

Comet Alumni Spotlight

Luke LaHood Class of 2009



Educational Background:

After graduating from St. Thomas in 2009 and from Peoria Notre Dame in 2013, I attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, studying bioengineering and medical imaging. I stayed at Saint John's Catholic Newman Center throughout, eventually as a resident advisor. I returned to Peoria for medical school.

Recent Achievements:

I completed my first year of residency at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, mostly consisting of internal medicine. I am now in my second year of residency, which is radiology, with three more years to go. As a radiology resident, I interpret X-ray images, CT scans (sometimes spoken as "CAT" scans), MRI scans, and sonograms. I enjoy constantly learning, constantly thinking, and the opportunity to make a positive difference in other people's lives.

Family:

I am the youngest of six children, three others of which are in Peoria. I am grateful for the opportunity to complete my medical training in Peoria where I'm only a 15 minute drive from my parents and siblings, and not too far from cousins in Washington.

Favorite experience as a St. Thomas Comet:

The sports overall were my favorite. Parochial soccer under the lights at Peoria Notre Dame, basketball in the local grade school gyms, and spending time outside at track practice, all of which fostered friendships.

St. Thomas teacher who made an impact on you:

Mrs. Bruce had a big impact on me in second grade. She struck a good balance between fun and education, and looking back I can see that she did well with the social emotional learning that, I've recently become aware, is part of curriculums today.

Piece of advice for current Comets:

Know that learning takes place beyond the classroom. It takes place while talking to your buddy in line at the drinking fountain, when playing basketball on the playground, and spending the night at a friend's house.

Keep in mind that your parents' advice and Catholic values are taught for good reason; they'll, at the least, improve your life.

