

# **MCHS Class of 1997**



## **Where Are We Now?**

**Nathan Baumann**  
**Mascoutah, IL**

My father died. I live with my mother and stepfather. I have a sister in Springfield, IL, two nephews, and a dog. I work at Elite Staffing. I enjoy acting, singing, watching tv, swimming, basketball, and golf.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Work harder. Acting is so competitive. Choose a profession like it, maybe building sets.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Dr. Erin Knobloch or Mr. Manwaring

**Sarah Brendel (Weber)**  
**Mascoutah, IL**

I am married to Matt Brendel with two boys, ages 9 and 11. I work at Mascoutah Elementary School.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Karen Snedddon, and I did have drinks with her.

**Amanda Buckman (Buettner)**  
**Mascoutah, IL**

I have one son who is 8 years old and two dogs. I live with my boyfriend, Ben. Work and my family keep me busy.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Roy

**Leah Black (Yaeger)**  
**Oakville, MO**

My husband is Jim Black, and we have been married for twelve years. We have two sons: Drew, age 10 and Liam, age 7. I stay busy working full time and running the boys to all of their sports! I still love to do artwork and have started consistently using watercolor.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Believe in yourself and have more confidence.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Roy (RIP)



**Nicole Bormann (Hamsik)**  
**Saint Louis, MO**

I have two amazing kids: Natalie, 11, and Dominic, 9 next week. I'm happily divorced and live with my boyfriend. I work full time for the Department of Veterans Affairs, coordinating the regional amputation rehab program. I've been with the VA for thirteen years, and before that I worked at SLU hospital. I also teach at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine. In my free time, I'm a professional soccer and cheerleading mom. I spend most of my time chauffeuring kids to practices and games.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Don't worry so much about what other people think of you.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mrs. Piner



**Jennifer Brown (Stone)**  
**Quincy, IL**

My husband, Travis, and I have been married for sixteen years. We have two great kids; Cassidy is 13 and Andrew will be 11 next week. I have the privilege of working as an early childhood teacher, specifically with infants. I'm also working to finish my bachelor's degree. Our kids keep us super-busy... There's always a dance rehearsal and soccer! When I actually have free time, I enjoy reading and spending time with our friends and family.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Understand your own worth—Stop selling yourself short to try and make others happy.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Manwarning



**Todd Cook**  
**Freeburg, IL**

My wife, Megan, and I have a 7 year old son and a 5 year old daughter. We have a dog named Milo and seven (or eight?) chickens that supply eggs most of the time. I think the chickens have names, but I don't know them. I'm also a beginner beekeeper and often ask myself, "Why?" .... I have spent my career in construction safety management and currently work for an industrial painting contractor. I enjoy spending time outdoors playing with the kids, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, etc. I went back to school and will graduate with a M.Sc. in Industrial Hygiene this fall. I built my kids/ nieces a big treehouse last year!

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Go to the mountains every chance you get.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Any of them if they're buying.



**Jennifer Deadmond (Evans)**  
**New Baden, IL**

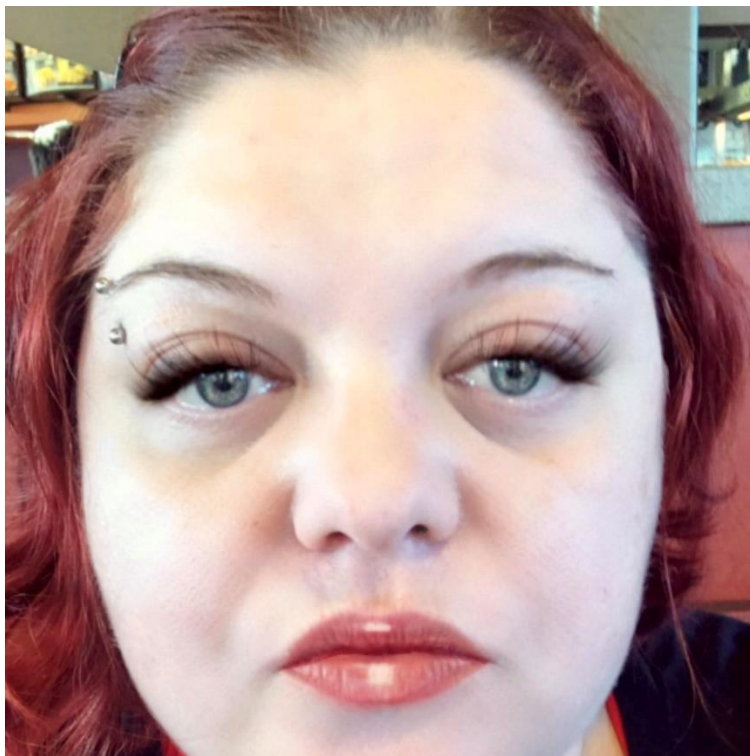
I am married to my husband, Bobby, and we have two dogs. I am a registered nurse at Memorial Hospital. I'm pretty much the same as I was in high school: I still wear black clothes and go to concerts lol!

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Live life to the fullest.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- All of them lol



**Jenika Denery (Dezentje)**  
**Belleville, IL**

I am married to my husband, Jon, and we have a beautiful little girl named Tallulah. I am the capacity management lead for a very large contract on Scott AFB. My family and I are very active in the church. Thank God He didn't give up on me. My hobbies include reading (I wasn't into reading in school!) and Scentsy.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Aaahhhh... simply be true to yourself.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Karen Sneddon, RIP.





**Anne Fritz**  
**Edwardsville, IL**

I live with my husband Dave. We keep busy with beer, beer, and more beer! (I am a co- owner in my family business. I still love to run and travel.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Don't take yourself so seriously... you are only eighteen... be a kid and take a year off and travel the world.



**Kevin Gardnder (Williams)**  
**O'Fallon, IL**

My husband, Gerald Gardner, is Chief Legal Officer with weAudit.com. I am almost sixteen years in the Air Force. In my downtime, I sing with The Gateway Men's Chorus and was just recently cast in Alfresco Production's The Rocky Horror Picture Show. I love to run, swim, and play board games.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Don't sleep with just anybody just because they compliment you.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Roy



**James Hatch**  
**Lexington, KY**

I have been happily married for the past fourteen years to Kellee Hatch. We have three awesome kids named Wyatt, Micaela, and Bea. Our dogs, Dusty and Chloe, chew everything in sight. I am currently activated in the KY Army National Guard. As a civilian, I'm a station Captain for a federal fire department. I enjoy running, whitewater kayaking, and fly fishing

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Drink more and study less. Should have dated a few more teachers.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Graf. I owe him for switching the bathroom signs at a McDonald's on an away tennis tournament. He was so embarrassed.

**Adam Huber**  
**Mascoutah, IL**

I have a fiancé, Amber Keck and an 8 year old daughter, Samantha. I own Huber Trucking INC., and we also breed Akitas.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Don't believe them. You CAN do it!

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Barry Parks

**Natasha Kolbet**  
**De Pere, WI**

I have been married to my college sweetheart, JJ Simpson, for nearly seventeen years. We have five children: Elijah, 20; Hayden, 15; Pahyton, 12; Sebastian, 10; and Addyson, 9. We have a Maltese named Ribbit, a turtle name Xoom, and a new rabbit named Shadow. I am the Library Services Associate at a Catholic college, St. Norbert College, and am very involved with volunteer work and cheering on my many children with all their extracurricular activities and sports. I am also highly involved with the community: a Girl Scout leader and organizer for Service Unit, PTO-- both Middle School and Elementary School-- committees organizer, and softball coach.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- I would have told myself to have more fun in high school. Being an adult is serious business and you should have fun before all the responsibilities pile up!

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Manwaring



**Laurie Lee (Meng)**  
**Champaign, IL**

I have been married to my husband, Warren, for eight years. We have the best 5 year old daughter, Lucy. I work as a physician assistant doing primary bariatric (weight loss) surgery. Outside of work, I keep busy with travel, book club, golf, group fitness, church, and of course my family.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Dream big! The world is a big place. Enjoy going new places and meeting new people.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mrs. Piner



**Josh Noakes  
O'Fallon, IL**

My wife, Amy, and I have two girls. Hailey just turned 10 and Olivia is 5. We have a black lab (Courage), a tick hound (Blue), and a grey British short hair cat (Spike.) I served eight years in the Air Force right after graduation. Now I'm a network engineer at the National Geospatial- Intelligence Agency in Saint Louis. Although I'm really bad at it, I love to golf. I've also recently started playing disk golf.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- The winning numbers to the \$1.6 billion powerball jackpot on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 are 04-08-19-27-34(10).

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Manwaring, without a doubt



**Lisa Moore**  
**Belleville, IL**

I have a 19 year- old daughter, Joanna, aka Livi. We live with our pets: Max (mini dachshund), Chase (beagle), and grand dog, Cobain (golden retriever mutt). I am a high school special education teacher at Granite City High School, Wellness Advocate for doTERRA, and optical specialist at LensCrafters. I am also close to earning my second MA.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Stay away from the drama and don't listen to the gossip.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mrs. Piner



**Sandy Peterson (Tenbrink)**  
**Crofton, MD**

I live with my husband, two daughters, dog, and turtle. I stay busy with sports, drinking beer, and way too many kid activities.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Manwaring





**C.J. Pipins**  
**Baltimore, MD**

I live with my partner, Nick, and our two cats Bernadette and Barnaby. I'm a law librarian at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. I moonlight at a wine shop.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Don't party so much.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Manwaring



**Danielle Rangel (Jimenez)**  
**Mascoutah, IL**

My husband, Damian, and I have four children: three boys and one girl who will soon be terrorizing the Mascoutah School District as new students. (I'd watch out for the girl.) We met while working at Scott as contractors and have recently moved from the big city of Belleville. The children keep me busy nowadays. All those years working outside the home ended when number four came in 2014. I leave the crime fighting to others now. I look back fondly on those years (but miss the paychecks!) I left the area two weeks after graduation and lived in California and Florida before moving back in 2008. I didn't think I'd end up back here, but it's been great. I have no cool hobbies—unless planting trees and vegetables is cool? I am very proud of my crew of little ones. They are super- cute.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Sleep even more! You'll never get to sleep so stress free again for the rest of your life!
- Don't be so impatient to get older! It's not as cool as it looked in the brochures. Seriously.
- Don't get married until you are 30. For reals!

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mrs. Sirtak

**Randy Rodgers  
Glen Carbon, IL**

I am married to Jaycie Rodgers, and we have three kids: Jackson (12), Olivia (10), and Emilia (7). I work at UMB Healthcare Banking and am a Major in the Illinois Air National Guard. I also keep busy with lots and lots of kid activities; baseball, basketball, golf, and dance. I love St. Louis Cardinals baseball and Dallas Cowboys Football.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- My advice would be to keep in better contact with my friends.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr Junker



**Bruce Rogers**  
**Saint Louis, MO**

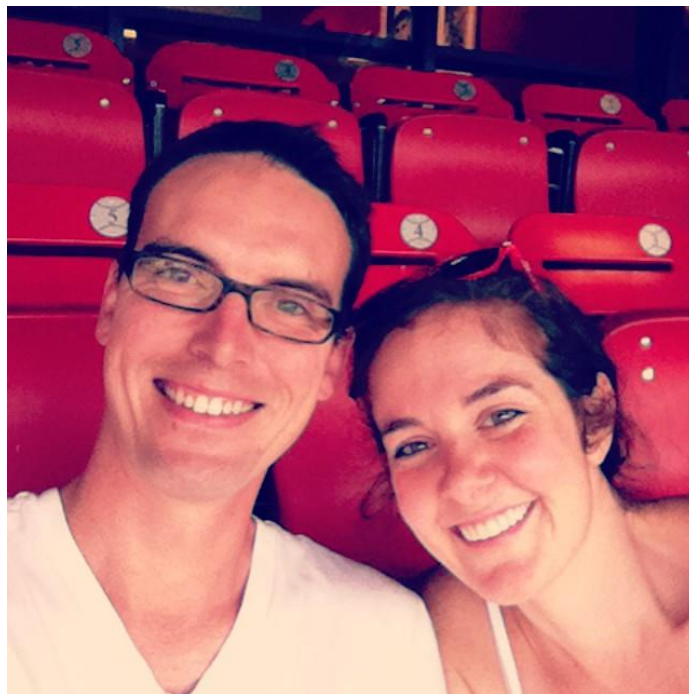
My family includes one wife and two dogs. I work in international relations, crisis management. I was a contestant on American Ninja Warrior, 12th round draft pick in 2004.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- This is your last chance to sleep with high school girls.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mrs. Piner



**Chana Rooks**  
**Mascoutah, IL**

I have two kids. Well, one is 19 already, so not much of a kid anymore! Dalton, my 19 year old, graduated in 2016 from Mascoutah and has joined the army and is currently working for Martin Glass. My daughter, Ella, is 2 years old. We have three dogs. I stay busy working and taking care of my family. I love taking my kids to new places and experiencing new things. I still collect Marilyn Monroe stuff, which I started doing in high school.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Listen to what your elders tell you when giving advice.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mrs. Keller

**Helen Schuhardt (Fennewald)**  
**Kaiserslautern, Germany**

I've been married to my husband, Jacob, for fifteen years. He joined the Air Force shortly after we were married. We have a 2.5 year old daughter, a 1 year old son, and two cats. Travel and momming keeps me pretty busy, and I recently went back to school and received my BFA in Commercial Photography.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- It will all happen in God's timing, not yours.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Gasper



**Sadie Smith (Rodick)**  
**Kirkwood, MO**

I've been married to my husband, Jim, for fourteen years. We have two boys: Seamus (7) and Finley (5) and two fur babies: an enormous cat and a miniature dog. I taught middle school English and theatre but am currently keeping busy as a semi- professional 'stuff- finder' and chauffer for tiny people. I also do a good deal of volunteering at our school and church-- I'm pretty much that annoying mom that never goes home.... My husband and I enjoy traveling, and I also love to read, cook, and run. (The excessive running might be due to the excessive baking.) I am currently working towards running a Boston Qualifying marathon in every state. (I've run nineteen marathons in the last two years.)

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Don't take yourself, or high school, too seriously.
- In the (translated) words of Fredrik Backman, "You never have the sort of friends you have when you're fifteen ever again."

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Manwaring



**Cara Srogus (Pryor)**  
**Smithton, IL**

I am married to BJ Srogus, and we have three kids: Cody (12), Savannah (10), and Mackenzie (5) and two Chocolate Labs, Tank and Marley. I am a full-time mortgage loan originator at Regions Bank. BJ and I also own two businesses: Srogus Construction (remodeling contractor) and Savota, Inc (property management for our rental properties). Our kids are very involved in sports, so that keeps us going! BJ is an AINAD Shriner, which keeps me busy as a Shriner wife. I am a member of several organizations: Homebuilder's Association of Southwestern Illinois, Smithton Chamber, Realtors Association of Southwestern Illinois, Greater Gateway Association of Realtors. I hold two designations within the National Association of Home Builders- CGR (Certified Graduate Remodeler) and CAPS (Certified Aging in Place Specialist).

**What piece of advice would you give your 18-year old self?**

- What happens when you're 18 hardly affects the rest of your life!

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Harris





## Matthew Townsend Washington DC

I'm married to my wife, Sarah, and we have three kids: Layla, 12; Blake, 11; and Carter, 4. We have a golden retriever named Hero and two cats named Sgt. and Cami. I'm currently a technical project manager/ subject matter expert at DISA, and in my spare time I'm usually taking my kids to all their activities. I received my MBA back in 2011 along with my project management professional certification. We enjoy hanging out with our friends and going on cruises to the Caribbean.

### What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?

- Date more than one woman.

### Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?

- Mrs. Reagan



## Darryl Tyler O'Fallon, IL

I am married to my wife of nearly ten years who I met while attending SIUE. I have two boys who are 6 and 2. I am a partner and commercial banker for a community bank in the Metro East. I also own a men's clothier business in which I started in 2013. I stay active by working out, playing basketball/golf, and cycling. My wife and I also like to travel to beaches around the Florida panhandle as well as Mexico and Puerto Rico.

### **What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- Not work as much during college and focus more on what I wanted to do with my professional career.

### **Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Roy or Mr. Morio



**Nick Waeltz**  
**Roselle, IL**

I'm married to Katie and we have two children. Frank is going into the second grade and Elena just turned 3! We have an elderly mutt named Kaleb who just turned 14 in June. I stay busy coaching baseball, putting together princess puzzles, building Legos, and trying to talk to adults every now and then.

**What piece of advice would you give your 18- year old self?**

- You're going to miss this.

**Which former high school teacher would you most like to have a drink with today?**

- Mr. Nelson