

The Bell

Service Learning at Thiel
Commencement 2010
Homecoming Save the Date
...and much more!



*The Inauguration of
Dr. Troy D. VanAken*

A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I began this letter, we had just passed through the Easter season. This time of year always brings to mind the concepts of transformation and change for me. Just like the crocuses that struggle to push through the cold soil and announce the coming of spring, change can be painful, transformation can be a battle. But those “growing pains” are necessary to move toward a better and brighter future.

What better metaphor for the change that is sweeping across Thiel’s campus these days! It hasn’t been easy, but we’ve made some incredible headway in our quest to transform Thiel College and move it into the brighter future I know is waiting for us. As you will read in this issue of *The Bell*, Thiel has a new major—Theology & Youth Ministry—five new varsity sports teams and a marching band that will all swing into high gear this fall. We also are working on final plans for a new air-supported athletic structure. We’ve been recruiting some great additions to our staff and faculty, including Dr. Lynn Franken, our new vice president for academic affairs, and Andy Erb, director of bands, among others. The Thiel Commitment is going strong—our new initiative highlighting the benefits

of a Thiel education before, during and after a student’s years at Thiel has been resonating with prospective students and their parents. (For more about the Commitment: www.thiel.edu/commitment). And don’t worry, we aren’t resting on our laurels either—this summer, *Imagining Thiel*, our strategic “dreaming” process will resume and I’m sure we’ll have more exciting initiatives to announce in the fall issue of this magazine.

Our work is not going unnoticed. Student retention was up between the fall and spring semesters, and I know that will continue to improve. As of early May, applications were up over last year by more than 50 percent and deposits are up by more than 30 percent—but we are still working hard to recruit new Tomcats and secure a quality class for the fall 2010 semester. Our many alumni, friends and supporters have responded to the new direction that Thiel is taking with a gratifying response to our fundraising efforts. The Thiel Fund total has reached more than \$863,000 as of May 10, which is more than was raised in all of 2008-2009. Our goal is \$1 million so we are working hard right up to the end of the fiscal year on June 30 and we still need your help! The Rissell-Schreyer Dome project is very close to being fully funded through gifts and pledges, and even includes some extra funds that will go toward turf replacement at Alumni Stadium in a few years. The Paul Bush ’66 Memorial Fitness Center also will be receiving a facelift thanks to a generous anonymous gift.

As I look back over this academic year, which came to a close with Commencement on May 2, I am amazed, gratified and excited by how far we’ve come and how much farther we can go. On behalf of the entire Thiel community, I want to thank you for your help, encouragement and gifts this year and ask that you continue to support us as we continue to focus on the student experience here at Thiel College. It’s been said that it takes a village to raise a child, and I think that phrase also can apply to a liberal arts institution like Thiel. We will only succeed if we all do our part.

Enjoy your summer and tune in for another successful year in 2010-2011 at Thiel!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Troy D. VanAken". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.
President

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ON THE COVER:

Dr. Troy D. VanAken is installed as Thiel's 19th president at the inauguration ceremony on April 17.

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LIGHT OF THE WORLD, WORD OF GOD

SPRING 2010

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Thiel Makes Community Connections

In August 2009, Thiel welcomed its first AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America), Christie Zwahlen, whose primary goal has been to develop a service-learning program that strengthens campus-community ties. Created in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson, the VISTA program is a national service organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty in the United States and its territories.

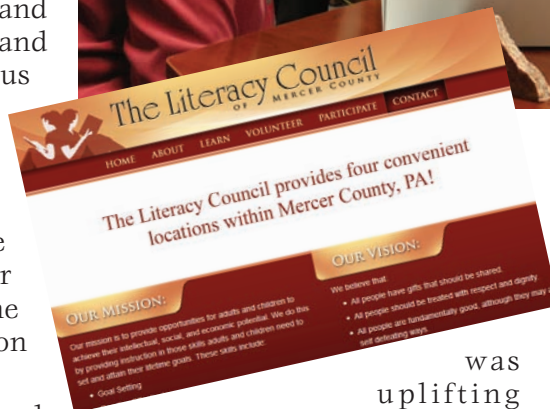
During her year of service, Zwahlen has worked toward the establishment of lasting relationships between Thiel and the area's local nonprofit and community organizations. Thus far, Zwahlen has facilitated the development of six service-learning courses—three in the Communication Department, two in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department and one in the Business Administration Department.

Dr. Laurie Moroco's Intercultural Communication class and Dr. Victor Evans' TV Field Production and Editing class worked together to create a documentary style video for The Prince of Peace Center and Joshua's Haven, both located in the Farrell/ Sharon area. Students from Dr. Moroco's class interviewed staff and recipients of services from The Prince of Peace Center's Project R.U.T.H. and Joshua's Haven's Men's Shelter program, while Dr. Evans' students shot and edited the taped material. The joint endeavor fulfilled the agencies' need for a video documenting their services and success stories.

"The Prince of Peace Center was very excited to develop a relationship with Thiel College," said Natalie Higbee '89, director of Project R.U.T.H. and Family Supportive Services. "The project



Professor Gayle Jesse and Thiel students Doug Keeling and Louie Rubin present the Literacy Council Web site to director Dr. Georgina S. Rettinger and Sharon Center coordinator Geraldine Moore.



was uplifting for all involved. It was a pleasure working alongside the students as they interviewed the homeless in our county and learned of their struggles. Because of their expertise, the students made it possible for the stories of the homeless to be heard by many. Due to the lack of funding, Project R.U.T.H. would not have been able to afford the costs of producing a documentary addressing homelessness."

Moroco's students have continued to be involved in service-learning, having since gone on to volunteer with the residents at St. Paul's, a Greenville continuing care community. In this Small Group Process course, students planned and coordinated activities and events with "families" (groups of five to seven residents) at St. Paul's, twice a month. The course culminated in

a '40s-themed event, complete with food and games.

In the Math and Computer Science Department, Adjunct Professor Florence Gordon's Project Management class collaborated with UPMC's Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP) to create a project plan for the workings of their recycling operation. Additionally, Professor Angelo Giannini's Operations Management course has created an inventory management system for MERP's stock of recycled medical equipment (see next page for more about this project).

While Zwahlen understands that service learning alone cannot fulfill the many, varied needs of every local nonprofit, she says, "There is so much that Thiel can do for the community, and likewise, much that we can learn."

Students in Professor Gayle Jesse's Professional Web Portfolio course recently helped with a technological need at The Literacy Council of Mercer County

while learning more about their community and the challenges of working with a real client.

“Dealing with real people, as opposed to examples from a textbook, provided the class both motivation and healthy pressure. This was a real project that was going to be viewed by the community, so it had to be done right and look professional,” says senior Doug Keeling, a student from the class. “In addition, I never truly knew what services

The Literacy Council provided or who could benefit from them. I was impressed to find out that the programs they offer are free to the public. I hope that the new Web site design will draw more attention to the LC and spread the word to those in the community who are looking to improve their reading, writing or math skills.”



Students in the Small Group Process course worked with residents at St. Paul's in Greenville.

Thiel Lends a Helping Hand to MERP

Have you ever opened the doors to your closet and asked yourself when the tornado struck? Thiel alumna and program coordinator for UPMC Horizon's Medical Equipment Recycling Program (MERP) Cindy Hanna '00 experienced a similar predicament last year—but instead of a closet, it was her workplace!

MERP provides Mercer County area residents with refurbished medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, canes, walkers, hospital beds, tub benches, shower chairs and lift chairs. They also educate community members about where to seek help for their other needs, such as everyday essentials like food and clothing or specific assistive devices like hearing and speech devices and prostheses.

“MERP has assisted more than 6,000 area residents and made numerous overseas donations,” says Hanna. “In the 11 months that I have been program coordinator, we have been able to give to the Appalachians and make four overseas donations. The total number of lives touched by this program is remarkable. I am honored to be a part of it.”

Hanna came to Thiel College last fall looking for help. She saw the need to restructure the facility, as well as obtain a new means to keep track of items. Professor Angelo Giannini, who teaches an Operations Management course, felt the project would be a perfect match for his students.

“We cover inventory control in my class, so why not apply it to a real-life situation?” says Giannini.

All equipment at MERP is either donated from community members who no longer need the items or from collections that other organizations have conducted. Volunteers are the support beams of the program. Jasper Wells is the repair technician, Carol Mehler specializes in data entry as well as customer service and Pat Marcucci juggles data entry with fundraising. Tully and Jodie White are also part of the team and repair lift chairs. Before any items are distributed, they are thoroughly inspected.



MERP Program Coordinator Cindy Hanna '00 uses the new software inventory program designed for the program by Thiel students.

“Currently they are the only volunteers I have and we are in need of others to assist in all areas,” explains Hanna. “It takes a group of us to make this program function.”

Giannini split his class in half and assigned two group leaders. Group A was responsible for developing a new physical layout of the inventory. They contacted local businesses and received shelving as well as other supplies that helped to organize the physical layout. Group B established a software program that would help keep track of the items more efficiently. The team catalogued all of the equipment using Microsoft Excel and accounted for weekly adjustments. The group performed a number of test runs for the program that they created to make sure they were happy with the finished product.

After completing the redesigned layout and software program, Hanna evaluated the success of the program. She was more than satisfied with the finished result, which in turn reflected in the

Continued on page 4

Thiel Junior Runs for Office

When tracing back her interest in politics, Thiel junior Stephanie Flask can point to an Al Gore rally that her father took her to in fifth grade.

“Attending that rally initiated my interest in politics because of the passion everyone there had,” explained Flask. “I had an opportunity to not only see exactly how the community felt about our area, but what interest national politicians had in our area too.”

Her father, Vincent Flask—who is currently a city councilman from Warren, Ohio, and is running for state representative this year—may have influenced her (just a bit) to pursue a state office while still a student in college.

Flask ran for a seat on the Ohio Democrat State Central Committee, representing the 32nd district (Warren, Ohio), this spring. The committee sets policy for the party for the entire state, and is composed of one female and one male member of each Ohio district.

She decided to run for the position because she wanted to make a difference in her community and, being a political science major, this would be an optimal way to make that difference.

As a member of the committee, Flask would be an unpaid volunteer, but would travel to Columbus, Ohio, to meet with other committee members and set policy for the Ohio Democratic party.

The first-hand experience with an election has been an education for Flask. Along with her experience with her father’s campaigns, she has learned that it takes a lot of time and dedication to participate in the political process.

“The beauty of the process is that it is democratic,” said Flask. “The community has a greater say in the political system than they realize a lot of the time.”

Flask credits her education at Thiel to enhancing her knowledge of the political realm as well as making her “eager to go for it.” She is a political science and English literature double-major, and a member of the Sigma Tau Delta English honorary

MERP—From page 3

grades the students received.

“I am extremely happy with the amount of work the students put into this project,” says Hanna. “They went far beyond what I expected and I truly appreciate their efforts.”

This project has not only benefited MERP and its

recipients, but it has also been a direct application of the concepts these students learned in the classroom.

“The need for our program has grown drastically,” says Hanna. “Last year at this time, we had assisted 35 area residents. This year, we are already up to

160.” MERP is funded by UPMC Community Health Foundation, but volunteers and cash donations are always appreciated and allow for the program to operate smoothly. To learn how you can help MERP, call 724-983-8737 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/ybzckav>.

—Kimberly Holdsworth '10



society as well as the Thiel College Investment Society.

During her candidacy, the 21-year-old Flask saw the dark side of political life as well when her candidacy was challenged by her opponent, who claimed Flask was not a resident of the district based on her Facebook page, which listed her current city as “Youngstown.” Her residency was easily verified with a check into her voting history, said Flask.

Currently, Flask has no plans to pursue any higher political office if she wins, instead focusing on “fusing” her two majors and pursuing a career in political commentary after completing graduate school. Flask will graduate from Thiel College in May 2011.

Editor’s Note: Unfortunately, on Election Day, Flask lost to her opponent, Margaret Scott, by slightly more than 1,100 votes.

Bon Voyage with Vira Heinz

Three Thiel College women will study abroad this summer thanks to the Vira I. Heinz Scholarships for Education Abroad, which were awarded in December. The three scholarship winners—sophomores **Kylie Czulewicz** of West Alexander, Pa., **Amy Jane Matchett** of Bulger, Pa., and **Monica Smith** of Emlenton, Pa.—will each receive \$5,000 to fund their study abroad experiences.

Czulewicz, a biology/pre-physical therapy major with a minor in religion, will participate in Australearn's "Tropical Marine Ecology" summer program, during which she will study tropical marine biology through formal lectures and practical field experiences around Queensland, Australia.

"As a person with little travel experience and a great desire to learn and explore with the field of biology, this program provides an ideal experience that will grant me the experience of a lifetime," says Czulewicz.

Matchett, an English literature and psychology major, will attend the Freie Universität Berlin where she will take arts and political science courses while practicing language skills and exploring Germany.

"The Vira I. Heinz Scholarship is one of the greatest opportunities that I have ever received," says Matchett. "This is the closest I have ever been to achieving my dream of studying abroad and seeing the world from a different perspective."

Smith, an elementary education major, will use her scholarship to study in Florence, Italy. She will study Italian art and culture.

"I believe by studying abroad, I will better myself as a future teacher and in the end help my students to be open to diversity," says Smith. "I cannot think of a



Monica Smith, Amy Jane Matchett and Kylie Czulewicz prepare for their summer study abroad experiences—made possible by the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Women in Global Leadership.

better or more educational way to spend my summer!"

The Vira I. Heinz Program for Women in Global Leadership is funded by the Heinz Endowments. Each year, three women of sophomore status are selected from each of 15 regional colleges and universities to receive an award in the amount of \$5,000 for summer study abroad. In addition, they participate in a series of retreats designed to cultivate leadership and intercultural skills.

Ultimately, the goal of the program is to fully realize the motto of the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Women in Global Leadership, "Preparing women leaders for tomorrow's global challenges," and to increase its visibility on campus and in the community.

The Heinz Endowment supports efforts to make southwestern Pennsylvania a premier place to

live and work, a center of learning and educational excellence, and a home to diversity and inclusion.

Committed to helping its region thrive as a whole community—economically, ecologically, educationally and culturally—the Foundation works within Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the nation to develop solutions to challenges that are national and international in scope.

One of the largest and most innovative independent philanthropic foundations in the country, the Endowments awarded more than \$85 million in grants in 2008.

Faculty Focus

► **Professor Jesse Amar**, art, held a sculpture exhibition, “New Sculptures in Glass,” in the Weyers-Sampson Art Gallery in February.

► A paper titled “Computation of bound orbits in the plane of a galaxy with a flat rotation curve” by **Dr. Michael Bacon**, physics, and **Amber Sharrar '06** has been accepted for publication in the “European Journal of Physics.” The paper is based on the work Sharrar did for her senior physics project, involving the computation of orbits in a galaxy consisting of a disk of baryonic matter (ordinary matter) surrounded by a spherically symmetric halo of “dark matter.”

► **Dr. Cory Grewell**, English, wrote an article, “Vanquishing the Beast Within: Christianization of the Hero Ethos in Robert Zemeckis’ ‘Beowulf,’” that was accepted for publication in the 2009 volume of “Year’s Work in Medievalism.” Grewell also presented a paper entitled “The American Noir Detective as Christological Judge and Redeemer” at the Northeast Regional meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, held at Pace University in New York, in March.

► **Dr. Ellen Lippert**, art, published an article, “George Ohr: Mad Potter, Marketing Genius,” in the February 2010 issue of “Style 1900” magazine.

► “Psalm 23: An Interpretation” by **Jane A. E. Ogunro**, French, is now available on Amazon.com. The book is a message of hope and inspiration culled from Ogunro’s personal interpretation of the Bible verses that people can relate to and that are relevant to the current times.

► In March, three of Thiel’s education professors participated in Read Across America, an annual celebration of reading that takes place each year on or near Dr. Seuss’ birthday. **Professor Mary Reames** read to students at Zion Preschool in Greenville; Jamestown Elementary School had the pleasure of having **Professor Connie Reinhart** read to their students; and **Dr. Doug Hazlett** and daughter Emily (grade 5) volunteered their time reading to a West Middlesex kindergarten class.



Staff News

► **Jeff Linn '02**, associate director of admissions, and **Kateri Linn**, academic and career adviser, presented at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School during their annual Career Day Expo in December. A total of 86 (9th-12th graders) signed up to meet and speak with Kateri and Jeff. The topic of the presentation was “It’s ok to be undecided.” Kateri discussed the career decision process while Jeff talked about working in the higher education arena.

► U.S. Army Sgt. Cavalier and U.S. Army Lt. French stopped by Thiel College on Monday, April 12 to present Cpl. **Tony Morris** of the U.S. Army Reserves with an American flag and two medals in honor of his service in Iraq last year. Morris is a lieutenant in the Thiel Police Department and was wounded during his second tour of duty.



► **John Rindy**, dean of educational outreach, was recognized in March for special service to the U.S. Army with a Patriot certificate, which was awarded for his assistance in promoting the Army on campus and supporting the armed forces.



Leslie Graul, IT Department; **Dr. Henry Barton**, Environmental Studies Department; and **Elizabeth Stuyvesant**, Financial Services Department, were honored for 30 years of service to Thiel at the Employee Recognition Dinner on April 22. Also honored were:

25 years

Andrew Grover
Patricia Leskovac
Deborah Ross

20 years

Brenda DelMaramo
Mark DelMaramo
Nancy Knapp
Dabbie Moffett
Susan Richards
Barbara Samson

15 years

Donna Jamison

James Koshan

Cynthia Moyer
Denise Urey

10 years

William Beil
Mary Theresa Hall
Anna Mary Hoovler
Constance Jablonski
Jennie Kather
Sean McConnor
Gregory Perrine
Joseph Schaly
Valerie Vernon

5 years

Heather Balas
Barbara Blue
Sheryl Greenlee-Ogello
Scott Hartle
Justin Jakovac
Robert Knapp
Patricia Leipheimer
Kateri Linn
Nancy Solderich
Michael Walton
Marietta White
Elke Wiand

Student News

Habitat for Humanity Heads to the Gulf

Habitat for Humanity made their annual Spring Break trip in early March to Mobile, Ala. The group consisted of 13 students and two chaperones. Thanks to the generosity of the First Baptist Church, the group was able to stay on their campus, enabling them to make their own meals and relax after long work days. After a free day spent visiting the Gulf, the team got down to business, painting walls and ceilings, caulking beams, painting porches, putting up columns and wrapping the house with facial metal.



Kappa Delta Pi Induction

Kappa Delta Pi held its 2010 induction ceremony on Saturday, March 20 in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel. Heidi (Snyder) Neely '09 was the featured speaker. Membership in the society is by invitation only and is awarded to only the top 20 percent of students and professionals in the field of education.



This is the only all-disciplinary honor society for educators that provides support throughout the student's career in education. Congratulations to Rebecca Betteridge, Abigail Charsar, Lee Anne Chiles, Rachel Doran, Philip Double, Laura Graham, Rebecca House, Megan Kay, Jennifer Keller, Amy Nelson, Julie Novotny, Samantha Peigowski, Robin Reimold, Erica Riola, Katie Rufener, Monica Smith, Mark Wyant and Elizabeth Yurky!

Sigma Tau Delta Induction

The 10th annual Sigma Tau Delta induction ceremony was held on Sunday, March 21 in the Sawhill-Georgian Room. The English Department inducted 12 students into the Alpha Iota Kappa Chapter of this international English honorary society. Professor David Miller, professor and chair of the Business Administration Department, served as the keynote speaker. The newly inducted students are Angela Blackburn, Abigail Charsar, Daniel Martino, Amy Matchett, Shawna McIntyre, Kristen Moreland, Rachel Nicholson, Melissa Sincek, Khrystina Slagle, Laura Kaye Stemm, Elizabeth Yurky and Emily Zoller.



Weatherly Wins Photo Contest

Lisa Weatherly '11, who studied abroad in Australia during summer 2009 as part of the Vira I. Heinz Scholarship program, had one of her trip photos chosen as a first-place winner in the 2009 Vira I. Heinz photo contest.

Bartholomew Publishes Research Paper

Katie Bartholomew '10, an English/secondary education major, was notified during the spring semester that a research paper she wrote for Dr. Mary Theresa Hall's linguistics course in fall 2009 has been accepted for the Literatures and Linguistics

Undergraduate Colloquium at Gordon College. Her paper, "Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Raven': An Enhancement of Student Reading Skills," explores how the poem contains multiple linguistic features that correlate to the proven strategies that teach students how to read.

Student Researchers Recognized

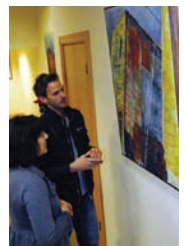
On Feb. 4, the first "Exemplary Library Research Awards" were awarded at a ceremony in the Lutheran Heritage Room. Following opening remarks by Allen Morrill, director of the Langenheim Memorial Library, Tressa Snyder, reference/instruction librarian, read the names of the 32 professors who brought their classes to the library during the fall 2009 semester to conduct research projects. Ten students were nominated for their outstanding research and five of those were selected to present their research at the ceremony. The student presenters were Audrey Rattay, Emily Whipple, Kayla Ohlin, Sheila Gross and Samantha Sterns.



Pictured from left to right are Tressa Snyder, Audrey Rattay, Emily Whipple, Kayla Ohlin, Sheila Gross and Allen Morrill.

Beck Holds Exhibit in Downtown Greenville

In December, Ben Beck '10 held an exhibit of his artwork entitled "Talisman & Swamp Alleys" at the FHC Building (Greenville Neuromodulation Services) in downtown Greenville. The paintings in the exhibit explored the inherent beauty of the rear of buildings found on Talisman and Swamp Alleys, parts of downtown that were not part of the beautification project recently completed there.



Writing Meets Technology

In March, Professor Connie Reinhart's language arts students were involved in an interactive polycom with the Hermitage School District. Artman Elementary third grade teacher Joe Bender and his students explained to the Thiel students how they use writing skills in their writing workshop. The lesson brought together required writing skills and standards (eligible content) with essential learning thus empowering Bender's students to improve their writing test scores for the PSSA. The third-grade students were very proud to show Thiel's students their love of writing.

Students, Staff, Faculty Create Short Film

In November, "Punk Rock Zombies vs Disco Spiders from Mars" premiered on campus. The film was directed by Professor Allan Hunchuk, sociology, and was an official selection of the 3rd Annual Venango Film Festival in September 2009. The film starred students Sam Aiken, Bobbi Hughes, Adrianna Reppert and staff members Allen Morrill (and his son, Tom) and John Rindy. Students David Williamson, Dan Thomas and Nick Thompson provided their camera and editing skills.



New Faces at Thiel

Dr. Lynn Franken—Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Lynn Franken has been appointed vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, a position she assumes July 1.

“Dr. Franken is a person of integrity and creativity with a passion for the liberal arts tradition and the student-centered ethos of Thiel College,” said Dr. Troy D. VanAken, Thiel president. “She brings a unique set of abilities and experiences that will enable her to make a significant impact on Thiel’s growth.”

Franken has decades of experience in higher education, in both teaching and administration. She currently is a senior fellow with the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Previously, she was vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college at Beloit College in Wisconsin and dean of the Edwards College of Humanities and Fine Arts at Coastal Carolina University in

South Carolina. Franken began her career in higher education at Butler University in Indiana, culminating there as chair of the Department of English.

Franken has a Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Texas at Austin and master's and bachelor's degrees in English from Texas Tech University.

As VPAA and dean of the college, Franken will be responsible for coordination, development, integrity and quality of academic programs; the administration of academic and faculty policies and budget; the management and administration of key academic support services including the library; and implementation of the academic aspects of the strategic plan. Franken also will coordinate with the College Advancement Office to secure external funding and grants for the College.

“It is an honor to have been selected as Thiel College’s new vice president for academic



affairs/dean of the college,” said Franken. “I am looking forward to working with President VanAken and all who serve the college as we move toward the bright future that lies ahead for Thiel.”

Originally from Austin, Texas, Franken currently lives in Beloit, Wisconsin. She has three adult sons, Robert, Charles and Erik.

Lauren Oman—Director of Alumni Services

Lauren Oman is the new director of alumni services at Thiel College. Her first day on the job was Jan. 4.

Since 2007, Oman served as regional director for the UCLA Fund in Orange County, Calif., where she worked extensively with major donors and volunteers for the university in the Orange County area. Prior to her position as regional director, Oman worked as an administrative assistant and stewardship coordinator for the UCLA Fund in Los Angeles, Calif.

“I am pleased to welcome Lauren to the Thiel College Advancement team,” says David Grober, vice president for college advancement. “Her energy, experience and local ties will bring a renewed connection between Thiel and its more than 11,000 alumni.”

As director of alumni services, Oman will work in conjunction with the Thiel College Alumni Board to promote alumni-college relations. She also will plan and implement all alumni events, maintain

correspondence with alumni and develop volunteer opportunities for alumni to serve the College and its students. Along with her alumni services responsibilities, Oman will contribute to the College’s fundraising efforts.

A native of Greenville, Pa., Oman holds a bachelor's degree in television-radio from Ithaca College. She is the daughter of Linda '75 and Barry Oman '74 of Greenville.

For a message from Lauren, see page 28.



Andy Erb—Director of Bands

Andrew S. Erb has been appointed director of bands, a position he will assume effective July 1. Erb has been actively recruiting students for the band throughout the spring semester.

“The addition of a full-time instrumental faculty member at Thiel College is a major commitment to the expansion of the music program at the college,” said Dr. Michael Bray, chair of Thiel’s Department of Music. “Andy has extensive knowledge that will enable him to recruit and build a high-caliber band program. The campus is very excited to welcome him as our newest colleague.”

Currently, Erb is the band director at Sharpsville Area School District, where he has led the marching band, pep band, concert band and jazz ensemble for 10 years. Erb also teaches trumpet and directs the jazz ensemble at Westminster College where, as part of the music program, he recruits trumpeters, teaches studio lessons and performs as part of the Faculty Brass Quintet.

Along with his teaching and band director duties, Erb is an active performer who has played with musicians such as Marie Osmond, Wayne Newton and Foreigner. In addition, he is lead trumpet for Sugarfuzz Orchestra (a Youngstown-based horn-rock band), Doug Butchy Big Band and the Mercer County Community Jazz Band Summer Band.

Erb has a bachelor’s in music education from Westminster College and a Master of Music in trumpet performance from Youngstown State University. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, International Trumpet Guild, National Education Association and Sharpsville Area Education Association.

Thiel announced the formation of a marching band in December 2009 and will field its first marching band in the fall. As director of bands, Erb will provide recruitment, vision and oversight of all aspects of marching and concert bands at Thiel. He will



also assist in community outreach and summer camp recruiting, and will teach one course each semester in addition to conducting one-on-one lessons.

“I have been so blessed to have had the opportunity to work with such great kids and great bands at Sharpsville over the past 10 years,” said Erb. “I am happy to now have the chance to bring the joy that comes from being part of these groups to Thiel.”

Erb is a lifelong resident of Mercer County and currently lives in West Middlesex, Pa., with his wife, Diana, and two sons, Jonathan and Benjamin.

New Year, New Ideas

The Office of Career Services has made some changes. In an effort to reach more students, Heather Balas, director of career services, has started a new series of “Minute Clinics.” At a booth set up in the Academic Center lobby, Balas encourages students to drop in and ask career-related questions.

“The idea is to take a minute between classes and get a question answered. Students can get basic information and then stop in and see me in my office to follow up and get more details,” says Balas.

Each Minute Clinic has a specific theme that is posted for students to catch their attention as they walk by. Topics range from resume writing to internship information to how to apply to graduate school.

“The clinics have been a huge success. Every clinic has given me the opportunity to meet with students, answer questions and provide them with resources to help them. The clinic has provided me with an increase in contact with students,” she says.

Minute Clinics are just one of the ways Career Services is trying new ideas to interact with students and alumni. For more information about the services available to alumni, contact Heather Balas at 724-589-2014 or hbalas@thiel.edu, or join the Thiel College Career Services Fan Page on Facebook.

The Johnson Center Gets a Facelift

Out with the old and in with the new is not always the best solution. Sometimes the old just needs a little work—just take a look at Thiel's Glen Johnson Community Center.

Last summer, the Center went through a series of renovations that allow the space to be multifunctional, flexible and more useful to the campus and local community.

Prior to the renovations, the Center was mainly extra space for the College's townhouse-style residence halls and Greek organizations. The problem was that the townhouse residents and Greeks already had their own living quarters and therefore did not use the Johnson Center regularly.

Roberta Leonard, director of corporate foundation and governmental support, had a part in the overall renovation process—she helped secure a grant from the Department of Justice for \$427,000. A second grant for expanded programming in the amount of \$500,000 was announced this spring.

"The building was not being fully utilized and had too many small rooms that were not conducive enough for the needs of the College as well as the community," explained Leonard. The remodeling was completed by Kusich Construction and Thiel College's Maintenance and IT Departments.

The IDL (Interactive Distance Learning) room includes Polycom™ Interactive Videoconferencing Technology and a SMART™ Sympodium® that allow for learners at remote sites to view PowerPoint presentations as well as white board work, from a distance. These connections to the sites are made accessible through a wall-mounted, touch screen control panel. This room can seat up to 40 people.

The Smaller Group Learning Spaces are similar in nature. There are three of these break-out rooms that include the interactive SMART Boards along with accessibility ports for the instructor's notebook



Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper (far right of photo) presents a Department of Justice grant to expand programming at the Glen Johnson Community Center to Dr. Troy D. VanAken, president of Thiel College; Chief Dave Morgan, Hempfield Township Police Department; Chief Denny Stephens '81, Greenville/West Salem Police Department; and Chief Donald Aubrecht, Thiel College Police Department.

computers. These rooms can hold from 12 to 18 individuals at a time.

The East Training Room is perfect for plenary sessions and fully equipped with technology based presentation equipment that allows for double projection. These features allow for optimal viewing for up to 90 people.

The exhibition room is a serving facility for sit-down dining and receptions. The room can accommodate up to 90 people and can

be set up according to guest requirements. AVI Foodservices Inc., Thiel's food service vendor, provides the guests with customizable, versatile menus.

Due to these modifications, there are many more uses for the facility. Receptions, training sessions, small group learning and Web conferences can all be held in the multifunctional building. Also, every entrance is handicapped accessible.

The community has been eager to take advantage of the renovations. As of May, there are plans for a federal Safe Schools Program, state training events and a law enforcement ceremony to take place in the facility.

The near future also holds reservations for EMT education seminars as well as Webcasts for the Hermitage School District.

"This is only the beginning," Leonard says.

For information on renting the facility for corporate or educational events, contact John Rindy at 724-589-2181, or to reserve space for social or other special events, contact Sherrie Greenlee-Ogello at 724-589-2240.

—Kimberly Holdsworth '10

Founders' Day 2010

On Feb. 4, Thiel College paid tribute to 10 faculty and staff members and **Jill '66** and **Fred Haer '65** at the College's annual Founders' Day convocation in the Lutheran Heritage Room of the Howard Miller Student Center.

President Troy D. VanAken presented the A. Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award to the Haers, who are founders and owners of FHC, Inc., an international company that designs, manufactures and markets medical equipment for brain research and clinics to target disfunctioning brain structures during neurosurgery.

Currently, FHC has 95 employees, including nine at Greenville Neuromodulation Services, the Greenville sales and technical support office. Four years ago, FHC, Thiel College and UPMC Horizon, with support from Senator Bob Robbins and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, entered into a partnership that created the neuroscience major at Thiel, established Greenville Neuromodulation Services and put into motion plans for a Greenville Neuromodulation Clinic—a clinical treatment facility to perform deep brain stimulation implants on patients needing cranial neuromodulation therapies, chiefly for movement disorders such as Parkinson's disease. The Haers, who live in Brunswick, Maine, also have been dedicated to their alma mater—Fred has served as a member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees from 1998 to 2007 and was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2000. Fred and Jill chaired the campaign for the Paul W. Bush '66 Memorial Fitness Center. Jill has been active in her community, serving on boards and committees with the MS Society, Hospice of Maine, the United Way of Midcoast Maine and the Midcoast Hospital.

The award is named after A. Louis and Barbara Thiel, whose generosity made possible the founding of Thiel College in 1866. The Thiels dedicated themselves to the welfare of others.

Receiving the prestigious Professor of the Year Award posthumously was **M.J. Yusko-Howsare**, professor of economics and business administration. Yusko-Howsare, of Delaware Township, Pa., passed away in July 2009.

For 29 years, Yusko-Howsare was a valued member of Thiel's Business Administration Department where she taught the core courses in the accounting major. In fact, Yusko-Howsare laid the foundation for literally hundreds of students in accounting who went on to achieve great success in their field after completing the Thiel accounting program. She served as the department's representative on the Faculty Council since its inception and served many times on the executive committee of the council.

Other faculty members to earn recognition were:

- **Dr. Curtis L. Thompson**, professor of religion, Distinguished Service Award.
- **Dr. Cynthia Sutton**, professor of sociology, Distinguished Teacher Award.
- **Dr. Cory L. Grewell**, assistant professor of English, Distinguished Scholar Award.
- **Rachel D. Doddato**, adjunct professor of history and English, Distinguished Adjunct Award.

Five staff awards also were presented during the ceremony:

- **Allen S. Morrill**, director of the Langenheim Library, Distinguished Innovator Award.
- **Roberta L. Mutinelli**, assistant dean of students and director of residence life, Distinguished Newcomer Award.
- **Jeffrey S. Linn '02**, associate director of admissions, Distinguished Extra Effort Award.
- **Jennie A. Kather**, assistant director of public relations, Distinguished Outreach Award.
- **James P. Flammia**, IT support specialist, Distinguished Service Staff Award.





Thiel Hits the Road with Anderson Coach & Travel

Thiel is currently being seen on the highways and byways across the country thanks to Anderson Coach & Travel. Through a partnership between the college and Anderson, one of the buses in the company's fleet was wrapped with images of the College and unveiled on January 28 at the company's Greenville headquarters. The bus wrap is aimed at getting the word out about the new Thiel Commitment.

The "Thiel Bus" will be seen by millions during its travels in 2010. In fact, Joyce Stephenson '63 of Pittsburgh took the bus early this year to Baltimore on an Anderson tour and wrote to the company, saying "I had to comment on the new bus recently added to your fleet that has the Thiel College images painted on the sides. What a spectacular image for both you and the College. I just had to let you know how glad I am to see the relationship that has flourished between your quality family-run company and a good quality small college in Northern Pennsylvania. I love the bus!"

Pictured is first-year student Audrey Rattay of Apollo, Pa., whose picture is featured on the "Thiel Bus." Rattay is a member of the Thiel Choir, who rode the bus around the eastern United States during its spring tour in March.

Wear It Out

The first Thiel College Wear it Out recycled fashion show was held on March 11. Five designers participated—Liz Sitko (with model Jillian Spino, who is pictured here wearing the winning look); Professor Andy Grover and Thea Arai (with Grover modeling); Katey Williams (with model Kayla Ohlin); and Ian Meakim and Sam Slaven (both modeling creations by students in two of Dr. David Buck's history classes). Event organizer Jacquelyne Kinney and Master of Ceremonies Zac Markley both wore recycled clothing as well. Liz Sitko won first place and a \$100 prize, Andy Grover won second place and a \$50 gift card, and Katey Williams won third place and a \$25 gift card.



Thiel Receives Gift of New Microscopes

Thiel students' laboratory experiences have been enhanced by the gift of 24 Leica microscopes, all equipped with oil immersion lenses, that were purchased with funds provided by Dr. Carl Hoffman Jr. '69 and his wife, Theresa, during the spring semester. Four also are equipped with digital cameras that allow live feed to a computer and still capture to a card or to the computer, allowing students in Microbiology and Immunology & Parasitology courses to develop micrograph portfolios. The microscopes also have darkfield and phase contrast capability, which will enhance the learning experience in Cell Biology. In addition, the microscopes will support the research activities of Thiel's students. All biology majors are required to conduct independent research; state of the art microscopes expand the possibilities for student research in cell biology, microbiology, developmental biology, parasitology and toxicology.

THIEL LEGACIES

Thiel “runs in the family” for these members of the Class of 2010...each year, Thiel College takes photos of graduates and the members of their family who also are Thiel alumni. Pictured below are the members of the Class of 2010 with their “legacy” family members.



Brock Cline & his sister, Dr. Cary Cline '05



*Ashley Habel & her grandfather-in-law,
Bob Habel '58*



*Kody Kaclik & his parents, Cheryl (Malloy) '80
and Kevin '79*



Cody Kendera & his sister, Madison '09



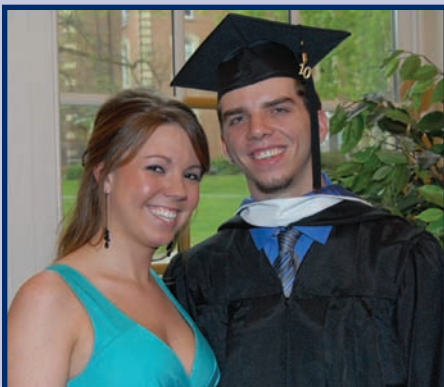
*Steven Monnich & his grandfather,
John Montgomery '60*



Heather Snyder & her sister, Heidi Neely '09



Caitlyn Shipton & her father, Rod '81



Wesley Siko & his sister, Stephanie '07



Melissa Spence & her sister, Shelby '06



Adam Toohey & his sister, Lauren '07

THE FUTURE IS TODAY

The inauguration of Dr. Troy D. VanAken

“The Thiel College community is blessed to have attracted a leader with such compatible and compassionate qualities, one who captures the essence of what is uniquely Thiel.”

—Raymond Hanlon '74, president of the Thiel College Alumni Association

“We are confident that under your leadership the College will grow and prosper and we pledge to do our part.”

—Gary Witosky '79, executive assistant to the president

“To our amazement, we at Thiel College have found a president not just up to the challenge, but ahead of it.” —Hubert McCarthy '12

“President VanAken defines Thiel as a good investment; a school worth his considerable time, energy and attention; a school with a solid history and a promising future.”

—Dr. Cynthia Sutton, professor of sociology

The sentiments of these and other speakers who offered welcomes to Thiel's new president and his family were echoed by the many hundreds of people—including faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and family, and more than 20 delegates from other institutions of higher education—who were on hand to officially welcome Dr. Troy D. VanAken into the Thiel College community on Saturday, April 17 as he accepted the presidential medallion and was inaugurated as the College's 19th president.

The ceremony, held in the William A. Passavant Center that afternoon, was designed to include the talents of as many of Thiel's students as possible—and therefore included performances by the Thiel Choir and Handbell Ringers and the Thiel Players; a procession of student delegates representing many of Thiel's clubs, organizations, honoraries, student government and athletic teams; and a variety of student speakers.

Special guest musicians, the Tower Brass Quintet, who were on campus for a Con Spirito Chamber Music Concert Series performance on April 18, performed a fanfare and an instrumental piece, "Die Bankensangerlieder."

Dr. Mark Nordenberg '70, H'97, chancellor and C.E.O. of the University of Pittsburgh, offered remarks as the event's keynote speaker following the welcomes to President VanAken and his family from Thiel's students, alumni, staff, faculty and the Greenville community.

"For generations, Thiel graduates have been a force for good in wide-ranging fields and in far-flung places," said Nordenberg.

His speech focused on a small sampling of the accomplishments of Thiel graduates, specifically those who attended Thiel with him during the late 1960s, including his wife, Dr. Nikki (Pirillo) Nordenberg '71. What these notable Thiel alumni found at Thiel is what has helped generations of Thiel graduates to become successful and contributing members of society—namely each other and unusually talented and dedicated professors as well as an atmosphere that expands knowledge while it nurtures values.



Pictured clockwise from top left are Hubert McCarthy '12, Dr. Cynthia Sutton, Dr. Mark Nordenberg '70, Senator Bob Robbins, Ray Hanlon '74 and Gary Witosky '79.

Nordenberg hailed VanAken for his commitment to student success and emphasized that Thiel has come through many storms in the past and will do so again, especially with a leader like VanAken at the helm.

Later in the ceremony, VanAken received the presidential medallion. The transfer of the medallion was especially meaningful as Dr. Robert C. Olson '60, H'09, the 18th president of the College, was on hand to pass the symbol of office to VanAken.

President VanAken delivered his inaugural response, "Imagining Thiel," following the presentation of the presidential medallion and the official installation of the president by Board of Trustees Chair Dr. Roy Strausbaugh.

"I am humbled to be given the privilege of leading Thiel College. Thank you for the confidence you have

Continued on page 18



IMAGINING THIEL

~Excerpted from the Inaugural Response~

"I am honored to stand before you as Thiel's 19th president. I am humbled to be given the privilege of leading Thiel College. Thank you for the confidence you have shown in me. It is an honor to serve this great institution and to help foster an age of imagination and innovation that is moving Thiel College closer to its destiny as one of this country's great liberal arts institutions..."

IMAGINING THIEL

To "imagine" means to envision, and that is what we have been doing. For the past year, countless individuals and groups have gathered together to imagine Thiel's future. It has been a process of creativity, innovation, inspiration and hope. Through our Imagining Thiel planning process we have conceived new initiatives and programs that will position Thiel for greatness well into the 21st century.

Although this is meant to be an iterative process, so far we have:

- Secured funding to offer a new Theology & Youth Ministry major next year;
- Begun planning for several other new initiatives and technologies to enhance our already solid academic programs;
- Launched a marching band to enliven support for our campus and sports teams;
- Looked for ways to enhance student life and empower student government, our student newspaper, the *Thielensian*, and our student radio station with a new license and call letters—WXTC;
- Added five new intercollegiate sports: women's and men's lacrosse, women's and men's tennis, and men's volleyball, as well as a new club sport, shooting;

- Set in motion plans for a Greek life summit this fall to strengthen our Greek system;
- Raised more than \$675,000 for the new Thiel Innovation Fund, which will cover startup costs for the new initiatives we have launched. This revolving fund will be available to help innovative ideas be implemented over the next 10, 20, 50 years and beyond;
- We have seen a 30 percent increase in annual support to the Thiel Fund and, due to the generosity of people like Dr. Jim Pedas '50, H'89, Dr. Bill Schreyer H'02, Howard '56 and Kay '59 Weyers, Leo Phillips '85 and other organizations and anonymous individuals, Thiel has now raised more than \$5 million for future facility enhancements, including the seasonal Rissell-Schreyer Dome planned to cover Stoeber field each winter.

These are just some of the ideas that have come from all of us Imagining Thiel. And I am proud to announce that these initiatives have led to increased retention of current students this past spring, and a 50 percent increase in applications, a 40 percent increase in acceptances and, as of last night, a 24 percent increase in deposits for fall 2010 new students.

To “imagine” also means to “believe.” I believe in you, and I believe in Thiel College.

THE THIEL COMMITMENT

Shortly after being hired I threw myself head-on into the task of discovering what makes a great college. To accomplish this, I began speaking with countless people on campus and in our community about what they dreamed for Thiel. I also called several prospective students and discussed with them what they were hoping to find in a college.

Now, many of you here know that getting a high school student to sit down and have a five-minute conversation is much like asking Arnold Palmer to take up soccer. It's not going to happen.

But I did succeed in having in-depth conversations with about 200 high school seniors and their parents in less than a month. From these conversations, and those with members of the Thiel community, The Thiel Commitment was born.

Thiel is for life, and The Thiel Commitment extends from the moment our students first come in contact with the College to their golden years as loyal alumni. The overarching goal of The Thiel Commitment is not simply to make Thiel an attractive college to prospective students—which, of course, it is. We have taken it much further, to encompass the entire educational experience.

Both Annette and I are in the first generation of our families to graduate with bachelor's degrees. Our lives have been transformed through education. Over this past year, I have been having the time of my life as Thiel's president. The work we are doing is important, relevant and has the potential to help our students achieve their dreams and advance their futures through education.

Thiel College is so passionate about our students graduating that we are now the only college we know of preparing to offer a tuition-free ninth semester to demonstrate our commitment to student success. Our programs can be completed in the usual eight semesters, but much like one might feel about their own children, Thiel's commitment to our students applies even if they change their major, intern or study abroad.

THIEL STUDENTS

Like many of the faculty and staff, I wake up early and go to bed late imagining new ways to enhance students' lives at Thiel. If having a world-class haunted house and Halloween events is required, Thiel staff is committed. If a Thiel student needs an omelet around midnight to help study for exams or help moving in to start their Thiel experience, we are there. Even when a bull needs ridden or buffalo needs hunted, don't worry as the commitment for Thiel students knows no bounds.

We certainly have a lot of fun at Thiel, but the real commitment our faculty have in the classroom is where the true magic takes place on this campus.

My student friends, Annette joins me in thanking you from the bottom of our hearts for the wonderful welcome you have given our family over the past year. It has been a joy and a blessing to get to know you, to hear your thoughts and ideas, and to dream with you. I love your enthusiasm and your engagement. And I mean that for all students—whether it's enthusiasm for your major, your professors or your research; whether it's enthusiasm for your fellow students, your club, your team or your campus job—whatever it is that drives you and makes you strive for a greater understanding of the world.

My commitment to you is to make your Thiel experience as meaningful as it can be. Know that every day of my presidency I am committed to your success at this college and to your well being, and I am dedicated to improving our academic programs, extracurricular activities and facilities to make this the best college it can be for your education. You are our inspiration.

I IMAGINE A THIEL ...

Let me conclude by sharing that the name “Imagining Thiel” was very fortuitous. In just a few months, we have begun to take some of what we have imagined and started constructing a culture that will allow this 144-year-old institution to grow and prosper beyond our dreams. In Imagining Thiel, I have imagined many things.

- I imagine a Thiel College where students graduate at record rates and go on to lives of meaning and purpose, leading their families and helping communities in ways that serve as an example for future generations of young people.

- I imagine a Thiel College where students use campus resources not only to succeed but to thrive while seeing their involvement in student government, residence life, the theater and other activities enhance the student experience for others.

- I imagine a Thiel where athletes increasingly give us reason to celebrate their academic achievements in addition to their success on the playing field.

- I imagine a Thiel College where alumni like trustee Dr. Carl Hoffman '69, H'10 use their entrepreneurial zeal to launch initiatives like the Innovation Fund, which not only provides resources to support the recently announced plans, but also provides inspiration and support for innovative ideas well into the future.

- I imagine a Thiel College where the connections and partnerships with the Lutheran church, the Greenville community and local schools and other organizations go far beyond being supportive, but are deep and committed, serving as an example for others who wish to enhance similar relationships.

- I imagine a Thiel College where faculty are productive members of the community, but

also build academic departments that serve students and bring the dreams of donors to fruition.

- I imagine a Thiel College where music, creativity and the arts are embraced and enjoyed at ever increasing levels.

- I imagine a Thiel College where first-year students, immediately become immersed in a wide variety of campus activities on their way to achieving their dreams.

- I imagine a Thiel College where our brilliant faculty provides the nourishment, our dedicated staff provides the support, our faithful alumni provide the example and our students grow, much like the bamboo stalk, which at the end of its four-year cycle shoots to a height of 80 feet or more.

- I imagine a Thiel College that is among the very best liberal arts institutions in Pennsylvania, in our region and in the land.

*I imagine a Thiel
College where the
future is today, and
the possibilities are
infinite.”*

*Editor’s Note: For an unabridged version
of the inaugural response,
visit www.thiel.edu/inauguration.*

Inauguration—From page 15

shown in me,” said VanAken during his inaugural remarks. “It is an honor to serve this great institution and to help foster an age of imagination and innovation that is moving Thiel College closer to its destiny as one of this country’s great liberal arts institutions.”

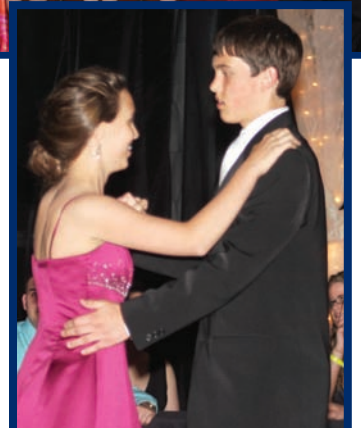
During the address, VanAken shared what attracted him and his family to Thiel, what makes it such a special place to study and work, and then laid out his hopes and dreams for Thiel College’s future and shared some of the early accomplishments of his administration.

Thiel’s students then presented VanAken with a surprise of their own. After his inaugural response, the students in the crowd chanted “Our #1 Fan” and “TVA” while waving Thiel College towels that were ordered for the occasion. The students presented VanAken with a large cheerleader’s megaphone that was signed by every member of the student body to show their appreciation for his “cheerleading” at campus athletic, cultural and other events.

The ceremony was followed by a reception in the Howard Miller Student Center where guests mingled and congratulated the newly inaugurated president and his family. Later on, guests were invited to a special inaugural ball in the Lutheran Heritage Room, featuring a live band, a dessert bar and lots of dancing!

VanAken began his Thiel presidency on July 1, 2009.

INAUGURATION PHOTO ALBUM



You can read an excerpt of President VanAken's inaugural remarks on page 16; the complete address can be found at www.thiel.edu/inauguration. Video of the event can also be found on that site.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2010!

On Sunday, May 2, 175 young men and women received their Thiel College degrees and prepared to begin their post-collegiate lives. The 136th Commencement marked Dr. Troy D. VanAken's first as president—the first time he conferred degrees and handed out diplomas to a group of newly minted Thiel graduates as they crossed the Passavant Center stage.

Brigadier General Jerry G. Beck Jr., deputy adjutant general-Army for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, delivered the commencement keynote address, entertaining and informing the audience. Beck, who first enlisted in the Army in 1977, is the principal adviser to the adjutant general on all matters relating to Army operations and is responsible for overall operational readiness, ensuring that the more than 15,000 members of the

Pennsylvania Army National Guard are trained and equipped for their federal and state missions. His speech addressed what he called “simple lessons that lead to simple truths,” including “Be persistent,” “Find the joy” and “Be humble.”

Dr. Mervin Newton, vice president for academic affairs, dean of the college and professor of mathematics, will retire in July and was honored with emeritus status during the ceremony.

Dr. Carl A. Hoffman Jr. '69 was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Science (see next page for more) during the ceremony as well.

Five students with perfect 4.0 grade point averages—**Amanda Mae Colvin** of Cambridge Springs, Pa., **Ashley Joelle (Johnson) Habel** of Greenville, Pa., **Douglas Eugene Keeling** of Hadley, Pa., **Samantha**



Christine Stearns of Seneca, Pa., and **Thao Kim Tran** of Erie, Pa.—earned valedictorian honors for 2010 and one student—**Kevin Michael Woods** of Union City, Pa.—was named salutatorian with a 3.95 grade point average.

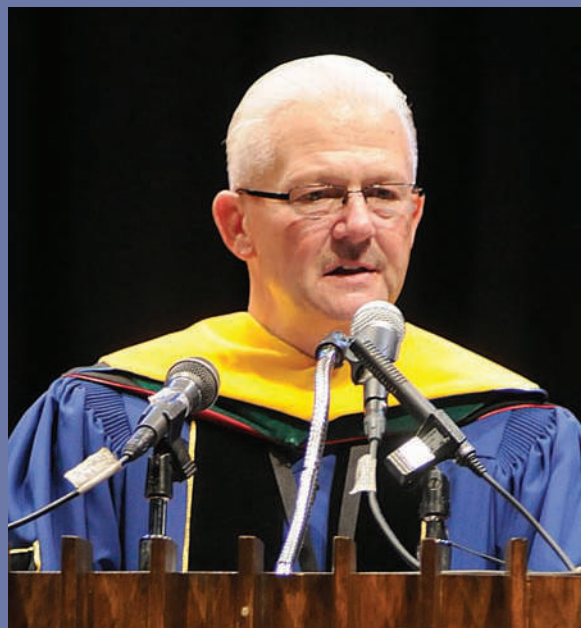
Britain Marie Callen, of Andover, Ohio, and senior class president, gave greetings from the Class of 2010 and **Keisha Ali Booker**, of Erie, Pa., and **Justin Thomas Munz**, of Emporium, Pa., presented the class gift—an oak tree that was planted on Brother Martin's Walk and funds to be used to upgrade the lobby area in the Academic Center. Habel delivered the senior address.

A reception in the Howard Miller Student Center was held following the commencement ceremony for the graduates and their families.

Please join the College in welcoming these young men and women into the ranks of Thiel's alumni!



Hoffman Receives Honorary Degree



Dr. Carl Hoffman Jr. '69, president and corporate medical director of PrimeCare Medical Inc. of Harrisburg, Pa., and PrimeCare Medical of West Virginia, Inc., received an honorary Doctor of Science degree at Thiel's 136th commencement ceremony.

Hoffman, who is a doctor of osteopathic medicine and a certified correctional and health care provider, began his career as an active family and general practitioner in Harrisburg, Pa. During this time, he also served as medical director for the state correctional institution in Camp Hill, Pa., and worked as a school physician for Central Dauphin High School, his alma mater. Hoffman founded PrimeCare, the largest providers of health care to county jails and juvenile facilities in Pennsylvania and West Virginia, in 1986. The company has grown into a multi-million dollar business with more than 750 employees. Along with a customized medical program that includes medical, mental health, dental, pharmacy, laboratory and nursing services, PrimeCare represents its clients' interests in all medical legal issues.

Hoffman also is active in numerous organizations and philanthropies, including the Thiel College Board of Trustees, and is a former member of the Thiel Alumni Board of Directors and Board of Associates. Hoffman is a graduate of Thiel College and Philadelphia College of osteopathic medicine.

He resides in Harrisburg, Pa., with his wife, Theresa.

Thiel Inducts Four into Hall of Fame



Pictured from left to right are Amber Brodick '09, Tom Guskey '72, Marian Mosser '74, Bob Dean '59, Shawn Harding '99 and Dorrان Coley '09

The Thiel College community welcomed four outstanding former scholar-athletes into its Athletic Hall of Fame on March 14.

The Hall's 30th induction class included **Bob Dean '59, Tom Guskey '72, Marian Mosser '74 and Shawn Harding '99.**

Former football standout Bob Dean was a four-year letterwinner and a three-year starter at end for the Tomcats between 1955 and 1958. In 1957, Dean set Thiel's single-season reception record with 12 catches. As a senior, the Greenville native and Penn High School graduate pulled in nine receptions for 107 yards and a touchdown while serving as a tri-captain. Dean also played one season of basketball for Thiel.

One of the fastest student-athletes in Thiel College history, Tom Guskey established the school record for the 100-yard dash in 1971 and held it until the record was retired in the early 1990s. Guskey earned his mark of 9.8 seconds during a standout junior season after which he became Thiel's only All-Presidents' Athletic Conference performer and advanced to the NCAA Championship meet.

A native of Johnstown, Pa., Guskey also played two seasons of football for Thiel.

As a three-sport athlete at Thiel, Marian Mosser made the most of every opportunity afforded to her in the athletic arena. Mosser was a four-year letterwinner and starter on the Tomcat basketball and volleyball squads, and a one-year letterwinner on the College's men's tennis squad. On the hardwood, Mosser was Thiel's defensive star while helping the cagers to a 33-game winning streak. She also is a member of the undefeated 1970-1971 women's basketball squad that was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

"Moss" was also a standout during the formative seasons of the Thiel women's volleyball program and was one of two women competing in tennis at Thiel during her senior season in 1974.

An accomplished distance runner during his time at Thiel, Shawn Harding still holds seven of the College's indoor and outdoor track and field and cross country records. Harding was a two-time Presidents' Athletic Conference individual champion in cross country (1996 and 1997) and established the school's eight-kilometer record with a time of 26:34.06 in

1996. He also earned two top-25 finishes at the NCAA Mideast Regional meet, being named all-region each time.

The College also honored **Jerry Zaleski '57** with its Meritorious Service and Commitment Award. Zalesky served at the first president of the Blue-Gold Club—the College's athletics fundraising organization—from 1991 to 1994.

Additionally, Thiel granted its inaugural Athletic Alumni

Commendation to former Greenville High School football coach **Bob Stone '59**. Stone, who played football for Thiel from 1957 to 1959, coached Greenville to a 222-75-7 record over a 29-year span, before retiring in 2006.

Two 2009 graduates—**Amber Bodrick** and **Dorran Coley**—were announced as the J. Lynn Trimble and Charles Evanoff Awards, respectively, as their classes' top student-athletes.

The Thiel College Athletic Hall of Fame, organized in 1978, was established to recognize individuals and teams who have brought distinction, honor, and excellence to Thiel College in the field of athletic endeavor.

Since its inception, 105 athletes and teams have been honored with enshrinement.

Brown Earns All-America Status—Again!

Thiel sophomore **Corey Brown**, of Greenville, Pa., defeated sixth-seeded Munkhbaatar Baatar of St. John's University in Minnesota, 10-7, to earn All-America status for the second consecutive year at the 2010 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships in March.

The win also allowed him to advance to day two of competition where he eventually clinched eighth place nationally with a 13-6 loss to Nick Garber of Waynesburg University.

Brown established an early 5-0 lead in the match, but the NCAA Midwest Regional 133-pound champion battled back to take seventh place.

Earlier in the day, Brown lost via a slim 3-2 decision to Aljamain Sterling of SUNY Cortland.

The loss capped a 16-win, eight-loss season for Brown, who has compiled a career record of 41-16 in his two years at Thiel.

On day one, Brown earned a 5-2 decision over Drew Hirschberger of Coe College in the consolation bracket to remain alive at the NCAA Division III National Championships.

In the opening round of competition, Brown lost 8-4 to fourth-seed Sean White of Wartburg College.

As an All-American, Brown becomes the 22nd Tomcat to earn that distinction in the College's history.



Rozenblad Has Stellar Freshman Season



Thiel men's basketball standout **Blair Rozenblad** certainly turned some heads over the course of his freshman season in Greenville.

After leading the Tomcats to a 14-11 season—the program's best campaign since going 16-12 in 2002-2003—Rozenblad has been the recipient of several prestigious postseason accolades beginning with a much-anticipated selection to the All-Presidents' Athletic Conference first team.

Several days later, the Youngstown native was named the Division III Great Lakes Region Rookie of the Year by D3hoops.com. The organization also awarded him all-region honors with a spot on the third team.

"DIII News" was the next publication to honor Rozenblad as it announced his selection to its All-Freshman Team.

Rozenblad ranked among the best players in the Presidents' Athletic Conference statistically last season, having led the league in scoring, averaging 21.8 points per game, and ranking third in rebounding with 7.7 boards per contest. He also ranked in the top 10 in the PAC in field goal percentage (.500), steals (1.68 spg) and minutes played (30.88 mins/gm).

The 6-foot-4-inch guard led Thiel in scoring 16 times over the course of the 2009-2010 season and closed out his rookie campaign with nine double-doubles.

A Kennedy Catholic High School graduate, Rozenblad is majoring in management and information systems with a 3.0 grade point average.

PAC Players of the Week

During the winter and early spring seasons, Thiel College saw its fair share of outstanding team and individual performances. Only the most remarkable efforts, however, are honored with Presidents' Athletic Conference player-of-the-week accolades. As of April 25, nine such citations were bestowed upon Thiel student-athletes.



Brock Porter – Baseball

Freshman catcher Brock Porter (Duncansville, Pa./Hollidaysburg) led Thiel during its eight-game Florida road trip, batting .407 (11-for-27) with five runs scored and 11 RBIs for the 3-5 Tomcats. He recorded an early-season-best three hits and three RBIs in a, 20-12, victory over Neumann University on March 3.



Patrick Morris – Wrestling

Sophomore 184-pounder Patrick Morris (Graysville, Pa./West Greene) won two matches during the Mel Berry Duals by pin fall and a third by technical fall. He won his first match of the day at 184 pounds against Rochester Institute of Technology's Tyler Brent. His second and third matches were at 197 pounds and yielded the same result—Morris pinned Mercyhurst North East's Jeff Hawryliw in 6:18 and earned an 18-3 technical fall against WVU Tech's James Kerns.



Devon Adams – Basketball

Devon Adams (Philadelphia, Pa./George Junior Republic) led the Tomcats to a pair of PAC wins last week by averaging 24.0 points, 5.0 assists, 3.5 rebounds and 2.0 steals per game, while shooting 56 percent (10-of-18) from three-point range. He posted a team-high 22 points as the Tomcats rolled past PAC foe Geneva College 93-69, then recorded a game-high 26 markers as Thiel won at Washington & Jefferson College, 78-68, snapping a 10-game losing streak to the Presidents.



James Teyssier – Baseball

Junior pitcher James Teyssier (McKees Rocks, Pa./Montour) was named PAC Pitcher of the Week for the Tomcats, allowing just two earned runs in seven strong innings of work in a 5-4 victory over St. John Fisher on March 1. He was 1-1 overall during the season-opening trip to Vero Beach, Fla.



Blair Rozenblad – Basketball (2)

Blair Rozenblad (Youngstown, Ohio/Kennedy Catholic) earned his first award on Dec. 7, 2009, when he averaged 27.5 points, 4.0 rebounds and 3.0 steals per game for the 1-1 Tomcats, who ended Saint Vincent College's 28-game home win streak with an 80-67 win on Wednesday before falling 79-78 at Geneva. He posted 27 points in the win over the Bearcats, while pouring in a game-high 28 markers and five steals against the Golden Tornadoes.

Rozenblad earned his second PAC Player of the Week recognition on Feb. 15 after he averaged 22.5 points and 9.0 rebounds while leading Thiel to its seventh- and eighth-consecutive victories. The 6-foot-4-inch guard racked up 18 points against Grove City College and notched his 14th 20-plus point outing and his eighth double-double of the season with 27 points and 11 rebounds against Westminster.



Emily Batiz – Softball

Junior pitcher Batiz (Leechburg, Pa./Leechburg) was named POW on March 29. She picked up her second softball victory of the season over the Redhawks, striking out a season-high 13 batters while allowing only three hits. Batiz hasn't given up a run in her last 10 innings pitched.



Kristen Moreland – Softball

Along with going 3-0 during the week of April 12, sophomore pitcher Kristen Moreland (Dover, Ohio/Dover) went 19 consecutive innings without surrendering an earned run. She posted a razor thin 0.43 ERA for the week. She pitched three complete games and notched one shutout. Moreland tallied 13 strikeouts while allowing just one earned run.



Cassidy Kravec – Track & Field

Competing against Division II competition, freshman Cassidy Kravec (North Huntingdon, Pa./Norwin H.S.) placed first in the discus (31.94-meters) and fourth in the javelin (30.64-meters) at the California Early Bird Invitational on February 20.

Track & Field Has Great Season Indoors and Out

With their third head coach in as many seasons, the Thiel College track and field team continued their tradition of qualifying and performing admirably in championship competitions.

First up were the indoor championships in March. This year's competitors were perennial all-America sprinter, **Alex Eaton** of Erie, Pa., and freshman phenom **Brittany Brown** of Pelham, N.Y.

Eaton earned the fourth all-America title of his career, placing third in the 400-meter dash, with a season-best time of 48.84. This feat was even more miraculous when considering the fact that the senior wasn't able to practice during most of the season due to a nagging hamstring injury.

"Alex has the heart of a lion," said head coach Steve Carr. "Everyone should keep an eye on him during the outdoor season, because the best is yet to come."

In her first-ever trip to nationals, Brown finished 13th in the pentathlon with a score of 3020. She scored a season personal best and school record in the high jump (1.63m) and lifetime personal best in the long jump (5.10m).

"She was the only freshmen to compete in the pentathlon this year," said Carr. "Both she and I are looking forward to seeing just how good she will become."

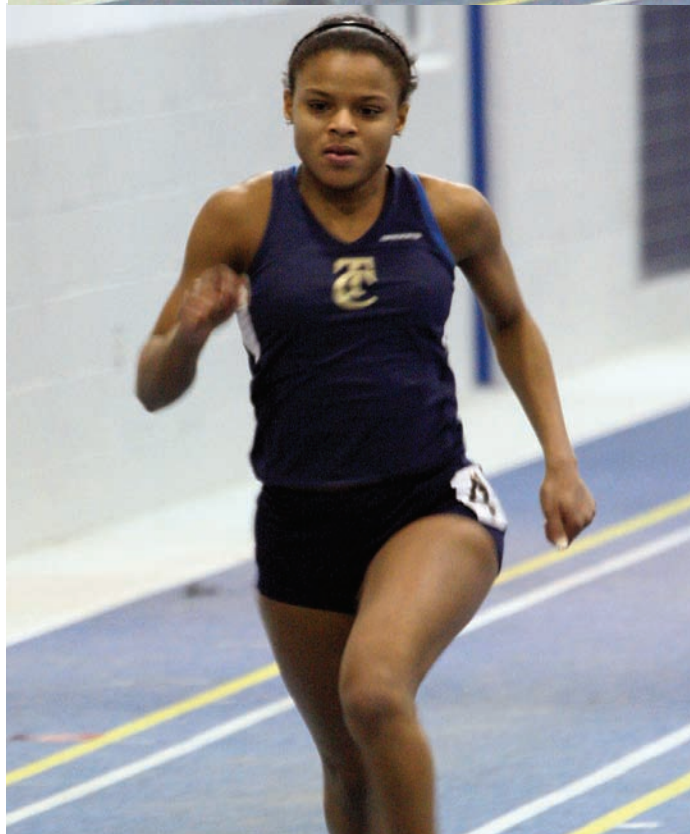
The next contest for the track and field team was the Presidents' Athletic Conference Outdoor Championships in May at Grove City College. The Brown/Eaton combination went on to also score well in the outdoor season, combining for three PAC titles and placing in three other events.

Brown led the way for the Tomcats, earning titles in the 100-meter high hurdles and the long jump. She finished the high hurdles with a time of 15.39 and leapt a personal best, 5.29-meters, in the long jump. Brown also earned third place in the high jump.

On the men's side, Eaton placed first in the 400-meter dash with a season best time of 48.79 to go along with a season best time in the 200-meter dash of 22.97, which was good enough for a second place finish. Also, Eaton—along with Tomcats **Ethan Rowe**, **Nick Youngblood** and **Derek Workman**—placed second in the men's 4x100-meter relay.

— Kellen Manning '10

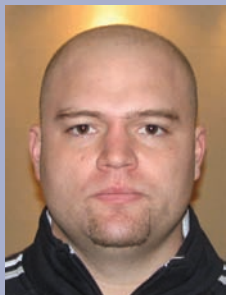
Senior Alex Eaton and freshman Brittany Brown represented Thiel at the national indoor track & field championships and PAC outdoor championships.



Thiel Welcomes New Head Coaches

Men's Lacrosse

Shem Johnston-Bloom, former assistant coach at Wesleyan University was named Thiel's first head men's lacrosse coach in January.



The addition of men's lacrosse was announced by President Troy VanAken in December 2009. The new program will begin competition at the NCAA Division III level in spring 2011.

Prior to his arrival in Greenville, Johnston-Bloom served as an assistant at Wesleyan from 2006 to January 2010. While with the Cardinals program, Johnston-Bloom helped the team to a cumulative 43-14 record, three NCAA Division III Tournament berths and a New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) Championship in 2009.

Johnston-Bloom had direct responsibility for the defensive midfield and faceoff specialists with the Cardinals, while assisting with the design and implementation of the team's defensive strategy and serving as video coordinator.

A 2006 graduate of Wesleyan, Johnston-Bloom also holds a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from his alma mater. As an undergraduate, he started all 32 games of his career as a defensive lineman on the Cardinal football squad and twice earned All-NESCAC second team honors.

As a senior in 2006, Johnston-Bloom joined the Wesleyan lacrosse program as a midfielder and faceoff specialist, helping the Cardinals to a 16-4 record and the NCAA D-III semifinals.

Cheer & Dance

Jack Leipheimer, athletic director, announced the appointment of **Arikka D. Fears** (pronounced ah-REE-ka) to the position of spirit coordinator in April.



Fears' primary responsibilities will be to oversee the Tomcats' competitive cheer and dance programs.

Fears arrives at Thiel after a four-year stint at West Mesquite High School in Mesquite, Texas, where she taught dance and served as the coordinator of the school's dance team. She also had responsibility for the freshman and junior varsity cheerleading squads.

She currently serves as an instructor and judge with the Universal Dance Association (UDA) and the Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA), roles she has filled since 2006 and 2001, respectively.

The UDA named Fears its Head Instructor of the Year in 2004 and she was also recognized as the 2009 American Dance/Drill Team Outstanding Director.

Fears also brings a variety of professional experience to her new position, most notably her work from 2003 to 2005 as a Dallas Sidekick Sizzle Dancer, which included hip hop, pom and dance performance.

A 2005 graduate of Texas Woman's University with a Bachelor of Arts in dance, Fears also holds a secondary teaching certificate in dance from the University of North Texas.

Tennis

In April, **Tim Dunford** was appointed by Thiel to lead the men's and women's tennis programs.



Thiel's NCAA Division III tennis program will take to the court with the 2010-2011 season for the first time since 2006.

Dunford comes to Greenville after having served as the head tennis professional at Dominion Valley Country Club in Haymarket, Va., since February 2009. Concurrently, he also worked as an assistant tennis pro at Burke Racquet & Swim Club in Burke, Va.

Prior to his most recent stint as a pro, Dunford spent two years as an assistant men's and women's tennis coach at Mount Olive College, where the men's team rose as high as 30th in 2007-2008 national rankings.

The 2005 graduate of Shenandoah University spent the 2008 campaign in the high school ranks serving as head girls' tennis coach at James Kennan High School, where he coaxed seven wins out of a team that compiled an 0-24 record during the previous two years.

He also spent nearly two years as the head boys' and girls' coach at James Wood High School in Winchester, Va., where both teams showed marked improvement over his brief tenure.

Dunford has served in various capacities—including those of tennis director and professional—at several country clubs and tennis centers since 2003. He is a United States Professional Tennis Association (USPTA) professional and a member of the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

Greetings, Thiel Alumni!

Thank you for your warm welcome during my first months at Thiel as your alumni director. As you know, Thiel is truly a special place, and I feel very fortunate to be serving its alumni and helping to further its mission each day.

“Thiel is for life.” President Troy D. VanAken spoke these words on April 17 in his inaugural response. “The Thiel Commitment extends from the moment our students first come in contact with the College to their golden years as loyal alumni.” Your relationship with Thiel grows and changes throughout the various stages of life, but it always remains. No matter your place in life, our job in the Alumni Office is to ensure that Thiel is relevant to you and serving you in a meaningful way.

What does it mean to be a recent Thiel graduate facing a difficult job market? It means that you have lifetime access to our Career Services Office, where you will network with other alumni and hone your interviewing skills. What does it mean to be a Thiel graduate with a young family? It means that we provide programming opportunities for you and your family, such as the College for Kids program or our upcoming Alumni and Family Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo. What does it mean to be a Thiel graduate celebrating your 50th class reunion? It means that Thiel enriches you through lifelong learning, philanthropy, volunteer service and sharing your passion for liberal arts education.

We also strive for relevancy and practicality in the ways that we communicate with you. We provide services and up-to-date information about campus through the use of technology and increased e-communications. At the same time, Thiel enjoys significant cost-savings by cutting back on printed mail. Please share your e-mail address with us so we may ensure that you are kept informed.

Given all of the new initiatives and developments on campus, there has perhaps never been a more exciting time to get involved. Regardless of where you live, we have an opportunity for you to make a difference at Thiel. From mentoring students to planning alumni events to acting as a class agent, there are a host of volunteer positions connected with the Alumni Office.

I hope that you are inspired, as I have been, to join in and “Imagine Thiel.” Thank you for all that you do and for all that you will do in the future for Thiel College. I look forward to meeting you personally very soon.

Warmest regards,



Lauren Oman
 Director of Alumni Services



You've Been Challenged

As was reported in the fall edition of *The Bell*, the College has issued a President's Challenge to the graduates of the past 25 years (1985-2009). This special challenge is aimed at increasing the percentage of participation among the College's recent graduates and to help the institution meet its first-ever \$1 million goal for The Thiel Fund.

Even more exciting, a generous anonymous donor has agreed to match, dollar for dollar, all new gifts to The Thiel Fund, up to \$30,000. As of May 10, the leading class was the Class of 1988 with 13 percent of class members giving, followed closely by the Classes of 1985, 1986 and 1989 all at 12 percent. It's anyone's game—your participation makes a difference!

If you're a first-time donor, there won't be a better time to step up and be counted among Thiel's most dedicated supporters. The challenge runs through June 30—so don't delay in putting your class at the top!

You can donate online (www.thiel.edu) or mail your gift to 75 College Ave., Greenville, Pa. 16125.

The winning class will be honored at Homecoming 2010 and will be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Bell*.

The class year will also be engraved on the President's Challenge Cup that will reside in a place of honor in Roth Hall.

For more information, call the Office of College Advancement at 724-589-2027.



Thiel on Tour

Dr. Troy VanAken and other members of Thiel's staff and faculty have been "on the road" again this semester. Meet the President events were held in Erie, Pa., Warren, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Pa., and Naples, Fla., in recent months. Attendees were able to meet the new president and learn about the exciting initiatives and events happening on campus—as well as VanAken's plans for the future of Thiel College. Pictured below: **(1)** Members of the Class of 1979 Mike Zawoysky, Pat Findle and Gary Witosky reunite at La Casa Narcisi Winery in Pittsburgh, where Sara '63 and Dennis Narcisi hosted an event in March. **(2)** A group of alumni share an intimate dinner with Dr. VanAken and Dave Grober, vice president for college advancement, in Naples, Fla., in January. **(3)** Dave Hofius '64 and his wife, Elaine, hosted an event in Warren, Ohio, in December and pose with Chuck Cunningham Jr. '67 and his wife, Marybeth, and Dave Grober. **(4)** A group of Thiel alumni and prospective students share an evening in Harrisburg, Pa., in April, hosted by Dr. Carl Hoffman Jr. '69 and his wife, Theresa. **(5)** A group of alums gather together in Erie, Pa., in November, hosted by Chairman of the Board of Trustees Dr. Roy Strausbaugh and his wife, Rosanna.



Alumni Present Assessment Tools to Education Majors

In February, the Thiel chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international education honorary, and Intermediate Unit 4—through a grant from the Heinz Foundation secured by Professors James Shaffer and Mary Reames—hosted a presentation on performance assessment. Education majors from Thiel College, Grove City College and Westminster College were invited to attend. Presenters **Kevin DeFrancesco '05** and **Katie Tyson '06** provided the participants with authentic assessment tools used in their classrooms that allow



students to demonstrate their understanding. The projects were technology rich and included such tasks as Web Quests, displays that required the students to use art, music and drama to express their thinking about topics taught, and portfolios. In order to have students engaged, teachers must be willing to take risks and have the patience to work with their students to get positive results. Students who attended the presentation said "...the best thing I learned today was that you have to empower your students and make them self-sufficient learners" and "Teaching is more than homework and lecturing. A teacher's first priority is the students who need engagement and flexibility. Mr. DeFrancesco and Mrs. Tyson are absolutely wonderful teachers and models for us all."

Upcoming Events

Thiel Alumni and Family Day at the Pittsburgh Zoo

Saturday, June 19

Get wild with fellow alumni and their families at the Pittsburgh Zoo! Tickets include zoo admission and a catered lunch in the PNC Pavilion.

Visit www.thiel.edu/alumni/alumni-events for details and ticket information.

Homecoming 2010—Save the Date!

September 17-19

(See page 38 for more details.)

Alumni Board Meeting Dates 2010-2011

Saturday, September 18

Saturday, October 30

Saturday, February 12

Saturday, April 16

Contact the Office of Alumni Services at 724-589-2042 or alumni@thiel.edu with questions about these or other alumni events.



**Save the date
for the Thiel
College Greek
Summit on
Oct. 23, 2010!**

Greek Alumni are invited back to reconnect with the campus community for Thiel College's first-ever Greek Life Summit this year. The program will feature a keynote speaker, various presentations and roundtable discussions with a focus on enhancing Greek life at Thiel College.

Following the primary program, Thiel's Greek chapters also will plan individual social events and open houses for returning alumni. Finally, the Division of Student Life will be taking a pep bus to the football game at Westminster College at 7 p.m. to support the team.

Additional information will be sent to Greek alumni later this summer.

If you have any immediate questions about this event, please contact Dean of Students Mike McKinney '02 at 724-589-2600 or e-mail him at mmckinney@thiel.edu.

Alumni Mentors Needed



The Office of Career Services is looking for alumni to serve as mentors for our current students. We currently have two outstanding Web sites that students and alumni can use to search for jobs and develop mentoring relationships.

Becoming a mentor is easy! Simply follow one of the links below, create a free profile and sign up to serve as a mentor:

 www.collegecentral.com/thiel

This Web site features a mentoring network where students can find mentors by major, professional field or even extracurricular activities you were involved in when you were at Thiel. This site also provides job searching/posting and a built-in e-portfolio.

 www.careerathletes.com

This Web site's mentoring network connects students with alumni mentors by collegiate sport. This site provides job searching/posting with companies who are specifically looking for former athletes to employ. The site also has a feature that allows you to search not only jobs posted to their site, but jobs from other qualified databases that meet your search criteria.

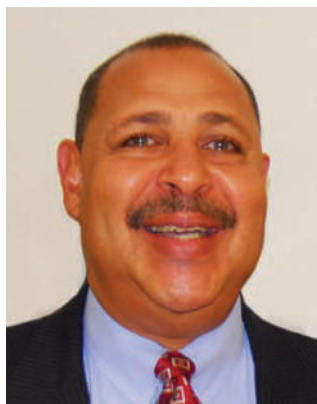
If you have any questions about becoming a mentor, or about using either site, please contact Heather Balas, director of career services, at 724-589-2014 or hbalas@thiel.edu.

Tomcat Alumni to be Honored at Homecoming

Thiel College is proud to announce this year's Homecoming alumni awardees. Each year, Thiel's Alumni Board chooses a group of Thiel alumni to honor who bring pride to themselves, their families and their alma mater. This distinguished group of alumni has truly made a mark in their professional lives, their service to the world and their love of Thiel College. (Young Alumni award winners will be announced later this summer.) Please join us on Sept. 17-19, 2010 during Homecoming 2010 to celebrate their achievements!

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumni honorees are nominated for outstanding contributions to their professions. Congratulations to this year's winners!



William Parker '75



Dr. Thomas '59 & Lynn (Sopher) '63 (not pictured) West

Service to Thiel

Service to Thiel winners are nominated for their loyalty, service and devotion to Thiel. Thank you for all that you do for Thiel College!



Barbara (Taylor) Davis '51



David '63 & Mary Jo (Enlow) '63 Andrews

TRUSTEE PROFILE OF DEDICATION:

EDWARD A. BARTKO '72

YOU ARE CURRENTLY SERVING AS VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD AND IN YOUR SECOND TERM ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, WHY IS SERVICE TO YOUR ALMA MATER IN THIS WAY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

I have always believed in supporting the organizations that have played a role in my personal success. Thiel is at the top of that list since I was the first to graduate from college in my immediate family.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIEL'S CURRENT DIRECTION AND NEW PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES?

I was lucky enough to serve on the Presidential Search Committee that was able to attract Dr. Troy VanAken to serve as Thiel's president. Troy has brought an energy and spirit to Thiel that was desperately needed at the time. Troy has accomplished a great deal already through his "Thiel Commitment" program. Troy's focus on students also has been well received. Thiel still has many challenges ahead but Troy is the right leader to help Thiel overcome our challenges.

WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THIEL ALUMNI TO STAY ACTIVE AND INVOLVED WITH THIEL?

Alumni support and continued activity in Thiel is important because it sends a message about the institution to future students and to donor organizations. The higher level of support by the alumni can affect a prospective student's decision to come to Thiel. Alumni giving also can be looked upon in a favorable light by new potential donors.

WHAT LESSONS DID YOU LEARN AT THIEL THAT HELPED YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

I would say the best lesson I learned at Thiel was that if you work hard you can accomplish your goals.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIEL TO A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT LOOKING FOR A COLLEGE?

I am still amazed that in the United States that only 30 percent or so of the workforce has graduated from college. As I noted earlier, I was a first-generation college graduate from my immediate family. Thiel is an excellent environment for a person like me who really did not know what to expect from going to college and wondering if I could succeed. The students, faculty and administration have a way about them to make a newcomer to Thiel feel very comfortable and fit in quickly.

Edward Bartko is a senior managing director in the Transaction Advisory Services group of the corporate finance practice of FTI Consulting Inc, a global business advisory firm. Bartko is based in Washington, D.C., and has assisted clients with many types of corporate finance transactions, including mergers and acquisitions of multibillion dollar companies, half-billion-dollar private placements and multimillion dollar public offerings. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from Thiel College and is a certified fraud examiner and a certified public accountant in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and has been involved in many community and professional organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Biotechnology Industry Organization, among others. He and his wife, Ann, live in Charleston, S.C.



Meet the Boards



Officers for the Board of Trustees are, from left, Dr. M. Roy Strausbaugh, Chair; Edward A. Bartko '72, Vice Chair; David R. Andrews '63, Treasurer; Rod E. Wilt '86, Secretary

Board of Trustees

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Tim Rech
John & Jane Tell
Jeanne Travaglianti
Kimberly Walter
Ron & Jennifer Woody

Class Notes

1940s

ROBERT HILL '42 is enjoying retirement and living in Pittsburgh.

JEAN (RUNDELL) HARRELL '46 turned 85 in February. She has two sons, seven grandchildren and a great grandchild. Harrell visits Fort Meyers, Fla., every spring to see BEVERLY REZNOR '47 and MARGARET ENTERLINE '47.

PAUL FAUTH '48 and his wife, Grace, are looking forward to their 60th anniversary in August.

A.LORRAINE (HORNE) HALL '48 resides in Meadville, Pa., where she enjoys reading and gardening. Hall has 12 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren and likes to visit her son in South Carolina a few times a year.

JOAN (MILLER) MEZOFF '48 is retired and lives in Elizabethtown, Pa. She is recuperating from knee replacement surgery last year.

ALBERT LOCHRA '49 celebrated his WWII 100th Bomb Group's Biennial Reunion in New Mexico in September 2009. He also took a trip to Washington D.C. for WWII veterans of the Triad area of North Carolina in October 2009 where they visited the WWII memorial, among many others, and were greeted by former Senator Bob Dole.

1950s

PATRICIA (GLESSMAN) MORRISON '52 lives in Linesville, Pa., where she still lives in her own home. While her husband was alive, they traveled frequently, visiting Hawaii, Alaska, Australia and New Zealand, and took a number of cruises.

JOHN STEINMETZ '54 served two years in the Army Medical Corps. He lives in Tempe, Ariz., and became a great-grandfather this year.

PAUL M. WERGER '54 is retired and enjoying his nine grandchildren. He and his wife live in Iowa City, Iowa.

MERLIN BEIL '56 is self-employed in the residential elevator sales business and writes that he is "blessed with five grandchildren."

MERWIN JONES '57 is a proud grandparent of three and enjoys doing volunteer work. He and his wife live in Falconer, N.Y.

KAY (BEATTIE) WEYERS '59 lives in Okemos, Mich., with her husband, HOWARD '56. Weyers has retired after 30 years of teaching and enjoys spending a few months a year in Florida.

1960s

GLENN ROOF '60 lives in Sugar Land, Texas, and retired from Aqua Process Inc. in Houston. He is now teaching chemistry as an adjunct instructor at Houston Community College. He recently became a grandfather for the first time. He writes, "Not many Thiel grads from the Class of 1960 wait until they are 71 years old to become a grandfather!"

SANDY YEAGER '60 was profiled in the March 28 edition of the *Lancaster Sunday News*. Yeager, who has a master's degree and doctorate from the University of New Hampshire, was a cancer researcher and a chemistry/biochemistry teacher. She retired a decade ago from Millersville University, which recently established an endowed chemistry scholarship that was given by a former student in her name. She lives in southeast Lancaster, Pa.

JAMES W. LEYERZAPF '65 lives in Abilene, Kan., and retired in October 2009 as an archivist with the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library after 37 years of service. In December, Leyerzapf received the Archivist of the United States Lifetime Achievement Award. He hopes to remain involved with history education throughout his retirement.

CARL F. ZAGER '66 lives in Bloomington, Ind., with his wife, Linda. He retired in June 2009 after 38 years with the Monroe County Community School Corporation in Bloomington. Zager was an English teacher, instructional technology coordinator and coached a number of sports. He especially enjoyed coaching his grandsons.

LOUISE (DIEKMANN) GERBER '69 has retired after 37 years with Hoffmann-LaRoche, where she conducted pharmaceutical research. Diekmann and her husband, William, moved to North Carolina where they play a great deal of golf.

CAROL (SHAIN) VANSCHENKHOF '69 and her husband, Ron, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary by taking their family of 12 on a Caribbean cruise.

1954



DAVID CORNELL '54, BARRY EVANS '54, Ginny Evans, DOTTIE KNITTEL '54 and GEORGE SHARP '54 attended this year's Homecoming, celebrating 55 years since their graduation.

1970s

JOHN D. PFEIFFER '72 recently retired after more than 30 years in the mental health field. He continues to teach as an adjunct professor in several graduate programs in Philadelphia-area colleges and universities. His partner, Andre, works in the hospitality industry. They divide their time between Philadelphia and Boca Raton, Fla.

MARC S. PLISCOF '73 retired from the Department of the Army at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., after 33 years. He is moving to the Ft. Myers, Fla., area where he will spend most of the year.

TIMOTHY S. BOWLIN '74 is an accountant for SCAT Transport Inc. His wife, Diane, is a scheduling clerk for Excella Health Systems. The couple and their four children live in Mt. Pleasant, Pa.

JOHN "JACK" E. MARTIN, Ed.D. '75, who was director of alumni services at Thiel College from 1986 to 1989, went on to become the director of development at Gannon University and was later named vice president of advancement at Edinboro University. He decided to join the family mortuary business and attained his mortuary degree in 1997. He is now owner and supervisor of Dusckas-Martin Funeral Home and Crematory, Inc.

CHAD M. SED '75 received his master's degree in psychology, master's degree in

Class Notes

gerontology and lifespan psychology and doctorate in industrial and gerontological psychology at the University of Akron. Sed is certified in the treatment of sex offenders in Ohio and just this year became a licensed psychologist.

KIMBERLY (STEPHENS) PORTER '76 lives in Prescott, Ariz., with her husband, Scott. Porter is a transportation director for Humboldt Unified School District.

JOSEPH F. ROTH '79 lives in Williamsburg, Va., with his wife, Shannon. Roth recently received his Doctorate of Business Administration in business management.

1980s

LOUANNE (BURG) DAVIS '83 lives in South Park, Pa., with her husband, BILL DAVIS '82 and their two children. Davis is a principal at St. Joan of Arc School.

BRIAN CONNER '87 is a certified general real estate appraiser with Mid-Atlantic Valuation Group in York, Pa., a career he pursued after retiring from teaching biology at Susquehannock High School in Glen Rock, Pa., in 2005. He lives in York, Pa., with his wife, Linda, and their three children.

DAVID HARIG '89 and his wife, MARY (ANDERSON) '90 are proud of their 15-year-old son who recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the Boy Scout's

highest honor. The couple lives in Plain City, Ohio.

1990s

PATRICK L. HELBLING '94 lives in McDonald, Pa., with his wife, Kathleen. Helbling is the vice president of client relations for Coordinated Group of Companies Inc. The couple has three children.

GREGORY M. BRUNO '95 resides in Hermitage, Pa., with his wife, Brenda. Bruno is a certified registered nurse anesthetist for Penn Ohio Associates. The couple has three children.

DEBRA (OWEN) GLANCY '97 lives in Transfer, Pa., and is a math teacher in the Jamestown School District.

2000s

CLYDE MORGAN '00, who is in his second year as head track & field coach at Wabash University, had three athletes claim spots in the national championship field this year. His squad claimed runner-up honors at the MIAC Championships and has toppled nine school records.

BRENDA (MORROW) RUMPLE '02 is a counter manager for Este Lauder at Dillard's in Warren, Ohio. She and her husband, William, have two children.

PAMELA (ACHENBACH) NOVAK '03 was elected a vice president for the Association for Writers and Writing Programs' (AWP) Two-Year College Caucus. She also recently presented a webinar for Kaplan University about engaging at-risk students in composition classrooms.

KATIE (NORTH) CALDWELL '04 lives in Wexford, Pa., with her husband, John. She is a sixth-grade teacher in the Northgate School District. In April 2009, she completed a master's degree in reading education with certification as a reading specialist from the University of Pittsburgh.

TREVOR J. OKONAK '04 proposed to Alice Marcus at the annual Christmas parade in Oakmont, Pa., where he serves as a police officer. (She accepted!). The couple bought a home in November 2009.

NICOLE STEVENSON '05 is working as a housing specialist for Chestnut Health Systems. She lives in St. Louis, Mo.

ADAM J. GUTHRIE '06 is a funeral director at Huff Chapel Inc. He lives in Franklin, Pa.

ANGELA P. BOWE '08 received the 2010 Fathers' Redemptorist Award, one of the top three awards presented to a member of the graduating class of 2010 at Mercyhurst North East. The award is given based on time, loyalty and leadership skills given to the school. Bowe recently finished her third clinical rotation in the physical therapist assistant program at HealthSouth in Erie, Pa., and graduated in late May.

LINDSAY HOOD '08 resides in Haure De Grace, Md. She is working in the accounting department for Leonard Paper Company in Baltimore, Md.

ANGELA LIA '08 is MH/MR case manager for the Mercer County Behavioral Health Commission.

KOURTNEY M. SHICK '08 graduated in May with a Master of Arts in student affairs in higher education from Slippery Rock University.

CAITLIN RUPERT '09 lives in Apollo, Pa. She is a document management clerk with Westinghouse Electric Company.

Marriages

CONSTANCE (STONE) CHAPLIN '60 to Richard Forkey on Oct. 10, 2009 in Asheville, N.C. Chaplin is a substitute teacher. They reside in Weaverville, N.C.

RAYMOND A. SISTEK '66 to the Rev. Julie Walz on Dec. 27, 2009. Sistek retired from Lutheran parish ministry in 2005. The couple lives in Indiana, Pa.

KATHARINE NIENBURG '84 to James Farmer. The couple lives in Wingate, N.C.

AILEEN GOLDBERG '98 to Josh Altwerger in November 2009 in Teaneck, N.J. Goldberg is a recruiter for a legal staffing agency in New York City. The couple lives in Bronx, N.Y.



▲ CAITLIN MCKENNA '04 to Daniel Degnan on June 27, 2009. McKenna is a high school Spanish teacher in Peters Township School District. Daniel is an English teacher in

2002



CAITLIN (MCKENNA) DEGNAN '04, JEFF LINN '02 and WILLIAM DOUGLAS '03 attended the National College Fair in Pittsburgh in February. Douglas and Degman assisted Linn, associate director of admissions at Thiel, as alumni admissions representatives, speaking with prospective high school juniors and seniors as well as their family members.

Class Notes



Future ZTAs

Pictured from left to right are future Thiel College Zetas Madison Miller, Lylah Gravatte and Abrielle Zappia.

Ringgold School District. The couple resides in Canonsburg, Pa. Thiel alums in the wedding party included SHANNON STRANG '02 and JULIE VAN WASSEN '04.

BRENT RHODES '04 to AMANDA SWANSON '04. Swanson is a healthcare IT analyst for ECRI Institute. Rhodes is a case manager for Alternatives in Community Treatment Inc. They live in Pottstown, Pa.

DANIEL CRAGG '05 to MELANIE HORVATH '06. Horvath works at Carnegie Mellon University. The family lives in West View, Pa.

MELISSA KEENER '05 to Ryan Janoski. Keener is an Enrollment Counselor for the University of Phoenix. She is also working on her master's degree in special education and is a Mary Kay Independent Beauty senior consultant. The couple lives in Seven Fields, Pa.

JAY CARTER '06 to JENNIFER SIGNORELLI '07 on June 27, 2009 in Belle Vernon, Pa. Thiel alums in the wedding party included JULIE STEWART '05, CHRIS BROWN '07, CHEYLAN FOSMER '07, AMANDA MARTYNA '07, KELLY SHUEY '07, BEN WAY '07 and JOE MURDY '08. The couple lives in Donora, Pa.

ASHLEY PETERSON '06 to KEVIN STROUSE '06 on Nov. 7, 2009. Peterson is an associate agent for Peterson Insurance Agency - Nationwide Insurance. The couple lives in Bridgeville, Pa.

JULIE SAXON '06 to James Kovalcik on July 25, 2009 in Pittsburgh. Included in the wedding party was ANNE ORELLI '05. Saxon is a fourth-grade teacher at Alderman Road Elementary School. The couple lives in Fayetteville, N.C. (See next page for a photo of Thiel alumni at the wedding.)

KATHERINE SMITH '06 to JEREMY BERNARD '07 on Oct. 6, 2007. Bernard is an enrollment counselor at the University of Phoenix. The couple lives in Twinsburg, Ohio.

KELLY DORA '07 to Jeffrey Komodore on September 12, 2009. The couple lives in Silverdale, Wash.

JIAYING MO '07 to Joshua Crousey on September 26, 2009, in Cambridge Springs, Pa. The couple resides in Minneapolis, Minn.

▼ JEFF WAGNER '07 to KATIE HARROLD '07 on July 31, 2009. Nearly 30 alumni were at the wedding (pictured below).



MARGARET MORRIS '09 to Cory Bowman on August 16, 2009. The couple lives in Virginia Beach, Va.

Births

To MICHELLE (COVER) REICHART '95 and her husband, Blane: a son, Max, on Sept. 15, 2009. The family lives in Hanover, Pa.

To JENNIFER GRUMBLING '97 and her boyfriend, Bobby Delerme: a son, Kaeden Michael, in July 2009. The family lives in Palm Harbor, Fla.

To KENNETH FRANTZ '98 and his wife, Cristy: a son, Crosby Michael, on July 1, 2009. The family lives in Uniontown, Pa.

To JESSICA (MILLER) '99 and JAISON MOSLANDER '99: a daughter, Kayla Elizabeth, on Nov. 3, 2009. The family lives in Cranberry, Pa.

To BOBBI (ERKENS) LALLEY '01 and her husband, Jay: a daughter, Kate Abigail, on April 27, 2009. She joins brother, Owen Matthew. Lalley is in her second year of a three-year tour, working as the property administration officer at the Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii. (Lalley's title was listed incorrectly in the fall edition of The Bell. We apologize for the error.)

► To ERIN (WRIGHT) '02 and MIKE MCKINNEY '02: a daughter, Hailey Elizabeth, on Nov. 19, 2009. She joins big sister, Hannah Noelle.



To BRENDA (MORROW) RUMPLE '02 and her husband, William: a son, Braden, on Sept. 16, 2008.

To KENDALL (ALEXIS) MILLER '04 and her husband, Tim: a daughter, Madison Alexis, on April 29, 2009. The family lives in Brunswick, Ohio. (Pictured top left)

To AMANDA (SWANSON) '04 and BRENT RHODES '04: a son, Garrett Mason, on Oct. 8, 2009. The family lives in Pottstown Pa.

To LAUREN (PETERS) GRAVATTE '05 and her husband, Dean: a daughter, Lylah Grace, on April 17, 2009. The family lives in Hermitage, Pa. (Pictured top left)

To JAMIE (SAUL) '05 and SHAWN ZAPPIA '05: a daughter, Abrielle Nicole, on May 4, 2009. The family lives in Sharpsville, Pa. (Pictured top left)

To MELANIE (CRAGG) '06 and DANIEL HORVATH '05: a daughter, Eva Marie, on Sept. 30, 2009.

To SARAH (MEADER) MCCRACKEN '09 and her husband, Travis: a son, Brett Andrew, on March 6, 2009. Meader works in therapeutic staff support for Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. She also is working on her master's degree in social work at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. The family lives in Meadville, Pa.

In Memoriam

EVELYN AGNES LEISHER '38 of Transfer, Pa., on March 25 at age 92.

JOANNA (BRADEN) SCHOTT '38 of Washington, Pa., on March 9 at age 94.

Class Notes

2006



Pictured with bride JULIE SAXON '06 and groom Jim Kovalcik are all the Thiel grads in attendance at the wedding—Torey Glatz '08, Tommy Marshall '04, Erika (Foster) Marshall '05, Breklyn Busch '05, Nicole Ross '07, Mike Boiano '03, Mallory Borelli '07, Emily Eckert '07, Jessica Ferretti '04, Melissa Keener '05, Molly Darr '07, Sarah (Bulger) Boiano '04 Denise (Monus) Altomare '06, Sami Gbur '06 and Anne Orelli '05.

ARLENE M. GOODLING '41 of Erie, Pa., on Oct. 10, 2009, at age 89.

ELMER P.F. HOFFMAN '41 of Erie, Pa., on Oct. 9, 2009, at age 90.

ELEANOR M. SUNDERLIN '42 of Fort Pierce, Fla., on Nov. 18, 2009 at age 88.

BARBARA ANNE (WHITNEY) BURCH '43 of Erie, Pa., on Jan. 19, at age 88.

DONALD W. DART '47 of Greenville, Pa., on Jan. 26, at 87.

DR. ELMER E. MEARS JR. '48 of Key Colony Beach, Fla., on Feb. 7 at age 82.

MARGERY (TODHUNTER) PUDLINER '48 of Macon, Ga., on Sept. 17, 2009, at age 84.

ISABELLE WILT '48 of Mechanicsburg, Pa., on May 3, 2009, at age 83.

PATRICIA M. BOYD '49 of Clarion, Pa., on Oct. 27, 2009, at age 82.

JAMES B. WILSON '49 of Hartstown, Pa., on Dec. 26, 2009, at age 84.

RICHARD D. "DICK" ROWLAND '50 of Greenville, Pa., on March 15 at age 83.

JOSEPH FRELICK '51 of Centerville, Pa., on Oct. 7, 2009, at age 86.

MAX A. LITTLE '51 of Greenville, Pa., on Dec. 9, 2009, at age 85.

DOROTHY (KOENIG) KOHLER '52 of Pittsburgh, on Jan. 22, 2009, at age 84.

WALTER LEWIS '52 of Altadena, Calif., on Oct. 3, 2009, at age 81.

DELORES STURM '52 of Pasadena, Texas, on Feb. 13 at age 78.

RICHARD C. ANDERSON '53 of Stow, Ohio, on May 12, 2009.

ROBERT C. WISSINGER '53 of North Royalton, Ohio, on Dec. 9, 2009, at age 78.

HARRY H. BENO '54 of Pendleton, N.Y., on Jan. 15, at age 78.

JOAN (ESPE) DOSEY '54 of Pittsburgh, on Jan. 26, 2009, at age 76.

EDNA (STUEBER) STEINMETZ '55 of Tempe, Ariz., on April 21, 2009, at age 75.

THELMA (WEAVER) SMITH '57 of Seaford, Del., on Oct. 28, 2009, at age 84.

THOMAS GREEN '58 of Anchorage, Alaska, at age 73.

CAROL (TRENT) MONTGOMERY '58 of Vandergrift, Pa., on Oct. 17, 2009, at age 73.

JOHN C. BRYAN II '58 of Oakmont, Pa., on Dec. 11, 2009, at age 73.

WILLIAM BILLINGSLEY '60 of Upper St. Clair, Pa., on Dec. 15, 2009, at age 73.

WILLIAM R. FREEMAN '61 of Swan Point, Md., on March 25.

LAURA (TAYLOR) MANSFIELD '61 of Monroeville, Pa., on Oct. 17, 2009, at age 70.

LESLIE G. STOYER '61 of Springettsbury, Pa., on Dec. 22, 2009, at age 70.

BETTY (FRANCIS) DELO '63 at age 69.

JOSEPH V. MISCHICK '64 of Largo, Fla., on Feb. 3 at age 67.

RONALD A. WOLFE '64 of Burton, Ohio, on Dec. 25, 2009, at age 66.

GERARD MASSARO '65 of Pittsburgh, on Nov. 11, 2009, at age 65.

Class Notes and Photo Policy

■ Please send us your news after it has happened. Future events (such as expected births or engagements) are not listed.

■ News that appears in this issue arrived at the Alumni Office on or before May 4, 2010. If your news was submitted after that date, it will appear in the next issue.

News for Class Notes, Marriages and Births must be reported either by or with the explicit approval of the subject(s). All notes are subject to editing for content, space and style. Photos become the property of the alumni office and may not be returned.

■ Photo Guidelines—Prints should be at least 2x3 inches for headshots and 4x6 for photos featuring several people. Both color and black & white are acceptable. Photos can be mailed care of Alumni Services, Thiel College.

To submit a digital photo, e-mail it to alumni@thiel.edu. Digital photos should be 300 dpi resolution in as large a format as possible. Photos that are small and low resolution may not be usable. Digital photos should be saved as a JPEG or TIFF. *Please include a brief description of the photo and the names and class years of alumni who appear.*

Class Notes

JOHN TODD JR. '65 of Blue Bell, Pa., on April 11.

RICHARD H. DEVEY '66 of Greenville, Pa., on Nov. 5, 2009, at age 65.

ALLAN H. HAMID '67 of Woodbury, Conn., on May 7, 2009, at age 63.

SALLY (HOFFMAN) DURRANT '68 of Pittsburgh, on Dec. 9, 2009, at age 64.

ELAINE (GOLDSMITH) HOPKINS '68 of Rockland, N.Y., on Oct. 22, 2008, at age 62.

ROBERT K. GARRETT JR. '70 of San Francisco, Calif., on Dec. 3, 2009, at age 61.

JAMES K. NYE '71 of Greenville, Pa., on Nov. 8, 2009, at age 59.

RONALD L. WILLIAMS '75 of Waynesburg, Pa., on Dec. 30, 2008, at age 58.

RICHARD P. DORNIN '78 of Greensburg, Pa.

ROSLYN OLIVIA (LINDSEY) HASSAIN '78 of Monroeville, Pa., on Dec. 29, 2009.

SCOTT RILEY '81 of Ipswich, Mass., on March 3, 2010.

TIMOTHY J. WATKINS '91 of Blairsville, Pa., on Nov. 12, 2009, at age 41.

Friends

RICHARD S. HOUP, former associate dean and registrar, on Nov. 30, 2009 at age 83.

GRACE L. MOATS, former cook at Thiel for 27 years, on Nov. 18, 2009 at age 72.

TOMMY TOMCAT WANTS YOU...

**To attend Homecoming on
Sept. 17-19, 2010!**

This year's theme is "Through the Decades," and we'll celebrate great Thiel times past while looking forward to the future!

Homecoming activities include:

- Alumni Awards ceremony
- Friday night fireworks, bonfire and pig roast
- Homecoming parade featuring the new Tomcat Marching Pride Band
- Tomcat Football vs. Waynesburg College
- Alumni post-game tent party, dinner, cocktail party and dance on Saturday

Look for a Homecoming brochure in your mailbox this summer. You can also visit www.thiel.edu/alumni/homecoming.htm or call 724-589-2042 for information as it becomes available.



GOT NEWS? WE WANT TO HEAR IT!

Help keep us and other alumni up to date on what's going on in your life.

Please fill out the form below and mail to:

**ALUMNI OFFICE, THIEL COLLEGE, 75 COLLEGE AVE.,
GREENVILLE, PA 16125.**

Fax: 724-589-2860 / E-mail: alumni@thiel.edu.

Please consider a first-time or increased gift to The Thiel Fund this year.

To give online, visit www.thiel.edu. Thank you!

I wish to serve on an alumni committee. I wish to serve as a class agent.

Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Year of Graduation _____ Spouse's Name _____

Is your spouse a graduate of Thiel College? Yes No Year _____

Reason for writing (please check all that apply & specify on lines below):

New address/e-mail Marriage New job Birth Recent honor or achievement Other

Home address _____

Seasonal address and dates (if applicable) _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Children's names _____

Birth dates _____

Your occupation (title) _____

Employer (full name) _____

Business Address (city, state) _____

Spouse's occupation (title) _____

Spouse's employer (full name) _____

Business Address (city, state) _____

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Global Engagement for National Results

William Parker '75 is vice president for international affairs for 21st Century Systems Inc. and an adjunct fellow for national security analysis at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab as well as special adviser for international affairs at the Space Foundation. He has more than 30 years of management and executive leadership experience in the government, having worked in more than 50 countries as a U.S. Department of State senior Foreign Service officer. He spoke as part of the Community Building Initiative on February 22. The following is excerpted from his speech.



“This college produces men and women who, whatever their fields of endeavor, will become leaders. I do not mean leaders in the narrow sense of personal success. The first thought is towards the City of God, but I would like to emphasize the civil obligations you have towards the City of Man, but in a global context.

I do not mean that it is necessary that all students should take up politics or government as a career or become Nader-esque in their social activism. I would like to emphasize the obligation of all who have had the benefit of Thiel or college training, to assume their proportionate share of the burden of self-government.

The phrase “self-government” has fallen into disuse these days. The center of government sometimes seems too close for comfort or so far removed from us that we tend to unconsciously in our minds divide ourselves into two groups, the governors and the governed.

The important thing to remember is that uninterest or “indifference” in politics will mean that the various tasks will not be done; or they will be done and usually in a way unsatisfactory to you. After several decades of observing this curious business of self-government, I stress the need for greater participation by people like you to play your proper role in government. I want to focus on the overwhelming need to uncover and decode the reality of globalization and how it has and will continue to affect our cities, states, national decision makers, struggling groups here and abroad, labor, business and agriculture.

Globalization is the process of increasing the connectivity

and interdependence of the world’s markets and businesses. This process has speeded up dramatically in the last two decades as technological advances make it easier for people to travel, communicate and do business internationally. In general, as economies become more connected to other economies, they have increased opportunity but also increased competition.

The pro-globalization lobby argues that globalization brings about increased opportunities for almost everyone, and increased competition is a good thing since it makes agents of production more efficient. The anti-globalization group argues that people who are deprived in terms of resources are not currently capable of functioning within the increased competitive pressure that will be brought about by allowing their economies to be more connected to the world.

The harsh reality of globalization is that the illegal trade in drugs, arms, intellectual property, people and money is booming. Like the war on extremists, the fight to control these illicit markets pits governments against agile and resourceful networks empowered by globalization. In my view, no one government can address these challenges alone. Since all of these issues are interconnected, so too must our response be integrated and coordinated. Obviously, the smarter, better, and more responsible answers require new partnerships among government, the private sector, civil society, philanthropies, faith-based communities, Diaspora groups and everyday citizens in order to solve our shared problems.

The anti-globalization groups argue that globalization has hurt the U.S.’ economic competitiveness. Some of this fear has been made more pronounced after a year of economic calamity that many fear has sent the U.S. into irreversible decline. “Declinism” is largely a distraction, and the American people should concentrate on what are, finally, our own internal issues to resolve or ignore. And recognize that we cannot insulate ourselves from global threats as well as plain old competition.

The key for President Obama and those who represent us is not to blame the BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India and China) for our “decline” or to unleash a populist backlash against bankers, but to make 2010 the beginning of the new American decade of innovation.

Our success as a nation will be determined by the way we approach and utilize modern technology. The next 10 years will be about “transformative” change. This happens when industries democratize, when they’re ripped from the sole domain of companies, government and other institutions and handed over to regular folks. The Internet democratized publishing, broadcasting and communications, and the consequence was a massive increase in participation in everything digital. Now the same is happening to manufacturing. Using the Internet, anybody with an idea and a little expertise can set assembly lines into motion in China or Brazil.

There is absolutely no reason for America to feel depressed about the emergence of China, India and others as world powers. We will be better off if China and India do well, than if they flounder. A prospering Brazil will mean a bigger world economy with more opportunities and probably less turmoil—and Brazil and China will be more cooperative on a number of globalization war issues as they will be directly affected by successful solutions.

As the one truly universal nation, the United States continually refreshes its connections with the the world—through languages, family, education, business—in a way no other nation does or will. U.S. higher education and our open doors have essentially been our innovation model. Our challenge should be how to keep our borders open and at the same time somewhat secure.

Never before in our history has there been a greater need for men and women of integrity and courage in public service. Our government is old and broken and fairly dysfunctional, but we have no choice but to get on with it. We will need to embrace globalization and encourage other nations to work with us—economically, diplomatically— rather than against us and each other.”



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Giving back makes an important impact in people's lives. Last year alone, members like you who owned Thrivent Financial's products and services helped create more than \$100 million to support congregations, organizations, communities and individuals in need.

As a partner with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Thiel College is proud to announce its participation in Thrivent Choice.

Thrivent Choice is a new program that allows you to help choose where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by participating in occasional Voting Events, which are open to all

members age 16 and older, and by directing Choice Dollars. (The Choice Dollars component will launch this summer. Look for information from Thrivent Financial in your mailbox.)

Help support Thiel's mission by choosing us as a recipient of your Thrivent Choice Dollars, if you are eligible for the program. Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference in the lives of our students.

Thiel is proud to be a part of this new program that give you the power to choose where your charitable giving.

Choose Thiel College with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans this year!

The Society of 1866

The old saying, "You can't take it with you," is only partially true. In fact, you can take something with you, and that is the satisfaction of knowing that you took the necessary steps to help others have a better future.

Membership to the Society of 1866, named for the year of the founding of Thiel College, is extended to individuals who, with vision and generosity, have made provision for an estate gift to Thiel through a will, insurance policy/annuity, IRA/pension, a trust in a will, charitable gift annuity or charitable trust.

Donors may designate how their gifts will be used to support Thiel's ongoing educational efforts. Many of the endowed student scholarships, buildings and programs on Thiel's campus today are named for those who included the College in their estate plans.

We encourage every alumnus and friend of Thiel to seek professional counsel and schedule time to prepare a valid will.

In addition, we encourage individuals who have included Thiel College in their wills or estate plans to notify us of their decision for two reasons: To confirm that we can honor the intended purpose of the gift(s) and to allow us to offer thanks for the support through membership in the Society of 1866.

Please join the Society of 1866 and become an integral part of Thiel College's future!

For further information about wills and bequests, including sample bequest language, please contact **Mario Marini '91**, director of special and planned giving, at 724-589-2022 or mmarini@thiel.edu.

More information about the Society of 1866 can also be found at www.thiel.edu/advancement/soc_1866.htm.



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www.NewWindEnergy.com

From the Archives

For more than 50 years, Thiel observed May Fete by electing a queen and her court. Earlier May Fetes included a play in addition to the traditional May Pole dance. Later, the May Queen was crowned at an all-college dance. The 1941 May Queen and her court are pictured (from left to right): Alberta Reed Losacano '41, Eleanor Britton Grexa '41, Isabel Nichol Gerberding '41, Queen Dorothy Kennedy Harter '41, Senior Class President George Gerberding '41, Christine Perrotta Picrell '41 and B.J. Knestrick Jocoy '41.