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THE **Thomas Challenge**
Guaranteeing the Future



For more than a century, Thomas College has prepared young people for careers in business, technology and education. Its graduates epitomize the self-reliance, hard work and pragmatism that form the bedrock of New England and our nation. The impact of thousands of Thomas graduates on the regional economy has been, and continues to be, substantial. Our students go on to become business leaders, community volunteers and mentors of youth.

In order to guarantee the future of Thomas and those we serve, the College is embarking upon a strategic strengthening of all institutional aspects. This entails expanding and improving facilities, increasing the endowment to provide more student financial aid, and building the annual fund.

The means for achieving these ends is a capital fund-raising campaign called The Thomas Challenge: Guaranteeing the Future.

The success of this campaign will result in exemplary new assets for our students and the community. It is an effort worthy of our past, consistent with our present and inspirational for our future.

This is our challenge. In meeting it, each of us can make a difference. I thank you in advance for your enthusiasm, commitment and financial support. Our College, our community and New England will be a better place to live and work thanks to your generosity.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George R. Spann".

George R. Spann
President

THE THOMAS STORY

Thomas is distinctive in a way that no other college in New England can afford to be: it guarantees jobs for its graduates. Reflected in its extraordinary 95 percent job placement rate is the indisputable truism that Thomas students are well respected in the workplace and active contributors to society. In fact, more than 120 businesses and organizations in Maine alone employ four or more Thomas alumni.



“I feel I’ve already grown into a stronger person and team builder at Thomas. As a resident assistant my second year, I learned how to involve students and build a community.”

— Molly Tibbetts '06
Dover-Foxcroft, Maine

Hard work, service and community make up the foundation on which careers are built. Thomas students come to college ready to work and help others. They arrive to find a sense of community in all that the College does. Stories abound concerning the powerful sense of commitment that students experience from a dedicated community of teachers and scholars—and employers see first-hand what that means for their enterprises.



ENDOWED FINANCIAL AID FUNDS

Alden Trust	E. G. Morris Scholarship
Alpha Gamma Delta Endowment	J. W. Parks Family Trust
Alumni Endowment	Peoples Heritage Endowment
Steve Brown Endowment	Rancourt Scholarship
Enterprise Foundation Endowment	Charles Ryan Scholarship
The Francis F. Bartlett, Jr., Scholarship Fund	H. Allen Ryan Endowment
Ford A. Grant Scholarship Fund	Bernadean Staples Scholarship
Salvatore Leone Scholarship	Thomas College Employee Fund
Lunder Scholars Endowment Fund	John L. Thomas Memorial Scholarship
Margaret S. Marnet Memorial Scholarship	Tree Tops Scholarship Fund
K. C. McInnis Scholarship	Nina-Lee Warnick Award

ANNUAL FUND

Well-equipped classrooms, small student-to-teacher ratios and a community atmosphere all play a part in the personal attention students receive at Thomas. Preparing confident, capable and connected men and women who are guaranteed a job requires significant resources that only a robust Annual Fund can provide.

The College's Annual Fund supports student scholarships, curriculum enhancements, faculty development, information technology, library acquisitions and athletic initiatives. It preserves the College grounds, supports lectures, and funds student clubs, intramural sports and a host of other campus activities. Gifts to the Annual Fund help keep a Thomas education affordable by relieving the pressure to increase tuition in order to meet critical needs.



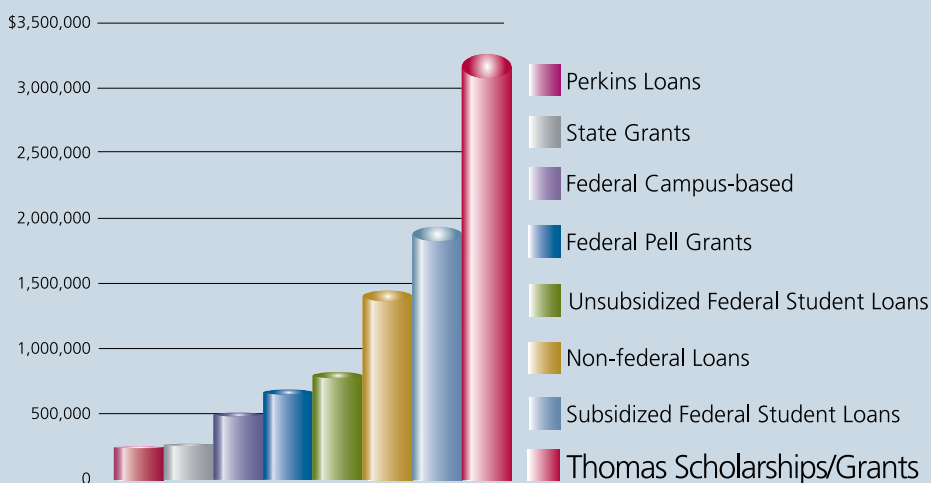
In fiscal year 2004, leadership gifts of \$250 and above accounted for 82 percent of the unrestricted and restricted Annual Fund gifts from alumni, parents, friends and corporations. The goal for the Guaranteeing the Future campaign is to raise \$1 million over five years, elevating the Annual Fund to \$225,000 annually in support of Thomas's educational mission.

ENDOWMENT

Thomas awards more than \$3.4 million in institutional scholarships and grants annually to 95 percent of its students. Each and every Thomas student who demonstrates financial need receives funding. With only \$90,000 of financial aid funded by endowment income, and federal and state grants remaining stagnant or shrinking, the College struggles to meet the growing need. Nevertheless, Thomas is committed to doing so and therefore plans to raise \$3.5 million in new financial aid funds over the next five years.



Student Aid by Source



Institutional scholarships and grants—essential for ensuring access to a Thomas education—represent the largest component of the student aid package.

When funds are committed to the endowment, the principal is not spent. Instead, approximately five percent of the portfolio's value is awarded to students with need. In years when earnings and appreciation on the endowment exceed four percent, the additional value is added to the endowment fund as a hedge against inflation. This guarantees that the fund will exist in perpetuity, meeting the needs agreed upon by the College and its donors.

“With shrinking federal and state aid, there is nothing more important than endowed financial aid funds if we want a Thomas education to remain accessible to Maine students.”

— Beth Gibbs '93
vice president of financial affairs
and treasurer



A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION



A Thomas education is a complete experience. Students have access to a thriving academic community, a supportive campus life, diverse business internships, an assortment of athletic opportunities and an introduction to community service. With an average class size of 17 and a student to faculty ratio of 15:1, Thomas provides personalized attention, helping students realize their potential and secure well-paying jobs.

The faculty brings a range of backgrounds and experiences to the classroom. They are teachers and scholars as well as industry, business and state government leaders. Dr. James Libby, a former Maine legislator, chose to teach at Thomas because of its legacy of producing quality graduates in the fields of business and politics.



"I sought a job at Thomas because I wanted to return to higher education after my work in politics, and I remembered how many influential Mainers got their start here."

— James Libby, Ph.D.
assistant professor of
business administration
and men's basketball coach

Thomas places a high priority on first-rate classroom instruction as well as frequent contact between faculty and students outside of class. The faculty's own practical experience helps students make the connection between theory and real-world applications in their disciplines.

At Thomas, individuals are often transformed from youthful and eager first-year students to critical thinkers, dedicated team players and community advocates. By the time they graduate, they are confident, capable, connected and guaranteed a job. With a solid foundation, their growth continues as they become educators, entrepreneurs, innovators and leaders.



FIRST GENERATION

More than one-half of the young men and women who come to Thomas as undergraduates are the first in their families to attend college. Three-quarters of the students are from Maine, and more than 90 percent rely on financial aid to attend. Thomas represents their opportunity to go to college and Maine's opportunity to educate its youth.



“The first generation in college understands hard work is important. They know they have to make it on the merits of what they do, not on the merits of other people.”

— William Ryan, Thomas trustee and chairman, president, and CEO of TD Banknorth Inc.

Through the College's internship program, seniors are matched with an organization or business that relates to their field of study, opening the doors of opportunity, predominately in the state of Maine. On average, 95 percent of Thomas graduates are hired in their fields of study within 90 days of graduation. Of these individuals, 85 percent stay in Maine to work, even though approximately one quarter of Thomas students now comes from out of state. Large and small businesses alike depend upon Thomas for their employees.





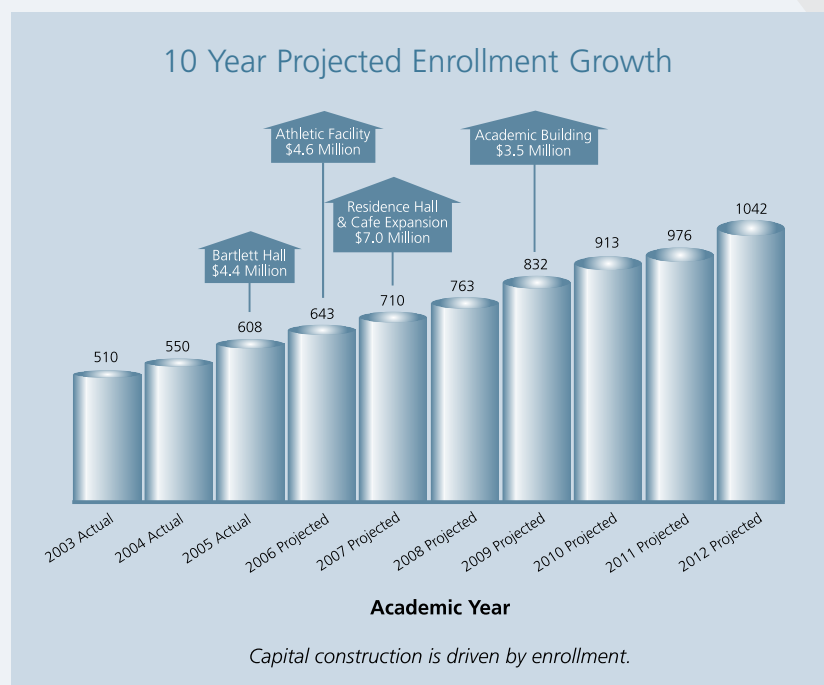
EXPECTED RESULTS

CONSTRUCTION OF A FIELD HOUSE WILL HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE COLLEGE IN TWO IMPORTANT WAYS

Attract and retain more students

Other colleges in Maine that have added recreation and athletic centers have seen a significant increase in student recruitment and retention.

At Thomas, expanded recreational opportunities and new wellness programs will encourage more students to enroll and will enhance the social and residential experience for existing students.



Provide recreational, educational and leadership opportunities that prepare graduates for the workforce

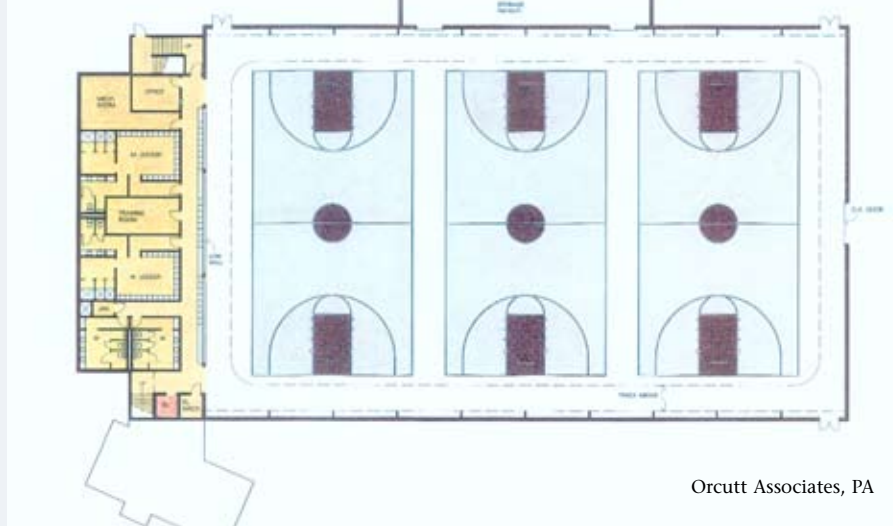
A field house will create healthy and productive individuals by providing a place to gather and exercise. It will support the College's varsity teams whose competitive success depends upon proper facilities and equipment. It will also drive the new club and intramural programs that promote health and interaction. Team sports teach leadership, strategy and teamwork—all the ingredients that better prepare students to succeed in their careers and personal lives.



“Sports management majors will be able to get hands-on experience in facility management by assisting with the operation of the field house.”

— Greg King, assistant professor of sports management and men's baseball coach

STUDENTS EXPECT QUALITY FACILITIES



Orcutt Associates, PA

When choosing a college today, students are looking for more than just academics. They also consider the quality of the residential and recreational facilities on campus.

In a 2004 survey, individuals were asked why they ultimately chose another college instead of Thomas. More than 60 percent based their choice on facilities. Thirty-six percent responded that the college of their choice had superior recreational facilities.

THE NEW RECREATION CENTER WILL FEATURE:

- > A multi-sport, three-court surface
- > An elevated jogging track
- > A fitness center
- > A multipurpose room
- > A plyometrics room
- > Locker rooms
- > Administrative offices
- > Equipment storage

The new 38,000 square-foot field house will triple the number of varsity, club and intramural teams that can simultaneously practice or hold games.

Thomas's expanded enrollment has strained the potential of its one-court gymnasium. One-third of the student body participates in NCAA Division III intercollegiate athletics, and an additional one-third is involved with one of the 20 club and intramural programs. From November to March, men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball and lacrosse teams are forced to share limited space. Currently, only a single team can utilize the one-court gymnasium at a time. Intramural teams often wait until late in the evening for court time. Students who want to exercise have limited access to the facility from mid-afternoon until midnight.

A field house will help the College's varsity teams be more competitive and facilitate new club and intramural programs that enhance fitness and teamwork. Moreover, a 38,000 square-foot center will triple the number of teams and clubs that can simultaneously practice or hold games.



THE JOB GUARANTEE



The College's unwavering confidence in its curriculum and faculty, and a remarkable job placement rate, spurred a commitment to launch the Guaranteed Job Placement Program. Students will have a job in their field of study within six months after graduation

"We want to see our students employed full time. We want to see them get jobs and be successful. That is the fundamental reason why Thomas implemented the Guaranteed Job Placement Program."

— George Spann, Ph.D.
president of Thomas

or Thomas will pay the federal loans incurred for one year or until they get jobs. Those who are not employed in the field they studied can return to Thomas and take free courses for up to two years. To qualify, Thomas students must maintain a 2.75 grade point average, complete an internship and work with the office of Career Services.

In the classroom, students are exposed to a rigorous curriculum and are challenged to their fullest potential. They learn responsibility while working on projects with classmates. They are invested in their education and motivated by opportunities.

Students benefit from a diversity of programs, faculty, technology and facilities. They broaden their skill sets, increase their competence and build positive attitudes. They have access to leadership positions in and out of the classroom that nurture their abilities and make them more confident. As a result, they become well-rounded individuals, prepared for the workplace.

Students have access to leadership positions in and out of the classroom that nurture their abilities and make them more confident.



THE Thomas Challenge

Guaranteeing the Future



Thomas began as a business college and thus has always been focused on measurable results. The College provides career-oriented education at an affordable price to students seeking a personalized course of study. Providing access and ensuring success has proved a winning combination—one that permits the College to guarantee jobs for its students.

“I chose Thomas for its class sizes, great one-on-one attention and overall campus community life.”

— Nick Cliche '06
Waterford, Vermont

Improved student facilities, additional financial aid endowment, and increased annual giving in support of the educational mission help guarantee the future and allow the College to offer a comprehensive education that takes into account the physical and social needs of today's student community.

The time is now for Guaranteeing the Future of the College, thereby assuring that future generations of Thomas students benefit from the same attention, access and preparation that have assured our graduates success for decades. Thomas, the state of Maine, and the regional economy will be the long-term beneficiaries of this campaign.



“When students come to a small college like Thomas and get the individual attention, they tend to blossom. These are the kids who then go out into the work place and do such a wonderful job.”

— H. Allen Ryan, Thomas trustee
and founder of NorthCenter
Foodservice Corporation

CAMPAIGN GOALS

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION

Student Recreation and Athletic Center
(Field House) \$4.6 million

ENDOWMENT

Scholarship Aid 3.5 million
Building Maintenance .5 million

ANNUAL GIVING

1.0 million

TOTAL

\$9.6 million



“Thomas is the kind of college where you will see instant results when you give monies to support the students and faculty.”

— William Ryan, Thomas trustee and chairman, president, and CEO of TD Banknorth Inc.

STUDENT RECREATION AND ATHLETIC CENTER

Thomas’s mission is to prepare its students for success in their personal and professional lives. The College’s strategic plan mandates capital construction that will facilitate these accomplishments. By enhancing the College’s infrastructure, students will have more access to leadership opportunities and additional chances to explore their personal strengths. A student recreation and athletic center (field house) is a vital part of today’s comprehensive educational experience and is the single most important facility needed to guarantee Thomas’s future.

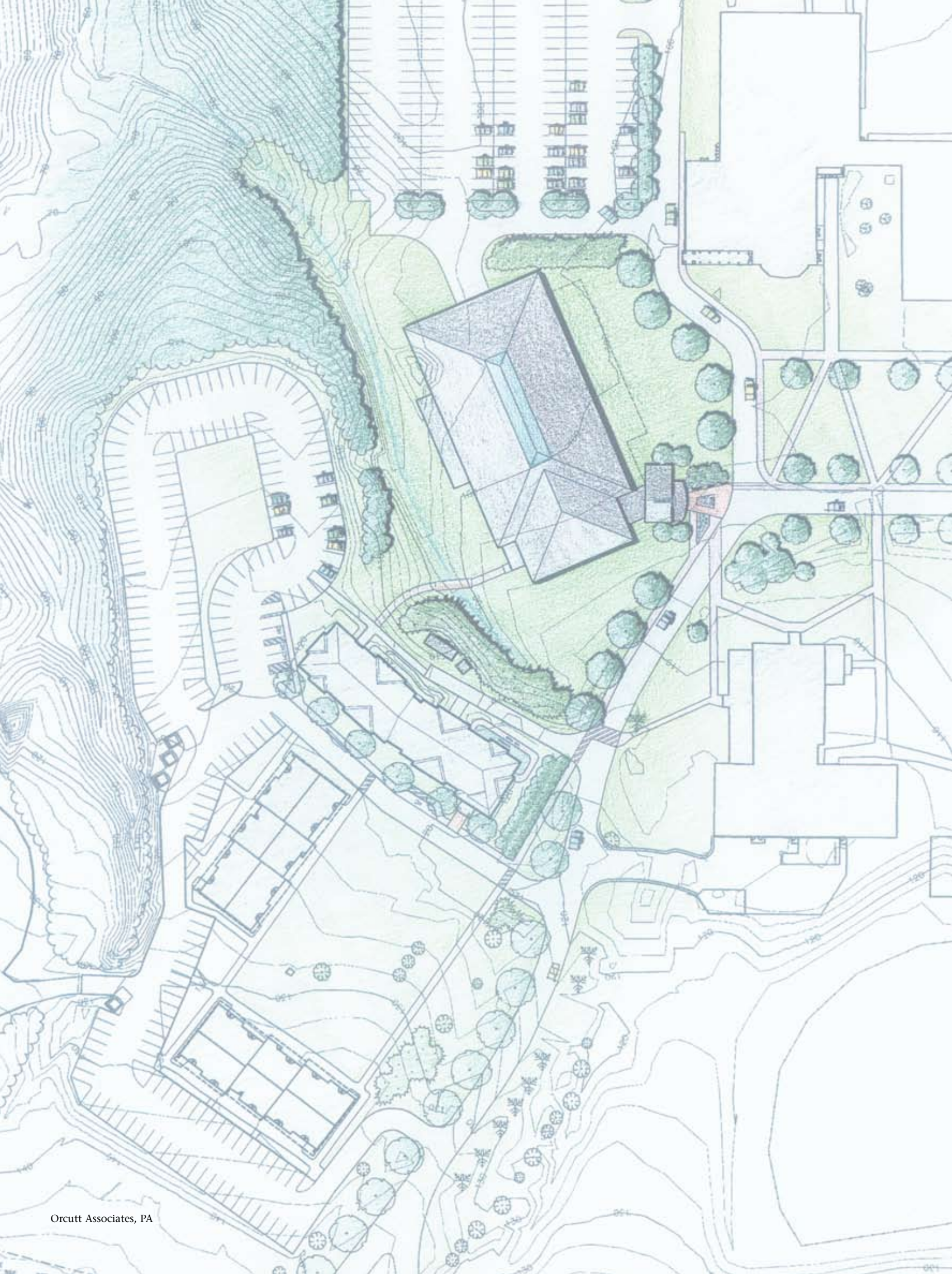




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Guaranteeing the Future

*“An investment in knowledge always
pays the best interest.”*

-Benjamin Franklin



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Guaranteeing the Future

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