

Class of 1996

Winter 2014 Class Agent Letter

Happy January, Class of 1996!

A friend recently sent me a great note that described Charles Schultz's philosophy of life. Schultz, as you probably know, was the creator of the Peanuts comic strip. His philosophy was basically outlined in a "quiz" containing eleven questions. The first six? Can you name the five wealthiest people in the world, the last five Heisman trophy winners, the last five winners of the Miss America pageant, ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize, the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress, and the last decade worth of World Series winners?

You very likely came up with more answers than I did, but the point is that the names of even the most newsworthy folks are forgotten with time, and the accolades and applause that accompany even the greatest of achievements do not last forever.

The next five questions might be a bit easier to answer. Name a few teachers who aided your journey through school, name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time, name five people who have taught you something worthwhile, think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special, and think of five people with whom you enjoy spending time. Hopefully this series of questions not only was much easier to answer, but also evoked great memories of people who have been an important part of your life. His point? The people who make the biggest difference are not those with the most money, credentials or awards, but rather those who care the most.

His point just seemed fitting as I thought of you. I'm darn lucky to be part of a class of graduates who cares – a lot – about the world and about making it better for others. Your work, families and stories are amazing, not necessarily because they have made the news (although in some cases they have) but because they are the result of great heart and great hope for the world. What a gifted group of people! You inspire me, and I suspect you inspire a whole lot of other people in your lives in ways you will never know. Thank you! Don't ever underestimate the impact you are making!

Starting this year, class agents will only be sending out one letter per year (except during reunion years) so it's especially important that you send in information to the alumni office (you can send it to alumni@augie.edu) and/or post a class note at www.augielink.com. Your classmates also want to hear your stories and know how you are doing. The response rate has been pretty low this past year, so if you enjoy keeping up with Augie classmates be sure to post some news as well. Also, don't forget that your gifts to Augie make a big difference to students on campus now. Our average class participation rate in giving this past year was 3% (with an average gift of \$171). Any amount you can give is appreciated, and you can designate it to the area, department, or program where you feel it is needed most. Check out <http://www.augie.edu/giving>

More news and information are included in the Scoop. On to the good stuff! Happy 2014, everyone!

Cari

Jason and Becky (Menning) Knudson live in Spearfish, SD where both practice Family Medicine at Queen City Clinic. The Knudsons have two sons (who both love to snowboard!), Gabe (11) and Lars (8).

Matt Arveson, wife Stephanie, and kids Claire (6), Sam (4) and Levi (2) are enjoying outdoor adventures and life in general in Boulder, CO. Thankfully, their home was not among those that flooded last year.

Janet (Boeyink) Schlueter, husband Mark and kids Paige (9), Lauren (7), Natalie (5) and Kristen (5) have enjoyed a busy year of school, work, kids' activities, and memorable trips to San Diego, Kansas City and Disney World!

Signe (Hanson) Schumacher and husband J.P. welcomed Josephine (Josie) Grace into the world on November 24, 2013. Big sister Evie is thrilled! The Schumachers live in Sioux Falls. Congratulations!!

Class Notes

2/21/2013-2/17/2014

Stelter, Kristi - Posted 6/27/2013 10:15:16 AM - Careers

Kristi Stelter is employed at Wells Fargo Education Financial Services and also teaches private piano lessons in Sioux Falls. In addition, she is the music coordinator at Westside Lutheran Church, a new mission congregation of the SD ELCA Synod. Kristi earned a Master's Degree in Christian Leadership from Sioux Falls Seminary.

Brazones (Engbers), Tanya - Posted 6/19/2013 5:12:17 PM - Careers

Tanya Brazones is the director of kids ministry at Calvary Church in Minneapolis, Minn.

Groskreutz, Dayna - Posted 6/12/2013 10:29:56 AM - Births and Adoptions

Clara Joy Basel was born May 24, 2013 in Sioux Falls, SD. She was welcomed by Mom (Dayna Groskreutz), Dad (David Basel), and sisters Hannah (6) and Elsa (3).