack '03
 Francis L. Slater '52
 Melvin M. Slezak
 Alice (Deforce) Spence
 Sarah J. Taylor-Rogers '69, H'20
 Donald R. Thomas '68
 Michael L. Todd '90
 John I. Trimble
 Joseph M. Valley
 Archie O. Wallace
 Errol R. Walton
 Terry L. Wilson '61
 Sonya "Sunny" Anne (Mugnani) Wilt



New programs are reminder that Thiel summers have not always been sleepy

By John Hauser '71, H'20



Summer on the Thiel campus—for most students, summer falls in the same category as fall, Christmas and spring breaks: empty residence halls and classrooms and a closed cafeteria. The thought is, “if we’re not here, nothing is happening.” While activity slows down somewhat on the campus during the summer, there have historically been many very different activities that keep the campus alive, bustling and active while the students are away.

Courses taught as part of a six-week summer school term were first held in 1917. The list of students that appeared in the 1931 *Thiel College: An Historical Bulletin* included more than 325 students who had attended only summer school during the preceding 14 years. There is no record of how many of the matriculated degree-seeking students also took summer classes. In the 1935 summer school catalog, 70 classes in 17 different departments were offered. In 2019, there were 101 students enrolled, many of whom took more than one class: two years later, there were 143 undergraduates enrolled.

The campus was populated with non-students over the years. In the early 1900s, a week-long summer school for church workers was instituted. According to Dr. Roy Johnson’s *History of Thiel College 1866-1974*, “Page 68,”... Taught for the most part by the regular Thiel faculty, these classes in religion and teaching techniques attracted as many as 200 members and pastors of Synod churches each summer.” This number was more than double the number of students enrolled during the academic year.

In 1921 and 1922, a summer Soldiers Vocational School brought more than 200 soldiers wounded in World War I to campus for an eight-week session, with faculty from Thiel and the University of Pittsburgh teaching courses in economics and other college-credit courses.

Beginning in the early 1920s, a six-week professional development course for teachers was offered.

From 1959 to 1971, Thiel granted a Master of Science Teaching (M.S.T.) to those who completed 27 course hours and a research project. Forty-nine teachers were enrolled in this program in 1968.

As an institution of the Lutheran Church, Thiel has hosted Synod conventions and assemblies for a weekend in June beginning in 1955, utilizing all the residence halls, until the virtual assemblies of the past two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic. When the Lutheran Church in America was formed in 1988, the resulting three separate synods each held their assemblies here. The Northeastern Ohio synod also has held periodic synod assemblies here. Other church groups that have utilized the Thiel campus for summer conventions and retreats include the Lutheran Church Women, Youth Ministry, Lutheran Laymen, and choir schools.

Many of our alumni from the 1950s and 1960s were first introduced to Thiel by the week-long Luther League conventions, which brought hundreds of high school students to campus for fellowship, worship and workshops. Band camps have been a fixture for more than 50 summers, bringing thousands of area high school students to campus for a five-day intensive practice session that helped the bands prepare for the upcoming football season, with a final night concert for their parents and friends.

With the addition of year-round graduate programs in business, communication and leadership, physician assistant, speech-language pathology, and clinical mental health counseling, Thiel’s summers will continue to be a center of activity to complement the academic year.



The world needs them. They need you.



Make your gift to the The Thiel Fund today!

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

Scholarships



Academics



Athletics



Campus Improvements



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For more information on how to help,
Contact **Mark Batt '87** by email mbatt@thiel.edu or by phone **724-589-2157**



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Save the date 2022 Events

Founders' Day Celebration

Thursday, Feb. 3

Academic Honors Convocation

Friday, Feb. 11

Scholarship & Arts Symposium

Thursday, April 21

148th Commencement Exercises

Sunday, May 8

Homecoming

Sept. 23-25

