

# Comet Alumni Spotlight

Emily Yezeck Shields

St. Thomas Class of 1998



## Educational Background:

After attending St. Thomas and graduating in 1998, I completed high school at Peoria Notre Dame. I then went on to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Marketing.

## Recent Achievements:

I currently work as the Vice President of Business Development for OSF HealthCare System which has 15 hospitals throughout Illinois and Michigan, including OSF Saint Francis Medical Center here in Peoria. I lead the mergers and acquisitions team for OSF as we continue to grow the number of hospitals and clinics that are part of the healthcare system. I also work on the implementation of strategic plans in each of our markets, or communities, that we serve. My husband, Kevin, and I also own and operate Heritage Square in Peoria Heights. I am also privileged to serve on the St. Thomas Education Commission and assist Mrs. Bentley with the completion of the school's strategic planning for the next 5 years.

## .Family:

I live in Peoria with my husband, Kevin, and two children, Noelle (5th grade) and Lincoln (2nd grade), who also attend St. Thomas School. Words cannot quite capture how special it is to have them both at St. Thomas. I get to see them experience how special the school and parish community are and watch them create amazing memories just like I did at St. Thomas

## Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet:

A 7th grade field trip when we went cave exploring. I was not a very adventurous kid but I participated fully that day and climbed and explored the most difficult cave. We had so much fun, were all covered in mud for the bus ride home and it was an unforgettable experience.

## St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you:

Mrs. Crawmer was my 8th grade teacher and she was the most supportive teacher for me, and our entire class. She balanced fun and learning and fueled my passion for reading. For me in particular, she helped me through the transition from 8th grade to high school that I was so nervous about!

## Piece of advice for current Comets:

Be kind to each other and try to appreciate every moment you have together at St. Thomas. It is truly a special community that I appreciate even more now as an adult. Also, get involved and try new activities! The more effort and energy you put into things, the more you get in return.

