

The Thielensian



Big Renovations Happening on Campus

By: Colin Schroyer

Thiel College is undergoing massive renovations this year, as the Academic Center will be receiving a brand-new entrance, as well as new turf for Stoeber Field at Alumni Stadium.

On March 11, Thiel College's Academic Center entrance began construction as it would be the soon-to-be-christened Daniel and Dorothy Spence Academic Center. The exterior of its main entrance and exit — as well as the nearby campus space — will be renovated to include a new entrance and sitting area.

The new name comes from Daniel and his late wife Dorothy Spence, prominent community leaders and philanthropists from the Greenville area. Together, they each provided \$2 million of a \$4 million gift for renovating the academic center. In honor of their generous donation, the newly renovated Academic Center will be named after them.

“Dottie [Dorothy] was always a very kind and generous person. In the final days of her life, she suggested that I should help people,” Spence said, amidst his recognition for the donation, “It is my hope that this gift to renovate the Academic Center will satisfy Dottie’s wish and will in fact help students for generations to come.”

Spence was inspired by the generational ties that Daniel Spence’s family has to

the college. Better Harter Spence '37, Daniel’s mother, graduated with a degree in mathematics from Thiel at the age of 16. His uncles, William Harter '33 and Rev. Dr. Nathan F. R. Harter '41, also graduated from Thiel; Rev. Dr. Harter taught classes at Thiel during the 1950s, while William was inducted into Thiel’s Athletic Hall of Fame in 1986. Furthermore, Nathan Warren Harter, Daniel’s grandfather, began as a professor of mathematics, astronomy, and geology — as well as a coach for football, golf, and tennis — at Thiel College in 1911. He was recognized for his commitment not only to the institution, at times forgoing pay in order to ensure the college could continue to function, but to the students, whom he would help to find jobs. A “unanimous resolution of the student body,” as described by the Greenville Record Argus, vouched for Harter Hall to be named after him following his passing in 1952. Not only that, but the Nathan Warren Harter Atrium, which was also a gift from the Spences, also bears his name.

Construction on the Daniel and Dorothy Spence Academic Center has continued throughout the month of March and will

continue to be worked on.

The Academic Center is not the only renovation coming to the Thiel College campus. Over the summer Stoeber Field at Alumni Stadium will be receiving new turf. As a donation incentive during this year’s Match Day fundraising efforts, the new design of the field was unveiled to boast a new color pattern, the Tomcat logo, and the words “THIEL” and “TOMCATS” in each end zone.

This refurbished field will be welcomed by student-athletes who utilize the field, as well as the local community who use the field for fun, recreation, and their own events. As a matter of fact, \$20,000 will be donated to aid in the installation and implementation of the new turf, as it will be of great service to the Mercer County community as well as the local Thiel community.

Students can expect a new Academic Center and Stoeber Field by the fall of 2024.

Planned Renovations.



Architectural Rendering

Current Events

Georgia Carries Out Death Sentence For First Time in Four Years

By: Jason Walsh II

Mar. 26, 2024 – A Georgia man was put to death for his conviction in 1993. 59-year-old Willie James Pye was convicted and given a death penalty sentence concluding his trial in 1993. Pye was convicted of the abduction, rape, and homicide of his ex-girlfriend, Alicia Yarbrough.

Before his execution, Pye’s attorneys filed multiple appeals to the appellate courts. The Supreme Court unanimously rejected the appeals. Pye’s attorneys argued that the state did not have a legal right to begin carrying out executions again after they were stopped by the COVID-19 pandemic. His legal team also argued that Pye was unfit to stand for execution due to an intellectual disability.

Pye and three other men, including a 15-

year-old, conspired to rob the man Alicia Yarbrough was living with. Instead, the three went to the house where she was staying and forced their way in. The three men then abducted her, leaving her baby unattended, and drove to a nearby motel. At the motel, the men raped Yarbrough and then put her back in the car. They then drove out to a dirt road where Pye ordered her out of the car, pushed her face down, and shot her 3 times.

Yarbrough’s body was discovered hours after her death. Authorities were able to make arrests on Pye and the two others. Pye and the other man claimed they had no knowledge of Yarbrough’s death. However, the teenager flipped on the two men to reach a plea bargain. The 15-year-old agreed to testify against them in court, strengthening the prosecutor's case. Pye was convicted. Prior to Pye,

the last person executed in Georgia was Donnie Cleveland Lance. Lance was executed on January 29th, 2020, for the conviction of murdering his ex-wife, Sabrina Lance, and her boyfriend, Dwight Wood Jr. Lance was executed by lethal injection.

Willie James Pye was executed by lethal injection. Witnesses stated that Pye was first asked if he had any last words, but he declined. Pye was then asked if he would like a prayer and he agreed. A brief prayer was given to Pye for God to have mercy on his soul. Pye was then given the injection and after several minutes his body went still. Pye was pronounced dead at 11:03 am at the state prison in Jackson.

Games to Watch

<p>WLAX</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th vs. WAYNESBURG (PAC MATCHUP)... 6:30p.m. SATURDAY, MARCH 30th vs. ALFRED 12p.m.</p>
<p>SOFT</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th vs. LA ROCHE 3p.m. FRIDAY, MARCH 29th vs. WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON (PAC).....3:30p.m.</p>
<p>BASE</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th vs. LA ROCHE4p.m.</p>

Current Events

CEO of Boeing Announces Resignation Amidst Investigation

By: Christina Newman

March 24th, 2024: Dave Calhoun, CEO of Boeing Aerospace company announces he is stepping down following the issues regarding their 737 Max Jet.

In January of this year, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) called for inspections of Boeing 737 Max 9 Jets after a door plug flew out, causing there to be a hole in the flight next to two unoccupied seats. In a news conference with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chair Jennifer Homendy, stated that if the accident had been at the cruising altitude of 35,000 feet and people were standing waiting for the restroom or walking the aisles of the aircraft, the accident could have led to something more tragic. Homendy added that they were thankful that the flight was "only 10 minutes from the airport when the door blew."

There were no major injuries following the incident, but some of the passengers on board were treated for minor injuries.



Dave Calhoun.

Several airlines in the country then grounded all 737 Max planes for inspections following the FAA orders, but some airlines only grounded the Max 9 planes, stating that the other models had not raised any concerns. It was found during the preliminary investigation that four key bolts were missing from the plane involved in the incident when it left the company's factory.

This is not the first time that Boeing's 737 Max has made national news regarding issues with the company. There were two deadly crashes involving their aircrafts, one being in 2018 in Indonesia, and the other being in 2019 in Ethiopia. These crashes resulted in a total of 346 people. In 2019 there was a worldwide halt for the aircraft. Following the halt, the first U.S. commercial flight with the Boeing 737 Max took place in December of 2020.

It was reported that the incidents were not just due to manufacturing flaws, but also due to Boeing not informing regulators about changes it made to the flight control system of the aircraft. It was concluded that the company did this to expedite the aircrafts certification process.

There is a criminal investigation being conducted by the Justice Department

regarding the Alaska incident. While most were unsure why Boeing chose to announce the change in management during this time, some critics are saying regardless of why, it was the best move.

Along with Calhoun, two other board members are stepping down. Board Chairman Larry Kellner announced he will not stand for the next re-election and President of Boeing Commercial Airplanes Division Stan Deal announced he will be retiring, which will be taking effect immediately.

In a letter Calhoun wrote to his employees, he stated: "The eyes of the world are on us, and I know we will come through this moment a better company, building on all the learnings we accumulated as we worked together to rebuild Boeing over the last number of years." Calhoun proceeded to announce that after some consideration and discussion with the

Michael Bunting

compa-ny's Board of Directors, it will be his last year as CEO. He thanked the other board members for stepping down for the work they had done, as well as the board members who are stepping up to fill roles and help during the transition. He ended his letter to his employees...

(cont. on pg. 4)

Current Events

CEO of Boeing Announces Resignation Amidst Investigation

(cont. from pg. 3)

...he stated: "The eyes of the world are on us, and I know we will come through this moment a better company, building on all the learnings we accumulated as we worked together to rebuild Boeing over the last number of years." Calhoun proceeded to announce that after some consideration and discussion with the company's Board of Directors, it will be his last year as CEO. He thanked the other board members for stepping down for the work they had done, as well as

the board members who are stepping up to fill roles and help during the transition. He ended his letter to his employees by stating, "As we begin this period of transition, I want to assure you, we will remain squarely focused on completing the work we have done together to return our company to stability after the extraordinary challenges of the past five years, with safety and quality at the forefront of everything that we do." During this transition, Boeing's board has elected Steve Mollenkopf to succeed

Kellner as Board Chairman. Mellenkopf will also lead the selection of the new CEO. In addition to this, third-generation employee, Stephanie Pope will take over leading Business Case Analysis (BCA) functions, in place of Deal. Many hope that this change in leadership will help improve Boeing's production and restore safety in the aircrafts that have been problematic in the previous years.

Mercer County Man Acquitted in Attempted Murder of State Trooper

By: Jacob Walsh

March 2024: John Barlow Jr, 60, was found not guilty of the charge of attempted murder after he tried to run over a State Trooper with his pick-up truck.

The verdict on the case of the Grove City resident was split and Barlow was also acquitted on 2 other charges. However, Barlow was found guilty of aggravated assault of a law enforcement offi-

cial, resisting arrest, reckless endangering, and driving with a suspended license.

The charges of the case come from a warrant being served for Barlow's arrest back in May of 2022. Barlow led state troopers on a vehicle chase where he drove off the road. When found, troopers ordered Barlow to exit the vehicle. That was when Barlow began to drive in the direction of the officer. It was

reported that he attempted to hit the troopers.

Barlow evaded police but was captured in Bulter County. The sentencing hearing for Barlow is scheduled for May 29, 2024.

The Mercer County District Attorney was not able to comment on the trial by the time of the deadline.

Staff: Hannah Stoughton (Editor-in-Chief/Webmaster), Jacob Walsh (Co-Editor-in-Chief), Jason Walsh II and Colin Schroyer (Staff Writers), Carol Birdy and Christina Newman (Co-Curricular Writers), Prof. Matthew Humphrey (Advisor)