

The History of Thomas College

I graduated in 1950.

I graduated in 1949.

Your education has been a big help to you.

Oh yes, but another thing, too. I didn't know I was going to get a wife out of it.

They didn't guarantee anything.

I can't believe how much it has grown, from the third floor over Woolworths to the campus that you have here now.

It's outstanding.

[Music]

We have very humble roots. We were there to train local people in different areas of business; secretarial or accounting or business management skills that were needed by the workforce, and it was just a fairly simple straightforward practical offering.

We moved from Main Street to Silver Street and it was very tiny, and you had to you had to you had to participate. Whether it was any kind of play or any kind of musical event or sports. I wrote for the school paper. I mean, stuff that I would never have done because it was so small - you had to play.

The college grew to its point in 1969 or 70 when this land was purchased, and the start of this campus began on the banks of the Kennebec. A lot of the students, they were very family-oriented, so Thomas was a good choice for them because we were small and intimate.

There'd been a great transition from trying to be a business school to be more diverse, into more of the liberal arts. We started some new programs to become broader based: programs in education, programs in criminal justice, programs in sports management, which really didn't exist back then. It was a refiguring of the school.

Their key decision was really bringing in President Spann, George Spann, and he was the absolute right man at the right time for the college.

Through Conrad's leadership of 25 years ago, look where we are today. So, it means a lot it means a lot, means a lot to the people who've been around, who've weathered the storm, and it means a lot to the future leaders of Thomas as to where we're going and the level of pride they'll need to carry forward into the next generation.

The growth that has happened over my tenure here is, just, it's unimaginable. The athletic center, dormitories, expansion of the student center, heavy-duty renovation in the Ayotte building, and the auditorium over there, and now we have new fields. We have just grown at a pace that we can sustain. We try to be very true to our roots and make very business-based decisions but grow in a way that we can continue to support people's dreams.

There's no way I would be prepared for my career today, for life today, if it wasn't for Thomas.

Thomas prepared me for researching and understanding that you've got to give 110 percent to get back what you want.

Taught me how important being involved in your community can be.

If you took a magic wand and you extracted all of the Thomas grads from the main business community, there would be a gaping hole left behind.

And they came from this little school in Central Maine that not too many people knew about but our alums are certainly giving people an idea of what Thomas is all about now.

As we tell the stories of alumni it inspires generations of the future, because things are possible. You invest in yourself, in your education. All things are possible.

This road of a successful school that helps kids achieve their dreams.

[Music]