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Thomas Beyer Interview

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Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 0:02

This is Alex Berardi interviewing Thomas... how do you say your last name?

Thomas Beyer 0:07

Beyer

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 0:08

Beyer, and we are here in the second floor lounge of McFarlane. It's October 2nd. Ok, so before you ever came to college, what were your parents opinions of college?

Thomas Beyer 0:23

Um, it was definitely something that was expected in my family. Um, both of my parents were the first to go to college and get degrees, they were both engineers. And so it was something that was seen as beneficial in my family and definitely the way to move forward in your life so... um, definitely from a young age, it was expected that we would be going ahead we just didn't, it was up to us to decide what for.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 0:51

So, what was High School like?

Thomas Beyer 0:57

Um, I went to a small town... um, Owego New York and Owego free Academy. Um, very small, we had a graduating class of 140... 141, I believe. We were a very small, very close community. We are very close especially, there were the two floods in the 2000s and it just kind of brought our whole community together so we were very close knit community

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 1:31

Is there anything you did to prepare yourself for college?

Thomas Beyer 1:48

So, our school offered a lot of dual enrollment college courses with Tonkin's Cortland Community College. They were kind of designed to gear us towards college and kind of give us a little bit of an insight of what it would be like, just in general, trying to prepare us for college. That's what those were for. We really didn't have any courses that explored college or what we wanted to get out of college.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 2:32

Ok, so we know your parents' view of college, but what was yours?

Thomas Beyer 2:36

Well, wanted to get an education of course and, hopefully, hopefully move forward with my goals to be a physical therapist. Um, but that's also, in a sense, trying to figure out myself. I'm, I'm an RA here on campus, as you know. And I think part of why I decided to take that role is I want to be more outgoing, be better at meeting different types of people, and just kind of broaden my horizons because I feel like that's. Another important part of college is just that. It introduces

you to so much that you did not or might not have necessarily seen growing up, and I think that that's a great thing. Just for moving on in the world in general.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 3:30

Ok, so what made you choose Brockport?

Thomas Beyer 3:32

I'm, I'm in a Doctorate of physical therapy program. And I had a few choices. Umm half of them were out the window from the beginning because they cost \$60,000 a year to go to and I don't have that money. Um, I ended up, it came down to here or Le Moyne for me. Um, I just, there was just a feeling like I could belong at this place I don't know exactly what it was maybe it was the layout. Maybe it was the tour guide. At Le Moyne, I didn't know my tour guides, one of my friends from high school, gave me the tour around here and it seemed more homey to me. And ever since getting here I've just loved it. So.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 4:22

Would you say that having people here that you knew helped you transition during your first year?

Thomas Beyer 4:28

I never really talked to him my entire first year. Still, I think what helped me most with my transition was my LLC I was in the future health professionals LLC last year so I surrounded by a bunch of people with similar interests to me, and we went to the same classes, we went to the gym together. Got our meals together studied together everything we just kind of bonded as like a floor. We had like our own little family and my wing last year. And I think that helped me more than anything was just kind of finding that group that I belong to, and a group that I could trust and, you know, pursue similar goals.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 5:12

Ok, so being an RA, have you found it difficult trying to keep those friendships you made last year intact?

Thomas Beyer 5:25

Um, that is one of the things that I'm working on currently. We're here in MacFarlane, um, I had to pass up on rooming with my three closest friends to take this position. It was going to be the four of us. And it's those three have a room together. And I'm a little bit displaced over here. Um, it's been interesting at some points it feels like, You know, I may be missing out on experiences with them. I see them almost every day. I'm guess... it's less time. So occasionally, they'll have an inside joke. I'd be like, What are you talking about, like oh this happened and I'll be like, Oh gosh darn. But we're all close enough that, you know, it really doesn't matter. And we all make time to see each other. There's, I've made a few sacrifices to pursue this position to help me moving forwards in my own life. And they understand that completely, and they support me. So It's, it's an interesting dynamic. I do think that it is challenging at some points. But I do think that this position is a good thing for me.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 6:41

Did you find that there were any differences between your first year of college and high school?

Thomas Beyer 6:53

Um, certainly my mom wasn't on top of me. 24 seven. I didn't have my parents like giving me a list of what this is what you have to do. And for the first two weeks. I didn't, I wasn't being told what to do so then I just didn't do. I didn't get out very much in the beginning I was kind of quiet and just kind of figuring myself out for a bit. It took me a while, but then I started to branch out started **meeting** my friends after that point when I finally opened myself up. I had an RA in McLean last year, who really - he met me at my level where I was. He wasn't forcing me to go out of my comfort zone. He just kind of gradually pulled me out of my shell and introduced me to what Brockport had to offer. **so** a lot of that first semester was just me breaking out of my shell that I put myself in. And, you know, that, that was my first semester. It was just that challenge of finding out who I am here. Now that everything's different I'm in a different environment. How can I relate my past experiences to where I am presently.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 8:15

So what did you do for fun outside of classes?

Thomas Beyer 8:21

Ah, boy. We played cards a bit, we were really. We were interesting. My group last year, we had a floor group chat, and we would go and. Okay, we had a week long game of tag, we had rules and boundaries for the, umm for Monday until Thursday, you were safe inside the buildings. The only way you could get tagged as a **zero time** class, and then you could not tag the person that tagged you. And we had probably 30 people playing. There was chaos, it was crazy. And that's really how we all bonded is just this crazy ridiculous game that we all made up and **that's** how we got to know each other. But we were just, we were running around like crazy. And that was at that time where we had just discovered TRAX and every night we'd be sniping each other when we're trying to get some pizza. And then the final day the final day was chaotic. You were no longer safe in the buildings. So we were just locking ourselves in our rooms and we're running sprinting down the halls.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 9:45

So, it was a free for all?

Thomas Beyer 9:46

Yeah, it was. It was crazy, but that was one of the things we did. And a more serious note we studied together for most of our exams, anatomy and physiology survey, basically everyone in that building had that class so we could always find someone to study with for that. I'm getting lunch, and we have the group chat. Yeah, we had the saying "food right now". And we just send that whenever we were hungry and they're instantaneous so they'd be like five other people are like, Yeah, let's go. And, yeah, we just. Yeah, just things like that we looked. We looked to make the most of our opportunities and the people around us and we bonded in the most ridiculous of ways but we bonded nonetheless.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 10:38

Sometimes the most ridiculous ways are the best ways.

Thomas Beyer 10:42
It's true.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 10:44
So, if you could go back to your freshman year, is there anything you would change?

Thomas Beyer 10:51
Umm. looking back, probably not. I think the way I approached my freshman years where I tend to approach most things, I, it takes me a while to break in once I feel comfortable. I'm never going to stop running my mouth. That's typically the way I knew things are there, it took me a few weeks and then everybody knew me after that. everybody. And, you know, it's just once I got comfortable here. I had, I felt grounded here, you know I was just able to, you know, broaden my horizons, reach out, meet new people, do new things. And I think I made the most of my freshman year in that regard.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 11:44
So, besides the story about the week long game tag, do you have any other stories that really stick out to you?

Thomas Beyer 11:57
yeah this was a very interesting decision we made. One of my better friends at the time, who's no longer going here. Um, he came to our group while we were all studying and it's the weekend before finals week, we're all cramming like crazy. And he's like, Hey, who wants to go for a drive to Niagara Falls and it's 11pm at night we're dog tired. And we all say yes because I couldn't tell you why. Looking back, we just did. So I drove, he drove. We had about, we had nine I believe between the two of us, driving going up to Niagara Falls we're getting up there at like 1230 at night. It's pitch black it's freezing cold. I still don't understand why we did it, but we were just kind of that was like our last hurrah, heading into the final week, and just kind of solidified all of our friendships that night, is like, Oh, I feel like I'm a part of something here, you know, no matter what we end up doing. I feel like we have each other's backs. We're looking out for each other or exploring together. And it just kind of made. I don't know I just kind of solidified those friendships that we'd had. Very interesting.

Berardi, Alexander L (abera1) 13:36
Alright, well thank you for letting me interview you.

Thomas Beyer 13:41
Thank you for having me.

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