

Thiel College Magazine for Alumni & Friends

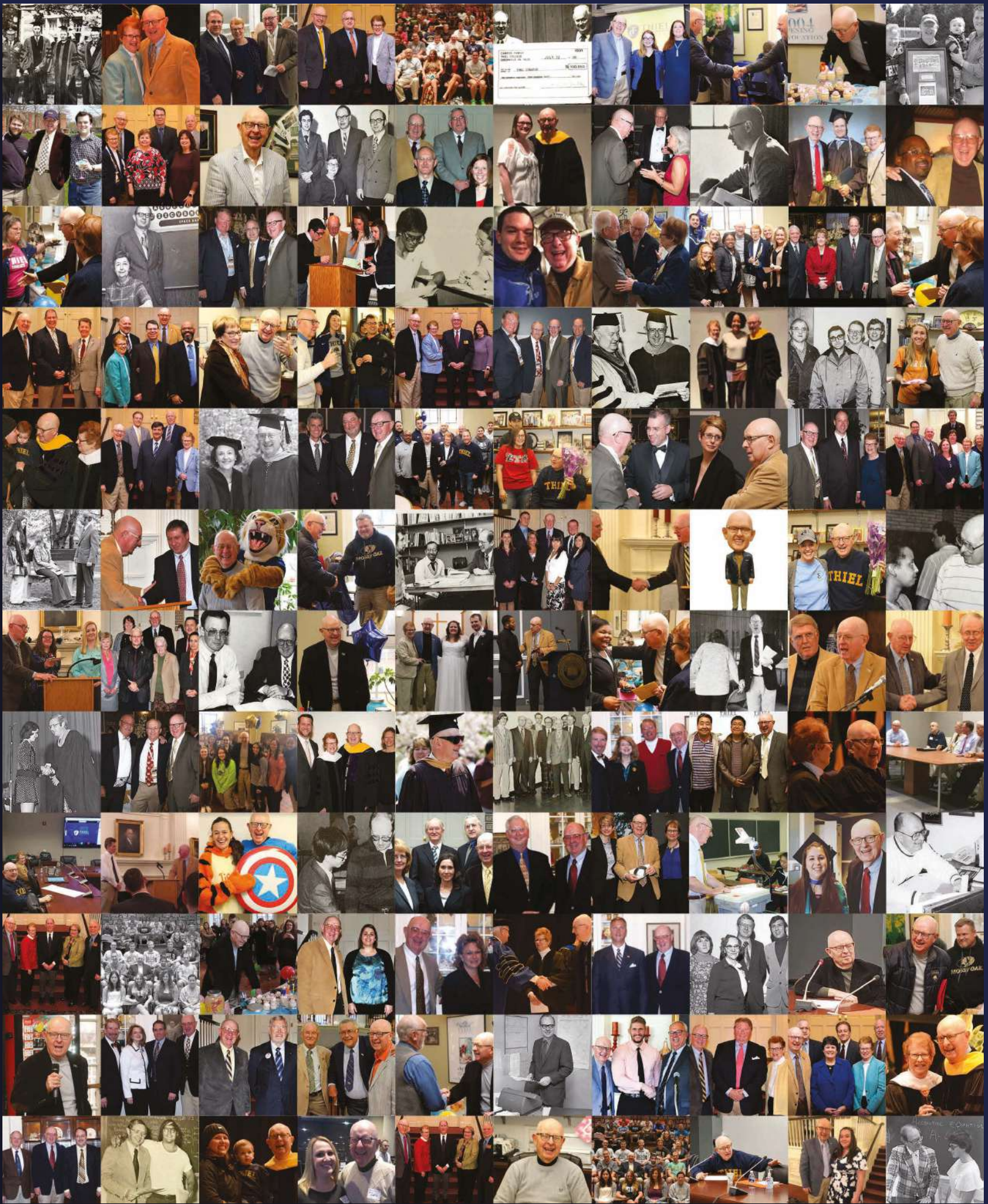
SPRING/SUMMER 2020

The Bell



David Miller '61, H'20

Reflections on the longest teaching career in the College's history





Take the plunge!

A group of about 60, which included students, alumni, employees and a trustee, braved frigid waters at Pymatuning Reservoir to raise money for The Thiel Fund.

Read more about it on **Page 16**.



Watch the plunge: <https://bit.ly/matchday2020>

Hear



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

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

from the students after the plunge: <https://bit.ly/matchday2020scenes>

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The Thiel community was resilient as we faced the disruptions of the spring semester. Our faculty and staff worked brilliantly with students as they completed their spring courses online. In May, we celebrated the Class of 2020, now proud alumni.



The campus community is actively preparing for the fall semester. I remain optimistic that we will welcome students back to campus in August and host alumni and friends for Homecoming in October. As we make these plans, we will continue to be guided by public health recommendations and state directives, keeping you updated as the summer unfolds.

In the meantime, our students and your College need you. Students with limited summer employment opportunities will likely need additional financial support from Thiel, and the College will see increased expenses as we establish safety and health protocols. A contribution to the Thiel Fund is as important now as at any time in the institution's 155-year history.

Norman P. Mortensen Endowed Chair of Economics **David Miller '61, H'20**, who we celebrate in this issue, is a symbol of institutional continuity. He is our inspiration as we look ahead past this current challenge toward the College's bright future preparing the next generation of students as Dr. Miller did for his 57-year career at Thiel.

Susan Traverso
Susan Traverso, Ph.D.
 President of Thiel College

The Bell

... Spring/Summer 2020 ...

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On the Cover

Professor **David M. Miller '61, H'20** has had an impact on thousands of lives while teaching for 57 years. The cover photo is made up of hundreds of smaller images. The inside flap of this cover contains the images that were used to make the tapestry on the front.

Corrections & Clarifications:

Marlene (Jackson) Boddy '69 was crowned Homecoming queen in 1967. The incorrect year of her title appeared in the Fall/Winter 2019 edition of The Bell.

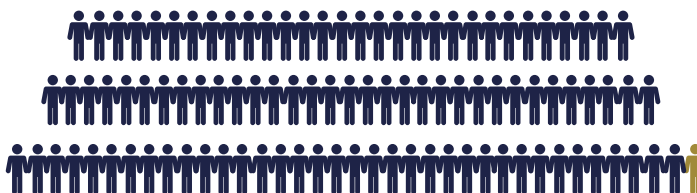
The first female student head resident was **Gretchen Bricker '75**. By the next year, all the residence halls were under the direction of student head residents. The wrong year for female student head residents appeared in the Fall/Winter 2019 edition. Thank you to alumna **Cindy (Leister) Kelly '77** for the correct information.

Your contributions to The Thiel Fund are an important part of helping students reach their full potential



3rd
 time in **four years**,
 Thiel College was
 recognized as a top
 200 institution by
Forbes for the
 generosity of its alumni.

Contributions not only help fund scholarships, but also keep the water hot, the lights on and campus beautiful.

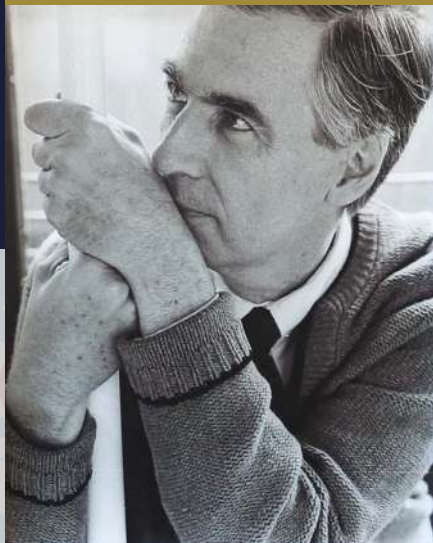


99

Out of every 100 students receive some form of tuition assistance.

Give to The Thiel Fund today! Go to www.thiel.edu/giving or contact **Mark Batt '87** at mbatt@thiel.edu.

Members of the Thiel College community shared on social media the ways they found to help.



Fred Rogers H'69 said he was always comforted by something his mother would tell him during times of disaster: "Look for the helpers. You can always find people who are helping."



Left: Graduate **Nate Bissell '08** had his company Bissell Maple Farm manufacture hand sanitizer and donated the first gallon to the Jefferson Valley (Ohio) Police Department. Middle: Board of Trustees member **Michael P. Walton** also had his company create sanitizer, which was donated to St. Paul's Senior Living. Right: Thiel College students wrote letters of encouragement and support for St. Paul's residents.

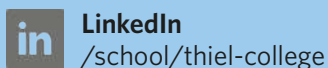


Molly Carter '08 collected material and then made and donated masks.



Taylor Guth '20 shared on Instagram the cleanup efforts she and her sister undertook in their neighborhood.

Follow us on social media



Letters to the editor

Thiel College welcomes feedback regarding *The Bell*. Letters must contain a contact number (not for publication, but to allow for verification of the sender). Letters can be mailed to **Thiel College, Office of Communications and Marketing, 75 College Ave., Greenville, PA 16125**; or emailed to **pr@thiel.edu**. Letters accepted for publication may be edited for length and clarity.



Grant enables students to research better ways to kill leukemia cells

Associate Professor of Biology **Sarah J. Swerdlow, Ph.D.** was awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Cell Biology Education Consortium to teach her students in the Cell Biology class how to perform research utilizing cell and tissue culture techniques.

Swerdlow and her students performed research to determine better ways to kill leukemia cells until the campus closed in mid-March.

Marion G. Resch Foundation increases support

The College was recently awarded an additional \$225,000 from the Marion G. Resch Foundation to help fund science-based and other scholarships.

Marion G. Resch Science Scholarships are exclusive to home-schooled students and students from high schools in the Ohio counties of Mahoning, Columbiana and Trumbull. The award also has funds earmarked for a summer enrichment camp for students from Youngstown, Ohio. Graduates of the four-year camp also receive scholarship funds if they attend Thiel College.

Ella Busch Scholarship launched

The College announced its new Ella Busch Scholarship to honor the long-time school employee this spring.

Incoming fall 2020 first-year students could be eligible for up to \$8,000 through the scholarship. To be eligible, students must have attended select Mercer County high schools and have a 3.0 GPA. Busch started working at Thiel College in 1946 until her retirement in 1983. She was named an honorary alumna of Thiel College in 1987. She passed away in December 2017.

Ganier wins IBS award

John Ganier '22 won an Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Golden Mic in March for an underwriting spot he produced for WXTC radio.

Ganier's win was among the nine nominations from Thiel considered at the 80th annual conference.

WXTC was nominated in the underwriting and the newscast category and TCTV in the variety and on-air promotion categories. Thiel's other nominees were Ganier (newscast); **Keegan Bunch '23, Timothy Jackson '19, Jamir Mitchell '22, Jacob Orczeck '22, Quinn Ursprung '19, Will Watkins '22** and **Shane Young '19** (variety) and **Adam Button '22** (on-air promo).

Ganier is the son of John and **Audra (Schell) Ganier '93**.

M.B.A. is College's second graduate program

Classes for the College's new Master of Business Administration and M.B.A. in Leadership programs begin in July.

Students in the innovative and accelerated residential program will earn an M.B.A. in just 12 months. The Thiel M.B.A. program is designed to give students a head start on their careers by capitalizing on their momentum as students to transition from undergraduate work to post-graduate work. Many M.B.A. programs require work experience before students are admitted, by design Thiel M.B.A. students will acquire experience through experiential learning and programmatic activities. Thiel graduates are eligible for a \$2,000 alumni discount.

It is the second graduate program at Thiel. A Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology was awarded provisional accreditation in August, and the first students started in June.

"The modern workplace is moving in a direction where an advanced degree is going to be not just preferred but essential," Chair of the Arthur McGonigal Department of Business Administration and Accounting and M.B.A Program Director **Anthony Kos, Ph.D.**, said.



TLC's Sampson retiring after more than 30 years at Thiel College

Barbara Sampson is

retiring after 31 years as the administrative assistant in The Learning Commons. She made the announcement in a Facebook post where she thanked her Thiel colleagues.

"My heartfelt thanks and love to the staff, faculty, administration and most of all the students—past and present—who I have had the honor and pleasure to meet and serve," she said.

Forbes magazine continues its recognition of the College

For the second straight year, Thiel was among the 200 colleges and universities with the most generous alumni according to the leading financial news magazine Forbes.

The selection places Thiel among many of the nation's elite institutions and Ivy League schools. Since 2013, Forbes has been publishing an alternative measure of colleges' return-on-investment with its proprietary Grateful Graduates Index that looks at the seven-year median gifts per full-time enrolled student and the average percentage of alumni who give back, regardless of the amount in which they give.



Biology students' research published in national database

Biology students are in the second phase of research under the guidance of Associate Professor of Biology **Sarah**

J. Swerdlow, Ph.D. to find microscopic bacteriophages in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh and Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The Science Education Alliance-Phage Hunters Advancing Genomics Evolutionary Science program is an undergraduate research-based discovery course where the students take two semesters of research within the lab portion of their courses. The tiny bacteriophages that fight bacteria are found by digging up soil and using microbiology techniques to analyze viable samples.

From there, their genomes are meticulously annotated by the students. The fall 2019 genetics class had the phage, Renzie, published in the National Center for Biotechnology Information database.

Grant will fund WWII research

In March 2020, Professor of History **David Buck, Ph.D.**, reference librarian for instruction **Tressa Synder**, and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Elizabeth Frombgen, Ph.D.** were awarded a \$10,000 Humanities Research for the Public Good Grant by The Council for Independent Colleges for their proposal, "Role of Thiel College and Camp Reynolds in World War II."

Three students will be involved in the research. This research will build on the Thiel College Veterans Project and start incorporating the surrounding area. The Reynolds Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7599 is a community partner on the project.



Congratulations, Class of 2020!

Virtual recognitions of Class of 2020 to be followed by in-person celebrations

With large in-person gatherings put on hold by social distancing requirements, video messages, online gatherings and social media were important parts of this year's Commencement Exercises. Plans will be announced for an in-person celebration when guidelines for large in-person gatherings are approved by government officials.

President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.**, delivered a special video message for seniors, which can be found at Thiel College's youtube.com channel.

An online toast was held and Trustee **Barry Oman '74** recorded a congratulatory message before he began the traditional ringing of the Memorial Bell in front of the Passavant Center. The bell is rung once for each member of that year's graduating class.

Renee Bair '99 and **David Saur '11** posted encouraging video messages on Facebook welcoming the newest members of the 15,000-plus alumni network. Forty-three of this year's graduates earned Latin honors, and **Angela Campbell '20**, **Mariel Hanely '20** and **Nash Matson '20** earned valedictorian honors with perfect 4.0 grade point averages. **Matthew Crawford '20** was salutatorian.

See more news in the Thiel College Newsroom!

www.thiel.edu/newsroom

Covering COVID-19

Alumni are on the frontlines, documenting the pandemic, while others are shaping how companies communicate in these unprecedented times



Michael Allen '90 works in the ABC News Washington D.C. Bureau as a video editor.

"It's a strange time in the world right now. I am driving into one of the largest cities in the United States, and there are barely any cars on the road. I am walking into one of the largest news

bureaus in the world, and it is deathly silent. On every level, from local to network, I've covered some memorable moments in my career, but I have never seen anything like this.

I thought 9/11 would be the most horrible thing I would see in my life, but this is worse. I can't shoot it with a camera or interview it, but it is affecting everyone in the world. I'm essential personnel at my job so no matter how bad things get, I go and do my best to help inform the public to the facts of what's going on."



Danielle Dwyer '11 is a television sports journalist at KOKH Fox 25 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Oklahoma City is the 43rd-ranked television market in the country. She has been at the station for just short of a year now.

"As a TV journalist, this has been a freeing time, an opportunity for reflection, and a time of growth and professional development. Unlike other sports journalists I know, I have not had to do news coverage during this time. Because of the connections I have established, I have not found myself sitting without a story, which is good because it's allowed me to do some reporting on stories that touch on the pandemic but also help take people's minds off of what is happening. So many people are craving sports right now."



Jim Cunningham '77 is WQED Morning Show host and Senior Executive Producer at WQED-FM in Pittsburgh.

"When I started my internship at WQED in 1974, I could never have guessed that after decades of broadcasting experiences, I'd be talking into a microphone from my dining room table.

Recently, I communicated with Ken Nein '76, who teaches English at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam. Everyone wears masks while shopping in Berlin, and even though some churches and schools are opening, Ken says, 'it's still all rather spooky, like being in a very bad sci-fi B film.'

Cleveland cardiologist and Thiel radio DJ Dr. Jim Sechler '76 is continuing to treat patients. Jim told me "it is a very strange world! I wonder if it will ever be normal again!"

Read their full stories online at <https://www.thiel.edu/alumni/at-work>



Meghan Speer '02 is CEO of Marketing Support Network. She oversees the operations of the digital marketing team as well as the contact center, which has seen an increase in call volume during the COVID-19 crisis as well.

"No brand or organization wants to appear tone deaf on social media. Not on a normal day and certainly not in a global pandemic. Situations changing by the moment takes a toll on everyone but for those of us who work in digital marketing, trying to stay ahead of those changes is critical.

We were changing content plans, sometimes every hour, to make sure that our clients' audiences were always receiving the latest information when there were updates or encouraging words and some lighthearted humor when there were no updates.

As the situation kept changing so did the plans, so the team was constantly on Zoom and messenger from their homes to coordinate their efforts."



David Dye '16 is a reporter at The (Sharon, Pa.) Herald. He covers a variety of municipal and general assignment beats for the Herald.

"For a local news reporter, covering the COVID-19 pandemic as the disease gradually made its way to Mercer County, Pa. was interesting.

I was initially only able to localize the pandemic by talking to state health officials about how Pennsylvania could be affected—but eventually I was talking with local people about how we would handle the pandemic.

I am working from home. I miss the face-to-face interaction of interviews and reporting and miss the comradery of the newsroom.

It has been hard reporting on the difficulties and hardships created by the pandemic, but I have also reported on the good news and uplifting stories that are going on."

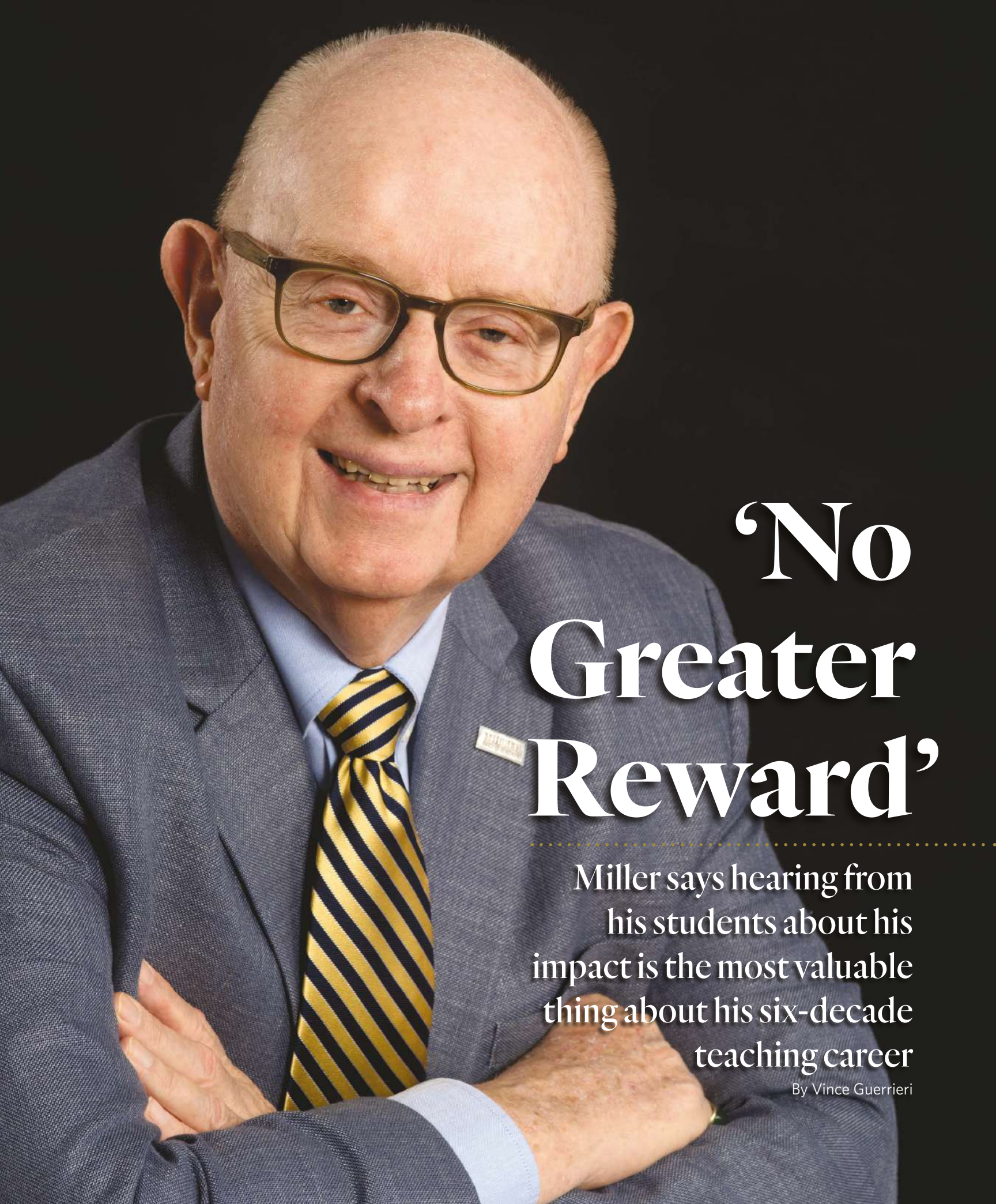


Lauren (Whetzel) Siburkis '10 is an advanced communications representative at FirstEnergy in Akron, Ohio. She came to FirstEnergy in 2016, after working as a reporter and government publicist for many years.

"FirstEnergy operates a critical part of our country's infrastructure and is committed to keeping the lights on as the nation addresses the coronavirus challenge. This health emergency has made reliable electric service even more important.

I am among more than 7,000 employees at FirstEnergy who are working from home. I have not been able to do in-person interviews with TV reporters. I set up a home studio that allows me to do virtual interviews.

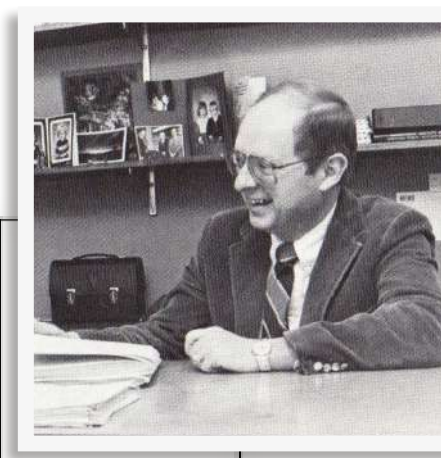
One of the biggest challenges I've faced during my time at home was handling a major storm in early April that caused more than 100,000 power outages in northeast Ohio."



‘No Greater Reward’

Miller says hearing from
his students about his
impact is the most valuable
thing about his six-decade
teaching career

By Vince Guerrieri



1961

David Miller graduates from Thiel College

1963

He begins teaching at Thiel College

1969

Miller is named Department Chair. A position he would hold for 45 years

1982

Senior Seminar begins, and a few years later, Professor Miller takes over the program

1984

Entrepreneurial Institute founded

1990

Professor Miller is named the Norman P. Mortensen Endowed Chair in Economics. Thiel College's first endowed chair in any subject

After high school, **David Miller '61, H'20** didn't intend to go to Thiel College.

While in college, he didn't intend to go to graduate school.

While in graduate school, he didn't intend to make teaching his career.

But he returned to his alma mater—and stayed. Miller is retiring after 57 years at the College, teaching a variety of business classes. He's the longest-tenured faculty member in school history and has taught more students than anyone else in the school's 155-year history—many of whom still remember him warmly and don't hesitate to help him with any request.

"His love and commitment to Thiel translates to every student he touches," says Sandy Parker '81, who served as his teaching assistant and who still returns to help at the Ruth A. Miller Senior Seminar, which was named for his wife. "He helps every incoming freshman who comes into the business program. He talks to every incoming student's parents. He's committed to make sure they have a good outlook. He's just an amazing man.

"I don't think you'll find anyone who loves Thiel or is as committed to Thiel as Professor Miller."

That commitment, Miller says, comes out of a sense of deep gratitude.

"It's a privilege every day of my life to have come back to Thiel two years after graduation, and teach here every day for 57 years," he says. "I'm blessed to have had the opportunity.

"Thiel owes me nothing. I owe Thiel everything."

After graduating from Mercer High School, Miller left the area for college in Wooster, Ohio. His first year was a pleasant one; his second year, he said, less so. Living alone off campus, he decided to return to Mercer County.

"It was a fortunate turn of events for me," he says. "Really, it was life changing. I commuted to Thiel, but I was very, very happy there. It felt like home to me and it sure turned out to be the case."

Miller majored in economics and minored in business. It was expected that he'd return to the family business, then in its third generation. His grandfather founded Miller Funeral Home in 1909—Miller notes that in those days, funeral services were usually done at home; the company didn't have a funeral home until 1939, the year Miller was born—and the family also owned a furniture store.



1995

The \$1 million gift of Henry H'97 and Grace Haller creates the Haller Enterprise Institute

2012

Professor Miller takes a ceremonial photo with his 50th anniversary class

2014

Campaign for the David Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting announced

2015

Campaign for David Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting completed and David Miller bobblehead released

2016

Gary Witosky '79 is awarded the first David Miller Endowed Chair in Accounting

2018

The senior seminar class renamed in honor of Ruth Miller as the Ruth A. Miller Senior Seminar

"You'd think those aren't related businesses, but they are," Miller says. "Both grew out of cabinet making."

But a class project changed Miller's life.

"A professor at Thiel had us do a class presentation. He said, 'You did a good job. Have you considered graduate school?' I had never considered it, but it planted the seed."

Miller was torn between New York University and the University of Pittsburgh. It had a retail program, and New York was, and in many ways still remains, the retail center of the world. But Pitt was closer to home, and even though it was eliminating its retail program, had one key point in its favor: Miller would get a full scholarship there. He would have only gotten a half scholarship at NYU.

"I had no money, so that made my decision easy," Miller says.

His wife, **Ruth H'20**, was attending nursing school in Pittsburgh and working at what's now known as UPMC Presbyterian Hospital. Dave and Ruth have a son, **Michael '92**, and a daughter, **Joy '90**. Both went to Thiel as well—of their own volition, Miller notes.

"I said go anywhere you want, because at the time Thiel had a very generous tuition exchange program," Miller says.

While at Pitt, he also attended the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, still intending to join the family funeral home business, which he did in addition to his teaching career. He was a licensed funeral director for 30 years: a testament, he says, to Thiel's flexibility in allowing him to do so. Today, Thiel has a partnership with PIMS, with three years at the former and one at the latter.

To make a little extra money, Miller started teaching marketing classes in 1963 at what was then known as Point Park Junior College in downtown Pittsburgh. He discovered he loved teaching. "I enjoy the challenge, the classroom, the students," he says.

And Thiel found out he was good at it too.

"Thiel called and said, 'We heard you'd been teaching. Can you teach a course for us?'" Miller said.

“Congratulations on a wonderful career! You and Ruth have made an impact on so many lives, mine included! I wish you guys all the best and hope to see you again soon!”

Brenna Parsley '20



Ruth Ann Miller has unique role all her own for Thiel College

Ruth Ann Miller H'20 is intricately connected to the Thiel College campus community. She has carved out a role as campus nurse, nurturer of students, advocate for alumni and the namesake for the Ruth A. Miller Endowed Senior Seminar.

She has been a supporter and a partner of Professor **David Miller '61, H'20**, who retired from his full-time teaching position this May after 57 years.

"I don't think he'd be as effective without Ruth. Neither one would be as effective without the other," said **Sandy (Cotterman) Parker '81**, who is a regular presenter at the Ruth Miller seminar class. "I think it was smart they named the senior seminar for her. She's the bond that keeps him going."

Ruth worked on campus as a nurse from 1988 to 2014. Her service spanned both call-in and substitute roles as well as full-time duties as circumstances required. Throughout the years, Miller has been an engaged and active member of the Thiel College community attending

hundreds of events including speakers, honors presentations, athletic competitions, plays and concerts. Her involvement with the Thiel College community proves lifelong influences can be made on students by every person in the Thiel College community, from staff member to advocate to friend of the College.

Miller has been called the first lady of the Arthur McGonigal Department of Business Administration and Accounting. Her family connection extends beyond her husband's and her roles at Thiel College. Her father, **Dr. Max Rishell '36**, was a Thiel College graduate and was the superintendent of Mercer County schools. The Miller's children, **Michael '92** and **Joy '90**, are both graduates.

She attended Slippery Rock University and graduated from the Presbyterian School of Nursing in Pittsburgh in 1961.

She and Dave live in Jamestown, Pa.



2020

Professor Miller and his wife, Ruth, are awarded Honorary Doctorates of Business Administration and Accounting and Humanities

2020

COVID-19 pandemic leads Thiel College to finishing the semester with online classes. Miller teaches first online class

"They gave me an 8 a.m. class, which I'd go to, and then come back to Mercer for the family business. I was still teaching at Point Park three nights a week."

His teaching at Point Park ended in 1965. He was granted tenure at Thiel five years later, and estimates since then he's taught 14 different business-related courses—all informed by his own career in business, with the family funeral home and furniture as well as his own forays, which included a hydroponics business, accounting, running the Greenville Airport and owning various rental properties.

Gary Witosky '79 was an incoming freshman in fall 1975, when he took Miller's principles of accounting. Even then, he knew he was in the presence of greatness.

"There's no experience like being in his classroom," says Witosky, who took six classes from Miller and went

on to an accounting and business career before returning to Thiel to teach. “He commands the classroom and he’s a phenomenal teacher.”

Among Miller’s more recent students is **George Cupec '21**, a Slippery Rock, Pa. native who came to Thiel to play soccer and major in actuarial studies. Cupec said he’s taken four classes with Miller—the first almost on accident.

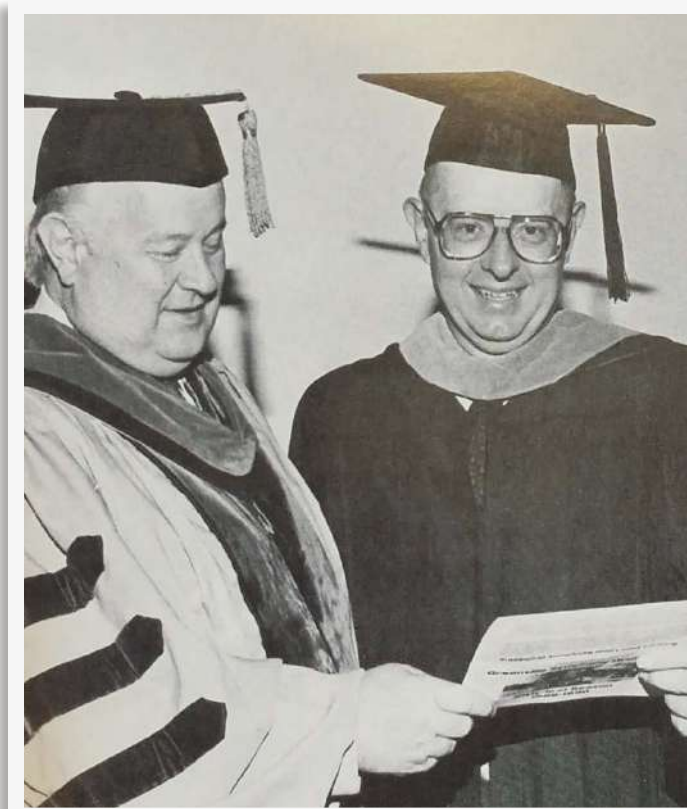
“I stumbled into his entrepreneurship class,” he says. “I thought it would be cool to own a business, and I wanted to find out what it was about.

“I had no idea what I was doing. I knew I wanted to own a coffee shop and that’s it. I was in his office weekly, and he never turned me away and he never put me down for any questions I asked.” Cupec is slated to graduate this fall with a degree in business administration.

On at least one instance, Miller taught a class because nobody else wanted it—but he made the most of it.



Linda Haller H'13 has continued the support her husband **Dr. Henry Haller H'97** started with a \$1 million gift to create the Haller Enterprise Institute.



Thiel College’s 15th president **The Rev. Louis Almén, Ph.D.** was one of eight presidents who led the College during Professor Miller’s tenure.

“I am grateful nonetheless that we are going out together. I have greatly enjoyed these past four years and will certainly remember each class I had with you fondly. You are an amazing professor, mentor, and role model. I am sincerely grateful that I have had the distinct pleasure of being your student. Your support over these years, not only in the classroom, but at each recital, play, and concert, has meant the world to me.

Please send my sincerest regards to Ruth as well. She has also made a profound impact on my life and I am so happy to have had the chance to spend time getting to know her the past few years. Her commitment to you, to Thiel, and to all the students here is certainly unprecedented. She is an incredible woman and an inspiration to us all.”

Mariel Hanely '20

“Economic geography was a required course for education majors but we taught it in the business school,” he says. “Nobody wanted to teach it because they didn’t know about geography, and I didn’t either. But I was the low man in the department.

“A lot of my career was teaching classes nobody liked or wanted to teach. And I enjoyed it very much.”

Miller acquired a reputation as a tough but fair instructor. He’s not a tyrant, but you have to come to class prepared, Cupec says.

“You have fun, but you learn a lot,” he says. “But you don’t want to goof off.

“I was in his accounting class, and I was very ill-prepared for the day. He called on me, and I gave an answer that wasn’t even close to right. He called me on it and it really changed my focus in class.”

In 1995, **Henry H’97** and **Grace Haller** donated \$1 million to Thiel, at the time the largest donation ever given to the College by a living donor, to support teaching entrepreneurial skills. Because of his own business experience, Miller was put in charge of the school’s Haller Enterprise Institute.

“One of our adjunct instructors, **Marc Golsmith**, read the *Harvard Business Review*—which I have to admit I never did. It was a little beyond me—and he said, ‘Harvard’s doing this. We should too,’” Miller says. “The idea is you bring back successful people to tell their stories to seniors. We got that going and found out through the years the most effective speakers were our own graduates.”

The seminar usually provides a formal dinner with alumni involved in business, with a question-and-answer session following the meal. The idea is that students become comfortable in a formal dinner setting and hone their own interviewing skills for potential job interviews.

“It gets people ready for business world in several senses,” says Cupec, who’s become Miller’s go-to photographer for the seminars and other classes.

One of the people Miller got to come back to talk was Witosky. Miller posed the question to Witosky: Have you considered teaching?

“I had no teaching experience,” Witosky recalls. “It was not something I’d even considered. Truthfully, he shouldn’t have believed in me as much as he did.”

Witosky returned to campus first as an adjunct, then ultimately becoming full-time faculty. At Homecoming 2016, he was surprised with the news that he’d be the first David W. Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting.

“It’s an amazing honor,” Witosky says. “He’s a great teacher, a great friend and great mentor.”

Miller remains devoted to Thiel. He thinks it’s the least he can do.

“Thiel has given me my own education. It has educated my children. It has given me a career and the opportunity to interact with over 10,000 students and meet so many wonderful people who I would never have encountered in my lifetime. Many of them have become my dear friends.”

“We have the opportunity every day to impact students lives. I still hear from students 50 years later. I didn’t even realize I had that impact, but there is no greater reward I can conceive of.”



In 2016, the College hosted a reunion for graduates of the Arthur McGonigal Department of Business Administration and Accounting. The reunion included a lecture by Professor Miller.



Catching up with Jim Chester '03

Thiel College graduate leading Division I baseball team

Compiled by Austin Balaschak '21

Jim Chester '03 was named the baseball coach at NCAA Division I Gardner-Webb in June 2019 and was preparing to coach his first season with the Runnin' Bulldogs. As he has climbed the ladder from the junior college ranks to the highest level in NCAA athletics, he has earned personal accolades, awards, recognitions, and honors, but nearly 20 years later, a team accomplishment is still displayed prominently among his mementos—a team photo of the 2003 Thiel College baseball squad that won the Presidents' Athletic Conference championship. "It's a reminder that culture trumps talent any day of the week." In his first season, Gardner-Webb was 8-8 before the remainder of the 2020 schedule was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chester has a career record of 356-264-2 and has had coaching stops at Mercyhurst College Northeast, Penn State University Greater Allegheny, Lock Haven University and Barton College. Chester graduated from Thiel College in 2003, where he was a four-year letterman for the baseball program, earning NCAA Region All-American honors in 2003. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in psychology in 2003 and followed with a Master of Business Administration from Seton Hill University in 2005.

Chester and his wife, **Lindzey**, have two children, **Marin** and **JJ**.

How are you fitting in as the coach of the Gardner-Webb baseball program? Being named the head coach at Gardner-Webb University has been a true blessing to our family. We are very happy to be part of the campus and local community. Gardner-Webb is a special place, it reminds me a lot of Thiel College.

You're no stranger to winning and success, what keeps you grounded? We honestly have never sat back and reflected on the past. I do appreciate hearing from former players and reminiscing about certain teams or games. As soon as I feel like we have arrived or fixated on accomplishments, the edge, drive, and love for the process will diminish quickly.

So, you've been very successful in turning programs around. Where do you get the knack and skill to show immediate improvement in such a short time and what goes into that? There isn't a secret formula or book out there to reference. We have been humble through every stop and process, while focusing on our players, coaches, and support staff being selfless, relentless, and blue-collar daily.

Taking it back to your playing days, what was it like on the Tomcats baseball teams at the time? How did you and program change over those years?

I believe the Thiel baseball program won two games the year before (1999) Coach **Joe Schaly** arrived and then we won the 2003 Presidents' Athletic Conference championship. The program changed because of coach Schaly's leadership. The coaching staff has stayed mostly intact for the past 20 years with coach **Eric Garrett '88** and coach **Jim Patterson**. The other assistants that have moved on are spread out over every level in college baseball. I was extremely happy for the players when they got the new facility, but I wouldn't have traded anything in the world to play at Packard Park!

Being on the 2003 championship team at Thiel. Talk about that season, and how did that run not only affect you as a player but as a coach, too? The 2003 team was not the most talented, but our culture and chemistry was something that was evolving in the previous years. Many of us played every game since we stepped on campus, and that cohesiveness was what put our group over the top. If I remember correctly, we did not get off to the best start, but we swept PSU-Behrend in early April and that started a memorable run towards a PAC championship. We got hot down the stretch taking series against Bethany, Waynesburg, and Grove City. We swept through the PAC tournament scoring 28 runs in three games and getting outstanding performances on



Jim Chester '03 head coaching resume

Years	Institution	Level	Record
2007	Mercyhurst North East	National Junior College Athletic Association	25-22
2008-14	Penn State-Greater Allegheny	US Collegiate Athletic Association	204-108-1 <i>Chester left PSU-GA as the winningest coach in school history, earning Pennsylvania State University Athletic Conference (PSUAC) Coach of the Year honors on three occasions, as well as the 2011 Chuck Tanner Collegiate Manager of the Year Award. He also produced 37 All-Conference players and 24 All-American selections.</i>
2015-17	Lock Haven	NCAA Division II	66-70-1 <i>Lock Haven was 13-28 overall in the year before Chester's arrival. In his last year with Lock Haven, the Eagles had a 32-18 record in 2017.</i>
2018-19	Barton College	NCAA Division II	43-56 <i>Chester led the Barton Bulldogs to a 31-20 overall record in 2019, earning a second-place finish in the Conference Carolinas standings and also taking home 2019 Conference Carolinas Coach of the Year honors.</i>
2020	Gardner-Webb	NCAA Division I	8-8

the mound. I have a team picture in my office, it is a daily reminder that culture trumps talent any day of the week.

That season 100 percent influenced me as a coach, being a part of a championship team is invaluable. That experience and relationships are something I carry with me every day.

2003 was a great year for you off the field, too, because you also graduated from Thiel College with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. How has that helped you in your career?

The education I received at Thiel College has helped me through every stop of my

professional career. The small classes and academic environment were a perfect fit for me.

The setting, major and baseball program were a major factor in me being the first person in my family to receive a bachelor's degree.

Why is giving back to your alma mater important, as an alumnus, as a former player and a current coach?

One of the most important things in life is to pay it forward. I try to every day tell my immediate family I love them and tell someone who made a difference in my life "Thank You." The baseball program

was and is very important to me, and I am blessed to have the ability to help them in a small way.

When you were a student at Thiel, who were the people who helped you or inspired you?

Coach Schaly was, and to this day is, a major influence in my life. During my exit meeting my senior year, he encouraged me to get into college baseball. He taught us about discipline, work ethic, and attention to detail. At the time you don't understand, but once you move on you can really understand that he was building men, not just baseball players.

Largest group takes plunge for Match Day



More than 500 donors in 24 hours lifted Thiel to its fifth consecutive year of increased participation for its one-day fundraising campaign, “Match Day,” but the participation went beyond donors.

A record-setting 507 donors contributed \$161,773 to The Thiel Fund, topping the campaign’s goal of 400 contributors. This year’s theme was “Take the Plunge.” When the 400-donor level was surpassed, a video of Thiel College students, alumni and employees—the group

also included member of the Board Trustees **Barry Oman '74**—jumping into freezing Pymatuning Reservoir was released. It was the first time a group of students, employees and alumni had taken part in the plunge. In 2019, Director of the Thiel Fund **Mark Batt '87** took the plunge by himself. But looking to spread “the fun,” Batt took the challenge to the campus and found a community surprisingly eager and ready to join in.

“The energy our friends, employees, students and alumni displayed in the pre-Match Day plunge carried over and was reflected in the number of donors we had,” Batt said. “The overall sense of community is really powerful. I am grateful that people have responded. This is the first time we’ve engaged the student community to be involved in this day, and we’re just thrilled at the

number of people who responded. The results of this effort will have a direct and positive impact on the lives of our students.”

The Thiel Fund is an unrestricted source of funds that can be used to fund scholarships and unforeseen needs of the College.

Match Day also featured affinity group challenges with 238 donations made from representatives and members of Greek organizations. Fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon was the male Greek organization with the highest participation. Sorority Alpha Xi Delta nearly lost their title from last year as the sorority with the most participants when Zeta Tau Alpha fell one donor short of matching Alpha Xi Delta.



Stay updated on all Thiel College athletic news at thielathletics.com

Lafayette hires McEntire as defensive backs coach

Thiel College alumnus **Tom McEntire '06** was hired in March as the defensive backs coach at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa.

The Lafayette Leopards are a Division I Football Championship Subdivision program and compete in the Patriot League. They went 4-8 overall in 2019. McEntire arrives at Lafayette after spending the 2019 season as the special teams coach and recruiting coordinator at Baldwin Wallace. The Yellow Jackets, who compete in the Ohio Athletic Conference, went 7-3 overall in 2019.

McEntire was a key member of Thiel’s 2005 football team, which went 10-0 in the regular season, won the Presidents’ Athletic Conference title and hosted a pair of NCAA Division III playoff games at Alumni Stadium. McEntire was an All-PAC Honorable Mention selection following the 2005 season. He began his coaching career at his alma mater, serving as an assistant during the 2006 and 2007 seasons.

In addition to Baldwin Wallace and Thiel, McEntire also made coaching stops at Wake Forest, Delaware, Rutgers and Maine.

Class of 1970 reunion rolls into the 2020s

Fellow Class Members
from the Class of 1970,

Fifty years have passed since we received our diplomas on the quad at graduation on a sunny Sunday in 1970. After that, we spread ourselves out across the world to experience life and conquer it. This is the year to return to Thiel and see old friends, renew friendships and reflect on 50 years of what life has brought—careers, family, heartache, joy.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the campus in recent years, please, make it a destination for this October (9-11) and come back for Homecoming. Come back and see the friends and the place that had such an impact on our young lives way back when: the place that is still impacting young lives today in 2020.

The Reunion Committee is working on plans for our reunion, and if we have your current email or phone number, someone from that committee will be reaching out to you personally. There are eight committee members: **John Barr '70, Marnie (Joseph) Gill '70, Cary Lambert '70, Dave McFadden, M.D. '70, Chris (Snyder) Olson '70, Jane Ross-Stempel '70, Paul Runge '70, and Barry Stamm, M.D. '70.** If you do not hear from one of these committee members, please, contact the Director of Alumni Relations **David Hummel '83** at dhummel@thiel.edu or 724-589-2027 to update your email or phone contact information. Our list is constantly being revised, and we welcome hearing from you if we have missed you. In addition, please pass this information along to any classmates with whom you have contact but who are not also connected to Thiel.

Thiel College was founded in 1866, one year after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. It has weathered the Spanish-American War, WWI, the 1918 flu epidemic, the Great Depression of the 1930s, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq. Our 50-year association with the College composes nearly a third of its lifetime. We will weather the 2020 Pandemic, and we look forward to seeing you in October.

See you in October!

Barry Stamm, M.D. '70



Please join us **October 9-11** for a weekend of **Homecoming activities** and the following **special events** around our **50th reunion**:

**FRI
OCT
9**

- 1-2 p.m.**
Campus tour
- 2-4 p.m.**
Alumni Wine tasting event—hosted by 50th Reunion Class
- 4-10 p.m.**
Howard Miller Student Center (Livingston) — Friends of Art Lounge

**SAT
OCT
10**

- 8:30-10 a.m.**
50th Reunion Breakfast and informal group class photo
- 10 a.m. to noon**
Campus tours and golf carts by reservation—contact Alumni Office
- 1:30-2 p.m.**
Ride in Homecoming Parade (As the Class of 1970)
- 1:30-3 p.m.**
Campus lunch
- 3 p.m.**
Football game—Reserved Seating for Class of 1970
- 6:30 p.m.**
Buffet dinner in the Haer Family Science and Arts Connector, followed by a program, DJ and music, dancing and class portrait

For more information, contact Director of Alumni Relations **David Hummel '83** at dhummel@thiel.edu



1940S

Landmark celebration recognizes WWII Veteran

Wade Spence '48 celebrated his 100th birthday in January. He was honored with a flag and a letter from United States Congressman Mike Kelly. The flag had been flown in his honor over the U.S. Capitol. The cake has a picture of him in his Navy uniform (Naval Aviator Lieutenant JG WWII). Spence is the father of Thiel graduates **Rodger Spence '74** and **Randy Spence '76**.



— 1960s —

J. Fred Wineman '68 and his wife, **Ann (Knopp) Wineman '70**, recently moved to Greensburg, Pa.

— 1980s —



Marvin E. Hill '88

was promoted in March 2019, to the position of Captain in the Office of Training, Recruitment and

Diversity for the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy and oversees the Recruitment and Diversity Sections. While at Thiel, he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in business administration with a minor in Spanish. He is also a graduate of the North Carolina State University, Administrative Officers Management Program. In May 2016, he earned an Executive Master of Business Administration Degree from Kent State University. Hill has been a state trooper for 27-plus years and has been working in law enforcement for more than 29 years. In October of 2017, he received the 2017 Distinguished Alumni award from Thiel College. He is originally from Warren, Ohio and is very passionate about educating the community and law enforcement. Law enforcement runs in his family. Hill's father Morris Sr. is a retired detective from the Warren Police Department. His son, Evan, became an Ohio State Trooper. His brother, Morris Jr., retired as a staff lieutenant with the Highway Patrol. His son, Austin, is a Trumbull County Sheriff Deputy. His brother,

Marcus, is a captain at the Trumbull Correctional Institution.

Hill is the Vice President of Love Charity Alms, a nonprofit organization that helps families in crisis and awards three high school scholarships and a Jeremiah Barnes humanitarian award annually. LCA was founded by his late mother, Martha J. Hill, whom the scholarship is named after. He is the owner of Marvin Hill Products, LLC, an online Law Enforcement challenge coin and holster store. He is a board member, trustee and deacon at St. John Ministries COGIC.

— 1990s —



Michelle I. (Howe) Mascia '90 is employed as the English as a Second Language Department

Head with the Pocono Mountain School District. She lives in Mount Pocono, Pa.

Mario Marini '91 was named the executive director of the Mercer County United Way. He had been the director of special and planned giving at Thiel College. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in accounting and business administration from Thiel College and had worked at Thiel for 19 years. **Marini** and his wife, Christine, have three daughters, Michaela, **Nicolette '14** and **Shaina '17**.

William G. Munster '94 recently moved with his family to Clemmons, N.C. He is the owner and CFO of AM Erectors.

— 2000s —

Amber M. Allen '00 is the program coordinator with Polysomnographic Technology at Collin College. In June 2019, she spoke at the major national sleep medicine conference, SLEEP 2019, in San Antonio, where she met the “Father of Sleep Medicine,” William Dement, Ph.D. In September 2019, she spoke at the largest international sleep medicine conference, World Sleep, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. This conference had more than 3,500 attendees from 77 different countries. In October 2019, she received the “Shining Star Award” from the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists for outstanding contributions to the organization.

Jill (Turrisi)

Antel '06 and her husband, **James Antel '06**, share a family photo with their daughters. Jim is a teacher with the Sharon City School District and the family resides in Hermitage, Pa.



Anthony T. Pennington '07 began a new career as an environmental sanitarian for the Anne Arundel County health department in November 2019. He received his sanitarian license in January 2020 and was promoted to environmental sanitarian II in February. Formerly, he was an eighth-grade science teacher for nine years at Lockerman Middle School in Denton Md. He and his wife, **Bridget (Hurt) Pennington '07**, live in Ridgely, Md.



Tiffany J. Banas '08 and Jeffrey Ronald Gormley were engaged on Nov. 11, 2019,

on Driftwood Beach, Jekyll Island, Ga. Tiffany is a speech-language pathologist. The couple lives in Orlando, Fla.

Michael B. Biggins '08 is a land manager with Apex Energy, LLC in Wexford, Pa. In 2014, he earned his Master of Science in organizational leadership from Geneva College. He and his wife, Samantha, and their three children live in Butler, Pa.



Annette (Rodriguez) Carreras '08 is a second-year law student at the University of Akron School of Law. Her first fiction novel, “Lifeforce,” was published in February 2019 by Green Writers Press under her nickname Annie Rodriguez.

Ryan J. Hill '10 graduated in 2010 with a B.A. in conservation biology and a minor in wildlife biology. He completed a seasonal employment endeavor with the PA Department of Agriculture. He then worked at a remote salmon hatchery in Prince William Sound, Alaska before deciding to get a Master of Science in education degree at Youngstown State University while he worked as a residence director at Thiel. He

then went on to work as a student affairs professional at Mercyhurst University until 2018, when he returned to his biology roots and became an environmental manager for The Association of Property Owners of the Hideout, Inc., a large homeowners association with just over 2,700 acres and 4,000 lots. He has recently been promoted to assistant community manager. He is grateful for the education and professional experience provided by Thiel and he still utilizes many of his biology courses’ books which sit on a shelf behind him, serving as a daily reference point. He is grateful to Professor of Biology and Department of Biology chair **Michael Balas, Ph.D.** for inspiring his conservation biology mindset, and Vice President for Student Life **Mike McKinney '02** along with the residence life team at Thiel who helped him become an RA which taught him conflict resolution and crisis intervention skills. Being a first-generation college student, he feels indebted to Thiel to assist his fellow alumni in their career search goals and to make himself available to others to aid their goals.

Kristina L. Mitchell '10 is a quality assurance manager at Providence Center, Inc. She recently graduated from Maryland’s first frontline supervisor training for non-profit human service work. No other training like it exists in the state for her field. She works every day to advocate for adults with disabilities and their direct support professionals to help create a positive culture and help bring positive change to the wider community. She lives in Davidsonville, Md.



Shayla T. (Cummins) Gibson '11 is employed at BNY Mellon. She and her husband, Trevor Gibson, are the parents of twin

daughters, who were born September 15, 2019. The family resides in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Jonathan P. Marcinko '11 is the assistant store manager at Under Armor in Grove City. He resides in Guys Mills, Pa.



Bryan Jacob Montozzi '11 is living in Chicago.

Ashley Rable '13 and **Taylor Zain '14** were engaged on September 30, 2018, at Thiel College during the Homecoming weekend. The engagement occurred at the end of Brother Martin's Walk, after completing the customary rituals: holding hands throughout their walk down and kissing at the end. The couple will marry on September 26, 2020, in Hocking Hills, Ohio. Rable is a fifth-grade teacher at Westerville City Schools.



Chelsea C. Maukonen '14 is an associate attorney with Cole, Scott & Kissane and lives in Bonita Springs, Fla.



Chelsey L. Cook '16 and **William Sorokes '12** were engaged on October 31, 2019.

– marriages –



Walter L. Rosado '07 married Jodi Birkemeier on December 28, 2019, in Columbus Grove, Ohio. In attendance were Thiel College alumni, family and friends **Marc Berry '08** and **Leah (Perecko) Berry '07**, **Lee Beatty '08**, **Jeff Linn '02**, **James Kara '08**, **Bryan Slattery**, **Jared Hirtz '08**, **Derek Edmondson**, **Rusty Rosado**. Rosado and Birkemeier live in Gibsonia, Pa.



Jamie (Regna) Biertempfel '08 married Greg Biertempfel on December 23, of 2019.



Kelley (Bellia) Beach '15 and **Elliott Beach '15** were married on October 19, 2019, in Evington, Va. Their picture includes the couple at their sparkler send-off. Kelley and Elliott met while they were first-year students at Thiel College and have been together for more than seven years. Thiel College friends in attendance included: **Josh Shaffer '12** and **Romaine (Reagle) Shaffer '09**, **Tyler Strite '15**, **Holt Hoffmeier '15**, **Thomas Pulice '15**, **Amy Mallinger '15**, Daniel Duffy, **Chelsea Spahr '13**, **Casey Rose '14**, **Keeton Ritter '14**, **Russell Madden '15**, **Adam Weismiller '15**, **Jessica Yozwiak '15**, **Sarah Jones '16**, and **Matt Fiore '14**.



Victoria (Foeks) Wood '16 married **Zachary J. Wood '17** on August 17, 2019, in Mercer, Pa. In the picture from left to right are **Nicole Johnston '16**, **Kara (Bussard) Russo '16**, **Krista Cordora-Bradley**, **Danielle Foeks**, **Victoria (Foeks) Wood '16**, **Zachary Wood '17**, **Nick Meighan '16**, **Tyler Beebe '16**, and **Shannon Simpson '18**. Both the bride and the groom work as wet chemistry technicians at ALS Environmental. The couple lives in Middletown, Pa.

– births –



To **Mallory (Lucchetti) Kurnock '05** and her husband, Jerry Kurnock, a son, Wyatt Marco, on October 4, 2019. He joins his big sister, Camdyn, and big brother, Vaughn.



To **Nikki (Colpo) Galbo '06** and her husband, Nick Galbo, a son, Jordan Anthony, on February 6, 2020.



To **Katie (Walker) Haladyna '06** and her husband, **Josh Haladyna '05**, a daughter, Francesca Elton, on September 24, 2019. She joins big sister, Vivian, and big brother, Duke. They live in Kirtland, Ohio.

To **Tara (Clausen) Jones '07** and her husband, Adam, a daughter, Maia, on October 11, 2018, in Seattle. She joins her big brother, Liam.



To **Katelyn (Exler) Hill '10** and her husband, **Steven Hill '08**, a daughter, Delaney Grace Hill, on April 23, 2018. Katelyn is a doctor of audiology at Hearing Unlimited. They live in Ben Avon, Pa.



To **Brad Bee '12** and his wife, Kelsie, a son, Mason, on September 1, 2019. Bee is employed at Saint Leo University as assistant athletic director, athletics communication. They live in St. Leo, Fla.



The Thiel Fund File

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

Chris Houck '61 and Carol (Marx) Houck '63

Residence: Hermitage, Pa.

Professional Experience: Chris was an English teacher and track and cross country coach; Carol was an elementary and pre-school teacher, a sales associate at Walden Books and at Hermitage Bible and Gifts.

Hobbies: Both enjoy reading, musical theatre, boating, coaching, church activities and time with family and great grandchildren.

Reason for Giving Back: Our years at Thiel were among the best years of our lives in terms of personal growth and continuing friendships. Our education truly prepared us for our careers and became a powerful springboard for many life experiences. Our lives are well-ordered and rewarding, and we have Thiel to thank for that!

– births –



To **Dara (Sefton) Hagofsky '12** and her husband, Ryan, a daughter, Reagan, on November 14, 2019.



To **Kayla (Ohlin) Emanuelson '13** and her husband, **Joshua Emanuelson '13**, a daughter, Molly, on June 07, 2019. She joins big sister, June.



To **Kyra (Debevits) Howard '17** and her husband, Robert Howard, a son, Miles Alexander, on May 23, 2019. Kyra is a regional admissions liaison at George Junior Republic. The couple lives in Greenville, Pa.

– gatherings –



Jack Leipheimer '74 shares a March 2020 photo of four Thiel alums at the Forest Lake Golf Club in Apopka, Fla. Left to right are **Dave Petak '72**, **Jack Leipheimer '74**, **Tom Pellarin '74** and **Bill Johnston '72**.



Tiffany Joy Banas '08 shared a picture of best friends and alumni from the Thiel College Class of 2008 at a Christmas brunch at the William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh. Pictured (L-R): **Kelly (Donovan) Gumina '08**, Anthony Gumina, **Hayley (Deems) Tymoczko '08**, Scott Partridge, **Katie (Soeder) Partridge '08**, **Amanda (Prekup) Kelly '08**, Brendan Kelly, **Tiffany Joy Banas '08**, Jeffrey Gormley, Andrew Grab, **Allison (Obenour) Grab '08**, **Chelsey (Collavo) Powers '08**.



Jeff Linn '02 shares a photo of Thiel alumni at the August 24 wedding of **Nicholas Hart '15** and Sydney (Beck) Hart. Front row (l-r) **Daniel Nolte '15** (officiant), **Travis Combine '15**, **Nicholas Hart '15**, **Corey Brown '12**, Back row (l-r) **Corey Gibson**, **Jacob Lowry '15**, **Matthew Atwell '00**, **Carissa (Emch) Atwell '99**, **Jeff Linn '02**, **Ellie (Belleau) Lowry '12**, and **Matt Lowry '12**. Not pictured but attended: **Blake Heim '17**.

— in memoriam —

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

Deborah (Ajak) Mogle '75
 Alisha Anthony
 Lionel Atwell Arnold '43, H'65
 Martha Baird
 Stella Barrett
 Carroll E. Bednarski '52
 Merlin A. Beil '56
 David O. Benner '64
 Jean (Walter) Blice '53
 Edna Brinkley
 Joan L. (McKee) Brown '51
 Harold E. Buff '51
 Lelia E. Calderwood '52
 Anne M. (Peters) Cannarozzi '78
 Donald S. Carpenter '51
 Rebecca L. (Ullery) Carpenter '70
 Dorothy C. (Knittel) Cornell '54
 Susan E. Cowan
 Mary Jo (Stuart) Culbertson '53
 Pete A. D'Ambrosi Jr. '90
 Barbara (Taylor) Davis '51
 John E. Donikowski '89
 Charles A. Eaves '52
 Janet Edwards
 Eileen Fisher
 Carol (Shefsiek) Foulk '50

Richard Foulk '49
 Janet F. (Falck) Gebert '50
 Scott D. Gleditsch '71
 Cynthia L. (Brown) Good
 Craig C. Goodwin '71
 Louise A. (Beal) Greenberg '63
 Marianne (Gerberding) Guinn '52
 Thomas L. Guinn '50
 Mary T. Hamilton '49
 Robert Haslett, Jr. '76
 Howard E. Hillman '59
 June Jackson
 Elaine L. (Mack) Jordan '48
 William A. Kerpka, Jr. '83
 Darian James Keyser
 Jana Kytchak
 Samantha (Wiand) Lehr '66
 Steve Letonek
 Ada L. (Banks) Lewis '41
 Rocci Lombard '50
 Mary Jane Marks
 Carole (Nuss) Martin '57
 Helen Martin
 H. Earlyn (Reed) Martz '55
 Adrienne McIlvain '60
 Rose Mary McKenna

David L. Miller
 Edith Morneweck
 Jeannette Mowry
 Michael S. Murcko
 Richard J. Murcko
 Catherine (Hess) Oden '48
 Virginia M. Perrotti
 Darryl Pinney
 James Robert Phillips Jr.
 Gary J. Preston '77
 James Preston
 Mildred (Ashe) Reed '52
 Roy Ritter
 Donald Rossetti '62
 Thomasine S. Russ
 William (Bill) Satterfield '50
 Wesley H. Schell
 Margaret St. John
 Marie M. (Shefsiek) Steighner '45
 J. Bernie Stoeber '54
 Sondra (Weston) Stone '60
 Grace (Hertel) Tirado
 Ralph Walter '57
 Robert Weidner
 Lawrence R. Williamson
 Ethel M. Winner

Oldest black alumnus and honorary degree recipient passes away

Lionel Atwell Arnold, Ph.D. '43, H'65, age 98, passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2019 in Apex, N.C.

A career educator and administrator, Arnold was believed to be the College's oldest living black alumnus.

Thiel College awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 1965. He earned a master's degree from Oberlin College and a doctorate from Drew University.

He had a lengthy career in higher education, both as a dean and a professor. He was Professor of

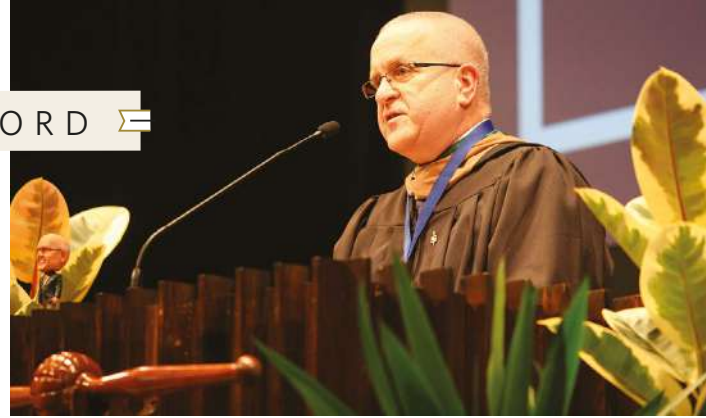
Philosophy and Religion at LeMoyne College and a Professor of Humanities and Religious Studies at Oklahoma State University.

Interviewed in 2017, Arnold said he does not think he was the first black graduate of Thiel College. No records exist in the archive of who might be the first black graduate might have been. He was most likely the oldest African-American graduate of the College at the time of his passing. Arnold began taking classes at Thiel College a little more than seven years before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball in 1947.



How do you introduce someone who needs no introduction?

By Gary Witosky '79



On Feb. 7, 2020, Professor of Business Administration and Accounting and David M. Miller '61, H'20 Endowed Chair of Accounting Gary J. Witosky '79 had the honor of introducing his mentor and friend Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Norman P. Mortensen Chair of Economics David M. Miller '61, H'20 as he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Business Administration and Accounting at the Academic Honors Convocation.

What follows are Witosky's comments...

What can one say when introducing a legend, especially a legend who already has his own bobblehead?

Professor **David M. Miller '61, H'20** has been teaching at Thiel for more than one-third of its 154-year history. During this time he has taught more classes, advised more students, served on more committees, and developed and mentored more faculty than anyone in the history of the institution. He is the first professor at Thiel to hold an endowed academic chair and the only person in the history of the College to have an office, a classroom, and an endowed chair dedicated in his honor.

During his career, Dave has been a funeral director, furniture retailer, entrepreneur, pilot, and grower of hydroponic tomatoes—all while teaching full class loads. But despite these varied interests and talents—in his heart and soul—he is first and foremost a teacher.

A few years ago, while addressing a luncheon in his honor, he posed a question to the audience, "What is the one thing that all teachers must have to be successful?" The answer he provided, of course, is students. And if anyone knows students, it is Dave: he has taught thousands of students, generations of students, families of students—husbands and wives, partners, sisters and brothers, and numerous children of previous students.

So what is it that makes Dave such a successful teacher? The work of **Dr. Margaret McFarland** may provide some insight. Dr. McFarland was a noted developmental psychologist at the University of Pittsburgh and a professor, advisor, and mentor to **Dr. Fred Rogers H'69**, better known to all of us as Mr. Rogers, who himself received an honorary doctorate from Thiel in 1969. Speaking about McFarland's philosophy, award-winning author **David McCullough** said, "What she taught, in essence, is that attitudes aren't taught, they're caught. If the attitude of the teacher toward the material is positive, enthusiastic, committed, and excited, the students get that." Those attributes describe Dave to a "T"—positive, enthusiastic, committed, and excited; and the results clearly show that his students "got it!"

Dave's teaching style and classroom presence are legendary, as evidenced by stories being told and retold about experiences in his classes. His signature techniques included the concepts of "PEP," which stands for Preparation, Enthusiasm, and Performance and, of course, the legendary "Straight Power." Turn up late to class and a student just might be required to calculate the dollar impact of each lost minute of class-time, in front of the entire class, an experience one would not be keen to repeat. And arguably the most effective technique of all—sending students to the board to solve problems or share their homework. Hearing your name followed by the words, "Come to the Board" struck dread or even fear in the heart of many a student. But Dave's "tough love" approach was merely a reflection of his concern for, commitment to, and passion for his students and their success. As evidence of his effectiveness, in a recent survey of alumni asking who at Thiel had an impact on their lives, more than 50 percent named David Miller.

Thiel honors one of its own, Professor David M. Miller, Class of 1961. We thank him for his unwavering dedication to this institution and for dedicating his life to preparing students for careers and lives of meaning and purpose. Please join me in congratulating Dave and thanking him for his service to Thiel College.

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