

# The Bell

Commencement 2012  
Drs. Cuff and Bacon Look Back  
Homecoming Honorees Announced  
...and much more

THIEL  
COLLEGE  
The Kenneth and Marianna Brown  
**Dietrich**  
HONORS  
PROGRAM



Introducing the  
Kenneth and  
Marianna Brown  
Dietrich Honors  
Program



# A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Summer has arrived at Thiel College, and that means another academic year has come to an end. We said goodbye to one group of students at Commencement, who have now joined the ranks of Thiel alumni, and look forward to welcoming our newest Tomcats in August.


As I look back over the past academic year, there are many bright spots. Primary among them is the new Thiel strategic plan, Thiel 2016, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in February. I am happy that this important cornerstone of Thiel's future is in place. The four pillars of the plan—a commitment to academic excellence and relevance, a commitment to caring and confidence, a commitment to enhanced facilities and infrastructure and a commitment to superior delivery of programs and services—will influence and guide the functions and goals of the College as we move toward the sesquicentennial celebration in 2016.

Another bright spot was the \$25-million fund given to Thiel by William Dietrich II and the Kenneth and Marianna Brown Dietrich Honors Program it will fund, which was celebrated during the second annual Winter Weekend in February. The event brought together students, faculty and staff, boards, alumni and friends, including members of the Dietrich Foundation and family, for an evening of fellowship and fun. We were very happy to welcome these new friends of Thiel to our campus that weekend. I look forward to a close relationship with Bill's family and the foundation he started as this important program will play a key role in the commitment to academic excellence and relevance highlighted in the new strategic plan.

Unfortunately this semester, Thiel lost another dear friend—Henry E. Haller Jr. H'97. Henry was a firm believer in the power of entrepreneurship and funded the Haller Enterprise Institute at the College, which has helped hundreds of students learn the skills that will lead to a successful business of their very own. We are eternally grateful for his generosity, his leadership and his friendship to Thiel College and its students. (To read more about Henry, please see page 34.) When I would meet with Henry and Bill Dietrich during my years as Thiel's president, both were primarily concerned with the academic opportunities available to Thiel students. I think both would approve of the new strategic plan's primary emphasis on this area.

Summer at Thiel is a time when we reflect on the year that was and prepare for the year that is coming. This summer, the campus will be buzzing (literally!) as we undertake another ambitious plan of more than \$3 million in facility upgrades. We will be tackling a variety of projects—renovated residence hall bathrooms, new roofs, updated heating and cooling systems and new turf on Stoeber Field at Alumni Stadium, to name just a few. The end result will be improved residential, recreational and academic spaces that will make our students' experiences at Thiel even better.

As you plan your summer travels, why not include a stop in Greenville? We always welcome visits from our alumni and friends. We have several summer visit days aimed at prospective students (see page 5 for a list of dates), and we love to host families during those days, so please stop by! If you can't make it to Greenville this summer, save the date for Homecoming weekend in September.

  
Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.  
President

Spring 2012

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**ON THE COVER:**

Kenneth '31 and Marianna Brown '32 Dietrich, for whom Thiel's new honors program is named.

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# Three Awarded Vira I. Heinz Scholarships

As the recipients of the Vira I. Heinz Scholarships for Education Abroad for 2012, three Thiel College women will have the opportunity to enlighten their summers by studying abroad. The three scholarship winners—sophomores Joslyn Cook of Washington, Pa., and Leah Kook of Warren, Ohio, and junior Emily Friedrich of Pulaski, Pa.—have each received \$5,000 to study abroad this summer.

Cook, an actuarial studies major with a minor in music, will use this scholarship to participate in CIS Abroad's internship program in New Zealand. She plans to assist a choral conductor to explore how the music of other countries differs from music in the United States. As a bonus, this trip will help her overcome her fear of traveling and flying to distant places.

"New Zealand is my dream. I believe I can thrive and learn more about music and be open to other cultures," says Cook.

Cook is a member of Chi Omega sorority, is Panhellenic (sorority life council) president and a member of the Thiel Players.

Kook, an early childhood and special education major, will attend Veritas University in San Jose, Costa Rica, to take a Spanish class and to study digital photography. Kook looks forward to the experience she is going to have in environmental studies. She will have the opportunity to explore leatherback sea turtles, Arenal Volcano and tour the rainforest.

Kook says, "I hope to bring back a passion for other cultures and a zest for new experiences."

Kook is a member of Thiel Players, the Alliance Club and a writing tutor at Thiel.

Friedrich, a neuroscience major, will use her scholarship to study at The Education Abroad Network's internship program in Sydney, Australia. She plans to interact with professionals and students to learn a variety of techniques, methods and approaches to neuroscience research and have the opportunity to study behavioral health. Friedrich looks forward to traveling out of the country and exploring her choice between medical school and graduate school.

"I hope to bring back a keen understanding of another culture, as well as skills that will assist me



*Leah Kook, Emily Friedrich and Joslyn Cook point to where their travels will take them this summer.*

in my future educational and career endeavors," Friedrich says.

Friedrich is the captain of the Thiel women's golf team, a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and a tutor in neuroscience and elementary statistics.

The Vira I. Heinz Program for Women in Global Leadership is funded by the Heinz Endowments. Each year, three women of sophomore or junior status are selected from each of 14 regional colleges and universities and admitted to the two-year leadership program. In addition, they participate in a series of retreats designed to cultivate leadership and intercultural skills and perform a community engagement experience.

"The Vira Heinz scholarship is a great example of a program that supports Thiel's commitment to academic excellence and relevance and to a culture of caring and confidence as outlined in the new strategic plan," said President Troy VanAken.

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 region that embraces 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.

For more about study abroad at Thiel College, visit [thiel.edu/outreach/international-partnerships.htm](http://thiel.edu/outreach/international-partnerships.htm).

—Avon Milton '12

# Roth Chair Returns to Thiel Campus

From Greenville to Chicago and back again, the wood and leather office chair that once belonged to the Rev. Henry Warren Roth, Thiel College's first president, has returned home to Roth Hall.

The chair was a gift given to Roth at the conclusion of his presidency in 1887 and went with him to Chicago, Ill., where he helped develop the Chicago Theological Seminary. Dr. Frank McElree Jr. and his wife, Gerry, presented the chair to the College on Feb. 7. McElree, a retired surgeon from Greenville, Pa., who attended Thiel for two years as an undergraduate, received the chair from Roth's niece, Marietta Gertrude Roth, Class of 1903 (better known as "Met"), who was a family friend and a well-known Thiel figure, after her death in 1970.

*Pictured are Gerry McElree, Annette VanAken, President Troy VanAken and Dr. Frank McElree with the wood and leather office chair once owned by President H.W. Roth (whose likeness is hanging on the wall behind the chair).*



## Library Archives Provide Access to Thiel History

Since Thiel's founding, there has been library service providing books and periodicals to support student research. Today, more and more students are using the Thiel Archives for their research projects.

Some first-year students research events of Thiel history in the archives, like those in Dr. Chris Moinet's Oral & Written Expression class who used the archives to research a facet of Thiel history dating from before the year of their birth (this year, that's 1992).

Some examples of their research included talking to Donna Strehlow Ventresca '64 who lived in the same dorm room during the first year of Donald V. Sawhill Memorial Hall's existence; interviewing Judith Snyder Pekich '61 who was a cheerleader 50 years ago; researching the beginnings of the Organization of Black Collegiates with Dr. Robert Crutchfield '71; and contacting Pauline Noe, the coach of the first Thiel volleyball team. Others researched their football numbers to see who wore them in the past; Amelia Earhart's honorary degree; the visit of then-Vice President Richard Nixon to campus; the 1941, 1946 and 1950 championship football teams; and William Passavant.

John Hauser '71 volunteers in the Thiel Archives and assists many of the students doing research there. His work connects today's Thiel student with those students who have come before them. In a newly expanded and renovated space on the first floor of the Langenheim Library, the Thiel Archives will continue to provide research material for students while welcoming them into the heritage of Thiel.

*—Allen S. Morrill, Executive Director, Langenheim Library and The Learning Commons*

# John Hudson, Faculty, Staff Honored at Annual Founders' Day Convocation

On Feb. 2, Thiel College recognized 10 faculty and staff members and John M. Hudson at the College's annual Founders' Day convocation.

President Troy D. VanAken presented the A. Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award to Hudson, principal shareholder and president of the Hudson Group, Inc. and managing partner of five related business entities of the Hudson Companies, describing Hudson as "a good man" dedicated to Thiel and the region.

In 1977, Hudson founded his first company, a small residential construction company. Within five years, he negotiated his first commercial contract and guided the company into commercial and institutional construction. In 1997, he sold his ownership and founded Hudson Group Inc., a general contractor firm. Within a year, Hudson Group grew larger than his previous company and today boasts sales of \$25 million. In the mid-1980s, he formed Hudson Investment Properties, a real estate development entity leasing exclusively to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. To date, the company has developed more than 800,000 square feet of space for Pennsylvania. Hudson began partnering with the federal government in 2004 to develop affordable elderly housing in the region and initiated the plans to develop the first silver LEED certified project in the nation in 2008. The Hudson Companies were one of only 12 nationwide companies invited (and the only developer) to Washington, D.C., by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to participate in a symposium

to shape future policies aimed at increasing energy efficiency in affordable housing.

Hudson is a recognized community leader, having served as a former board member with Catholic Charities Adoption Agency of Mercer County, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Erie, Penn State Shenango Advisory Board, Penn Northwest Economic Development Agency and the Thiel College Board of Trustees; past president and current board member of the F.H. Buhl Club; and past president and former board member of the Prince of Peace Mission. He has received several awards for his community service and is a current board member for the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of Erie, Sharon Regional Health System, Shenango Valley Catholic School Services and Synergy Comp Insurance Company.

The A. Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to community members who demonstrate exemplary character, continuity of leadership, and long-term service to Greenville and its environs. The recipients must demonstrate a commitment to the common good above private interests. The award is named after Louis and Barbara Thiel, whose generosity made possible the founding of Thiel College in 1866.

Receiving the prestigious Professor of the Year Award was Dr. Joyce Cuff, professor of biology and Paul M. Rike Professor of Life Sciences. In 30-plus years at Thiel College, Dr. Joyce Cuff has left an indelible mark on her students and colleagues, her community, the College itself and the world



at large. Cuff was appointed to the Thiel faculty in 1981, became an associate professor in 1985 and was promoted to full professor in 1991. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree at Regis College in Massachusetts and received her Ph.D. from the University of Rochester Medical School. A native of Manchester, N.H., Cuff retired after the spring semester to travel to Tanzania to continue the work she began during her 2011 sabbatical there.

Other faculty members to earn recognition were:

- **Dr. Matthew Morgan**, associate professor of philosophy, Distinguished Service Award.
- **Dr. Kathryn K. Frantz**, professor of chemistry, Distinguished Teacher Award.
- **Dr. Michael E. Bacon**, professor of physics, Distinguished Scholar Award.
- **Alecia M. Eppley, M.S.**, adjunct professor of chemistry and mathematics, Distinguished Adjunct Award.

Five staff awards were presented during the ceremony. Receiving honors were:

- **Lauren Oman Zuschlag**, director of annual giving and parent relations, Distinguished Innovator Award.
- **Andrew S. Walizer**, admissions counselor, Distinguished Newcomer Award.
- **Deborah Schreiber**, academic records specialist, Distinguished Extra Effort Award.
- **Jennifer L. Clark**, human resource assistant, Distinguished Outreach Award.
- **Pamela M. Despo**, coordinator of health services, Distinguished Service Staff Award.

*Previous page: Pictured from left to right are (front row) Deborah Schreiber, Lauren Oman Zuschlag, John M. Hudson, Dr. Joyce Cuff, Alecia Eppley and Dr. Michael Bacon; and (back row) Andrew Walizer, Jennifer Clark, Pamela Despo, Dr. Kathryn Frantz and Dr. Matthew Morgan.*

## Tomcats Around the World



Junior Alexa Weaver spent her Christmas break in Austria and the Czech Republic. While there, she wore her Thiel College sweatshirt with pride. Weaver is pictured here on the top of the Nova Radnice (“New Town Hall”) building in Ostrava, Czech Republic (the lollipops she’s holding spell “Ostrava”). Weaver is a psychology major from Clarion, Pa.

If you’re caught showing your Tomcat pride in locales across the globe, send a print-quality photo (see page 34 for photo guidelines) to [thebell@thiel.edu](mailto:thebell@thiel.edu) with a description of where the photo was taken. We’ll include it in our next “Tomcats Around the World.”

## Upcoming Admissions Events

The summer at Thiel College is a busy one for the Admissions Office. Along with wrapping up the incoming fall class, our counselors are hard at work recruiting Tomcats for the next year! If you know any prospective/incoming Thiel students, encourage them to participate in one of our summertime Thiel recruitment and enrollment events. Just register (or find more information) at [www.thiel.edu/visitday](http://www.thiel.edu/visitday) or call 800-24-THIEL.

### Summer 2012 Thiel Admissions Events:

June 12	Tuesday at Thiel	9:30 a.m.
June 20	Registration Day (fall 2012)	8:30 a.m.
July 10	Tuesday at Thiel	9:30 a.m.
July 18	Registration Day (fall 2012)	8:30 a.m.
Aug. 1	Chart Your Course (for rising juniors - fall 2014)	9 a.m.

Using your smartphone, scan this QR code or enter [www.thiel.edu/visitday](http://www.thiel.edu/visitday) into your browser to register for a campus visit day.



## Thiel Forms Equestrian Club

This semester, Thiel students were able to join the new Thiel Equestrian Club, a student group that introduces or extends basic horseback riding, horse handling and horse care skills and knowledge to members.

The club, which accepts beginner, intermediate and advanced student riders, was an immediate success, with 14 students participating during the first semester.

“There was a lot of interest among Thiel students for an opportunity to learn or continue with horseback riding during the academic year,” said Mike McKinney, Dean of Students at Thiel College. “We were happy to find great coaches in the area who could help us form this club and make it a successful addition to our students’ collegiate experience.”

Participants in the club can learn Western or English riding disciplines or rotate them each week during lessons. The riding club program lasts 10 weeks per semester, giving students 15 lessons each semester. Each lesson is limited to no more than five riders and is 45 minutes long, and is preceded and followed by time to groom, tack and cool down the horses.

The club advisers are Jenna Malnar and Lorna Nagel. Malnar has ridden horses for much of her life, trained them since 1999 and taught equestrian skills since 2006. She currently teaches at Commodore Perry Elementary School as part of the Keystone SMILES AmeriCorps program. Nagel has 29 years of experience teaching and training equine services. Along with her involvement

with the Thiel Equestrian Club, she is the region president for the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (ISHA).

Lessons occur on a farm in Sheakleyville, Pa. Students do not need to have a horse to participate, as the farm provides horses and tack. However, boarding is available and can be arranged for students who would like to bring their own horses with them to college.

The Thiel Equestrian Club is a member of IHSA, which provides collegiate riders of all skills the opportunity to compete individually and as a team in equestrian competition. IHSA competitions provide horses to riders by draw, allowing students to participate regardless of finances and be judged by their ability as a rider and not the horse’s performance.

“Many students enjoy riding at home and truly miss spending time with horses,” said Nagel. “We provide the opportunity for them to continue their passion while away from home at college.”

For more information about joining the club, contact the Student Life Office at 724-589-2125 or [equestrian@thiel.edu](mailto:equestrian@thiel.edu).



## Thiel 2016 Strategic Plan Finalized

Thiel College’s new strategic plan, Thiel 2016, has been approved by the Board of Trustees at its February meeting. The final plan has The Thiel Commitment at its heart, reflecting Thiel’s campus-wide commitment to a personalized, motivating, challenging and relevant education for every student and to the delivery of superior programs and services that respond to student needs.

The new strategic plan is built on four pillars: 1) **a commitment to academic excellence and relevance**, 2) **a commitment to a culture of caring and confidence**, 3) **a commitment to enhanced**

**facilities and infrastructure** and 4) **a commitment to superior delivery of programs and services**. With this vital foundation in place, we can move forward with an operational plan that will take us to the sesquicentennial in 2016.

The final version of the strategic plan can be viewed at [www.thiel.edu/strategic-plan](http://www.thiel.edu/strategic-plan).

Sincere thanks go to everyone who worked very hard on drafting this important document as a member of the strategic planning committee that included representation from board members, administration, faculty, staff, students and community leaders.



## New Shooting Club Coach

**Sheriff Gary Hartman** is the new coach of the Thiel College Shooting Club. Hartman was elected Mercer County sheriff in November 2011. He is responsible for the overall management of the program, including recruiting, coordinating training sessions, implementing safety and risk management procedures, and scheduling and oversight of competitions, among other duties.



*Pictured (l to r) are Dr. Derek Nelson, Dr. Allan Hunchuk, Richard Walcott, Dr. Michael Bray, April Tarantine, Pam Despo, V. Ed Fry, Dr. Michael Bacon, Jack Leipheimer, Jennifer Curry, Kurt Reiser, Ken Stuyvesant, J.K. Whalen, Dr. Matt Morgan, Homer Bloom, Tammy Shilling, Roberta Leonard, Sonya Lapikas and Kevin Fenstermacher.*



## Brown to Lead Thiel Facilities

**R. Michael Brown** is the new executive director of facilities management at Thiel. He is experienced with facilities and maintenance as well as campus master planning and project management. He most recently served as executive associate at Heery International Inc., an architecture, engineering and construction management professional services firm, and director of the Office of University Architect at Kent State University. Brown holds a bachelor's degree from Kent State in architecture and is a registered architect.

## Employees Recognized for Years of Service at Annual Dinner

Congratulations to the faculty and staff honored at the annual Employee Recognition Dinner on April 17! **Five years:** **April Tarantine** (music), **Steve Brewer** (athletics), **Judith Ellis** (housekeeping), **Dr. Doug Hazlett** (education), **Dr. Ellen Lippert** (art), **Tim Loomis** (athletics), **Dr. Matt Morgan** (philosophy), **Dr. Derek Nelson** (religion), **Ken Stuyvesant** (housekeeping), **Richard Walcott** (library) and **J.K. Whalen** (sociology); **10 years:** **Homer Bloom** (IT), **Jennifer Curry** (math/computer science), **Joan Faltot** (psychology), **Kevin Fenstermacher** (athletics), **V. Ed Fry** (IT),

**Jack Leipheimer** (athletics), **Roberta Leonard** (college advancement), **Linda Mitchell** (housekeeping), **Kurt Reiser** (athletics), **Edward Schutte** (bookstore) and **Marvin Seiple** (maintenance); **15 years:** **Dr. Michael Bray** (music) and **Sonya Lapikas** (admissions); **20 years:** **James Coxson** (maintenance), **Pam Despo** (student health services), **Dr. Allan Hunchuk** (sociology) and **Kim Scobbie** (housekeeping); **25 years:** **Tammy Shilling** (admissions); and **30 years:** **Dr. Michael Bacon** (physics), **Dr. Joyce Cuff** (biology) and **Barbara Long-Cooper** (faculty services).



## Hall Review Published

**Dr. Mary Theresa Hall**, Professor of English, published a book review of "The Female Mystic: Great Women Thinkers of the Middle Ages," written by Andrea Janelle Dickens, which appears in the fall 2011 issue of "The Sixteenth-Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies" (vol. xlii, no. 3). The book provides a study of 12 medieval women whose personality, tenacity and spirituality revolutionized religious and literary traditions. Hall's review discusses the 12 perspectives that Dickens provides of mysticism and women's spirituality and the significant contributions of women thinkers to the universal mystical experience.

## Career Services Recognized

The Thiel **Career Services Office** has earned a gold level of certification from OUT for Work and is receiving an award at the annual NACE Conference. OUT for Work is a nonprofit organization that provides resources and support to Career Centers offering specialized services to LGBTQ students and alumni.



# Student Achievements

## Students of the Month

This year, a new honor was created for exceptional Thiel students. Students of the Month at Thiel College are selected by faculty vote from among senior students with superior grade point averages. The honorees for the spring semester were **Amy Jane Matchett** and **Scott Hunkus** for February; **Evan Krizon** and **Kristen Moreland** for March; **Sarah Conte** and **Joey Hertzog** for April; and **Eleanor Belleau**, **Megan Kay** and **Rachel Wills** for May.



## Education Majors Attend Panel

On Feb. 7, a group of education majors had the opportunity to learn from the experiences of three Thiel graduates working in the field: **Kimberly Banic '05**, a first-grade teacher at Reynolds; **Tessa Simmons '09**, a kindergarten teacher at West Middlesex and **Mark Thompson '09**, a secondary math teacher in the Hermitage School District. The alumni joined the Education Department's students and faculty for a teacher panel organized by Kappa Delta Pi education honorary.



### Thiel Students by the Numbers:

From summer 2011 through spring 2012, Thiel College students completed more than 9,290 of internship hours!

## Night of Poetry and the Creative Arts

In April in the Langenheim Library, the annual celebration of the creativity of Thiel's students, alumni, faculty and staff took place during the Night of Poetry and Creative Arts. The gathering featured recitations or explanations of the works submitted to this year's "The Phoenix," Thiel's literary magazine. Pictured above is senior **Amy Jane Matchett**, co-editor of "The Phoenix," who welcomed attendees to the event.



## Sigma Tau Delta Inductions



On Feb. 19, five students were inducted into the Alpha Iota Kappa chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English honorary society. Inducted students included juniors **Kendall DeLashment**, **Caitlin Ferry** and **Kayla Ohlin** and sophomores **Calla Parker** and **Leanna Yeager**. Dr. Robert C. Olson '60, Thiel College's 18th president, delivered the invocation and Dr. James Boomfield, professor emeritus of history, served as the keynote speaker.



## Alpha Chi Inductions

Thiel College inducted 19 students into the Pennsylvania Theta Chapter of Alpha Chi, a national honorary fraternity that recognizes students who have achieved high academic standing, in March. Students inducted included **Paul Auchter**, a junior biology major; **Eleanor Belleau**, a senior accounting and business administration major; **Michelle Blöse**, a senior neuroscience and psychology major; **Marion Edwards**, a senior mathematics and actuarial studies major; **Caitlin Ferry**, a junior communication sciences and disorders major; **Joseph Hertzog**, a junior history major; **Alex Johnson**, a senior mathematics and actuarial studies major; **Megan Kay**, a senior elementary education major; **Lisa Leonhard**, a junior English writing major; **Matthew Lowry**, a senior mathematics and actuarial studies major; **Amy Jane Matchett**, a senior English literature and psychology major; **Darren McAninch**, a senior environmental science major; **Chelsea Meister**, a junior criminal justice studies and political science major; **Julie Novotny**, a senior elementary education major; **Kayla Ohlin**, a senior accounting and business administration major; **Regis Wagner**, a junior sociology major; **Emily Whipple**, a senior English (secondary education certification) major; **Katey Williams**, a junior business communication major; and **Elizabeth Yurky**, a senior elementary education major.



# Student Achievements

## Exemplary Library Research Awards

The third annual Exemplary Library Research Awards was held on Feb. 2. Students were nominated for outstanding use of library resources for a course research paper during the previous two semesters. The winners presented their research projects at the annual awards ceremony sponsored by the Langenheim Library.

Pictured below from left to right are **Shane Martin** ("The Physics Behind the Construction of the Literary Epic" – honorable mention); **Philip Double** ("The Battle of Stalingrad: Clash of Hitler's and Stalin's Ideology and Psychology" – winner); **Keeley Criswell** ("Medieval Medicine and Its Effects in Medieval Society" – winner); **Sara Toombs** ("Understanding Bibliotherapy: Origins, Concepts and Prospects" – winner); **Joey Hertzog** ("Polygamy and Homosexuality in the Mormon Church: A Comparison" – honorable mention); and **Samuel Lackey** ("1960s Psychology: What Were They Thinking?" – honorable mention).

Not pictured: **Ken Badstibner** ("Double-Edged Sword" – honorable mention).



## Accounting Majors Visit YSU

Twenty-two Thiel accounting majors, accompanied by Professor Gary Witosky '79, traveled to Youngstown State University in December to participate in the 15th annual Accounting Student Practitioner Day. The day was filled with informative presentations and a chance to network with accounting professionals practicing in the areas of public accounting, forensic accounting, banking, government and industry.

## Strategic Management Class Presents to Greenville Chamber of Commerce

Students in Thiel's Strategic Management course presented a strategic plan to the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce in December. The plan's dual purpose is to promote Greenville through the "Boom Town" initiative and develop a new-member packet for prospective businesses in the area. The course provides practical experience in the functions of strategic management to its students each year by providing opportunities to partner with business and organizations in real-world situations.



The students worked with Roberta Leonard, director of corporate and foundation support at Thiel; Fred Kiser, Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce; Kevin Orsinger, president of Orsinger Investment Group; and James Rust, marketing director at *The Record-Argus*. The overall student manager was **Zachary Woody**. The "Boom Town" team leader was **Nicholas Gargaro** and his group included **Austin Dalesio**, **Hyokyung Kim**, **Kalisha Johnson** and **James Teyssier**. **Michael Roberts** was the team leader for the new-member packet project and his group included **Theresa Curtician**, **Daehee Han**, **John Madeline** and **Jian Long Zheng**.

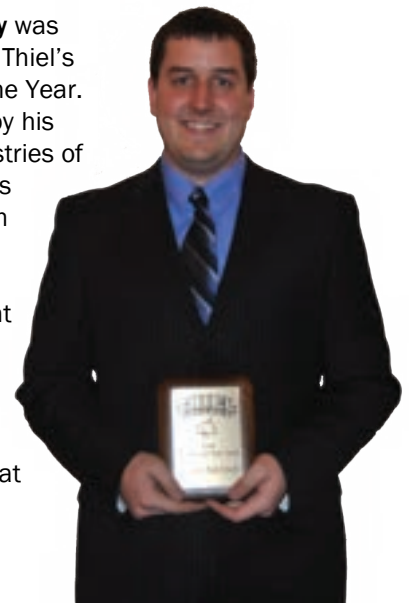
## Kappa Delta Pi Inductions

**Kelsey Adair**, **Alyssa Bertlett**, **Jacquelyn Buentello**, **Anthony Corso**, **Kayce Grimm**, **Ryan Murphy**, **Ashley Rable**, **Mallorie Reynolds**, **Leanna Yeager** and **Leah Kook** were inducted into the education honorary society, Kappa Delta Pi, in March.



## First Intern of the Year Chosen

**Brandon Bukovinsky** was chosen in March as Thiel's first-ever Intern of the Year. He was nominated by his employer, Deist Industries of Greenville, Pa., and was chosen for the award from among the other 19 nominated interns. Students, who must have interned during the current academic year, were reviewed by a panel of Thiel College personnel and representatives from local companies. Bukovinsky received the honor at an Intern of the Year banquet.



# Student Volunteer Changes a Life—Her Own

Junior Caitlin Ferry never expected to meet so many great people volunteering and she certainly never expected that she would enjoy it so much that she would keep volunteering long after her obligation to do so was done.

Ferry is a communications sciences & disorders major with a focus on speech-language pathology. A member of the Honors Program at Thiel, her honors project, which she finished at the end of April, focused on studying different types of aging and how caretakers can provide the best quality of life for each individual. She visited St. Paul's, a Greenville-area continuing care community, as a volunteer thinking she would change someone's life. She did, but it was her own.

As a volunteer, Ferry transports residents to and from the fitness center, the beauty shop and church. On Wednesdays, she has one-on-one time with the residents during which she talks to them, listens to their stories and sometimes joins them in activities such as bingo, talent shows and the annual Snowflake Ball.

In her future career as a speech-language pathologist, Ferry will spend most of her time with the elderly population. Her volunteer experience has helped her to become more comfortable in care facilities for the elderly, as St. Paul's offers a variety of services from independent living to aging-in-place to nursing and Alzheimer's care.

"Volunteering made me excited about my future profession because I'll get to interact with elderly people who are wise and know so much about life," says Ferry.

Rose Hoffman, director of volunteer services at St. Paul's, says that there are multiple opportunities for anyone to volunteer. Opportunities include transporting the residents to and from the fitness center and beauty shop just as Ferry did. St. Paul's has a gift shop and a bistro where different volunteers work 7 days a week. They offer bingo

on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays and church services on Wednesdays and Sundays.

"We really appreciate Caity coming in and volunteering for us. She has been really great!" says Hoffman.

St. Paul's and Thiel College are partners in Joining Generations, a program in which college students and older adults interact with each other providing growth and learning experiences from each generation. Joining Generations provides access to internships, service projects, academic opportunities, volunteer experiences and fellowship gatherings.

Many students have interned at St. Paul's, but volunteering has not been as popular. With the emphasis on fostering a culture of caring and confidence in the new strategic plan, Thiel is hoping to give more students the experience Ferry had.

The difference between an intern and volunteer is that a volunteer is part of an ongoing involvement, says Hoffman. The work for a volunteer varies on what help

is needed at the time, and the experience does not include earning college credit. Hoffman stresses that the volunteer opportunities available at St. Paul's are not just for Thiel students—family members, social groups, churches, schools and others are welcome to get involved and change a life.

Ferry takes pride in interactions with residents at St. Paul's, which she feels shows them that they can still have a good time. To conclude her honors project, Ferry wrote a research paper about the quality of life of residents in nursing homes.

"I thought volunteering would enhance my knowledge on the topic," says Ferry. "But I never expected to make lasting relationships with the residents. They are extremely interesting and very lovable. I look forward to their company possibly more than they look forward to mine."

—Avon Milton '12



Caitlin Ferry, of Brookville, Pa., helps in the St. Paul's hair salon.

# Thiel Students “Spring into Action” for Playground

In one short week in April, a spot in Riverside Park in Greenville, Pa., went from an empty green space to a large, exciting new playground. The playground, which is already a hit with local kids, wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and service of Thiel students.

The whirlwind five-day, all-volunteer effort brought together Thiel students, faculty and staff and Greenville-area teenagers, retirees, parents and many others. The playground build served as this year's “Spring into Action Day” project for the Thiel campus. Spring into Action is an annual “spring clean-up” day, which is scheduled to coincide with Earth Day. Students often clean up campus or Greenville, but this year Dean of Students Mike McKinney '02 had another idea.

“The playground was a very visible, tangible project,” said McKinney. “We thought it would be a legacy that our students can leave behind instead of just picking up trash or raking leaves.”

A \$50,000 state grant and fundraising efforts in the local community helped pay for the equipment, which is valued at \$300,000 but actually cost \$120,000, thanks to donated labor and materials. Without the army of volunteers, who worked more than 1,000 shifts during the week,

the park would not have been built as cost-effectively as it was. The biggest workday for the project was Spring into Action Day on April 17, when nearly 440 volunteers, most of them Thiel students, brought the project close to completion. In fact, McKinney said the students helped get the project back on schedule that day since the project was behind due to bad weather.

“I decided to volunteer because I have always enjoyed helping kids,” said Ronnell Hunt, a first-year student who helped set up swings and lay the playground's foundation. “I learned how to work as a team with complete strangers in order to get the job done.”

The playground in Riverside Park includes monkey bars, a castle maze, two bouncy bridges, a twisty slide, a dragon slide, a tunnel, a train and a train depot, among other amenities.

“Thiel College and Greenville working together for the betterment of the community is a natural fit,” said Dr. Troy VanAken, Thiel president. “Not only does it align with the goals of our new strategic plan, which includes an emphasis on community service and being good citizens, but it helps create a stronger connection between the borough and our faculty, staff and students who live, work and learn here. We look forward to



Above: Thiel students stain lumber for the project.  
Below: A portion of the volunteer army who helped build the Riverside Park playground.  
Inset: The finished playground.

continuing this partnership in the future and helping to make additional contributions to the local community.”

Besides learning valuable lessons about community service, some students earned college credit with internships—like senior Kyle Kohut, an environmental science major who served as the project's inventory manager, or senior Cylvie Cyuzuzo, a business communication major who handled public relations for the project.

“Overall, it was a great experience, working and volunteering with them,” said Cyuzuzo. “I hope the kids enjoy the park!”



COLLEGE

*Kenneth and Marianna Brown*

**Dietrich**  
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*Members of the Dietrich Foundation and family were present for the announcement of the Dietrich Honors Program in February. Pictured (L to R) are Michael and Anne (Dietrich) Diemer; Ed Grefenstette and Rick Johnson of the Dietrich Foundation; Dr. Troy VanAken; Ed Bartko '72 and Annette VanAken.*

# Kenneth and Marianna Brown Dietrich Honors Program Announced at Winter Weekend

During the first-ever Winter Weekend at Thiel College in February, the Thiel College community learned the first use of the \$25 million bequest from late businessman, scholar and philanthropist William S. Dietrich II. With students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends in attendance, Ed Bartko '72, chair of the Board of Trustees, announced the formation of the Kenneth and Marianna Brown Dietrich Honors Program.

“Bill Dietrich was a model of lifelong learning and self-improvement, and we are happy to honor those who instilled that passion for knowledge in him, his beloved parents and Thiel alumni, Ken and Marianna,” said Dr. Troy VanAken, Thiel College president, during the announcement in the Lutheran Heritage Room. “Bill’s generosity, farsightedness and faith will bring the college to new heights as an institution that focuses primarily on academics and a holistic student experience.”

The Dietrich Honors Program will expand and deepen the existing Thiel College honors program, which began in fall 1981, creating over time a program that is accessible, integrated into the wider curriculum and featuring a wide variety of honors activities and academic offerings. A reinvigorated honors program is one of the priorities of the college’s newly adopted strategic plan. Dr. Curtis Thompson, of the Thiel Religion Department, has been named the director of the Dietrich Honors Program with Lisa Walton, Esq., of the Political Science and Sociology Departments, serving as assistant director. During the coming months, the new directors, and the College as a

whole, will be actively shaping the new honors program content and structure.

Dietrich’s gift was the largest made to Thiel College in its 145-year history. It became operational upon his passing on Oct. 6, 2011 and was announced to the public on Nov. 3, 2011. The Dietrich Honors Program honors Kenneth Dietrich '31 and Marianna Brown '32, Dietrich’s parents, who met while both were students at Thiel. Ken and Marianna instilled in their son a deep love of learning and respect for knowledge, which will serve as a cornerstone of the honors program named in their honor.

“For this reason, honoring Bill’s parents with the naming of the Thiel College honors program—a program that is an essential component of the College’s new strategic plan—is a thoughtful and fitting tribute to the Dietrich family,” said Edward J. Grefenstette, the chief investment officer of the Dietrich Charitable Trusts. “With the naming of the Honors Program, let us hope that the Thiel community will now have a constant reminder of Bill’s wisdom—that with the steady support of family and faculty, Thiel students can feel the security to take the risks necessary to achieve great things.”

For more about the Dietrichs and the gift made to Thiel College, including video of the announcements from November and February, visit the Thiel website at [www.thiel.edu/dietrich](http://www.thiel.edu/dietrich).

*Dietrich foundation and family members gather with the VanAken and senior students Audrey Rattay and Kraig Smith following a presentation of Thiel momentos during the half-time of the men’s basketball game in February.*





# A Noble Undertaking

*Thiel's Honors Students Reflect on the Honors Program Now and in the Future*

*"Bid me run, and I will strive with things impossible."*

These words of William Shakespeare's are noble guidelines for any ambitious undertaking. What some readers may find interesting is that this philosophy has underscored Thiel's Honors Program since its inception and will continue to serve as the cornerstone of the newly dedicated Dietrich Honors Program. The search for an even more intense, fulfilling and life-changing college experience is welcomed and is already undertaken by the Thiel faculty and students, no matter how daunting the task may seem.

The Honors Program—now the Kenneth and Marianna Brown Dietrich Honors Program—at Thiel is a curriculum of advanced classes designed to challenge students who are looking for a more enriching integrative curriculum. Currently, the first three years of the Honors students' core curriculum culminate in a project that exemplifies the values of the students' research and unique contributions to the College community. But the contributions of the students in this program are hardly limited to their final presentations.

"Honors students have benefited from a variety of experiences and can bring much more diversity to Thiel and the wider community [of Greenville], given the opportunity," says Sean Oros, a freshman English and history major, who anticipates the Dietrich Honors Program's greater potential.

Upon hearing the announcement that Dr. William Dietrich's gift is to be applied initially to their program,

Honors students immediately began speculating about the good they could do with the endowment.

The Honors students strive to be a true representation of one of the goals of Thiel's mission statement—that of "assuring educational excellence, stimulating global awareness, [and] promoting ethical and responsible leadership." Activities in an Honors class exceed the requirements of traditional courses. Proactive ideas for the benefit of students and the College community come to life through such progressive educational techniques as comprehensive group discussions; rigorous public speaking that reaches past the typical informative and persuasive styles; the development of ever-growing records of students' progress through electronic portfolios; and interdisciplinary speaking and writing that enables students to see a connection between such seemingly disparate subjects as physics and the construction of the literary epic.

Honors student and mechanical engineer major in the binary engineering program Shane Martin comments on the style of Honors education and Dietrich's trust in the Program by stating that "being in the Honors Program will tell employers that we took the extra initiative in college by completing a challenging core curriculum in addition to our major courses. It promotes great time management skills by encouraging us to adhere to a rigorous schedule without becoming overwhelmed."

Academic rigor is hardly a paper chase, though; for example, Molly Preston, a biology major, and classmate Keeley Criswell, a physics major, took a mock proposal during spring semester for an Honors Oral & Written Expression II class presentation on environmental renovation directly to President Troy VanAken for his consideration. The presentation was well-received and the president informed the students that their recommendation would be taken into consideration. Such practical learning is among the student-initiated goals of the Honors Program.



The members of honors Oral & Written Expression II with their professor, Dr. Mary Theresa Hall, who researched and wrote this article.

Both Honors students and professors agree that encouraging qualified students to join the program is a priority and of paramount concern. The Dietrich endowment will highlight the promise and possibilities within the Honors track. A program that puts forth grand efforts for the improvement and intellectual stimulation of its own students, their peers and both the College and global communities is certainly deserving of this institution-changing gift. Dietrich's generosity will enable the already ambitious goals of Thiel's administrators, professors and students to be realized.

Nearly every student, staff and faculty member had a "perfect" idea of how the gift from Dietrich should be appropriated. Maybe classrooms would be renovated! Perhaps the pool would be excavated! Maybe an underground tunnel from down-campus housing to classrooms could be built, saving upper-class students an arduous walk in the bitter Greenville cold! Perhaps a highway crosswalk would be built for the safety

of walkers across the bifurcated Route 18! While these wishes may remain just that, a worthwhile endeavor has been fueled.

We believe that Dietrich's generous gift was designated for the Honors Program in anticipation of the students' abilities to generate ideas for the future, undertake greater responsibility and pursue success

in their academic and vocational endeavors. The Kenneth and Marianna Brown Dietrich Honors Program at Thiel College will model academic excellence and achievement for the entire College and will serve as a seedbed for innovative programs and initiatives that will enhance the educational climate for all students. By affording exceptional opportunities for academic challenge, ethical leadership and international competence, the Dietrich Honors Program will recruit, retain and energize students with high intellectual ability and determination to excel. As members of the Honors Program, we are prepared and willing to strive with the seemingly impossible to achieve goals both for the enrichment of our lives and for the greater benefit of the Thiel College community.

*Under the leadership and initiative of Sara Toombs, freshman class vice president, and Colin Vitale, freshman class president, the freshman Honors students were invited to share their hopes and ideas for the Dietrich Honors Program. Toombs has a dual major in English and psychology, and Vitale has a dual major in communication studies and English. This article is a collaborative effort of the Honors OWE II students and their professor, Dr. Mary Theresa Hall.*



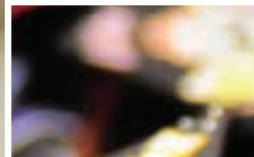
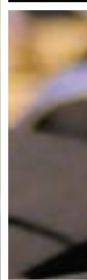
Hall helps junior honors student Taryn Jones with a project.

Below: The procession of graduates on Brother Martin's Walk.  
 Right: The crowd blesses the soon-to-be graduates at baccalaureate.



Below: Alumni Board president Shawn Brooks '82 helps to distribute honor cords.

Right: High-fives during the procession.  
 Below: Dr. Troy VanAken distributes diplomas.  
 Below right: Lots of hugs on graduation day.



Above left: Kraig Smith gets ready to graduate.  
 Above: Pastor Bill Bixby prays during the dedication of the class tree.



Left: Senior Joy Mboya delivers the reading at baccalaureate. Above: The 2012 valedictorians and salutatorian.  
 Right: A graduate crosses campus with friends.



# THIEL LEGACIES

Thiel "runs in the family" for these new graduates!



*Stephanie Anne Dolinar with her brother, Gil Dolinar '07*



*Joshua Aaron Shaffer with his father, Jim Shaffer '79*

**For more photos from Commencement,  
visit [www.flickr.com/thielcollege](http://www.flickr.com/thielcollege)**

## Congrats, Class of 2012!

On May 6 under sunny skies and with a capacity crowd, 171 men and women left the Thiel College student body and entered into the ranks of its alumni at the 138th Commencement ceremony.

The ceremony was bittersweet as retiring professor Dr. Joyce Cuff, professor of biology and Paul M. Rike Professor of Life Sciences, delivered the commencement address. She acknowledged the fact that both she and the graduates were entering new phases of their lives that day, but that they were all ready—ready to move on and ready to make the world a better place. She encouraged the Class of 2012 to focus on making their immediate worlds a better place, telling them to “bloom where you are planted now.” Cuff acknowledged that the new graduates may not end up where they planned but that “it matters what you do wherever you are planted.”

After 30 years of teaching at Thiel, Cuff is returning to Tanzania, Africa, where she spent her last sabbatical, to resume her humanitarian efforts in a medical facility there.

Dr. Robert H. Baker received an honorary Doctorate of Science during the ceremony. Baker has been an orthopedic surgeon in the Greenville area for nearly 60 years. He has been a vital member of the Thiel community, serving for many years as team physician and adviser to the Department of Athletics.

Six students earned valedictorian and salutatorian honors for 2012. Congratulations to valedictorians Sarah Conte, Brendan DuLaney, Scott Hunkus, Jacquelyne Kinney and David Owens and salutatorian Kristen Moreland.

Senior class president Ryan Prescott delivered greetings from the Class of 2012 and presented the class gift, a sidewalk from College Avenue to the Academic Center. Annie Camp delivered the senior oration—“Travelers on a Journey.” Camp talked about her college journey from matriculation to commencement, ending with the sentiment that “I feel blessed to be forever known as a Thiel Tomcat.”

The entire Thiel community wishes the Class of 2012 good luck and safe travels to wherever the future takes them. We know they are ready to bloom, grow and transform wherever they are planted!





*Dr. Michael Bacon and Dr. Joyce Cuff outside of the Rhodehouse Memorial Science Building where they taught for 30 years.*

At the end of the academic year, Thiel College bid farewell to two long-standing and beloved faculty members—  
Michael E. Bacon, Ph.D. and Joyce M. Cuff, Ph.D.

# Saying Goodbye

By Dana Black-McGrath • Photo by Jennie Kather

Both served on the faculty for more than 30 years, joining the Thiel community in 1981, and, coincidentally, both are planning to head to Africa after their retirement.

Bacon, a native of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, plans to return to visit family, among other anticipated travel destinations. Cuff will return to Tanzania to continue work she started during her sabbatical last year.

After earning his bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Natal (South Africa), Bacon came to the United States by chance, he admits. "When I graduated, I didn't particularly think about going on to graduate school, but a friend of mine and I went to the American Library and decided to go look at a few universities and started applying."

When he left his homeland at 21, he had never been out of Africa before. "I had never seen snow before... it was an adventure. When you're young, it was just something to do. I had no plan, it was just by chance."

As an undergraduate, Bacon says his performance wasn't stellar. Still, he managed to get through his program. But, graduate school, he says, was a "transforming process" as he began to realize what really interested him.

Bacon went on to earn both his master's (1967) and doctoral (1969) degrees in physics from Colorado State University. He held several academic posts before joining the physics department at Thiel in 1981, including teaching positions at Swarthmore College, Queens College of CUNY and the University of Natal. He also did research in plasma spectroscopy at the University of British Columbia and worked as a research

associate at the Aerospace Research Laboratories at Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

During his tenure at Thiel, Bacon also earned a Fulbright Senior Scholarship Award to lecture for 10 months at the National University of Lesotho in his homeland and took sabbaticals at the University of Natal in South Africa three times to work on undergraduate education in physics and undergraduate research projects.

Throughout his career, he has been not only an active scholar of physics, but also a mentor for student research, utilizing his own research to advance his teaching and frequently including students in his projects. His professional accomplishments include a lengthy list of publications in peer reviewed journals, many to which Thiel students contributed, and two patents, both of which were registered to Thiel students as well.

While he admits his career has had its ups and downs, Bacon says the part he has enjoyed the most has been working with students on their senior projects. Those efforts have paid off—especially for his students.

He estimated that about three of his former students have gone on to study physics in graduate school and are involved in research at the graduate level. Many students in his department choose to pursue the binary engineering program and go on to complete engineering degrees at larger universities such as Case Western Reserve University or the University of Pittsburgh. Others have gone on to work in industry while some have been successful in doctoral programs.

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"Thiel has been a wonderful place to be. I have had lots of opportunities that I am not sure I would have had at other schools."  
—Dr. Joyce Cuff

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"We are a small department, so it's nice to see a few of them [former students] be top-notch," he says.

The many years that have passed since he started his career have brought innovations that Dr. Bacon says would have been unimaginable in his younger days. "In my day, we used a slide rule for computations. It would have been unimaginable to do what we can today with computers, which are a tremendous asset."

When asked why he chose to retire now, he spiritedly replied, "Because I am old! At 70 and a half, I've got to start taking my retirement benefit!"

A medical condition also contributed to his decision to retire. Bacon is going deaf, a genetic condition that his mother and siblings have suffered as well. His hearing loss has made it difficult for him to hear his students. Hearing aids help, for now, but he admits, "I'll probably throw them away once I retire."

But, even after his retirement, he plans to continue his work in physics and keep his own studies going. While he is interested in a variety of projects, an area of major concentration is to get more of a handle on the dogmata problem.

"Ninety five percent of the universe is missing, and nobody seems to be able

to find it," he explains. "Until we find it in a lab, it's sort of an open question."

His plans for retirement also include doing some extensive traveling, perhaps extended stays in the Caribbean and trips to visit his far-flung family members, including his twin in New Zealand, a sister in Australia, a son and a daughter who both live in Oregon, and another son in Scotland. Dr. Bacon travels back to Africa as often as he can—his younger brother still lives in Johannesburg.

Africa also beckons for biology and life sciences professor Cuff who sees her departure from Thiel not so much as retirement, but a career shift.

Cuff says her decision to retire now was influenced by her sabbatical last year in northern Tanzania where she worked to develop a clinical laboratory attached to a health clinic in the village of Karatu, which serves more than 10,000 new and continuing patients.

"There is a huge need for improved lab services there," she explains. During her sabbatical she worked to design the lab and train personnel. As a result of her efforts, she was invited back and plans to head there again this summer.

"After 31 years, maybe what I have to offer has been offered," she says



Cuff and Bacon receive emeritus status at the 2012 Commencement ceremony.

modestly of her decision to retire. She says she hopes to continue an academic year type of schedule, spending time in Africa from late August through May, then returning to the United States in the summer to visit family and friends.

However, this summer, she will head to Africa a bit earlier, in mid-July, to provide lab support to help open a hospital at the facility.

Such a transition would seem overwhelming for many, but not for Cuff, who is familiar with the culture of the region. She spent time there in the late 1990s during her Fulbright Award and traveled there again last year. "It's really like a second home, so it is not an alien situation."

Globe-trotting to such locales came later for Cuff. "I really had no opportunity to travel until I was 50," she explains. "Now I love it."

Before arriving at Thiel, Cuff, a native of Manchester, N.H., earned her Bachelor of Arts degree at Regis College in Massachusetts and went on to earn her Ph.D. from the University of Rochester Medical School.

Some of Cuff's many professional accomplishments include helping to develop Thiel's neuroscience program; co-authoring a book with Dr. Curt Thompson entitled, "God and Nature: A Theologian and a Scientist



Left: Students with Bacon in the 1990s; Below: Bacon works on a satellite dish he and students built on campus in 1982.



Conversing on the Divine Promise of Possibility"; being named the Paul M. Rike Professor of Life Sciences; serving as adviser to the national honorary society in biology, Tri-Beta; and serving as assistant academic dean.

Her long list of achievements includes numerous fellowships, grants and honors, including being named Professor of the Year three times, as well as the previously mentioned Fulbright Award. Her community involvement also is quite extensive, serving as a board member for Unlimited Possibilities (a service non-profit she co-founded), Shenango River Watchers and Mercer County Affordable Housing.

When asked about her accomplishments, she hesitated to identify any one in particular. "I am grateful for the small things, and maybe the small things add up," she says. "I've had a good career, made contributions here and there, but nothing leaps out, just a series of golden moments."

Like Bacon, Cuff values the time she has spent with her students and lists that among the reasons why she chose to teach at a small college. "The opportunity to interact with students and share their journey with them is always a privilege."

As she reflects on her time at Thiel, Cuff says she is grateful for the opportunities she had for achievement in a variety of areas. That includes the educational Earth Day workshop, which brings nearly 475 students in grades four through six from six area elementary schools to work with Thiel students who serve as mentors. "It is very exciting to see our students working with the younger students.



Above: Cuff in her office in 1981; Right: Cuff with biology graduates at the 2012 Commencement.



Our students are wonderful, excited and animated. They really shine and it is nice to see that side of them."

Speaking of today's students, both Cuff and Bacon have noticed the same trend in higher education - that some students entering colleges and universities seem to be less prepared than in years past.

It is a change that Cuff says has created challenges for faculty as the spectrum of students' work ethic and preparation has widened. "Students in the current age don't seem to come with the same discipline and focus, and I believe that is a national trend."

But, she continues, there have been many students who arrive on campus with a less than stellar work ethic and background who overcome that.

"It is great to witness them make that turnaround," says Cuff. "Often the potential has been there all along, but the challenge is how we can capitalize on that. I think that is something of a tradition at Thiel, to identify a student's true potential."

Cuff also stressed the importance of learning how to learn, which she believes is especially important given the current economy and job market trends where people experience frequent career changes.

"A liberal arts education is even more relevant," she believes, given

the frequent career changes that those in the workforce must navigate. "People are no longer preparing for specialized careers; they need transformative skills so they can change with the changing times."

Bacon concurs, "Ultimately, students need to learn how to learn, which is very difficult. A handful have mastered that. In many ways, they don't need to be taught, they need to be experienced and carry the ball."

Both Bacon and Cuff agree that their time at Thiel has afforded them opportunities that they may not have experienced at a larger university.

"At a place like Thiel—where you don't have many (students in the classroom)—one is able to dabble in all areas. It kept me active as a physicist," says Bacon.

Cuff especially appreciates being able to teach outside and beyond her discipline, and believes that interdisciplinary approach helped to stretch her professionally. For example, the Fulbright Award she received was earned in part because of her involvement in the global heritage course.

"Thiel has been a wonderful place to be," she says. "I have had lots of opportunities that I am not sure I would have had at other schools."

## Three Inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame



Thiel recognized three former student-athletes who made extraordinary contributions to the College through intercollegiate athletics as members of its 32nd Athletic Hall of Fame class at the March 25 induction event.

This year's inductees were Logan Cribbs '69 (football), Eric Garrett '88 (baseball) and Clyde Morgan '00 (track & football).

Cribbs was a four-year starter for the football program along the Tomcat defensive line (1965-1968). He served as a co-captain and earned all-PAC first team accolades as a senior, racking up 45 tackles, including 20.0 tackles for loss. As a sophomore, Cribbs took on double duty, replacing tight end Greg Seagrave '70 due to injury and finished the 1966 season third on the team with seven catches for 96 yards. He was

also very involved with the Varsity T club, the College's letterman's organization, where he served as treasurer and president.

As a member of the Tomcat baseball program, Garrett earned four varsity letters, was selected as a co-captain in 1988 and earned all-PAC accolades from 1986 to 1988 as a shortstop. Prior to the 1999 season (when baseball seasons were limited to just 18 games), he ranked among the top 10 career leaders in hits, batting average and fielding percentage. Garrett's 1987 squad still holds the program record for the best single-season winning percentage, finishing 14-4 (.778).

Morgan competed as a member of both the track and field and football squads (1996-1999), lettering in each of his four seasons with each program. He

captained the track and field squad in 1997, 1998 and 1999 and was a member of both the 1996 and 1998 PAC championship teams, competing in the 110-meter and 400-meter hurdles as well as the 1,600-meter relay, and was the first to win individual conference championships in the 110 hurdles three years in a row (1996-1998). Morgan provisionally qualified for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field National Championships in the 400 hurdles in 1996 and earned three all-PAC first team selections. A three-year captain with the Tomcat football program, Morgan earned all-American honorable mention honors as kick returner in 1997. Twice named an all-PAC second team defensive back, he was selected as the Most Valuable Player at the 2000 National All-Stars Bowl.



*Pictured on previous page: Hall of Fame inductees Eric Garrett '88, Logan Cribbs '69 and Clyde Morgan '00.  
Pictured above: J. Lynn Trimble award winner Madison Chylik '11 with her parents.*

The Meritorious Service and Commitment Award was presented to Jim Patterson, longtime volunteer assistant with the Tomcat baseball program. He joined head coach Joe Schaly's staff in fall 2000. Patterson has competed or coached for more than 60 years in northern Mercer

County and eastern Ohio. Affectionately known as "Coach P," he is the son of Cecil "Red" Patterson, a 1931 Thiel graduate and 1987 Hall of Fame inductee.

The Athletic Alumni Commendation Award was presented to Chris Saluga '93, the winningest football coach in the

history of Chartiers Valley High School. Saluga has guided the Colts to eight playoff appearances, coached in the prestigious Big 33 and East-West All-Star Games, and in 2007 was named "Coach of the Year" by the Big Seven Conference and The Almanac newspaper. Saluga has coached for 19 years, spending the last 11 as the head coach at Chartiers Valley.

Also honored were this year's Charles Evanoff and J. Lynn Trimble Award winners, Lukas Johnson '11 (baseball) and Madison Chylik '11 (women's volleyball). These two awards are presented to a male and female from the previous year's senior class who, in the judgment of the members of the Department of Athletics, best demonstrated qualities of scholarship, leadership, character and sportsmanship, in addition to participation in athletics. The Evanoff Award is named after Charles Evanoff, class of 1964, a standout for the Tomcats on the wrestling mat and football field and 2004 inductee into the Thiel College Athletic Hall of Fame. The Trimble Award is named after J. Lynn Trimble, former Tomcat volleyball and softball coach.

## Brown Earns All-American Status for Fourth Time

With his eighth-place finish at the 2012 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships in March, senior Corey Brown earned the College's 24th All-American honor and became the first Tomcat to achieve All-American status in each of his four years.

A two-time Midwest Regional and four-time Presidents' Athletic Conference champion at 133 pounds, Brown capped off a terrific career with a 39-4 2011-2012 season record and finished with a 109-27 career record, becoming just the fifth

Tomcat wrestler to hit the 100-match win mark. (The others are Kyle Brown '07 and Corey Murphy '07 and Hall of Fame members Sal Jafarace '92 and Mike Lewis '93.)

Brown, also a seven-time Dean's List honoree and two-time PAC Academic Honor Roll selection, recently earned his third-straight NWCA Scholar All-American award. He was selected by his peers as the 2012 Top Tomcat Award winner at this year's Senior Student-Athlete Banquet.



# Senior Student-Athletes Honored

The second annual Senior Student-Athlete Banquet and Chi Alpha Sigma induction ceremony, hosted by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) was held on April 16.

"Last year, we simply got the Senior Banquet and Chi Alpha Sigma ceremony established. This year, I knew that we would make considerable improvements to it. I've been involved with SAAC for three years and am proud to have had the opportunity to continue building upon the foundation created for this important student group," said Kraig Smith, senior and outgoing SAAC president.

Chi Alpha Sigma recognizes student-athletes who receive a varsity letter in their respective sport while maintaining a 3.4 or higher cumulative GPA throughout their junior and/or senior years. Thiel's chapter is the 19th college or university in Pennsylvania selected to join the National College Athlete Honor Society (NCAHS) and is just the third in the Presidents' Athletic Conference. Selection for membership is by an athletic department designee in consultation with the individual's head coach and is based on outstanding scholarship, earned athletic letters and excellent character and citizenship. Nineteen student-athletes were inducted as Thiel's 2012 Chi Alpha Sigma class.

Four special awards were also presented at the banquet.

- The Top Tomcat Award, given to Corey Brown (wrestling), is presented to a senior student-athlete who has promoted Thiel College athletics through their outstanding athletic and academic achievements at the College, conference and national levels.
- The Male/Female Distinguished Student-Athlete of the Year Awards, given to Phil Double (baseball) and Megan Kay (volleyball), are presented to both a male and female senior student-athlete who have distinguished themselves throughout their collegiate careers in the areas of athletic excellence, academic achievement, service and leadership.
- The SAAC Extra Effort Award, given to Professor Gary Witosky (business administration and accounting), is voted on by SAAC members and is presented to a staff/faculty member who goes above and beyond in their support of Thiel's student-athletes and is dedicated to helping student-athletes successfully balance their commitment to academics and athletics.



*Pictured above (from left): Professor Gary Witosky with senior Kristen Moreland; award recipients Corey Brown, Megan Kay and Phil Double; and Jeff Linn '02, assistant wrestling coach, who spoke about being a Thiel student-athlete alumnus. Pictured below: The new members of Chi Alpha Sigma—back row (l-r): Hunter Liptrap, John Madeline, Eric King, Jared Soell, Sarah Szczybinski, Tim Taylor and Regis Wagner and front row (l-r): Brittany Anderson, Megg Andrews, Chelsea Meister, Kelly Barzak, Alyssa Chine, Emily Friedrich, Alison Lange, Ashley Rable and Sarah Weikart. (Not pictured are Jaimee Anderson, Stephanie Dulka and Kate Reinsel.)*



# Q & A

## with Chris Lepley '14

Thiel junior pursues twin goals of a college degree and an officership in the Marines.

Junior Chris Lepley of Mechanicsburg, Pa., has set an excellent example to his fellow student-athletes for community involvement and service. A forensic accounting major and a member of the men's volleyball team, Lepley is a lance corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps. While still in high school, Lepley took classes at Harrisburg Area Community College before coming to Thiel College in spring 2011. Senior Brittany Hill '12 spoke with Lepley about his experience in the military and at Thiel.

**BH: Why did you transfer to Thiel? Was the Marine Corps a factor or volleyball or both?**

CL: I found out about Thiel through Cameron Capp '14 when we were playing club volleyball. Volleyball was such a big part of my life in high school and I wanted to continue to play in college. I was also able to play soccer and Thiel had a forensic accounting major that appealed to me. My recruiter understood that at that point college was the most important thing to me so he did not press me to go active duty. When you join the reserves, each unit has a certain radius in which you must live to be able to train there. Gunny Rogers was great about getting me a unit that was really close to Thiel.

**BH: When did you join the Marine Corps and why?**

CL: I was contracted on April 1, 2010, and left for Parris Island, S.C., on May 24, 2010. I decided to join because it would be a great experience and would help prepare me for the FBI, which is what I've wanted to do since I was a freshman in high school.

**BH: When did you decide that you wanted to be an officer in the Marine Corps? What is the process to apply for officer and how many people are chosen to be an officer?**

CL: When I enlisted, I found out my great-uncle was a Marine

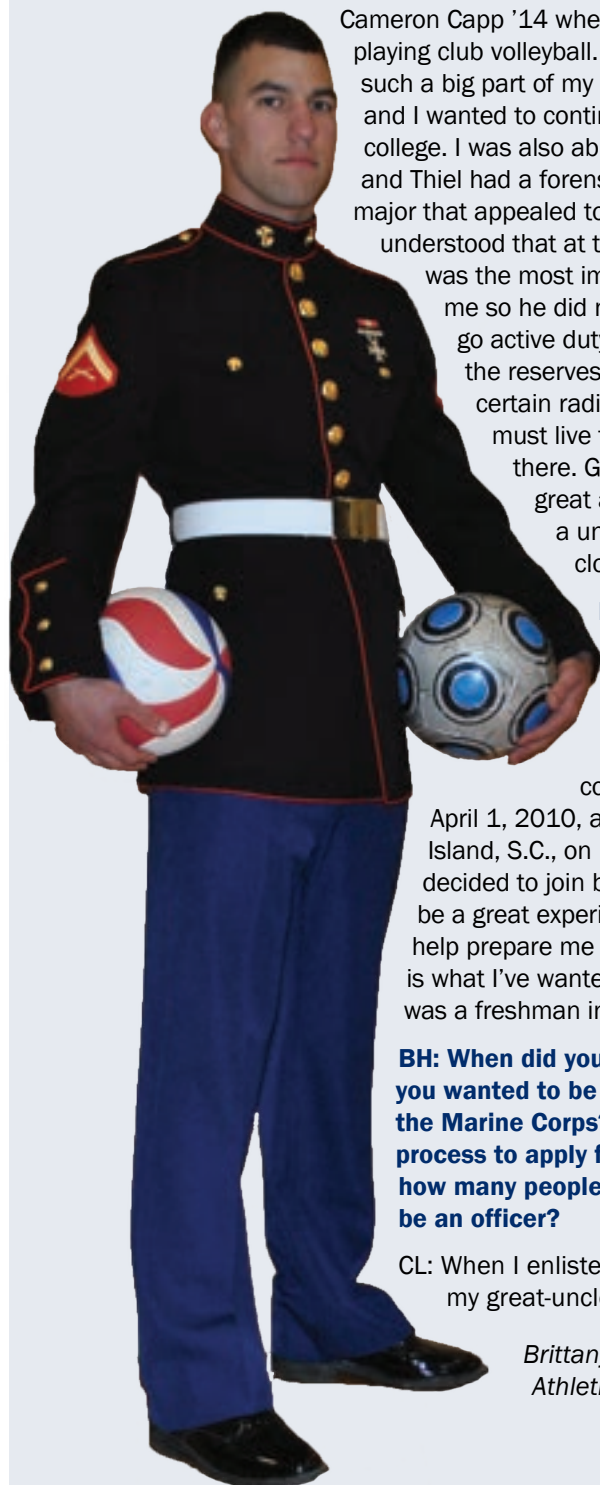
Corps officer for more than 20 years. Additionally, my uncle was a Navy pilot for more than 20 years. [Being an officer] has always been a thought but I didn't seriously consider it until last year. I applied in mid-November and got selected at the end of December. I will go to Quantico, Va., for six weeks this summer and also in summer 2013. After I graduate, if I successfully complete the course, I can accept my commission. I will go to The Basic School for 26 weeks and then to an additional school to learn my specific job as an officer. For Platoon Leaders Course 2014 ground officers, there are 57 applicants currently for 14 remaining spots.

**BH: How has the Marine Corps made you a better person?**

CL: At Parris Island, one of the first things you learn are the Marine Corps core values—honor, courage and commitment. Also, the drill instructors teach respect, discipline, tolerance and confidence. All these traits help me in everyday life. Respect is needed when talking to someone that is older or in a position of authority; discipline is used every day to participate in class, make it to all my practices and finish my school work at night after a long day; tolerance comes into play when we have debates during class, dealing with other groups on campus during club meetings and activities, and interacting with everyday people in the community; and confidence is significant because if you are not confident in the work you are doing, you will never accomplish anything.

**BH: If you could go back and start over, would you still join the Marine Corps and why?**

CL: I said for the longest time that I "wish I would've gone active duty." The Marine Corps is a way of life, a completely different culture than what everyone in the rest of the nation knows. It is a brotherhood that you have to be a part of to understand. Because of this, I was upset I had to leave that atmosphere and start in a completely new place. Now, after spending two years at Thiel and being one credit shy of being a senior, I realize the opportunity I have to learn so much more than just the information in the classes I'm taking. Becoming an officer will be the most difficult challenge of my life, but I believe that I have learned a lot here at Thiel and from the Marine Corps about life and society in general. I would still make the same decisions.



*Brittany Hill '12 is a senior media communications major who served as an intern in the Athletics Media Department during spring 2012. A native of Bedford, Ohio, Hill plans to pursue a career in sports journalism after graduation.*

# Alumni to be Honored at Homecoming 2012

Thiel's Alumni Board chooses a group of Thiel alumni to honor at Homecoming each year who have brought recognition to themselves, their families and their alma mater. This distinguished group of alumni has truly made a mark in their professional lives, dedicated themselves to service in the world and demonstrated their love of Thiel College. Please join us on Sept. 28-30, 2012, during Homecoming Weekend to celebrate their achievements and more.

## Service to Thiel

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



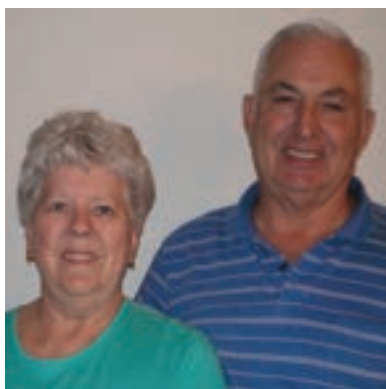
Don Achenbach '77, operations manager at Crosstex International



Rae (Weiss) Johnson '59, retired elementary school teacher

## Distinguished Alumni

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



Rev. Don '68 and Dr. Judy (Charlesworth) Thomas '68, retired Lutheran pastor and retired special education teacher

## Young Alumni

Young alumni awardees are nominated for their potential for future accomplishments in their professions and service to the College.



Nathan P. Bissell '02, technical sales manager, Chemetall/New Providence, N.J.

## Help Yourself

Thiel's Office of Career Services provides a variety of free resources to alumni, and we encourage you to take advantage of the following services:

Graduate school preparation

Online career seminars

One-on-one career counseling

Resume & cover letter help

Practice interviews

Job postings

Career fairs



Alumni receive 60 percent tuition discount on available courses through the Thiel Commitment—call the Records Office at 724-589-2009 for more information.

Learn about summer day, evening and online courses available at [thiel.edu/academics/summer](http://thiel.edu/academics/summer).

## Help Others

Career Services is always looking for alumni who can provide career & internship opportunities. Please contact us if you can provide valuable hands-on experience to Thiel students!

## Contact Us

For more information, contact Heather Balas, director of career services, at 724-589-2014 or [hbalas@thiel.edu](mailto:hbalas@thiel.edu) to take advantage of these services.

# “Be Brief, Be Bright, Be Gone”

Each spring, the Business Honors Seminar brings back successful Thiel alumni to discuss their experiences in the business world and how they achieved their success with current students in the Department of Business Administration. Many thanks to the alumni who donate their time and expertise to today's Thiel business students!

**Jan. 25—John Rodgers '87, vice president, U.S. Nutrition Inc.**

“One thing John believes in is S.M.A.R.T. objectives, which he described as ‘Specific, Measurable, Agreed Upon, Realistic and Time-Based.’ He also said that ‘communication is key’ and you should always ‘be brief, be bright, be gone.’” —Billy Roosa '14

**Feb. 1—Dr. Carl Hoffman '69, president and CEO, Primecare Medical Inc.**

“When Carl stated that ‘you must always remember where you came from,’ it really touched home for me. How our parents raised us has aided in who we are and what we are today. In his situation, Carl's parents and family need to be extremely proud of his great accomplishments.”—Audrey Rattay '13

**Feb. 8—Damen Taylor '95, senior accountant, Pittsburgh Public Schools**

“Mr. Taylor was interactive and very empathetic of where we are in our lives today. His presentation focused more on where we are in life rather than his own life; he went back in time, shared numerous stories and related to each and every one of us.”—Ellie Belleau '12

**Feb. 15—Robert Martin '71, owner, Bob Martin Insurance Agency**

“One of the lessons I learned was to hire to your weakness, where your abilities are lacking, and have your team's strengths thrive in those same abilities.”—Ross Gargano '12

**Feb. 22—Dr. Shawn Brooks '82, associate dean of students and director of residence life, University of Pittsburgh**

“One thing that Shawn talked about was the idea that in order to explore new things one has to step outside your comfort zone. I can attest to this because I can see those traits in myself and all of the people that I have been surrounded by in my life.”—Brad Bates '13

**Feb. 29—Mike Lanciotti '78, CEO, Renegade Motor Homes**

“I asked Mike what advantages Thiel gave him throughout his career. His response was the relationships and the overall Thiel experience. We often hear how the people at Thiel and the overall experience impacts everyone's lives in such dramatic ways.” —Kraig Smith '12



*Dr. Carl Hoffman '69 with students at the Honors Business Seminar on Feb. 1.*

**March 7—Mark Dowdell '87, branch chief, Security & Exchange Commission**

“It was a real pleasure to listen to Mark Dowdell's speech, and to hear all of the interesting stories of how he became the successful person that he is today.”—Brandon Bukovinsky '12

**March 21—Michael Zawoysky '79, CEO, Shoe Sensation**

“Similar to me, Michael was a Thiel College athlete and found great success in a field similar to his strengths. He discussed the fact that you need to put forth the effort to get the job done. No matter what your career, effort is much more sustainable than raw knowledge.”—Jeff Marianetti '12

**March 28—Allen Schreiber '99 and David Schreiber '00, vice president, Sherwin Williams Company, and vice president, director of derivatives strategies, PNC Wealth Management**

“Allen said it is very important to adapt to the environment. Find the function of the job. You need to analyze what is important to you. I will take the lessons that I learned from David and Allen with me throughout my career and life.”—Jebediah Aley '12

**April 18—Allison Wynn '09, auditor, U.S. Department of Defense**

“I felt Allison's age allowed her to make a direct connection with us and I found it very assuring to see the amount of success a recent Thiel graduate has had in a tough job market.”—Jeff Marianetti '12

**April 25—Ivan '01 and Jocelyn Cilik '00, senior manager, ParenteBeard LLC, and franchise owner, House Master Home Inspections**

“Ivan and Jocelyn demonstrated that although it takes a lot of work, sacrifice and commitment to start and grow a business, it is worth the effort because of the impact you can have on your employees, community, and family.”—Amy Ligo, Thiel Business Department

**Chautauqua, N.Y. Event**

Aug. 18, 6-8 p.m.  
The Athenaeum Hotel

**Rochester, N.Y. Events**

Wine Tasting: Sept. 7  
Thiel vs. Rochester Football  
Game Tailgate: Sept. 8  
*Contact Alumni Services for more information.*

**Homecoming 2012**

Sept. 28-30  
*See inside back cover for info!*

**Alumni Board Meetings**

Sept. 28 & Dec. 1, 2012  
Feb. 9 & April 20, 2013

**Winter Weekend 2013**

Feb. 8-9, 2013  
*Save the date for Thiel's favorite winter event!*



**Stay Connected**

It's easier than ever to stay connected to your alma mater! Thiel College maintains Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and Tumblr pages where you can keep informed about campus life, celebrate our students' successes, keep up with your favorite athletic teams, find out about campus events you may want to attend and so much more. Just look for "/thielcollege" on these sites ("thielhappenings" on Tumblr) and become our fan or follow us to stay connected! Other groups on campus maintain their own pages—such as the Langenheim Library or Tommy Tomcat himself—so look around!

And don't forget to keep your contact information up-to-date with Alumni services! E-mail alumni@thiel.edu, call 724-589-2027 or visit www.thiel.edu/alumni/tell-us-more.htm.



**The Thiel Fund—Have You Been Counted?**

The Thiel Fund supports key functions of the campus and provides students with an opportunity to engage fully in life at Thiel College, sharing in the rich education that generations of alumni have enjoyed.

Thiel Fund gifts may be designated to Annual Operations, Scholarships, Academic Programs or Athletics, enabling our alumni and friends to support Thiel in a manner that is both meaningful and impactful.

We hope you will join in the momentum surrounding Thiel and support the Thiel Fund! Make your tax-deductible gift by June 30 and be counted among the ranks of alumni donors!

Gifts may be made online at thiel.edu or by calling the Thiel Office of Annual Giving at 724-589-2042.



**Lux Mundi, Verbum Dei**

Thiel College takes great pride in our roots and connection with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In an effort to stay connected to Lutheran congregations and spread the word about the benefits of a Thiel College education to Lutheran families and potential

Tomcats, the Office of Admission has developed a church bulletin insert with news about Thiel that is sent to a large number of congregations regionally. The bulletin includes student success stories, upcoming events and much more. If your congregation isn't on the list, you can view the bulletin insert on the Thiel website at www.thiel.edu/bulletininsert.



# Finding the Right Path

When Allison Wynn '09 attended the Honors Business Seminar as a Thiel student, listening to alumni share their business experiences in the working world, she never thought she would be on the other side—especially just three short years after graduation. During her welcome back to Thiel College in April, Wynn enlightened current seniors in that same seminar about her experiences in college and after entering the “real world.”

A native of East Liverpool, Ohio, Wynn attended Thiel College because she knew that a small educational environment would advance her eagerness and ability to learn. In 2009, she graduated from Thiel with degrees in political science, business administration and accounting.

Through her years as a student, Wynn was involved in many different organizations and athletic teams. During her junior and senior years, she was secretary of the Student Government

Association's executive board and vice president of Chi Omega sorority. She was also deeply involved in cross country, Alpha Chi (academic honorary), Chi Eta Sigma (commerce honorary) and Pi Sigma Alpha (national student honorary in political science).

While Wynn received plenty of knowledge and a valuable skill set through many courses at Thiel that helped her start off her career, she received the most constructive advice from the Business Department's Honors Business Seminar. During this course, alumni are invited to

campus each week during spring semester to share real life scenarios that the future graduates could be challenged with and how such situations influenced their lives.

“They encouraged us to stand by our morals and showed us how hard work pays off,” said Wynn of the alumni she met during the course.

Carrying that wisdom



Above: Allison Wynn '09 at Camp Pendleton, the Marines Corps Base in California.

Left: Wynn speaks at the Honors Business Seminar on April 18.

she is so quickly. In a few years, Wynn hopes to become a team leader and advance her career in auditing. When first arriving at Thiel, prelaw was her interest, but after taking accounting and auditing classes, and gaining more experience during her summer job and internship, she changed her direction and headed down the path of auditing.

Wynn was excited about the opportunity to encourage the Honors Seminar class with her experiences just as the class did for her. The most important point she shared with the students was to “find something you really love to do. Working doesn't have to and shouldn't be a negative feeling.”

—Avon Milton '12

with her after graduation, Wynn received her first job as an auditor with the U.S. Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General in Washington, D.C. After working for two and a half years, Wynn realized the importance of communication and trusting your instincts. In addition to her experience, she witnessed how management “sets the stage” and empowers employees to keep the organization productive.

Wynn remains with the Department of Defense, and she says she never thought she would ever be in the position

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

GEORGE “CHIP” DUFALA '92



**WHY IS BEING PART OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES IMPORTANT TO YOU AS AN ALUMNUS OF THE COLLEGE?**

It gives you a real opportunity to give back to the institution. Besides financial support that assists Thiel, all Trustees are able to lend their talents to help shape the College for generations to come. I cherish my memories of Thiel as a student and I want to

help ensure that there are thousands of people in the future that get to experience what I did.

*Chip Dufala '92 serves as executive vice president, services, at Erie Insurance, a regional property/casualty and life insurer based in Erie, Pa. Dufala oversees the company's claims, corporate services and customer service divisions. He first joined Erie in 1993 in the district sales manager training program. Along with the Thiel Board of Trustees, Dufala serves on the Leadership Giving Committee for the Erie County United Way. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Life Underwriter Association and the Certified Professional Insurance Agents Society. Chip and his wife, Amy, have four children.*

**HOW DID THIEL PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER?**

The liberal arts background helped shape a solid foundation on which I could build. Dr. Downer, Professor Miller, Dr. Thompson and Dr. White all gave me unique perspectives that enabled me to see many points of view and helped form a basis of understanding and critical thinking that I use today.

**WHAT ARE YOUR “WORDS TO LIVE BY”?**

Don't wait for things to happen, go out and make things happen.

**WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION LIKE THE ONE THIEL PROVIDES?**

It enables you to be well rounded and well versed in a variety of subjects.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY?**

The lifelong connections that I made there.

BOARD OF ASSOCIATES:

JOHN M. BARR '70



**WHY SHOULD A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CONSIDER THIEL?**

Thiel truly cares about the success of every student. It is evident in the Thiel Commitment. It is evident in its new and expanding areas of study, sports teams, large weekend events and Greek experiences. The campus is being continually improved to meet student needs, Hodge Hall's renovations and

the Rissell-Schreyer Dome being tangible examples. And more improvements are always occurring. Bottom line: There is a new and palpable energy on campus that makes Thiel an excellent alternative to other small liberal arts colleges.

*John M. Barr '70 is chief marketing officer, Hillside Family of Agencies, a human service agency headquartered in Rochester, N.Y. Prior to his Hillside appointment, Barr completed a 28-year sales and marketing career in the for-profit sector. Currently, he serves on two committees for the Alliance for Children and Families, is a member of Rochester Rotary and serves as a member of the boards of the Rochester Advertising Council and the Mary Cariola Children's Center. He and his wife, Fran, have three grown children and three grandchildren.*

**WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BE A PART OF THE BOARD OF ASSOCIATES?**

During dinner with Mario Marini '91, director of special & planned giving, I told him that I would like to serve in a role to help move Thiel forward. After further conversations with advancement leadership, I was asked by President VanAken to join this board.

**WHAT PART OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH THIEL ARE YOU MOST PROUD?**

David Miller, one of Thiel's greatest assets, has invited me to speak on two occasions to his honors seminar students. I have really enjoyed these opportunities to “give back.”

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM YOUR DAYS AS A STUDENT?**

My favorite memory is the day I accepted the bid to join Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

# ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DR. SHAWN BROOKS '82



## WHY SHOULD ALUMNI CONSIDER BEING A PART OF THE ALUMNI BOARD?

Thiel has always been a very special place to me. From the moment I arrived on campus, I took advantage of a wide array of both curricular and co-curricular involvement experiences that taken in total helped provide a solid foundation for success

in all of my future endeavors. My time at Thiel was so meaningful that I chose to pursue higher education administration as a career.

Having worked in higher education for more than 25 years, I know that a college or university community is more than the sum of its parts, yet each stakeholder has something vital to contribute to the greater good. For alumni, it is critical to find ways to give back to the institution. Although financial support is critical, donating to the annual fund is not the only way you can help. You can also contribute your time and energy. Being a part of

*Shawn Brooks, Ph.D. '82 (pictured on right) is associate dean of students and director of residence life at the University of Pittsburgh. Brooks also oversees the Career Development Office, Disabilities Resources and Services and the University Counseling Center. In addition, he also serves as one of the chief student conduct officers and an adjunct faculty member in the Graduate School of Education. He lives in Pittsburgh.*

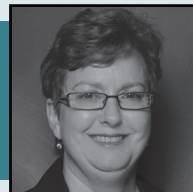
the Alumni Board is an excellent way to help shape the future of Thiel College. It is a great way to reconnect with the institution and your classmates. However, most importantly, it is a great way to help bring along current and future generations of Thiel students.

## WHY IS ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT IMPORTANT IN THE LIFE OF THE COLLEGE?

Organizations like the "Princeton Review" and "U.S. News and World Report" that seek to rate colleges and universities will factor alumni involvement into their equation in publishing their rankings, and the higher Thiel College rises in the national rankings, the more valuable a Thiel College diploma becomes.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THIEL MEMORY FROM YOUR DAYS AS A STUDENT?

It is difficult to identify just one... Inside the classroom, my business classes with Professor David Miller and my theater classes with Professor Bill Robinson taught me things that extended beyond the subject matter of the particular class. They are both genuine treasures! Outside the classroom, I cherished my involvements as a resident assistant, a Thiel Player, a jock at WTGP radio and an editor of "The Endymion." They also were priceless experiences that helped to make Thiel such a special place.



## Meet the Boards

*Officers for the Board of Trustees are, from left, Edward A. Bariko '72, Chair; Mark A. Benninghoff '82, Vice Chair; David R. Andrews '63, Treasurer; Susan R. Snowden, Esq., Secretary; Dr. Troy D. VanAken, Ex-Officio*

## Board of Trustees

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Sharon Schneider  
John & Jane Tell  
Rob & Marlene Williamson

# Class Notes

## 1940s

JOHN DEONARINE '48 celebrated his 90th birthday in September 2011 in Florida. The gift of the evening was a Thiel College sweatshirt from his family.

## 1960s

BARBARA (TAYLOR) SLUSSER '62 retired from physical therapy at Bethlen Communities Home Health in Ligonier, Pa., and moved to Lancaster, Pa., to be closer to two of her children. In 2010, she and her husband, Doug, visited their son and his family in Botswana, Africa, who are serving as missionaries and working with an HIV-AIDS program through Baylor University. She writes that "we visited several animal parks and saw many wonderful African elephants, giraffes, kudu, wildebeests, wart hogs, hippos, etc." as well as visiting several "average" Botswana homes.

CAROL (SHAIN) VAN SCHENKHOF '69 and her husband, Ron, retired and moved from Kansas to Hernando, Fla.

## 1970s

JANET (SPROWLS) THOM '70 is retired from teaching kindergarten in Jamestown Public Schools. She and her husband live in Jamestown, N.Y., and recently welcomed a grandson.

JANET MACCARTNEY '71 moved to Chesapeake, Va. She welcomed a second grandchild in June 2010.

SCOTT RUSSELL '71 was elected to the national board of directors of the Alzheimer's Association.

MARK T. ECKERT '73 has spent 12 years traveling around the world as vice president of international sales for Inductotherm Corp. He and his wife recently celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary. He plans to retire to North Carolina this year.

DEBRA (BICE) FOLKEDAHL '75 was named chief administrative law judge for the Social Security Administration. She oversees more than 1,400 administrative law judges in 150 offices nationwide. She lives in Weatherby Lake, Mo.

FIRDAUS KHARAS '78 was featured in the April issue of *Reader's Digest* magazine

with his media company Chocolate Moose Productions. Kharas' cartoon public service announcements about the importance of condoms on preventing the spread of AIDS have been translated into more than 45 languages. Kharas lives in Ontario, Canada.

KIMBERLY (MCCONNELL) LONG '79 and her husband, DAVE LONG '78, welcomed a granddaughter in December 2011.

## 1980s

JEFFRY MADURA '80 was named one of 213 American Chemical Society Fellows for his contributions to science and his years of service to ACS. Madura is a professor of chemistry at Duquesne University.



◀ MARK R. THOMPSON '84 is executive director of enrollment services at Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa, Iowa.

DAVE PILIPOVICH '86 was named head coach of the Air Force Academy basketball team in March. Before joining the Falcons' staff five years ago, Pilipovich spent two years coaching at the University of Michigan. He has 25 years of coaching experience.

SUE (GROVE) GLOWA '89 is an English and drama teacher at Greensburg Salem High School, Greensburg, Pa. Glowa produced and directed her first high school spring musical this year, "West Side Story."

## 1990s

ERIC ZGODZINSKI '90 is in his first year of the Doctor in Public Health program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He currently works as the director of community services and environmental health at the Toledo Lucas County Health Department. Zgodzinski published the third edition of "Essentials of Public Health Management" recently. His wife, SUSIE (ROELL) ZGODZINSKI '93 works as an accountant and office manager for A.T. Emmett, electrical contractors in Port Clinton, Ohio. They live in Port Clinton with their two daughters.

MICHAEL CAPOZZOLI '94 was honored in Pittsburgh recently when February 5 was declared "Michael Capozzoli Day." He owns and operates a production studio, CAPture Production Studio, in Bridgeville, Pa.

DAMEN TAYLOR '95 is the executive manager of business and operations/controller for the Homewood Children's Village in Pittsburgh, Pa. Previously, he was senior accountant for Pittsburgh Public Schools. Homewood Children's Village is a nonprofit organization modeled after the Harlem's Children's Zone in New York.

JAMES A. KUSHLAN H'96 was nominated to receive the world's leading award for animal conservation, The Indianapolis Prize, for his career in waterbird conservation.

## 2000s

MEGHAN SPEER '02 is now the director of social media for WORD-FM, a Christian radio station in Pittsburgh, where she lives.



Four recent graduates of Thiel are currently employed as financial associates at the Pittsburgh office of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Pictured (from left to right) are Stefen Boehringer '09, Heath Kaydo '10, Steven Hill '08 and Steven Monnich '10

# Class Notes



▼ **JAMES CHESTER '03**, athletic director and head baseball coach at Penn State Greater Allegheny, was named the Collegiate Baseball Manager of the Year at the fifth annual Chuck Tanner Major League Baseball Manager of the Year banquet on Nov. 19, 2011.

**EMILY J. MEYER '05** is assistant communications manager at The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh.

**MIKE VOELKER JR. '05** is dean of students as well as a coach for the junior varsity and varsity football teams and junior varsity basketball team at J.E. Harrison Middle School in Baldwin-Whitehall School District. He lives in Whitehall, Pa.

**RONALD C. ANDERSON '07** earned a Master of Science degree in mathematics from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, on Dec. 17, 2011. He is currently working toward a doctorate in electrical and computer engineering with a research focus on graph theoretical methods of electroencephalography and magnetic resonance imaging fusion in brain studies. Anderson is the son of **RONALD L. ANDERSON '60**.

## Marriages

**TOM LERCH '59** to **REBECCA ROGERS JANOW '61** on Oct. 10, 2011, in Plano, Texas. They were reunited after 50 years with the help of the Alumni Office!

**HEATHER (ATKINSON) PALEK '03** to **Chad Palek** on Sept. 17, 2011, in Avon Lake, Ohio. Alumni in the wedding included **HEATHER (PETTINGTON) AMBROSE '00**. Palek is an AVP, training project manager, for PNC Bank. The couple lives in North Ridgeville, Ohio.

**DANIELLE (MEZZULO) NEGRELLI '04** to **William Negrelli** on Oct. 15, 2011, in Strongsville, Ohio. She is an insurance broker for the Oswald Companies. The couple lives in Brooklyn, Ohio.

**RACHEL (MEYER) KEENE '08** to **Matthew Keene** on Oct. 1, 2011. Keene is a Lutheran engagement specialist for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. She and her husband live in Fairport Harbor, Ohio.

▼ **ALISHA (HIABACH) TOMAC '10** to **Robert Tomac** on Sept. 10, 2011, in Erie, Pa. They live in Sneads Ferry, N.C. Thiel alumni (pictured) at the wedding included **WILLIE BOVA '10**, **SABRINA HARRISON '12**, **ALEX JOHNSON '12**, **ANGELA BLACKBURN '11**, **RACHEL CARDILLO '08**, **KEISHA BOOKER '10**, **HEATHER BEAN '12**, **JUSTIN MUNZ '10**, **ALISHA (HAIBACH) TOMAC '10**, **KRISTINA MITCHELL '10**, **BROOK DILLING '10**, **RICHARD HELTZEL '09**, **ASHLEY BOORUM '10** and **AMANDA COLVIN '10**.



## Births

To **MARK KOOSER '89** and his wife, **Rachael**: a son, **Owen Jeffery**, on Oct. 28, 2011. He joins big brother **Ian James**. Kooser is a program director for the weight management and wellness program at St. John Vianney Center in Downingtown, Pa. The family lives in Coatesville, Pa.

To **TRACY (KOCESKI) WAGGONER '97** and her husband, **Richie**: a son, **Ryan Hamilton**, on Oct. 11, 2011. Waggoner works for Allstate Insurance Company. The family resides in Roanoke, Va.

To **TRACI (KANE) ANDERSON '98** and **TIMOTHY ANDERSON '98**: a daughter, **Cassandra Jane**, on Sept. 21, 2011.

To **SEAN D. DETAR '98** and his wife, **Sarah**: a son, **John Thomas**, on Dec. 29, 2011. He joins big sister **Emily Rose**. Detar is an application architect for U.S. Steel Corporation. The family lives in Pittsburgh.

To **THOMAS A. MCGUIRE '98** and his wife, **Catherine**: a daughter, **Fiona Madeline**, on Aug. 25, 2011. Fiona joins older siblings **Tommy** and **Nicky**. McGuire is the president of Eco Tech LLC.

To **SONJA (BENNETT) EISEL '99** and her husband, **Thomas**: a son, **Thomas John**, on April 22, 2011. He joins older brothers **Joseph** and **Elio**. Eisel is a registered nurse at WakeMed Health & Hospitals. They live in Raleigh, N.C.

To **REBECCA (CARR) HAGERTY '00** and **ETHAN HAGERTY '00**: a son, **Anderson Charles**, on Oct. 5, 2011.

▼ To **KELLY (WALTER) MERCER '00** and her husband, **Patrick**: a daughter, **Olivia Belle**, on Aug. 25, 2011. Mercer is a social worker for Columbiana County in Lisbon, Ohio. The family lives in Salem, Ohio.



▶ To **DEBRA (BRUT) ROBERTS '00** and her husband, **Jeff**: a daughter, **Grace Michelle**, on April 19, 2011. Grace joins older brother **Elijah**. **ANTHONY SCHNECK '91** is her godfather.



To **COURTNEY (HYSER) VITALE '01** and her husband, **Christopher**: a son, **Landon John**, on Aug. 28, 2011. He joins big brothers **Jack** and **Gavin**. The family lives in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.



▲ To **NANCY (WALTER) COX '02** and her husband, **Christopher**: a daughter, **Emma Susan**, on June 15, 2011. She joins her big brother, **Connor**. Cox is a CPA manager at the Bonadio Group in Williamsville, N.Y. They live in Hamburg, N.Y.

To **STEVEN L. DEDRICK '03** and his wife, **Rebekah**: a son, **Benjamin**, on Oct. 30, 2011. Dedrick is a treasury services credit underwriter for Bank of New York Mellon. The family resides in Pittsburgh.

▶ To **KENDALL (ALEXIS) MILLER '04** and her husband, **Tim**: a daughter, **Leighton Olivia**, on Nov. 8, 2011. She joins big sister **Madison**. Miller is an auditor with the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General. The family lives in Brunswick, Ohio.



# Class Notes

▼ To LORETTA (LOUGHNER) UNGER '05 and JOSEPH UNGER '04: a son, Jack Grayson, on Jan. 17.



To RYAN SWARTZFAGER '05 and his wife, Kristin: a daughter, Peyton Elizabeth, on Feb. 6. The family lives in Nicholson, Pa.

► To KELLY (DORA) KOMONDOR '07 and her husband, Jeff: a son, Micah Alexander, on Dec. 2, 2011. He joins his big brother, Lucas.



Komondor is a stay-at-home mom in Silverdale, Wash.

## In Memoriam

JANE ROGERS '28, of Melbourne, Fla., on March 11, at the age of 104.

MARGARET M. (VESPER) RINEHART '33, of Ravenna, Ohio, on Feb. 26, at the age of 100.

LUCRETIA (MOREY) CRAIG '41, of Fallbrook, Calif., on Jan. 1, at the age of 91.

EDWARD MILLER '50, of Saxonburg, Pa., on Feb. 27, at the age of 87.

GENEVRA JANE DART MCGUFFIE '51 on Jan. 2.

MARY (FUNK) REED '51, of Ross Township, Pa., on Jan. 24, at the age of 82.

PETER WILLIAM BRATH '52 on Dec. 18, 2011. He is survived by his son, PHILLIP BRATH '89.

MARY LOUISE (HALE) WAITE '52, of Butler, Pa., on Jan. 5., at age 81.

THOMAS ERWIN '53 in October 2011.

JOSEPH G. KURTZ '53 in 2010.

REV. PATRICK MAIER '55, of Mt. Chestnut, Pa., on Nov. 22, 2011, at the age of 78.

DR. ROBERT L. "ANDY" ANDERSON '59, of Sharpsville, Pa., on March 6, at the age of 76.

EARL E. LUCIUS '60 on Feb. 7, 2011.

VIRGINIA GWYNNE (HAMER) FETSKO '63, of Johnstown, Pa., on Feb. 15.

RONALD EUGENE "SHOE" SHOEMAKER '63 of Strasburg, Ohio, on Jan. 18, at the age of 70. He is survived by wife MARION I. (NORRIS) SHOEMAKER '63, daughter SUSAN (SHOEMAKER) CLAYTON '86 and son-in-law RICK CLAYTON '82.

ALENE (ZIMMER) BUSH '69, of Gilpin Township, Pa., on March 7, at the age of 64.

ROBERT ZIDEK '90 of East Vandergrift, Pa., on March 23, at the age of 46.

JOHNATHAN "JOHN" HEATH COLLEGE '04, of Erie, Pa., on Feb. 23, at the age of 28.

## Friends

JEANNE CARLSON, former Thiel College librarian, passed away on Feb. 26. She is survived by her husband, James Carlson, former Thiel Department of Psychology professor (1975-1990).

## Class Notes & Photo Policy

■ Please send us news after it has happened. No future events will be listed.

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

■ Photo Guidelines—Prints should be at least 2x3 inches for headshots and 4x6 for photos featuring groups. Both color and black & white are acceptable. Photos can be mailed to Alumni Services, Thiel College, 75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125. To submit a digital photo, e-mail the file to alumni@thiel.edu. Digital photos should be a 300 dpi TIFF or JPG. Photos that are small and low resolution may not be usable.

*Please include a description of the photo and the names and class years of alumni who appear.*

## Henry E. Haller Jr. H'97

HENRY E. HALLER JR. H'97, long-time supporter of entrepreneurial education at Thiel College, passed away on March 14 at his home in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Haller was the former owner of NAVCO, a manufacturer of piping for industry. He and his first wife, Grace Mary, gave a \$1-million gift to the Thiel College Enterprise Institute, which was renamed the Haller Enterprise Institute, in 1996 to develop entrepreneurial education at Thiel, a discipline for which the College had become increasingly well known. In 1997, Thiel awarded Haller an honorary doctor of laws degree.



Haller graduated from the University of Pittsburgh School of Business in 1936 and shortly thereafter began working at National Valve and Manufacturing Company, a firm founded by his father. After studying mechanical engineering and serving as a naval officer in World War II, Haller returned to National Valve where he became executive vice president in 1955 and president in 1956. A former member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees, Haller was well-known for his support of nonprofit and philanthropic organizations, such as Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, Goodwill, the Animal Rescue League, Thiel and Grove City colleges, and many others.

# 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 this form and mail to:**

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

**E-mail: [alumni@thiel.edu](mailto:alumni@thiel.edu)/Fax: 724-589-2860**

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

**To give online, visit [www.thiel.edu](http://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) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** News that appears in this issue arrived at the Alumni Office by April 9, 2012. 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) and are subject to editing for space, style and content. Photos become the property of the Alumni Office and may not be returned.

# A Thiel Alum Remembers with Gratitude

By John Volansky '56

While in high school, the jobs I had were many—  
The pay so small, I was working for pennies!  
Delivering pies or donuts to downtown Sharon  
restaurants,  
So tempting it became—  
To eat of these pies and donuts, or taking  
Some home was my secret aim!

During World War II, I was a high school 10th  
grader—  
The railroad in Wheatland, the job I did was a hater!

Tightening bolts on railroad tracks, Wheatland to  
West Middlesex,  
No lie in that, just the facts—  
With a four-foot long, twenty-pound wrench,  
The bolts every twenty feet, as we walked along  
the tracks—

1946: high school graduation, and then to Sharon  
Steel Corp., Sharon plant  
A car in mind, a Ford?—  
A common laborer and then a shipping clerk, four  
years in the making,  
But a car I still couldn't afford!

World War II still on, Sharon Steel a call to the  
high school  
For workers to seek!  
Forty of our high school class to work we went  
Four to twelve-turn, three days a week!

The year 1950: Korean War, North and South start  
shooting  
The Army my service needed—  
Two years served, a military camp in Alabama as  
a corporal,  
With all orders heeded!

The G.I. Bill for military servicemen  
Will pay my way to college—  
Being born a Slovak Lutheran, my choice easy:  
The Lutheran Church supported Thiel College!

What college degree to seek at my old age of 23?—  
From eighth grade to high school a school teacher  
I wanted to be.

*"A Thiel Alum Remembers with Gratitude" was submitted for publication in the 2012 Phoenix, the Thiel College literary magazine, which publishes creative writing and artwork from students, faculty, staff and alumni of Thiel College. Volansky is a retired history teacher with the West Middlesex School District. He and his late wife, Mona, have two children, Cheryl (Garret) and Charles. He can be reached at 19 Haywood St., West Middlesex, PA 16159 or 724-528-3244.*



John Volansky during his "Thiel Days" in the 1950s.

Taking summer courses, in three years a teaching  
degree earned, not bought!  
My student teaching done at Jamestown High School  
With 11th-grade history courses taught.

At Thiel, the class size varied  
And one summer class—just one—me!  
The Professor said, "Just one?"  
The professor got paid, the class not free!  
(P.S.: I aced it!)

The Sigma Chapter of the Delta Sigma Phi  
Fraternity, a Brother was I,  
We took a fling—  
At the male-only College Spring Sing 1955  
Twenty Delta Sig Brothers, including yours truly,  
we did win the Sing!

In 1956, I said farewell to Thiel College  
I was hired, a high school teaching position—  
At age 83, I now thank all the professors  
For all they taught me, with vision!



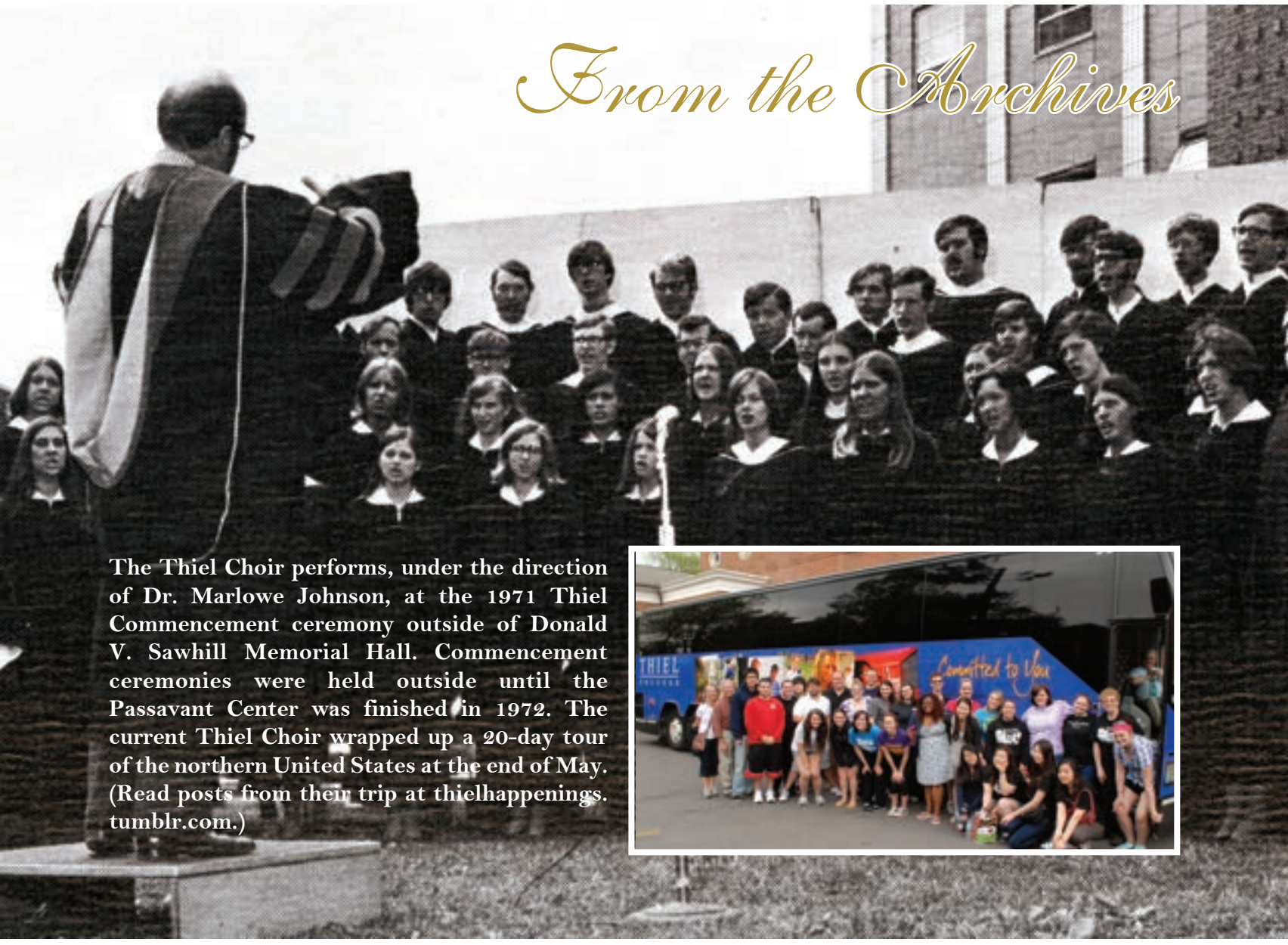
# THIEL

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## COLLEGE

75 College Avenue  
Greenville, PA 16125-2181

### *From the Archives*



The Thiel Choir performs, under the direction of Dr. Marlowe Johnson, at the 1971 Thiel Commencement ceremony outside of Donald V. Sawhill Memorial Hall. Commencement ceremonies were held outside until the Passavant Center was finished in 1972. The current Thiel Choir wrapped up a 20-day tour of the northern United States at the end of May. (Read posts from their trip at [thielhappenings.tumblr.com](http://thielhappenings.tumblr.com).)

