

Comet Alumni Spotlight

Stephanie Schachtrup Coad Class of 1998



Educational Background: I went to St Thomas school from Kindergarten through 8th grade and then on to Peoria Notre Dame High School. I attended the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign where I earned a bachelor's degree in Architecture and then a Masters in Architecture and Structural Engineering.

Recent Achievements: In early 2022 my previous employer, Muller2, an architecture firm from Chicago, hired me to start a Peoria branch and a Structural Engineering group. I was able to choose and renovate an office space, and I have spent the last few years building our Peoria group and our structural group. It has been an honor and a privilege and I am thrilled to bring this design firm to my hometown.

I was honored to be named to Peoria Magazine's 40 Leaders Under Forty in their class of 2022 for both my professional achievements and contributions to the community.

In late 2022 after two years of juggling work, parenting, and studying, I passed Illinois' Structural Engineering Licensing exam. This 16 hour exam has a pass rate of about 30% and was my final step in becoming a licensed Structural Engineer. I am proud to be among the low percentage of women who achieve this goal. We celebrated by taking the kids on two trips in early 2023: Disney World and the Grand Canyon!

Family: My St Thomas roots go way back. My father attended St Thomas school. When I was enrolled I was joined by my brothers, Chris and Tim as well as my cousins Amy and Sarah. I met my husband Colin at U of I and we married in 2009. After living in Chicago for a decade and having two children there, we decided to return to my hometown of Peoria to continue raising our family. Now my children are comets. Claire is in 5th and Peter is 2nd this year.

Favorite experience as a St. Thomas

Comet: I was involved in almost every extra curricular that St Thomas offered. I don't know how my mother managed to get me to all those practices! My absolute favorite was the school musicals though. I can still sing most of the songs in their entirety.

St. Thomas teacher who made an impact

on you: Mrs. Crawmer, 8th grade. My class of 1998 was on the larger side, ranging from 75-64 kids, so it was easy to feel lost in the shuffle sometimes. I don't know how she did it, but Mrs. Crawmer was able to get to know all of us and teach to and celebrate our individuality.

Piece of advice for current Comets: St

Thomas is a great academic school, but our arts and extras programs are also fantastic. Do not be afraid to put yourself out there and try some of the creative extracurriculars that STS has to offer: speech, robotics, band, choir, school play, chess, just to name a few. These programs are a great way to broaden your horizons while learning more about yourself along the way.

