

Tom Sokol

During his college years, Tom Sokol commuted to the then College of Steubenville from Toronto, Ohio, and studied business. After graduating in 1969, Sokol began work as an internal auditor with GTE Corporation, joined the Army Reserves for six years, and picked up an MBA from Gannon University.

Tom spent 15 years with GTE, did a stint as director of Internal Audit for the National Exchange Carrier Association in New Jersey, then joined United Telecommunications (now Sprint) in 1984.

During his 23 years with United Telecommunications, Sokol served in several high-level positions including vice president for Human Resources and state executive for Virginia and Tennessee. He also oversaw the spin-off of Embarq, a local-exchange entity, from Sprint's long-distance business. His retirement in May 2007, marked the end of his 38-year career in the telecommunications industry.

Since retirement, which he highly recommends, the 62-year-old Sokol has been completing his term as chairman of the Richmond Downtown YMCA and helping with the RCIA program at St. Anne Parish in Colonial Heights.

Looking back, Sokol says the College gave him "very strong basics in ethics" and challenged him to live life completely. "Balanced among the career was a lot of involvement in the community, kind of a light that told you the right way to do things, and I credit Franciscan for doing that."

Sokol also met his wife, Donna (Imgrund '69), at the College. They were married in July 1969 and raised three daughters and a son. They have one grandchild.