

Curling program added to athletics pg. 4



HOUSING GOES COED pg. 3



Thiel lifts Liquor Law pg. 2

# THE THIELENSIAN

the student-run newspaper of Thiel College in Greenville, PA

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## Starbucks construction planned for June

By Liz Carlson, lcarlson@thiel.edu

After several petitions and much contemplation, President VanAken and the board of directors at Thiel College have recently announced the construction of a real Starbucks on campus. Construction of the popular coffee chain is projected to begin in June 2014, shortly after students leave for summer break, and is predicted to open its doors in November 2014.

Prior to this announcement, the Rotunda Bistro served Starbucks coffee. They have decided though, that they will no longer continue to serve coffee beverages after the new Starbucks is constructed. "We do not want to leave any competition for Starbucks," declared Karen Beatty, the director of catering for AVI Food Services. The Bistro plans to continue to serve the rest of the items on their menu.

The construction of the new restaurant is estimated to bring in a large amount of revenue for Thiel College, especially with the popularity of coffee among college students. "We estimate that the Starbucks will pay for itself in approximately five years, and it will be all profit from there on out for the college, said President VanAken.

"The staff is looking forward to its construction just as much as the students are," he added.

The Starbucks will be constructed in the present location of the freshman quad, a popular location for pick-up games of football and baseball as well as other activities. In fear that this will lead to uprisings among the male population of the college, the board of directors is currently planning to also expand the campus's property and set aside land to construct a new recreation field. The project is currently still in the beginning stages, and is planned to be discussed at an upcoming faculty meeting.

The new addition of a Starbucks to the Thiel campus is envisioned to be a huge advantage to the campus. Not only will it be extremely profitable, but it is also hoped to attract more students to Thiel. "I am really looking forward to having a Starbucks on campus. I will probably go there every morning before classes," said freshman Tatyana Godfrey. This is one project that the entire student body is sure to be looking forward to!



Photo Credit : Natasha Brenneman

## Greenville to bid for 2024 Olympics

By Hunter Michaelis, hmichaelis@thiel.edu

In a surprising turn of events, the city of Greenville has been able to successfully bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics. The city, which will host its first-ever Olympics, is the first city in the state of Pennsylvania to host the world event.

The United States has not hosted an Olympics since 1996 when Atlanta won a bid. Greenville, which is a distressed town financially, has been looking for ways to turn its economy around, and to some this seems as good as any idea.

"It's really surprising," Henry Wilkes, citizen of Greenville, said, "I didn't think that's what we were looking for at the moment. I guess there's a first time for everything."

The International Olympic Committee, IOC, felt that the city of Greenville, which has already begun construction on a 30,000 seat stadium and a 25,000 seat multi-purpose arena, felt the city would be perfect for their new selection of games.

"Greenville is the first city on the list for our current agenda, which was recently decided upon in Sochi while they hosted," Greg Hugo, President of the IOC, explained, "We did our research, and they have

many plans for improvement."

Aside from the near-unanimous support from the Olympic committee, buzz has already begun in the city. Most of the citizens had no idea that the bid was even sent from the mayor's office, who felt that surprise would be better in case the outcome was not positive.

The office declined to offer a formal comment, but wanted to thank the citizens for their support on the issue. The citizens, however, were somewhat mixed on their reaction to the high honor, which was given to them without their knowledge or say.

"I would have really appreciated a say in the matter," Wilkes added, "I know it will be good for the businesses, but this takes our small town and puts in on the map."

Greenville, which was founded in 1819, has had 10,000 or less people for nearly 200 years, and nothing with this magnitude has happened in recent history. The event will bring thousands of extra people to the city, thousands of which the city is not use to holding.

While the event is a way to generate stability in the unstable economy and has been received with



Greenville plans to turn old factory land into Olympic Village. Photo Credit: Lynae Jackson

mixed reviews, nothing can stop the Games from happening. The Olympic Games will hit Greenville in 2024, so those against the decision have ten years to enjoy the small-town feel of Greenville.

"If you ask me, this is the dumb-

est thing," Fred Peverely, of Greenville, said, "Giving an Olympic Games to a small place like this."

Whatever the feeling, several thousand athletes will soon descend on Greenville.



National and local newspapers are 'at a loss' after the recent announcement that newspaper-based production companies would no longer be a legal business trade.

Photo Credit: Keeley Criswell

## EXTRA, EXTRA - YOU CAN'T READ ALL ABOUT IT!

By Brianna Tiedeman, btiedeman@thiel.edu

In the near future, Newspapers will no longer be thrown into the front yard, stuffed into vending boxes, or used to hide the faces of detectives in mystery movies.

The government passed a bill late last night stating "no newspaper production-based company will be classified as a small business, trade, or stock investment opportunity, according to Congress officials.

"It's not stopping us," New York Times editor-in-chief Brian Morgan said in response. "We have the funding, we have the resources, and we have an audience; they shouldn't be fixing what isn't broken."

Alongside the NY Times' protestors stand The Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, and several local newspapers have emerged in protest as well. The bill's announcement is causing controversy though legislation is choosing not to react.

"We as a government unit have agreed upon the bill's announcement and are moving forward with reshaping the image of

business in today's modernized and technologically advancing society," Congressman Joseph Schreimer said. "Newspapers who continue business will not only be breaking our law, but they will also be contributing to our nation's economic recession."

Congressman spokesperson, Deborah Fitzgerald noted in the White House press conference that their decision actively corresponds with their depression-like predictions for the economy's future.

The spontaneous and non-forementioned bill leaves those currently employed with newspaper production-based businesses out of legal employment. These careers are now seen as invalid through the taxation system, leaving many out of health care, social security, and other benefits.

"As a staff we are at a loss - we are unsure of what to do," Phillip Stright, publisher of Greenville's community paper, The Record-Argus, said. "Individually, we are struggling with the idea of having to give up firstly, what we originally

wanted to do with the rest of our lives and secondly, our audience-base and readership."

The next concern may be who else is affected by this elimination. Small businesses or institutions who utilize advertising outlets are not being affected according to State Of The Media, who reports that in 2000, advertising revenue totaled more than 19 billion, but in 2012 it added up to only above 4 billion.

Congressman officials released this morning the consequences of 'speakeasy newspapers,' alluding to the 1920's Prohibition period jargon. If a newspaper production-based organization were to get caught distributing press material, each staff reporter byline printed in the edition could be fined up to \$500 dollars and held for pretrial detainment without bail.

White House officials on the other hand released a statement advising newspapers to transform their production into different means of communication, such as online newspapers.

## Tunnels to be expanded

By Sean Oros, soros@thiel.edu

Thiel has recently announced that there is, indeed, a tunnel system under its campus. Rumors have existed among Thiel's student body for years regarding this fact, but only now is this being officially put on records. President VanAken, in a recent press release, stated the following: "Thiel's administration has recently become aware of an extensive series of tunnels under the campus. We will be expanding upon this system to create an extensive walkway in the event of future harsh weather conditions—Thiel's commitment to its students is real." In the wake of the harsh winter students have recently experienced, this has been especially popular.

It appears as if these tunnels were actually part of an extensive Cold-War era bomb shelter for the growing metropolis of Greenville. There are several extensive bunkers that will be expanded into further classrooms and offices, increasing Thiel's facilities by 45% of its current space. As a further bonus, there is a completely operational underground football stadium, apparently used as a recreational center to entertain the sheltered population during fallout. The network and their facilities will need some updating and repairs, but overall, are relatively intact. The repairs, under the current contract bids, are expected to be complete by the end of the summer, 2015.

In addition, surveyors have located the remains of a nearly operational space-center in a complex beneath Riverside Park. The tunnel system connects directly to this center, which includes a fully operational launch silo for rockets. Thiel, in consequence, will be expanding a space aeronautics major, under the direction of Dr. Hecking.

"This will be a very good addition to Thiel's academic catalogue," Hecking said. President VanAken is even more optimistic: "Thiel's administration is committed to the goal of reaching Mars by 2022. Our new recruitment slogans will be 'To infinity and beyond.'" Thiel is expected to face a sharp increase of enrollment after this program becomes official.

## Thiel College POLICE BLOTTER

compiled by Brianna Tiedeman

**March 21 - Public Indecency**  
Students were found in the baseball field engaging in sexual activity.

**March 21 - Liquor Law Violation**  
Staff were found in a College Ave. apartment in violation of the liquor policy while throwing a party. Officers then remembered the law had been lifted.

**March 22 - Possession of Paraphernalia**  
Two students were found in Frat 1 using paraphernalia in the ventilation system.

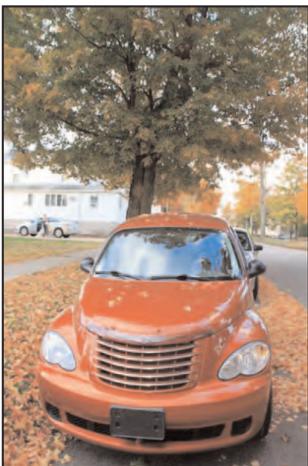
**Damage to Unattended Property**  
Everyone on campus whose cars have been broken into banded together to search for the vandals. They were unsuccessful before officers ended the search.

**March 23 - Underage Drinking**  
Several underage students were found under the influence of alcohol at brunch Sunday afternoon after celebrating Saturday night.

**March 28 - Criminal Mischief**  
Campus buildings including Greenville Hall, Roth Hall, and the Academic Center were vandalized with the tag: #teampedas. This investigation is ongoing.

**Public Indecency**  
Unidentified persons were arrested on sight in the Rotunda Bistro for ordering their food without shoes, shirts, or problems.

**Mental Health**  
Students found in the townhouses were sighted for inappropriate pacing outside of a townhouse.



Next year, Campus Police will be driving bright orange PT Cruisers.

## Wanna see a movie? BLY HALL PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...

compiled by Liz Carlson

**Breakfast Club: Friday, April 4 and Sunday, April 6 8-10 p.m.**

If you have not seen this movie before, then you have not lived a successful life! So just in case you haven't, join us in Bly Hall for the showing of this classic 1980's comedy that follows five high school students' day at Saturday detention. The five students, each from a different social class within their school, pass the time together, growing rather close-knit by the end of the movie and developing a friendship. Their day in detention turns out to be a lot more eventful than they suspected, as they partake in illegal drug use, dancing, and harassing together. They even open up to each other about their home lives. The events that play out throughout the day make this is one classic comedy that you will be ashamed to miss!

## Thiel Happenings

compiled by Liz Carlson

**Tuesday, April 1**  
**RuPaul's Drag Race:** 8-10 p.m. at the Passavant Center  
Join us for Thiel's first annual drag race! With help from professional drag queens featured on the television show, RuPaul's Drag Race, this will be an event you will not want to miss!

**Wednesday, April 2**  
**In Service Day:** Students, enjoy a day off of classes to recover from April Fool's Day!  
**Poker Tournament:** 9-11:30 in the Rotunda Bistro  
Hosted by OBC, come try your hand at a game of poker for a chance to win one of several cash prizes!

**Thursday, April 3**  
**TAB Coffeehouse series:** Keshha: 8-10 p.m. in the Bistro  
Stop by and enjoy a performance by world-renowned artist, Keshha! There will be glitter!  
**Seafood Feast:** 4:30-7 p.m. in the Dining Hall

**Friday, April 4**  
**Alaskan Cruise:** Will Depart at approximately 8 a.m. Meet in Weyer's Lounge  
TAB will be sponsoring a free, week long Alaskan Cruise for students! Reserve your spot ASAP with Than! Seats are limited.

**Saturday, April 5**  
**Karate Workshop:** 5-6:30 p.m. in the Glen Johnson Community Center

## Photography Club Gets Facelift

by Maryanne Elder, Melder@thiel.edu

Thiel College Photography Club on April 2 will receive six brand new digital slr cameras due to a competition that the club entered with Canon cameras. The Thiel College Photography Club just received confirmation in the mail as of March 19. Representative Jackson of Canon Cameras stated "the clubs ability to perform with diligence to the challenges during our competition that they entered showed they deserved this grant." The club, originally started in 2013, has grown tremendously and since then has become one of the faces of the campus social media sights.

Each one of the cameras will come with the and 18-55 mm lens, 75-500 mm lens, a camera strap, two camera packs, a bag for each camera, and a flash to accompany each of the cameras bodies. These packages the clubs receiving are considered to be standard Digital SLR camera packages that come from Canon cameras. The average price for one of these packages is over \$1,000. This is one of the largest things for a club to receive on campus since 1930 here at Thiel College. "I am so proud to be a part of The Thiel College Photography Club. I

have a point and shoot that my mother gave me when I went to college and now since we qualified for this grant I feel I am going to grow as a photographer. I have only used my friend's camera which was like the ones that we are going to be getting. I am very excited to finally be able to get my hands on a Digital SLR for a little bit longer than just a few minutes," said one student. The Thiel College Photography Club urgently waits for the arrival of the new Digital SLR's. The arrivals of the cameras are foreseen to be a benefit to the club as well as a advantage to the campus.

## Pedas Center to become Thiel to lift liquor ban aquarium

by Katie Allgeier, kallg@thiel.edu

The Jame Pedas Communication Center will now be the Jame Pedas Aquatic Learning Center. The brief title-- short for the James Pedas Aquatic Learning Center for People Who Like Water Species, Like Fish and Turtles and Frogs and Goldeen-- is the working name for the future campus aquarium. As most students know, the Pedas Center, until now thought to be a Communication building, will now be used primarily by the Biology department for research and observation of aquatic species. The building will house a 300-gallon saltwater tank and a 250-gallon freshwater tank, in which students will be able to get a firsthand

look at the lives of fish and other aquatic species. Biology students are enthusiastic about the change. "I can't wait to watch the turtles," one student gushed. "I've always wanted to take care of turtles, and I'm so excited to finally be able to do it." Biology students are not the only students excited about the incoming aquarium. "I'm excited about the aquarium," Shelby Gitchel, senior, remarked. "It'll be another reason for me to come back for homecoming, at least." Indeed, the future aquarium is an attraction not only for current students; Admissions counselors hope that the aquarium will entice more biology students to

join Thiel's student body. One student on a tour of the campus seemed genuinely attracted to the aquarium and its academic benefits. "I really like fish," the student quipped. "Like, I really really like fish. Having an aquarium on campus...I doubt I'll ever leave the building. I really like fish," the student concluded breathlessly. For their part, the Communication department has been gracious in their loss of the Communication building. "Oh no, we're all really excited about it," one Communications professor remarked. "We didn't need the space anyway--I'll be glad to see it occupied by a bunch of fish."

by Natasha Brenneman, nbren@thiel.edu

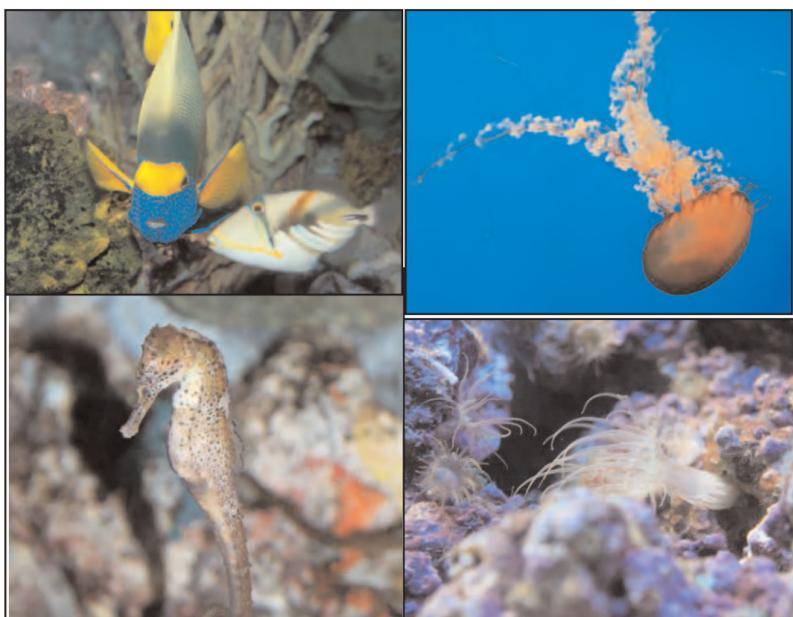


Thiel students will now have the opportunity to have hard liquor on campus, thanks to a recent decision by the Board of Trustees. Photo Credit: Natasha Brenneman

For decades Thiel College students have fought against campus administration on the campus wide ban on hard liquor, or drinks containing more than 14% alcohol. Until now students could only have one case of beer or bottle of wine in their possession, but now the rules have completely changed. There is no longer a limit on the amount of alcohol or the percentage of alcohol per volume a student over the legal age of 21 may have in their possession. This change came at a recent Board of Trustees meeting; the administration voted by a large majority to lift the

ban. This ban was originally put in place to protect students from potential alcohol poisoning, but Thiel faculty and administration decided to change the long standing rules, because they feel overall the student body is much more responsible than previous classes. Students campus-wide wasted no time celebrating their new found freedom. Sales at the Greenville Liquor stores reportedly tripled after the ban was lifted. When one student was asked about his opinion of the change of rules as he left the state store carrying two large brown bags he said "If

you drink Jameson, you're going to have a good time. So this was a long time coming, time for Thiel to get crazy." Similar situations could be seen all over campus since the change of rules; students have embraced the change with open arms. Overall students have been highly irresponsible with their new privileges. There have been large numbers of students missing classes, and several students have been hospitalized. The misuse of new freedom poses the question, how much longer will Thiel administration let this continue?



The Pedas Center aquarium is a much-anticipated addition to Thiel's Biology department. Photo Credit: Keeley Criswell

## Opinion Poll - How do you feel about Thiel College closing in 2020?



**Jess Sabol**  
"Oh, no! What a tragedy..."



**Jess Patterson**  
"Very sad, going to miss Thiel."



**Jessica Crawford**  
"Sad because that means I can't be an alumna."



**Jacob Patterson**  
"Sad because I would miss all my friends."



**Andrew Denson**  
"Well, there goes my future as being Dean of Students."



**Than Oo**  
"Hopefully, there will be shorter lines in the Bistro."

## Who says we can't be roommates? Thiel housing breaks from Code to Coed

by Hunter Michaelis, hmichaelis@thiel.edu

From the days when Thiel College started out as a small campus in Greenville, one thing has been upheld by the administration: the housing should be separate by floor. The innovative news is that the administration has just agreed to allow for coed housing across the board.

The classic system has one floor of students with an accompanying RA, and the floors are split up according to the student's sex. However, an incoming freshman will now be able to experience what is like to have women living on the same floor as him, and vice-versa.

This decision came after a debate years in the making that Thiel was behind the times. These students argued that the college is very much conservative on many issues. Instead of looking at these issues, they have been allowed to continue.

"It really is quite ridiculous," Brian Johnson, a sophomore at Thiel, who has been described as the head of the effort, "Think of all the colleges that have coed housing. Why have we been so far behind?"

Johnson and his supporters have done their research. In a joint meeting with the ad-

ministration, Johnson and two of his colleagues brought the attention to Brown University, the University, and Oberlin, which are three very aged colleges. These colleges are just a few examples of those that offer coed housing.

"It's important to have coed housing," Mark Chambers, senior, one of Johnson's supporters, "We know that it's very important to the college experience to know what it's like to share a space with the opposite sex... After all, this issue isn't just us. We've surveyed, and it encompasses most of the stu-

dent body."

"Thiel has close to 150 years of existence, and yet, we are this far behind with housing," Haley Pascal, junior, and third presenter, added, "It doesn't make sense. The student body clearly wants change, according to our surveys. I think the administration just needed someone else to voice their opinions to move things along."

The administration, after hearing the extensive arguments of the three students, spent nearly a week considering what they heard. Their decision, which was unanimously in favor of the students, came from their arguments alone.

For hundreds upon hundreds of students who have come through Thiel with the current system, some may wonder what the big deal is and why nothing has ever been done about the issue.

"We always have the students' best interests in mind," an anonymous spokesperson of the administration explained, "However; we sometimes miss the things that don't seem like a problem. We appreciate those students who came forward and brought this issue to our attention."



Students of opposite genders eagerly anticipate being able to room with one another. Photo Credit: Lynae Jackson

**#Twittin' @Thielensian**

@????? - It's finally Friday! #pumped Going to get some serious homework done tonight!

@????? - I am never bored. There are so many things to do in Greenville, I don't know how to decide!

@????? - Dang, Public Safety, you got here quick. #lightningspeed

@????? - This class is seriously so interesting. I think I'm totally going to stop tweeting and pay attention. #global #lovethisclass

@????? - What if all the water fountains were fruit punch fountains... just sayin'.

@????? - Taco Bell breakfast is definitely not going to make me fat.

@????? - Totally psyched to room with my girlfriend next semester!

@????? - Everyone here is, like, absolutely a 10. #foxy #campusofwinners

@????? - The heat in my room works perfectly. #loveit

@????? - I'm pretty sure Juliet was a side chick... #shakespeare #westernhumanities

@????? - Having free laundry is the best. #thanksthiel

@????? - I'm so not excited to graduate.

### The Thielensian Staff

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### About the Thielensian

The *Thielensian* is Thiel College's student-run newspaper, funded by the Student Government Association.

Our mission is to serve the campus community by publishing timely, fair, and relevant news, sports, feature stories, and other information, and to provide a lively forum for student expression and the opinion of others on campus. 2347367592

The *Thielensian* encourages letters to the editor of 300 words or less by traditional mail and preferably by e-mail. Letters must be signed (no pseudonyms, please) and a phone number must be provided for verification.

Letters must be free from offensive language, personal attacks, obvious errors in fact, and libelous or potentially libelous statements. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity, and we reserve the right to reject any letter.

Guest columns, letters or other opinions expressed in the *Thielensian* are the views of the writer and don't necessarily reflect those of the staff and adviser or the college.

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## Fashion Frenzy: Crugg Crazy

by Katie Allgeier, kallg@thiel.edu

As many fashion-revelers have noticed, there has been one brand of footwear taking the streets by storm. As far as Beijing and Paris, Cruggs are being sold out in department stores, outlets, and brand storefronts. The iconoclast combination of Croc shoes and Ugg boots has become a must-have for the thrifty fashion lovers everywhere.

It has long been known that the biggest drawback of Ugg boots is that they are not waterproof. FaSham designers have solved this problem by combining the waterproof foam of Crocs with the warmth of Uggs. Now wearers can confidently march through inches of snow without worrying that their boots will leak or stain.

"Cruggs are the future of winter footwear," runway model Mia Blindito raved on her blog. "FaSham has made a name for itself with the introduction of Cruggs, and it would not surprise me to see further fashion innovations from its designers." Blinditio went on to predict updates to flip-flops, jeggings, and fedoras at the hands of FaSham, noting that the company should not limit itself to seasonal winterwear.

Students at nearby Grove City College have become addicted to the craze.

"I have four pairs, and I'm ordering two more this summer," said freshman Mary Krint. "I don't want to wait until winter because I'm afraid they'll sell out again."

Thus far, no Cruggs have been spotted on Thiel campus. However, with the opening of a Crugg storefront at Grove City Outlet Mall, students will soon be able to purchase this fashion staple at a reduced price, a perk that may lead to an explosion of Cruggs on campus.



With their waterproof durability and bright colors, Cruggs have quickly become a fashion craze.

## A Traditional Woman Living a Non-Traditional Life

by Melanie Thompson-Soros, msoros@thiel.edu



I recently received some very exciting news that I just had to share with all of my readers. Thiel has decided to totally change their format for recruitment and target older adults over the age of 65!

As you can imagine, this news sets very close to my heart as I have felt for some time that recruiting 18 year olds was a huge waste of time and money.

It may surprise my readers to learn that many of the older population have always longed to earn their degree - but had neither the time nor money because of their bloodsucking children. Now that their children are grown and supporting themselves - finally! - These folks are free to live their dream and attend college.

This will create some challenges for other departments at Thiel, though. For instance - since polyester pants suits and blue hair dye are highly flammable - additional fire extinguishers will be installed in all classrooms. Also, ramps will be built into every floor of every building and additional seating will be created so that caregivers can attend classes with their charges.

AVI has had to create menus that appeal to these older students and have stated that they will now be serving gruel, mashed potatoes and Jell-O three times a day - along with offering Ensure.

Evening entertainment, previously inclusive of alcohol and loud music, will instead now include viewing of the movies Cocoon and Cocoon II and feature square dancing.

And finally, Public Safety has announced that quiet hours Monday thru Friday have been changed to 8 p.m. till 6 a.m.; and weekend quiet hours have been changed to 8:30 p.m. till 6:30 a.m.

Wow! I don't know about you, but I'm so excited to see all these new changes that I might be up 'til 9 o'clock tonight!

## Notetakers being Reconsidered due to Unauthorized Distribution, Non-Anonymous Recipients

by Bri Tiedeman, [Btiedeman@thiel.edu](mailto:Btiedeman@thiel.edu)



Students are abusing The Learning Commons' new note-taking service. Photo credit: Natasha Brenneman

Words surfaced recently that The Learning Commons' sponsored note-taking services for disabilities are under review based on note-takers distributing notes to students not authorized to receive them, and on the grounds that recipients have become aware of whom their note-takers are in certain classes.

Both of these issues are becoming known due to the confidentiality guidelines stated in the Disability Services handbook.

"All explicit or implicit reference to a certain student and his or her disability is inappropriate," according to further conduct instruction.

Disability Services and Learning Commons officials are to meet with the board to re-evaluate the already in-tact guidelines before the fall of 2014 in order to prevent these

'under rap' issues from re-occurring.

"We do not want note-takers to know who they are note-taking for and we do not want our note-recipients knowing who their note-takers are, either," Molly Hurstine said from the Learning Commons staff. "These unveilings create for biased information and possibly hostile rapport."

Some students on the issue think that the note-taker system should have re-evaluated long ago, noting that "it's pointless to just copy the Powerpoints professors already give every student anyway, usually on Moodle," Marcus Riverio said. "Why should [the note-takers] get paid when they're not doing anything extra?"

The unauthorized distribution that is taking place sur-

rounded when two students were found in the library, not under The Learning Commons' program, with direct copies of their classes' note-taker's submissions. These student's names were not released, nor was the course code to which the notes pertained.

"I think that note-takers are incredibly case-dependent," Professor Teabig said of the fashion and design department. "It's great that we have services for these students, but in some cases not all classes call for this need...if the class structure does not call for it, it doesn't really make sense."

To date, the meeting for re-evaluation is not scheduled, but it will take place soon after commencement of this year. Follow-up changes from this meeting will be announced next school year.

## Thiel to Add New Varsity Sport - Curling

by Skipp Hogline, [Shogline@thiel.edu](mailto:Shogline@thiel.edu)

By next January stones will be sliding, brooms will be sweeping, and hammers will be dropping their way across the Thiel campus and into the hearts of PAC sports fans. With popularity of curling in the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics Americans have fallen in love with the raucous sport of curling. In a bold move to lead the conference in offering the sport, Thiel College has announced the formation of a varsity curling program. As 2014 becomes 2015 Thiel students will begin competing in the ever growing intercollegiate curling craze. Thiel will put two teams on the sheets next January; a men's team and a women's team. A "sheet" is the ice upon which curling is played and is similar in shape, but longer than a shuffleboard deck.

During the recent Winter Games, American college students discovered the fast paced action of a curling match. Many of the Olympic matches were carried live between 2 and 6 AM. This turned out to be excellent timing for Thiel students. Since that was a popular time for many students to be returning to campus from Illusions, Taco Bell, or Paxton's, Thiel students, like their counterparts across the country, turned on their TVs just in time to watch the brooms start sweeping. "90% of all televisions on at Thiel during that time, were turned to curling," said Vice President of Student Affairs, Mike McKinney.

Currently, USA Curling, is the national body in charge of curling teams and events. The NCAA, not wanting to be left behind in this curling frenzy, was receptive when Thiel representative approached them about forming a team. "Curling is becoming a true cultural phenomena", said Dr. Bob Batchelor, Associate Professor of Communication and Pedas Endowed Chair in

Communication.

"We believe that these new teams will give our student athletes another opportunity to develop leadership skills, while being competitive on the sheets in an exciting, action packed, and growing sport", said Athletics Director Jack Leipheimer. "Thiel will have the first NCAA sanctioned curling program", chimed in Amy Schafer, Assistant Athletics Director. "Currently, curling is only offered at the club level, and then by only a handful of schools mostly in Florida and Hawaii", she continued.

"Naturally, there will be some long travel trips as Thiel searches for other teams to play" Schafer added. "Just like they did by being the first PAC school with a Lacrosse team, Thiel will definitely be the first in curling," said Kevin Fenstermacher, Assistant Commissioner of The President's Athletic Conference. "Thomas More is also talking about forming a team, but St. Vincent College may be ready to curl even sooner", he continued. Apparently, St. Vincent himself was an avid curling enthusiast and was nicknamed the "Hammer". The moniker is a part of modern curling today as the name "Hammer" refers to the curling player designated to deliver the stone on the final "ends". Ends, of course are analogous to innings in baseball. There are ten "ends" in each curling match. Subsequently, the "Hammer" position is akin to a closer coming in from the bullpen.

In the coaching department, Thiel should have an advantage over other schools; Canadian coaching. Canada native, and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Dr. Alan Hunchuk will be Thiel's first Curling Coach. "I started curling at a young age, as many Canadians do," reminisced Coach Hunchuk. "As soon as I could slide the

44 pound stone in my driveway, I was smitten with the sport", he said. "I hoped to be a national class hammer, but my interest fell off after I discovered tractors; I just love tractors", remarked Hunchuk. "Then I went to Grad school in The States, so the opportunities to curl disappeared," he continued. "Curling is definitely a Global sport and by having a team Thiel will be exposing students to global culture", the coach added. Dr. James Koshan will serve as the assistant coach and chief recruiter for the teams. "Our research shows that many curling players are also interested in history, so Thiel may be able to attract students interested in becoming historians, as well as continuing their curling careers", Koshan said.

Schafer also announced that Sheetz will be underwriting the Thiel ice sheet. Sheetz Corporation wanted to give back to the loyal students who frequent the store so much. The Sheetz Sheet, as it will be called, will be built into the landscaping of the new Pedas Center between the Library and Roth Hall. It should be ready to curl in time for Homecoming. Until then, Thiel curlers will practice on a synthetic sheet similar to the ice skating rink Than Oo, Director of Student Activities, had for the Winter Weekend events. Oo said, "I have been consulting with Library Director, Allen Morrill about popping up a synthetic ice sheet in the basement of the Library." "It should fit nicely in the hallway between government documents and the magazine room," added Morrill. Oo also noted that this week's movie has been changed to a later weekend, so that there can be a special showing of the curling movie, "Men with Brooms". Morrill noted, "Curling is one of the few, maybe only, sport you can play while wearing a bow tie."

## Thiel Becomes Division I Competitor; NCAA Grants Appeal

by Paul Connelly, [Pconnelly@thiel.edu](mailto:Pconnelly@thiel.edu)



The football program is especially excited because, along with the Division increase, they will be getting new facilities. Photo Credit: Lynae Jackson

On Sunday March 30, the NCAA announced that Thiel College has been granted approval to be promoted to a nationally recognized division I school and will compete at the DI level in all athletics. Athletic Director, Jack Leipheimer, spoke on the school's behalf at a press conference held on campus shortly after the decision was made. "We're very proud of our accomplishments here in the past few years and we are proud to finally be recognized for our true abilities" said Leipheimer. "We're ready for the big time!"

The school began the process by filing an appeal to the NCAA, claiming that recent successes with the school's wrestling, track, and women's lacrosse programs were grounds for an official upgrade. "With the number of All-Americans the school has produced in the past decade and the number of conference championships

various athletics have produced, Thiel College should be considered for competition at the NCAA Division I level" the appeal stated. "The committee believes that the school is just too 'boss' for the President's Athletic Conference or any other DIII affiliate." After a six-month process that required a vote from representatives of every single DI school, the NCAA granted Thiel their new status by a unanimous decision. John Swofford, commissioner of the Atlantic Coastal Conference, believes that Thiel is the perfect contender for this level of play. "With the hard work, and tenacity that Thiel's athletes show day-in and day-out, they make up a program that is an ideal candidate for DI competition" said Swofford. "They are pretty boss!"

All of Thiel's athletics will now compete at the Division I level in the Patriot League amongst the likes of Buck-

nell, Lehigh, and Loyola (Md.). This will place Thiel football program in the D1AA subdivision as well. When the Thielensian asked Thiel wrestler, Ryan Carson, for his comments on the news he said, "Wait, what?!" Women's lacrosse middie, Abby Spriggs, stated, "You're joking, right?"

Thiel will also be able to grant full athletic scholarships, increase the allotment for offseason practice time, and get some pretty sweet gear for all athletes. Changes to the campus that are to be made include the demolition of the gymnasium and gym parking lot in order to make way for the new Tomcat Center, complete with a state of the art jumbotron, student fitness center, and an all new basketball court. Thiel kicks off their first DI season in September when Men's and Women's soccer is set to play Navy at the all new Alumni Stadium.

## New Major Addition

by Nathan Nitzczynski, [nmitczynski@thiel.edu](mailto:nmitczynski@thiel.edu)

Starting in the fall of 2014, Thiel semesters will be filled with dance. This new dance major, founded by alumna Angela Blackburn-Johnson, "will bring diversity, creativity, and some spunk to Thiel's curriculum," she said.

Thiel admin. will be hiring two full time professors to spear-head the dance program. Coach Amy Compton will be joining the Thiel staff. She harkens from Cleveland, Ohio, and has taught dance classes to many professionals at Cleveland State University and Lake Erie College.

"I am beyond excited to start a dance program at Thiel," Compton said. "I look forward to advising dance majors in the future."

Alongside Compton, Thiel will be hiring another full-time dance professor. Texas resident and dance director Rachel Domangue will be leaving her three year stint with the National Dance Alliance as the director of curriculum.

The duo of Compton and Domangue will be the driving force of this new major according to Dean of the College Lynn Franken. In addition to Compton and Domangue, one last addition of the new dance department will be adjunct professor Kelly Stolar. Stolar will also work at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania as an adjunct dance professor.

"I am excited to bring my prior expertise as a dance instructor to a new program," Stolar said. "I am anxious to see this department take off." Stolar's main focus of teaching is in the style of tap. She has had many years of teaching tap as well as assuming the role of being an artistic director for several dance companies.

The dance studio will be located in the Howard Miller Student Center where the Lutheran Heritage Room is located. The offices for the three professors will be going into the current admissions office. In turn, the art gallery and the dance faculty

will be sharing the same space.

A sample of classes being taught includes various levels of ballet, modern, jazz, tap, and contemporary. Other classes in this major will include history, composition, choreography, and pedagogy courses. Pointe, partnering, and hip hop and other various dance classes will be offered as well.

The main goal of this program is to train employable, marketable, and professional dancers. Compton, Domangue, and Stolar will prepare two major student review showcases per school year. Both of these performances will capstone each of the students' progress for the given semester.

"Blending the liberal arts education with the disciplines of this performing art will make Thiel college dance majors well rounded," Domangue said. "I am eager to bring my knowledge of dance and train future tomcat dancers."

**DISCLAIMER: This Thielensian and its articles were written and composed in the spirit of April 1. I cannot attest to the accuracy of the content, and I would like to remind everyone that this edition is not serious.**  
-- Keeley Criswell, Editor-in-Chief