

TRAILBLAZERS:
Professor Miller, Pitt
Chancellor Nordenberg
create legacy of success
at Thiel College p. 6

FOUR-TITUDE: Football,
men's basketball thrill
with quadruple OT
wins p. 24

BRAIN CENTER: Inaugural
Haer Symposium focuses
on neuroscience p. 14

Thiel College Magazine for Alumni & Friends

SPRING 2014

The Bell

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Pedas Communication Center
opens this fall p. 18



A Message from the President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Now that the winter months have finally subsided, we look forward with great anticipation to the renewal that spring always brings to Thiel College. As another exciting semester comes to a close, I realize that Thiel College is growing in new and exciting directions and I am struck by the transformation taking place on our campus. Our commitment to growth and progress has never been stronger. During the 140th Commencement ceremony in May, we bestowed undergraduate degrees upon 185 new graduates – now proud alumni who are growing in new and exciting directions right along with us!

We are nearing the completion of the James Pedas Communication Center in July. The Pedas Center marks a pivotal milestone in Thiel's history, for it is not only the first new academic building in 40 years, but it is a vital new resource that will help ensure our students a place among the most prepared for a technologically complex world. This new building will serve as an academic hub for Thiel students across all majors to acquire communication literacy skill and presentational proficiency across a myriad of multi-media learning capabilities. This issue of *The Bell* features this new academic building which coincides with the debut of our new core curriculum.

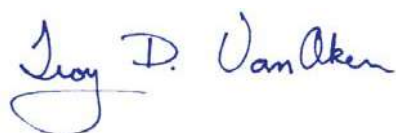
In February, Thiel College hosted a first-ever Science Summit, which brought together leaders from across the college community to learn, to discuss challenges and opportunities, and dare to dream about the prospects of building a new Science Center on campus. There was overwhelming consensus by summit attendees that a new Science Center will indeed provide Thiel College with the competitive advantage to attract and enroll academically well-prepared high school students, and create exciting new interdisciplinary synergies.

Important projects such as the Pedas Center and a new Science Center ultimately thrive on the generosity of the Thiel Family. We were pleased with the results of our Thiel Fund Challenge this year advancing the Thiel Commitment to exceptional academic liberal arts experiences. Our success was due in large part to the benevolence of certain proud Thiel College graduates and friends who pledged to match every new dollar that our alumni and friends contributed to The Thiel Fund—including gifts from last year, and all new donations this year. It even included a 24-hour 2:1 match period, in which responses were phenomenal!

Mark your calendars and plan to "Discover the Difference" at Thiel College during Homecoming Weekend on October 3-5, 2014 where we will also honor our Class of 1964 50th Anniversary Class. Be a part of the celebration for the newly-renovated Howard Miller Student Center Master's Dining Room—a Class of 2014 gift to the College, and enjoy a tailgate lunch on the Alumni Stadium lawn before the football game, take in the Homecoming Parade and football game vs. St. Vincent College.

One of the best aspects of being President of this fine institution is to have the opportunity each day to experience firsthand the difference we are making in the lives of our students. We invite you to come back and "Discover the Difference," too, the excellence that characterizes our people, programs, and our new learning environments.

I hope you will join me in congratulating our most recent grads and that your sense of pride in Thiel College will be renewed and energized as you enjoy this Spring 2014 edition of *The Bell* Magazine.



Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.
President



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LIGHT OF THE WORLD, WORD OF GOD



University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark Nordenberg and Thiel College Professor David Miller p. 6

SPRING 2014

2 CAMPUS NEWS

Accounting Consortium	2
Dietrich Honors Institute Update	4
Alumnus and Pitt Chancellor Mark Nordenberg Honored	6
Spring Break 2014 Service Trip	8
Thiel Announces Initiative to Endow Chair	10
Profile of Distinction	11
Thiel Lifetime Giving Society	12
Haer Family Symposium	14
Rev. Jayne Thompson	15

**16 DR. ROY STRAUSBAUGH RECEIVES
PRESTIGIOUS HONORARY DEGREE**

18 PEDAS CENTER

20 ATHLETIC NEWS

27 ALUMNI NEWS

32 CLASS NOTES

36 FINAL WORD

ON THE COVER:

Thiel College is pleased to present the new James Pedas Communication Center which opens to students this fall. This is our first new academic building in 40 years.



Accounting Consortium helps pave the way for practical, real-world experiences

by Vicky Cousley

Molly Jo Everett's senior year at Thiel College was not marked with the uncertainty and anxiety of many of her classmates who would be soon starting their career hunt in earnest.

The accounting and business administration/forensic accounting major from Medina, Ohio walked across the stage and accepted her diploma knowing she had a job, thanks to an internship she had last summer through the Accounting Consortium. On the last day of her internship she found out she would have a job when she graduated – almost a full year in advance. She interned with and will be working as a staff auditor for Grossman, Yanak and Ford LLP in Pittsburgh.

Everett and several of her classmates got a leg up in the job hunt because nearly two decades ago, Thiel and 10 other small colleges banded together to give their accounting students the best chance they could at getting a job.

"The Accounting Consortium process was an amazing experience," Everett said. "Going through the consortium relieved a huge stress from me my senior year."

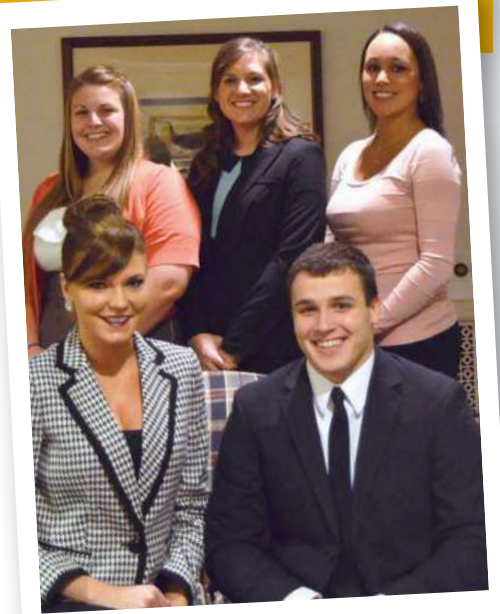
The faith-based schools combined efforts in 1995 to allow employers who don't have the manpower or time to recruit at smaller schools to meet qualified candidates from those institutions. The result: overwhelming success. In fact, Thiel College last fall tied for the top number of students who received interviews through the consortium, Martin Black, associate dean of career development, said.

The Consortium, which includes Carlow, St. Francis, Seton Hill and Waynesburg universities and Geneva, Juniata, LaRoche, Mt. Aloysius, St. Vincent and Westminster colleges, boasts a placement opportunity of 200 students a year in internships and full-time jobs.

"When I was a student in the '70s, most companies didn't have the resources to recruit on campus at the smaller schools. That was the genesis of this. Those schools banded together and said 'We'll go to them,'" said Gary Witosky '79, associate professor of business administration and accounting at Thiel.

The consortium uses a unique system to allow both sides to have a choice in the interview process. Early each school year, accounting majors polish their resumes and choose the companies with which they would like to interview. That information goes to the consortium coordinators, who pass it along to the firms. Representatives of those companies in turn select who they want to interview.

Both sides get together in Pittsburgh for interview day. Students can then be called back for a second interview at the company's offices. An average of 20 companies per year participate, said Heather Balas, Thiel's director of career development.



Pictured are front row: Samantha Hoffman and Ryan Carson; back row: Molly Jo Everett, Jenna Green, and Hillary Hambleton (left to right). All five took advantage of Thiel College's involvement in the Accounting Consortium to graduate with jobs or gain internships.

It's a unique opportunity not available to students in other fields of study. Balas said similar setups for math, science and information technology majors are in their infancy.

Consortium candidates are required to have a 3.0 QPA and have completed at least 60 credits. In addition, accounting students must show their commitment to earning 150 additional credits toward "sitting" for their Certified Public Accountant exams.

The consortium also wants to ensure that candidates bring a well-rounded background to the table. According to



its website, the Accounting Consortium looks for candidates who have a solid core of ethics provided by their faith-based courses. They want to see a strong sense of community and an involvement beyond the classroom. In short, the consortium wants to offer candidates who show the leadership and communication skills it feels smaller colleges encourage and provide.

The Thiel students who secured positions from last fall's consortium are prime examples of just that. All are involved in humanitarian projects through Greek life, or participate in athletics or student government groups. All are members of various – and numerous – academic honor societies.

Hillary Hambleton, of Geneva, Ohio, who earned her degree in business administration and accounting this spring, garnered five interviews in the fall. She received four callbacks and accepted a position as a staff accountant at KFMR Certified Public Accountants and Business Consultants, Pittsburgh. Joining her is Jenna Green, Adamsville, Pa., who also graduated with her business administration and accounting degree.

The young women knew in the middle of the fall semester that they had jobs upon graduation. Green noted the feeling of empowerment – and relief – that knowledge gives.

Samantha Hoffman, Slippery Rock, Pa., went through the process last fall and will be an intern with Grossman, Yanak and Ford this summer. Her six interviews resulted in four callbacks. She said she knew at the end of the day that she was “really comfortable” with Grossman, Yanak and Ford, and that the firm was her first choice. It is not her first internship; she served last summer with a local company in an opportunity made possible by one of her accounting professors.

Both Hambleton and Green served internships arranged through Balas' office. Witosky noted the importance of that in all fields, but particularly in accounting. Most firms who grant a student an

internship will make every attempt to hire that graduate for a full-time position, he noted.

That's just the scenario Ryan Carson is hoping for in his future. Ryan, a senior

business administration and accounting and forensic accounting major, will serve an internship this summer with ParenteBeard, Pittsburgh. The Hopewell, Pa., native did four interviews during last fall's consortium.

All the students who received opportunities through the Accounting Consortium made special note of the important roles their professors and the career services staff played in their success.

“Business majors are set here.”

– Ryan Carson, 2014 Accounting, Business Administration and Forensic Accounting Major

“There is such a push for us to go to a lot of events ... seminars, lectures, internship fairs. And we're given so much time on a one-on-one basis. I honestly don't think I would have gotten an interview, or even known there were that many firms out there, without their help,” Carson said.

Hambleton added that many of the business department professors are always on the lookout for opportunities for their students. Not only available for advice and professional knowledge, they often contact individuals they know in firms to “talk up” their students.

“It's obvious they want us to succeed,” Hambleton said.

Green remembered a particularly bad day at her internship last year. Not knowing what else to do, she called a favorite professor at his home, simply to hear a friendly voice.

“There I was, on my front porch, telling him my troubles. He could have told me he was at home and didn't want bothered, but he didn't. He told me everything would be OK,” she recalled.

“They're not just professors, they're friends,” Green said.

All of the students lauded the efforts of Thiel alum and PNC Bank retiree Sandy Parker as another player in their success stories. In conjunction with the department and career services, Parker regularly visits campus to videotape students in practice interviews and critiques them to improve their appearance and demeanor.

“I was really nervous. I'd never had an interview opportunity before. She really helped me learn what to do and what not to do,” Hoffman said.

Witosky noted the importance of the practice interviews, along with resume building and honing networking skills – all things Thiel business students receive in abundance.

“It's one thing to get an opportunity. It's another to connect with it,” he said.

This school year, Thiel had the most accounting students it has had since 2009, Witosky said. Fortunately, statistics show there is no dearth of accounting jobs available now or for the future.

The American Institute of CPAs reported last year that accounting grads are “enjoying an unprecedented level of demand.” It noted that 40,350 newly graduated accountants were hired in 2012. Undergraduate and graduate degrees in accounting were at their highest level in 40 years, according to an institute survey. In addition, The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor is forecasting an 11.4 percent growth in accounting employment opportunities through 2022.

If the trend of faculty and staff commitment and student achievement at Thiel continues, the school's graduates have a good chance of landing many of those opportunities.

“Business majors are set here,” Carson said.



Heather Balas, Thiel director of career development, wants alumni to know they too can take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Accounting Consortium, and are eligible to take part in the consortium's Interview Day held each fall. More information is available by visiting www.accountingconsortium.org or by contacting her at hbalas@thiel.edu.

A Dietrich Honors Institute Update: “WE’VE GOT OUR GAME ON”

by Dr. Curt Thompson, Dietrich Honors Institute Director

Last year at this time, the Dietrich Honors Institute was still very much a work in progress. It was just getting off the ground. Many people knew the DHI was made possible by a generous gift from William Dietrich II – the largest gift in Thiel College’s 148-year history—and that an Honors program had been active at Thiel College for three decades; but last year the task of bringing Honors at Thiel College to a bigger and better level had just begun. At that point, the new initiative had been underway only five months. This year things are much different. Students recruited as part of its first class have finished their second semester. Therefore, the DHI reports that “We’ve got our game on now.” Having its game on means many things for the DHI.

First, it means that the DHI has some basics in place. The DHI’s emphasis is on informing, forming, and transforming, which is reflected in its motto: “Where ideas, character, and action form leaders for the world.” Informing happens through ideas, forming shapes character, and transforming takes place through action. The essential learning outcomes of the DHI curriculum are tied to those three areas. A second basic in place is all the gifts entering students have shared with DHI. Those gifts are varied; they make for a beautifully diverse community. A third basic is the DHI curriculum. An exciting set of Honors courses—which serve as Thiel College’s general education requirement for Honors students—are being taught. Four of the DHI courses are taught in the first year. In the fall semester of the freshman year Honors students take two DHI courses. The first is *Becoming Human: Love, Power, Justice*. This is an ethics course and it’s unusual because in the fall semester all the new DHI students were in that class so they could get to know one another. Curt Thompson, DHI Director, and Lisa Walton, DHI Assistant Director, taught the class, which most found quite enjoyable. The second class taught in the first semester was *Communicating Effectively: Grammar, Dialectic (or Logic), Rhetoric*, which concentrates on written communication. In the spring semester two DHI courses were taught. *Creating Culture: Ancient, Medieval, Modern* is a history of western humanities course, and *Interpreting Scriptures: Jewish, Christian, Islamic studies the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, and the Qur’an*. The DHI curriculum includes two more courses in each of the sophomore and junior years, one elective, and one senior

year course in which each student produces and shares with the broader community a significant creative project. A fourth basic is professors. Each DHI course is taught by a tenured or tenure-track faculty member, who has expressed his or her appreciation for working with DHI students.

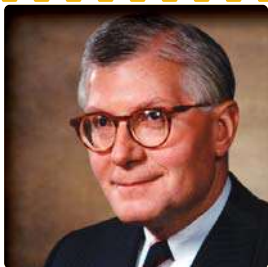
Second, having its game on means the DHI has developed teamwork. DHI courses are taught in the seminar style, which fosters great conversation over big ideas. Dynamic interchange allows students and professors to get to know one another really well. Of course, educating in life takes place outside of class as well. DHI Scholars have the option of living in Hodge Hall, a terrific residence hall that is a great setting for social development—an integral part of the college experience—but it’s also a setting for continuing the great conversation over big ideas. In this first year, three-fourths of the DHI students lived in Hodge. Students also meet up at the Symposium for Excellence. This is a weekly gathering for all DHI Scholars. About 30 to 40 students each week stop by the symposium. Upcoming events are discussed and socializing with others in the DHI and with Friends of DHI

happens as well. These forums usually feature a little food, but more importantly represent a time when questions about class material or general concerns can be discussed with a DHI leader or upperclass student.

Third, a sign that the DHI has its game on is that it’s got flow. This is facilitated by an active relational network. The DHI utilizes Facebook, Twitter, Moodle, and emails to keep in touch with the DHI Scholars about the DHI and upcoming events. The DHI service project is currently centered on raising funds to support the Malaria Campaign of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A 5K Race-Walk was held at Homecoming in October 2013 and the DHI sponsored a Jungle Glow dance in April featuring DJ AT of Chicago to raise money for the malaria campaign. Helping enable the DHI flow is also the extras of co- and extra-curricular activities, like kayaking, culture-enhancing field trips—to Chicago and New York City in 2013 and Washington D.C. and Toronto this year—and attending a year-end DHI awards banquet that is held in conjunction with the Honors students presenting their creative research projects. In addition, in place is an ambassadors program featuring DHI Scholars selected to represent the Institute in many different settings. At the governing level of the Institute, students can serve on the DHI Student Advisory Board as well as the DHI Honors Council. And finally, the DHI Study Abroad program was launched in May 2013 with a trip to Italy. The level of support for those traveling was very generous. A similar trip to Greece took place in May.

“Where ideas, character, and action form leaders for the world.”

– Dr. Curt Thompson, Dietrich Honors Institute Director



Those associated with the Dietrich Honors Institute are filled with excitement and expectation. The positive spirit of the DHI students has now become the primary force driving the Institute forward.

Thiel College has recently approved a curricular game-plan that will improve education, so that students receive an even more excellent liberal arts education. The Dietrich Honors Institute wants to be at the leading edge of Thiel College's pursuit of academic excellence. It recruited 60 students into the DHI this past fall. This year—now that it's got its game on—it's looking to recruit 75 students. The Institute is envisioned as a place where students are encouraged to be involved in numerous non-DHI activities. Talented students are coming to Thiel College with abilities from across the full spectrum of gifts. Many of them are athletes who wonder if they can participate in their sport and in Honors, and the DHI responds, "Most definitely." Some want to be in a sport and choir and drama and journalism. The DHI counsels that each student has to be the judge of what he or she can handle, but it does encourage as much involvement as possible. Activities enrich a student's education, so the DHI supports broad engagement.

Finally, a big reason the DHI has got its game on is that it has got support. Thiel College was blessed by Dietrich's gift of \$25 million, and the Dietrich Honors Institute was created because he asked that, at least initially, the proceeds of his gift go to Honors education. So the DHI has got financial support. The DHI also has a staff in place that allows it to keep things running smoothly. It needs to be said that the DHI has got its game on because the Institute has been a labor of love on the part of the whole campus: President Troy VanAken, Academic Vice President Lynn Franken, Student Life Vice President Mike McKinney and other administrators have been major supporters, but so have colleagues in the faculty and among the staff. The Dietrich Honors Institute will move into a new home on the second floor of Greenville Hall this summer. Offices, together with a lounge/workspace for students, and a classroom will become available for DHI use in the 2014-2015 academic year. The space will be equipped with cutting-edge technology

and tables and chairs to facilitate seminar classroom activity by day and student studying by night.

Those associated with the Dietrich Honors Institute are filled with excitement and expectation. The positive spirit of the DHI students has now become the primary force driving the Institute forward. All involved now feel and know that since the DHI has its game on, they want to maintain the momentum. All of the participants celebrate the DHI's evolution and appreciate daily the multi-dimensional impact of William Dietrich's gift.



Scan the QR code to find out more about **William S. Dietrich II** and his gift to Thiel College.

Thiel College Newsroom makes staying current easy

Getting Thiel College news is easier than ever with the Communication and Marketing Department's Newsroom. The Thiel College Newsroom is the official media resource for promotion of the College's messages to prospective students and parents, the media, alumni, donors and other publics. The three most current items in the Newsroom are centrally located on the home page and below that is a link to the full Newsroom.

Vice President of Communication and Marketing Jacquelyn Muller said, "The Newsroom is a resource for everyone, not just the media. It gives Thiel College a clear, reliable and distinct voice in communicating the Thiel Commitment to excellence."

Bookmark the Newsroom to get up-to-date press releases sent to

local, regional and national media outlets that can be viewed as they are released. Students, alumni, staff, faculty and friends of Thiel can all read Thiel College news before it hits the papers or is broadcast. The Newsroom contains links to the Press Kit so quick access important fact sheets and basic information about Thiel College and its academic programs is always available. Also available is the current library of digital publications.

The Newsroom features a photo archive – a collection of high resolution photos that showcase campus life, buildings, official College logos, and more that can be easily downloaded for your purposes.



Visit online at www.thiel.edu/newsroom

Distinguished Alumnus and Pitt Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg honored as one of Thiel College's Finest at Founders' Day Celebration

Receives Louis and Barbara V. Thiel Award for Distinguished Service

Mark Nordenberg '70, H '97 has been widely recognized for his efforts at revitalizing the University of Pittsburgh, and in February Thiel College took its turn acknowledging the Chancellor and Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh.

Nordenberg, who has amassed a long list of professional, civic and academic honors in his 18 years at the helm of the University of Pittsburgh, was honored at Thiel College's annual Founder's Day Celebration with the Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award. He earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Thiel College in 1970 and then his law degree, from the University of Wisconsin. The smaller student population at Thiel College opened opportunities for athletic and academic success he might not have had on larger campuses. He ran cross country and lettered as a freshman and joined the debate team as a senior.

He joined the faculty of Pitt's School of Law in 1977 and eventually served as Dean of Pitt's School of Law and as Interim Provost of the University. In 1994, he was elevated to the special faculty rank of Distinguished Service Professor. In 1995, he was elected Interim

Chancellor by the University's Board of Trustees, and in 1996, following a national search, he was elected Chancellor. Nordenberg announced that he would step down from that office this summer, marking the end of nineteen years of service. Nordenberg has received two distinctive forms of recognition from the Pitt Board of Trustees. In June 2005, trustees, alumni leaders and other special friends contributed \$2.5 million to endow an academic chair in his name and in October 2012, Pitt announced the naming of the newest residence hall in his honor and the creation of an endowed scholarship fund bearing his name. Even more recently, he received the 2013 Exemplary Leader Award from the Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership of the University's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs from Glenn and Lavonne Johnson, a former Thiel College trustee, benefactor and friend.

“Thiel provided me with special opportunities to learn and to grow.” – Chancellor Mark Nordenberg '70

“Close relationships with capable and caring faculty members were one of the defining qualities of the Thiel experience for me.” The Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to individuals 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.

“Thiel provided me with special opportunities to learn and to grow. A very important part of that learning occurred in the classroom,” said Nordenberg. “In addition, I was able to participate in a broad range of extracurricular activities that gave me the chance to develop a better understanding of interpersonal relations, effective communication skills and leadership abilities.”

For a decade, Nordenberg served as a member of the Thiel College Board of Trustees from 1987 to 1997, and he received a Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from the College in 1988.



In 1997, he served as Thiel College's commencement speaker and was the recipient of an honorary degree. He also was the keynote speaker at the inauguration of President Troy D. VanAken in April of 2010.

“I have strong memories of the ways in which a significant number of faculty members took a real interest in me.”

– Chancellor Mark Nordenberg '70

“Clearly the very best thing that I took from Thiel was an absolutely wonderful partner-for-life – Dr. Nikki (Pirillo) Nordenberg.”

It was not just academics at Thiel College that made an impact on his life. Nordenberg met his wife of 43 years, Nikki (Pirillo) Nordenberg '71 on campus. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and later earned a master's degree from Duquesne University and a Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. She is the founder of the Career Services Center of the Allegheny County Bar Association and is a co-founder of LEAD – Pittsburgh, an organization committed to dealing with the many facets of depression, including its impact on college students. The Nordenbergs were married in 1971 and have three adult children and three grandsons.



1 University of Pittsburgh Chancellor and Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh Mark Nordenberg '70, H '97 was awarded the Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award during Thiel College's Founder's Day celebration in February. 2 Mark Nordenberg joined the speech and debate team during his senior year. 3 Mark Nordenberg's Thiel College senior photo. 4 University of Pittsburgh Chancellor and Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Pittsburgh Mark Nordenberg '70, H '97 met his wife Nikki (Pirillo) Nordenberg '71 while they were both students at Thiel College. They have been married for 43 years and have three adult children and three grandsons. 5 Chairman of the Thiel College Board of Trustees Mark Benninghoff '82 (left), University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark Nordenberg '70, H '97 and Thiel College President Troy D. VanAken pose together during Thiel College's Founders' Day celebration in February.



The Thiel College Nicaraguan Experience: Spring Break 2014 Service Trip

by Sean Oros and Dr. David Buck, History Department Chair

During spring break, Dr. David Buck, associate professor of history and department chair, led a group of ten Thiel College students on a service trip to Nicaragua: Amanda Bauer, Elliott Beach, Keeley Criswell, Jenna Ehrlich, Suelen Gutierrez, Dan McFetridge, Sean Oros, Tom Pulice, Keith Stover, and Brittany Sudnick. Working with Compas de Nicaragua, a non-profit organization based in New Hampshire, the Thiel College party learned a great deal about Nicaraguan culture and, by comparison, the affluence that Americans enjoy. The most important lesson, perhaps, lies in the phrase that Dr. Buck used repeatedly; through the comparisons in culture, we learned that, after all, "it's all relative."

One service project was shadowing a "Women in Action" family for the day. Women in Action is a cooperative group of about 40 women who are organizing health, education and income generating programs in the La Primavera settlement in Managua. Dietrich Honors Institute student Sean Oros spent the day with Leslie, Marvin, her husband, three daughters and son. Their house was a tin-walled structure with a dirt floor, to one side was a workshop for Marvin's TV circuit repair job and to the other side was the sink and toilet. Everything was open. The other houses in the area were similar. Sean spent

the day learning what a typical day was like for Leslie cooking and playing with her children.

The group's next stop was the community of La Paz, a farming community cooperative and base of Compas de Nicaragua. Primary hosts, Jorge and Wilmer, two of the local farmers, led us on a hiking tour of the La Murallas hills trudging over fields and through forests, following rugged footpaths from which Volcan Momba chocolate could be seen rising in the distance. In La Paz, one of the projects the Thiel group assisted with was completing a methane bio-gas system used for basic cooking. The system was comprised of a series of protective plastic bags set in the ground, connected to containers on either end. A 50/50 mixture of water and manure ran through it from one side to the other, releasing methane on the way and collecting it in the central bag. A pipe channels the methane to the house, and the refuse that exits the far end forms a potent fertilizer used for fields and gardens alike. As a result, at each stage the manure is put to use, maximizing efficiency. The students helped construct the casing for one of these systems and collected roughly thirty-five sacks of manure to start it with; it was hard work at times, but certainly worth it. The ingenuity of this system was very eye-opening, making use of everything possible without waste.

In addition to a variety of service projects, the students took time for tourism adventures taking advantage of a zip lining excursion over a volcanic crater lake in downtown Managua. During a 'break' day swimming and hiking around Laguna de Apoyo, a volcanic crater lake between Managua and Granada, were a treat. Another excursion took the group up the slopes of Volcan Masaya, an active volcano, the crater of which emitted so much smoke and gas that inside was indiscernible. Hiking up the side one of the dormant craters, rising high over the landscape, we could see a number of the local cities and lakes. It was a phenomenal view, especially for those who pushed ahead and climbed up to the highest ridge.

Overall, our group will never regret having taken this adventure or having attempted to experience as much as possible while on it. We made friends and experiences in Nicaragua that we will carry with us for the rest of our lives. Altogether, the spring break trip was a marvelous success. There were many tears from students and host families alike when we parted ways, but the memories created between us will persist, despite the geography that divides Thiel College and Nicaragua.



Students at the Crater Lake



Biogas System

Volcan Masaya

Location: Masaya

Picture Taken: Suelen Gutierrez

Biogas System

Students carrying biogas "bladder"

Location: La Paz

Pictured: Jenna Ehrlich, Suelen Gutierrez,

Elliott Beach, Thomas Pulice

Photo Taken: Amanda Baur

Students at the Crater Lake

Location: Laguna de Apoyo

Pictured: Brittany Sudnick, Keith Stover,

Dan McFeteridge, Keeley Criswell,

Amanda Baur, Elliot Beach, Suelen Gutierrez,

Jenna Ehrlich, Thomas Pulice, Sean Oros

Photo Taken: David Buck

Shadowing Sean

Sean Oros Shadowing Women in Action

Location: La Primavera, Managua

Pictured: Sean Oros and Leslie

Working on Biogas

Installing Biogas pit

Location: La Paz

Pictured: Front: Elliot Beach, Sean Oros,

Brittany Sudnick

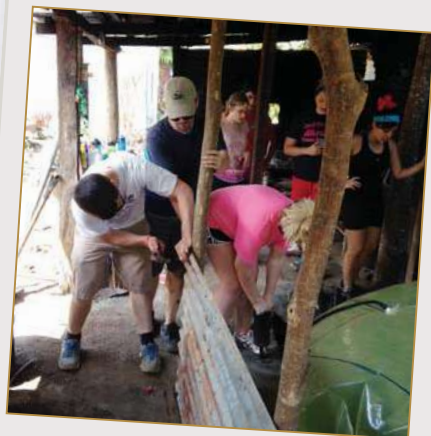
Back: Keeley Criswell, Dan McFeteridge,

Jenna Ehrlich, Suelen Gutierrez

Picture Taken: David Buck



Shadowing Sean



Working on Biogas



For more information about
Compas de Nicaragua please visit:
www.compas1.org/home.html.

If you are interested in joining or supporting a
future service trip to Nicaragua, please contact
Dr. David Buck: dbuck@thiel.edu.

Thiel College Announces Initiative to Endow Chair in Name and Honor of Professor David Miller

Professor David Miller was the guest of honor among some of Thiel College's most accomplished alumni and generous donors at a luncheon during Commencement weekend. The guests were on hand to hear the announcement of the launch of an initiative to raise \$1 million to endow a chair in Professor Miller's name and honor.

Miller is a professor of economics and business administration and the Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics and chair for the accounting and business administration department. Miller is a 1961 graduate of Thiel College and has been teaching at the school since 1963. He is the longest serving professor in Thiel College's 148-year history. Miller has had the largest faculty student advising load for the last 20 years, covering nearly 10 percent of the 1,100 students on campus. He has taught more classes, advised more students and served more years than any professor in Thiel College's history.

President Troy D. VanAken said, "The naming of a chair for an individual is one of the highest honors a college can bestow. This recognition is a lasting and powerful affirmation of Professor Miller's unquestioned integrity, dedication and long-standing connection to Thiel College's mission. This is the first time Thiel College has



Professor David Miller '61 and his wife, Ruth, stand with Thiel College president Troy VanAken and his wife, Anette, after the announcement of the College's initiative to name an academic chair in honor of Miller, who has taught at Thiel College for 51 years.

undertaken an effort like this to fund an academic chair and it is fitting that is for a one-of-a-kind person like Professor Miller."

Miller has served as the director of the Haller Enterprise Institute since its inception as the Thiel Enterprise Institute. He is the first professor to hold an endowed academic chair at Thiel; is the 1990 recipient of the Sears-Roebuck Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award; and in October 1999, he received the Service to Thiel Award from the Thiel Alumni Association. Miller earned his MBA in 1962 from the University of Pittsburgh where he was awarded a full fellowship.

Miller and his wife, Ruth, have two adult children and live in Jamestown, Pa.



Thiel College Names Theresa M. Law as Vice President for College Advancement

Thiel College is pleased to announce the appointment of Theresa M. Law, JD, CFRE, who has been named vice president for college advancement on March 3.

Law brings more than 17 years of expertise in philanthropic efforts including the development, major gifts, and grants arena. She joins Thiel College from York, Pa.-based Well Span Health, where she most recently served as the Executive Director of Philanthropy and Executive Director for the York Health Foundation. Previously, Law was the Director of Major Gifts and Grants for the Greater Baltimore Medical Foundation in Baltimore, and held the position of Development Director at Valparaiso University, in Valparaiso, Ind.

"We are delighted to welcome Theresa Law as the newest addition to our college's leadership team," said President Troy D. VanAken. "Thiel College

looks forward to benefitting from her leadership and philanthropic expertise to build and sustain important advancement initiatives upcoming on behalf of Thiel College."

As the institution's chief advancement officer, Law will supervise all fundraising and alumni relations activities; cultivate prospective major donors; and work in concert with the President's Cabinet to accomplish strategic priorities across the institution.

Law earned her Juris Doctor degree from Tulane Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree in government from the University of Notre Dame.



THIEL COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES PROFILE OF DISTINCTION

Michael G. Zawoysky, Class of 1979

Michael G. Zawoysky '79 resides in Louisville, KY and graduated from Thiel College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting and business administration. Originally from the North Hills of Pittsburgh, he started his career in the steel industry as a Junior Staff Accountant in the city. Throughout his career, Mike attributes impeccable timing and willingness to step out of his comfort zone that led to fortuitous positions in North America, Europe and Asia. He resided in nine cities in the United States throughout his career, along with international stops along the way. He has worked in industries as varied as steel, health and scientific, waste, and retail. For the past 18 years, Mike has been a leader in the retail industry with such organizations as Foot Locker, AC Moore Arts and Crafts and currently, CEO of Shoe Sensation Inc., a regional chain of family shoe stores selling quality name-brand shoes with 93 locations in 14 states and approximately 700 employees.

What faculty significantly impacted your education/life at Thiel College?

Professor David Miller helped me understand the importance of a strong foundation to build upon for professional and personal growth.

Favorite memory of your time at Thiel College?

The lifelong friendships that were rooted in my freshman year not only remain strong today, but have been expanded to include spouses and children. During my daughter's K-12 years, each summer we vacationed with five classmates and their families in the Outer Banks. For one week each year, my daughter had the benefit of nine additional brothers and sisters, and an entire set of aunts and uncles. Even though we are dispersed across the United States, my Thiel College friends, spouses, and children all continue to stay in contact. I think there are many fellow alumni who have developed similar lifelong relationships with their circle of friends as evidenced during my trips back to campus for various events.

What is your proudest moment?

Of all the professional successes that I have attained in my career, not one comes anywhere near the milestone of being married 30 years to my wife, Vicki, this coming November!

What do you enjoy in your spare time?

Spending quality time with my wife and our family! Fortunately, we possess similar interests with hobbies, sports, travel and entertainment that we can share together!

Describe your areas of interest related to Thiel College through your service on our Board of Trustees?

Truthfully, I am interested in providing my time and talents to making all areas at Thiel College successful. But, the one that truly stands out is establishing the Endowed Chair in honor of Professor David Miller. His dedication, passion and commitment to the college are truly remarkable and unparalleled!

When were you appointed to the Board and how long is your term?

I was appointed in the fall of 2013 and am currently halfway through my first year of a three year term. The first year has been very enlightening. Our trustees are engaged, committed and passionate. Everyone wants to make Thiel College a better place each and every day.

From your vantage point as an alumnus, and now a trustee, what advice would you be willing to offer Thiel College students pursuing their degree?

Challenge yourself! Reach beyond your comfort zone in your selection of classes and contacts that you make. You never know what may pique your interest or who may be able to help you advance.

What advice can you offer to Thiel College that can help it sustain its upward trajectory and focus on building new learning environments?

Continue to reach out to the broader college community. We have more than 10,000 alumni, many of whom are untapped resources, yet want to be involved in continuing to make Thiel College an outstanding choice for higher learning!

What is the "one thing" you like best about Thiel College today?

The commitment that I have observed from EVERYONE associated with the college to making it a better place all around. With so many choices available for prospective students today, it truly takes the commitment and team effort by the administration, faculty, staff, current students, alumni and community leaders to sustain Thiel College as a thriving institution. Fortunately in the Fall of 2013, the college had the foresight to put together a strategic plan built on four solid pillars 1) Academic Excellence and Relevance 2) A Culture of Caring and Confidence 3) Enhanced Facilities and Infrastructure 4) Superior Delivery of Programs and Services that the entire college community has embraced.



Thiel College Lifetime Giving Society

Thiel College President Troy VanAken recently unveiled plans for the college's most prestigious donor recognition organization, The Thiel College Lifetime Giving Society, which will honor the college's largest benefactors.

The announcement was made at a recognition dinner on the eve of the school's 140th commencement. That assembly represented \$12 million in giving, the most ever represented by one group at a Thiel event.

Through the Societies, Thiel College honors the leadership and sustained extraordinary support of alumni, friends, faculty and staff. Private donors play a pivotal role in shaping the college's future, and the Societies provide a golden opportunity to recognize its most generous supporters. Individuals are inducted into one of five societies named in honor of prominent benefactors who shaped the history of Thiel College. Like those enlightened benefactors, Societies members have made a special commitment to give back to Thiel College and to reinforce Thiel College's stature as a leading independent, private, liberal arts, sciences and professional studies institution.

The Lifetime Giving Society comprises five levels of giving, each of which derives its name from key leaders from across the nearly 150-year history of the College:

- **The Thiel Society**
more than \$1 million in gifts in their lifetime
- **Brother Martin's Society**
\$500,000 to \$1 million
- **Sister Katherine Society**
\$250,000 to \$500,000
- **Roth Society**
\$100,000 to \$250,000
- **Passavant Society**
\$50,000 to \$100,000

In recognition that every gift is vital, The President's Circle also recognizes donors who offer more than \$1,000 annually.

President VanAken said, "We have been passionate in our focus to finalize a giving campaign which reflects the 'Thiel Commitment' to be among our nation's premier liberal arts and sciences colleges. Our unsung philanthropic heroes, year after year, create priceless opportunities for deserving students and faculty and members of Thiel College's lifetime giving societies know that their commitment to advancing knowledge at Thiel also advances the common good."



www.thiel.edu/giving/lifetime-giving-society



Dr. Christopher Stanisky

Chemistry Department grant for vacuum chamber will power interstellar detective work

A \$75,000 grant could help Thiel College students trace the origins of life on Earth back to another part of the universe.

The grant from the Orris C. and Beatrice Dewey Hirtzel Foundation will support the study of astrochemistry. Thiel College assistant professor of chemistry Dr. Christopher Stanisky and his students will use the grant to pay for constructing a vacuum chamber to create low pressure and low temperature conditions that simulate real-world reactions that occur in space.

“Outer space is no tranquil, peaceful void. High energy particles spanning a broad range of energies constantly emanate from stars and occasionally form supernovae. These particles permeate the entire universe. Colloquially known as cosmic rays, they include energetic electrons, protons, and heavy ions. When these particles collide with molecules in the interstellar medium or within solid surfaces, the molecules can become ionized or otherwise ‘activated,’ thus initiating interesting chemical reactions,” Stanisky said. “Cosmic rays, then, are a source of energy for myriad reactions that result in a complex mixture of reactive molecules throughout the universe.”

“Students will study the fascinating implications that arise when one considers that many molecules necessary for life, including amino acids and other biologically relevant molecules, can be found abundantly in terrestrial impact sites where meteorites have struck the earth,” Stanisky said. Satellites have also collected samples from the tails of passing comets, and analysis has indicated the presence of glycine (an amino acid) among other interesting molecules. And, such discoveries raise important and interesting questions about the origins of life in the universe. Were the materials necessary for life delivered to this planet by comets and meteorites? And if so, where else were they delivered?

Stanisky said that Thiel College is fortunate to have been the recipient of this important grant and we are grateful to the Hirtzel Foundation for their generosity to this project. Thiel students will have the benefit of using knowledge for the practical application of astrochemistry exploring problems scientifically in ways that push the boundaries of learning well beyond the classroom.

New Faculty Arrive at Thiel College

David Duriancik

Visiting Assistant Professor – Biology

Ron Anderson

Instructor for Math and Computer Science
(once he completes his Ph.D. requirements, he will be promoted to Assistant Professor)

Delbert Abi Abdallah

Assistant Professor – Biology

Jared Hanneman

Assistant Professor – Sociology

Shannon Deets

Visiting Assistant Professor – Psychology

Melissa Borgia

Assistant Professor – English

Greg Butcher

Chair and Associate Professor – Neuroscience

Karen Shaffer

Assistant Professor –
Business Administration and Accounting

John Gomolchak

Assistant Professor –
Business Administration and Accounting



Hall book review of Browning, Shakespeare comparison published

Professor of English and faculty chair Dr. Mary Theresa Hall’s book review of Josie Billington’s book titled “Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Shakespeare: ‘This is Living Art’” was recently published in *The Sixteenth-Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies* (vol. xlv, no. 4, winter 2013).

Teaching both British Literature I and II at Thiel College, Hall finds a book that studies select works of Shakespeare and Elizabeth Barrett Browning as companion pieces timely, eclectic, and useful both to her teaching and research as it draws stylistic thematic parallels between certain poetic works of the male Renaissance author William Shakespeare and the female Victorian author Browning.

Billington studies letters of Browning that acknowledge the benefits, creativity, and range of experience of Shakespeare and parallels sections of Browning’s poems with comparable ones of Shakespeare. Using quotes from Browning’s journal to substantiate her claims, Billington portrays a persona of Browning that is both self-reflective and appreciative of the value of approaching classical works from a cross-genre perspective that allows for the intersection of certain works and the specific topic under consideration. The book provides a critical approach that is unconventional and classical, refreshing and stylized, forcefully argued, carefully researched, and compellingly written. It underscores the gratification of researching and reviewing a contemporary critic whose work is centered on authors covered in a British Literature survey course on the collegiate level.

Thiel Hosts Inaugural Haer Family Symposium: The Neuroscience Series

On April 1 – 3, 2014, Thiel College sponsored the inaugural Haer Family Symposium: The Neuroscience Series, a three-part lecture event featuring world-renowned researchers and academic experts discussing “The Meaning of Citizenship and Opportunity in an Age of Neuroscientific Progress.”



The symposium took as its inspiration the lives and professional contributions of Thiel College alumni Fred Haer '65 and Jill Shackett Haer '66, whose various companies have advanced neuroscientific research and helped to develop new neurological and psychiatric therapies. The Haer Family Symposium served to inspire students, faculty, and staff to pursue innovative multidisciplinary research and apply their knowledge to break new ground in service to humanity.

Featured guest lecturers of The Neuroscience Series included: John Gale, Ph.D. of Biomedical Sciences, Assistant Staff, Department of Neuroscience and Center for Neurological Restoration and Assistant Professor, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University; Cameron McIntyre, Ph.D. of Biomedical Engineering, Tilles-Weidenthal Associate Professor in the School of Medicine, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Case Western Reserve University; and Emily Bell, Ph.D. of Neuroethics Research, Associate Researcher, Institut de recherches cliniques de Montreal.

The symposium was held in conjunction with the Community Medical Ethics Project, a collaboration between Thiel College, UPMC Horizon, and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville, providing platforms for residents in western Pennsylvania to learn more about medical ethics and how universal health-related issues and research can impact their lives.



THE 2014 THIEL COLLEGE CLASS GIFT

The 2014 Class Gift Committee worked with the Office of Alumni Relations and student life staff member, Ryan Prescott '12, to organize and encourage classmates to support the remodeling of the masters dining room to a sports bar themed dining area.

Committee members include front row left to right: Katie Fife, Lauren Richey, Leanna Yeager. Back row left to right: Ken Burns, Cory Swarmer, Seth Bell, Randy Jackson, Ryan Carson, Jaden Hollowman. Not pictured: Ryan Murphy, Shelby Gitchel.



Thiel Officially Welcomes Rev. Jayne Thompson as New Campus Pastor

Special Installation Service Part of "Celebrate Campus Ministry" Events

As part of its "Celebrate Campus Ministry" weekend on March 29 – 30, 2014, Thiel College hosted the installation service to welcome its new Campus Pastor, Rev. Jayne Thompson.

Rev. Thompson came to Thiel College in August 2013 from the University Lutheran Church of the Epiphany and Lutheran Campus Ministry in St. Cloud, Minn., where she served as campus congregation pastor since 2005. Previously, she served as campus pastor at Kansas State University. Before transitioning to campus ministry in higher education, Rev. Thompson was pastor for the Affirmation Lutheran Church, in Boca Raton, Fla. and associate pastor for the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Tampa.

At Thiel College, Rev. Thompson directs campus worship, advises ministry groups, provides pastoral care and spiritual information to the Thiel community, and facilitates the College's effort to identify and enroll Lutheran students. Pastor Thompson is a member of the faculty in the Department of Religion.

Held at the campus' David Johnson Memorial Chapel on March 30, Rev. Thompson's installation service commenced with a welcome message from Thiel College President Dr. Troy VanAken, with the Rev. Ralph E. Jones, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America's (ELCA) Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, and the Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow, Bishop of the ELCA's Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, presiding.

First Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, the Rev. Dr. Herb Chilstrom, provided a sermon during the service and hosted a conversation and book signing of his memoir *A Journey of Grace: The Formation of a Leader and a Church*, at a reception following the service in the Lutheran Heritage Room of the Howard Miller Student Center.

Rev. Thompson's installation service was a highlight of Thiel's "Celebrate Campus Ministry" weekend, which kicked off on March 29 with a free concert in the William A. Passavant Center by Christian speedwood band *Lost & Found*.



An archived video of Rev. Thompson's installation service is available for viewing on the Thiel College website at this address: www.thiel.edu/celebrate.

ELCA and ecumenical ministers (first row from left to right) The Rev. Kurt Kusserow '85; Bishop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod The Rev. Erin Evans; Pastor, Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greenock, PA The Rev. Jayne M. Thompson The Rev. Gail Zackrinson; Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Grove City, PA The Rev. Michael Lozano; Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Sharon, PA Second row from left to right: The Rev. Brian Evans '03; Pastor First English Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, PA The Rev. Dr. Ralph Jones H '05; Bishop, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod The Rev. Bill Kirker; Chaplain, Saint Paul's Homes, Greenville, PA The Rev. Dr. Herbert Chilstrom H '95; Former and First Presiding Bishop, ELCA The Rev. Dr. George Branch Trevathan; Lecturer of Religion, Director of The Learning Commons, Thiel College The Rev. Tedd Cogar; Campus Pastor, Indiana University PA

Thiel Trustee Emeritus and Commencement Speaker Dr. Roy Strausbaugh Receives Prestigious Honorary Degree



Roy Strausbaugh, Ph.D., Trustee Emeritus and former Chair of the Board of Trustees at Thiel College, received an honorary Doctor of Humanities during the College's 140th Commencement on Sunday, May 4. Strausbaugh also served as commencement speaker, addressing the Thiel College Class of 2014, faculty, and staff at the ceremony held at the William A. Passavant Memorial Center.

Strausbaugh served on the Thiel College Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2011 and was Chairman of the Board from 2007 to 2011. A resident of Erie, Pa., he is currently a visiting professor at Mercyhurst University and is former Dean and Professor Emeritus of Edinboro University.

His accomplished career in higher education has spanned more than 45 years, including five years as department chair of History at Edinboro University, six years as department chair of History at Mercyhurst University, and 28 years in academic management and administration in both public and private sectors, including substantial experience in academic affairs and financial management.

Strausbaugh's numerous professional honors include a commendation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives and a Citation for Leadership and Service as the President and Co-Founder of the Flagship Niagara League, an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

Strausbaugh has authored two books on higher education: *Edinboro University, An Administrative History, 1963-1993*, Edinboro University Services, 1996; and *The Foundations of a University, Mercyhurst in the Twentieth Century*, Mercyhurst University, 2013.

He earned a Ph.D. in History from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland and conducted post-doctoral studies in the History of Medicine at the University of London. Strausbaugh also received a Master of Arts in History from Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind., and a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies Education from Millersville State College in Millersville, Pa.



Thiel College President Troy D. VanAken (right) and members of the Class of 2014 (from left) Ken Burns, Katie Fife, Seth Bell and Senior Class President Ryan Carson dedicate the Class of 2014's tree along Brother Martin's Walk prior to the May 4 Commencement ceremony.

Experience

The Thiel Commitment

to building new learning environments.



JAMES PEDAS COMMUNICATION CENTER

— *Opening Fall 2014* —

Meet **Bob Batchelor, Ph.D.**, Pedas Endowed Chair in Communication and Executive Director of the new James Pedas Communication Center. Dr. Batchelor is one of more than 110 faculty across 60 programs in 19 discipline areas at the heart of this new \$6.5 million center.

Pedas is a collaborative learning community where students engage in film, TV, radio, news production and other multimedia-rich experiences preparing them for the demands of today's information society. Students from across all majors will acquire communication literacy skill and presentational proficiency, and to prepare them for what comes next.

Dr. Batchelor is a nationally-acclaimed cultural historian and author who most recently wrote a biography on rock icon Bob Dylan. He is the founding editor of the *Pop Culture Studies Journal* and is the director of marketing/media for the John Updike Childhood Home Museum. To learn more about Dr. Batchelor or any of the Thiel College faculty, visit www.thiel.edu/academics.



Thiel College | 75 College Avenue | Greenville, PA 16125

www.thiel.edu/pedas or 800-24-THIEL



Student Council

First row—left to right, J. D. Northrup, R. Leinhardt, J. Pedas, D. Miller, S. Urban, B. Yambroff, J. Martin, R. Rossmann.

Second row—K. Cefaschi, C. Murphy, P. McDonald, S. Brown, J. Alois, S. Magnuson, A. Thorton, T. Gustin.

Third row—J. Not, J. McCormick, R. Dell, G. Schweitzer, J. Shaffer.



Who is Jim Pedas?

The James Pedas Communication Center's primary benefactor, Trustee Emeritus Dr. James Pedas '50, H'89, provided the initial gift for the \$6.5-million project in 2006.

The Farrell, Pa., native earned a Bachelor of Science in economics from Thiel College and received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for Professional Accomplishment in 1980. He was awarded an honorary doctorate from Thiel and was named trustee emeritus to the Board of Trustees. Pedas and his brother Ted have a long history in the entertainment industry. In the 1950s, he and Ted established Colt 45 Records, a recording company that launched the musical career of Don Covay (who wrote "Chain of Fools" and "Mercy Mercy" among others). The Pedas brothers later partnered to acquire several drive-in movie theatres. Later, with another partner, they bought a film distribution franchise and never looked back. They have been involved in numerous film ventures over the years including owning the Circuit/Showcase theatre circuit; owning a small part of Cinema 5 Ltd.; forming their own distribution company, Circle Releasing Corp., and forming their own production company, Circle Films, which was one of the foremost backers of 1990s American independent cinema. Among their most noted productions are the Coen brothers' debut and sophomore films, "Blood Simple" (1984) and "Raising Arizona" (1987).

He has received many awards for his work including Washingtonian of the Year (1973) and the American University's Award for Contribution to Film Culture (1985). He is a supporter of many philanthropic endeavors, including establishing an Intellectual Property Chair at George Washington Law School.

Pedas Center ushers in new

The Pedas Center is opening at a unique moment in American history. On the surface, the call for job creation echoes through the halls of Congress and booms loudly through the nation's main streets. Yet, digging deeper, this notion is not simply about rebounding from difficult economic times. These pleas actually address the idea that what constitutes work and the working life has undergone a revolution.

In today's ever-changing workplace, employers aim to hire young people who are intellectually curious, have expansive critical thinking skills, and are stellar communicators. The challenges



Paradigm Shift

Regardless of a student's major, one's problem-solving and communications skills must be outstanding. Realizing that these abilities are difficult to develop (public speaking, for example, is routinely cited as one of the two or three most terrifying experiences of people's lives), Dean Lynn Franken and Thiel College faculty members spearheaded a new curriculum based on the notion of "Presentational Literacy."

Intellectually, the goal of the Presentational Literacy initiative is to prepare every Thiel student to excel in the presentation of ideas across a range of delivery platforms and to all sizes and types of audiences orally, visually, and in writing. These skills are foundational and at the heart of a liberal arts education, especially as the workforce adapts and transforms via innovative technology.

Nationwide, however, employers find that the millennial generation generally comes up short in these areas. At Thiel, students will combat this notion via a rigorous 12-credit initiative that first exposes them to the tenets of Presentational Literacy, and then asks them to apply what they learned in courses specific to their majors and college-wide.

The first step in the process is "Introduction to Presentational Literacy," (INDS 100) a one-credit hour course required for all freshmen. In this class, students are familiarized with creating, writing, and delivering a professional presentation. Next, students must take three Presentation Intensive Courses (PIC), consisting of courses both in their majors and across other disciplines. PIC courses provide students with opportunities to present ideas via written text and then orally or through a combination of oral and visual demonstration.

The payoff for Thiel students will be tremendous and transformational: across academic disciplines, future employers, law and medical schools, and advanced graduate programs want students who demonstrate critical, creative, and strategic thinking skills. The Presentational Literacy program will undergird the value of a liberal arts education by helping young people better assess situations strategically, demonstrate high-level critical thinking abilities quickly and effectively, and display creativity in what they say and how they say it.

Twenty-First Century Skills

The twenty-first century workplace is more nuanced and demanding than ever before. It is not just future attorneys, business leaders, and marketing professionals that need to develop and build communication skills. As a result, the Pedas Center provides a learning lab for all students to explore what it means to be presentationally literate in their own fields of study and career paths.

For all Thiel students, the Pedas Center offers a centralized learning environment for creating, producing, practicing, and performing in an open, interactive, technology-rich creative space. As a kind of artists' collective at the center of campus, the Pedas Center is open and inviting for all students across all disciplines. The Pedas Center will also serve as a hub for intellectual endeavors on campus, such as hosting visiting scholars and providing a place for undergraduate research and writing.

In addition to the production facilities and creativity bullpens available for students to work alone or in teams, the Pedas Center houses technology for television and radio events, interviews, class or conference presentations, Web-based work, video production for YouTube and other channels, and other technology-based efforts. So, whether it is practicing for a job interview conducted via Skype or honing a presentation in a senior seminar course, the Pedas Center provides the technology and expertise to help Thiel students excel.



era in presentational literacy

confronting businesses and organizations demand that students develop these abilities, as they prepare for their immediate career paths and, perhaps more importantly, jobs later in their lives that may not even exist at present.

At the same time the nation confronts a new era, the opening of the Pedas Center takes place as the college celebrates its 150th anniversary, a year-long occasion for the college and its many alumni, students, faculty, staff, and administrators to reflect on Thiel's place in the local community, region, state, and nation.

Unique Opportunities

The curriculum-based aspects of the Pedas Center stand to revolutionize the way Thiel students are prepared for their future careers. However, the benefits of the new building do not stop there. As a matter of fact, the Pedas Center enables students across majors and disciplines to engage in diverse media activities.

The biology major who wants to start a radio talk show about local plant life and sustainability issues, for example, will find the new WXTC radio station a great venue for addressing topics that are at the core of a vibrant intellectual community. Students will also be able to build on their coursework to create, launch, and produce a variety of television programming for TCTV, which is transforming into a full-fledged television network, essentially growing with the Pedas Center and the TV work it empowers.

In addition to the hands-on learning roles students will play as Thiel media expands, students will also gain on the job learning opportunities as they explore roles in two new initiatives: the Pedas Centers Fellows program and a student-led news bureau/strategic marketing agency, both launching this academic year.

More specifically, the Pedas Center Fellows will comprise many of the top students at Thiel who are interested in communications and mass media. The Fellows will focus on helping other students (serving as coaches/mentors) for both Introduction to Presentational Literacy and Presentation Intensive Courses in the majors.

Empowering student mentors and coaches to facilitate learning among their peers will help Thiel students quickly gain substantial presentational skills. The Fellows team will focus on creating cooperative and collaborative learning experiences, which accelerates the kinds of skills that employers desire in today's marketplace, including leadership, decision-making, trust-building, and conflict-management.

Overall, the Pedas Center will serve as an intellectual hub at Thiel, providing students with a technologically advanced area for creating, producing, practicing, and performing in an open, interactive, technology-rich creative space. A kind of artists' collective at the center of campus, the Center stands as an open and inviting collaboration focal point for all students across all disciplines.

Transformation

The payoff for Thiel students will be tremendous and transformational: across academic disciplines, future employers, law and medical schools and graduate programs want students whose demonstrate critical, creative, and strategic thinking skills. Students must understand how to assess situations strategically, show high-level critical thinking quickly and effectively, and display creativity in what they say and how they say it.

The principles of foundational literacy are critical to the future success of Thiel College students. The lack of ability in presenting oneself and one's ideas clearly and persuasively is a chief criticism against the millennial generation and one that employers, graduate programs, law schools, and other stakeholders are asking America's colleges and universities to confront. INDS 100 enables students to meet this deficit.

These are the kinds of skills and abilities that the workplace demands of its employees in many far-flung areas. By addressing this need in students' intellectual development, Thiel College will establish the benchmark for colleges nationwide who must also confront these challenges.



"The roadmap to success today begins and ends with communication skills. Employers tell us again and again that what they really desire in young workers is the ability to communicate, think critically and understand contextual links that lead to higher order skills. The new communication center will be a home for students to build these skills as a part of their overall education."

BOB BATCHELOR, Ph.D.

*James Pedas Professor of Communication,
Executive Director of the James Pedas
Communication Center*



"The Pedas Center will house a state-of-the-art HD studio that will allow both television and film students to use the equipment that professionals work with every day. This will make them very marketable in the industry by giving them experience that many won't have. But it's not just television and film students that will benefit from this incredible facility, students from every major will have the opportunity to experience start-of-the-art communication technology, which will enable the next great generation of communicators. That definitely excites me!"

VICTOR D. EVANS, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Communication



"I am ecstatic to see the culmination of efforts come to fruition. We have transitioned from ideas and conversations to a beautiful, state-of-the-art communication center where students will flourish academically and professionally. The building and the ideas behind it are for more than just Communications majors. It will be an academic hub for all Thiel students to develop communication proficiencies for successful careers and lives."

LAURIE J. MOROCO, Ph.D.

*Professor of Communication,
Department Chair*



For more information, go to www.thiel.edu/pedas

Thiel College proudly inducts three into Athletics Hall of Fame

Patsy Combine '70, Les McClimans '72 and Don Walters '71 were welcomed into the Thiel College Athletics Hall of Fame on Sunday, March 23 during the 34th induction ceremony, which took place in the Lutheran Heritage Room on campus.



Combine was a four-year letter winner at quarterback from 1966-70, etching his name in the Thiel record books in eight different passing categories. Currently, his statistics place him sixth in career pass completion percentage (49.1%), seventh in career touchdown passes (16) and seventh in career pass efficiency rating (110.8%). Combine also has the seventh most touchdown passes in a season (11), the ninth highest single-season passer efficiency rating (119.6%), and his six touchdown passes in a 46-22 win over Carnegie Mellon on Sept. 27, 1969 are

recorded for the most in a single game in Thiel football history.

McClimans was a four-year letter winner and a two-time All-PAC honoree for the Thiel men's golf team. In 1970, he led the Tomcats to their first PAC title with a fourth-place finish at the conference championships. Thiel went 14-1 in dual matches the following season as McClimans again captured conference medalist honors by shooting a 155 over 36 holes to lead his team to its second consecutive PAC crown. McClimans helped Thiel to its third straight PAC title during his senior season.

A four-year letter winner at linebacker for the Tomcat football team, **Walters** anchored a defense that helped Thiel capture its first ever PAC Championship in 1967. Walters was a three-time All-PAC First Team selection and was named to the Outstanding College Athletes of America list in 1971.

Several other special awards were presented during the 34th induction ceremony. **Josh Cialone '08** received the Meritorious Service & Commitment Award while **George Webb '67** and **Jim Yohe '70** were presented with Athletic Alumni Commendation Awards.

Barzak '13, Taylor '13 named Thiel College's Senior Athletes



Tim Taylor '13



Kelly Barzak '13

Tim Taylor '13 was presented with the Charles Evanoff Award while **Kelly Barzak '13** received the J. Lynn Trimble Award. The Evanoff and Trimble Awards are given to a male and female, respectively, from the previous year's senior class who, in the judgment of the athletic coaches, best demonstrated qualities of scholarship, leadership, character and sportsmanship in addition to participation in athletics.

Currently pursuing a master's in Biology at Chatham University, Taylor was a three-time All-PAC selection at defensive end while also being named to the 2011 American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) Good Works Team for his involvement with the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Taylor averaged 1.35 sacks per game in his senior season, the fourth highest mark in all of Division III, and set Thiel's all-time record for sacks (34.5) and tackles for loss (66.5) in a career. He garnered inclusion on the Associated Press' Little All-America Third Team, AFCA All-America First Team and was selected as part of D3Football.com's All-South Region Third Team. He was also selected to play in the D3 Senior Classic game, registering two sacks for the South team. Taylor graduated Cum Laude and was twice named to the CoSIDA Academic All-District Team.

Currently pursuing a master's degree at Muskingum University, Barzak was a four-year letter winner for the women's volleyball

and basketball teams. She left Thiel as the all-time women's volleyball career leader in kills and blocks. Barzak was the 12th player in Thiel women's basketball history to score 1,000 points, finishing her career as the program's third all-time leading scorer.

Barzak was a four-time All-PAC First Team volleyball selection as well as a four-time All-PAC basketball honoree. She graduated Summa Cum Laude and was named to the Dean's List eight times while at Thiel, earning the Dean's Key. During her senior season, Barzak became the first Thiel women's basketball player to garner CoSIDA Academic All-America honors and was also named to the CoSIDA Academic All-America Third Team in volleyball.



42 Student Athletes Named to PAC Academic Honor Roll



A total of 42 Thiel College student-athletes were named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll for their performance in the classroom during the fall 2013 semester.

The PAC Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes who attain a grade-point average of 3.6 or higher during their season of competition. A total of 435 student-athletes from the 10 PAC schools were recognized.

Waynesburg paced the 10 league schools in fall academic honor roll recognition for the third-straight year with 73 student-athletes honored. The Yellow Jackets were followed by Westminster College (60), Geneva College (55), Washington & Jefferson College (51), Thiel (42), Grove City College (40), Saint Vincent College (36), Bethany College (35), Thomas More College (34) and Chatham University (14).

Women's soccer led the way for the Tomcats with 12 student-athletes honored. Football took second with 11 honorees, while women's cross country took third with five. Men's cross country and women's volleyball each had four awardees, while men's soccer and women's tennis each placed three student-athletes on the list.

THE FALL 2013 THIEL HONOREES INCLUDE:

Women's Soccer (12)

Kelsey Adair, Sr.
Early Childhood Education
Ephrata, Pa./Ephrata

Taryn Benner, Sr.
Communication Studies/Media Communications
Alliance, Ohio/Marlington

Morgan Berg, So.
Early Childhood Education
Cleveland, Ohio/Rocky River

Amanda Cavender, So.
Conservation Biology
Warren, Ohio/Howland

Jessica Crawford, Sr.
Environmental Science
East Palestine, Ohio/East Palestine

Kayce Grimm, Sr.
Mathematics
Butler, Pa./Karns City

Nicole Jeschelnig, Jr.
Biology
Madison, Ohio/Madison

Danielle Lukaszewicz, So.
Biology
Pittsburgh, Pa./Carlynton

Ashley McMillen, Fr.
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Cheswick, Pa./Deer Lakes

Mary Oakey, So.
Binary Physics
Baltimore, Md./Mercy

Chey Ross, Jr.
Communication Science and Disorders
Sigel, Pa./Brookville

Emily Skebo, Jr.
Early Childhood Education
Hubbard, Ohio/Hubbard

Football (11)

Cody Covine, Jr.
Criminal Justice
Cambridge Springs, Pa./Maplewood

Matt Fedzen, Sr.
Business Administration-Management
Pittsburgh, Pa./North Catholic

Alexander Horvatits, Fr.
Early Childhood Education
Lancaster, N.Y./Saint Mary's

Steve Kozuch, So.
Biology
Templeton, Pa./West Shamokin

Trevor Martin, Fr.
Exploratory
Meadville, Pa./Meadville

Sean McCarthy, Fr.
Binary Engineering
Ellport, Pa./Lincoln

Kyle Stover, Fr.
Biology
Allegany, N.Y./Allegany-Limestone Central

Andrew Smith, Sr.
Business Administration Human Resources/
Management
Williamsfield, Ohio/Pymatuning Valley

Marcus Weatherbee, Fr.
Biology
Mantua, Ohio/Crestwood

Bryce Whittingham, Sr.
Early Childhood Education
Beaver, Pa./Beaver Area

Spencer Zeyfang, Fr.
Criminal Justice
Erie, Pa./Harbor Creek

Women's Cross Country (5)

Stephanie Felix, So.
Accounting/Business Administration-Finance
Pittsburgh, Pa./South Park

Megan Kidder, So.
Actuary Studies
Worthington, Pa./Kitanning

Beverly Kozuch, Fr.
Biology
Templeton, Pa./West Shamokin

Alexis Mowris, Fr.
Chemistry
Saegertown, Pa./Saegertown

Alexa Sichko, Fr.
Biology
Heilwood, Pa./Penns Manor

Men's Cross Country (4)

John Clark, Fr.
Web Development
Morrisdale, Pa./West Branch

Steve Morgan, Jr.
Political Science
Raritan, N.J./Bridgewater-Raritan Regional

Stephen Staats, Fr.
History/Sociology
Cleveland, Ohio/Ohio Connections Academy

Ryan Thomas, So.
Criminal Justice/Philosophy
Phoenix, Ariz./Pinnacle

Women's Volleyball (4)

Lenora Boyer, Fr.
Biology
Delaware, Ohio/Delaware Christian

Danielle Gomula, Fr.
Psychology
Northfield, Ohio/Trinity

Jennifer Shelley, Fr.
Early Childhood Education
Port Allegany, Pa./Port Allegany

Leanna Yeager, Sr.
English Literature
Poland, Ohio/Poland Seminary

Men's Soccer (3)

Francis Ahia, Sr.
Political Science
Penn Hills, Pa./Penn Hills

Richard Benge, Fr.
Media Communications
Mineral Ridge, Ohio/Mineral Ridge

Trevor Ridilla, Jr.
Binary Engineering
Boswell, Pa./North Star

Women's Tennis (3)

Emily Carlton, Fr.
Biology
Beloit, Ohio/West Branch

Sara Matczak, Fr.
Business Administration-Management/
Mathematics
Erie, Pa./Fairview

Hanna Tegel, Fr.
Political Science
Cleveland, Ohio/Westlake

Whirlwind season ends with championship twirl

by Cyril Parham '14

Thiel junior Jessica Yozwiak twirled her way into a champion. A junior feature twirler, Yozwiak took first place at the Marching Auxiliaries National Baton Twirling Championship in Fort Worth, Texas, with a first place in the collegiate division.

"I couldn't even believe it. I wasn't suspecting anything, especially since I had to wait until all of the divisions were over [to learn the results]," Yozwiak said. "I couldn't even practice my championship route [a curtain call of sorts] because I was still in shock. It was an unbelievable feeling."

Jessica was the first twirler to perform in the competition, saddled with the pressure of setting the tone for the entire event. She choreographed her own route, which included use of three knives, along with help from her two coaches.

"It was weird to lead off the competition," she said. "I am more accustomed to performing near the end, but in my opinion it was better for me to lead off the competition because it gave me an opportunity to ease my nerves and go out there and perform to the best of my abilities."

Yozwiak's title at the Marching Auxiliaries National Baton Twirling Championship was the culmination of a very successful junior year. She received first place for collegiate/high school graduated twirlers at the Marching Auxiliaries Ohio Classic, her third year in the row winning the event. To qualify for the national championship Yozwiak had to place in the Great Lakes Regional competition that took place at the University of Notre Dame. She finished first overall in all of the events at the regional competition and

placed within the top ten in each individual category, punching her ticket to the national championship.

Yozwiak was named the feature twirler for the Tomcat Marching Pride in the fall of 2013, which afforded her opportunities to compete in front of large crowds.

"The Thiel Marching Band has afforded me lots of opportunities," Yozwiak said. "The biggest honor that I have ever received was being named the first ever feature twirler in the Marching Band's history, and that means more to me than winning competitions."

Yozwiak's twirling career began at a young age. She picked up a baton for the first time when she was two years old and began formal lessons soon after. She was only seven years old when she took part in her first competition.

"The routine I did was in a little cowgirl costume," Yozwiak recalled from her first competition. "Looking back on it now, it was the simplest routine but, back then, it meant the world to me."

A pre-med and Biology major, Yozwiak is a three-semester Dean's List student. She will return as the Marching Pride twirler this fall and hopes to capture her second consecutive title at the Marching Auxiliaries National Baton Twirling Championship.



Enhancements & Upgrades Planned for Gymnasium, Fitness Center

In a continuing effort to enhance facilities, the department of athletics has identified strategic projects that will be incorporated into the summer project list. Projects include renovation of the visitor women's locker room, replacing lockers in the men's varsity locker room and reconfiguring the entrance to the Paul Bush '66 Memorial Fitness Center.

"Based on the positive feedback we have received as a result of last year's renovations of the athletic training room and visiting men's locker room by our student-athletes, coaches and visiting teams, projects such as these will continue

to demonstrate our commitment to the third pillar of Thiel College 2016 Strategic Plan, Commitment to Enhanced Facilities and Infrastructure," said Director of Athletics Jack Leipheimer '74.

The foyer at the entrance of the fitness center perpendicular to Amelia Earhart Drive will be expanded and upgraded, allowing for improved security and a weather barrier created with the installation of a second set of doors.

Athletics Hall of Fame recognition plaques, which have been housed in the entrance of the fitness center for years, will now be

prominently displayed in the west lobby of Beeghly Gymnasium.

All athletics department facility enhancements are scheduled for completion this fall.





Associate director of athletics and senior female administrator Schafer selected for prestigious NCAA Pathway Program

Thiel College associate director of athletics and senior female administrator Amy Schafer was one of just 12 individuals selected for the NCAA 2014 Pathway Program.

The NCAA Pathway Program exists to assist senior-level athletics administrators who wish to become director of athletics as their next career step through education, training and mentoring. The program is designed to provide national exposure to its participants and to generate opportunities to glean information and career guidance from the leadership of intercollegiate athletics administrators throughout the country.

"I am extremely thankful and excited to be selected for this program," Schafer said.

"I look forward to this opportunity and the challenges this year-long program will provide."

Participants in the Pathway Program will gain a better understanding of the role of directors of athletics in all NCAA divisions, gain an in-depth look into the NCAA governance structure and be exposed to key intercollegiate athletics stakeholders across the country. Participants will be matched up with a director of athletics who will provide guidance and mentorship and paired with a NCAA member institution's president or chancellor to participate in a campus visit.

"Amy is a valuable asset to the Thiel College athletic department and an excellent candidate for the Pathway Program," said Jack Leipheimer '74, Thiel College director of athletics. "Having the opportunity to go through the Pathway Program will certainly benefit Amy and Thiel College."

Schafer serves as associate director of athletics, senior woman administrator

and director of compliance and eligibility at Thiel College. Entering her ninth season as head coach of Thiel's softball team, Schafer has led the Tomcats to two Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) championship tournaments. During her tenure as head softball coach, Schafer has coached 24 players to All-PAC accolades and has had multiple players earn National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-Region honors.

Schafer is a 2003 graduate of Bethany College, where she was an All-American catcher for the Bisons. While at Bethany, Schafer was honored as a member of the NFCA All-Academic team in 2002 and was named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll in 2001 and 2002.

Schafer earned a master's in sport management studies from California University of Pennsylvania in 2009.

"Amy is a valuable asset to the Thiel College athletic department and an excellent candidate for the Pathway Program." –Jack Leipheimer, Director of Athletics '74

Thiel College's Blue-Gold Club hosts annual spring golf outing

The Thiel College athletic department kicked off Memorial Day weekend with its annual Blue-Gold Golf Outing at the Greens of Greenville on Friday, May 23.

The overall winners of the 29-team tournament were Nick Reiser, Jeff Mullen, Chris Owen, and Bill Fraser with a 15-under 57. The foursome of Steve Boyle'08, Timothy Taylor'13, Mike Johnson and Kevin Siroki took second with a 12-under 60, while Daman Dohar, Jeff Sorenson, Tim Porter and Mark Manska finished third with a combined 11-under 61.

The winner of the annual Hawaii raffle was Keith Smith from Franklin, Pa., the father of golfer Bryan Smith and first baseman Trent Smith. Golfers enjoyed hot dogs, chips, and beverages for lunch,



and a catered dinner of baked chicken, pasta, potatoes and salad in the late afternoon.

"I'd like to personally thank all of our sponsors for yet another successful event," said Director of Athletics Jack Leipheimer '74. "This is always a fun event that brings alumni and friends together in the name of supporting Thiel's athletic endeavors."

The annual outing is one of the primary fundraisers for the Thiel College athletic department.

SKILL PRIZE WINNERS

Closest to the Pin

#2 – Craig Schell
#16 – Jason Wilk

Longest Putt

#4 – Steve Boyle
#13 – Mike Stimac

Longest Drive

Men – Chris Owens
Women – Jennifer Bell

2013-14: The Year of the Amazing, Quadruple Overtime Thrillers

by Ed Topoleski '02

Against the odds, Tomcats pull off wins on gridiron, hardwood

There is an intrinsic characteristic in Thiel student-athletes that is handed down from generation to generation. It's not quite moxie or bravado, but more the ol' college try, a badge of navy blue and old gold that is earned through blood and sweat, failure and success.

From Patsy Combine '70 to Andrew Smith '14 and William Antil '70 to Jermaine Hamilton '15, Tomcats have consistently exhibited a never-say-die attitude. Such a demeanor was displayed in splendor on two special occasions during the 2013-14 season, both of which ended in Thiel victories in quadruple overtime.

Trailing the Westminster Titans 21-14 late in the fourth quarter of the football team's first ever on-campus night game on Nov. 9, Smith stepped under center and engineered one of the gutsiest comebacks on the gridiron in recent history.

Down to his last play in a fourth-and-10 situation from the Thiel 23-yard line, Smith threw a 77-yard bomb down the far sideline to a wide-open Tim Walker with 78 seconds remaining in regulation.

"I saw we had a great matchup against that cornerback pre-snap," said Smith, noting that the pocket started to collapse on the play, which featured four receivers running vertical routes with the idea that one would draw single coverage and beat their defender. "They were playing Cover-4, and the safety was playing hard over the middle, which meant our best option was to the

outside. ... I started to move around in the pocket. I saw that Tim was still open, and I just launched it to him."

Jon Fennick added the extra point and the game went to overtime after Thiel's defense stopped Westminster on the last drive in regulation.

Smith went on to throw three more touchdowns passes in overtime, the last of which was a game-winning 7-yarder to running back Josh Potter. He also connected with wide receiver Matt Fedzen on the mandated 2-point conversion in the fourth overtime.

"It was amazing," tight end Berend Grube said of Smith's play. "The way he performed was just unbelievable. He really deserved that win. Out of everybody on the team, he really deserved that 'W.'"

The Tomcat D refused to let the Titans score in the fourth overtime. Chris Jones came up with the key play of the drive when he broke up a pass along the far sideline during a fourth-and-11 situation from the 26-yard line, allowing the Tomcats to bask in the light of a 45-37 quadruple overtime in their first on-campus night game in history.

"It felt amazing," Smith said. "It just made all the time and hard work that you put into the season worth it. It was like a fantasy game, something that every athlete dreams about."

"It was pretty crazy," said Grube, who caught one of Smith's three touchdown passes in overtime. "The entire period of overtime just felt unreal. All of the excitement didn't really hit me. It was just such a strange feeling. I never really experienced something like that before. I was just like, 'wow, this is still going on', and it was the first night game, too. So it was just the perfect finish for it."

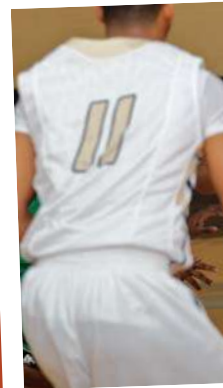
As if the football team's quadruple overtime win wasn't enough, the men's basketball team followed with its own 4-OT thriller under perhaps even more disadvantageous circumstances.

The men's basketball squad, like the football team, needed a late comeback just to force overtime. Trailing the Saint Vincent Bearcats by nine points, 72-63, with 2:09 remaining in regulation, the Tomcats used an 11-2 run down the stretch to force extra time.

Junior forward Eric Mallinger keyed the 11-2 run with a pair of layups. He completed an old fashioned 3-point play with a bucket and a good free throw with just seven seconds left on the clock to extend the game.

The game went back-and-forth through three overtimes with multiple players from both teams being relegated to the bench after fouling out.

Word of the overtime game between the 'Cats spread like wildfire on campus via social media and word of mouth, resulting in a large portion of the student body showing up at Beechly Gymnasium



BY THE NUMBERS

77

Yards covered by the game-tying touchdown on a fourth-down play with 78 seconds remaining in the game during Thiel's comeback four-overtime 45-37 win over Westminster in the first on-campus night football game on Nov. 9.

3

Touchdowns thrown by Thiel College quarterback Andrew Smith '13 in the four overtimes, including the game-winning 7-yard toss, after throwing just one in regulation.

4

Thiel players left on the court after a school-record seven players fouled out—also an NCAA Division III record—during the Tomcats' quadruple overtime 124-121 win over Saint Vincent in men's basketball. Saint Vincent had four players foul out. The 11 player disqualifications also tied a NCAA D-III record.

9

Points Thiel trailed with just over two minutes remaining, but held Saint Vincent to one basket over that span and tied the game to set up the four overtime drama.

to see the conclusion of the game. It was an enthusiastic crowd, led in part by the men's volleyball team, which started chants such as 'we believe that we will win.'

"The biggest giveaway for me was the noise level," said junior guard Charlie Thomas. "In that game, it was like a regular game until midway through the second overtime. People really started to get loud, really started to get rowdy. It was a really fun atmosphere to play in." Though they led by three points with 2:28 left in the fourth overtime, it appeared that the Tomcats' luck had run out when their seventh player, Mikael Pogosian, fouled out of the game.

Pogosian's disqualification meant the Tomcats would have to finish the game with just four players on the floor, essentially giving the Bearcats basketball's rarely seen version of a power play the remainder of the contest.

"I'm an optimist," Thomas said. "There was never a point where I thought we were going to lose that game. I

just played it one play at a time, one possession at a time, especially with them having the advantage when we were on defense."

Saint Vincent went on a 3-0 run after Pogosian's disqualification, but the Tomcats refused to give in. With just 46 seconds remaining in the fourth extra session, junior guard Jermaine Hamilton took a pass from Josh Johnson down the far side of court and drove to the basket. Finishing strong with his left hand, Hamilton's shot kissed the glass and gracefully swished the twine on the way down to put the Tomcats back on top.

"All I was thinking was I had to make a play," Hamilton said of the layup that put the Tomcats up for good. "Since I knew Dillon Stith [who led all players with 50 points and 18 rebounds] had one more foul to give, I wanted to attack him and force the refs to make a call. When it went in the energy from the gym ignited, which I believe led us to victory."

Johnson took a charge on the opponent's next possession, and the

Tomcats never trailed the rest of the way, defeating the defending Presidents' Athletic Conference champion Bearcats in four overtimes, 124-121.

"I was excited," Thomas said. "It felt surreal to win with four people. It was just an experience that you'll never forget because not many teams go to four overtimes, let alone win in four overtimes with four players left on the floor."

The game was the longest in the 97-year history of Thiel men's basketball. Thiel's seven foul-outs in the game were the most in a single game in NCAA Division III history, and the 11 total disqualifications by both teams tied the all-time NCAA Division III single-game record.

"Absolutely crazy," Hamilton said, summarizing his feelings on the Tomcats' improbable win. "Best game of my career. To win with four guys on the court is not normal, and for us as a team to stay together and believe in one another is what really pushed us to victory."



Lowry, Jones earn All-American status

Two Tomcats earned the distinguished title of All-American in March – 197-pound wrestler Jake Lowry and high jumper Nic Jones.

Lowry capped off a brilliant junior campaign with a third-place finish at the 2014 NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships, which were held at U.S. Cellular Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Lowry won his first two matches at the championship tournament, assuring All-American status, but suffered his first loss of the season in the semifinals.

Lowry regained his composure in the consolation bracket and finished third in his bracket with a 3-2 decision over Delaware Valley's Aaron Karns.

"Jake had an outstanding season, amassing 40 wins and finishing third at NAAs," said 11th-year head wrestling coach Craig Thurber. "It's an amazing accomplishment, and we're very proud of him."

Lowry rattled off 38 straight wins to open his junior season, the second-longest winning streak in school history. Only 134-pounder Mike Lewis rattled off more consecutive wins. After losing his third match of the 1992-93 season, Lewis won 44 straight matches before taking third at the 1993 NCAA Division III Wrestling National Championships.

Lowry's third-place finish was the best by a Tomcat at the national tournament since Lewis accomplished the feat in 1993. Lowry has compiled an 87-9 record during his collegiate career and became Thiel's 19th All-American wrestler.

On the same day that Lowry finished third at the wrestling championships, Saturday, March 15, Nic Jones was also busy becoming an All-American at the 2014 NCAA Division III Indoor Track & Field Championships, held at the University of Nebraska's Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln, Neb.



Nic Jones



Jake Lowry

Also a junior, Jones became an All-American with a fourth-place finish in the high jump when he recorded a leap of six feet, 8.25 inches.

"We are extremely proud of Nic's performance at the 2014 indoor track & field championships," said fifth-year track & field head coach Steve Carr. "Even prior to the beginning of the season, Nic was dedicated to being the best he could be. He was more prepared physically than any other student-athlete that I have ever coached.

"Because he was prepared both physically and mentally, Nic was able to jump with only one miss until his final height at the indoor championships," Carr said. "In our sport it's called 'jumping clean,' and it is the reason he was able to make us all proud with a fourth-place finish at the most competitive meet of the year."

Jones' best jump prior to the national championships was six feet, 9.75 inches, which he earned when he took first place at the Tufts University Last Chance Meet on March 6.

Jones cleared six feet, nine inches in the high jump at the 2014 Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Indoor Track & Field Championships at Youngstown State University on Feb. 27. He went on to be named the PAC Most Valuable Performer at the PAC indoor championships after he also placed first in the long jump and second in the triple jump.

Jones was the third athlete to qualify for the indoor national championships under Carr.





Dr. Joseph Nairn '79



Norman Hasbrouck '74



Antonio Quarterman '08

New president, officers and directors named to Alumni board

Dr. Joseph Nairn '79, of Rochester, N.Y., was recently elected president of the Thiel College Alumni Association Board of Directors during its annual Commencement weekend meeting. Joining Nairn as a board officer are **Antonio Quarterman '08**, of Pittsburgh, as vice president and **Norman Hasbrouck '74**, of California, Pa., as secretary. Former board president, **Chuck Goodrick '74**, of Rochester Hills, Michigan, will continue to serve a two-year term as past president, providing mentorship to the new slate of officers. Thiel President Troy D. VanAken recognized Goodrick for his service to the Board during Commencement Weekend.

Upon graduation Nairn accepted a position as admissions counselor at Thiel College and recruited prospective students from across the Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut regions to study at the college. VanAken said, "We welcome Joe Nairn, Antonio Quarterman and Norman Hasbrouck to our alumni leadership group. I am confident that their enthusiasm, expertise, and love for this institution will propel us forward in ways our alumni will find meaningful and important."

Nairn earned a Master of Education degree in Student Personnel Services in Higher Education at the University of Vermont in 1983. He spent 25 years in Orientation and Special Programs, the School of Engineering Technology, the College of Applied Science and Technology at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in Rochester, N.Y. Nairn retired from RIT in 2008 to become the Executive Assistant to the President at Finger Lakes Community College in Canandaigua, N.Y. While serving as Executive Assistant and later as Executive Director of Advancement, he pursued a Doctor of Management degree in Community College Policy and Administration through the University of Maryland University College, completing his doctorate in 2013.

"For me, the greatest aspect of the Thiel College experience was the value my education added not only to my career, but my quality of life. I came away from the college recognizing how incomplete I was and how much more I had to grow, learn and experience," Nairn said. "It has been the realization that I was not quite finished that has sustained me through my work and family life. Learning is like breathing. Life stops when you quit. That is why I have stayed engaged with and continue to want to serve my alma mater."

Joe and his wife, Terri, have three adult children, Caitlin, Thomas, and Craig.

Quarterman graduated from Thiel with a degree in Political Science. He was the President of the Organization of Black Collegians and his class. He also participated in football, track and field, and Phi Sigma Alpha. Quarterman graduated in 2010 with a Master of Science in Education from Youngstown State University. He is the Director of Student Life at Community College of Allegheny County (Pa). Quarterman and his wife, Jessica, have a son, Colton.

Hasbrouck joined the Thiel College admissions team after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and recently completed nearly a 40 year career in higher education. Following Thiel, he assumed the Director of Admissions position at LaRoche College. He then spent the bulk of his career at California University of PA as the Dean, for Enrollment Management and Academic Services. He earned his M.A. in Guidance and Counseling from Slippery Rock State College and doctoral courses in Student Personnel Services at Indiana University of Pa. Hasbrouck and his wife, Ellen (Kidd) '76, have three grown children, Christopher, Thomas, and Tasha.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors

(asterisk denotes those directors newly elected to serve a three-year term as of May 3, 2014)

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Antonio Quarterman '07,
Vice President
Norman Hasbrouck '74,
Secretary
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John W. Lindt '72
Carl Olson '62
Dr. Frederick L. Pettitt '78
Eugene T. Sampieri '63
Les G. Thomas '56
John Wotus '74

Thiel Alumna Honored for Outstanding Contribution to Philanthropy in Western Pennsylvania

Karen Winner Sed '85 received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Western Pennsylvania chapter during its 27th annual National Philanthropy Day event, held on November 14, 2013.

National Philanthropy Day is a unique way for the AFP to acknowledge individuals who have made great improvements in the region through their generosity and philanthropy. The AFP's Western Pennsylvania chapter represents 12 Pennsylvania counties and West Virginia, and works to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs.

"Karen's honor by the AFP exemplifies the culture of caring and sense of responsibility that Thiel College has fostered throughout its history," said Dr. Troy D. VanAken, Thiel College president. "We are very proud of Karen and her exceptional accomplishments in philanthropy and civic engagement, and her leadership is an inspiration for our students and alumni who seek to make great contributions in the communities in which they live and work."

Winner Sed, a lifelong resident of Sharon, Pa., serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Winner International, a privately-held company that offers more than 300 security products for the home, recreation, and public safety.

In bestowing its honor to Winner Sed, the AFP cited her belief that a strong arts presence can transform a city, and is a consistent motivation to help make positive change. In addition to establishing the James E. Winner Jr. Arts & Culture Center to promote arts and culture within the Sharon community, she was an instrumental part of spearheading WaterFire Sharon

and the ongoing replication of a Manchester Bidwell Training Center in the Shenango Valley.

Winner Sed's community involvement has extended beyond western Pennsylvania as well: along with former Governor Ed Rendell, she co-chaired the Team Pennsylvania Foundation, a nonprofit organization comprised of business leaders and representatives from the public sector who strive to create a better economic and living climate in the Commonwealth.

Back home, Winner Sed serves on the Board of Directors of Sharon Regional Health System and supports a myriad of deserving community organizations, including Shoe Our Children, Students for Charity, Circles, and the Community Foundation of Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, positively impacting the region and its residents through her enduring dedication and enthusiasm.

Thiel College co-sponsored last fall's AFP National Philanthropy Day event that honored Winner Sed, during which William S. Dietrich II, creator of the Pittsburgh-based Dietrich Foundation, also was celebrated. The primary mission of the Dietrich Foundation is to benefit higher education, principally in the greater Pittsburgh area, by providing ongoing and increasing financial support to six educational institutions, including Thiel College.

The Society of 1866

Thiel Colleges planned giving society where over 350 alumni and friends have included the college in their future estate planning, to provide an opportunity to have a positive, lasting impact on our college.

As someone committed to a values-based liberal arts education, you realize the impact the Thiel experience has upon our students as they prepare for lives of service to professions, churches, communities and families. Your decision to include the college in your estate planning is an investment to ensure that Thiel continues to prepare future leaders.

Like any successful endeavor, they require careful thought and analysis. Once you have decided which programs or area of the college you would like to support, you'll want to consider the most effective ways to achieve your goals. Some of the ways include a Current Gift, Will, Charitable Remainder Annuity or Unit Trust, Charitable Gift Annuity and Life Insurance. **If you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Mario Marini '91 Director of Planned Giving at 724-589-2022 (office phone), mmarini@thiel.edu or visit our web page at www.thiellegacy.org.**

Ben Beck Gallery Opening by Stephanie Wilson, '04

Young Alumnus Dedicates Time, Career, and Heart to Bringing Culture to Greenville.



When 2010 graduate, Benjamin Beck earned his diploma and walked across the stage of Passavant Center, he had the world at his feet in opportunities to grow in his field. One came in the form of an offer to enter a graduate program in Portland, Oregon; the other from a top interior designer in New York City. Oh the places he could have gone, but the Greenville native turned down both impressive opportunities to instead stay right here in his hometown. "I knew in my heart that this was where I was meant to be" says Beck of his decision. Originally a business major, Ben credits his professors at Thiel College for drawing out and further fueling his passion for art. Somewhere amidst his painting class with Professor Sean McConnor and studying art history with Professor Ellen Lippert, he changed his major to Fine Art and about six months after graduation was hired by Fresh Grounds Coffeehouse on Main Street. Run by a local mission called Downtown Ministries, the work being done at Fresh Grounds appealed to Ben's passion and heart for community. Since his hire three and a half years ago, he has played an instrumental role in developing an arts program funded through Downtown Ministries 501C nonprofit status. What began as Beck teaching intergenerational art classes in the raw unfinished space of Fresh Grounds second floor has culminated in the launch of Sans MOCO. He came by the title of the gallery like any true artist-pure imagination:

"Sans MOCO stands for Sans (without) and MOCO is a combined abbreviation for Modern Conformity. I came up with the name because I was hoping to re-purpose the big old chrome letters of the N. N. MOSS CO., when they closed down and I wanted to rearrange them to say something else. I didn't have enough vowels, so I made one of the N's an A by cutting off the upstroke leg at the end. I never got my hands on the chrome letters though." A gallery and atelier, Sans MOCO, officially opened on February 14th with an exhibition of works done by local artists, including Beck's work, themed Creation. The grand opening exhibition took viewers on a journey through the artistic representation of the 7 days of creation as recorded in the book of Genesis in the Bible. At the end of May the gallery featured the impressionistic works of Zack Munnell and upcoming this summer is the 3rd Annual Art Auction on July 3rd as a kickoff to Greenville's Heritage Days Festival. When asked about future showings in the gallery, Beck says "I would really love to do an exhibition of children's artwork from the Greenville elementary schools. I just truly love kid's artwork; there is something special about it." Ben Beck is also employed as the Office Manager at the Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce and credits this most recent community centered career opportunity for providing a varied education in marketing and business planning, skills that have come in handy with the launch of Sans MOCO.



www.sansmoco.com

Legacies help celebrate Commencement



Sunday, May 4 Thiel College celebrated the academic achievements of 185 graduates at its 140th commencement ceremony at the William A. Passavant Memorial Center on campus.

Regionally-recognized career educator and author Dr. M. Roy Strausbaugh delivered the keynote address and received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities degree.

Distinguished emeriti faculty Dr. Nicholas Despo, professor of biology for 38 years, and Judith Newton, professor of mathematics and computer science, who joined Thiel College in 1973, were recognized.

Along with the students about 2,000 friends and family of the graduates and Thiel College faculty and staff joined the celebration of academic excellence and achievement. Prior to Commencement, a Baccalaureate service took place in the David Johnson Memorial Chapel followed by the Class of '14 Tree Dedication event on Brother Martin's Walk.

After the Commencement exercises, 11 legacies posed for photos in front of Greenville Hall.



- 1 Ryan Exler '14 and his sister, Katelyn Hill '10
- 2 Kevin Walkup '14 and his mother, Ruth '84
- 3 Sara Farley '09, her brother, Doug '14, and their grandmother Bonnie Farley '86
- 4 Nicolette Marini '14 and her father, Mario '91
- 5 Katelyn Young '14 and her grandfather Rev. Richard Price '53



1 Alumni and friends gathered at the L'Hirondelle Club in Baltimore on April 24 at an event graciously hosted by Rick '74 and Mary Ellen Huether. 2 Washington D.C. gathering sponsor David Johnston '71, Sarah Blich and President VanAken take a moment in front of the Washington Monument. 3 Alumni and friends take advantage of the Washington Monument for a photo op during an alumni gathering in Washington D.C. in early May. 4 Anthony Cancro '07 and Stephania Sika '07 were among the attendees at the Westmoreland County alumni event at the Latrobe Art Center on May 1. Jim '62, H'02, and Betty Ann McHugh sponsored the event. 5 Attendees at the Westmoreland County alumni gathering enjoy a laugh during the May 1 event. 6 Kelly '97 and Jason Diley '97 and Carly Rowe '96 were among the Thiel College alumni who enjoyed time together in a private box at the Erie Otters game on Dec. 11. 7 Thiel Alumni took in a Pittsburgh Pirates spring training game against the Boston Red Sox on March 3 in Bradenton, Fla. 8 Thiel College Director of Athletics Jack Leipheimer '74 speaks with an alumna during an event in Orlando on March 3 hosted by Ron Legler '90.

Class Notes

1950s

PAUL SHEFSIEK '57 had his paper "Describing and Correlating the Performance of the Thermionic Converter: A Historical Perspective" published by IEEE Transaction on Plasma Science in August 2010. Shefsiek currently resides in Pittsburgh, PA.

NORMAN M. GUENTHER '59 received the Aloha Section (PGA) Distinguished Service Award at the Ho'olaule'a ceremonies at the Japanese Cultural Center in Honolulu Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014. A retired U.S. Air Force major, Guenther has published "Hawaii Golf News and Travel" newspaper in Hawaii since 1981 and has run many golf tournaments and helped start several golf organizations during those years.

1960s

GARY FINCKE '67 published his first novel *How Blasphemy Sounds to God* in early 2014. Braddock Avenue Books, a new Pittsburgh publisher of literary fiction produced the book. His fifth collection of short stories, *The Proper Words for Sin*, was published by West Virginia University Press in 2013. The film rights to *Amp'd*, his nonfiction account of his son's early career as a rock guitarist in the multi-platinum band *Breaking Benjamin*, have been sold, and a screenplay is being developed. Gary is the Charles Degenstein Professor of English and Creative Writing and Director of the Writers Institute at Susquehanna University.

1970s

CRAIG HANRIOT '73 and his wife **SUSAN (KLINGER) '75** reside in Tustin, California. Craig is the owner of a Technical Metal Finishing Company in Burbank, CA. Susan retired from teaching in June 2007. The couple

enjoys traveling and spending time with their daughter, Nicole, a 2007 graduate of FIDM and a swim suit designer.

LORA (THUNELL) LEKOS '75 took the 1st place medal and honorable mention for two photos in zoology in the fall 2013 New



Jersey Federation of Camera Club's (NJFCC) competition. Last spring, Lora, also took the first place medal in Botany. The NJFCC is an organization of 800 amateur photographers representing 27 camera clubs throughout the state. She is employed as the Environmental Health & Safety Coordinator at County College of Morris in Randolph, NJ.

1980s

Laurie (Sheronovich) Kikel '80 lives in Aliquippa, PA with her husband Paul. Laurie recently achieved her Anti Money Laundering Specialist Certification and has been employed in the Anti Money Laundering Department of the Financial Intelligence Unit for PNC Bank. Previously she has spent the past 13 years working at PNC Bank as a teller, retail bank manager and community banking officer.

DWAYNE SPURLOCK '81 is the recipient of a 2014 Diamond Award (CEO of the Year Awards) presented by the Pittsburgh Business Times. Winners of this prestigious award are CEOs or hold the equivalent position within their company or nonprofit organization. Dwayne is the CEO and founder of eKidz Care, ePeople Health Care, ePeople, LLC.

PAM (ROYCE) KUSSEROW '85

graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in December of 2013 with her Masters in Social Work (MSW). After passing her state licensing exam, she is now a master's level licensed social worker and has accepted a new position as a social worker at UPC Shadyside Hospital. Pam lives in Allison Park, PA with her husband **BISHOP KURT KUSSEROW '85**.

1990s

DAMEN TAYLOR '95 is now the accounting manager at Propel Schools in Pittsburgh where he resides with his wife, Sara and their four children. Damen also serves as a member of the Alumni Board of Directors at Thiel College.

ELIZABETH GODFREY '98 was promoted to Business Analyst of Performance Management and Reporting at Highmark Health in February. She resides in Pittsburgh.

MATTHEW R. THIRY '98 a shareholder with Davis, Matthews & Quigley, P.C., has been selected as a 2014 Georgia Trend Legal Elite.



Matt practices in the area of Business and Commercial Litigation and represents clients in various types of litigation, including disputes related to contracts, construction, business torts, and real estate. Matt also assists clients with estate issues. In addition to litigation, Matt also handles arbitrations, and has successfully argued and briefed appellate matters.

2000s

ELIZABETH A. PRADA '04 earned a Master of Public Management degree from Carnegie Mellon University's H. John Heinz III College in December 2013. Elizabeth currently resides in Pittsburgh, PA.

AUTUMN (MORRIS) WHITE '04 and her husband **DENNIS WHITE '05** both earned a Master of Education Degree in special education. Autumn went on to pursue a second Master of Science Degree in Licensed Professional Counseling in December 2013. She is currently mentoring and coaching beginning & evolving special education teachers throughout the school district. Dennis has successfully acquired a second Master of Education degree in school administration. He currently works as the alternative education campus specialist for the Cartwright School District. The couple reside in Avondale, Arizona with their two daughters, Mycayla and Sophia.

JEFF WAGNER '07 is teaching 7th grade geography at Karns City High School and also serves as the athletic director.

2010s

GREGORY HOGAN, D.C. '10 graduated from New York Chiropractic College in November 2013 with a Doctor of Chiropractic Degree. Gregory currently resides in Uniontown, PA.

BRADLEY BEE '12 was named Assistant Director of Athletic Communications at Kent State University (NCAA Div.1) in January. Brad has spent the past year as Assistant Sports Information Director at Mount Union.

Marriages



AMANDA (LICHTENWALNER) SCAIFE '09 to **NICHOLAS SCAIFE '08** on August 17th, 2013. Thiel alumnae **STEVEN HILL '08**, **BENJAMIN WAY '07**, **KATELYN (EXLER) HILL '10** and **CHRISTOPHER BROWN '07** were in the bridal party. Amanda is a teaching assistant and Nicholas is a CPA/auditor. The couple now resides in Pittsburgh, PA.

EVAN B. WALTER '11 to Kimberly Miller on November 9, 2013. The couple now resides in Downers Grove Illinois where Evan is a research assistant/doctoral candidate at Northern Illinois University.

KINSEY HENDERSON '05 to Alicia (Copestick) Henderson on June 7, 2009. The couple resides in Lexington, Kentucky where Kinsey is the general manager of Mad Mushroom, a pizza restaurant and His wife, Alicia, is employed by Pathways, Inc. as a mental health outpatient therapist.



CHRISTOPHER BROWN '07 to **KAYLA (TUREK) BROWN '11** on May 25, 2013. **JOE MURDY '11**, **STEVE MONNICH '10** and **NICK SCAIFE '08** were groomsmen. **RUSSELL BROWN '09** was best man. Chris is a financial associate with Thrivent Financial, and Kayla is an Assistant Manager at Yankee Candle.



JENNA (MOHR) MILLER '10 to **ALEC MILLER '13** on September 14, 2013. **CARA RIFFE '09** and **KRAIG SMITH '12** were in the bridal party. Other Thiel friends in attendance were **BRETT SMITH '14**, **JEFF LINN '02**, **ROB MILLER**, **PAT MORRIS '12**, **MATT BUTLER '13**, **BILLY ROOSA '12**, **COREY BROWN '12** AND **AMY MUSCARELLA '12**. Alec is the Head of Sales/Office Manager at Guardian Filtration in Transfer, Pa. and Jenna works in sales and marketing at Sharpville Container Corp. in Sharpville, Pa. The couple resides in West Salem Township, Pa.



ANGELA (BLACKBURN) JOHNSON '11 to **ALEX JOHNSON '13** on November 2, 2013. **JOE GRECH '12**, **NICK GARGARO '12**, **BRAD BEE '12**, and **ZACHARY MARKLEY '12** were groomsmen. **ELIZABETH (YURKY) LEWIS '12**, **BREE SWEET-LAWN '13**, **KRISTINA MITCHELL '10**, **DANIELLE BAKER '10** and **TRACY BRYAN** were bridesmaids. Many Thiel alumni were in attendance; pictured are Alpha Xi Delta and Delta Sigma Phi alumni. Angela is employed at The Limited and Alex is an actuary at CBIZ in Independence, Oh. The couple resides in Berea, Oh.

Births

To **JULIE (SAXON) KOVALCIK '06** and her husband Jim: a son, Allen Edward, January 21, 2013. Julie is employed as an Academic Counselor for Argosy University online. The family lives in Pittsburgh, PA



To **CHRISTY L. (ALLEN) FAWCETT '08** and her husband **JAMES FAWCETT III '08**: a son James Love, December 22, 2013. The family lives in Glenshaw, PA.

To **TREVOR J. OKONAK '04** and his wife Ally a daughter: Emerson Grace, on December 31, 2013. The family resides in Oakmont where Trevor is a police officer with the Oakmont Police Department.



To **AMBER (COCHRAN) APISA '01** and **ANDREW APISA '99** a son: Andrew on March 25. He joins big sister, Elizabeth, who turned one on January 7. The family resides in Girard, Oh.



To **JOSEPH MURDY '08** and Sarah (Diener) Murdy a daughter: Zoe Jane on July 5, 2012. Joe is pastor at Essention Lutheran Church in Robinson, Pa and Sarah is a financial associate with Thrivent Financial. The family resides in Coraopolis, Pa.



To **TERRY J. THIERMAN '88** and his wife Kate, a daughter: Genevieve on November 11, 2013. She joins big brothers Christopher (8) and Zachary (13) at home. Terry is a Trust Controller for Northwest Savings Bank. The family resides in Erie, Pa.



In Memoriam

JAMES S. PACKARD '42 of Troy, Al., on November 1, 2013.

JAMES 'JIM' WARD '42 of Hermitage, Tn., on February 15 at the age of 93.

ALVIN WEISSENSTEIN '43 of Walterboro, S.C., on July 7, 2013 at the age of 91.

ELIZABETH 'BETTY' (BARGER) DEPALMA '49 of Avalon, Pa., on January 14 at the age of 85

LLOYD H. KELLER, JR. '49 of Greenville, Pa., on October 30, 2013 at the age of 92.

JOHN C. RUCH '49 of Cuyahoga Falls, Oh., on March 24, 2013 at the age of 88.

BETTY LOU FOX-CAMPBELL '51 of Johnston, Pa., on January 27 at the age of 79.

CHARLES F. 'BUD' BARNEY '51 (LTC, US ARMY, RET.) of Fort Meyers, Fl., on May 20, 2013 at the age 89.

DAVID W. HARBAUGH '52 of Wexford, Pa., on January 19 at the age of 85.

WILBERT N. RUPP '52 of Summerfield, Fl., on November 1, 2013.

ALVA C 'DUTCH' BAKER '53 of Greenville, Pa., on December 26, 2013 at the age of 82.

ROBERT H. BURGER '53 of Tarrant, Tx., on October 12, 2005 at the age of 76.

ALBERT L. DONADIO, JR. '53 of Macomb County, Mich., on January 8 at the age of 82.

DORIS (ENGEL) SORENSEN '53 of Aurora, Co., on November 30, 2013 at the age of 83.

RONALD A. ROBERTSON '53 of Mill Creek, Wa., on February 17 at the age of 89.

JOHN L. VISHNIA '54 of Williamson, Tx., on January 21, 2006 at the age of 76.

MARY JANE (HERRINGTON) TUBBS '54 of Penn Hills, Pa., on March 19 at the age of 79.

JAMES A. ARZBERGER '56 of Denver, Co., on March 23 at the age of 79.

THELMA A. (PLAKE) MILLER '56 of Las Vegas, Nv., on February 19 at the age of 88.

E. KATHLEEN 'KAY' (BEATTIE) WEYERS '59 of Okemos, Mich., on March 15, 2013 at the age of 77.

JACQUELINE (ANDERSON) PLANINSHEK '60 of Nampa, Idaho, on October 25, 2013.

JOHN A. MONTGOMERY '60 of Greensburg, Pa., on October 14, 2013 at the age of 76.

HARRY D. BROWNLEE '63 of Butler, Pa., on March 11 at the age of 73.

WILLIAM A. SCHELL '70 of Sharpsville, Pa., on January 22 at the age of 66.

JANET E. (LOOSLEY) DEBMAN '72 of Maryland, on October 6, 2013 at the age of 63.

ROBERT GEORGE DONALD '72 of Carlisle, Pa., on January 14 at the age of 62.

LINDA CHRISTINE SCHWEIKERT '74 of Sarasota, Fl., on December 7, 2012 at the age of 59.

RICHARD E 'RICK' DEER III '75 of Fombell, Pa., on February 14, 2013 at the age of 59.

TRACY A. ANDERSON '77 of Gibsonia, Pa., on February 13 at the age of 59.

DAVID P. 'DOC' SANKEY '78 of Greenville, Pa., on October 22, 2013 at the age of 85.

Friends

MARY G. EYE of Columbia, Pa., on January 27 at the age of 93.

WILLIAM K. HALPENNY of Smethport, Pa., on January 4 at the age of 83.

GRACE E. (KNAUF) MITCHELTREE of Greenville, Pa., on December 21, 2013 at the age of 95.

ALICE (RIFFER) NICKERSON of St. Louis Park, Minn., on February 21 at the age of 96.

PHILLIP 'PHIL' STEELE of Transfer, Pa., on January 14 at the age of 53.



Dr. Louis T. Almén, former Thiel College president, dies

Dr. Louis T. Almén, who led Thiel College from 1976 to 1990 as its 15th president died June 2. He was 88.

Under Almén's guidance, Thiel College's endowment grew from \$1.8 million to \$12 million, the curriculum added five academic majors and an honors program. Almén's influence continues today as the former president was instrumental in securing a \$25 million gift—the largest in school history—from Bill Dietrich II. That generous donation helped in the creation of the Dietrich Honors Institute at Thiel College, which recently completed its first academic year. Almén's tenure as president is the second-longest in school history. The only president to serve longer was the school's first leader The Rev. H.W. Roth, who led the college from 1870 to 1887.

Almén graduated as the valedictorian of his class at Hudson (WV) High School. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Gustavus Adolphus (Minn.) and a Bachelor's of Divinity from Augustana Theological Seminary and a Master of Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary. He earned his doctoral degree from the State University of Iowa. He was a faculty member for 14 years at Augustana. He was the Executive Director of the Division for Professional Leadership with the Lutheran Church in America. He held this nationally prominent position until he accepted the Thiel presidency in 1976.

Thiel College president Troy D. VanAken said, "I was profoundly saddened when I learned of President Almén's passing. During his tenure Dr. Almén's top goal was Thiel College's commitment to educational excellence and that commitment can still be seen and felt today at Thiel. Dr. Almén put Thiel College on sturdy footing during a precarious and dark economic time. The entire Thiel College and Greenville communities are the beneficiaries of the vision, hard work, generosity, kindness, diligence of Dr. Almén."

One-day fundraising effort sets record for Thiel College giving

Wednesday, May 21 was a record-breaking day in the history of Thiel College.

During the Thiel Fund Challenge, Thiel's 2:1 match day on May 21 alumni, parents, friends, faculty, staff and students rallied in just 24 hours to raise \$51,975 demonstrating their belief in the Thiel Commitment. More than 100 gifts were made online, by phone, by mail and even in person at a Thiel College alumni event in Denver, Colo. through a robust, and almost exclusively, social media campaign. This generosity made Thiel College history for most contributions made in a single day. Each donation was doubled due to the generous sponsorship of three anonymous alumni and friends, and all gifts to The Thiel Fund, regardless of size or frequency (i.e. multiple gifts within the fiscal year), were matched.

President Troy D. VanAken said, "It is with great pleasure that I can say the one-day giving campaign was a huge success, setting a precedent for the number of gifts generously given in a single day. This outpouring of support by alumni and friends of Thiel humbles me, and they are the true embodiment of the Thiel Commitment. Their investment in our students ensures that Thiel College will continue to be a leading provider of both a life-enriching liberal arts education and career-enhancing professional preparation."

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To learn more, contact
Leta Jeffers, Director
of The Thiel Fund, at
724-589-FUND (3863)

Who is the next Mark Nordenberg?



by **BRIANNA TIEDEMAN**

Thiel College Undergraduate Communications & Media Studies Student

Brianna is a freelance reporter for the Greenville Record-Argus, media board manager for the Student Government Association, and program director of TCTV.

University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Mark Nordenberg is an important symbol of success for that school. He helped rejuvenate a sagging University of Pittsburgh brand and won regional and national awards along the way while being recognized for contributions to civic, community and professional organizations. But the Thiel College math major, who ran cross country and was president of his fraternity, embodies something equally important for the college—a metaphor for the potential each Thiel College graduate represents.

Nordenberg graduated from Thiel College in 1970, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics, starting him on a lifelong journey that also led him back to his alma mater. He visited campus during Thiel's annual Founder's Day Celebration. It was then that President Troy D. VanAken honored Nordenberg with the Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award.

Thiel selected him for his distinguished service as a Board of Trustees member for ten years in addition to his national leadership in higher education. He received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award in 1988 spoke at the 1993 Commencement and at Thiel College President VanAken's 2010 inauguration.

"Thiel provided me with special opportunities to learn and grow. A very important part of that learning occurred in the classroom," Nordenberg said. "In addition, I was able to participate in a broad range of extracurricular activities that gave me a chance to develop a better understanding of interpersonal relations, effective communication skills, and leadership abilities."

As an undergraduate student, Nordenberg was a member of the Cross Country team, the Student Government Assembly, the Debate Team, and president of his fraternity, Alpha Chi Rho. Upon his recent visits to Thiel, Nordenberg made mention of the recent campus developments in comparison to his time at Thiel. "Simply as a visitor, first impressions would be of facilities that have been dramatically upgraded," he said. "There also has been a more intense focus on the student experience and the development of student potential has the highest level of priority."

Nordenberg's achievements not only make him a recognizable person world-wide in higher-education, but also bring distinction to all graduates of Thiel College.

In order to continue its tradition of alumni success, some Thiel leaders have mapped out advice for students and described the institution's Presentational Literacy program, an important component to the new Core Curriculum.



Mark Nordenberg '70

According to Professor David Miller, "being smart is not sufficient in and of itself. "You have to have a passion for what you do." Miller, who taught Nordenberg in his undergraduate years, remembers him as a serious student that did his work.

Relative to Miller's advice, Nordenberg said, as a student, pursuing something one has an interest in is vitally important.

"Try to find a career where you feel you can make a difference," Nordenberg said. "If you make career decisions based exclusively on salary, you're heading down the wrong road."

Professor Miller said students should "develop the attitude that 'everyday I'm going to add value to my education at Thiel' because eventually, you get hired under the proposition that you will add value to the organization you will be serving."

Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Dean of the College, Lynn Franken, enjoys mentoring young people and contributing to their journey. Franken believes that there is potential in all of us, "more than we're fully able to realize," and a method to realizing that potential is to use "persistence to graduation as a proxy to success."

Though these aforementioned professionals unanimously agreed success can be hard to predict, they also agreed that a crucial element of success is campus and academic engagement.

Franken is further developing the Career Development Center programs because they help students to visualize their options. "There are wonderful things to do in the world that you can't let pass you by because you don't know what they are," she said. Aside from mentorship and campus involvement, the Presentational Literacy program, starting this Fall, "might be the way we lift up our students so they have the best chance when they graduate," Franken said.

Similar to what the Thiel College Haller Enterprise Institute does currently, the course will encompass theory, construction, and production of assignments by utilizing the James Pedas Communication Center. Campus media outlets including WXTC and TCTV will serve to broadcast both live and taped productions, similar to the Ted Talk phenomenon and National Public Radio's involvement.

Through this course, students will also develop an E-Portfolio and be given business cards with the portfolio's URL on the back.

"It's not just about presenting yourself," Franken said, "but also your ideas, with grace, clarity, and persuasiveness."

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*President of
Thiel College
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*Vice President
Sigma Kappa Sorority*

Chelsea Costello

*Meadville, PA
Class of 2014*

*Studying Business
Administration-
Human Resources &
Business Communication*

*Interned with UPMC
Horizon Greenville, PA*



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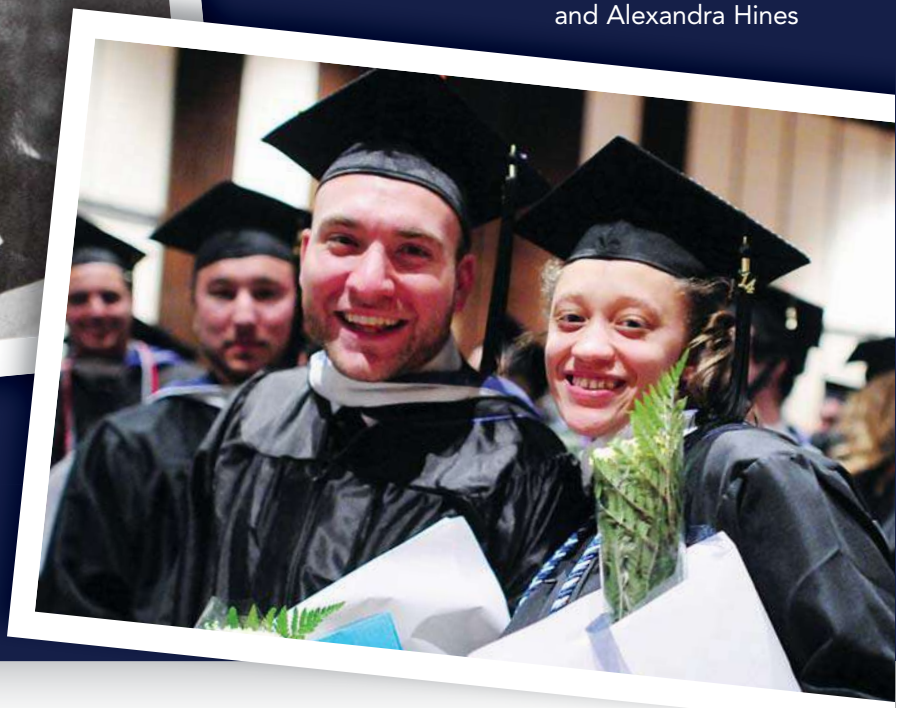
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THEN & NOW

2014

Andrew Hindman
and Alexandra Hines



1984

Beth Williams
and Ned Hoffmeister

