

# Comet Alumni Spotlight

Doctor Blake Cohen  
St. Thomas Class of 1999

**Educational Background:** I started Kindergarten at Keller school and transferred to St. Thomas in second grade. I then went to Peoria Notre Dame High School from 1999 to 2003. I earned my Bachelor's Degree from Saint Louis University and my Medical Degree from Southern Illinois University, graduating in 2011. I then did my radiology residency at the University of Missouri at Kansas City and my fellowship at Mayo Clinic.

**Recent Achievements:** My second year back working in Peoria in 2019 I was named Radiology Teacher of the Year by the radiology residents at the University of Illinois at Peoria. I have been very lucky that I have had the privilege to train many future doctors as part of my job.

**Family:** I am the oldest of 3 kids, with 2 younger sisters. I have a wife, Annie, and 2 kids, Jonathan who is 6 and Laurel who is 3.



**Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet:** My time at St. Thomas was filled with many great memories. I had two experiences that were especially memorable for me. The first was singing a rap song about junk food in the school play when I was in 6th grade. The other was during my seventh grade year when we won the Diocesan basketball tournament. We had a great team and put a lot of hard work and long hours in the gym that paid off with a great title for the Comets.

**St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you:** I had many great teachers during my time at St. Thomas. Ms. Hertz was my second grade teacher and made my transition from a new school easy and fun. Mrs. Crawmer was my eighth grade teacher and was instrumental in preparing me for all the future schooling I would endure.

**Piece of advice for current Comets:** Never forget your roots! I still stay in touch with many of the people that I went to St. Thomas with and consider a few of them life long friends. I also was often surprised during all my training to find some connection to Peoria in the people that I encountered which led to an instant connection and camaraderie.

**Comet Siblings:** Both of my sisters live and work in Peoria. Samantha works as an accountant for Caterpillar and Natalie is also a doctor with Unity Point