

Comet Alumni Spotlight

Zac Cowan

St. Thomas Class of 2003



Educational Background:

I graduated from Saint Thomas in 2003 and attended Peoria Notre Dame, where I graduated in 2007. I then attended Western Illinois University where I received my Bachelors Degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration, with a minor in Military Education in 2011. After graduation, I became a United States Army Infantry Officer and attended, Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course in Fort Benning, Georgia, in 2012. Following this, I attended Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia. I graduated with a Masters of Public Administration, Government Systems, in 2014. Most recently, after becoming a Captain in the United States Army, I graduated from Maneuver Captains Career Course (MCCC) in Fort Benning, Georgia.

Piece of advice for current Comets:

Work very hard to reach your goals, but don't be afraid to make mistakes from time to time in pursuit of them. Some of my best life lessons have come from making mistakes. Learn from it and keep driving forward.

Family:

I have two sons, Holden and Casen, and a loving wife Jori. My older brother, Cory Cowan, is also a Comet and serves as a coach on many of the school sports teams. My nephews Jax, Knox and Wyx attend STS as well. My mother and father, Tammy and Scott Cowan, are still married and reside in the Peoria area.

Recent Achievements:

I am blessed to say that I am currently doing the jobs I always wanted to do as a kid. In my civilian career, I currently serve as an Investigator for the Peoria Police Department. However, I am currently still serving in the Army National Guard as an Infantry Officer. I was honored to find out that I was selected as the Infantry Battalion Operations Officer for an overseas deployment. More recently I was informed I would be appointed to the rank of Major.

Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet:

My friend Doug Elbert and I participated in the STS lip-sync contest every year during spirit week. One year we did "Just the Two of Us" as Dr. Evil and Mini-Me from the movie Austin Powers, and it was a big hit. We received a lot of laughs for our performance. I've always enjoyed being the class clown.

St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you:

Ms. DePauw was my 7th grade teacher and I loved how she taught. She was strict when she needed to be, but was always forgiving when you made mistakes. She also, for some reason enjoyed class clowns, which I was. It was always funny to see her laughing or smiling when she would have to punish you when you were silly in class.