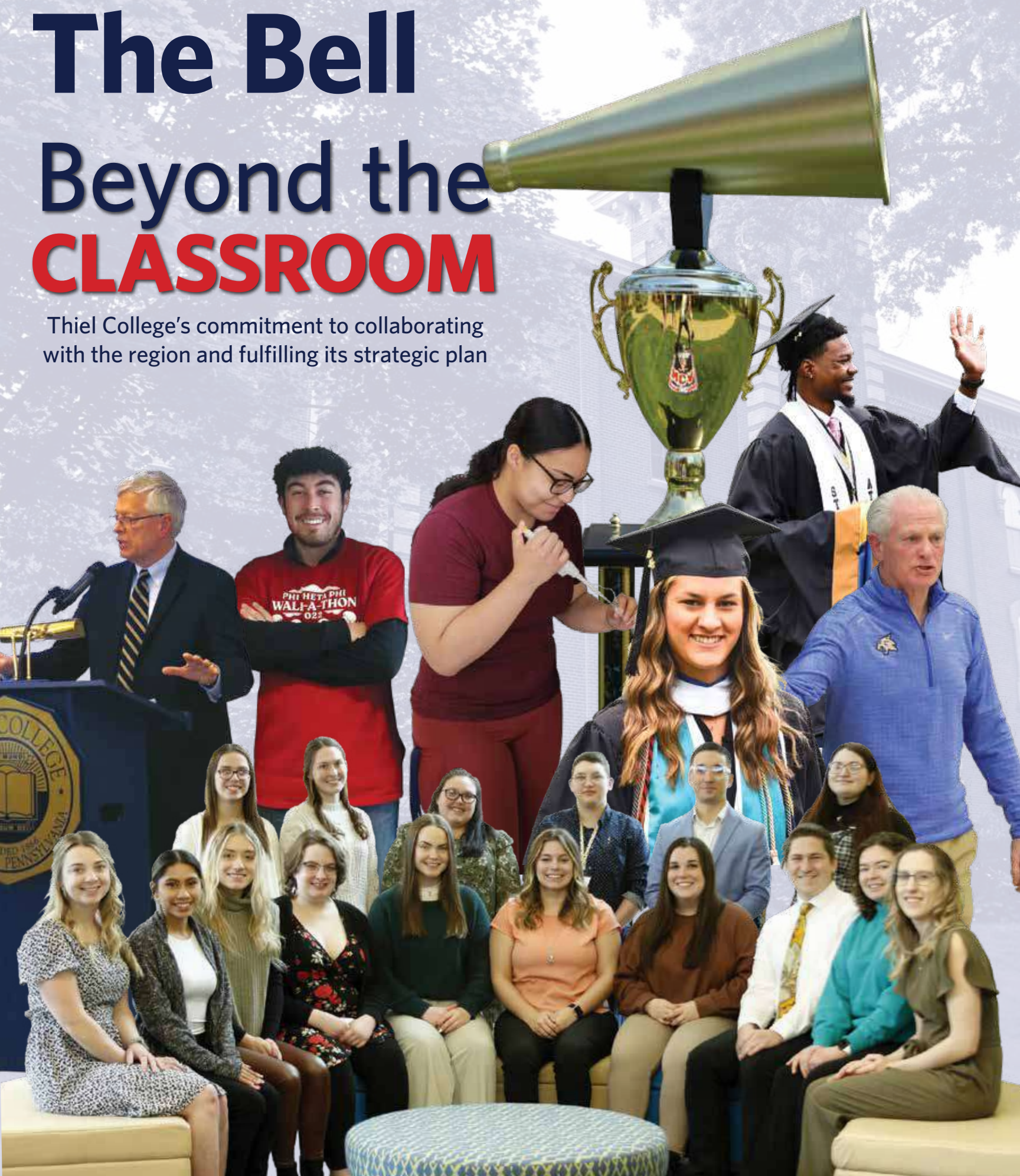


The Bell

Beyond the

CLASSROOM

Thiel College's commitment to collaborating with the region and fulfilling its strategic plan



Thiel and beyond

*Looking out from campus across Mercer County, the region and beyond
to where Thiel College students and alumni are making positive contributions*





Thiel College

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

Dear alumni and friends of the College,

In this edition, we continue to explore the College's impact on the region through education, health and wellness, athletics, philanthropy, internships, and community involvement. Building on the articles in the fall *Bell*, this edition highlights the involvement of students through experiential learning, internships, and community involvement.



To remain relevant while the conversations about the value of college swirl around us, we have a clear role to play in workforce development. Our goal is to educate and train students to become business, community, and civic leaders who can make positive contributions to the region and beyond. We are proud of our many connections to the community, including our partnership with the Penn-Northwest Development Corp., which supports economic development in the region, as well as other public and private stakeholders.

A robust and growing economy benefits from colleges like Thiel preparing the next generation of leaders. When our graduates stay or return to the region, they bring with them the knowledge, skills, and experience they gained at Thiel, and they become an essential part of the region's economy and civic life.

Our strategic plan, "Launching the Leaders the World Needs Now," underscores our commitment to preparing our students to be leaders in their fields or communities.

In April, **Mark Nordenberg '70 H'97** returned to campus to deliver the inaugural lecture in the David Miller '61 H'20 Distinguished Speaker Series, made possible through a generous gift from **Jagdish Sheth H'07** and his wife, **Madhu Sheth**. Nordenberg and Miller together are terrific examples of what Thiel graduates can do locally and regionally.

Nordenberg served as the chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh for nearly 20 years, during which time he helped transform the university into a leading research institution and a critical economic engine for the region. Miller's career at Thiel, likewise, advanced the College and this region.

As we celebrate the 2023 Commencement season, we rejoice in the accomplishments of our undergraduate and graduate students. Like alumni before them, including David Miller and Mark Nordenberg, these graduates are certain to have a positive influence on their communities as they pursue careers and lives of meaning and purpose.

Go Tomcats!

Susan Traverso

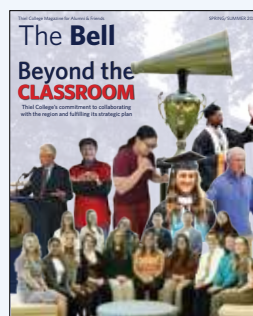
Susan Traverso, Ph.D.

The Bell

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On the Cover



The Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania studied the financial impact of the six institutions in northwest Pennsylvania. They estimate that Thiel College and the other five schools generate nearly \$1 billion in economic impact and support about 8,000 jobs. However, the Thiel story goes beyond the numbers. In this Spring/Summer edition of *The Bell*, we continue the

story that began in the Fall 2022 edition by digging deeper to discover how Thiel goes 'Beyond the Classroom.'

Connect with the College

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.

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Nordenberg launches Miller lecture series



The inaugural speaker for The David Miller Distinguished Lecture Series was a perfect blend of theme, College mission and key personalities.

Mark A. Nordenberg '70 H'97 delivered the inaugural talk on April 12 in the College's Lutheran Heritage Room.

"The David Miller Distinguished Lecture

Series is an opportunity to recognize (David Miller's) importance at the College," President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.** said. "How perfect it is that this lecture series is intended to engage Thiel with the wider world and the wider world with Thiel. This lecture series is named for David, whose life was all about connection. Mark Nordenberg, like David, has made a lifelong commitment to excellence in higher education."

Nordenberg spoke of timeless values for leading and living. Some of the values he picked up from Miller were integrity, perseverance and responsibility. "The key lesson was nothing is more important than being a generally principled good person," Nordenberg said.

He also read some of the tributes written by Miller's students.

"The seeds for a non-physical, non-formal memorial for David Miller can be found in the tributes written by

his students," Nordenberg said.

Nordenberg led the University of Pittsburgh for 20 years from 1995 to 2014 and previously served as the Dean of the Law School at Pittsburgh. A respected leader, Nordenberg has advanced numerous social and economic initiatives in Pittsburgh and across the Commonwealth. In 2021, he was appointed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to chair a panel that was responsible for redrawing the boundaries of the state's legislative districts. Nordenberg joined the Thiel College Board of Trustees in 1987 and served for 10 years. He was bestowed an honorary degree in 1997. He was conferred as trustee emeritus in 2019.

The Professor David M. Miller '61 H'20 Distinguished Lecture Series was endowed through a generous gift from **Dr. Jagdish N. Sheth H'07** and his wife, **Madhu Sheth**.

Sheth is the Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Business at the Goizueta Business School at Emory University. He is globally known for his scholarly contributions in consumer behavior, relationship marketing, competitive strategy, and geopolitical analysis.

Nordenberg was grateful for the invitation to speak at Thiel and as the first Miller Series speaker.

"Any chance to return to Thiel is special for me, but coming back was particularly appealing to me because of the feeling of affection both for David Miller and Jag Sheth," he said.

Nordenberg said the investment Sheth has made in Thiel College for the lecture series is a "badge of honor for the College."



President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.** and **Ruth Anne Miller H'20**



Hollie Barna '22, MBA '23 and **Amy Jackson '23** speak with **Mark Nordenberg '70 H'97** following his talk.





Henry Barton, D.A. started teaching at Thiel College in 1979. He passed away in 2020, but his legacy at the College will live on as the first recipient of the scholarship created in his name will be awarded this fall.

The idea to create a scholarship at Thiel College first came to Donna Barton soon after her husband's passing. Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science **Henry Barton, D.A.** passed away on September 21, 2020, after working at the College for 40 years. As Barton had requested, no calling hours or services were held following his passing. Family and friends, however, wanted to honor his memory.

"People who wanted to do something sent me money, so I talked with my kids about what to do, and we decided since he taught at Thiel for 40 years

First Recipient of the Barton Environmental Science Scholarship to be picked for Fall 2023

By Matt Beuermann '23

that a scholarship was an appropriate thing," Barton said.

Barton began working with **Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. '06**, Professor of Environmental Science and Department Chair, **Roberta Leonard**, Vice President for College Advancement, and **Mario N. Marini '91**, Director of Planned Giving, to discuss the logistics of the scholarship. Much of this process involved collecting enough money so the scholarship could ultimately be endowed.

"We had to have \$20,000 to begin awarding scholarships," Barton said. "Last year, at this time, I gave \$10,000 to get it to the point of being endowed so that we could start. My daughter remarried in November, and they asked people to send money to the scholarship instead of presents."

Now, after having raised the money, The Dr. Henry Barton Endowed Scholarship of \$1,000 will be awarded annually to a student in the environmental science program at Thiel, who has a good attitude toward their studies and who shows promise in the field of environmental science. In the upcoming months, Reinsel will have the pleasure of selecting the first recipient of the scholarship for the Fall

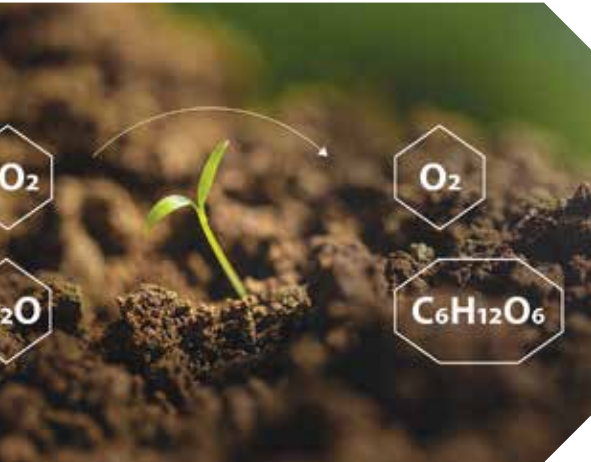
2023 semester.

"I made the decision for the scholarship to go, not just based off need but to students in environmental science who have a passion for it and who are good students," Barton said. Needs-based scholarships are a vital part of providing opportunities for Thiel students, Barton said, but she also wants Barton's scholarship to be available to students regardless of need so they can be rewarded for their academic achievement.

Reinsel, who was a student of Barton during her undergraduate years at Thiel and a professor alongside him after she was appointed at the College, is excited about what the scholarship will do for the environmental science program and the students within it.

"Our department doesn't have many scholarships specifically for our students, so I think that it's amazing to be able to offer it to them," Reinsel said. "I think we do have some amazing students go through our program, so it's nice to be able to recognize them with an award."

Not only will the Barton Scholarship give recognition to environmental science students at Thiel, but it will



also continue Dr. Barton’s impact and legacy within the Thiel community. While the environmental science program was already established when he came to Thiel in 1979, he was able to change it, putting his personality and passion into it. Dr. Barton was a well-traveled, knowledgeable, and extremely passionate professor who brought his real-world experiences into the classroom, inspiring generations of students.

“I am excited about the scholarship and about this article because I think *The Bell* will go to many students who he touched as a part of his career,” Barton said. “I know a couple of his students said they wanted to make an annual contribution.”

While it has been a long and involved process to get the scholarship to this point, Barton and her family know that it was well worth it.

“He was here for 40 years; it was a large part of his life, and of my life, and my children’s, and my grandchildren’s, so I think that it is a continuing presence, and he would be happy about that,” Barton said. “I wouldn’t have done it otherwise.”

Thiel College named top college in the country for veterans by Military Friendly®

By Matt Beuermann '23

In March, Thiel College was named the top Military Friendly® institution in the nation in its category. Thiel ranked as the top “private college not offering (a) doctorate” and was awarded a gold medal along with its No. 1-ranking. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2023-2024 survey, and 530 schools earned awards level designations in gold, silver, and bronze. 250 were selected for “Gold” award status for their leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs. The 2023-2024 Military Friendly® Schools list was published in *G.I. Jobs* magazine’s May issue.

“This is a profound honor,” Thiel College Veterans Liaison **Mike Mason** said. “This is a team effort that reflects the dedication of the entire community to value, recognize and appreciate our students who have served their country in the armed forces. It makes the transition from military to civilian life so much easier when the school understands the unique challenges faced by veterans. A military-friendly college not only provides the resources needed to succeed academically, but also fosters a sense of camaraderie among fellow veterans. It truly makes a difference in the lives of those who have served our country.”



Near the end of the spring semester, Veterans Liason **Mike Mason** hosted a lunch for Thiel College students and staff with military connections. Front row (L-R): **Julianna Sloan '24, Melissa Michael, Dennis Bish, and Abigail Rottman '25.** Back row: **Jonathon Woge '24, Mike Mason, Olasunkanmi Orisan '25, Pa. State Veteran Employee Representative Frank Zelinsky and Pa. State Veteran Employee Representative Ryan Pagila.**

Penn-Northwest director and Thiel employees recognized for Founders' Day 2023

The Executive Director of Penn-Northwest Development Corporation **Rod E. Wilt '86** joined 10 Thiel College employees as honorees for the College's annual Founders' Day celebration on Feb. 2. Wilt, the Vice Chair of Thiel College's Board of Trustees, received the Barbara and Louis Thiel Distinguished Service Award, which is given annually to individuals who demonstrate exemplary character, continuity of leadership, and long-term service to Greenville and the surrounding community.

The award is named after Louis and Barbara Thiel, whose generosity made possible the founding of Thiel College in 1866. Penn-Northwest is a leading economic development agency in Mercer County.

Five staff members earned a Distinguished Staff Award:

- **Erin Bain**, coordinator of the Accessibility Resource Center
- **Morgan (Steiner) Bodnar '16, MBA'21**, Assistant Director of Admission, Graduate Counselor
- **Jennifer Gongaware**, speech-language pathology program administrative assistant
- **Sonya Lapikas**, Director of Admission
- **Tyler North**, head women's volleyball coach

Five faculty members were honored with awards:

- Professor of the Year: **Jared Hanneman, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Sociology, Department Chair
- Distinguished Scholar of the Year: **Jared Johnson, Ph.D.**, Professor of English, Department Chair
- Distinguished Service Faculty of the Year: **Christopher Stanisky, Ph.D.**, Professor of Chemistry, Department Chair
- Distinguished Adjunct Faculty of the Year: **Julie Harris**, Adjunct Professor of Education
- Distinguished Teacher of the Year: **Mary O'Donnell, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Biology



Four new Trustees join board

Thiel College appointed four new members to its Board of Trustees: **Robert Burns'74 H'22, Matt Hughes '92, Robert Rogalski, Nicholas Romano '18**. Burns is returning for his fourth stint on the board, while Hughes, Rogalski and Romano are each serving their first appointments. Additionally, Romano is the second young alumni representative on the Board. He replaces **Terri Eddy '19**, who was the first young alumnus representative on the board.



Students present research to legislators in Harrisburg

Malajah Johnson '23 and **Liz Heberling '24** traveled to Harrisburg, Pa. in March to present their undergraduate research during the Undergraduate Research at the Capitol-Pennsylvania Poster Conference. The conference is an educational event that allows undergraduate students enrolled in Pennsylvania's colleges and universities to showcase their research talents to the Commonwealth's key decision-makers. The conference was March 7. Johnson's research dealt with chronic pain, while Heberling did her research on the impacts of acid rain on bedrock erosion.

Watch Heberling discuss the Tomcat Way's impact on her research: <https://bit.ly/TCElizabeth>

Johnson talks about the support she found at Thiel as a first-generation student: <https://bit.ly/TCMalajah>



College recognized as Tree Campus; land workshop held

Thiel College was awarded 2022 Tree Campus Higher Education recognition by the Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to effective urban forest management. This is the College's 4th year of recognition. Thiel College is one of 24 campuses in Pennsylvania to earn this distinction.

Thiel College also hosted a workshop led by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to help residents learn about caring for the land around them on Jan. 21. **Fred Zelt**, founder of Earth Science Excursions, LLC, was the keynote speaker for the event.

Thiel hosted annual psychology conference

Thiel College hosted the 50th annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference on April 29.

More than 60 students representing 10 institutions presented psychology research to an audience of about 120. The event's keynote speaker was Associate Professor of Psychology at Gannon University **Jessica L. Hartnett, Ph.D.** Hartnett advocates teaching statistics in an accessible, relevant, and "not awful and boring" way to psychology students.

First B.S.N. students start at Sharon Regional



The first cohort of Bachelor of Science nursing students began their classes at Sharon Regional Medical Center in January. Students in the program are Thiel College students but are admitted to both Sharon Regional's Registered Nurse program and Thiel College's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

The 11 students in the cohort are:

- **Lauren Bonner '25, of Hermitage, Pa.**, is a 2021 Reynolds High School graduate.
- **Anna Boyd '24, of Baltimore, Md.**, is a 2021 Institute of Notre Dame graduate.
- **Luke Campbell '25, of Newtown Falls, Ohio**, is a 2021 Ursuline High School graduate.
- **Annie Gool '24, of Union City, Pa.**, is a 2021 Union City High School graduate.
- **Alaina Harpst '24, of Greenville, Pa.**, is a 2021 Greenville High School graduate.
- **Joshua Ickes '25, of Greenville, Pa.**, is a 2021 Greenville High School graduate.
- **Meghan Liscio '25, of Hermitage, Pa.**, is a 2021 Sharon High School graduate.
- **Bridget Mazzant '23, of Sharpsville, Pa.**, is a 2020 Sharpsville High School graduate.
- **Farah Messai '24, of Greenville, Pa.**, is a 2020 Jamestown High School graduate.
- **Ross Swartz '25, of Greenville, Pa.**, is a 2021 Greenville High School graduate.
- **Alexys Wagner '24, of Pittsburgh, Pa.**, is a 2021 Keystone Oaks High School graduate.

In addition, **Nicole Olshanski, D.N.P.** was named the new program director of Thiel's Bachelor of Science in nursing program in early January. Olshanski has more than 20 years of experience in the field of nursing and education, working at several large institutions, including Duquesne University, the University of Pittsburgh, and, most recently, Youngstown State University.

Thiel College hosted seven authors as part of alumni authors event at Langenheim Library

Thiel College Alumni Relations hosted an Alumni Authors Meet and Greet on April 19 in the Langenheim Memorial Library. The authors who attended this event included **Don Achenbach '77, Don Hilton '79, Dan Kirk '92, Gary Larson '69, David W. Marczely**, who presented for his wife, **Bernadette (Malinowsky) Marczely '67** who passed away, **Paul Miller '69**, and **Annette Rodriguez Carreras '08**. Each author spoke about their publications and shared their journeys to becoming an author.

Alma mater takes center stage at Commencement

Commencement speaker and Professor of Business Administration and Accounting and David M. Miller Endowed Chair of Accounting **Gary Witosky '79**, student speaker **Hunter Gray '23** and honorary degree recipient **John Hudson H'23** all made the alma mater an important theme during the College's 149th Commencement Exercises on May 7. The Exercises saw more than 140 undergraduates cross the stage in the William A. Passavant Memorial Center to receive their degrees. Gray, a math major with a secondary education certificate from Pittsburgh, Pa., delivered the senior address. Graduate students from the Master of Business Administration program participated in the ceremony and will complete their degrees later in the spring. Several students from the speech-language pathology program also participated. That program will have a formal ceremony later this summer, as will the first cohort of physician assistant studies students, following the completion of their coursework.

"Graduates, you have belonged at Thiel College and will continue as members of this strong community throughout your lives," President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.** said.

After announcing his retirement this spring semester, Witosky and Professor of Religion **Dan Eppley, Ph.D.** were also awarded faculty emeritus status. Hudson, a former Chair of the College's Board of Trustees, received an honorary doctorate during the ceremony.



There's more online.

Watch the 149th Commencement Exercises: <https://bit.ly/23commencementvideo>

See photos from the day: <https://bit.ly/23graduationphotos>



LEGACIES

Families celebrate their Thiel College connections



Amy Jackson '23 and her brother, Frank '18.



Brantson Peese '23, his brother, Blake '19, and his sister-in-law Katherine (Orczek) Peese '18.



Roy "Trey" Wilt III '23 with his father, Roy Wilt Jr. '86 (left), his grandfather, Roy Wilt Sr. '59, and his uncle, Rod E. Wilt '86.



Alex Henry '23 and his uncle, Scott Free '05.



Keara Henry '23 and her older brother, David '11.

The heart of the Thiel mission

Impacting the region by supporting student success and launching the leaders the world needs now

By Molly (Shepler) Rowan '22

Positive regional impact is at the heart of the College's mission and is reflected in the College's strategic plan, "Thiel 2026: Launching the Leaders the World Needs Now." The third goal of the plan, "Reach and Impact," emphasizes the importance of developing new, creative partnerships, outreach initiatives, and opportunities for the mutual benefit of students, community members, and the broader region's social, economic, and educational development. Expanding the ways that Thiel connects with and supports its community while still creating new relationships beyond campus fosters meaningful regional impacts.



From the previous edition...

According to the 2022 economic impact assessment study by the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, Thiel College is one of six institutions in northwest Pennsylvania that generates nearly \$1 billion in economic impact and supports about 8,000 jobs. Those numbers are staggering and important, but the true Thiel story cannot be summarized by hard numbers. In this Spring/Summer edition of *The Bell*, we expand on a two-part story that began in the Fall 2022 edition. Here, we dig further into the story of Thiel to discover how it impacts the region and the world.

For this kind of mission to succeed, it must start by focusing on and caring for students as individuals. The College strives to support all students so that they can lead full, purposeful, and successful lives while positively impacting the world around them. Regional impact is an institution-wide effort that starts with an emphasis on each component of the student experience: athletics, community involvement, education, health and wellness, internships, and philanthropy. Each of these components fosters the development of well-rounded individuals who are prepared to positively influence their organizations, families, and communities, and it is the College's efforts to develop those aspects of students' experiences that lead to Thiel's positive impacts both in and beyond the region.

Education

The annual spring Commencement ceremony is arguably the most important indicator of the College's regional impact. On May 7, Thiel College celebrated the graduation of

more than 140 students, including the undergraduate Class of 2023 and graduate students from the Master of Business Administration program and the Speech-Language Pathology program. Some of those students have already started impacting the region; 18 senior education majors completed their undergraduate degrees as student teachers in six Mercer County school districts and are well on their way to following in the footsteps of the May 2022 education major graduates who achieved a 100 percent placement rate within three months of graduation.

However, Thiel College's educational efforts aren't solely contained on campus; partnerships with outside businesses and institutions provide students with innovative ways to pursue educational opportunities. In December 2022, students in the College's Strategic Management class developed and presented a strategic business plan to **Alan Endicott** and **Shaun Endicott** of the Gatehouse Winery in Jamestown,



*Eighteen members of the Thiel College Class of 2023 finished their degrees with student-teaching assignments at six Mercer County school districts. Pictured top row (L-R): **Emily Main '23**, **Gianna Tofani '23**, **Chyenne Welch '23**, **Jason Mellott '23**, **Peyton Hearn '23**, **Janelle Mudry '23**; bottom row: **Abby Cox '23**, **Isabella Merlino '23**, **Grace Taylor '23**, **Cecelia Shellenberger '23**, **Sarah Wakley '23**, **Madison Hawthorne '23**, **Hunter Gray '23**, **Noah Toy '23**, **Julia Langietti '23**, **Megan Diggans '23**; not pictured: **Brandon Forrest '23** and **Madison Jazsemski '23**.*

Pa. The students were divided into four teams that each focused on different aspects of the strategic plan, including marketing, advertising, facilities, operations, and pricing. Business students also took classes at IlSCO Extrusions and made business plan pitches to Pine Hill Golf Course. Similarly, Professor of Environmental Science and Chemistry **Anna Reinsel, Ph.D. '06** and her students worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission to survey road-stream crossings in the region and gather data for the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative Road-Stream Crossing Assessment Partnership.

Additionally, students are regularly given opportunities to present their research to outside groups and organizations. **Katie Aaron '24**, **Zoe Heckathorn '23**, and **Roy Wilt III '23** presented their research on road-stream crossings to members of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources senior staff, including Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources **Cindy Adams Dunn**, **Malajah Johnson '23** and **Liz Heberling '24** also presented

their research to state legislators in Harrisburg, and the College hosted more than 60 undergraduate psychology researchers from 10-plus institutions for the 50th annual Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychology Conference.

Extending further into the region, the College has also partnered with the Laurel Technical Institute to provide a pathway for Laurel graduates to complete a bachelor's degree. "Working with Thiel offers our graduates outstanding opportunities to continue their education and expand their career pathways," Executive Vice President of the institute **Doug Decker, Ph.D.** said. Thiel has a similar relationship with Sharon Regional Medical Center's School of Nursing; the nursing program at the College is collaborative, meaning that students are dually enrolled in both the undergraduate program at Thiel and Sharon Regional's Registered Nurse program and graduate with both an R.N. degree and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This arrangement provides students with more opportunities while also addressing the need for more

nurses to accommodate this growing profession in the Pennsylvania region.

Health & Wellness

Thiel's relationship with Sharon Regional Medical Center is part of the College's recent push to support the region's increasing demand for all medical professionals. Also, as part of this effort, Thiel recently developed and began its Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies graduate program. Students from the first cohort are set to graduate in August 2023 and are currently completing clinical rotations in hospitals, medical centers, and physician offices throughout the region, including Sharon Regional Medical Center, Grove City Medical Center, Meadville Medical Center, and Trumbull Memorial Medical Center. Their rotations focus on many fields of medical practice, including pediatrics, women's health, urology, orthopedic surgery, behavioral health, and emergency medicine.

"Coming from a brand new program, there's a fear that you may not know enough or be as prepared as students who went to well-established ones," said **Julia Wagner**



'21, M.S.'23. "Rotating with other students has shown me that those fears were unnecessary, as Thiel's tireless work prepared us amazingly for rotations and our future careers."

While Thiel's PA students have already impacted the community through their work in numerous medical centers, they are not the only ones making an impact. The College's Speech-Language Pathology program also incorporates client interaction into its curriculum. Students complete experiential learning assignments by observing Thiel's on-campus Center for Speech-Language Services where professionals provide free assistance to clients in need of speech, language, cognition, voice, and hearing screenings and evaluations. SLP students are also required to conclude their graduate studies with externships in places Thiel has established partnerships with, such as medical and long-term care facilities and local school districts. The SLP students also helped administer hearing, speech, and language screenings for all Mercer County school districts as part of the Success by 6 summer program, which provides children across the county with services to help prepare them for kindergarten.

Athletics

Thiel's dedication to advancing health and wellness in the region also extends to providing opportunities for healthy recreation for the College community and surrounding region. While the primary purpose of the Rissell-Schreyer Dome that covers Alumni Stadium during the winter is to provide a space for Thiel athletics teams to practice and compete, the

dome is a structure that benefits the entire College community.

Aside from sharing the dome, the Athletics Department is dedicated to several forms of community outreach and impact. Athletic Director **Jason Fautas**, who came to the College in the fall of 2022, has implemented a community service initiative into Thiel's athletic program, which has already enhanced the department's involvement in the community.

"Academics, service, and athletics—I want us to be competitive in all three of those areas," Fautas said.

"Community service provides us with a way to give back, and ultimately, our hope is that our students will carry that with them when they graduate and become leaders."

Student-athletes complete at least two service activities a year, and by early in the spring semester, the department had collectively completed over 500 hours of community service since September as a part of this new initiative.

"Our teams have worked with the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Riverside Park, the local food bank Good Shepherd, the Children's Aid Society of Mercer County, and others," Fautas said.

Fautas is not the only member of the department to prioritize community outreach; **Bryan McClure**, who was named the head coach for the men's lacrosse team on Dec. 9, has been working to build the team's involvement in the community since day one. Through his efforts, he has implemented specific causes into each of the team's home games; on Feb. 18, the team raised awareness and funding for the American Heart Association. On Feb. 25, they made

*IlSCO Extrusions General Manager **John Thigpen '86** addresses students during a class at IlSCO's facility near campus.*

Students get first-hand look at operations management at IlSCO

Students in the operations management class of Professor of Business Administration and Accounting **Angelo Giannini** went to IlSCO Extrusions Inc. during the spring semester, to have various IlSCO management personnel conduct lectures in their areas of expertise. This was the eighth year of the collaboration under the auspices of IlSCO General Manager **John Thigpen '86**.

The students get the benefit of hearing and seeing the actual manufacturing operations relating to the respective areas in the class textbook, Giannini said. The IlSCO lectures included sections on forecasting by Thigpen, which detailed the process used to match up with their customer demand and their scheduling process. **Mike Aaron** and **Larry Stainbrook** then led the discussion concerning IlSCO's quality processes meeting customer requirements and a tour of their quality department. **Laura Weis** talked about IlSCO's layout strategy, giving the company a competitive advantage by lowering costs and speeding up delivery times.

"This collaboration with John and the IlSCO management team, over the years, has lent a real-world understanding to the conceptual areas of the operations management text," Giannini said. "This is an invaluable learning experience for our students."





Members of the women's volleyball team **Maria Torres '24**, **Jordyn Liedike '23**, **Cassandra Bown '23**, **Brooke Talbot '26** and **Erica Gregory '25** celebrate the Tomcats' semifinal win in front of a full crowd at Maenpa Family Court. With the win, Thiel hosted its first Presidents' Athletic Conference women's volleyball championship match.

team shirts to place a focus on Head for the Cure. The Mercer County Arc was the focus of the team's home game on March 4.

Similarly, Thiel has impacted collegiate athletics at the conference, regional, and national levels. On Feb. 11, Thiel hosted the 63rd Presidents Athletic Conference wrestling championships on Maenpa Court at Beeghly Gymnasium, in which Washington & Jefferson College and Waynesburg University wrestlers competed against the Tomcats. The Tomcats shared the title with W&J, which was their league-leading 24th PAC title. The women's volleyball team hosted the women's PAC championship match for the first time in school history. Thiel's cheerleading team also made waves regionally in August when they earned both silver and bronze bids to attend the National Cheerleaders

Association's College Nationals competition in Daytona Beach, Fla. in April, which the Tomcats won after placing second the previous year.

Community Involvement

Togetherness and community are values held by the College as a whole, and athletic events provide great opportunities to build community unity. Thiel College's Joining Generations partnership with the local St. Paul's Senior Living Community had the idea to bring St. Paul's residents to athletic events during the fall semester in 2022, and members of the Communications Science and Disorders Department decided to bring that idea to fruition. **Megan Kiley M.S.'23**, student president of the College's chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, led the planning of the event, titled

“The size of Thiel makes it a perfect place to nurture dialogue between people who have dramatically opposing views because given its size there is limited opportunity for the anonymity that too often seems to lower inhibitions. The importance of Thiel to the region (is its position) to extend these conversations beyond the borders of the campus.”



Trustee Emeritus Mark Nordenberg '70 H'97

“Bleacher Buddies,” and served as the liaison between the department and St. Paul’s. On Saturday, October 29, Bleacher Buddies brought 10 St. Paul’s residents and as many Thiel students together for fellowship at the College with a catered meal and fun yard games before they attended the home football game together to watch Thiel play against Washington & Jefferson College.

“We volunteered, as a department, to take on planning this event because it gave our students a great opportunity to interact with older generations in ways they don’t often get to experience during clinicals,” Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders **Jeanette Benigas, Ph.D.** said. “It’s a great way to humanize the relationship between healthcare professionals and those we serve.”

Thiel’s student-athletes also impact the wider community of collegiate athletics on an even larger scale through their participation in the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of student-athletes who provide insight and offer input on the rules, regulations, and policies that affect student-athletes’ experiences. SAACs exist at the national, conference, and institutional levels.

Philanthropy

Aside from focusing on their education, health and wellness, and athletic endeavors, dedicating time to philanthropic work is another virtue that many Thiel students value, as it allows them to connect with and impact communities in the region. Every Greek Life organization on campus focuses on a particular



Sigma Phi Epsilon started its Walk-A-Mile in her shoes fundraiser in 2018 to collect money for AWARE, Mercer County Center against Domestic and Sexual Violence. In 2022-23, sororities and fraternities raised more than \$50,000 this year for both regional and national non-profits.

philanthropy. For example, each fall, the brothers of the Phi Theta Phi fraternity complete a two-day, 100-mile walk from Greenville to Pittsburgh to collect donations for the Free Care Fund at the Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh. This fund provides care and treatment to children in need while alleviating the financial burden their families face during treatment. Fraternity President and Walk Chairman **Jeremy Meyer ’23** and Assistant Walk Chairman **Logan Ross ’24** appeared on KDKA TV on December 8 for the Children’s Hospital Telethon.

Similarly, for the past three years, the Thiel College chapter of the Kappa Sigma fraternity has hosted a memorial stair walk at Greenville’s Plimpton Graul Amphitheater in Riverside Park to commemorate the first responders who perished in the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. This event not only serves to honor those first responders but also raises community awareness of the fraternity’s philanthropy, Military

Heroes, which aids thousands of military veterans and their families throughout the U.S. and Canada.

While philanthropy involves on-campus clubs and organizations giving back to the community, it is reciprocal in the way that the community also gives back to Thiel. The Student Life Emergency Pantry received a \$500 donation from the non-profit organization Christian Fitness Ministries in Greenville, which is run by **Michelle Lentz**, Instructional Technologist at the College, and her husband, **Josh Lentz**. This generous donation will be used to purchase food to be distributed to students as needs arise and will keep the pantry fully stocked for a long time to come.

Thiel philanthropy is also reflected in the College community’s dedication to the annual Match Day event, which is held every February, and benefits the Thiel Fund. The Thiel Fund is the College’s largest source of unrestricted funds and is utilized through need-based scholarships, academic programming, and athletics

and campus improvements, alongside unforeseen expenses that may arise. This year's "Game Show"-themed Match Day, held on Feb. 23, saw a record-setting 636 donors contribute \$209,746 to the Thiel Fund. Since its inception in 2014, the giving event has raised more than \$1.2 million for the College, and student involvement has steadily increased each year.

"(Match Day) has grown into an incredible display of unity on campus and among alumni and friends of the College from around the country," Director of the Thiel Fund **David Mogle** said. "This investment in the College that donors make each year underscores the magnitude of this day, as it is a grassroots event driven by the community's desire to support the College."

Internships

While the philanthropic work of

the collective campus community helps to serve organizations and individual lives in the region and beyond, many students also independently impact the region through their pursuit of internships. Internships help students launch into their post-graduation careers by providing them with opportunities to practically apply their learned skills in professional environments. The Career Development Center at Thiel College works diligently to prepare students for their future careers by providing workshops related to résumé building, job searching, interning, and interviewing. Many students who are placed in internships are later offered full-time jobs post-graduation.

"More than 30 students had internships during the Spring 2023 semester," said **Libbi Brown**, Assistant Director of the Career Development Center. "These



Jacara Green '25, a business administration major from Farrell, Pa., was among the students who attended the Common Hour presentation by **Grace Eleyae**, co-founder and CEO of Grace Eleyae Inc. and creator of the original Slap (satin-lined cap). The presentation connected Thiel students to a nationally-recognized entrepreneur.

Business Department features 'record' number of internships

Internships are an important part of the student experience at Thiel.

Professor of Business Administration and Accounting **Melissa Oakes '03** said she believed the 16 internships that students had this spring were "a record for us in one semester."

Those 16 made up almost half of the approximately 37 internships that were conducted this spring. Underscoring the College's collaboration with regional partners was that most of the internship destinations were in Mercer, Crawford and Lawrence counties.

Nine of the internships were in finance and accounting. Other interesting destinations included a political campaign, a physical therapy and rehabilitation office, a counseling clinic and an insurance agency.

Jade Rhoads '23, a neuroscience and psychology double major from Franklin, Pa., graduated in May. She said Thiel's faculty members helped her land her internship and eventually a spot at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, N.Y.

"The professors at Thiel gave me an outstanding education, which led to me getting a position at a very competitive internship at the Medical University of South Carolina and into a Ph.D. program for research."

Students can take internships as early as the second semester of their first-year, but with the Tomcat Way blueprint for student success, internships and growth outside the classroom are emphasized in the junior year.

Read more at <https://www.thiel.edu/academics/career-development-center>



internships are wide-ranging, and some of the internship sites include Penn-Northwest Development, HBK CPAs & Consultants, and Hudson Companies. Thiel's own Theater, Marketing, and Athletic departments are also among the internship sites."

Internships are valuable resources that allow students to invest in themselves, and by ensuring these opportunities are achievable, Thiel positively impacts its students and the businesses and communities influenced by these interns.

The influence of Thiel interns also stretches outside the United States. Each year, The Vira I. Heinz Scholarship for Women in Global Leadership, funded by the Heinz Endowments, gives up to three female Thiel students the opportunity to travel abroad to study or participate in internship experiences. Thiel is one of only 14 colleges given scholarships as part of this program. In the spring of 2022, four Thiel students were selected for the scholarship and made their international trips



*Thiel College's collaboration with the Greenville Symphony Orchestra is one example of the College's connection to the larger region. Alumnus **Jim Cunningham '77** works in Pittsburgh for public radio station WQED. He was recognized for his longstanding commitment to the orchestra and to classical music before a GSO concert in April.*

during the summer; **Paige Long '24** traveled to Vienna, Austria to study psychology at Sigmund Freud University, **Jasmine Phillips '23** studied cultural arts at the University of Seville in Spain, **Kylie Vergnola '24** traveled to the Czech Republic to study communications at the University of Prague, and **Allison Walsh '24** completed a 9-week sales and marketing internship in Dublin, Ireland. Upon returning to campus in the Fall of 2022,

Long, Phillips, and Walsh made a presentation to the Thiel community, discussing their experiences and explaining how sustainability was prioritized in the countries to which they traveled. Thiel's regional and even international influence is reflected in the experiences of these student-interns, but it also displays Thiel's dedication to observing and implementing new strategies so the College may continuously evolve for the positive benefit of its students



Tomcats go from runner-up to national champion

The Thiel College cheer team won the National Championship on April 7 in the Cheer Spirit Rally Open division at the National Cheerleaders Association College Nationals in Daytona Beach, Fla.

It was the cheer team's first national title in its second appearance at the NCA College Nationals. The Tomcats were runners-up in 2022.

A celebratory Victory Bell ringing was held on April 19. The campus community gathered in front of Alumni Stadium and cheered as the team rang the bell to mark their championship.

and community. This year's recipients of the Vira Heinz Scholarship, **Mary Cassano '24**, **C. Grace Honeycutt '24**, and **Kaitlynn Wolffe '24** are sure to continue the College's impact this summer as they travel to their international sites; Cassano will study in Italy, and Honeycutt and Wolffe will travel to Japan.

Conclusion

Thiel College strives to positively impact its community and reach the wider region partly by preparing and providing for its students' education, health and wellness, athletics, philanthropies, and internships. The heart of the College's mission is to prepare students to live full and purposeful lives as lifelong learners

and leaders. The College is proud to be part of a community of colleges dedicated to student learning and success, and it intends to further its mission by constantly evolving, growing, and collaborating with and supporting the businesses, institutions, and communities around it while also remaining centered on its traditions and values.

Sketches of Greenville

Students in Professor of Art **Sean McConnor's** class drew landmarks in and around Greenville. Three of the drawings were done by science majors and one was by an international student. While the students make an impact on the region, the assignment also illustrates the impact the region has on Thiel students.



Dam Gate
Andrew Born '24,
computer science major



Streets of Greenville
Mary Stewart '24,
biochemistry major



Church
Jun Ho Choi '23, Individualized
major in visual storytelling



Greenville Ice
Anthony Richards '23,
chemistry major

Thiel led the five-team Cheer Spirit Rally Open division after Thursday's preliminary round with a score of 81.1. On Friday, the 17-member team earned a score of 82.3 and finished with a total two-day score of 82.0 to win the division.

Led by seniors **Sydney Bable '23** (Rochester, Pa./Rochester H.S.), **Keara Henry '23** (Clarion, Pa./Clarion-Limestone H.S.) and **Madison Jaszemski '23** (Volant, Pa./Grove City H.S.), with a strong group of underclassmen, the Tomcats went undefeated in 2023.

Coached by Randall **Burnett M.A.' 22**, the team is thankful for the support it received from Thiel College, family, friends and sponsors.



Loomis stepped into national spotlight with FAU's Final Four trip

Men's coach established Owls in Division I

By Devin Weisbarth '22

One of the big stories for this year's NCAA Division I men's basketball championship had a Thiel College connection.

Florida Atlantic University—seeded ninth for the tournament and unknown to many—made its first Final Four appearance. What most college basketball and even die-hard Tomcat fans might not know is that FAU was a D-II school until the 1993-94 season. The coach who helped transition them to DI? Thiel College men's basketball coach Tim Loomis. He appeared in national and regional publications talking about his experience establishing the Owls as a Division I team.

Loomis started his career as an assistant coach for NCAA Division II California University of Pennsylvania in 1978. He quickly rose to become the head coach of the Vulcans in 1980. While at Cal U, Loomis amassed a record of 72-87, including four appearances in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference championship tournament and one appearance in the NCAA Division II tournament. Loomis moved to Penn State University in 1986 as an assistant coach. He was responsible for recruitment, game and practice preparation and academic guidance. He helped guide the Nittany Lions to the National Invitational Tournament in 1989.



Loomis then went to Florida Atlantic and took over as the head coach of the Owls in 1989. While at FAU, he helped lead the transition of the athletic department and the men's basketball program to NCAA Division I status in just two seasons.

"Stepping onto campus, I knew it was going to be a tough job," Loomis told *Esquire* about taking the FAU job.

Over his six seasons as the Owl's head coach, Loomis had a record of 62-104 but much of his time at FAU was spent developing the booster club and academic advising protocol, securing radio and television network coverage, and devising a national recruitment strategy.

With the unexpected run to the Final Four for FAU, Loomis was the subject of many interviews, including *The Palm Beach Post*, *HoopsHD.com*, *Esquire Magazine*, the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, as well as being mentioned in an article by *Yahoo Sports*.

Tim Loomis will begin his 18th year as the head coach of the Tomcats entering the 2023-24 season. "I love it here", Loomis told *HoopsHD.com* about his job at Thiel. "We are kind of building our own good program and we are well respected in the region".

As the lead man for the Tomcats, Loomis has amassed a record of 177-232. He also led the Tomcats to a PAC championship tournament semifinal appearance this past year.

Athletes to be outfitted in NIKE gear through partnership with BSN SPORTS

Thiel College announced an athletic partnership with NIKE and BSN SPORTS. Through this partnership, which extends for the next five years, BSN SPORTS will serve as the official apparel and equipment provider of the Tomcats Athletic Program while outfitting the College's athletes, coaches, and community members in premier NIKE product selection.



Undefeated women's basketball teams celebrated

Thiel College celebrated the 50th anniversary of the 1971 to 1973 women's basketball team's three-year, unbeaten streak on January 28. The event was also held to recognize the 50th anniversary of Title IX. The 31-game streak is the longest winning streak in school history. Members of the 1971, 1972, and 1973 teams participated in an alumni game event and were recognized at halftime of the women's game against Allegheny College.

— 1950s —



Jim '58 and Jan McRoberts '57 celebrated Christmas with family living in Nesquehoning, Pa.

— 1960s —

Gary C. Wildman '64 writes that he saw his Thiel College first-year roommate, **Phil Stutzman '62**, in *The Bell*, and have reconnected.

Fred S. Pollier '66 and his spouse, Janet Pollier, live in Saint Augustine, Fla. They are very blessed and currently live at Westminster, a continuing care retirement community. They were Norwin High School classmates from the class of 1960. They have been married and retired since 1996.



Michael (Mickey) '66 and Mary Theresa Johnson are retired and live in Home, Pa.

Louise (Irvine) Pierce '67 and her husband, Turk, hosted a get-together with **Gene Miller '63**, Mary Ann Miller, **Don Lindman '65**, and **Kathy (McClelland) Lindman '65**. Gene and Don were roommates at Thiel. They were delighted to see each other after many years.

— 1970s —



John Wotus '74 and **Dr. Robert Olson, Ph.D. '60 H'09**

Evelyn Crain '75 and husband, Dennis, live in Garland, Texas.

Aleta Ann (Wadlinger) Sultana '75 is retired. She and her spouse, Joe, live in Middletown, Pa.

— 1980s —

Jeff Seiple '85 was recently promoted to Director of Anatomical Labs and Services for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. In his new role, Seiple manages PCOM's three anatomical labs in Philadelphia, Suwanee, Ga. and Moultrie, Ga. Seiple is a licensed embalmer and funeral director in Georgia and Florida. He is a retired member of



the Federal Government Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), Region IV. Seiple is a member of the Academy of Graduate Embalmers of Georgia and has served as a co-speaker for the group's annual clinic for many years. Additionally, he has been a member of the Independent Florida Funeral Directors Association, Georgia Funeral Directors Association, Independent Funeral Directors of Georgia, National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, and the Georgia Funeral Service Practitioners Association.

He earned a Master of Business Administration from Brenau University (Gainesville, Ga.) and a Bachelor of Arts in business administration and economics from Thiel. He also holds an associate degree in funeral service from Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, Atlanta, Ga.

Shawn Cupples '87 has been chosen by the Warren City (Ohio) Schools Foundation directors and the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame committee as a member of the Class of 2023. The 31st annual Awards Dinner was on May 6 at Warren G. Harding High School. The award honors those who, through their performance and achievements, reflect credit on the Warren high schools present and past (Warren High School, Warren G. Harding and Warren Western Reserve), so that today's students may find inspiration and establish goals for the future. After graduating from Warren G. Harding in 1983, Cupples attended Thiel College where he was a four-year letterman on the football team, a member of the Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, and served in the Marine Corps Reserve. After earning a degree in accounting and business

administration, he accepted a position at Deloitte Touche in the audit and assurance department working as a certified public accountant. In 1994, he accepted a finance position with General Nutrition Corp. and was transferred to the United Kingdom. In 2001, he returned to the United States and worked with GNC in various roles. He resides in Scottsdale, Ari. and is the financial controller for Paddy O'Furniture. He has been involved with several charitable and social justice organizations including the Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and the Keystone Progress Education Fund.

Marcie Barlow '89 was recently promoted to Community Development Director for Scioto County, Ohio. She also established a non-profit, Mary's Clothesline, that provides backpacks, school supplies and other essential items to children and families in need in southern Ohio and surrounding areas.

— 1990s —

Brad Gennaro '91 resides in Anderson, S.C.

Janine Feczko '92 is an award-winning film and television editor. She started her editing career at the PBS Affiliate in Pittsburgh, WQED, in 1995 and, after decades of freelancing, is now a member of the ABC Studios post-production team editing 20/20, Specials and HULU Originals. In 2021, her projects received nine separate Emmy Nominations. Feczko won an Emmy for the 20/20 Diane Sawyer special "The Babies of 9/11: 20 years later." Her broadcast projects have aired on PBS, ABC, NBC, Discovery Channel and affiliates, National Geographic,

Lifetime, BET, MTV and more. After nearly 20 years in the New York City area, she relocated last fall to the Catskills with her wife, Jill Edelstein. They were married in October 2018. When not at her AVID, Feczko enjoys hiking, traveling, photography, non-alcoholic beer tasting, various word games and supporting the National Women's Soccer League and the U.S. women's soccer national team. And, she still enjoys playing Euchre and a good game of foosball.

Audra (Schell) Ganiear '93 is a senior professional care manager and COVID triage nurse for UPMC. She and her spouse, John Ganiear Sr., live in Brookfield, Ohio.

Scot O'Connor '93 shares his journey to establish a career in horsemanship. In June of 2021, he started as the head trainer for the Wild Horse and

Burro Inmate Program in Florence, Ari. He moved his family from Illinois to Arizona and began training wild horses and burros rounded up by the Bureau of Land Management and managed by the Arizona Department of Corrections. He teaches inmates how to train the horses and burros using the methods he learned riding with renowned horse trainer, Buck Brannaman. He impacts the lives of the horses, burros and humans. He thought other alumni would enjoy hearing how an alumnus is using his education. He said his career has been challenging but also rewarding.

Karyn Senita '98 is a French teacher at Grove City Area High School and a World Languages Methodology professor at Grove City College. She was recognized as a regional finalist of the 2023 Teacher of the Year competition on March 3 by

Thiel College
70th Choir Reunion
July 7-9
Concert & Reception
July 8 • 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
David Johnson Memorial Chapel
 If you have any questions, please contact
David Hummel '83, Director of Alumni Relations
alumni@thiel.edu • 724-589-2027

 **THIEL**
COLLEGE

— 2000s —



the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages at the annual NECTFL awards ceremony. The NECTFL region encompasses 13 states from Maine

to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Each state language organization goes through a rigorous selection process to choose its best representative of excellence in world language teaching. The event highlighted the exemplary practice of all regional Teachers of the Year as innovative practitioners whose work has inspired students and communities. The award for the National Language Teacher of the Year is intended to elevate the status and the public profile of the language teaching profession at the state, regional and national levels by recognizing the individuals chosen for this award.

Erin (Newnam) Rushman '99 is being honored by Consulting Magazine with a 2023 Women Leaders in Technology award. In its fourth year, these awards acknowledge contributions made by women in the consulting profession in the continually expanding category of technology. Emphasizing the impact women have in the consulting industry has been a long-standing tradition for Consulting Magazine, marked by the launch of the Women Leaders in Consulting Awards in 2007. The awards program was May 11 in Atlanta.

Christy Mele '04 shares that she thought it would be cute to get a photo with some Thiel swag while she worked for costume designer Mark Bridges (pictured with her) as the costume coordinator of the movie, "The Fablemans," which was released earlier this year and was directed by Steven Spielberg. Mark has been nominated four times for best costume design by The Academy and has won two Oscars for "Phantom Thread" and "The Artist."



Vincent T. Piekarski '04 is a Vocational Specialist for AtlantiCare Behavioral Health in Egg Harbor Township, N.J. He is in the process of candidacy, call, and seminary within the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He is looking to attend United Lutheran Seminary and complete the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries Program for a Theological Certificate. He and his spouse, Heather Piekarski, live in Villas, N.J.

Jan Willman '04 is vice president of Williams & Williams Line Painting, Inc. She and her spouse, David Paschel, have three daughters and live in Tarentum, Pa.

Greg Vorse '06 and **Martha (Fraas) Vorse '06** live in Jamestown, N.Y.



The Thiel Fund File

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



Jim Frank '88

Residence: Cranberry Township, Pa.

Professional Experience: I have had a varied career in education, working as a teacher, an administrator and a consultant. I am a Student Services Specialist with Butler County Community College at the LindenPointe campus in Hermitage, Pa.

Involvement at Thiel: Delta Sigma Phi fraternity, Tomcat football, three years as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Endymion*, 30 years on the Delta Sigma Phi Alumni Control Board, and currently serving on the Thiel Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Reason for Giving Back: To paraphrase **David Miller '61 H'20**, "Thiel has given me everything." I am forever in debt to the College for molding me into the person I have become. Thiel is the foundation on which I am built. The friends and experiences at Thiel are priceless. I want to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience the same.



The Thiel Fund File

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

Morgan Bodnar '16, MBA'21

Residence: Greenville, Pa.

Professional Experience: Assistant Director of Admission and graduate program counselor

Hobbies: Teaching baton twirling from beginners to the college level and spending time with family and my puppy, Chansey

Involvement at Thiel: Zeta Tau Alpha, Office of Admission student worker, Phi Theta Phi sweetheart, Thiel Tomcat Marching Pride Majorettes

Reason for Giving Back: Thiel has provided me with so many opportunities from the first time I stepped on campus. Working in the Office of Admission, I get to share my campus experiences with incoming and current students and get to learn about theirs. While I only have a small hand in helping them prepare for the future in my role as an employee, it is inspiring to help students find their way once they have completed the admissions process.

with their two children. Greg shares this picture from their days as students on campus. Vorse was recognized as the James Pedas '50 H'89 Communications Professional of the Year at a campus event in April.

Nicole Sigmund '06 joined Saint Vincent College as Assistant Vice President, Human Resources in December 2021. Nicole resides in Sewickley with her husband, Tim, and their two children, Vivian and Calvin. She earned her Master of Business Administration from the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business at the University of Pittsburgh and was a dual communication studies and business communication major at Thiel.

Anthony V. Cancro '07 is the Senior Development Officer for Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Fla.

Jennifer Swartz '07 is an autistic support teacher in the Chambersburg Area School District. She lives in Shippensburg, Pa.



Tiffany (Banas) Gormley '08 shares a meeting with Thiel basketball player, **"DJ" Dotun Akinwale '13**. He was

scouting for the Atlanta Hawks at the University of Central Florida basketball game against the University of Houston on January 23, 2023, in Orlando, Fla. Tiffany, a former Thiel Tomcat cheerleader happened to be sitting next to him.

Amanda Prekup '08 shares a picture of herself with her husband, Brendan Kelly, and their daughter, Aria.



Annette Rodriguez Carreras '08 passed the Ohio Bar in October 2022. She is presently working with Eques Law Group as a Junior Associate in the Cadiz office, focusing on oil and gas law. Her first novel, "LifeForce," was published in 2019 by Green Writers Press, and she is working on the sequel, "Immortality's Peril."



Maggie Anne Giel Bovaird '09 shared a photo of her three-and-a-half-year-old son, Declan, sporting his Thiel gear.

Punit Upadhyaya '09 was presented with the Simon Chiu, M.D.'73 Science Professional of the Year award during Thiel College's Science Mentor of the Year Awards in April. He is a director at Mariana Oncology.



— 2010s —

Nicklas E. Goettman '10 and **Gina (Moss) Goettman '09** live in Cuddy, Pa. with their children. Nicklas is an operations manager for the Municipal Authority of South Fayette.



Katherine E. (Bretz) Moffett '12 shares a family photo while on vacation. She works as a supervisor at ISLE Purple Cat. She and her spouse,

Daniel Moffett, and their family live in New Middletown, Ohio.

Erica (Riola) Clements '12 and her spouse, **Wyatt Clements '14**, live in Winchester, Va.

Keisha M. Shaw '13 is the Human Resources manager for Fresh Express. She lives in Harrisburg, Pa.

Kelsey (Robertson) Schnur '13 and Nick Schnur were married at Thiel in the chapel on October 24, 2015. They recently celebrated their seventh wedding anniversary. They have two daughters, Finley (4) and Ila (1). Kelsey is the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator at Lawrence County Social Services and her husband runs the tool and die shop at Graham Stamping.

Becky Crawford '14 shares that in September, she started working as a business intelligence engineer at Amazon in Austin, Texas. Amazon has a referral program. If any students or alum are interested in a position with Amazon, she would be happy to get in touch with them and put in a referral.

Amanda (Baur) Martin '14 is an account manager for NFP in Wexford, Pa. She and her spouse, Richard Martin, live in Springdale, Pa.

Mallory Paige Bell '15 is a funeral director/embalmer at Allen & Allen

Funeral Home in Thomasville, Ga. She and her spouse, Donavon Crites, live in Thomasville, Ga.

Donnay R. Hunter '16 is a senior stylist at Stitch Fix. She and her spouse, Glenn Hunter, and family live in Solon, Ohio.

Clarissa L. (Whippo) Kowalkowski '16 is a traveling nurse for 360care. She and her spouse, Kyle, live in East Liverpool, Ohio.



Amanda (Lopez) Pyles '16 shares a photo of herself with her spouse, Kirkland Pyles. They were married on September 30, 2017. She is an office assistant with UPMC Hamot. She and Kirkland live in Waterford, Pa.



Isabella Bungo '19 shares that two former Tomcat softball players are together on the field again—this time as coaches. They are coaching softball together at Edgewood High School in Harford County, Md. This is the second year of coaching for both Bungo and **Quinn Ursprung '20**. Bungo is the head coach of the varsity team, while Ursprung is the head coach of the junior varsity program. Last year, Ursprung had an impressive season with the JV team winning 6 of 11 games. Ursprung's coaching ability

has already shined this upcoming 2023 season by having four of her former JV athletes make the varsity team. Last year, Bungo's varsity squad won 11 of 19 games, giving them a first-round bye in the playoffs. Bungo is hopeful that this year will also be competitive for the young team. Bungo and Ursprung will be joined by another former Tomcat, **Ryann Gollings '21**, who will join as a manager coach. Gollings is teaching managers how to keep an accurate scorebook while doubling as a varsity bench coach. The trio has moved to Maryland and each are pursuing their careers off the field. Gollings is a Research Specialist at Johns Hopkins University. Ursprung is working as a CRM administrator for the Wildlife Conservation Society. Bungo is teaching government and world history at Edgewood High School.

Isabella Bungo '19 and **Ryann Gollings '21** got engaged on March 17, 2023. They have not yet planned a wedding date but are hoping for a date in 2025. They met at Thiel in 2017 after both were members of Chi Omega. They are living in Belcamp, Md. Ryann is a research specialist at Johns Hopkins and Isabella is a social studies teacher at Edgewood High School.

— 2020s —

Talia O'Brien '20 The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh has recognized Talia as part of Women's History Month spotlight. Talia is a Pittsburgh native currently residing in Swisshelm Park. Upon graduating from Thiel College in 2020, Talia stepped into local government work. She was inspired by the impact that empowered communities have,

especially in vulnerable neighborhoods that have been disproportionately impacted by Pittsburgh's growth. Since joining the URA as a Neighborhood Business District Program Analyst in 2022, Talia has enjoyed making meaningful connections with communities and continuing to witness the challenges and rewards that come with equitable community development. Talia is also a proud graduate of Leadership Pittsburgh Inc.'s Leadership Development Initiative (Class XXIX) and serves on the board of directors for both Scenic Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP).

Carrie E. Severt '20 works as a collection specialist for Guardian Protection Services. She lives in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Bailey M. Shepard '21 is the Agency Relations and Programs Manager for the Community Food Bank Warehouse of Mercer County. She lives in West Middlesex, Pa.

Brianne Gallo '22 has been chosen by Campbell Law School's Hispanic Law Student Association (HLSA) executive board members as the recipient of this year's Alondra Bribiesca Scholarship. The summer scholarship is intended for "a student who has exemplified courage in the face of adversity," a trait exemplified by the scholarship's namesake. Students who apply for the scholarship have to write an essay explaining what they can do to make Campbell Law a more inclusive place. "Brianne's essay stood out to the entire HLSA E-board as empowering," said HLSA President Genesis Torres. "She is a student who is ready to make a difference in the community." Gallo majored in criminal justice and minored in Spanish with an added focus on accounting.

Leah Endres '22 is a prevention specialist at the Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission. She lives in Meadville, Pa.

Alumni Award winners

The 2023 Alumni Award winners have been announced. Homecoming is September 29 to October 1.

Service to Thiel

- **James Frank '88**
- **Anna (Pischera) Reinsel '06**
- **Melissa (Eagon) Oakes '03**

Young Alumni

- **Becky Crawford '14**

Distinguished Alumni

- **Philip Joyce '78**
- **Arthur Wetzel '73**

For more information, contact Alumni Relations at alumni@thiel.edu or 724-589-2027.



— marriages —



Kristina (Mitchell) George '10 and Shane George on September 9, 2022. Left to right: Amanda Edger, Michael Burgess, **Meredith (Nagle) Toth '10**, Brandon George, the couple, Adam Mitchell, Ryan Rubush, **Angela (Blackburn) Johnson '11**, and Ryan Sangster.



Ashley '13 and **Taylor Zain '14** on September 26, 2020. Many Tomcats were in the bridal party and in attendance. Maid of Honor, **Jen Kumar '13**; bridesmaids, **Shea Maier '13**, **Bri Fink '13**; bridesman, **Kris Tursky '13** and Man of Honor, **Rick Cannon '14**.



Dana (DePaulo) Russo '18 and **Gino Russo '19** on October 8, 2022. The ceremony was at Greystone Fields in Gibsonia, Pa. Dana obtained her MBA from Slippery Rock in the winter of 2021. She is an assistant administrator at Concordia at Rebecca Residence Personal Care. Gino is an information technology infrastructure engineer at HighMark Health.



Erika (Hiwiler) Sumner '19 and **Zachary Sumner '19** on June 25, 2022. The ceremony was officiated by **Nathan Flory '17**. The wedding party included maid of honor, **Amanda Hautmann '17**; bridesmaids, **Katie Altman '19**, Jacob Bradley, **Rachel Casteel '19**, **Jessica Close '19** and Kim Venesky. The best man was Jacob Phillips, and the groomsmen were **Brett Eckroate '20**, **Joshua Eujene '19**, Evan Isaacs, Cody McGovern, and **Evan Youker '19**. Erika and Zachary Sumner live in Butler, Pa.



Molly (Shepler) Rowan '22 and **Garrett Rowan** on August 6, 2022, outside of Punxsutawney, Pa. Molly is the Development and Communication Assistant for Progressive Workshop of Armstrong County.

– births –



To **Nikki (Colpo) Galbo '06** and Nick Galbo: a son, Miles Alan Galbo, on January 31, 2023.



To **Cassie (Graham) Thomas '15** and **Ryan Thomas '15**: a son, Gabriel Graham Thomas on October 21, 2022. Gabriel is welcomed by his mom, dad and big brother, Evan, in Ligonier, Pa.



To **Amy Jane (Matchett) Malone '12** and Ryan Malone: a daughter, Maddie Kae Malone, in August 2022. Maddie is welcomed by her mom, dad and two big sisters, Bailey and Ellie.



To **Leanna Marie (Yeager) Meeks '14** and Justin Meeks: a daughter, Stella Avery Meeks on December 12, 2022.



To **Allison (Gloor) Wakley '16** and **Aaron Wakley '15**: a son, Asher James Wakley, on April 26, 2022.



To **Ashley Rable '13** and **Taylor Zain '13**: twin boys, Zaddok and Zayden, on April 21 and 22, 2022.

— gatherings —



Thiel College Class of 2008 alumnae met up for dinner on December 21, 2022, in Pittsburgh. Pictured left to right: **Katie Soeder, Hayley (Deems) Tymoczko, Kelly (Donovan) Gumina, Tiffany (Banas) Gormley, and Allison (Obenour) Grab.**



Dietrich Honors Institute students and alumni met in Cincinnati on February 18, 2023.



These guys get together once a month in Portersville, Pa. at Brown's Country Kitchen. Left to right, front to back: **John Gibson '71, Walt Treser '69, Logan Cribbs '69, Dan Cecchini '69 and Mike Donato '71.**



Thiel Delta Sigma Phi and wives holiday get together at Vue 412 restaurant in Pittsburgh. From left to right: **Dr. Robert Olson '60 H'09, Joe Damore '74, Diane Matthews, Debbie (Petrovic) Wotus '76, Bill Matthews '74, John Wotus '74 and Julie Damore.**



Alumni gathered for an evening of bowling, arcade games and laser tag at Zone 28 in Harmarville, Pa. Left to right, Front: **Mikayla Mirich '21, Anna Chapman '22, Hannah Uschock '22, Diane (Slomainy) Banko '13, Jessica (Mueller) Freeman '13; Back: Robert Surgent '81, David Hummel '83, Emily (Meyer) Kosva '05 and Dustin Slomainy '18.**



John '83 and Joanne (Gable) MARRS '85 hosted a luncheon at their home in Landisville, Pa. for alumni and Thiel students on Sunday, March 26. Front row from left to right: **Patrick Broe '25, Austin Krieger '24, Mark Little '25, Andrea Meals '25, Jess Wagner '25, Kaylie Robertson '24, Rhiannon Mayer '25, Christina Newman '25, Middle: Joanne (Gable) MARRS '85, Linda (Baynard) Hoover '69, Will Stines '25, Austin Siko '24, Emma Galiardi '24, Back: John MARRS '83, Herb Hoover '68, Don Lindman '65, Kathleen (McClelland) Lindman '65, Mary Jo (Badura) Makoul '76, Jane (Cullen) Marsteller '77 and Louise (Irvine) Pierce '67.**

– in memoriam –

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

Lorin J. Altman '68
 Margo Anderle
 Rev. Dean W. Anderson '56
 David L. Anderton
 Dorothy L. Armour
 Constance (Hunt) Astmann '66
 Kenneth J. Ayers
 Timothy Ball
 James Ronald Beasley, Jr.
 The Rev Dr James E. Bennett '57
 Charles F. Benning '57
 Joyce (Reeher) Berry '60
 Michael Brendan Biggins '08
 Jean W. (Walter) Blice '53
 Randall R. Bowser
 Richard E. Bright '58
 Priscilla L. Brown '76
 Suzanne (Bunce) Chambers '63
 David Harrison Chase
 Pamela Cianci
 Geraldine Clarke
 Dr. Richard L. Conn '58
 Joseph R. Coratti '52
 Thomas M. Costo '80
 Harry I. Davis '66
 James S. DeLo '58
 Gwen M. (McGuffie) DeTullio '85
 Robert P. Dorfeld '74
 Anna Janice Easler
 Beth Ann Edwards
 Margaret Findle
 Robert T. Fisher '60
 James Richard Fletcher '74
 Darrell D. Franklin '53
 Judith Franklin
 William B. Gillespie '51
 Juanita C. (Crowell) Gillis '48

Joyce A. (Barringer) Hammond '53
 Jane M. (McCrea) Hand '77
 Helen MacGregor (Newnam) Hannan
 Paul S. Hazen '75
 Leanne Heaton '73
 Rev. Alice Faye (McWreath) Herman '59
 Dale R. Hesse '73
 Frances Hesselbein H'99
 June Hockenberry
 Jane (Baker) Holland '42
 Dorothy M. Hoovler
 Constance M. (Heilman) Hutzell '59
 Albert Yeisley Hyndshaw '68
 Carol V. Janeway '63
 Phyllis (Streilein) Karshin '63
 Jerry Kokalis, Jr. '60
 Larry L. Lackey
 Tina L. (King) Leckfor '89
 Jay Leffler
 Robert E. Lenkner '52
 Ruth Ann (Sheraw) Light '51
 Penny Smith (Smith) Light '79
 Janice (Cunningham) Looney '62
 Janet P. (Prickett) MacCartney '71
 Richard T. Mamajek '58
 Hedy Martin
 Donald E. McCright '57
 Oswilla M. McGovern '72
 Gwen McGuffie
 Gary H. McQuone '61
 Paula (Bloomquist) Meckey '68
 Judith A. (McDonald) Miller '63
 Ellen (Martin) Moore '46
 Geraldine T. (Smith) Moore
 Halcyon S. Mueller
 Andrew K. Munster '68

Kristin A. (Coleman) Murphy '61
 Robert H. Palmer
 Anthony J. Perry '02
 Marc S. Pliscof '73
 Larry J. Pitorak, Esq. '69
 Joanne (Bretsnyder) Polacok
 John Polacok
 Harry G. Rae '69
 Mary Kay Rodenbaugh
 Janet (Lucas) Ryan '70
 Clotilda A. Schell
 Deborah A. (Whiting) Schindler '74
 Stephen L. Scott '84
 Donald P. Sebastian '54
 Linda Seiple
 Frances Sframeli '57
 Ann Sheraw '51
 Rev. Jean (Rieger) Staffa
 Carol Ann (Yeager) Stamm '71
 Rev. Thomas R. Stennett '55
 Kenneth Arol Stoyer '57
 Margaret Pole Taylor
 Charles R. Tice '57
 John P. Urich '63
 Helen Volpe
 Robert L. Wagner '60
 Lane E. Wells '91
 John D. West '62
 James P. Whitlock '79
 Joshua Matthew Wilkinson
 Aaron Jamal Williams
 Jeffrey D. Williamson
 Belinda J. (Webster) Wilson '88
 Donald S. Worth '63
 Frederick B. Zikeli '59
 Rev. Donald K. Zundel '56



Region needs a healthy and vibrant Thiel to attract and retain regional investment

By Rod E. Wilt '86

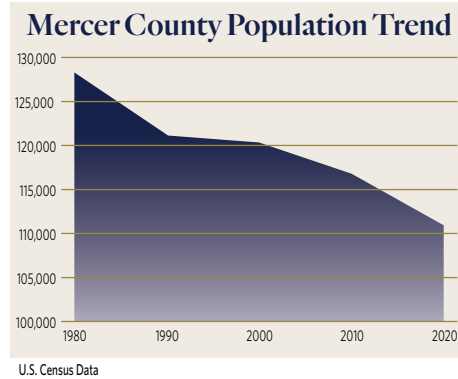
As the Executive Director of Penn-Northwest Development Corporation, Mercer County's lead economic development agency, I can attest to the fact that a healthy and vibrant Thiel College is an epicenter for economic activity and innovation, and a hub for diversity, equity and inclusion in the region. Developing a comprehensive economic development strategy for Mercer County, Pa. involves knotting together five strategic goals and initiatives to move the county and its communities forward.

These stated goals are:

- 1) Support Local Business and Industry Development;
- 2) Foster Workforce Development Strategies;
- 3) Recruit New Business and Industries;
- 4) Develop a Strong Membership-driven Organization, and;
- 5) Expand the Reach of the Mercer County Beyond the Region.

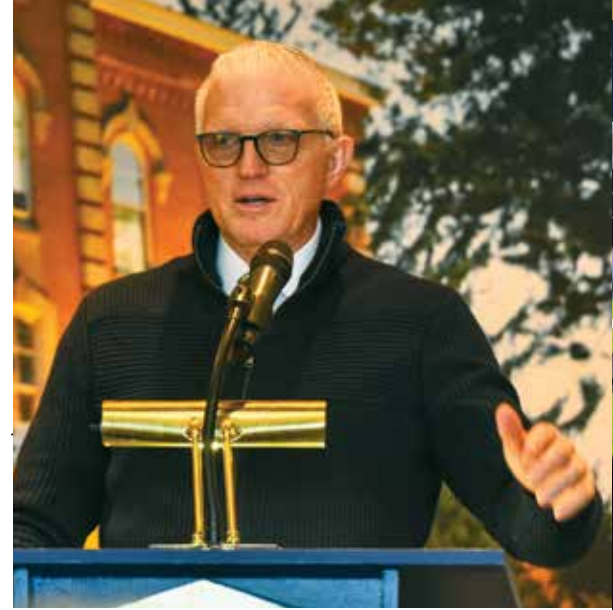
Thiel's strategic plan—"Thiel 2026: Launching the Leaders the World Needs Now!"—and current programming includes elements that relate to each of the five stated goals. We share a common commitment to making Mercer County, Pa. a great place to live, learn, work and play!

Thiel is an outstanding resource for our business community as it stands ready to supply new waves of students each year who participate in internships, student teaching, focus



groups, marketing and management guidance and potential career-builders who have chosen to work in Mercer County once they have completed their education. These students push our local industries to move forward by connecting them with new ideas, innovation, industry best practices, improved corporate culture, and in some cases, broader gender and racial diversity in the company's workforce.

Having a strong, private, liberal arts college that offers a wide array of undergraduate and graduate programs is a tremendous resource for new industry recruitment with Mercer County. Thiel has found a way to create a curriculum that is educating students to meet the current and future demand for new leaders in the fields of healthcare, education, manufacturing, finance and public service. Business and industry must avail themselves of new "homegrown" talent, and recruit those students from outside the region who attended Thiel, doing so will enable the county to reverse the decades-long trend of devastating population loss. In the decade since 2010 alone, Mercer County's population dropped 5 percent, from



Thiel College President **Susan Traverso, Ph.D.** has taken a leadership role in Penn-Northwest as a member of our Board of Directors. Her strong voice and her ability to articulate Thiel's Strategic Plan and its place within our comprehensive economic development strategy, has helped us grow our organization's membership at a rapid pace. In short, Mercer County's success in re-birthing our local economy is directly tied to Thiel's ability to enroll and educate the future leaders of our communities.

As we look to the future, we must consider additional ways that Thiel College and Penn-Northwest can expand our reach beyond Mercer County, and create more opportunities for people to see everything we have to offer. Rural communities are growing in many areas across the country, and the Greenville area can join them. quality of life for our students, faculty,

The future is bright! Let's move forward together!

Wilt is Vice Chair of the Thiel College Board of Trustees. He was awarded the Louis and Barbara Thiel Award at this year's Founders' Day celebration for his contributions to both the region and his alma mater. He is also the executive director of the Penn-Northwest Development Corp.

Support Launching Leaders



Make your gift to the The Thiel Fund today!

No graduate gets there alone. Will you help them reach this milestone? Students who succeed are often helped by a supporter who offered aid, shared knowledge or simply believed in them. No matter the season, you can help give the gift of graduation.

Scholarships

Academics

Athletics

Campus Improvements

The College the World Needs.



For more information on how to help,
Director of the Thiel Fund - **David Mogle** • 724-589-2140 • dmogle@thiel.edu
make your online gift at thiel.edu/giving



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



Save the date: Homecoming is Sept. 29 to Oct. 1!