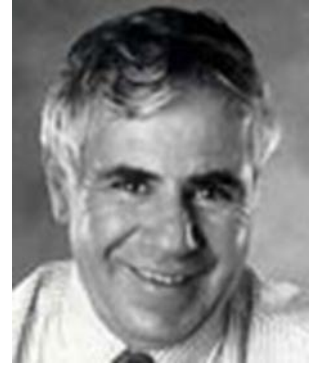




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Event: Neil Rolde at Thomas College

Wednesday, September 28 at 12:00pm

WATERVILLE, September 28 — Thomas College will host historian and former State Legislator, Neil Rolde. Rolde's many books focus on the fascinating episodes, conflicts and people that make up Maine's history. Rolde will speak in the Ayotte Auditorium on Thomas College's campus at 180 West River Road in Waterville and is open to the public at no charge.

Rolde will draw from his work in *The Interrupted Forest: A History of Maine's Wildlands* in his talk at Thomas. Telling the story of Maine's North Woods, *The Interrupted Forest* describes that political history of the millions of acres of quasi-wilderness that we now know as the Unorganized Territory. The political dynamics of the Unorganized Territory are consequential since the area encompasses more than half of the state of Maine and the largest forested region in the Eastern US. The story spans controversies over land sales, clear-cutting and spraying, proposals for a gigantic National Park, the future of the pulp and paper and lumber industries, and even a secession movement in Northern Maine. Furthermore, the history of the North Woods is a particularly timely subject given the state's current political battle to reform LURC, the agency responsible for overseeing its development.

Rolde is a historian and a remarkable Maine resource. He has served on many governmental committees including the Maine Health Care Reform Commission, the Maine Children's Health Care Task Force, the Laptop Learning Task Force, the Maine Arts Commission, and the Maine Humanities Council. He has also served with many private, non-profit groups supporting educational and environmental initiatives in Maine.

For more information about the event, please contact Jennifer Buker, Director of Public Relations, at (207) 859-1319 or bukerj@thomas.edu.

About Thomas College: Thomas College, founded in 1894, is a private liberal arts college in Waterville, Maine. Thomas offers a rich liberal arts and professional studies curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students in a wide variety of programs including arts and sciences, business, criminal justice, education and technology. Thomas is focused on providing an accessible and affordable quality education to any student who is motivated to work hard and succeed. Thomas provides a supportive learning environment for all students—many of whom are first generation college students—and encourages them to discover and fulfill their unique potential. Thomas is the only college in the nation that offers its graduates Guaranteed Job Placement within six months of graduation. For more information about Thomas College, please visit www.thomas.edu.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Buker at bukerj@thomas.edu or 207.859.1319.

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