

The Bell

UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS

*Thiel 2016
Campaign
exceeds its
goal and
continues
making history*

p. 24



A woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a bright pink blazer over a black top and a floral scarf, stands smiling in front of a brick pillar supporting a black archway. The archway has the word "THIEL" in gold letters. The background shows a tree-lined path and green foliage.

THIEL

Introducing
Susan Traverso, Ph.D.,
the 20th President of
Thiel College p. 34



LIGHT OF THE WORLD, WORD OF GOD

SPRING 2016

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The *Thiel 2016 Campaign* made history as the largest fundraising effort in the College's history and continues through December.

 Dominick DiRienzo
 Rich Rock Media, LLC



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A Message from the President



Dear Alumni and Friends,


In my letter last fall, I wrote about the start of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign's public phase. Our goal was to raise \$60 million by the end of 2016. At the conclusion of our Board of Trustees meeting in February, I announced that we had exceeded that goal by raising \$61 million—well ahead of schedule! Your generosity made this possible. On behalf of the entire Thiel College campus community, I want to extend a sincere and heartfelt thank you for your support.

The Campaign continues through the end of this year, and every dollar raised from this point forward will set a new record for Thiel College fundraising.

Design work has begun on our new \$4 million science connector thanks to our lead donors—two very generous couples: **Fred Haer '65** and his wife, **Jill (Shackett) '66**, and **Carl Hoffman Jr., D.O., D.Sc. '69 H'10** and his wife, **Theresa**. Featuring four new interdisciplinary research spaces, this construction project will provide a connection between the Academic Center and a building site for a future science building. (Read more on Page 24.)

Mark your calendars and join us on campus for several events this summer and fall. Visit <http://www.thiel.edu/alumni/events> for a complete list of upcoming events. One weekend you will definitely want to save the date for is Sep. 30-Oct. 2. The College will continue celebrating its 150th birthday at Homecoming Weekend.

This is the 14th President's Message I've had the honor of submitting for *The Bell*, and it has been the most difficult one to write as it will be my last. I announced my decision to accept the presidency of another college on Feb. 16 and will depart for that opportunity later this summer. Thiel is a wonderful institution that will always hold a special place in my heart, and I am extremely proud of all the great accomplishments we achieved together as a campus community. From the building of the Rissell-Schreyer Dome and the James Pedas Communication Center to the *Thiel 2016* Strategic Plan and new core curriculum, it has been a total team effort. Thank you for your trust and faith over these last seven years—it has truly been an honor to be your president.


Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D.
President of Thiel College

President Troy D. VanAken
at his 2010 inauguration



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



The Bell awarded industry recognition for spring 2015 edition

Last spring's edition of *The Bell* was recognized with two awards at the 2016 College and University Public Relations and Associated Professionals (CUPRAP) conference. The magazine received bronze award honors, and the cover story headline "Brain Matters" won a silver award.

The Office of Communications and Marketing earned five total CUPPIEs at the conference. A postcard series sent to prospective students and a summer alumni postcard series won gold awards, and the Homecoming 2015 brochure won silver honors.

Altogether, 380 entries were received from more than 100 colleges, universities, and providers of private, specialized and secondary education in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland and Wisconsin. The judge panel consisted of experts in the field of communications and included designers, writers, educators, corporate executives and media professionals.



As Seen on
Instagram

Follow us (@thielcollege) to see more!




Letters to the editor

Thiel College welcomes feedback from you regarding *The Bell*. Letters must contain a contact number (not for publication, but to allow for verification of sender). Letters can be mailed to **Thiel College Office of Communications and Marketing, 75 College Avenue, Greenville, PA 16125**; or e-mailed to **pr@thiel.edu**. Due to the volume of correspondence, we are unable to respond to or publish all mail received. Letters accepted for publication may be edited for length and clarity.

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For news year-round, visit www.thiel.edu/newsroom.



Sesquicentennial celebration kicks off with Founders' Day and historic Winter Weekend announcement



This year's Winter Weekend included its traditional lineup of events, but was elevated even further with news of exceeded goals and a very special birthday—the College's.

On Feb. 4, **President Troy D. VanAken** recognized the contributions of 15 faculty and staff members and a regional organization at Founders' Day. The event also kicked off the College's sesquicentennial celebration, which was fitting since Founders' Day itself has been held annually since 1876.

More than 200 people attended the event, including Pennsylvania State Senator **Michele Brooks**, of Greenville, and Pennsylvania State Representative **Mark Longietti**, of Hermitage. They presented Thiel College with a citation from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania House of Representatives recognizing the College's 150th anniversary.

The Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award was awarded to The Dietrich Foundation, a Pittsburgh-based charitable trust established by **William "Bill" S. Dietrich II**. Its \$25 million gift to Thiel in 2011 remains the largest in the College's history. Part of that gift established The Kenneth '31

and Marianna Brown '32 Dietrich Honors Institute (DHI). The DHI was named in honor of Dietrich's parents, who were Thiel College alumni. Foundation President **Edward Grefenstette, J.D.**, accepted the award.

President VanAken said The Dietrich Foundation is an "active and engaged partner, as together we strive to actualize the vision of the DHI and support student success and achievement."

Professor of Business Administration and Accounting and Department Chair **Gary J. Witosky '79** received the Distinguished Professor of the Year award. He joined the College as an adjunct professor in 2002 and served as the interim vice president of finance in 2004. In March 2007, he was named the interim senior vice president, as part of a two-person team appointed to lead the College while it conducted a search for its next president. After the completion of the presidential search, he was named the executive assistant to President VanAken, a position he held until 2010. At that time, he returned to the faculty.

Other faculty members earning recognition were:

Distinguished Adjunct Faculty

Susan Richards

Adjunct Professor of Communication

Distinguished Scholar

Delbert Abi Abdallah, Ph.D.

*Assistant Professor of Biology and
Director of the GNC Faculty/Student
Research Institute*

Distinguished Service

Kathryn Frantz, Ph.D.

Professor of Chemistry

Distinguished Teacher

Max Shellenbarger

Lecturer Emeritus of Mathematics

Ten staff awards were presented. Receiving honors were:

Melanie Broadwater '98

Director of the Counseling Center

Kim Scobbie-Byler

Housekeeping Supervisor

Connie Jablonski

Controller

Anita Lillie

Postal Office Coordinator

Dan McMillen '86

*Head Golf and Bowling Coach and
Rissell-Schreyer Dome Coordinator*

Michael McElroy

Assistant Director of Digital Marketing

Tami Micsky

*Director of the Disability
Resource Center*

Nancy Reiser

*Visit and Admissions
Communications Coordinator*

Bob Schmoll

*Vice President for Finance
and Management*

Eric Ulrich

Interim Solution Center Supervisor

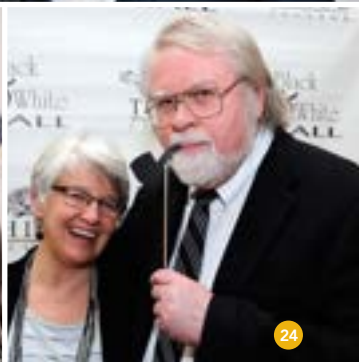
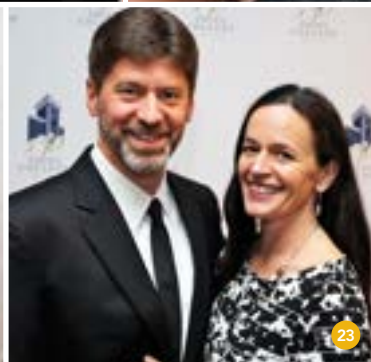
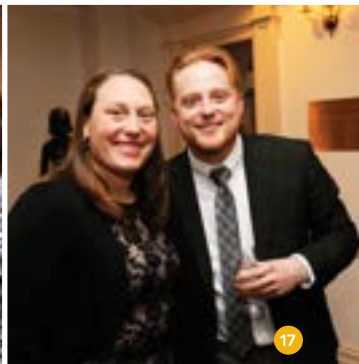
Events continued throughout the weekend. An alumni and student networking reception was held Friday night and the Class of 2015 dedicated their class gift—a Tomcat statue—on Saturday morning.

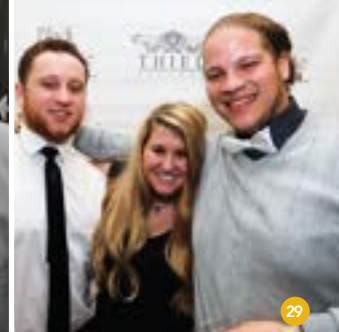
President VanAken made a historic announcement at an all boards luncheon held Saturday afternoon. He announced the *Thiel 2016 Campaign* exceeded its \$60 million goal, the largest fundraising target in the College's history, by raising \$61 million. The Campaign continues through December 2016. (Read more about the Campaign on Page 24.)

"This Campaign has invested in excellence and brought momentum to move the College forward," President VanAken said. "Together, we are building a stronger Thiel College that will continue to serve students for the next 150 years. Our work is not done, but this is a truly exceptional moment in our history."

The weekend continued with a packed Greek alumni and student forum, alumni and friends gourmet reception, and the sixth annual Black & White Ball.







Watch the Founders' Day tribute video on YouTube
<http://bit.ly/dietrichfoundationtribute>

Browse more photos on Flickr
<http://bit.ly/foundersdayphotos>, <http://bit.ly/winterweekendphotos>

1 Trent Keisling '15 and President Troy D. VanAken unveil the Class of 2015 gift, a bronze Tomcat statue, during Winter Weekend **2** Board of Trustees member Carl Hoffman Jr., D.O., D.Sc. '69, H'10; Assistant Professor of Biology and Director of the GNC Faculty/Student Research Institute Delbert Abi Abdallah, Ph.D.; and Professor of Psychology and Associate Academic Dean Jennifer Griffin, Ph.D., pose together at the Founders' Day reception **3** President VanAken addresses the audience at Founders' Day **4** Housekeeper Deborah Egelsky; Vice President for Finance and Management and staff award recipient Bob Schmolli and his wife, Judy; and Housekeeper Kathy Thompson at the Founders' Day reception **5** A commemorative 150 cake was a hit at the Founders' Day reception **6** President VanAken presents The Dietrich Foundation President Edward Grefenstette, J.D., with the Louis and Barbara Thiel Distinguished Service Award **7** Pennsylvania State Representative Mark Longietti, Grefenstette, President VanAken and Pennsylvania State Senator Michele Brooks pose for a photo after the Founders' Day ceremony **8** Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics David Miller '61, local businessman Doug Anderson and Board of Associates member Jeffrey Wallace share a smile **9** Founders' Day award recipients included (first row, L to R) Postal Office Coordinator Anita Lillie; Visit and Admissions Communications Coordinator Nancy Reiser; Housekeeping Supervisor Kim Scobbie-Byler; Director of the Disability Resource Center Tami Micsky; Professor of Chemistry Kathryn Frantz, Ph.D.; Director of the Counseling Center Melanie Broadwater '98; Controller Connie Jablonski; Adjunct Professor of Communication Susan Richards; (second row) Schmolli; Head Golf and Bowling Coach and Rissell-Schreyer Dome Coordinator Dan McMillen '86; interim Solution Center Supervisor Eric Ulrich; Assistant Director of Digital Marketing Michael McElroy; Lecturer of Mathematics Max Shellenbarger; Abi Abdallah; and Professor of Business Administration and Accounting and Department Chair Gary Witosky '79 **10** The 18th President of Thiel College Robert Olson, Ph.D. '60, H'09; Witosky and interim Vice President for College

Advancement Roberta Leonard share a moment at the Founders' Day luncheon **11** Board of Trustees member John Barr '70 talks with Jordan Smith '16 and Nick Sutton '16 at the Alumni and Student Networking Reception **12** All boards, the President's Cabinet and students gathered for a group photo in front of Greenville Hall on Saturday morning **13** Alumni and students attended the packed Greek Alumni Forum Saturday afternoon in Bly Hall **14** Maggie (Giel) Bovaird '09 participated in the Greek Alumni Forum **15** Director of Planned Giving Mario Marini '91 and wife, Chris **16** Nikol (Thomson) Facemyer '97, Alumni Association Board of Directors member Damen Taylor '95 and Rebecca (Adkins) Borland '96 **17** Director of Athletics Amy Schafer and Ryan Prescott '12 **18** Vice President of Student Life Mike McKinney '02 and wife, Erin (Wright) '02 **19** Jim Frank '88 and wife, Tina **20** Linda Neiheiser and Alumni Association Board of Directors member-at-large Christopher Shinkman, Ph.D. '62 **21** Assistant Director of Residence Life Bob Phillips '08 and Resident Director Andrew Hindman '14 **22** Kelsey Wise '15 and fiancé, Benjamin Montozzi '16 **23** Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Accounting Karen Shaffer and husband, Jeff **24** Professor of Religion and Director of the Dietrich Honors Institute Curtis Thompson, Ph.D., and wife, Kathy **25** (first row, L to R) Admission Counselor Amanda Bauer '14, Admission Counselor Chelsea Costello '14, Alumni Association Board of Directors member Nicki Colpo '06, Director of Alumni Relations Kelly Sanzari '13, (second row) Taylor, Alumni Association Board of Directors President Antonio Quarterman '08 and Alumni Association Board of Directors member Michael Allen '90 **26** Audrey Rattay '12 and date **27** Students enjoy the sixth annual Black & White Ball **28** Kristen Verina '16 and Assistant Sports Information Director Cyril Parham '14 **29** Jason Crystol '15, Abby Spriggs '15 and Mario Faggioli '15 **30** President VanAken and wife, Annette **31** Bobby Hritz '14, Ivey Shorts '16 and Hritz's girlfriend, Nancy **32** Dylan Squires '18, Nathan Flory '17, Alexandria Clark '16, Director of Student Activities and Involvement Than Oo, Colin Murphy '16, Rachael Rose '17 and Amber Fox '17

\$212,021

One-day fundraising drive for The Thiel Fund produces historic results

A record number of donors contributed more than \$200,000 during a one-day fundraising event for The Thiel Fund on Monday, Feb. 29.

The initial fundraising goal was for 150 donors, in recognition of the College's sesquicentennial anniversary. The goal was reached before noon, but the momentum lasted throughout the day. The number of gifts and amounts given activated match bonuses and even inspired a generous donor to create an additional match challenge. Along with online and telephone donations, mailed gifts that were postmarked on Feb. 29 also counted toward the total.

"The 2016 Match Day results were clearly impressive by the amount of dollars raised from a record number of very kind and generous alumni who love their College," Thiel College Board of Trustees member and Chair of the Advancement Committee **John Barr '70** said. "What is equally impressive is that Thiel College is continuing to [develop] a growing culture of philanthropy that is assured to benefit generations of future students."

The 355 donors in one day, including 206 Greek organization alumni, and the \$212,021 given were both single-day records for

The Thiel Fund. Participation from Greek organization alumni was a key factor—sorority or fraternity members made up 58 percent of donors. Sigma Kappa and Sigma Phi Epsilon were the "Greek Challenge" winners.

"There was an incredible sense of Greek pride during match day. The number of alumni from fraternities and sororities truly drove our day of giving toward success," Director of Alumni Relations **Kelly Sanzari '13** said. "Greeks already have a commitment to philanthropic service, and this was confirmed by their dedication to The Thiel Fund."

About The Thiel Fund

The Thiel Fund is the College's largest source of unrestricted funds. It supports need-based scholarships, academic programming, athletics and campus improvements. It also provides for unforeseen expenses, student needs and unique opportunities.

Visit www.thiel.edu/thiefund to learn more.



1



2



3

1 Water activist **Mark Dubois** spoke on April 5 about "Rivers/Water: Past, Present, Future." Dubois is the co-founder of Friends of the River and the International Rivers Network. 2 Students, staff and faculty gathered for a tree planting ceremony on April 6 on the west side of the Howard Miller Student Center during Earth Week. 3 Associate Professor of Chemistry and Department Chair **Chris Stanisky, Ph.D.**; Pastor of Saints of God Church in Flint, Mich. and President of Concerned Pastors for Social Action **Rev. Alfred Harris**; Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Chemistry and Department Chair **Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. '06**; and Professor of Religion and Director of the Dietrich Honors Institute **Curt Thompson, Ph.D.**, pause for a photo before Harris' presentation on April 7. Stanisky and Reinsel are co-directors for the Global Institute of Thiel College.

Passionate presenters focused on water issues for 18th Annual Earth Week

Thiel College's 18th annual Earth Week celebration included enthusiastic presentations and a unique surprise.

This year's theme was "Water Justice and the Earth's Future." Water activist **Mark Dubois**, the co-founder of Friends of the River and the International Rivers Network, spoke on April 5 about "Rivers/Water: Past, Present, Future." The **Rev. Alfred Harris**—pastor of Saints of God Church and president of Concerned Pastors for Social Action in Flint, Mich.—capped the week's events on April 7 with his presentation "Water Justice in Flint, Michigan." Following Harris' presentation, his wife, **Denise**, impressed the audience with her version of the gospel song "If I Can Help Somebody."

"We had some passionate people presenting. The singing was a really neat dimension of [Harris' talk]," Professor of Religion and Director of the Kenneth '31 and Marianna Brown '32 Dietrich Honors

Institute **Curt Thompson, Ph.D.**, said. "The different form of the message coming through that song was powerful."

Earlier in the week, Carnegie Science Center personnel and Thiel College students put on an Earth Week workshop for elementary school students in Beeghly Gymnasium on April 5. A tree planting ceremony and a showing of the documentary "Blue Gold: World Water Wars" were also part of the celebration. The tree planting was held along College Avenue near the intersection with Packard Avenue.

The Global Institute of Thiel College, in partnership with the Office of Student Life, sponsors Earth Week at Thiel College.

Concussion topic, Collins' talk generate buzz for Haer Family Symposium

International concussion expert Dr. Michael "Micky" Collins' appearance and the concussion and traumatic brain injury theme led to local headlines for the third annual Haer Family Symposium.

Concussion and brain injuries have been in the public spotlight recently due to high-profile professional athlete injuries. Collins is director of the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program. He cited media attention and misunderstanding of concussions as a reason to dedicate a section of his presentation "Active Approaches to Concussion Management and Rehabilitation: What Are We Learning?" to changing misconceptions.

“What you are reading in the media juxtaposes ... with what I am seeing on a day-to-day basis, which is kids getting better.”

The Symposium began with a panel discussion on April 14. The discussion included UPMC Athletic Trainer **Joe Zidar**, Director of the Disability Resource Center **Tami Micsky**, Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer** and student **Annika Schul '19**, a neuroscience major from Martinsburg, Pa. The group discussed "return to play" standards and included Schul's experience recovering from a concussion.

Collins' presentation, which included student panelists **Nick McNutt '17**, a neuroscience major from Derry, Pa., and **Cate McCormick '16**, a biology major from McKeesport, Pa., was followed by an active question-and-answer session.

"I love answering the questions," Collins said.

Newspaper reporters from *The Record-Argus* and *The (Sharon) Herald* were among the students, faculty, staff, and Greenville-area community members in attendance for Collins' presentation. The April 14 panel discussion was also covered by *The Record-Argus*.

The Symposium's final event on April 15 was a screening and discussion of the movie "Concussion" led by Professor of Neuroscience and Department Chair **Greg Butcher, Ph.D.**



1 Nicholas McNutt '17; Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College Lynn Franken, Ph.D.; Cate McCormick '16; and Director of the UPMC Sports Medicine Concussion Program Michael "Micky" Collins, Ph.D., participated in the third annual Haer Family Symposium on April 15 **2** Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Department Chair Greg Butcher, Ph.D., introduced Collins **3** Collins' presentation "Active Approaches to Concussion Management and Rehabilitation: What Are We Learning?" described advances in the treatment of concussions and dispelled some of the myths surrounding traumatic brain injuries **4** Collins and attendees engaged in an active question-and-answer period following Collins' presentation

Graduates, faculty and friends of the College honored during 142nd Commencement

Thiel College honored 216 graduates, three dedicated friends and three faculty members of the College during its 142nd Commencement exercises Sunday, May 8.

A large number of friends and family members attended the Commencement exercises in the William A. Passavant Memorial Center. Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller '61** dedicated his Commencement address to the students.

"This is your day. Let's celebrate it," Miller said.

He recognized students and their contributions to the College and Greenville-area communities. Miller has been a faculty member since 1963, making him the longest-serving professor in the College's history.

Former Chair of the Board of Trustees **Edward A. Bartko '72, H'16**; former Board of Trustees member **Rev. David P. Gleason, D.Min. H'16**; and generous friend **LaVonne C. Johnson H'16** were all awarded honorary doctorate degrees.

Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science and Department Chair **Andrew Grover**; Lecturer of Mathematics **Max E. Shellenbarger**; and Professor of Political Science **Robert Wells, Ph.D.**, were granted emeriti faculty status during the exercises.

Five students with perfect 4.0 grade point averages (GPA)—**Allison Gloor '16, Shane Martin '16, Sean Oros '15, Kourtney Polvinale '16** and **Kale Postlewait '16**—earned valedictorian honors. **Kristi Lee Guritza '16** was named salutatorian. The six students graduated summa cum laude and received the Dean's Key for making the Dean's List every semester at Thiel College. Polvinale also gave the senior address, "The Truth Within."

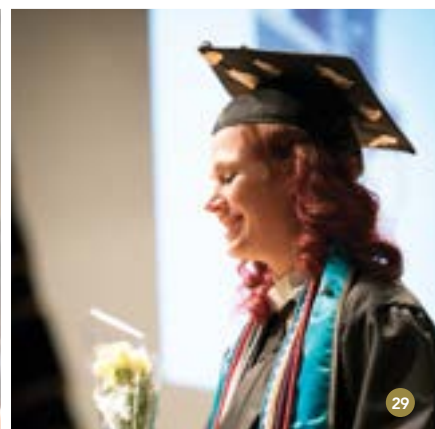
"Commencement is a celebration of the hard work of the students, but also of the institution," **President Troy D. VanAken** said. "It's been rewarding for me personally to see these students reach their potential. A degree is a foundation our students can build their futures on."







1 Graduates walk up Brother Martin's Walk with their entire class as part of the Commencement tradition 2 The David Johnson Memorial Chapel was full for the Baccalaureate ceremony 3 Director of Bands and Trumpet and Instructor of Music **Andrew Erb** performs 4 **Pastor Jayne Thompson** preaches 5 Valedictorian **Sean Oros '15** served as a senior assisting minister 6 **Bishop Kurt Kusserow '85** presides 7 The annual tree planting ceremony included **President Troy D. VanAken, Loyal Jasper '16, Sara Merkle '16, Morgan Berg '16, Hannah Stoneman '16, Trent Keisling '15, Alexandria Clark '16, Evan Sokira '16, Lora Rutherford '16, Allison Gloor '16** and **Andrew Thomas '16** 8 The Thiel Choir Director and Professor of Music **Michael Bray, D.M.A.**, directed music for the event 9 President VanAken and **Dr. Glen R. Johnson H'88**, chair emeritus of the Board of Trustees 10 Members of the Board of Trustees caught up at the Platform Party Luncheon: (L to R) **Frank Maenpa, Ph.D. '69; Rick Huether '74;** trustee emeritus **Roy Strausbaugh, Ph.D. H'14;** and **Dale Deist**. Strausbaugh's wife, **Rosanna**, and Deist's wife, **Barbara**, also joined 11 Former members of the Board of Trustees **Rev. David Gleason, D.Min. H'16** and **Nancy Headrick '63** (right) enjoy lunch. Gleason's wife, **Joyce**, also joined 12 Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer**, Alumni Association Board of Directors President **Antonio Quarterman '08** and Vice President for Enrollment Management **Stephen Lazowski** 13 Current and former members of the Board of Trustees gather for a photo with the day's three honorary degree recipients: (first row, L to R) **Edward Bartko '72, H'16;** Gleason and **LaVonne Johnson H'16** 14 The Brother Martin's Walk



tradition includes a pass under the Thiel arch **15 Morgan Steiner '16** and **Meri Steinmetz '16** **16** President VanAken congratulates a student **17** Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller '61** heads in to deliver his Commencement address **18** President VanAken opens the Commencement exercises **19** Miller delivers the Commencement address **20** Member of the Board of Trustees **Alan Fager, Ed.D. '69** presents Gleason before he receives his honorary degree **21** Bartko's degree is conferred by Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** **22** Member of the Board of Trustees **Rev. Brian Evans '03** details Johnson's many accomplishments before she receives her honorary degree **23** Johnson receives her honorary degree **24** Lecturer Emeritus of Mathematics **Max Shellenbarger** **25** Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Computer Science **Andrew Grover** **26** Senior Class President **Lora Kay '16** presents the class gift **27** Senior Class Orator **Kourtney Polvinal** '16 addresses "The Truth Within" **28** Valedictorian **Shane Martin '16** shakes hands with Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Lynn Franken, Ph.D. '16** **29** Ivey Shorts '16 crosses the stage **30** Joseph "David" DeVivo '16 shares an embrace after the ceremony **31** **Trey Vaughn '16** and **Jalaya Provitt '16** (right) **32** **Kamau Clanagan '16** **33** **Ashley Ames '16** and **Allison Williams '16** **34** Members of the lacrosse team gather for a group photo **35** **Valen Meade '16**, **Yumehito "Jimmy" Komukai '16**, **Mercedez Quarles '17** and **Ayami Hashimoto '16** **36** Students and recent alumni share a moment

Faculty and Staff News



Abi Abdallah named director of GNC Faculty/Student Research Institute

Assistant Professor of Biology **Delbert Abi Abdallah, Ph.D.**, was named the director of the Greenville Neuromodulation Center (GNC) Faculty/Student Research Institute in February.

In 2015, **Fred Haer '65** and his wife, **Jill (Shackett) '66**, pledged more than \$400,000 to fund the Institute. The multiyear research projects and summer research institute focus on connecting science and the liberal arts. The Institute is open to all Thiel College faculty members.

The research institute began in the summer of 2015. Abi Abdallah conducted two projects among last year's inaugural class of six. He said several projects are funded for this summer. Abi Abdallah will handle the administrative duties for the Institute and reports to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.**



Amar exhibits work at Weyers-Sampson Gallery

Professor of Sculpture **Jesse Amar** exhibited his work entitled "Sabbatical Report: An Exhibition of New Sculpture" at the College's Weyers-Sampson Gallery in March and April.

Amar has a bachelor's in art from Swarthmore College and a master's in sculpture from American University. He has taught at Thiel College since 2000. Prior to that, he was an adjunct professor of sculpture at American University, an instructor at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and a visiting artist in sculpture at the Chautauqua Institute (N.Y.).



Gallagher participates in feminist psychologist institute

Assistant Professor of Psychology **Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.**, represented the College at the 2016 Institute for Academic Feminist Psychologists in March. Gallagher was invited to attend as an "Early Career Scholar." At the Institute, she presented her work on the "Humans of Western PA Project." The project involved her students interviewing strangers and posting their answers to Facebook. She discussed how the project teaches students lessons in cultural diversity and gratitude. The Institute was held in Pittsburgh.



Hall publishes book review; earns recognition

Professor of English and Faculty Chair **Mary Theresa Hall, Ph.D.**, had her book review published in a leading 16th-century literary issues journal. Hall's book review of "Shakespeare and the Versification of English Drama, 1561-1642" by international linguist and Russian formalist critic **Marina Tarlinskaja** was published in the winter 2015 (Vol. XLVI, No. 4) edition of *Sixteenth Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*. Published since 1969, the journal prints about 25 articles and more than 400 book reviews each year. The journal also recognized Hall by awarding her a certificate of "honors and thanks" as a bronze medal book reviewer for her contributions from 2000-2015.



Shellenbarger, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.**, and **Grover** pose together during the celebration.

Math and computer science faculty members recognized at retirement party

The campus community celebrated nearly 60 years of commitment to the College with a retirement party on April 28 for Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science and Department Chair **Andrew Grover** and Lecturer of Mathematics **Max E. Shellenbarger**.

Grover joined Thiel College in 1984, and Shellenbarger started in 1990. **President Troy D. VanAken** addressed each retiree during the party and thanked them for their dedication to Thiel.

"Thiel College and its students have benefitted from the devotion and enthusiasm of these two faculty members," President VanAken said. "The mentorship and support Andy and Max gave our students are great examples of what makes Thiel College and a liberal arts education special."

Grover has served for many years as department chair and played a key role in the creation of the e-commerce and web development majors. Grover's long beard, never-ending parade of Hawaiian shirts and many pairs of Crocs made him identifiable around campus. He received a bachelor's in mathematics and computer studies from Alma College in 1982, and a master's in computer science from the University of Pittsburgh in 1984. Grover and his wife, **Thea Arai**, live in Greenville, but plan on retiring to the desert southwest. They have five adult children.

Shellenbarger was instrumental in the introduction of technology in college algebra, statistics and pre-calculus. Shellenbarger served as the adviser and corresponding secretary for Kappa Mu Epsilon for the last 10 years. The math honor society initiated 99 students in that time. He obtained a bachelor's in mathematics, physics and education from Anderson College in 1968, and a master's in mathematics from Ball State University in 1972. Shellenbarger and his wife, **Marianne**, live in Jamestown, Pa. They have five adult children and 16 grandchildren.

Both were awarded emeriti faculty status during Commencement 2016. (Read more on Page 10.)

Lazowski named Vice President for Enrollment Management



Stephen A. Lazowski was appointed vice president for enrollment management last December. As the College's chief enrollment officer, Lazowski is a member of the President's Cabinet. He is responsible for leading Thiel's admissions and enrollment management functions. This includes development of recruitment strategies, managing the distribution of all admissions publications and materials to prospective students, and enhancing all levels of the enrollment process.

He has more than 12 years of experience in higher education and most recently served as the

vice president for enrollment management at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio. He also held admissions positions at Georgia College & State University and Baldwin-Wallace University. He consistently exceeded enrollment and application goals at all three of those institutions.

Lazowski's early initiatives include enhancing the call center, creating a shorter 'snap' application, and partnering with the Office of Communications and Marketing on email marketing campaigns and social media contests.

"Stephen has been a valuable addition to the College's leadership team," **President Troy D. VanAken** said. "As the College continues to grow, his efforts will be vital to our ability to attract qualified students, increase enrollment across all disciplines, and work together for the benefit of our students."

Lazowski has a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and history from Saint Xavier University in Chicago and a master's degree from Boise State University in Boise, Idaho. He resides in the Cleveland, Ohio area with his wife, Elizabeth, and son, Andrew.



McElroy earns national industry recognition for three videos

Assistant Director of Digital Marketing **Michael McElroy** had three videos selected for recognition in the third annual Education Digital Marketing Awards last December.

McElroy was among just seven silver award winners in the Digital Video category that recognized 40 entrants with gold, silver or merit awards. A "Move-in Day Highlights" video that took viewers through the entire 2015 move-in process and Opening Convocation celebration earned the silver award. A video outlining objectives of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign and a light-hearted look at campus improvement projects in "Summer 2015 Projects – Tommy's Dream Sequence" received merit awards.

The Education Digital Marketing Awards are selected by a national panel of industry specialists, who judge creativity, marketing execution, message impact, technology application and innovation content.

All three videos were produced in-house by the Office of Communications and Marketing, using technology in the James Pedas Communication Center. McElroy shot, edited and produced the videos with assistance from **Trent Keisling '15**.

"These videos highlight our commitment to new media and our strategy of communicating directly with a digitally engaged audience," Vice President for Technology and Marketing **Kurt Ashley** said. "The state-of-the-art technology in the James Pedas Communication Center has had an impact on students, staff and alumni. These awards give validation to the excellent digital assets the Center has made possible."

McElroy graduated from Point Park University with a bachelor's degree in broadcasting and has worked for WPXI-TV Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Steelers. He joined the College in 2014 as the media production engineer and was promoted to assistant director of digital marketing this May. He has also been honored with a Founders' Day staff award and an Excellence in Service to Students award from the College's chapter of The National Society of Leadership and Success.



Thiel College's YouTube channel launched in January 2014 and has logged almost 40,000 views. Explore the Thiel College video library at www.youtube.com/thielcollege.

Familiar faces take on new roles in College Advancement

Last December, **Roberta Leonard** (left), **Kelly Sanzari '13** and **Kraig R. Smith '12** each stepped into new roles for the College Advancement division.

Leonard became the interim Vice President for College Advancement, Sanzari moved into the director of alumni relations position, and Smith—the former director of alumni relations—started in the newly-created role of director of alumni development.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Leonard joined Thiel College in 2001 as director of corporate, foundation and government support. Leonard was most recently the executive director of the *Thiel 2016 Campaign*. (Read more about the Campaign on Page 24.)

Sanzari returned to her alma mater in July 2015 as a career counselor in the Career Development Center. Sanzari graduated from Thiel College in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and earned a master's from Slippery



Rock University in student affairs in higher education. She also previously held positions in the Office of Admission and in College Advancement at Thiel College. She worked in graduate admissions at Slippery Rock and campus life at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Smith had been director of alumni relations since July 2014. Before that, he worked for the College in the Office of Student Life. He graduated from Thiel College in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in forensic accounting, business administration and accounting. He is working on an M.B.A. from Clarion University.

Three staff members graduate from Leadership Shenango

Admission Counselor **Justin Gregorich**, Senior Associate Director of Admission **Sonya Lapikas** (right) and Director of Alumni Relations **Kelly Sanzari '13** graduated from Leadership Shenango on May 19.

The Leadership Shenango program is affiliated with the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce, and it consists of two

full-day and six half-day sessions over three months. The program began in 1995 and has more than 400 graduates.

"Leadership Shenango encourages the regeneration of existing community leaders through leadership development. The program expands awareness of community resources, as well as their values," interim Executive Director of the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce **Deanne Koch** said. "It also gives participants the opportunity to engage and network with current and future leaders of our area."

Participants were nominated by a sponsor and then had to apply to the program. Leadership Shenango started in mid-February and ended with the May graduation recognition during the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce's annual Phoenix Awards. Graduates were awarded a certificate and a one-year membership to the Shenango Valley Professionals.

Many of the graduates serve the Shenango Valley community on various committees and boards. The program's goals include creating a forum for the exchange of ideas and integrating the experience of current community leadership with the innovation of future community leaders.





Fourth Annual Relay for Life brings campus and community together for a good cause

Thiel College's Relay for Life was held April 1 and raised more than \$6,000 in donations. The event has surpassed \$50,000 in donations during its first four years.

"I am so proud to be working with an amazing group of students. We had 13 teams and over 100 students participating in this year's relay," said Relay for Life adviser and Lecturer of Education **Mary Reames**. "Their commitment and enthusiasm for Relay is wonderful to experience. Thanks to the whole student body and Thiel community for their support."

Staff, faculty and Greenville-area community members also participated in the Relay.

The event's opening ceremony included a video where

walkers described why they were participating. Whether it was for a family member or a friend, walkers said they wanted to encourage cancer patients to fight on and raise money to combat the disease. After the video, survivors led the 13 teams during the first official lap.

Throughout the evening, members of each team took turns walking around the track. Student and Greenville-area community organizations hosted tables around the track. The organizations sold food and held family-friendly games and activities to provide entertainment and raise additional funds.

1 Cancer survivors led the way for the ceremonial first lap that kicked off the fourth annual Relay for Life of Thiel College on April 1. Students, faculty, staff and community members participated in the fundraiser 2 Nick Sarratori '18 and Alayna Sharp '18 were among the student walkers participating in the event 3 Assistant Registrar **Debbie Schreiber**, Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer** and Relay for Life of Greenville volunteer **Ron Cooper** pause for a photo. Schreiber and Cooper are both cancer survivors. Schreiber was team captain for the Thiel College team "The Young and the Rest of Us"



McKinney recognized as one of Mercer County's top young leaders

Vice President of Student Life **Michael McKinney '02** was recognized as an influential young leader at the Mercer County chambers of commerce "40 under Forty" awards ceremony on April 6. The event was presented by the Greenville, Grove City, and Mercer area chambers of commerce and the Shenango Valley Chamber of Commerce.

McKinney started working at Thiel College in 2002 as a resident director, while attending graduate school at Youngstown State University. McKinney rose to dean of

students and began serving on the President's Cabinet by age 29. Four years later, he became vice president of student life. McKinney has also led the Thiel College "Great Colleges to Work For" task force and is a Greenville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors member.

"Mike is a student-centered leader and great collaborator. He cares deeply about Thiel College and our students, as well as the Greenville community," said **President Troy D. VanAken**. "He works diligently to demonstrate that commitment on a daily basis."

A portrait of Ross Nugent, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue shirt, and a green and white striped tie. He is standing in front of a green background with some industrial equipment visible on the left. The text is overlaid on a dark blue horizontal band across the middle of the image.

Faculty Spotlight
Ross Nugent

Assistant Professor of Communication
Ross Nugent, M.F.A., can trace his family's roots back to the glory days of steel in western Pennsylvania. His father, grandfather and great-grandfather all worked in the Shenango Valley's rough-and-tumble steel

industry. As a child, Nugent watched as the mills closed and blue-collar families began struggling with a new economic reality. That experience, paired with a lesson from his father, convinced Nugent that this kind of work was not for him.

When Nugent was eight years old, he complained that his back ached after doing some yard work. His father told him that for his career, "you can use your back or you can use your brains—pick one."

Nugent opted for the latter, ending the family legacy of mill work. However, he did find a unique way to stay connected with the mills that once made western Pennsylvania an industrial powerhouse.

Nugent produced and released the film "Steel Mill Rolling," an experimental documentary that serves as an industrial portrait. It was filmed in 2010 and chronicles what is left of the mill where his father works. At its peak, 2,200 people were employed at the plant; now a fraction of that number work at the facility that looks more deserted than operational.

The film was awarded a Jury's Choice first prize in documentary at the 2014 Black Maria Film Festival and was featured at venues across the country as part of the Festival's touring program. Nugent has screened this and his other shorts at a variety of notable venues around the world, including the National Museum of Art (Washington, D.C.), Museum of Modern Art (New York), Ann Arbor Film Festival (Mich.), Antimatter Film Festival (Vancouver, B.C., Canada), Chicago Underground Film Festival and Athens Video Art Festival (Greece). The documentary has also screened at art galleries and on broadcast television. Nugent said he plans to release the documentary online soon.

The path from behind the camera to professor was not a simple one for Nugent. Teaching was not on the horizon while he was an undergraduate at the University of Pittsburgh. After graduating with his bachelor's degree from Pitt in film studies, he worked with Pittsburgh Filmmakers—one of the oldest and largest media arts centers in the U.S. It was during that time that he started helping other filmmakers as a teaching assistant.

"I started developing those skills and interests," Nugent said. "I began to see other filmmakers who found a home in academia."

That led him to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he quickly found out that teaching was something he could do. "They have a strong teaching component to their program," Nugent said. "You show up and you are teaching. There was a need and an opportunity. In 2009, I started teaching my own classes."

He graduated with his M.F.A. in film from UW-Milwaukee in 2011. From 2009 to 2012, he was a lecturer at UW-Milwaukee, teaching classes in filmmaking and criticism. In 2013, he returned to Pittsburgh Filmmakers as an adjunct professor, teaching courses on motion picture fundamentals, film history and theory. He was also an online adjunct for the University of Maryland University College.

Nugent joined Thiel last fall. He teaches classes in TV news production, public relations, announcing and introduction to communication. This spring, he added the Introduction to Film and Film in American Culture courses to his roster. He is excited about the programs coming out of the James Pedas Communication Center and the College's presentational literacy curriculum. All students receive training in modern communication methods and have access to the television studio, radio station and editing software.

"It will benefit all [of] our majors," he said. "As the professional world creates and consumes increasing amounts of digital content, foundational skills in composition, framing, lighting, file management ... all students can benefit from that," he said. "Even if they don't plan on doing it, they will be in a position to save money and

headaches in the professional world if they know [how] to do it."

"Presentational literacy classes and digital equipment access can do more than benefit students professionally," Nugent said. "The classes and tools can serve as entry points into the development of a skill or passion that can grow outside the academic sphere. We want to make students aware of the opportunities outside the classroom. Thiel's student media is open to all. We want students to take advantage of the space."

Ross Recommends ...

Because Nugent studies a field that so many people have a casual relationship with, he is frequently asked for his opinions on movies. Here are a couple quick movie and director recommendations from Nugent.

One movie he will always watch:

"Back to the Future"

"Maybe not the best answer (for a film academic), but it's entertainment."

Recommended director (entertainment):

Kelly Reichardt, known for "Wendy and Lucy," "Night Moves," and "Old Joy"

"She can make big budget features, but she comes from indie filmmaking. She can do movies that are character studies, but involve larger issues and speak to me and a broader audience."

Recommended director (academic):

Ben Russell and **Ben Rivers**.

Russell's feature debut was 2009's "Let Each One Go Where He May," shot in Suriname in a series of 13 long takes. Rivers' first feature length film was 2011's "Two Years at Sea." The two filmmakers worked together to create 2013's "A Spell to Ward Off the Darkness."

Nugent said their stories are not told with the standard narrative. "It is experimental film. It is psychedelia and ethnography."



Flory is first Thiel student to study at Oxford

Nathan Flory '17 is attending Oxford University in England through the Oxford Study Abroad Programme. His six-week program began May 24. Flory is an English literature major from Export, Pa., and a member of the Kenneth '31 and Marianna Brown '32 Dietrich Honors Institute (DHI). He belongs to Thiel College's highest academic honor society, Alpha Chi, and has a 4.0 grade point average (GPA). Flory is active in many campus organizations, including the Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride band, The Thiel Choir, the Greenville Junior Chamber of Commerce, the English honorary society, and several other groups. He finished a two-week tour of Ireland with The Thiel Choir three days before starting at Oxford. While at Oxford, Flory will conduct research for his senior thesis at Thiel College.



Phi Alpha Theta attends regional conference

(front row, L to R) **Austin Hall '17**, **Hans Myers '17**, **Brittany DeCarmine '18**, (back row) Professor of History **James Koshan, Ph.D.**, **Jennifer Lippert '17**, **David Dye '16**, **Sarah McConnell '18** and **Stephen Staats '17** pose for a photo outside.

Professor of History **James Koshan, Ph.D.**; Director of Langenheim Memorial Library **Allen Morrill** and seven members of Thiel College's Phi Alpha Theta history honor society attended the Western Pennsylvania Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference at Mercyhurst University (Erie, Pa.). **Austin Hall '17** won best paper of his panel for his presentation "The Weimar Republic: The Failure of Democracy in Germany."

Three other students presented papers:

- **Jennifer Lippert '17**, "Rafael Trujillo: Butcher of the Caribbean"
- **Hans Myers '17**, "'Devoted unto the Grave:' The Gotterdammerung of the Third Reich"
- **David Dye '16**, "Soviet Involvement in the Korean War"

Brittany DeCarmine '18, **Sarah McConnell '18** and **Stephen Staats '17** also attended the conference.



Three students earn Heinz scholarships

(pictured L to R) **Madison Mele '17**, **Jennifer Shelley '16** and **Jaime Whitaker '18** are spending the summer abroad after earning Vira I. Heinz Scholarships for Women in Global Leadership.

- Mele, of McMurray, Pa., is traveling to Italy to study the contribution of women to the Renaissance.
- Shelley, of Port Allegany, Pa., is headed to Thailand to teach English to Thai school children and learn the Thai language.
- Whitaker, of Kersey, Pa., is traveling to Costa Rica to develop fluency in Spanish and volunteer with local schools and daycare centers.

Hautmann, Orczeck play at prestigious band festival

Amanda Hautmann '17 and **Katherine Orczeck '18** participated in the 69th Annual Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band Festival in early March at Elizabethtown College. Both are members of the Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride band. Hautmann plays the flute, and Orczeck plays the tuba. Performers are chosen by a selection committee for participation in the festival.



Wagner earns national collegiate broadcasting recognition

Dan Wagner '17 (left), of Espyville, Pa., was named the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) best production director at the IBS conference for his work at Thiel College WXTC radio station. The conference was in early March in New York City. **Khari Bess '16**, of Waldorf, Md., and **Mercedes Quarles '17**, of Cleveland, Ohio, were finalists for an IBS Golden Mic Award. Bess was a best sports director finalist, and Quarles was a best promotion director finalist.



Student service trip to Nicaragua

(front row, L to R) Ashley Reynolds '16, Kourtney Polvinala '16, Clarissa Whippo '16, (second row) Irene Hooks '18 and Professor of History and Department Chair and Assistant Dean of the Core Curriculum David Buck, Ph.D., pose for a photo in Nicaragua.

Ashley Reynolds '16, Kourtney Polvinala '16, Irene Hooks '18, Clarissa Whippo '16 and Professor of History and Department Chair and Assistant Dean of the Core Curriculum David Buck, Ph.D., spent 10 days over spring break in Nicaragua working with the Compas de Nicaragua program. The group visited the local women's organization Women in Action in Managua. The students followed program members and learned how to make some of the items they sell, such as hand-carved gourds, purses crocheted out of recycled plastic bags, and homemade soy.

The group also traveled to the smaller farming community of La Paz. The group put a biogas system into a host family's home and worked on a compost project for their reforestation efforts. In addition to the volunteer work, the group also took excursions which included seeing the rainforest on top of the Mombacho volcano; swimming at volcanic lake Laguna de Apoyo and the Pacific Ocean; visiting local museums, maternity wards, and daycare facilities; and taking multiple hikes around the hills of La Paz to see howler monkeys.

"I would have never guessed that such a short trip could have had such a lasting impression on me, but I know that I look forward to my next opportunity to serve and travel," Reynolds said. "The Compas program and Thiel's commitment to providing study abroad opportunities have been incredible, and I'm extremely grateful that we were presented this opportunity."

Marini displays art at Greenville gallery

Kyle Marini '18 combined his interest in art, history, and culture for his God, Gold, & Glory exhibit about the Spanish conquest and colonization of Latin America. It was on display at Sans MOCO Art Gallery & Atelier for the first three months of 2016. The exhibit was inspired by Marini's experiences in Latin America. The fine art major from Greenville spent a month in Quito, Ecuador after his high school graduation. He worked for six months creating 12 oil paintings and 15 ceramic pots that chronologically depict the conquest and criticize the exploitation of the indigenous peoples of Latin America.



Kappa Sigma events raise money for veterans

Kappa Sigma kicked off Military Heroes Appreciation Week on March 14 by hosting Greenville Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3374 for a 21-gun salute at the Roth Memorial Hall flag courtyard. The fraternity hosted several other fundraisers and events. Thiel Campus Police Captain Tom Jones and Austin Hall '17 displayed military memorabilia. Members of Kappa Sigma performed a service project at Greenville American Legion Post 140. Proceeds from a professional wrestling exhibition "Wrestling and Revolution" were donated to Kappa Sigma's national Military Heroes Campaign.



Shaffer classes work with Greenville businesses

The advertising classes of Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Accounting Karen Shaffer worked with Greenville-area businesses throughout March.

The local business owners and managers were teamed with students newly trained on creating advertising copy and using various online advertising techniques. At the end of the month, the students presented marketing materials and suggested strategies to the businesses.

Henry is first rider to qualify for an International Horse Show Association (IHSA) regional competition

In March, Kayla Henry '18 became the first Thiel College Equestrians program rider to qualify for the IHSA regional competition. She competed at regionals in March at the University of Findlay, but did not advance to the semifinals.

Spring 2016 student teachers gain classroom experience



Student teachers for the Spring 2016 Semester included (front row, L to R) Morgan Berg '16, Tanner Liptrap '16, Rebecca Campbell '16, (back row) Gwen Marker '16, Hannah Stoneman '16, Sarah Jones '16, Hannah Fernandez '16 and Hannah Duckworth '16. The eight students did their student teaching at the Commodore Perry, Jamestown Area, Greenville Area, Hermitage and Sharpville Area school districts.

Third annual Student Research Symposium showcases work from past year

(pictured left) A student makes his oral presentation in Stamm Lecture Hall of the James Pedas Communication Center during the third annual Student Research Symposium in April.

The third annual College-wide Student Research Symposium was held April 16 in the James Pedas Communication Center. Students from an assortment of majors gave 32 oral and poster presentations. The Symposium is an academic forum where students from a variety of disciplines present their research results and gain confidence in public presentation.



Spring into Action expanded to several days

The annual Spring into Action event covered several locations over five days. Last year, the day of service and volunteering included students cleaning up Riverside Park and Main Street. This year, Director of Student Activities and Involvement **Than Oo** said more than 100 students volunteered during the nine scheduled activities from April 10-14 at various locations in and around the Greenville community.

- Students cleaned up Riverside Park and swept Main Street on April 10.
- Volunteers donated time for the Community Food Warehouse of Mercer County, St. Paul's continuing care community and the Knights of Columbus.
- A bone marrow registration event was held April 13.
- Students worked at an all-day campus cleanup on April 14.



Economics students place fifth in national video contest

Students in the Principles of Macroeconomics class of Assistant Professor of Business Administration and Accounting **Karen Shaffer** placed fifth in a national video contest in January.

Chris McCann '18, Meagan Daugherty '18, Megan Sweeny '18, Trevor Cope '18 and Jenna Ehrlich '17 performed and produced the video for the Rockonomix contest as a way to incorporate the principles of economics into the everyday world. **Trent Kesling '15** recorded the video. During the contest period, 13,348 votes and 4,270 YouTube views were logged.



Psychology students present Thiel College study at conference

Psychology majors **Amanda Hautmann '17, Mandy Slupek '17 and Nicole Johnston '16** presented their research on "What Type of Bias is Present in Required Readings at Thiel College?" at The Laurel Highlands Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference. The conference was held at the University of Pittsburgh Greensburg in late April. Their research presentation was the culmination of a semester-long independent study mentored by Assistant Professor of Neuroscience and Department Chair **Greg Butcher, Ph.D.**, and Assistant Professor of Psychology **Kristel Gallagher, Ph.D.**

VAQ founded, hosts inaugural conference

In December 2015, Thiel College hosted the inaugural Véritás, Ars, and Quaeró (VAQ) conference. English and history major **Austin Hall '17** founded VAQ as a humanities research honor society in 2014. Faculty adviser and Professor of Performing Arts **Pete Rydberg, Ph.D.**, said it is the first humanities-based research organization in the country. Students from LaRoche College also attended the event.



Giannini class helps foundation plan for recreational facility

In December 2015, the Strategic Management class of Professor of Business Administration and Accounting **Angelo Giannini** (above, left) made a presentation to the Northern Mercer County Community Foundation. The Foundation asked the class to develop a plan for a recreational center for Northern Mercer County. **Nico Russo '16**, the project manager and Community Foundation liaison, coordinated four teams to develop the plan. These teams researched the community's needs and best practices from similar communities, and developed a three-year budget for the project.



Neuroscience students mark national brain awareness week

(pictured left) Director of Langenheim Memorial Library **Allen Morrill** and Professor of Psychology and Associate Academic Dean **Jennifer Griffin, Ph.D.**, took part in the Neuroscience Club's national brain awareness week activities.

The Neuroscience Club sponsored brain games, a trivia contest and other educational activities during March's national brain awareness week. Neuroscience students were busy in academic pursuits, too. On April 8, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Department Chair **Laura Pickens, Ph.D. '06** and Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Department Chair **Greg Butcher, Ph.D.**, took eight neuroscience and psychology students to the Kent State University Neuroscience Symposium. The students networked with Kent State graduate students and research scientists. On April 12, neuroscience students **Amanda Hautmann '17, Joelle Reitz '19, Kiara Weltner '16 and Evan Youker '18** attended the inaugural Department of Neuroscience etiquette dinner, hosted by alumni **Richard '82 and Sandy Parker '81**.

Spring Students of the Month recognized

Seven seniors were chosen for Student of the Month honors this semester. Students are selected for February, March and April in the spring. All seven students graduated in May 2016.

The Student of the Month program recognizes seniors who represent all academic departments and programs at Thiel College. Students are nominated by professors, administrators, and staff members. Awardees are chosen by the Office of Academic Affairs.

FEBRUARY



Loyal Jasper

Hometown: Penn Hills, Pa.

High School: Penn Hills High School

Major: Psychology, with a minor in criminal justice studies

Postgraduate plans: Attend graduate school and pursue a career in forensic psychology

Clubs & Activities: Pi Nu Epsilon national music honorary society; The Thiel Choir; Thiel Players; The Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride band; Kappa Sigma fraternity; Alpha Psi Omega theater honor society; The National Society of Leadership and Success; Psi Chi psychology national honorary



Derek Runge

Hometown: Greenville, Pa.

High School: Greenville Junior-Senior High School

Major: Chemistry, with a minor in mathematics

Postgraduate plans: Attend graduate school

Clubs & Activities: Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society; Kenneth and Marianna Brown Dietrich Honors Institute; Kappa Mu Epsilon mathematics honor society



Kelsey Schneider

Hometown: Butler, Pa.

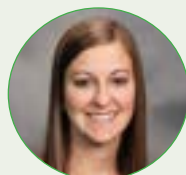
High School: Butler Area Senior High School

Major: Forensic accounting, accounting and business administration

Postgraduate plans: Work as staff auditor for S.R. Snodgrass in Wexford, Pa. and prepare for Certified Public Accountant examination

Clubs & Activities: Student Government Association; Zeta Tau Alpha sorority; Alpha Chi national honor society; Chi Eta Sigma commerce honor society; Kappa Mu Epsilon, Alpha Psi Omega, Society of Collegiate Journalists; Sigma Alpha Pi; Order of Omega Greek honor society; Les Lauriers senior honor society; women's golf team

MARCH



Allison Gloor

Hometown: Coraopolis, Pa.

High School: West Allegheny Senior High School

Major: Business administration and criminal justice studies

Postgraduate plans: Attend graduate school for student affairs in higher education

Clubs & Activities: Order of Omega Greek leadership honor society; Chi Omega sorority; Alpha Chi national honor society; Chi Eta Sigma commerce honor society; The National Society of Leadership and Success; Psi Chi psychology national honor society



Jaden Nozicka

Hometown: Portage, Mich.

High School: Portage Central High School

Major: Accounting, forensic accounting and business administration

Postgraduate plans: Work for accounting firm KPMG in Washington,

D.C. in their federal audit department

Clubs & Activities: Alpha Chi national honor society; Chi Alpha Sigma national college athlete honor society; Haller Enterprise Institute; baseball team; resident assistant

APRIL



Ashley Johnson

Hometown: Perry, Ga.

High School: Perry High School

Major: Secondary education and English

Postgraduate plans: Attend graduate school and earn a master's degree in library science

Clubs & Activities: Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education; Sigma Tau Delta international English honor society; VAQ humanities research honor society; editor of Thiel College's literary magazine, *The Phoenix*



Daniel McFetridge

Hometown: Espyville, Pa.

High School: Linesville High School

Major: Computer science and web design

Postgraduate plans: Work for Wessex Corporation in West Middlesex, Pa. and attend graduate school

Clubs & Activities: Phi Theta Phi fraternity; Kappa Mu Epsilon national mathematics honorary society; The National Society of Leadership and Success; Order of Omega Greek leadership honorary society; Carnegie Mellon University's IT Lab Program

UNPRECEDENTED



Dominick DiRienzo



Rich Rock Media, LLC and Ed Mailliard

PROGRESS

*Thiel 2016 Campaign
exceeds its goal and
continues making
history*



1 Early childhood education major **Megan Lee '19** 2 Assistant Professor of Biology **Sarah Swerdlow, Ph.D.** 3 Business administration major and track and field athlete **Loren Bell '19** 4 Business administration major **Jake Morgan '19** 5 Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller '61** 6 Assistant Professor of Physics **Eugene T. Torigoe, Ph.D.** 7 Psychology major **Kourtney Polvinal '16**



UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS

Goal met, *Thiel 2016* Campaign
continues historic effort

It is a pleasant May day. The grass is green, and the flowers are in bloom. Spring classes have concluded. Most students are gone. All is still. An occasional vehicle rushing by on College Avenue is the only noise that interrupts the calm. Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics **David Miller '61** takes a

moment to consider the peace as he heads to his office. The hustle and bustle of the spring semester have subsided, but the popular professor is gearing up to teach summer courses like he has just about every year since 1969. As he walks, he pauses to think about the College's past, present and future. He considers how all three are equally important.

Chair of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign and Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** announces the *Thiel 2016* Campaign goal was exceeded at an all boards luncheon in early February.

Miller has taught at Thiel College since 1963. In recognition of that commitment to his alma mater, part of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign's goal was to fund an endowed chair in Miller's name. The Miller chair goal was met ahead of schedule with the culminating gift coming from **Linda Haller H'14** and the Henry E. Haller Jr. Foundation. Her gift, along with thousands of others, helped the Campaign reach its \$60 million goal 10 months early.

"The chair was funded because of what happened in the past, but what it's doing is contributing to Thiel's future," Miller said. "The Miller endowed chair recognizes me for what I have done in the past for Thiel and others, but I'm still here. My focus has to be continuing to perform in such a way that my present students will feel the same way toward me as those past students who made a contribution to this chair."

Jacob Morgan '19, a business administration major from Greenville, Pa., is one of those students. He has worked with Miller through the Haller Enterprise Institute.

"The Business Department as a whole has assisted in my growth as a student and as a future entrepreneur," Morgan said. "Professor Miller has given me [the] guidance and support to set myself apart by utilizing my natural talents. I would not be in the position I am today without the generous and helpful advice I have received from the Thiel staff and faculty."

Miller's attitude regarding his endowed chair also serves as a fitting metaphor for why the Campaign will continue

throughout the year. The Campaign's quiet phase started in 2009 and raised \$56 million before it was publicly announced at Homecoming 2015. The public phase quickly pushed *Thiel 2016* past its \$60 million goal by this year's Founders' Day. It has raised more than \$61.8 million so far and continues through the end of 2016.

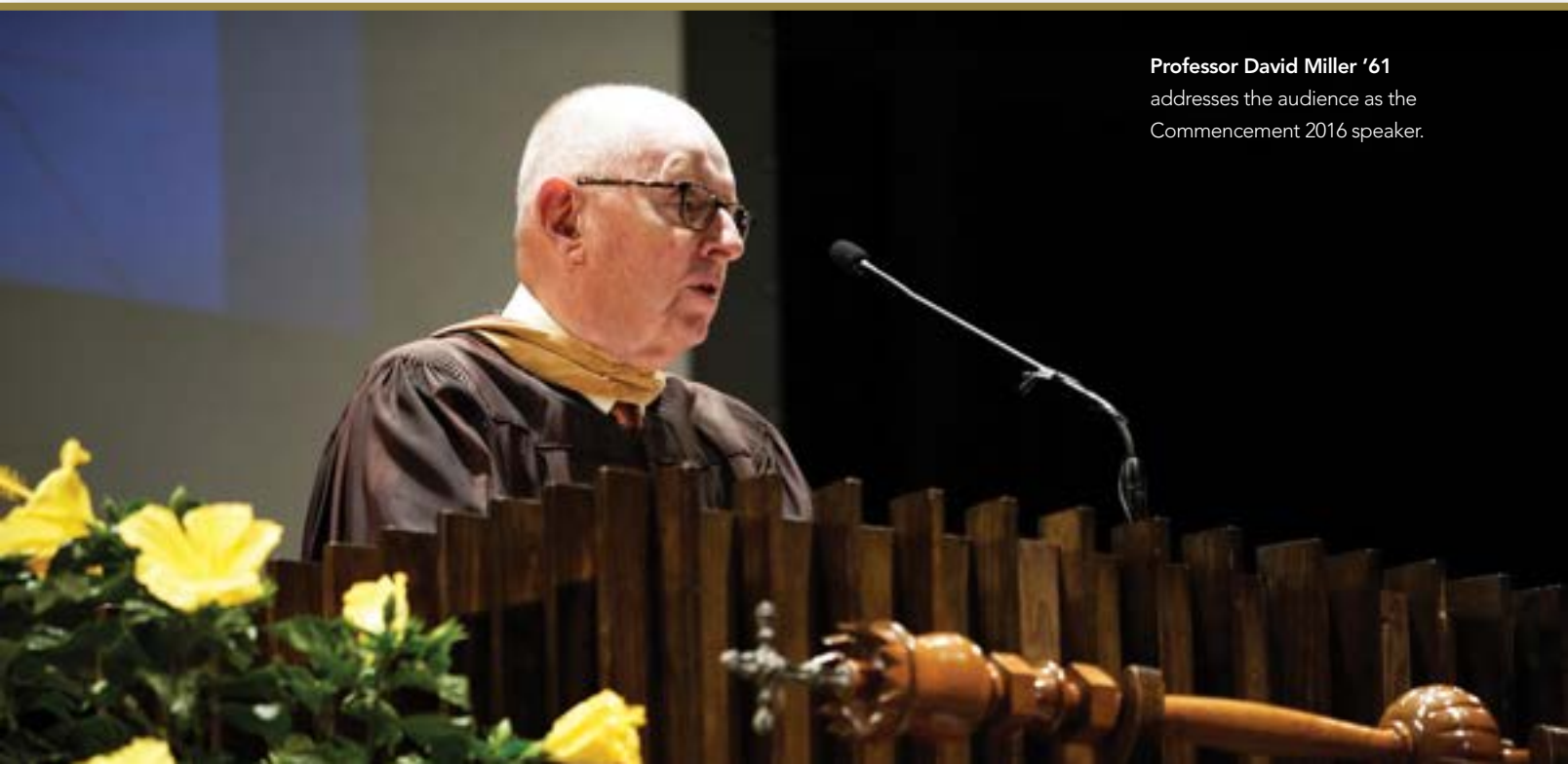
Continuing the Campaign made sense to Board of Trustees member and Chair of the Advancement Committee **John Barr '70**.

"The Campaign celebrates 150 years of very hard and dedicated work that thousands of people have invested in the sustainability of our school over numerous generations," Barr said. "People who have not given yet, but intend to now, have the rest of the year to consider the impact the College has had on their life and make a gift."

An impressive list of accomplishments

The Miller endowment was just one of many initiatives supported by the *Thiel 2016* Campaign. The Kenneth '31 and Marianna Brown '32 Dietrich Honors Institute, the David E. Baughman Scholarships, new lights and turf at Alumni Stadium, and the Rissell-Schreyer Dome all grew out of gifts made during the quiet phase.

Endowment growth, academic enhancements, four new endowed chairs and the first endowed coaching position in



Professor David Miller '61
addresses the audience as the
Commencement 2016 speaker.

the Presidents' Athletic Conference were also direct results of the Campaign.

The \$6.8 million James Pedas Communication Center is a very visible achievement of the most successful fundraising effort in Thiel College's history. The 20,000-square-foot building houses the Office of Admission, classrooms, the television and radio stations, and a 24-hour computer lab. It is also home to the Department of Media, Communication and Public Relations. With energy-efficient features and thoughtful planning, the Pedas Center became the College's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified building in 2015.

"The Pedas Center contributes a great deal to Thiel's ability to connect with the community," said **Kourtney Polvinale '16**, a psychology major from Brownsville, Pa.

Polvinale works at the new radio station in the Pedas Center. She said the advanced equipment in the building has given students the tools to expand their creativity and better present their academic projects.

"These new sets of equipment give students the power to voice their perspectives, opinions, and passions through media like Thiel students have never been able to before," she said.

With the Pedas Center and the many other important achievements to its credit, the Campaign seeks to close out two more projects. The Science Initiative includes plans for four new science labs and an atrium that will connect the eastern ends of the Academic Center and Rhodehouse Memorial Science Hall. Work is already underway for the track and field complex, but funds are still being raised to help the project break the tape with a strong finishing kick.

"In spite of the fact we have surpassed the original goal, we haven't filled every bucket," Chair of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign and Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** said. "We are still raising money for the track. It's vitally important we get the track built."

Connecting to the future

The Science Initiative plans call for a two-story connector and four labs. The connector will serve as a bridge in more ways than one. In a literal sense, the physical structure will connect Rhodehouse Memorial Science Hall and the Academic Center

at their eastern ends. Currently, to get from one building's wing to the other, students must either go outside or walk back to the Academic Center lobby, then to the other wing.

In a figurative sense, the connector will also be a link to the College's tradition of strong science programs.

"Thiel College has a long history of individuals who have graduated and benefited from a robust science curriculum," Barr said. "I think it's very important that the Science Initiative improves on what we have to date. This is a chance for those who have been in the sciences to give and invest in our future."

The \$4 million project is anticipated to add 7,850 square feet of academic space. The consolidated science education areas will create a more efficient and student-friendly center. This state-of-the-art complex will include enhanced labs that will enable more robust faculty and student research projects.

"The new science labs and the new research space should give our faculty and students the space and equipment they need to engage in basic scientific research that would complement our curricula quite nicely," Assistant Professor of Biology and Director of the Greenville Neuromodulation Center Faculty/Student Research Institute **Delbert Abi Abdallah, Ph.D.**, said. "This new space will strengthen and improve our research and academic culture."

Collaborative areas would be on both floors of the atrium. A histology suite and an environmental science and biology lab would make up two of the lab spaces. A student and faculty research area and a data analytics room complete the lab upgrades planned.

"The connector link and the showcase labs are nearly funded, but there are still going to be expenses that need to be covered for those projects," Stamm said. "Projects almost always ... cost more than the original estimates."

Modern lab spaces are essential for students to excel in the sciences so they can find professional, graduate school or research success.

"The showcase laboratories and science atrium reflect the Board's commitment to strengthen and rejuvenate the sciences at Thiel," said Board of Trustees member **Bob Burns, M.D. '74**. "It's all necessary to keep Thiel competitive in attracting the brightest students."



\$1m raised

On track for a new home

The track and field complex will give every Thiel College athletic team a “home field” on campus. Fundraising for the track and field complex has generated more than \$1 million of the \$1.8 million needed for building and surfacing the track.

Last May, the first shovels of dirt were moved during the track and field facility’s groundbreaking. Now more earth is being moved, but it is being done by significantly larger pieces of equipment. The rough grading, site preparation, and utility work are underway and scheduled to be finished by Aug. 1.

“The vision for athletic improvements will be fully realized when we complete the track and field complex, which will be the final step in providing all our teams a home field,” Stamm said.

An on-campus facility will do more than create a home competition space for the track and field teams—it will strengthen the College’s identity as a provider of amenities important to students and faculty.

“Students are attracted to colleges and universities that have strong athletic programs,” Barr said. “In order for Thiel College to distinguish itself in Division III athletics, it needs to have a campus that includes the facilities our students want and need.”

The finished facility will open practice space for teams that would otherwise have to share Alumni Field. Community members will also be able to access the complex. The track and field teams, which have been making trips from campus to Greenville High School to practice for many years, will derive the biggest benefits. They will no longer need to leave campus for practice.

“We are going to have a place where the Thiel community can come watch our team compete. But meets are much more than just a competition. Meets are a gathering of people,” Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer** said.

The work on the track and field facility will likely not be the only building activity on campus in the coming months. Work on the building additions and renovations in the Science Initiative could begin as soon as this fall.

Track and field complex excavation continued in April. Expected completion is Aug. 1.



Funding the past, present and future

Thiel College was founded in 1866 with an initial \$4,000 investment from the College's namesakes, **Louis** and **Barbara Thiel**. It was, in a sense, Thiel College's first fundraising campaign. It is appropriate that 150 years later, the *Thiel 2016* Campaign is developing a strong community of charitable giving.

"Not only are our constituencies excited, but we have staff, faculty and trustees at Thiel College all equally excited," Barr said. "It is critically important to the future vitality of the school that we create a culture of philanthropy."

Evidence of that growing culture can be seen in the progress The Thiel Fund has made this year. It allows the College to respond to challenges and close unexpected budget gaps without sacrificing in other areas. If a one-day campaign in

February is any indication, the enthusiasm and excitement for The Thiel Fund is at an all-time high. The Thiel Fund set single-day records with 355 donors and \$212,021 raised during its match day campaign on Feb. 29. (Read more about the event on Page 8.)

"The Thiel Fund—by design—is to be used throughout the year to support the operations of the College," Stamm said. "We are very grateful to the donors who give to The Thiel Fund. It is an extremely important part of the day-to-day operations of the College. It is doing well. All colleges have a similar bucket and sometimes that bucket suffers when you are pushing a campaign. It is a great sign of optimism that so many people have supported The Thiel Fund so well."

The Thiel Fund has yet to reach its \$900,000 goal for this fiscal year, ending June 30. Giving has been brisk and the forecast is good, but there are still plenty of reasons to give.

Morgan Berg '16 is just one of the record-setting athletes who have been affiliated with the College's track and field team. Berg won the triple jump at the Presidents' Athletic Conference championships in late April. She also set the PAC championship meet record in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.55 seconds and then broke her own school record in the event with a time of 14.41 seconds.



\$4m raised

Science connector architectural renderings courtesy of MacLachlan, Cornelius & Filoni.

These contributions are noticed by the students.

“It is important that alumni give to The Thiel Fund in order for them to continue to see their school grow and give students the best learning environment,” said **Megan Lee '19**, an early childhood education major from Venetia, Pa.

Gifts to The Thiel Fund, regardless of their size, create a safety net so the College can react nimbly to unexpected opportunities or needs.

“The Thiel Fund has an immediate impact,” *Thiel 2016* Campaign Cabinet member and former Chair of the Board of Trustees **Edward Bartko '72, H'16** said. “It frees up dollars that can be put toward scholarships.”

The big and little picture

Professor Miller has something else on his mind as he walks out of the Academic Center.

“I cannot focus on the past—that’s yesterday—tomorrow is not here yet. We live in the [present],” Miller said. “What’s really important to me [is], ‘did I do the very best for my students?’ It is extremely hard to put into words, but it strikes

to the core of your person that people think enough of you to do what they did in support of this Campaign.”

Miller’s thoughts are about his teaching and his endowed chair specifically. However, those principles can also be applied to *Thiel 2016* Campaign and the College’s commitment to the past, present, and future. Stamm contemplates how those three parallel lines for the Campaign and the College can also be representative of students.

“The liberal arts background is even more essential today because so many students end up changing careers. The average college graduate changes careers seven times,” Stamm said. “That number is climbing. Those numbers always boggle my mind. We have to prepare students for not just success at one position or one endeavor. We have to provide a foundation on which to build a thriving career.”

Planning for the future success of the College and its students means appreciating the power of the present.

“This is a historic time at Thiel,” Stamm said.

Indeed, as every *Thiel 2016* gift lifts the College to unprecedented fundraising heights.



Thiel 2016 Campaign visual icons make the cover

1. Hard hat

Construction hard hats have been as common as baseball caps on campus as more than \$30 million has been spent on physical improvements during the *Thiel 2016* Campaign.

2. David Miller bobblehead

The longest-serving professor in College history was immortalized with a bobblehead and an endowed chair that was funded during the Campaign.

3. Mortarboard

The Thiel Fund is a source of unrestricted revenue that can account for unforeseen needs without sacrificing resources for scholarships, allowing more students to graduate.

4. Beaker

The beaker is a common lab room item and symbolizes the Campaign’s focus on raising money to build four new science labs and a science connector.

5. Medallion

The Campaign has funded four faculty chairs and nearly tripled the endowment, which has provided increased academic opportunities for students and faculty.

6. Track and field uniform

A new track and field complex will bring the College’s final team back on campus and give every team a home field at Thiel.



The End of the

VanAken
ERA

President Troy D. VanAken, Ph.D., and
his wife, Dr. Annette VanAken, in October 2015



n a cold Wednesday morning in February, campus gathered for a special Thiel News Time, or “TNT” as employees often refer to it. It is a monthly tradition that **President Troy D. VanAken** started when he became the 19th President of Thiel College in 2009. Faculty and staff members gather for coffee and campus updates. This TNT had a different energy than most. Change was in the air.

The night before, President VanAken announced he had accepted the presidency of Elmhurst College, a liberal arts institution in the Chicago area. Consequently, he submitted his resignation to the Thiel College Board of Trustees, effective August 2016.

President VanAken opened TNT by addressing the coming transition.

“I am proud of all of the achievements we have reached together as an institution,” VanAken said. “This has been the best experience of my career, but also know this is the right time

for the next step in my professional life. Exceeding the \$60 million *Thiel 2016* Campaign goal and launching a renewed strategic planning process, coupled with the positive changes everyone helped to accomplish these past seven years, position Thiel to attract strong candidates to take the College to the next level.”

VanAken has served as the College’s president since July 2009. Under his leadership, Thiel celebrated many significant milestones. The endowment grew from \$19 million to \$68 million. The largest gift in the history of the College—\$25 million from The Dietrich Foundation—was received in 2011. In February, the College exceeded the *Thiel 2016* Campaign goal 10 months early, raising more than \$61 million for the largest fundraising campaign in the College’s history. (Read more about the Campaign on Page 24.) Other highlights of VanAken’s tenure include:

- More than \$30 million spent on physical plant improvements, including construction of the LEED-certified James Pedas Communication Center
- Development and implementation of the *Thiel 2016* Strategic Plan and a revised academic core curriculum
- Addition of a department, major, four minors and six new varsity sports

“Dr. VanAken has done exemplary work for Thiel College,” said Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. ’70**. “Under his leadership, the College achieved new heights and his fiscal acumen led to budget surpluses for the past five years. This was accomplished while adding new academic and athletic initiatives, and strengthening the curriculum.”

As the spring semester ends and summer begins, President VanAken feels his time at Thiel College ending quickly, but remains optimistic about the College’s future.

“The *Thiel 2016* Campaign’s success is a reminder of the reason I was drawn to Thiel seven years ago—great things are possible with dedicated boards, faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends,” VanAken says. “I look forward to watching Thiel College’s next chapter unfold and am eternally grateful for my experience here.”

About President Troy D. VanAken

Before arriving at Thiel College, VanAken was the executive vice president at Albion College in Albion, Mich. Prior to being named executive vice president, VanAken served in a number of other leadership roles at Albion. During this time, he participated in Harvard University’s Institute for Educational Management (2005) and was awarded an American Council on Education Fellowship at San Jose State University (2002).

His career in higher education began in 1994 when he was appointed

assistant professor of mathematics at the University of Evansville, and where he was later selected as assistant vice president for instructional technology. He played a leadership role in securing private funding to develop the Center for Teaching Excellence, and obtaining a National Science Foundation grant to develop an interdisciplinary math and science course. VanAken holds a bachelor’s degree from Hillsdale College, and master’s and doctoral degrees from Bowling Green State University.

VanAken has authored refereed articles

in mathematics and given presentations in the fields of mathematics, technology, athletics, and higher education. In addition to experience as a high school football and track coach, VanAken has assisted both the NCAA and collegiate athletic conferences through committee service. He remains active in economic and community development, and has started three successful technology-related companies.

A native of Hillsdale, Mich., VanAken and his wife, **Annette**, have two children, **Trey** and **Gabriella**.



Susan Traverso, Ph.D., *named Thiel College's 20th president*

In front of a full Lutheran Heritage Room that included the campus, community and media, **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, was introduced as the 20th president of Thiel College on May 17. Traverso has served as the provost and senior vice president at Elizabethtown College (Elizabethtown, Pa.) since 2007. She takes office in August as the first female president of Thiel College.

The Thiel College Board of Trustees unanimously elected Traverso at their May meeting upon the recommendation of the Presidential Search Committee. The committee began a national search in February under the leadership of Chair of the Presidential Search Committee **John Frangakis**, who is also Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees.

"The Board of Trustees is elated to appoint Dr. Susan Traverso as the College's next president," Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** said.

"As a Board, we saw in Dr. Traverso not just an individual with a long list of accomplishments and accolades, but also a person of great personal integrity. Someone who inspires confidence [and] has shown an unselfish commitment to service throughout her career. She will be a compassionate and effective leader for Thiel College as we begin our next 150 years."

More than 150 people attended the press conference and welcome reception. Traverso's husband, **Kent Taylor**, and their two children, **Linden** and **Kent**, were also there to support her. Television stations provided live coverage of the event during their noon broadcasts, and longer stories were taped and shown during those station's evening newscasts. The news spread rapidly and, together with multiple social media updates, led to more than 2,000 clicks to the Thiel College Newsroom.

"It is a great honor to be selected as the 20th president of Thiel College. I am humbled, grateful and inspired—humbled by your praise, grateful for such a warm welcome, and inspired by the history and mission of Thiel College," Traverso said. "As Thiel celebrates its sesquicentennial, the College can look back at its rich history and look forward to a bright future."

Even before Traverso spent her first official day at work, she and the College received great news. A group of anonymous donors made a \$150,000 gift to Thiel College in

support of the new president. Frangakis was instrumental in securing the gift.

"The donors have been impressed with Dr. Traverso's extensive dedication to the advancement of higher education, commitment to excellence and her advocacy for students," Frangakis said. "They believe, as do I, that Dr. Traverso will be instrumental in ensuring that the institution's current momentum builds as Thiel College evolves as a regional educational and economic leader."

At Elizabethtown College, Traverso is a senior member of the college's leadership team and a professor of history. Her responsibilities include strategic, personnel and facilities planning; oversight of the college's academic and student life programs; coordination of programs, enrollment, financial planning and budget analysis; campaign planning, fundraising and donor relations; supervision of the dean of faculty, the dean of students and seven directors; and engagement with faculty leadership and governance. Traverso co-chaired the Strategic Planning Committee, and chairs the Facilities Planning and Construction Committee and the Hiring Review Committee.

Traverso's significant achievements include coordinating \$60 million in campus improvements and advancing fundraising priorities that resulted in external funding of \$20 million. Traverso also created an Office of Sponsored Research and Programs, developed the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, and established the Center for Community and Civic Engagement.

"Thiel's strengths include a strong sense of mission and community, a talented faculty and staff, a committed Board of

Trustees, and an enthusiastic alumni base," Traverso said.

Traverso's previous roles have included dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and associate professor of history at the University of Redlands (Redlands, Calif.); director of the Associated New American Colleges (ANAC) Academy; and associate professor and chair of history at North Central College (Naperville, Ill.). Additionally, Traverso served the U.S. Peace Corps in a variety of roles—including education coordinator and director—in locales such as Morocco, Yemen and Bulgaria.

A prolific speaker on academic leadership issues, Traverso has presented to the Council of Independent Colleges, American Academic Leadership Institute, Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Network for Vocation in Higher Education. She serves on the Pennsylvania College of Art and Design board and is the chair of the Lancaster Symphony Orchestra board. An American social policy and women's history scholar, she is also the author of "Welfare Politics in Boston."

Traverso holds doctoral and master's degrees in history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a bachelor's degree in history and communications from Simmons College (Boston, Mass.). She has continued her education through a series of leadership development programs in recent years.

As the press conference ended, Traverso shared her aspirations for when she arrives on campus this summer.

"We look forward to deepening our relationship with the College and the Greenville community, honoring your hopes and dreams, and working together to ensure student success and institutional vitality," Traverso said.



Watch the press conference on YouTube
<http://bit.ly/tcmeetstraversovideo>

View 40+ photos on Flickr
<http://bit.ly/tcmeetstraversophotos>



1 Thiel College Board of Trustees Chair **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70**; **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**; and Thiel College Presidential Search Committee Chair and Board of Trustees Vice Chair **John Frangakis** pose together following the announcement of Traverso as the 20th president of Thiel College **2** Pictured (L to R) are: (seated) Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Lynn Franken, Ph.D.** and Traverso; (back row) Vice President for Technology and Marketing **Kurt Ashley**, Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer**, Vice President of Student Life **Mike McKinney '02**, Administrative Assistant to the President **Linda Nocht**, Vice President for Finance and Management **Bob Schmoll**, Vice President for Enrollment Management **Stephen Lazowski** and interim Vice President for College Advancement **Roberta Leonard** **3** Traverso was joined by her husband, **Kent Taylor**, and their children, **Kent** and **Linden**, for the announcement on campus



Dwyer '11 recalls fond Thiel memories as she launches television journalism career

by Ed Topoleski '02

Sit down for an interview these days with **Danielle Dwyer '11** and naturally she's more inclined to be the interviewer rather than the interviewee.

"It's the weirdest thing," said Dwyer. "I really try to think in sound bites ... as I've been sitting here, some things I'm like 'oh, that's a good quote they can probably use—cut it off there.'"

Dwyer is a former standout in the classroom, on the volleyball court and on the softball field. After a brief stint in marketing, earning a master's degree in journalism from Columbia College in Chicago and multiple internships across the country, Dwyer has made it as a television journalist. She began working full-time for MMJ WTOL-11 in Toledo, Ohio, last September.

Dwyer is essentially a one-woman show at MMJ WTOL-11, a CBS and FOX affiliate. Her workday begins at 10 a.m. with a staff meeting, where she and editors decide her two stories for 5 and 6 p.m. newscasts. She provides her own video and directs interviews before returning to the office around 2-3 p.m. to package her stories utilizing advanced video editing software.

It's the beginning of a career that Dwyer worked for tirelessly, which is no surprise to her former teammates and mentors.

“She was extremely hard-working and loyal to her team,”

said Director of Athletics **Amy Schafer**. “She worked really hard to be No.1 at softball and volleyball, not just average.”

Schafer was the head softball coach during Dwyer's career at Thiel. Dwyer was a power hitter and holds the school record with 11 career home runs. On the volleyball court, Dwyer played a

role on Thiel's teams that qualified for four-straight Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) tournaments (2007-2010) and played in consecutive league championship matches (2009-2010).

Dwyer was also a star in the classroom. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with degrees in business communication and media communication, while also earning a minor in fine art. Dwyer's involvement with the *Thielensian* student newspaper, TCTV, and the Departments of Athletics and Sports Information were crucial in providing her with the knowledge base necessary to pursue an advanced degree and begin her career.

"I felt really prepared going into [graduate school]," Dwyer said. "It was very different going from a small town to the third-largest city in the country, but I made as much as I could [of my time] at Thiel. I was the person that never slept for four years."

Dwyer is excited about the opportunities that the James Pedas

Communication Center will afford current and future Thiel students.

"I'm so jealous," she said. "It's fantastic. We definitely made due with what we had, but to see the capabilities they have now—it's just awesome."

The hard work and perseverance that Dwyer demonstrated in athletics also benefited her in the search for employment. Dwyer applied for more than 100 jobs across the country, including positions in Hawaii, California and Texas.

"They say you will apply and apply and apply for jobs, and they were not lying," Dwyer said. "There were times where I thought 'why don't I have a job?' I had all my professors telling me 'you're a no-brainer for a hire.' I have a strong work ethic. I had a 4.0 GPA. I graduated with honors. I have this internship, that internship, and this recommendation,

and nobody is hiring me. It did get very frustrating."

Once she got her break with MMJ WTOL-11, things happened quickly. She did an in-person interview, was offered the job on the spot and signed her contract the following day. As a former student-athlete, Dwyer one day hopes to get back into covering sports.

"I'm very happy with the station and my experience has been great," she said.

Dwyer's hard work has already paid off. She recently received new titles at WTOL-11 as a sports reporter/multimedia journalist and anchor, getting her closer to her ultimate career goal.

"I would [really] like to work for ESPN, which sounds like everybody else. I like news, but I love sports. Now that I've stepped out of sports and focused more in news, I realize how much I miss it."



Watch Dwyer talk more about her Thiel College experience on YouTube

<http://bit.ly/tcdwyerspotlight>



Follow Dwyer on Twitter to find out what she's reporting on next!

@daniellewtol11



1



2



3



4

1 Danielle Dwyer's sports interviews don't always take place on the playing field. She has also profiled colorful personalities such as Ohio State football superfan **Jon "The Big Nut" Peters** 2 Dwyer is usually the one conducting the interview, but here she is interviewed after winning a National Academy of Arts and Sciences Midwest chapter student Emmy for her story about a Chicago youth boxing club 3 During one of her internships, Dwyer met National Basketball Association great and television personality **Charles Barkley** 4 Dwyer conducts an exclusive interview with Michigan State football player **Michael Geiger**. The kicker was in the national spotlight following his game-winning field goal that ended rival Ohio State's undefeated season in November 2015



Coach Schaly earns 500th win

by Cyril Parham '14

Head baseball coach Joe Schaly earned his 500th career win in an 8-7 walk-off victory over the Allegheny Gators on March 29 at Tomcat Park. With the win, Schaly became the 40th active head coach in NCAA Division III with 500 or more career victories. Schaly entered his 17th season at Thiel College in 2016.

Success has been instilled in the Schaly name throughout collegiate baseball. Joe's father, **Don**, won 1,438 games in his 40-year career coaching collegiate baseball. Don was inducted into the National College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2013 and holds the best winning percentage of any college coach at any level (.812) with more than 500 wins. Joe's older brother, **Jeff**, has won more than 1,000 games coaching NCAA Division II baseball. Entering the 2016 season, Jeff owned a 1,036-533-1 record.

"I'm not carrying my weight," Schaly said. "But I've learned a lot from my father and I try to emulate him as much as possible. I've also learned from my brother. He has been very successful at the Division II level. We talk to each other about baseball, and we bounce questions back-and-forth with each other in order to better each other."

Schaly's journey to 500 wins started with his first head-coaching job at Point Park University in 1991. In his six seasons at Point Park, Schaly compiled a record of 165-138.

Since arriving at Thiel, Schaly has built the Tomcats into a top-tier team—one that consistently competes for the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) championship.

At the time of Schaly's 500th win, he had a record of 335-318 in his 16-plus years at Thiel College.

"I want people that are willing to compete year-in and year-out," Schaly said.

“If you surround yourself with good, hard-working people and coaches, the scoreboard should take care of itself.”

Over the years, several of Schaly's wins have had special meaning.

"Winning the conference championship (in 2003) definitely stands out," he said. "**Nick Rossmiller's** perfect game against Hiram (in 2013) was one of the best games I've ever seen. Defeating Marietta at home in 2007, the year after they won the national championship, was another game that stood out."

Schaly is also quick to share his success with his assistant coaches and players.

"If you surround yourself with good people, you can be successful in

coaching," he said. "I can't do everything by myself. The players, assistants [and] support staff have helped me tremendously throughout my Thiel career. **Jim Patterson** has been with me from the beginning. **Eric Garrett** has been with me for 16 years. **Lynn Jones** recently came back to campus and has been [so helpful], especially with the graduating seniors that he's been with for all four years. I also can't forget my current assistant coach **Beau Smith**, who has done an enormous amount for this program, and other assistants that have moved on to other coaching positions."

Schaly oversaw the construction of the new baseball field, and is currently the assistant director of athletics.

He has served on numerous committees, including the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee and the ABCA Rules Committee. Schaly resides in Beaver Falls with his wife, **Lucy**, and their two children, **Hannah** and **Colin**.



More than 30 Tomcats named to Presidents' Athletic Conference Fall 2015 Academic Honor Roll

Thirty-two Thiel College student-athletes were named to the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) Academic Honor Roll for the fall 2015 semester.

The PAC Academic Honor Roll recognizes student-athletes on varsity sports teams who have earned a grade point average of 3.6 or higher on a 4.0 scale during their semester of competition.

A total of 476 student-athletes were named to the honor roll for the fall 2015 semester—a 4.4 percent increase in honorees from fall 2014. The PAC established a new all-time high of 936 student-athletes (456 fall, 480 spring) recognized on its Academic Honor Rolls during the 2014-2015 academic year.



Fall 2015 Honorees

Peyton Allen, Fr.

Early Childhood/Special Education
Volleyball
Mineral Ridge, Ohio/Mineral Ridge

Trey Andrews, So.

Media Communication
Football
Johnstown, Pa./Greater Johnstown

Morgan Berg, Sr.

Early Childhood/Special Education
Soccer
Cleveland, Ohio/Rocky River

Hannah Budzowski, Sr.

Biology
Volleyball
New Castle, Pa./Shenango

Kaytee Candela, So.

Early Childhood/Special Education
Soccer
Geneva, Ohio/Lakeside

John Clark, Jr.

Web Development
Cross Country
Morrisdale, Pa./West Branch

Jessa Covine, So.

Accounting/Business Administration
Volleyball
Cambridge Springs, Pa./Maplewood

Josh Evjene, Fr.

Mathematics
Soccer
Orrsville, Pa./Chambersburg

Jon Fennick, Sr.

Criminal Justice Studies
Soccer
New Castle, Pa./Neshannock

Brooke Gates, So.

Biology
Soccer
Middletown, Pa./Middletown Area

Danielle Gomula, Sr.

Psychology/Sociology
Volleyball
Northfield, Ohio/Trinity

Bailey Holmes, Sr.

Psychology
Volleyball
Roaming Shores, Ohio/Grand Valley

Alex Horvatits, Jr.

Early Childhood/Special Education
Football
Lancaster, N.Y./Saint Mary's

Megan Kidder, Sr.

Actuarial Studies/Mathematics
Cross Country
Worthington, Pa./Kittanning

Kristyn Kinner, Fr.

Psychology
Volleyball
Troy, Pa./Troy

Trevor Martin, Jr.

Accounting/Business Administration
Football
Meadville, Pa./Meadville

Ashley McMillen, Jr.

Communication Sciences & Disorders/Psychology
Soccer
Cheswick, Pa./Deer Lakes

Ben Moore, Jr.

Environmental Science
Football
White, Pa./Connellsville

Keegan Moss, So.

Chemistry
Soccer
Atwater, Ohio/Waterloo

Mary Oakey, Sr.

Applied Physics
Soccer
Baltimore, Md./Mercy

Dugan Paxton, So.

Computer Science
Soccer
Dublin, Ohio/Dublin Coffman

Joelle Reitz, Fr.

Neuroscience
Soccer
DuBois, Pa./DuBois

Hannah Rossman, Fr.

Biology
Volleyball
Fairview, Pa./Fairview

Nick Sarratori, So.

History
Football
Eden, N.Y./Eden

Jenny Shelley, Jr.

Early Childhood/Special Education
Volleyball
Port Allegany, Pa./Port Allegany

Cody Sines, Fr.

Criminal Justice Studies
Football
Titusville, Pa./Titusville

Meri Steinmetz, Sr.

Fine Art/Psychology
Cross Country
Raritan, N.J./Bridgewater-Raritan

Zach Stiglitz, Fr.

Business Administration
Football
Knox, Pa./Keystone

John Thiel, So.

Mathematics
Soccer
Pickerington, Ohio/Bishop Hartley

Ryan Thomas, Sr.

Philosophy
Cross Country
Phoenix, Ariz./Pinnacle

Victoria Villano, So.

Communication Sciences & Disorders
Soccer
Canfield, Ohio/Canfield

Nick Watson, Fr.

Early Childhood/Special Education
Football
Rock Creek, Ohio/Grand Valley

Meet the Boards



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Board of Trustees, Chair



John R. Frangakis
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Board of Trustees, Treasurer



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Jeffrey Wallace
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Thiel College Board of Trustees

Profile of Distinction

Robert Burns, M.D. '74, appointed November 2012

Burns graduated from Thiel College with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and from The Ohio State University with a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1978. He completed his internship and residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (Omaha, Neb.) in 1981 and is a board-certified pediatrician. He is president of Mansfield Pediatrics, Inc. in Mansfield, Ohio.

Burns is an active alumnus. He served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, including two terms as president. He is currently in his third term on the Board of Trustees. Burns was a trustee from 1991-2000 and 2002-2011, and began serving again in 2012. He is a member of the Board of Trustees' Student and Religious Life Committee and Advancement Committee; the *Thiel 2016* Campaign Cabinet; and chairs the Governance and Trusteeship Committee.

In 1988, he was named the Young Alumnus of the Year. His commitment to Thiel is reflected by seats on a number of important committees, including the Decade for Leadership and Thiel 2000 campaigns. He also worked on the Greenville Hall Committee, which led major renovations on the College's oldest building in 1993. Burns received the Alumni Service Award in 2000. He is an active supporter of student scholarships and attends many College events.

Burns also participates in many professional and civic organizations. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics and a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He has worked with The Medical Advisory Board for the Rehabilitation Center of North Central Ohio. He is a member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church and chairs their Mutual Ministry Committee.

Why is being a part of the Board of Trustees important to you?

It's an opportunity to give back to a great college. Like many who have attended Thiel, I was a first generation college student and needed support—financial and academic. The teaching and mentoring I received opened my eyes to the doors a Thiel degree could unlock. On the Board, we work hard to ensure today's students have a great learning and living experience. It's personally rewarding to me when I see those doors opening for our students today.

Why should other alumni consider giving back to their alma mater?

The students! I wish all alumni had the chance to interact with the current students on campus. They're young people with amazing potential and anything you give back to Thiel in time, talent, and treasures helps move them ahead.

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

The chemistry faculty were so strong. **Drs. [Edward] Safford, [Richard] Bennett** and **[Emerson] Heald** were fantastic teachers. They were very free with their time outside the classroom—giving advice, career guidance, hosting picnics and encouraging service. There was a camaraderie in the department between faculty and students that was really special. It makes me smile just to think of it.

What is your advice for students?

Participate—not only in the classroom, but outside the classroom. Join a club, play a sport, participate in the arts. It will enrich your college experience and enhance the life and vibrancy of the campus.

What are your "words to live by?"

Having been a physician for many years, I would say, "try to be a good listener, try to understand what people are really saying, try to respect other opinions and be honest in what you do."

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

The momentum we have!

What is something you try to do every time you return to campus?

I try to attend student events. I've seen some great theater, listened to choral and hand bell recitals, and seen exciting football, basketball, and volleyball [games].

What is your proudest moment?

My father popped into an afternoon chemistry lab my senior year to collect me for the long drive to Philadelphia for one of my many medical school interviews. The day before, I had received an acceptance letter from Temple University's College of Medicine. I'll always remember the look on his face when I told him. It was a mixture of happiness and relief. My dad was not the most demonstrative person, but he did make sure to thank all my chemistry teachers that day.

What do you do in your spare time?

I try to stay in shape and regularly work out at the YMCA—mostly swimming and running. I'm active at St. Timothy Lutheran Church and sing in the church choir. I'm also an avid reader. I just finished "A Spool of Blue Thread" by Anne Tyler, "Preparation for the Next Life" by Atticus Lynch and "Everything I Never Told You" by Celeste Ng. Comparing notes with **Dean Lynn Franken** and trustee **Leah Dever** is always fun because we have similar tastes in reading.



From your Alumni Director

“It is my hope that no matter where life may have taken you after Thiel, you stay connected with our beloved institution and always remember where ‘home’ is.”

Fellow Thiel College Alumni:

Summer is nearly upon us after we have just wrapped up another great academic year. For many students, this is the start of summer travel and internship programs. For more than 200 graduates, it is the start of a new chapter—becoming a member of the 10,000-plus network of Thiel College alumni around the world. These young men and women will represent Thiel College’s mission and ideals wherever their paths may lead them.

We have alumni living and working throughout all 50 states and in various countries around the world. The College’s mission is to empower individuals, stimulate global awareness, and prepare students for careers that will inspire them to continue serving the world. Having an international alumni database means that Thiel is committed to making a difference across the globe.

During Founders’ Day in February, we began our year-long 150th anniversary celebration. It was remarkable to see everyone’s excitement as we entered into this monumental time in our College’s history. Adding even more excitement to the sesquicentennial was the announcement that the *Thiel 2016* Campaign exceeded its **\$60 million goal** earlier than planned! The celebration continues with events all year long, so stay tuned for a packed Homecoming schedule. The planning is underway, including a week full of events leading up to Homecoming Weekend.

It is my hope that no matter where life may have taken you after Thiel, you stay connected with our beloved institution and always remember where ‘home’ is. Stay involved by attending local and regional events where alumni gather to reminisce, network, and engage with friends old and new. Visit <http://www.thiel.edu/alumni> for information on upcoming events. If you would like us to visit your city in the future, let us know!

On behalf of the entire College Advancement division, thank you for your generous gifts, participation in events, dedication to Thiel students, and continued interest in serving your alma mater. I look forward to meeting you during our sesquicentennial Homecoming celebration (Sept. 30-Oct. 2).



Kelly Sanzari '13, Director of Alumni Relations

Alumni Events

July

14 Alumni Happy Hour
6 p.m.
Atria's at PNC Park

TBD Washington D.C. Alumni Club Event
Wolf Trap National Park, Washington, D.C.

August

7 Summer Alumni and Student Picnic
Noon
North Boundary Park, Cranberry Township, Pa.

September

**10 Sesquicentennial Celebration with
The Greenville Symphony Orchestra**
2 p.m.
Thiel College Campus

11 Pittsburgh Pirates Game
1:35 p.m.
PNC Park, Pittsburgh, Pa.

25 Homecoming Week Starts (all week)
Thiel College Campus

October

1-2 Homecoming Continues
Thiel College Campus

*As we look forward to welcoming our 20th President, **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, to Thiel College, we will be hosting many "meet and greet" events in various locations later this year. Please be advised that events and event dates/times are subject to change.*



For a full list of alumni events,
visit <http://www.thiel.edu/alumni/events>.

1960s

WILLIAM MOORE '65 retired from William L. Moore Publications.

1970s

KENNETH HINDERLITER '75 is an IT coordinator for The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1980s

MELINDA (PEET) SAGE '85 is a teacher at Abington Friends School. She lives in Ambler, Pa. with her husband, Stephen, and their son, Andrew.

1990s

LISA ALLEN '95 is the controller for Blue Rose Transportation, Inc. She resides in Austintown, Ohio.

DAMEN TAYLOR '95 is an accounting manager at LIFE Pittsburgh. He lives in Pittsburgh with his wife, Sara, and their children. Taylor also serves on the Thiel College Alumni Association Board of Directors.

ROBERT CROUSER '98 is a realtor at Spieth Realty. Crouser and his wife, **KARA (SUTER) '98**, live in Pierpont, Ohio with his three children: Ben, Nick and Ava.

2000s

MELISSA (LEWIS) KEEBLER '00 is the assistant director of annual giving at Duquesne University. She lives in Pittsburgh with her husband, Josh, and their daughter, Nathalie.

KENDALL (ALEXIS) MILLER '04 is an affirmative civil enforcement auditor at the Northern District of

Ohio U.S. Attorney's Office. Miller lives in Brunswick, Ohio with her husband, Timothy, and their three children: Madison Alexis, Leighton Olivia and Caden James.

ERIN (BETZ) SHANK '07 is a vicar at Trinity Episcopal Church in New Castle, Pa. Shank and her husband, Jason, live in Hermitage, Pa.

BRITTANY CHILL '08 is a student affairs specialist II, director in residence at The University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. Chill graduated from Slippery Rock University in May 2015 with a master's in student affairs in higher education.

2010s

JUSTIN MUNZ '10 is a housing coordinator at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio.

SHANEL LITTLE '11 is a claims adjuster at Travelers Insurance. Little resides in Greenwood Village, Colo.

TAYLOR RUNSER '15 is a management trainee at Enterprise Rent-A-Car. Runser resides in Pittsburgh.

MARRIAGES

KATIE (STAMBAUGH) KRAMER '03 to Kyle Kramer on Oct. 3, 2015. Bridal party members included **JULIE VANWASSEN '04** and **EMILY ECKERT '06**. Many Alpha Xi Delta alumni also attended. The couple resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

AMY (KRAMER) O'DONNELL '11 to Dallas O'Donnell on Oct. 17, 2015. Her sister, **TINA KRAMER '18**, was the maid of honor.

AIMEE (BUCHANAN) LETCHER '12 to Justin Letcher on Oct. 17, 2015 at Hartford Hill Winery in Hartford, Ohio. Alumni attending included bridesmaid **AMY JANE (MATCHETT) MALONE '12**, **BRAD BATES '13**, **MATT LOWRY '12** and **ELEANOR (BELLEAU) LOWRY '12**. Letcher and her husband live in Sharon, Pa. and have a son, Logan.



AMY JANE (MATCHETT) MALONE '12 to Ryan Malone on Sept. 26, 2015 at St. Ann's Church in Bulger, Pa. Thiel College alumni attending included **JOE REINKE '10**, **KYLIE CZULEWICZ '12**, bridesmaid **AIMEE (BUCHANAN) LETCHER '12**, **ELEANOR (BELLEAU) LOWRY '12** and **MATT LOWRY '12**.



SARAH (FAUNCE) SCHWAB '13 to Corey Schwab on Nov. 21, 2015 at Saint Joseph Church in Oil City, Pa. **JESSICA MCFADDEN '08**, **RACHEL DORAN '12**, **DARREN MCANINCH '12**, **ALEX MCCLURG '12**, **KAYLA MCFEELY '13**, Director of Alumni Relations **KELLY SANZARI '13** and Postal Office Coordinator Anita Lillie were in attendance.

MATT MAY '13 to Catherine May on Jan. 23.

CORY SWARMER '14 to Kayla Swarmer on Aug. 1, 2015 at Five Pines Barn in Irwin, Pa. **KATIE ARNOLD '14**, groomsman **RYAN CARSON '14**, **COREY HAMILTON '14**, **DANTE MCCOY '14**, **EVAN PROKSELL '14**, **KYLE TURKALJ '14**, **KODY JOHNSON '15**, **IAN PHILLIPS '15**, **MICHAEL WHITELOCK '15**, **COLIN VITALE '15**, **CARLEE JONES '16** and **HEATHER REICHENBACK '16** attended.



KRISTEN (FEDDER) WINGARD '15 to **DUNCAN WINGARD '15** on Oct. 15, 2015 at Buhl Park in Sharon, Pa. The bridal party was made up of many Thiel College alumni: **KAITLYN BONZO '14**, **MOLLY JO EVERETT '14**, **SEAN BYHAM '15**, **BRANDON GELET '15**, **NIC JONES '15**, best man **DANIEL NOLTE '15**, **DAKOTA SANDERS '15**, **EMILY SKEBO '15**, **CODY SLEVIN '16** and **CORRIE SODERGREN '15**.



SHELBY (ROBERTS) CONNELLY '15 to **PAUL CONNELLY '15** on March 19 in Mount Pleasant, Pa. The bridal party included groomsman

MATT WILLIS '15; and bridesmaids **JESSICA YOZWIAK '15**, **HALEY HAYDEN '13**, **COURTNEY GIBSON '16**, and **LACEY WEAVER '17**.

BIRTHS



To **ERIKA (FOSTER) MARSHALL '06** and **TOMMY MARSHALL '04**: a daughter, Nora Leigh, on March 7. Her birthday is now a Marshall holiday, as she shares her father's birthday. In the photo, Nora is being held by her sister, Stella.

To **KELLY (DORA) KOMONDOR '07** and Jeffrey Komondor: a daughter, Natalia, on Dec. 16, 2015. The couple has two other children—Lucas and Micah—and resides in Goose Creek, S.C.

GATHERINGS



SUSAN (CLARE) BOEHM '64, **IRMA (CLARE) BAIRD '65**, and **KAREN (GERHARD) ERNST '65** pose for a photo in Conway, S.C. Photo credit: **WADE BAIRD '63**.



ROBERT SHIMP '64 (right), of Lexington, Ky., and **PAUL SHOOP '74**, of Rochester, N.Y., met by chance at a broom making class in Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Ky. When someone asked Shimp where he went to college, Shoop heard him say, "Thiel College," and the two struck up conversation.



Pictured (L to R) are College Archivist **JOHN HAUSER '71**, **NANCY (GIBSON) HAUSER '75**, **FRED RISSER '71**, **JOSEPH NAIRN '79** and **THOMAS WICKERHAM '75**. The group caught up at the inaugural Finger Lakes Community College (FLCC) "Vintners & Valentines" event. Risser's wife, Barbara, is President of FLCC.

CORRECTIONS

KELTAH NARBUTOVSKIY '35 was marked as deceased in the 2016 Thiel College Alumni Directory. After the directory was published, she notified the Office of Alumni Relations to assure them she is still vibrant and alive at the age of 102. Our sincerest apologies to Keltah for the error!



Kappa Sigma brothers celebrated their chapter's 20th anniversary with a Pittsburgh event. There were more than 60 brothers in attendance, including the founding fathers of the Xi Epsilon chapter: **ERIC DUNN '96, NATHAN FRANKLIN '97, OWEN GAEBEL '97, JEFF HALL '97, JASON CARPENTER '98** and **MICHAEL ALTENHOF '99**. The chapter's campus adviser, Professor of Philosophy and Department Chair Arthur "Buddy" White Jr., Ph.D., also attended. The event included an alumni awards ceremony and keynote speaker from the fraternity's national headquarters.



Sisters from Sigma Kappa reunited on campus in April for a tour and to meet with active sisters over lunch. **CAROLYN (BROWN) FRENCH '68, MARY JANE (CUETERA) SMITH '68, BARB (FOREMAN) GERHARD '68, DEBBIE (HICKERNELL) GRISNIK '68, PEGGY (PENCE) MORRIS '68, CAROL (SAUTTERS) HENSON '68, PENNY (SHAVER) LOHR '68, CHERYL CROSS '69, ALICE (GRIFFITH) ERLING '69, BECKY (RENNO) CAMPBELL '69, KRISTEN (WOGEN) VANDERVALK '69** and **MARGARET ANN (YALEY) MURRAY '71** attended.



Alpha Gamma Delta sisters had a mini-reunion in Mahoning, Pa. in October 2015. Pictured (L to R) are: *(first row)* **DENISE (BOUSTEAD) MUHA '81, SARAH (GOTWALD) KUCHERER '81, JUDI (MCCARTHY) MEYER '80, KAREN (OILL) MOURY '79** and **TAMI (KERR) SAHLI '81**; *(second row)* **JOYCE ARNOLD '81**; *(third row)* **TERRI BOWSER '81, BARBARA (WILSON) MROZEK '82, ALLISON MEREDYK '81, MELANIE KERR '81, LISA WALKER '81, KAREN (FISK) RENNER '81** and **BONNIE (GILFORD) RHODES '81**.



Five sets of legacies met in front of Greenville Hall for the annual photo after Commencement.



Anita Powell '70 and her grandson Jordan '16



Sisters Rebecca '10 and Laura Stump '16



Siblings Kelsey '16 and Matt Schneider '13



Siblings Joel '09 and Kara Bussard '16



Victoria Foeks '16 and her aunt Sheila Scofield '03

IN MEMORIAM

Frances M. (Beck) Titzel '42
 Agnes L. (McDonald) Peterson '43
 Carol (Himmelrich) Stottlemeyer '48
 Mary Lou (Harris) Himmelman '49
 Thomas W. Hodge '50
 Robert N. Keefner '50
 Carol (Andrews) Richmond '50
 Pearl L. (McDonald) Keefner '51
 Alfred E. DeBonis '52
 Edwin Long '52
 Theodore Shillito '53
 Howard W. Snyder '53
 John Waldron '53
 James E. Thompson '54

Raymond Hausele '55
 John W. McGrath '56
 Donald E. Bischoff '58
 William M. Bruehl '58
 Gerald M. Slezak '58
 Elinore J. (Beardsley) Martin '60
 William F. Schade '60
 Frederick P. DeWeese '61
 Waldron W. Duncan '61
 Joseph P. Genovesi '61
 John S. Turnbull '62
 Sandra B. (Brunella) Heiden '63
 John E. Anderson '64
 Jim Britton '64

Richard C. Black '67
 Patricia R. (Wilson) Dreier '70
 Elaine (Campbell) Psarras '71
 Donald R. Valesky '72
 Donna J. (Sallack) Adler '73
 Frederick G. Neiderhiser '73
 W. Lee Hicks '77
 Robert M. Brennan '85
 John T. Moore '86
 Kebede D. Girma '03
 Christopher Hull,
 friend of the College



UPDATE YOUR ALUMNI PROFILE

Whether it's a new email or home address, complete our online form to let us know how to stay in touch. Visit www.thiel.edu/alumni/keep-in-touch to update your alumni file. For more information, contact Director of Alumni Relations **Kelly Sanzari '13** at 724-589-2014 or http://alumni@thiel.edu.

John Frangakis,

Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees and Chair of the Presidential Search Committee

I write to you, my Thiel College family, at an interesting point in time in our search for the 20th President of Thiel College. At this point, I know who the next president of the College will be, but due to confidentiality reasons, I cannot commit the name the paper. Likewise, by the time you read this note, you will most likely already know who the next president is and think it is old news anyways. Managing a presidential transition can be tricky stuff!

The search for a college president is an interesting and unique experience. When I was initially contacted by the Chair of the Board of Trustees **Barry Stamm, M.D. '70** to chair the presidential search committee, I reluctantly answered the call to serve the College in this manner. Honestly, since that time I have asked myself "how did I get in this mess, anyway?" multiple times.

Luckily, I was blessed to be part of a great Presidential Search Committee that represented a diverse cross-section of the College's stakeholders! This team, along with our search consultant, **Dr. Peter Mitchell**, came together like a talented and well-rehearsed symphony when presented with their charge. My sole responsibility in this endeavor became to get the team whatever resources required to find viable candidates to bring to campus and let the campus evaluate the potential of those candidates.

While I reluctantly entered this process, I must confess that by allowing me and the other members of the search committee to serve you in this manner, you have given us a tremendous gift! Rarely does anyone get to experience



"I believe we have found a next president that our institution and our hometown can be proud of for years to come!"

all areas of the College—trustees, faculty, administration, staff, students, alumni, and community—passionately and simultaneously working together on a project towards a common goal.

Soon, the name of Candidate XX shall be another name in the history books of our beloved institution. I believe we have found a next president that our institution and our homETown can be proud of for years to come! I pray that, regardless of whom our next college president might be, we may all capture the spirit and comradery of the Presidential Search Committee and work together to propel Thiel College to a period of unparalleled growth in her next 150 years!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Frangakis". The signature is fluid and cursive.

A photograph showing a large brick sign on the left that reads "THIEL COLLEGE" in large, raised letters, with "FOUNDED 1866" in smaller letters below it. In the background, a group of graduates in black gowns and caps are walking along a path on a campus with green lawns and trees.

Frangakis wrote this letter in early May, before the announcement of the new president. The letter represents a moment in time that captures the excitement and commitment of the Presidential Search Committee.

Opening remarks from incoming president, Susan Traverso, Ph.D.

Traverso's appointment was announced at a press conference on May 17. She took the stage to deliver opening remarks and her hopes for the College's future. Enjoy highlights below and watch the entire speech on YouTube at <http://bit.ly/tcmeetstraversovideo>.

"It is a great honor to have been selected as the 20th President of Thiel College. I am humbled, grateful, and inspired—humbled by your praise, grateful to join such a welcoming community, and inspired by the history and mission of Thiel College."

As Thiel celebrates its sesquicentennial year, the College can look back at a rich history and look forward to a bright future. Since its founding, Thiel has enjoyed the support of those who believed in its mission. From the \$4,000 naming gift by **Louis** and **Barbara Thiel** to the major gifts in the *Thiel 2016* campaign, the College has depended upon the generosity of its friends and alumni. These benefactors had faith—that substance of things hoped for—and acted on that faith by giving freely and generously. They gave to Thiel to open up new opportunities for students and to sustain the institution.

The success of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign is testimony that the culture of giving is alive and well at Thiel. Many of the campaign gifts rank among the largest in the school's history. In addition to fueling the College's endowment growth, the *Thiel 2016* Campaign has enhanced the campus, creating The Dietrich Honors Institute, building the Pedas Communication Center, establishing endowed academic chairs and scholarships, making investments in athletic programs and facilities, and improving laboratories and classrooms. The leadership of **President VanAken** has been central to the success of the *Thiel 2016* Campaign. He, together with his wife, **Annette**, committed seven years to the College, and the College is better for their service. I am grateful for the opportunity to build on President VanAken's accomplishments and to bring the College to its next level of success.

In the College's mission statement, Thiel commits to promoting academic excellence, global awareness, and ethical and responsible leadership. I look forward to supporting the faculty and staff as we strive to fulfill this commitment to students and to ourselves. Rigorous academic engagement emphasizing cultural diversity, ethics, leadership, and imagination allows students to gain a sense of themselves—their identities, beliefs and values. I applaud Thiel's effort to integrate liberal and professional studies, curricular and co-curricular experiences, classroom and experiential learning. It is in these intersections that student learning is the deepest and most enduring.

Another important intersection is the connection between the College and the Greenville community. Working together, we can further strengthen the College's outreach through internships, community service, and cultural affairs. Students and community members share a connection to Greenville. Let's think creatively to enhance opportunities to collaborate.

I am eager to get to work and to work hard. There is much to celebrate in the coming year, and campus festivities will be an opportunity to connect

with alumni, friends of the College, and community leaders. I will value the chance to listen to their perspectives and ideas, and to build strong and collaborative relationships as we advance the College.

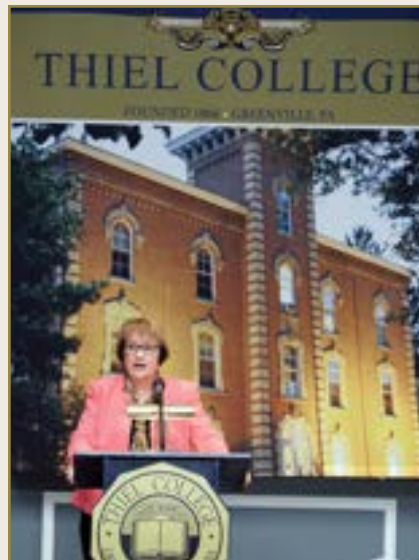
In a competitive and changing environment for higher education, challenge and risk are part of the landscape. Market position and strength, affordability, increased costs, new modes of learning, and compliance requirements are among some of the challenges all colleges are facing. Fortunately, Thiel has strengths to tap as we confront current and future uncertainties. Those strengths include a strong sense of mission and community, a talented faculty and staff, a committed Board of Trustees, and an enthusiastic alumni base. Many of those alumni, together

with friends of the College, have given significant financial support to Thiel because they believe in the mission of the College. Each year, students and parents also pledge their confidence—and college savings—to Thiel. I look forward to working with all of you to make good on the trust that has been pledged to us by the College's donors, students, and families. Institutional vitality depends on student success both during and after college. For 150 years, Thiel has been committed to the success of its students and graduates. Working together, we can ensure that commitment continues into the future.

Education, civic engagement and service—these were the values that surrounded me growing up in the Traverso family. My first experience volunteering was going door to door with my father raising "Dollars for Scholars." Visiting with neighbors, we collected one dollar bills in small brown envelopes for prospective college students from my hometown outside of Boston. Looking back now, I can see that my family's emphasis on education and civic involvement guided my journey through college at Simmons, service in the Peace Corps, graduate

school at Wisconsin, and a career as a teacher-scholar and leader in higher education. I never imagined as a young girl, though, that I would one day be invited to lead a college—there just weren't any models for that in those days. Fortunately, there are today. As president of Thiel, I will continue to raise dollars for scholars and to make college accessible to students. Thiel stands tall among private colleges for its commitment to access and affordability. It offers a transformative experience to students and opens opportunities for graduates.

Let me express my gratitude again to the Board, the search committee, and the Thiel and Greenville communities. Thank you for your enthusiastic support and warm welcome. I look forward to working with you to advance Thiel's commitment to student success and institutional vitality!





75 College Avenue
Greenville, PA 16125
www.thiel.edu

Save the Date

HOMECOMING 2016

Celebrating 150 Years



Sep. 30 -
Oct. 2

Join us as we celebrate a remarkable 150 years of Thiel College history. There will be special events all week leading into a special Homecoming Weekend.

Visit www.thiel.edu/homecoming in late summer to RSVP online.

