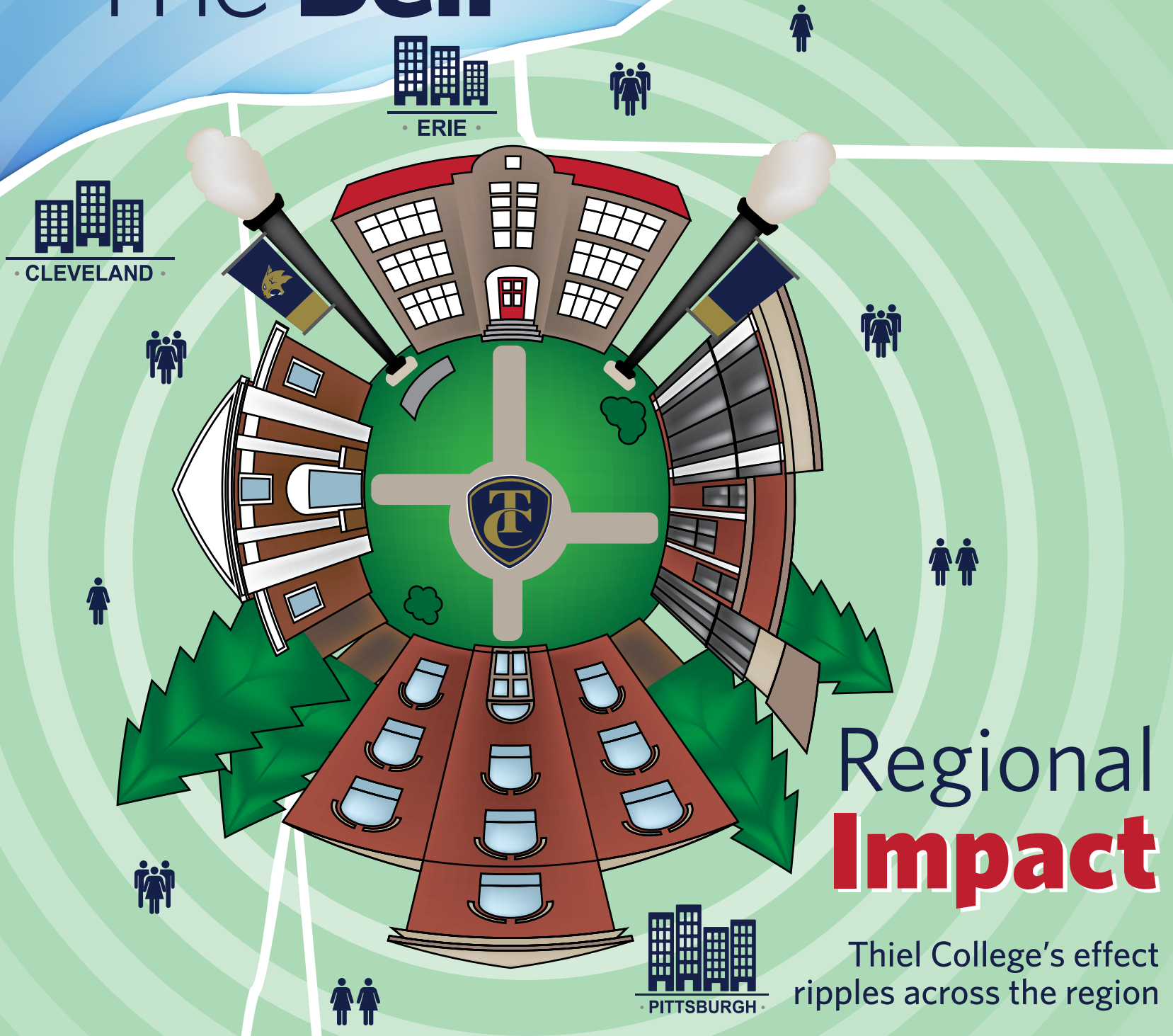


The Bell



Regional Impact

Thiel College's effect
ripples across the region

College Community Mourns

Thiel family reacts to
passing of Professor Miller

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All-Star Celebration

Alumni & friends return for
Homecoming in record numbers

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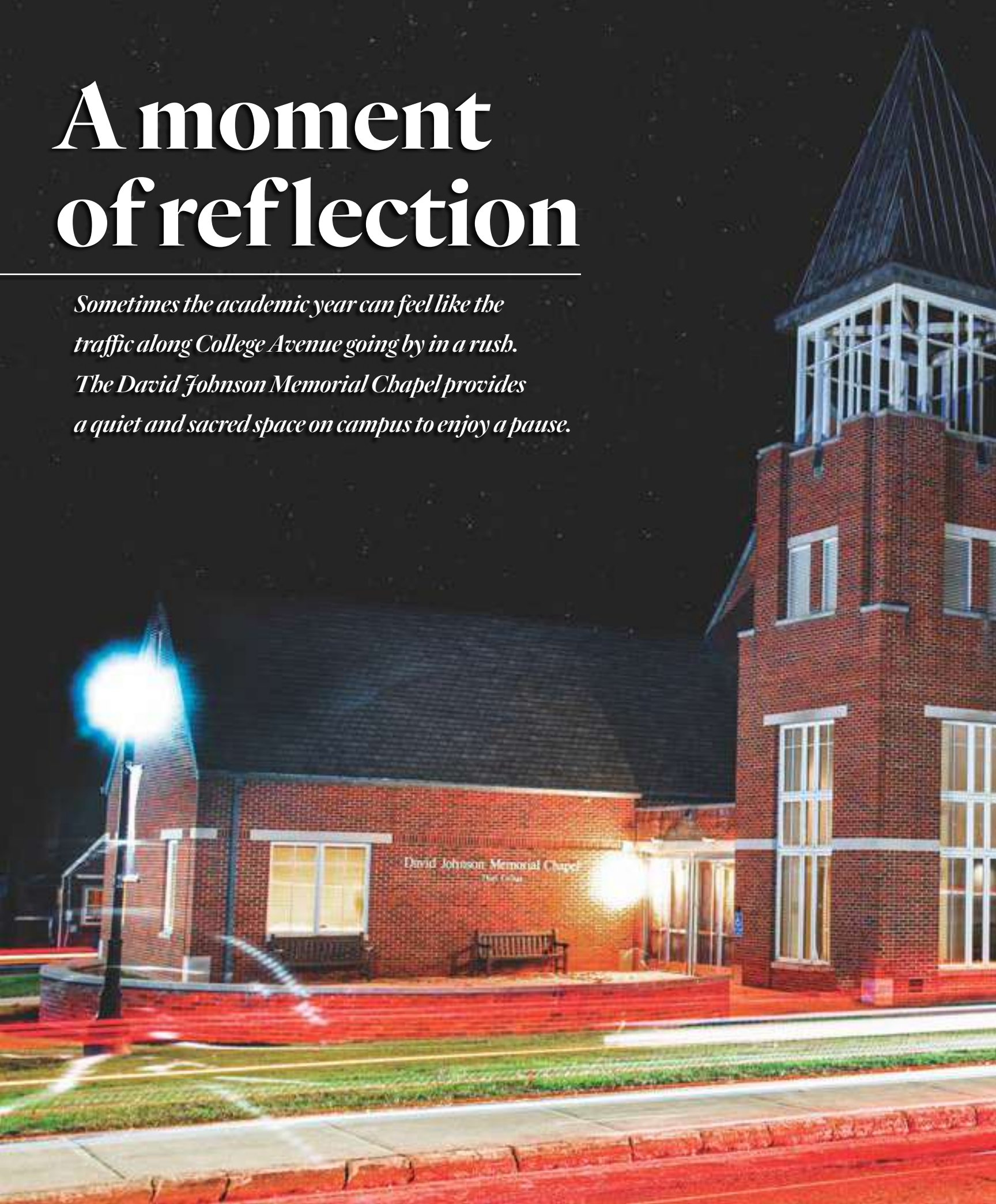
Meet Jason Fautas

New AD focused on
reinvigorating Tomcat Pride

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A moment of reflection

Sometimes the academic year can feel like the traffic along College Avenue going by in a rush. The David Johnson Memorial Chapel provides a quiet and sacred space on campus to enjoy a pause.





Thiel College

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Greenville, Pennsylvania 16125
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The Bell is published in the spring and fall by the Office of Communications and Marketing, Thiel College, Greenville, PA 16125. Publication inquiries should be sent to aforementioned address, in care of the Editor-in-Chief.

For Class Notes and address changes, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at alumni@thiel.edu or fax to 724-589-2860.

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

Dear alumni and friends of the College,

The College was saddened this semester with the passing on October 23 of Professor **David Miller '61 H'20**, the Norman P.



Mortensen Endowed Chair in Economics and Emeritus Professor of Business Administration and Accounting. Over his 57-year teaching career he influenced generations of students. He was a giant among the faculty and a respected campus and community leader. His distinctive voice and positive “can-do” attitude made working with him a joy, and his resounding confidence in students inspired us to believe, as he did, in the value of a Thiel education to open opportunity.

In November, we celebrated Dr. Miller’s life and legacy at a campus gathering in the Passavant Center. Joining with hundreds his colleagues, former students, friends, and his beloved family, we reflected on his influence on so many over his lifetime. Though we grieve his passing, we feel privileged to have known and worked with such a remarkable person. He loved Thiel College, and we loved him.

David Miller understood well that even a small college like Thiel can have a tremendous impact on its community. He also understood that the College’s partnerships and connections provides students the benefit of studying at a small college with a big reach. Guided by his vision, the College remains committed to serving the educational, social and economic needs of Greenville and the region around Thiel, and in doing so, we connect students with graduate and career opportunities through regional partnerships and networks.

This is the first edition of a two-part look at some specific ways the College has had a positive influence on Greenville, Mercer County, the Shenago Valley, western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio, and, ultimately, the world.

Even as we reflect on these connections, it is important to remember that for Thiel it is the personal relationships that are central to the College’s success. We saw those personal relationships full bloom during Homecoming 2022 this past September when over a thousand alumni and friends of the College visited campus. The largest Homecoming in the College’s history, this celebration reminded us, again, of the extended alumni network, Tomcat Proud, Tomcat Strong.

Susan Traverso, Ph.D.

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On the Cover



This is the first part of a two-edition look at the way the College has impacts on Greenville, Mercer County, western Pa. and the greater region. In this edition, the reach of performing arts, regional civic and charitable organizations; career collaborations; admissions and back to school; and rankings are examined. A second part in the spring will analyze many of the other ways the campus connects to the region.

Connect with the College

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.

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Hartman scholarship focuses on first-generation students

By Matt Beuermann '23



Lillian Sitzer '25, first-generation college students scholarship recipient

Trustee **Bruce Hartman** isn't just your average, ordinary Fortune 500 executive. After more than 30 years of experience as a Chief Financial Officer for Footlocker and Yankee Candle, Hartman decided to change his career trajectory and pursue one of his life passions, Christianity. After returning to college, Hartman received his Master of Divinity in 2013, and his Doctor of Ministry in 2018.

Hartman recently partnered with Thiel College to create the Robert Joseph Hartman Scholarship for First-Generation College Students, in the name of his late father.

"I have a real affinity for first-generation students, because there's a whole lot of support that they're missing out on," Hartman said.

With such a diverse background in business and religion, and an important message to share, Hartman came to Thiel to speak about ethics and morals in 2019. During his visit, Hartman felt a strong connection to the College and decided that it would be a good place for him to serve on the Board of Trustees and assist the campus community.

"You get asked at a lot of places to go work on a board, but it's ceremonial," Hartman said. "Not these board members though; these are very interested and wide-awake people, so my wife and I felt like it was the type of place that we'd want to invest our time and money."

One of Hartman's biggest motivations behind establishing the scholarship at Thiel was his late father. Without any family college history to follow, Hartman's father joined the coast guard straight after graduating high school. Despite not having attended college himself, Hartman's father knew the importance of a college education and desperately wanted his children to have that experience.

"It was like his goal in life was to send us to college," Hartman said. "He did whatever he could to put his family in a position where he could do that."

Being a first-generation college student himself, Hartman understands the struggles that these students face when pursuing higher education. When moving into Suffolk University in Boston, Hartman arrived with just a suitcase and very little knowledge about how to approach college.

"When my daughters went to school, we knew what to buy for the dorm rooms, we knew to tell them to register as early as you can," Hartman said. "All those things make a difference, but for a first-generation student, they don't have that family history to help them."

Allister Green '23, a senior majoring in exercise science, and **Lillian Sitzer '25**, a sophomore majoring in speech pathology, are the first recipients of the Hartman Scholarship.

"The Hartman Scholarship that I received here at Thiel is truly a blessing," Green said. "The scholarship award gives me the opportunity to focus on my studies and sport."

Sitzer also expresses her gratitude for Hartman's support that is assisting her through her undergraduate degree.

"I think it is wonderful to supply students like me with guidance that others may have received generationally," Sitzer said. "I cannot think of another population of students that would be more grateful."

Hartman hopes to continue to support Thiel and its students through scholarships and eventually hopes to increase the number of scholarships from two to four each year.

"My dad was a big believer in the underdog, and even though he's gone, I know he would be proud that there's a scholarship in his name to help those who have financial need," Hartman said.



Allister Green '23 recipient of the scholarship set up by Trustee Bruce Hartman (far right) for first-generation college students in honor of his father.

The Thiel College family is saddened by the passing of beloved Professor David Miller '61 H'20



Emeritus Professor of Business and Accounting **David Miller '61 H'20** passed away October 23.

Miller retired in 2020 after 57 years at the College. He was the longest-tenured faculty member in school history and taught and advised more students than anyone else in the school's 157-year history.

"We will miss Professor Miller more than words can express. He was not just our colleague but our good friend. Our hearts go out to the entire Miller family," President Susan Traverso, Ph.D. said. "Professor Miller will be a part of Thiel forever. While we grieve his loss, we can take comfort and inspiration from the gracious and caring way he lived his life and touched the lives of so many."

Miller created the business seminar class where each spring students get experience in a formal dinner setting, are introduced to etiquette lessons and connect with the College's business alumni. The seminar was later named the Ruth Miller Business



Seminar in honor of his wife, who also served as campus nurse at Thiel College. Miller was a graduate of Mercer High School, Thiel College, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He was a licensed funeral director from 1965 until 1993. Miller helped Thiel create a partnership with PIMS, allowing students to earn a business degree and become licensed funeral directors. David and Ruth Miller were both awarded honorary doctorates in early 2020. He was appointed the first recipient of the



Norman P. Mortensen Endowed Chair of Economics in 1990. With support from hundreds of alumni and friends of the College, Thiel established the David Miller '61 Endowed Chair of Accounting in 2016.

Thiel College collected thoughts and memories of Miller from his students. What follows are just a handful of the submissions that represent the different majors and different decades of students he touched through his lifetime of work.

“Professor David Miller was the first person I met on Thiel College’s campus. His charisma and smile were welcoming. He motivated me to continue working hard and he pushed me to do better.”
– Quinn Ursprung ’20

“I look back on my time at Thiel College and remember when I was struggling with major depression, and Professor Miller was there to talk with me and get me on a better path mentally. He was kind and empathetic, but stern and always wanted the best for you. He always had a smile on his face that would light up a room and a presence that would command the attention of all who were in it. Professor Miller wasn’t one of the best, he was the best.” – Jocelyn Bracken ’21

“Professor Miller was a huge supporter of the arts. As an art student he fully sponsored my internship at the Mercer Historical Society to paint a mural for their exhibit. Later after graduation, he commissioned art as well. I never had him as a professor, but he supported me in incredible ways.”
– Benjamin Beck ’10



“Professor Miller was the heart of Thiel. I only had one class with him unfortunately. A few years ago, I emailed him for his 80th birthday assuming he would not possibly remember me. Not only did I receive a gracious response, he expressed recollection of me. So indicative of his interest and support of his students. A sad time for the Thiel Community but his presence made a tremendous difference. I hope the family is lifted up by the outpouring of sympathy.”
– Denise (Boustead) Muha ’81

“My Thiel education would not have been the experience it was without the guidance and encouragement of Professor Miller. I was honored over the years to come back and speak to the students.”
– Maggie (Norris) Boose ’78

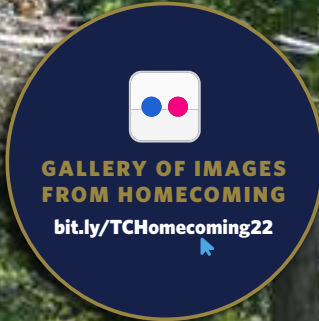
“Professor Miller was my favorite teacher. While earning my degree, I played in a local rock band, the Exposition Flyer, and since I was a business major, I was the band’s business manager. Professor Miller thought that was a unique situation; earning a business degree and at the same time applying that knowledge in a current, real-life scenario. Sadly, I never used my business degree as I became a USAF fighter pilot and spent 50 years in aviation. But without a doubt, Professor Miller had me ready and prepared to tackle the business world.”
– Jim Greider ’70

“Professor Miller was a major inspiration to me. I miss our everyday talks when walking past his office to go to class. He was such a kind and caring man with so much energy and enthusiasm, it was contagious.” – Ashtin Kirkwood ’21



More Online

- Watch the celebration of life gathering at bit.ly/TCMillerCelebration
- Read a profile of Professor Miller in the Spring 2020 edition of *The Bell* at thiel.edu/alumni



Homecoming 2022

Homecoming 2022 was an All-Star event. Alumni and friends of the College celebrated both locally and regionally.

“Each year Homecoming is a major event for the Thiel Community,” Director of Alumni Relations **David Hummel '83** said. “This time spent on campus, whether as a student, alumni, or faculty/staff member, creates special connections and memories. Homecoming is a time to renew those connections and make new ones, as alumni share their Thiel experiences with their family members who make the trip to Greenville. Homecoming is both a reunion recognizing the College’s 150-plus years of tradition, and an event to set the stage for the future.”

Setting the stage for Homecoming weekend was Thiel National Spirit

Day. Posts with alumni and friends sporting their Thiel gear across social media displayed the excitement and enthusiasm for Thiel.

“Class year and Greek organization get-togethers as well as reunions of athletic teams, clubs and performing arts groups were happening all over campus on Saturday,” Hummel said. “Each of these gatherings represents a unique aspect of the Thiel experience and they all come together to create the 1,000 person, 64-hour annual party we call Homecoming.”

In addition to the community members who were on campus, the connection to the region was extended with a worldwide online meeting,

a picnic at St. Paul’s Senior Living Community and a presentation by education expert, author and Thiel College alumnus, **Thomas Guskey, Ph.D. '72**, at Greenville High School.

Thiel partnered with the Greenville Public Library book sale and sponsored tours at the Canal Museum.

Members of the Class of 1962 came back to campus for their 60th reunion and attended a reunion event on Friday. The weekend wrapped up with several informal gatherings Saturday evening followed by the service of remembrance on Sunday at David Johnson Memorial Chapel.

How it started; How it's going



Tracy (Fair) Robertson '74 returned to campus to take part in the Alumni Awards ceremony as the recipient of the *Distinguished Alumni Award*.

While speaking during the event, she mentioned she wore the Tomcat suit during her time at Thiel. She got the chance to transform into Tommy Tomcat again following the event. Robertson walked around campus to take some photos. Because everyone loves Tommy, she took impromptu pictures with a group of alumni, students and a group of prospective students touring campus.

Get set for 2023

It might seem hard to believe, but plans are underway for next year already. The dates have been set for Homecoming 2023. Make your plans now to be on campus from September 29 to October 1.

Coming off the success of 2022's party, the Office of Alumni Affairs is planning a bigger and better event for next year.

The Class of 1973 will celebrate its 50th Reunion and class years ending in 8 and 3 will also be recognized. Follow Thiel College on social media and watch your email for updates and information on Homecoming.

Wine tastings, student-alumni networking panels, parades, campus events, tailgating and the football game are among the exciting activities on the schedule.

Anyone interested in arranging 5-year class reunions should contact Director of Alumni Relations **David Hummel '83** at alumni@thiel.edu or 724-589-2027.

Dog day afternoon in the land of the Tomcat

Tommy Tomcat made peace with the dogs during the weekend, as several dogs brought their humans to Homecoming!



HOMECOMING





Class of 1972 celebrates 50 years of Thiel bonds

First row (left to right): Joyce (Weller) Kasiara '72, Ruth (Dollhopf) Wallaart '72, Nancy (Thompson) Derby '72, Nedra (McDonald) Casey '72, Aleta (Buzard) Keck '72; second row: Thomas Guskey '72, Dennis Casey '72, Kristi (Peterson) Chapman '72; third row: David Eichelberger '72, Dennis Syska '72, Janice (Werner) Phillippy '72; fourth row: Chuck Urban '72, John Rossi '72, Don Hoercher '72, Jim Seeley '72.



Tomcat Way presented as part of conference and profiled in journal article

Thiel College faculty and staff members presented the College's Tomcat Way, a new development model for undergraduate success, at a national conference in Dallas this spring, and the unique program was also profiled in the organization's journal.

President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, Director of the Career Development Center **Liza Schaef**, Pastor **Brian Riddle '07** and Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs **Greg Q. Butcher, Ph.D.** presented the Tomcat Way at the 2022 Network for Vocational Undergraduate Education conference in Dallas, Texas.

As described by the organizers, under the theme "Called into Community: Vocation, Engagement, and Difference," the 2022 NetVUE Conference examined how attention to vocation and calling can draw us

into deep engagement with the needs of the world, meaningful reflection on difference, and more sustained attention to the ways that these issues shape how we, and our students, think about our future directions in life.

Thiel's session provided a valuable opportunity to share key aspects of the developmental model with faculty and staff from other NetVUE member schools. A discussion following the session provided the team with helpful feedback that will be incorporated into future work.

The article on the Tomcat Way was published in *Intersections*, the journal for the network of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America colleges and universities. The Tomcat Way was created as an innovative and rewarding college experience that



empowers every Thiel student to become both a scholar and a leader.

The Tomcat Way is how the College blends academic and experiential learning into a community-wide learning laboratory that cultivates leadership, informs one's personal view regarding vocation and promotes self-development in an exciting, innovative and dynamic way.

George recognized as Haller Entrepreneur

David F. George, CEO and President of Joy Baking Group, was recognized as Thiel College's 2022 Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year on October 5. George was recognized during the annual Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year Award Dinner. Joy Cone Co. started as a family business in Hermitage, Pa. in 1918. Today, the company has almost 1,000 employees and produces over two billion cones each year at facilities in Pennsylvania, Arizona, Iowa and Mexico City, Mexico. George's father, **Joseph**, was awarded Entrepreneur of the Year in 2011.



McKinney's role expanded to include athletics

Mike McKinney, Ed.D. '02 has had his role expanded and title changed to reflect the addition of overseeing the Department of Athletics at Thiel College. McKinney is now the Vice President for Student Life and Athletics. McKinney began working for his alma mater after graduating in 2002. He started his career as a resident director while attending graduate school at Youngstown State University. His original two-year appointment has grown into a 20-year career. McKinney rose to Dean of Students and began serving on the President's Cabinet by the time he was 29. Four years later, he became Vice President of



Student Life. McKinney was recognized as an influential leader in 2016 as one of the Mercer County chambers of commerce's "40 under Forty."

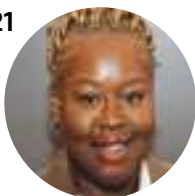
Teaching personas subject of professor's presentation

Associate Professor of Psychology **Kristel M. Gallagher, Ph.D.** presented her published research at the 2022 Teaching Professor Conference in Atlanta this summer. Gallagher's presentation, "Teaching Personas of Teaching Professors - Do They Exist and Do They Matter?," drew upon the research she recently published in the *Journal of Effective Teaching in Higher Education*. Thiel faculty contributed nearly one-third of the data, with faculty from the College of Wooster and the University of Wisconsin-Superior also contributing.

Alumnus Palmer named coordinator of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Chimamaka Palmer '21

was appointed to serve as Coordinator of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Office.



Palmer is leading efforts to foster and maintain an increasingly inclusive environment that welcomes, embraces, supports, and celebrates diversity in all its forms. Palmer's role includes advocacy, student services, program development, and training/outreach for students faculty and staff.

Ramos leading PA program

Professor Luis A.

Ramos, PA-C was recently appointed to serve as the Interim Program



Director for the Physician Assistant Studies graduate program. Ramos earned a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Navy PA Program and a master's degree in medical science from Alderson Broaddus University. He was a physician assistant in the Navy until he retired in 1999. He has led PA programs in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Holtgreffe earns Army medical scholarship

Walter Holtgreffe '22

was selected for a Health Professions Scholarship through the United States Army. Recipients of the scholarship are commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the Army and awarded full tuition to a medical school of their choice, as well as a monthly stipend. Upon completion of medical school, recipients are promoted to the rank of Captain and serve on active duty as officers providing medical care and treatment to soldiers and their families in the United States and abroad.



Holtgreffe, a 2019 graduate of Erie McDowell High School, is currently attending the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Zullo recognized as one of region's top young leaders

Vice President for for Enrollment Management & Financial Aid,

Ashley Josay Zullo,

was recognized as an influential young leader during this year's Mercer County chambers of commerce "30 under 40" awards earlier this year.



Kappa Sigma recognized by national organization

Kappa Sigma was awarded a Kappa Sigma Founders' Award of Chapter Excellence and **Charlie Lichtenwalter '22** was singled out as a top member in the area at the organization's leadership conference in Denver, Colo.



Members of this year's incoming class are part of the third consecutive academic year with enrollment growth at the College.

College's enrollment grows for third straight year, defying regional and national declines

For the third straight year, Thiel College's total enrollment has grown according to its September census. Total enrollment has increased by 7 percent over 2021. These statistics starkly contrast those of national reports that show a continued decrease in college enrollment across the United States. According to an article in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*,

of Pennsylvania has seen an overall decrease of 7.2 percent since 2020. Thiel's undergraduate enrollment grew by 1.6 percent from 2021, and the College's overall enrollment grew by 7.5 percent in 2021 and 10 percent in 2020. Strong retention numbers and graduate program increases drove the enrollment increases. Thiel College has 904 graduate and undergraduate students.

More online

thiel.edu/newsroom to find all the latest updates on what's happening at Thiel.



Regional impact

The College's effect on the region is measured in more than dollars

According to the 2022 update of the economic impact assessment study done by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, Thiel College is one of six institutions in northwest Pa. that generates nearly \$1 billion in economic impact and supports and sustains about 8,000 jobs. Those numbers are staggering and important, but the Thiel story is about more than the economic impact. In this edition and the Spring/Summer 2023 edition of *The Bell*, we are going to dig inside those numbers and tell the Thiel story in terms of real impact. The ripples that expand out from the College and into the region and the world are obvious. Talented and caring faculty and staff sharing their skills with groups and organizations, graduates launching their professional and postgraduate careers, students participating in co-curricular activities and philanthropies are just a few of those examples.

This first look examines some of the ways the College is having an impact on the region that goes beyond the financial and is also a way to frame the College's commitment to the third goal of the strategic plan, "expand Thiel's reach and impact, contributing to Greenville's and the broader region's social, economic and educational development."

REGIONAL CIVIC AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

The College is a partner, collaborator



This year's Con Spirito Chamber Concert Series brought internationally-acclaimed performers Vox Luminis to the David Johnson Memorial Chapel.



Move-in Day is often the first introduction families have with Greenville. Annually, move-in weekend brings hundreds of new and familiar faces to the region.



The fourth annual first-year students food drive collected nearly two tons of food for regional food banks. Since its inception, the food drive has collected 17,500 pounds of non-perishable food.

and host for many organizations in and around the region.

Rod Wilt '86, executive director of Penn-Northwest Development Corp., also speaks highly of Thiel's impact.

"As the Mercer County and regional population has continued to decline over the years, Thiel College has been a beacon of hope," Wilt says. "Its presence throughout the region has continued to grow, and it has invested heavily in its campus facilities as well as in new academic programs that meet the market demands of our employers."

Thiel has collaborated with Penn-Northwest Development Corp. By allowing them to use the state-of-the-art facilities in the James Pedas Communication Center to record videos, as well as hosting important meetings on campus.

Erie television journalist **Isaac Petkac** came to campus to launch the new podcast studio in the Pedas Center in September.

"The Pedas Center is a gem. There are working professionals who would love to have a facility like this," Petkac said.

"Thiel College is an unbelievable place to be able to do this. (The new Podcast Studio) is the place where media will explode at this College."

"Thiel brings a lot of new young people to Mercer County through their wide recruitment efforts," Wilt says. "As a leader in economic development, Penn-Northwest and Mercer County must work to retain these students once they graduate. Under the strong leadership of Dr. Susan Traverso, Thiel College has become a great partner in many community and economic development initiatives that will have a long-term positive impact on the region."

U.S. Representative **Mike Kelly** had members of the United States Secret Service and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Administration lead a school safety seminar in October at the William A. Passavant Memorial Center. State Senator **Michele Brooks** hosts her annual government seminar each fall at Thiel College. It introduces high school students from the region to how the state legislature works and how laws are passed in Pennsylvania.

Students in the physician assistant

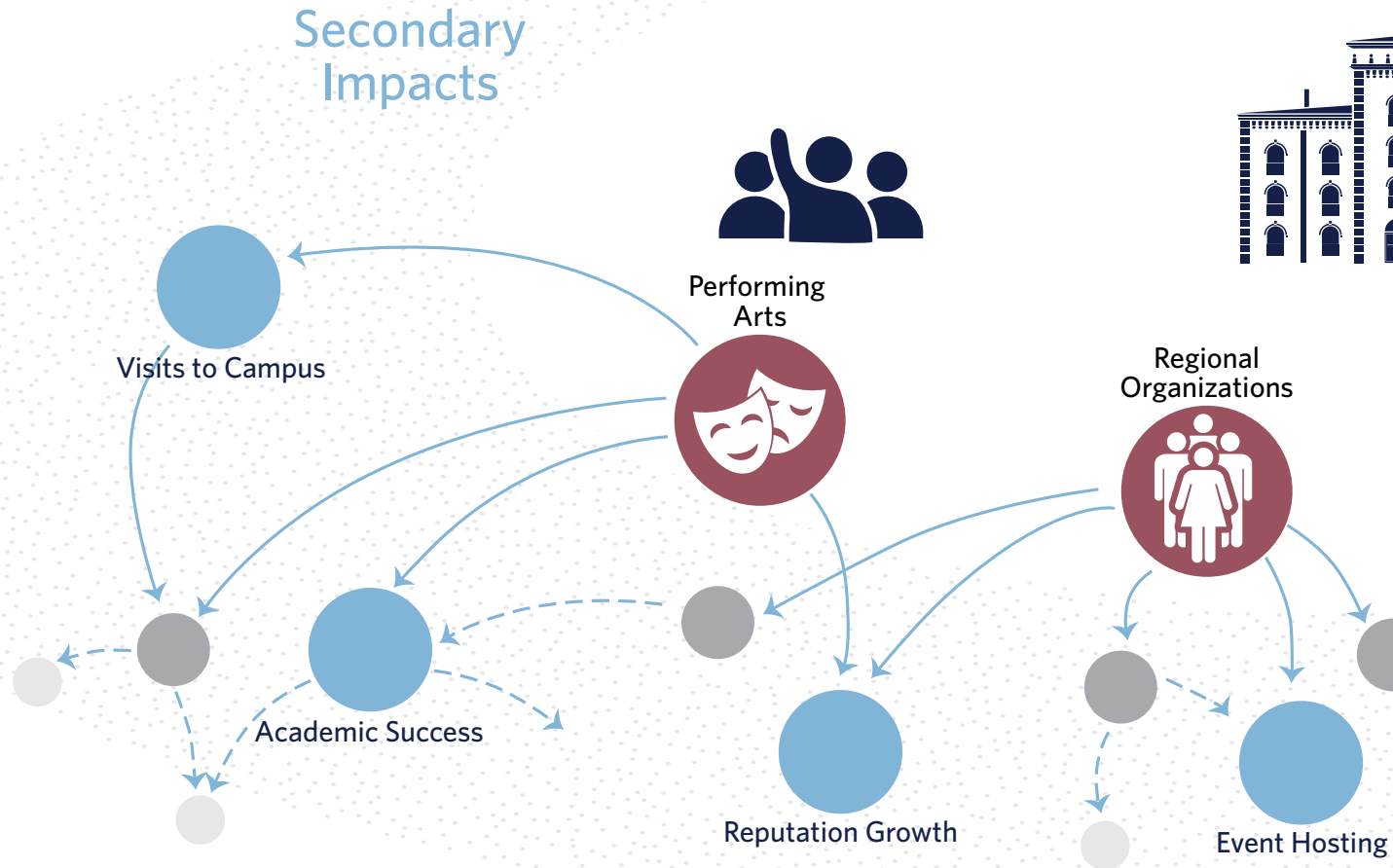
studies program hosted their inaugural free health fair and blood drive that was free and open to the public and featured several local and regional health care representatives. The blood collected at the event was sent to local hospitals and medical facilities and remained in the community.

"The reason we organized this health fair is to bring the Greenville community together," said physician assistant studies student **William Sarniguet M.S.'23**. "Also, as a new program, we wanted to integrate ourselves more to the Thiel community and fulfill our commitment of serving others."

PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND CAREER COLLABORATIONS

The College has unique and important professional and career opportunities. An example is the College's agreement with the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. The late Professor **David Miller '61 H'20** helped Thiel create a partnership with PIMS, with three years at the former and one at the latter allowing students to earn a business degree and become

REGIONAL IMPACT MODEL



licensed funeral directors. **Casey Rose '14 MBA'21**, owns and operates Rose and Black Funeral Home and Crematory with locations in Sandy Lake and Stoneboro. A third facility, Rose Simplicity Cremation & Funeral Center, is opening soon in Mercer. Rose has four full-time and five part-time employees in the Mercer County region.

"Thiel produces students who are prepared for the workforce and continue to invest in Mercer County," Rose says. "Thiel has a powerful alumni family network that allows us to connect with multiple generations in the area. Thiel has always taken the extra step to re-invest in the county and continue using local businesses for education and job placement opportunities."

"Northwest Pennsylvania is poised for growth," Wilt adds. "I am proud of the commitment Thiel has made to be a major player in our rebuilding efforts."

Another recent example is the College's agreement with Laurel Institutes that provides a pathway for Laurel graduates to complete a bachelor's degree. According to the agreement, the College would provide an individualized review of Laurel graduates and potential admission to students who meet the criteria.

"Part of the Thiel College strategic plan is being a resource for the region," Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs **Greg Q. Butcher, Ph.D.** said. "This agreement creates an additional entry point for students who want to

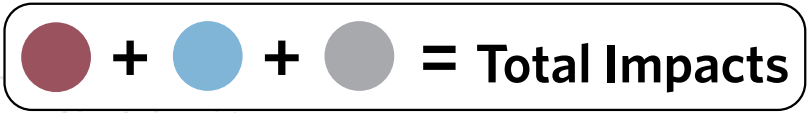
expand on their career and complete a bachelor's degree."

Laurel Technical Institute is an accredited institute with campuses in Hermitage, Pa., Sharon, Pa., Uniontown, Pa., and Morgantown, W.Va. also offers online courses. It provides career-focused training, Associate Degrees and professional certifications.

"We are excited to renew our partnership with Thiel College," Laurel Institutes Executive Vice President **Douglas Decker, Ph.D.** said. "We have worked together for a long time and this signing signifies taking the next step. Working with Thiel offers our graduates outstanding opportunities to continue their education."

An agreement between Thiel College

Impacts



Admissions/
College Search



Rankings

Professional
Contributions



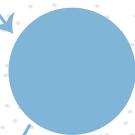
Regional Awareness



Financial



Connection to Campus



Community Involvement



and Sharon Regional Medical Center's School of Nursing led to a collaborative program that will graduate students with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN).

A new program this year had local and regional businesses hosting job information and career tables in the main hallway of the Howard Miller Student Center outside the new location of the Career Development Center. The Career Development Center is also home to a new and unique collaboration with Grove City Outlets and Simon Property Group. The project ensures students in need have access to proper professional wardrobe items for job and graduate school interviews as well as internship applications.

"The goal of Simon's Closet in

the Career Development Center is to help students dress for success and to remove financial barriers that may prevent students in need from looking and feeling their best during the internship and job search process," said **Liza Schaefer**, the Director of the Career Development Center at the College. "Professional attire can be expensive, and we want our students to have confidence in their professional appearance as they engage in their internship and job search and launch into the world of work. Students may borrow or keep new and pre-worn suits, blazers, shirts, skirts, ties, and other professional accessories."

The idea was to transform the closet from a simple room into a retail shop-

style space, which is intended to help students feel comfortable reaching out to ask for assistance in finding appropriate, professional clothing.

"We are thrilled to support Thiel College and their students by providing Simon's Closet with a beautiful boutique-style dressing room designed to make students feel special and help give them the confidence they need to achieve their career dreams," said **Michele R. Czerwinski**, Director of Marketing and Business Development at Grove City Premium Outlets, a Simon Center.

ADMISSIONS

The fall brings to mind thoughts of "Back to School," not just for college-

aged students but for students of all ages, too.

In August, Move-In Day brings many new students to Greenville as join the Thiel College Community, but those are not the only new college students who come to campus with the start of the academic year.

In October, the College hosts hundreds of students and more than 100 representatives from colleges, universities, trade schools, businesses, banks, career centers, and military branches as part of the Mercer County Guidance Counselors Association College Fair in the Rissell-Beeghly Gymnasium each year.

All Mercer County high schools are invited as well as students from nearby counties.

The event is an opportunity for attendees to see the newly renovated entrance, court and bleachers in Rissell-Beeghly Gym. A three-phase renovation of the Rissell-Beeghly complex began this summer, upgrading the competitive court, installing new flooring, bleachers, modern lighting as well as an advanced heating and cooling system throughout the building. Accessibility for people with disabilities was improved in the gym as part of the Rissell-Beeghly improvements as is a new video scoreboard.

Another important back to school tradition on campus is the first-year student food drive.

This year's fourth annual community food drive collected 3,500 pounds of food for Greenville's Good Shepherd and Salvation Army food pantries.

As a service-learning project, the new students spend their first weekend in Greenville placing bags on porches to collect non-perishable food. A few days later, the same students pick up the bags of food from community



Students in the physician assistant studies master's degree program hosted their first community health fair and blood drive in the Howard Miller Student Center.

Faculty/Staff Volunteerism by the numbers

A College survey of faculty and staff members found that 118 groups benefited from Thiel employees' contributions.

Organization	Total
Groups	42
Church	26
Businesses	19
Schools/Universities	18
Philanthropies	9
Other	4

members who wish to participate. Combined, Thiel College students have collected 17,500 pounds of food for the community since the first collection during move-in weekend in 2018.

Each of these programs and efforts are just one of the reasons the College's enrollment has grown, Chair of the Arthur McGonigal Department of Business Administration and Accounting and director of the MBA program **Tony Kos, Ph.D.** said.

"Our enrollment numbers are positive

with increases of 7.5 percent in 2020 and almost 10 percent in 2021 and another 7 percent this year," Kos added.

Thiel College's most recent census for all students is 904.

RANKINGS

The College's reputation is growing both regionally and nationally based on its recognition through college ranking programs. Thiel is the top regional college for social mobility in northwestern Pa. and second among northwestern Pa. colleges ranked by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Thiel is the top-ranked northwestern Pa. college among the colleges ranked by *Washington Monthly*. Thiel is also the top-ranked northwestern Pa. college for service-oriented majors, social mobility rank and service rank. Thiel was also the 33rd-ranked college for research among the more than 150 colleges ranked and the top-ranked undergraduate research college in the state.

Online college ranking source niche.com includes Thiel College among the top half of Pennsylvania schools for

“professors who care” and diversity.

Not only does the College earn recognitions each fall, but it also gives important awards. This fall, **David F. George**, CEO and President of Joy Baking Group, was Thiel College’s 2022 Haller Enterprise Institute Entrepreneur of the Year.

In 2003, George began the transition process of taking over Joy Cone Co., now known as Joy Baking Group, from his father, Joseph George, who was also named a Haller Entrepreneur of the Year in 2011.

PERFORMING ARTS

Performances and art exhibitions happen on campus throughout the academic year, but the fall is significant because the Con Spirito Concert Music Series brings two concerts. The first is a special concert and tour stop for the Fischhoff Award winning group. This concert provides a special performance during the day that serves as an introduction to classical music for many students. This year the Fischhoff Winner Mixed Media performed an afternoon concert for first-year students and an evening concert for the public. On Nov. 1, internationally-acclaimed group Vox Luminis performed at the Chapel.

In 2007, the tradition of musical excellence started when **LaVonne H’16** and the late **Glen R. Johnson H’88**, in honor of their late daughter, created the series to bring top musical talent to Thiel College and the region. Con Spirito is just one of the offerings at Thiel that connects the college to the regional arts community.

Another example of that bridge is **John Robbins ’24**. The junior media and journalism major spent the summer working on an internship with WQED radio station in Pittsburgh. At WQED, he worked with Thiel College



*Members of the Dietrich Foundation toured campus this fall and got a look at the Science Technology Engineering Arts Mathematics room in the library. The STEAM Room is dedicated to Professor of English **Mary Theresa Hall, Ph.D.** and was created by students in the Dietrich Honors Institute.*

alumnus **Jim Cunningham ’77**.

“My internship over this past summer with WQED provided opportunities to get my name out there. I was able to be an interviewer for WQED’s Voice of the Arts, make edits and spots for publicizing Voice of the Arts and other WQED events, and gain connections,” Robbins said. “These experiences have helped me improve Thiel’s radio station, WXTC, with live sports broadcasts and other aspects of the radio.” In addition, the 69th annual Christmas Festival was held in early December. This tradition is free and open to the public, as are most performances at Thiel, and brings people from around the region to campus.

Professor of Art and Curator of Art **Sean McConnor** leads exhibitions in the Weyers-Sampson Gallery throughout the year, which includes an exhibition

of student work. The Thiel Players have been putting on performances in the William A. Robinson Theater for more than five decades. They have also opened their doors to allow community members to volunteer and participate in theater productions.

The William A. Passavant Memorial Center is the home for the Greenville Symphony Orchestra. With seats for about 2,000 people, it is the largest such facility in Mercer County.

According to the AICUP study, Pennsylvania’s independent, nonprofit colleges are the bedrock of their communities. Their history and traditions are woven into the local identity, and those communities rely upon those schools for their success. The average number of years for these institutions in a community is 134. Thiel was founded 156 years ago.



Fautas looks to strengthen Tomcat Pride as new AD



Devin Christian '23 (left), President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.** and **Jason Fautas** chat during a Thiel football game.

Jason Fautas is the new athletic director at Thiel College.

"Jason emerged from a very competitive pool of applicants," said Vice President for Student Life and Athletics **Mike McKinney, Ed.D. '02**, who led the national search. "Among those expressing interest, he was the most impressive with a wealth of experience that includes student-athlete recruitment and retention, fundraising, coach and program development, compliance, and a demonstrated commitment to Title IX, diversity, inclusion, and gender equity. We welcome Jason and look forward to him advancing our athletic programs."

Fautas had been with Walsh University since 2012, having served a variety of senior administrative roles and as lacrosse coach. Fautas is originally from Long Island, N.Y. He played football, lacrosse and wrestled for Sachem High School (N.Y.). He attended Hartwick College where he earned a business degree and played lacrosse. He earned a master's degree in sports leadership from Northeastern University.

Fautas has spent 15 years in intercollegiate athletics. After beginning his career coaching men's lacrosse at Hartwick College, he spent two seasons as the assistant men's

lacrosse coach at Lafayette College, competing at the NCAA Division I level in the Patriot League before moving to Walsh University.

He has been active with several conference committees and professional organizations, including the Great Midwest Athletic Conference Ethics and Eligibility and Championship committees, National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, National Association for Athletic Compliance and Business of Small College Athletics Leadership Academy.

Fautas arrives as the Department of Athletics is nearing the completion of a renovation project for the Rissell-Beeghly Gym, which included new flooring on the court, bleachers, improved accessibility, modern lighting and an advanced heating and cooling system. During the summer, the Thiel College tennis courts were resurfaced and repainted and will be able to host a variety of activities including camps, clinics and community use.

Fautas and his wife, Jennifer, recently welcomed a daughter, Lillian, to their family and are looking forward to being a part of Thiel College and the larger Thiel community.

Alumnus Weisbarth joins sports information office

Devin Weisbarth '22 is the new assistant sports information director.

A native of Norton, Ohio, Weisbarth graduated with Bachelor of Arts degrees in business administration and media and journalism. While at Thiel, he was a member of the men's soccer team and Sigma Phi Epsilon. Weisbarth was also a resident advisor.

Weisbarth was a freelance writer providing content for a website dedicated to the Columbus Crew of Major League Soccer as well as providing color commentary for Friday Night Pa. broadcasts.



CLASS NOTES

— 1950s —

Russell B. Moser '56 lives in North East, Pa.

— 1960s —



Jane (Mickley) Heineman '62 attended an Erie Seawolves game in June 2022 and was pictured with Alpha Xi Delta sister **Jessica (Peters) Burkley '21**.

Lynn K. (Knopp) Gourley '65 is retired with her spouse, Robert, in Beaver, Pa.

— 1970s —

David Fox, Ph.D. '77 was recently honored as Faculty Member of the Year by the School of Forest Fisheries, and



Geomatics Sciences at the University of Florida where he is a Lecturer. David had been previously honored by the undergraduate forestry club as Teacher of the Year in 2017.

He and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Gainesville, Fla. and are within walking distance of their daughter, son-in-law, and two young grandsons.



Janice (Werner) Kemp-Phillippy '72 retired from her position as a trial attorney for Travelers in 2013 and moved from Tampa, Fla. to Laurel Valley, Townsend, Tenn. Townsend is a small town outside of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, so Janice and her spouse, Steven Phillippy, can pursue their interests in nature and hiking. Janice has enjoyed volunteer work at the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center and in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Steven enjoys substitute teaching in the local schools. They acquired a small travel trailer in 2016 and have done extensive travel around the U.S. and Canada. In the process, they visit their children and grandchildren who are located on both coasts. They thoroughly enjoy retirement and find it keeps them quite busy.

— 1980s —

Shawn E. Brooks '82 and his husband, Christopher Chapman, reside in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Madlyn Sabo '82 works as a Supervisor at Duritza Family of Markets in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Amy L. Suggars '82 lives in Delaware, Ohio.

Brian James Stamm '87 is an active-duty Navy Chaplain (for 28 years) supervising 150 chaplains and all religious ministry programs for the Atlantic Fleet.

Roger Johnson '87 resides in Orlando, Fla.

Delia Thomas '87 was nominated Virgin Islands Inspector General by Governor Albert Bryan Jr. recently.



Previously, she had been Deputy VI Inspector General and has worked in the Office of the Inspector General since its inception in 1999. The Office of Inspector General is an internal watchdog of the government that operates independently. It conducts audits and investigations of government departments, agencies, and works to increase efficiency within government programs and operations, and reports suspected fraud cases to the Department of Justice. Bryan said the government needs “a person who is impeccable in order, whose integrity cannot be questioned” in that office.

“It gives me great pleasure to send her name, Ms. Delia Thomas, down to the Legislature... as the next Inspector General of the Virgin Islands. I know she’s going to do us all proud here in the Virgin Islands and create a new

legacy of leadership at the Office of the Inspector General.”

Thomas began her government career in June 1989 as a junior auditor with the Virgin Islands Bureau of Audit and Control, working her way up to Audit Manager in 1999. In March of 2001, Inspector General Nominee Thomas was appointed acting Deputy Virgin Islands Inspector General and promoted to the position in June 2002. She graduated from Thiel College with a Bachelor of Arts in business administration and accounting.

— 1990s —

Richard Leseganich '94 lives in Fort Myers, Fla. and is a Senior Pastor for the Messiah Lutheran Church.

Damen Taylor '95 is the controller for the August Wilson African American Cultural Center in downtown Pittsburgh.

Melanie S. (Geiser) Farrant '99 received her doctorate in teaching and curriculum from Northcentral University in February 2021. She lives with her spouse, Sean, in Coudersport, Pa. Melanie is a science teacher at Northern Potter schools.

— 2000s —

Nicole (Rowles) Pauling '00 is a recent graduate of Moreland University's Master's Degree in Education with Educational Technology program who built a successful educational career in e-learning around her passions and interests. Not a traditional classroom teacher, Nicole has developed

a series of online classes called “Academy of Wonder” through the platform Outschool focused on history, psychology, art, and gamified learning. As a mother and educator in digital learning spaces, Nicole recognized that LGBTQIA+ students are at increased risk for trauma and abuse. Her passion for creating inclusive learning environments, both at home and in school, inspired her to found the LGBTQ Homeschool Association. Nicole is building a community of support and educational resources for families and educators of LGBTQIA+ students, transforming her local community and the digital space of homeschooling. Her association is an online community that curates and provides family resources, networking, and educational materials to support teachers and families of LGBTQIA+ students.

Arthur J. Ray '00 and his spouse, Emilie, live in Henrico, Va.

Lydia M. (Smith) Speice '01 was promoted to Components Production Quality Leader at Grove City's Engine plant for Wabtec. She lives with her spouse, Christopher Speice, in Grove City, Pa. Lydia has three children Adam, Regan and Robert Speice.

Emily R. Hartman '03 accepted the Dean of Student Life and Conduct/ Chesapeake Campus Dean position with Tidewater Community College on Aug. 1, 2022.



Sonja Heard '03 is Director of Care Coordination and Tracking at the Primary Health Network in Sharon, Pa.

Ebele Noelle Chizea '04 authored “Aquarian Dawn” (published by Threeroomspress). Her book was set to be released on Oct. 25, 2022.



Shauna L. Gonzales '04 is employed as a Patient Advocate for the Department of Veteran Affairs in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sixto M. Rivera '07 lives in Austell, Ga. He and his wife have three children: Sixto Jr., Tatyanna and Zaid.

Shaunte M. Rogers '07 is an adoption supervisor for Mahoning County Children Services in Youngstown, Ohio.

Jared T. Hirtz '08 and Sarah Feldberg live in Waynesburg, Pa. Jared works as an Administrative Officer/ Support Operations Officer for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Matthew R. Howlett '08 lives in North Olmsted, Ohio with his spouse, Sarah Pyles. He works as a Medical Laboratory Scientist for University Hospitals of Cleveland.

Rich L. Heltzel '09 and his spouse, Chelsea Heltzel, live in Traverse City, Mich. Rich works as Senior Vice President of Accurate Group.

— 2010s —

Matthew R. Christian '11 is the Sr. Payroll Specialist for Arconic Corp. in

Jon Amodeo '93

Residence: Oakmont, Pa.

Professional Experience: A financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual, my team and I, are helping families, executives, business owners and physicians to reach their financial dreams through asset management and personal insurance planning.

Hobbies: Spending time with wife Miriam and two children, and volunteering

Involvement at Thiel: Member of Phi Theta Phi fraternity, football and golf teams

Reason for Giving Back: Because I was taught by my father, and by Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School, to "never forget where you come from," as alumni are who keep the doors open of our schools that have paved our paths.



The Thiel Fund File

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

Pittsburgh, Pa. He has two children, Lincoln and Hudson.

Dara L. (Sefton) Hagofsky '12 is a Case Review Officer for Paragon Investigations. She and her spouse, Ryan Hagofsky, recently moved to Sandy Lake, Pa.

Rebecca A. (Betteridge) Thomas '12 and her spouse, Jacki, live in Conneaut, Ohio where Rebecca is a teacher for Conneaut Area City Schools.

Damian Butler-Buccilli '14 works as a planner for the Penn Hills Township (Allegheny County, Pa.) His spouse is Allyson Stabenow.

Richard A. Kolesar '14 is a manager for All-Phase Electric, CED in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Elliott C. Beach '15 works as Director of Accountability for Delta Sigma Phi. He and his spouse, Kelley Bellia, D.O. '15 live in Oxford, Miss.

Ryan W. Hart, Ph.D. '15

successfully defended his dissertation "Contexts of Sense in Psychonology: The Care of



Emerging Adults," and graduated in August with his Medical Humanities Ph.D. from the University of Texas Medical Branch.

Nathan Joseph Nitzczynski '15 started a new job at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio in May 2022.

Nathan serves as an Academic Advisor in Student Success and Career Development. Previously, he completed a four-year stint at Mercyhurst University after receiving his master's degree in 2018 from Youngstown State University.

Daniel R. McFetridge '16 resides in Sharon, Pa. and is a data analyst for Truck World Inc.

Kayla M. Doran '17 resides in Erie, Pa.

Kaytee (Candela) Shimek '18 is a seventh-grade intervention specialist and the girls soccer coach at Buckeye Local School District in Ashtabula, Ohio. She is looking to build the Edgewood girls soccer program.

– 2020s –



Kasandra (Wagler) Shawgo '16 shares a photograph of her son, Sawyer, looking very collegial in his Thiel gear and playing in the leaves. Shawgo is a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. She attended Homecoming 2022 and participated in the Alumni and Student Networking event.

Brett W. Eckroate '20 works as a Medical Physics Resident at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey.

Jonathan G. Burkley '21 is a science teacher at Perseus House Charter School of Excellence in Erie, Pa.

– marriages –



Shauna L. (Gonzales) Wolf '04 and Shane Wolf on June 11, 2022.



Tiffany J. (Banas) Gormley '08 and Jeffrey Gormley on April 12, 2022.



The Thiel Fund File

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

Brett Eckroate '20

Residence: New Brunswick, N.J.

Professional Experience: Medical physics resident at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital

Hobbies: Hiking, spending time with my dogs, reading, and making art

Involvement at Thiel: SGA president, brother of Kappa Sigma, Resident Assistant, Thiel Team, Ultimate Frisbee captain

Reason for Giving Back: Thiel College allowed me the space to break out of my shell and become the person I always wanted to be. It was here I learned how to be confident, communicate effectively, and overall be a contributing member to society. I give back to the institution that provided me with the skills needed to help transform myself and the world around me.



Haley M. (Tokich) Thorp '18 and **Jason Thorp '18** on May 20, 2022. The ceremony was officiated by Professor of Religion **George Branch-Trevathan, Ph.D.** Other Thiel alumni in attendance included Maid of Honor **Emily Waxter '19**, bridesmaid **Sarah Carlson '21** and groomsman **Chris McCann '18**.



Brittany L. (Dell) Hamilton '12 and **Corey Hamilton '14** on June 19, 2021. Brittany works as an Emergency Room Registered Nurse. Brittany serves in the United States Army Reserves as well as Veteran Affairs in Erie, Pa.



Erin (Huff) Schneider '14 and **Matthew Schneider '13** on February 29, 2020. Left to right. Back: Darren McAnich, **Dave Rafle '13**, **Josh Hideg '13**, **Ryan Prescott '12**, Dillon Stevens, **Matt Willis '15**, Eric Wolfe, **Amy Mallinger '15**. Front: Bret Kepler, Anne Mullhausen, **Erin (Huff) Schneider '14**, **Matthew Schneider '13**, **Steve Toth '12**, **Meredith (Nagle) Toth '10**, **Kelsey Schneider '16**, Heather Kepler and Kylie Laugherty.



Shyann Foreman '20 and **Shane Young '19** on May 14, 2022. The wedding party also included **Jacob Naber '19**, **Elizabeth Carlson '17**, **Shayla Little '21**, and current Thiel student **Rebekah Ladaika '23**.



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

– births –



To **Erica (Riola) Clements '12** and **Wyatt Clements '14**: a daughter, Mackenzie Clements, on February 14, 2022. Mackenzie is welcomed by mom, dad and big sister, Annabelle, in Duncansville, Pa.



To **Heather R. (McCloud) Baker '13** and Alan Baker: a son, William Paul Baker, on June 4, 2022. William is joining his parents and sibling, Jordan Ellis Baker, in Weirton, W. Va. Heather is a teacher at the Cornerstone Christian Academy.



To **Megan A. (Megan Lee) Gregor '19** and **Jacob Gregor '18**: a daughter, Ava Leigh Gregor on June 2, 2022 at 3:14 p.m. 5 lbs. 18 inches.

To **Anya (Loukianova) Fink '05** and Tim Fink: a daughter in April 2022.

– gatherings –



Bridal shower for **Tiffany Joy (Banas) Gormley '08** with Thiel alumnae from the Class of 2008. Listed from front to back and left to right: **Tiffany Joy (Banas) Gormley '08**, **Amanda (Prekup) Kelly '08**, **Crissy (Nelson) Wells '08**, **Allison (Obenour) Grab '08**, **Jenna (Gowin) Farley '08**, **Jamie (Regna) Biertempfel '09**, **Chelsey (Collavo) Powers '08**, **Hayley (Deems) Tymoczko '08**, and **Kelly (Donovan) Gumina '08**.



Molly E. (Shepler) Rowan '22 and other alumni gathered on Saturday, June 25, for the Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County, based in Kittanning, Pa., as it held its inaugural "Grip It & Rip It" Golf Scramble fundraiser at the Apollo Elks Golf Club in Apollo, Pa. Among the 122 golfers and volunteers were six Thiel alumni members as pictured from the left: **Charlie Lichtenwalter '22**, **Jimmy Buckley '20**, **Michelle (Stahl) Reefer '90** (CEO of PWAC), **Kim (Yakemowicz) Leone '92** (Director of Administration at PWAC), **Hannah Uschock '22**, and Rowan (employee at PWAC).



Thiel Alumni and friends enjoyed an evening at the ballpark on Thursday, June 23, 2022, as the Erie Seawolves played the Bowie Baysox. First row: **Dom Dionisio '72**, his wife Deborah Krause, Cindy (Marrs) Fietzer, **John Marrs '83**. Second row: **David Hummel '83**, **Jessica (Peters) Burkley '21**. Third row: Joe Rys, **Jane (Mickley) Heineman '62** and, her daughter, Chris Rys.



Thiel alumni and friends gathered on Friday, August 26 at Nissley Summerfest Music in the Vineyards in Bainbridge, Pa. and on Saturday, August 27 for lunch at the John Wright Restaurant in Wrightsville, Pa. First row: **Marnie (Gill) Joseph '70**, **Chris (Olson) Snyder '70**, **Linda (Baynard) Hoover '69**, **Louise (Irvine) Pierce '67**, **Kathleen (McClelland) Lindman '65**, **Jane (Cullen) Marsteller '77**, **Kelsey (Adair) Hogan '13**, **Marilyn (Johnston) Brown '61**. Second row: **John Marrs '83**, **Joanne (Gable) Marrs '85**, **David Hummel '83**, **Herb Hoover '68**, **Bev Cigler '68**, **Kent Crawford**, **Rev. William Sowers '58**, **Jim Stough '62** and **Jonathan Hogan '12**.



Damen Taylor '95 was brought into the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at Homecoming as a member of the Renaissance of Brotherhood Program which provides for men who live up to the ideals of Sigma Phi Epsilon to be part of the fraternity even though they may not have had the opportunity during their college years. Candidates must demonstrate the three Cardinal Principles: Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love. Left to Right: **Kendra Bluhm '95**, **Damen Taylor '95**, and **Holly Frampton '94**.

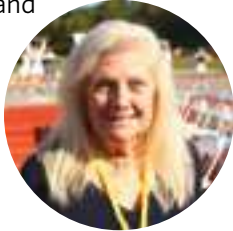
David Mogle, Thiel Fund Director, attended the 2022 season opener for Thiel football at Montclair State University (N.J.) on Saturday, Sept. 3. Tomcat nation was alive and active at the stadium. There was plenty of positive energy on the field, sideline, and in the stands. Mogle met with alumni **Brett Eckroate '20** and **Val Dickerson '78** (four-year Thiel student but eventual Montclair State grad) and chatted with several Tomcat parents, who brought great enthusiasm to the game. The team competed until the final whistle, and the new coaching staff have begun their era.



Leslie (Stutzman) Miklosovic '87, **Tammi (Dingfelder) Lohrmann '87** and **Phil Stutzman '62** met up during Homecoming 2022 on Sept. 24 in front of the Howard Miller Student Center.

Thiel family saddened by passing of community leader Carol Stamm

Thiel College alumna and community leader **Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71** passed away unexpectedly on Oct. 18. She was an entrepreneur, leader, volunteer, advocate and dedicated Thiel College Tomcat.



She was married to former Board of Trustees Chair **Barry Stamm, M.D.**

'70. They met at Thiel **STAMM** where they developed life-long friendships with their classmates. In 2016, they were honored as Entrepreneurs of the Year. The story of how they grew their many business endeavors was centered around their partnership. He, a talented surgeon, and Carol, an astute businesswoman,

were an impressive team—at work and in life.

“Carol loved Thiel and all it offered her as a first-generation college student,” President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, said. “She excelled at Thiel and together with Barry she mapped a life of accomplishment, service to her community and care for her family.”

Her loss will be mourned by all who knew her. She will be deeply missed by her husband, Barry, her children **Brian** and **Ashley** and her grandchildren as well as the scores of friends and classmates with whom Carol maintained deep connections.

Thiel College was blessed by the generous service of Carol, her leadership in the Thiel 2016 Campaign was instrumental to the

largest fundraising effort in the College’s history. She hosted events, traveled on behalf of the College and told her Thiel story widely and with conviction.

Examples of the Stamm’s leadership can be found with Dr. Barry '70 and Carol '71 Stamm Track and Field Complex, the Stamm Auditorium and the Stamm Atrium in the Science Connector.

Carol Stamm graduated in three years with her undergraduate degree in business administration so she could move to Philadelphia to be with Barry during his medical school years. Contributions may be made to the charity of the donor’s choice or to the Carol A. Stamm Memorial Scholarship at Thiel College.

Bishop Loyal Alexander Black '52 H'85, age 92, passed away July 26, 2022, at St. John Specialty Care Center in Mars, Pa. He graduated from Thiel College in 1952, and from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in 1955. In 1985, Thiel College awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In 1987, he was elected as the first Bishop of the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. At various times during his years as an active bishop, he served on the Board of Trustees of Thiel College. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, **Eleanor Louise Hutchison Black**, who

died in 2020. He is survived by his children, **Susan Ellen Black '86**, of Gibsonia, Pa., and **Timothy Alexander Black '89**, of Pittsburgh.

The Honorable **Francis J. Fornelli**, age 81, passed away August 2, 2022, at UPMC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh. In 1981, Fornelli won the election for the newly created third judgeship in Mercer County. At the time of his mandatory retirement at age 70, he was the longest-serving president judge in Mercer County history.

Dale Robert Hesse '73 died on Saturday, September 24, 2022, in Evans, Ga. He was 71. Hesse majored

in chemistry at Thiel earned a master’s degree in sacred music at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. He enjoyed singing and touring internationally and regionally with the Thiel College Choir for four years under the direction of the founder of the Thiel Choir, Marlowe Johnson, and then as the director of the Thiel Alumni Choir from 1980-1997.

Rosanna Sweden Strausbaugh, age 83, died July 25 in Erie, Pa. She is survived by her husband, Trustee Emeritus **M. Roy Strausbaugh, Ph.D. H'14**. They met at Millersville University and married on December 29, 1961. They were married for more than 60 years.

CLASS NOTES

– in memoriam –

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

William G. Ahl '51
Russell Amalong '55
Gordon S. Bachman '53
Ebert L. Badger '41
Margaret D. (Ruppel) Baer '54
Kenneth S. Behner '67
Rev. V. Theodore Benson '52
Wilma Benton
Arthur Bernardi '55
Nancy P. (Pollock) Beuerman '51
Charles A. Beuerman '52
Joyce L. (Barner) Bischoff '59
L. Alexander Black '52 H'85
Emma Elnora (Klimack) Boedeker '52
Jacqueline (Hallman) Bond '52
Alan F. Bowman '66
Willis Bertrum Brinker '57
Lynn (Welsch) Coddington '71
Raymond B. Comfort '62
Jeffrey Arthur Copper
Daniel Cowatch '93
Sharon A. Crayton '76
Craig G. Cunningham '69
Amy Renee (Toth) Dahl '03
Mary Alice Dean
Alexander Demeter '51
Gary D. DeNardo '65
William C. Denny '51
Phyllis DePree
Joshua A. Di Luzio '09
Nicholas J. Diakiw '62
Andrew Paul Dinsmore
William Dinsmore
John G. Donaldson '51
Robert B. Dunmire '50
Barbara (Mulligan) Duplaisir '83
John M. D'Urso
Polly Eddy
Paul G. Eichhammer '75
Kathryn L. (McBride) English '41
Everett English
Francis J. Fornelli
James Gilbert

June D. (Bringer) Greer '56
William G. Hansmann '50
Suzanne (Titzel) Hanson '47
Dale Robert Hesse '73
Thomas F. Hoffacker '66
Patricia Hogan-Zocklein '77
Raymond Hoover '64
James R. Hopkins '64
Dr. Robert F. Horsch '51
Mary Joan (Kimpel) Hunavy '51
Robert Imhof '62
Charles L. Kammer Jr. '45
Evelyn Kaufman
Carol A. Keyes '67
Patricia Kilbert '51
Betty P. Kosanovich
Robert M. Kuech '68
Louise D. Lauer
Catherine M. Little
Carl E. Long
Polly (Peacock) Longdon '51
Russell C. Lucas '51
Kenneth E. Martz '57
William M. McElhaney
Marilyn A. (Campbell) McFadden
Mildred McLaughlin
James McLean
John B. Mershon '61
George W. Miller '51
David M. Miller '61 H'20
Geraldine Moore
Timothy Glen Moran '83
Edward M. Murcko
Carol Ann (Gregory) Nader '63
Howard Nagle Sr.
Frances E. (Bowling) Neilen '73
Walter J. Norris Jr '49
Robert B. Ohle '58
Carl M. Osrom '51
Robert J. Petrilla '64
Christine (Parke) Pohlman '74
Maryann (Katana) Priddy '51

Carolyn K. (Keck) Redic '53
Melvin A. Renkey '67
Edward Reynolds '64
Ashley J. Riley
Roy S. Robbins '51
Paul F. Rohl '58
Robert R. Ruffner '74
James Rush '51
Karl Schlentner
John W. Schlotter '69
Howard C. Schubel '55
Jeffrey A. Schurer '92
Virginia C. (Bingham) Seaton '51
Robert E. Sechrist '51
Theodore J. Selby '71
Margaret E. (Seifert) Shaner '51
Warren R. Shaw
Dr. H. Charles Shultz
William Allen Skagerberg '51
Sara Lee Smargiasso
Dale L. Smith
Martha Smyers
Wade A. Spence '49
Carol (Yeager) Stamm '71
Rosanna Strausbaugh
Milvet J. Strickler '51
Laurie A. Sutley '79
Carol A. Svensen '69
Jennifer Nicole Swartz '07
Edward B. Taylor '73
Florence Tian
Joseph M. Walton
John W. Ware III '70
Ruth (Dickey) Waring '55
Richard E. Weiss '64
Carolyn L. (Teare) Welsh '50
Ronald Ira West '67
Dick E. Wilt '57
Dr. Richard R. Wolfe '51
Kirk Works
Rev. Frederick Baker Zikeldi '59
Claire B. (Economidis) Zograph '60



Launching Leaders has always been part of Thiel's history

By Joseph T. Nairn,
D.Mgt. '79



The new Thiel strategic plan “Thiel 2026: Launching the Leaders the World Needs Now” should truly resonate with all of us whether alumni, friends or other communities engaged with Thiel.

As Thiel alumni we have been imbued with a world view unlike many others. We have experienced the world through relationships with students from abroad, through travel scholarships such as the Vira Heinz Award, and work and internship experiences that took us beyond the familiar into new and often challenging places. Through all these varied experiences one common denominator remains, that of the Thiel Community. Community itself harkens back to our Lutheran heritage as community and communion have the same roots. Our community is one of shared interest, experience, and perhaps most importantly, values. Sharing our sense of community with others through volunteerism, activism for various causes, or other active participation through coaching, mentoring, and... serving.



The first-year student food drive is one example of how students are working as servant leaders and becoming the “Leaders the World Needs Now.”

Throughout a 42-year career in higher education I have participated in, taken courses in, and taught leadership at undergraduate and graduate levels. As we know there are many different styles and approaches to leadership, but the one that I believe most closely represents the Thiel experience is that of the “servant leader.” While the practice goes back millennia, the term was coined in 1970 by Robert Greenleaf. The concept of servant as leader is, in my estimation, at the core of Thiel’s values and liberal arts education.

As noted above, many of us serve in leadership roles as “servants” through our focus on strengthening communities, by empowering individuals to realize their gifts, by creating and sustaining opportunities for growth and continuous improvement in our communities, and by extension the world around us. Often without realizing it, we are serving multiple communities through

our engagement in religious activities, youth groups, United Ways, Habitat for Humanity, Literacy Volunteers, or any number of groups and organizations we serve. The Thiel Experience enables us to add value to the communities in which we work, live, and worship. The definition of community is, in fact, a social unit of individuals who share common values, customs, faiths, or as we all have experienced, place.

But the Thiel Community is more than a place. More than shared experiences, more than classes and laboratories, more than fraternities and sororities, athletic teams, clubs and organizations, or honor societies. The Thiel Community is one of service to others, to leading through service and “carrying water” for others. It is about empowering those around us whether as managers, supervisors, or colleagues.

Thiel truly is today, and has for over 150 years, been “Launching the Leaders the World Needs Now.”

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



For more information on how to help,
Contact **David Mogle** by email dmogle@thiel.edu or by phone **724-589-2140**





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Save the date 2023 Events

Founders' Day Celebration

Thursday, Feb. 2

Academic Honors Convocation

Friday, Feb. 10

Con Spirito Concert Series

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Scholarship & Arts Symposium

Thursday, April 20

149th Commencement Exercises

Sunday, May 7

Homecoming

Sept. 29-Oct. 1

