

The Love Below

Happy-Go-Jacky News
from the Class of '03 -
The Domestic Edition

Townie Page Luke Hasskamp

Well, Goodhue burned to the ground. Actually, I'm just kidding about that. The big news on campus this spring was that Hudlin Wagner was hired as the new Dean of Students. She had been acting as interim co-Deans of Students since Mark Govoni resigned last fall. Hudlin beat out four other finalists for the position, including in-house candidate and fellow colleague Bruce Colwell. Oh snap! Or as Jon Stewart would say, "AWKWARD!!!" Neither Hudlin nor Bruce was reached for comment, because I did not try to reach them.

Commencement was held inside the Rec Center this June because of the threat of rain, although it did not start to rain until after the ceremony was over and everyone was walking back across campus because there wasn't enough parking in the Rec Center Parking Lot. Ha-ha. Better them than us, that's what I say. Reunion, however, had the most excellent weather the following week. Highlights include the Class of 2000's four-story beer bong from the roof of Evans and the homemade Donkey Kong game which involved rolling empty kegs down the Bell Field Hill and participants running up the hill attempting to dodge the gravity-driven kegs. Both were amazing to witness, and frowned upon because I'm a responsible employee of the College. Also amazing is the fact that the Class of 1955 donated over \$13 million to the College. That made me feel small. (I winced when I paid \$13 for my haircut at Great Clips today.) This is especially impressive when you

consider the winner in the World Series of Poker's Main Event received \$7.5 million this year - a new record. Chew on that!

As always, I like to include a little info on Northfield. As I write this, it is Crazy Daze in Northfield. What is "Crazy Daze" in Northfield, you ask? I'm not sure. As far as I can tell, it seems like the Triple-A version of Jesse James Days, assuming Jesse James Days are the big leagues. Lots of stuff seems to be on sale - except haircuts - and lots of people are eating stuff. Division is closed to traffic too. This reminds me of the Fourth of July celebration in Northfield. Because this year marks the sesquicentennial celebration in Northfield, they brought in a Human Cannonball and shot him across the Cannon River. It was pretty amusing, although not that impressive. If you want to impress me, you need to shoot him through a game of homemade Donkey Kong or something like that. Still, I felt good laughing at him, not with him.

The highlight of my summer may be running into our dear classmate Scott Christensen at Karaoke Night at the Reub a few weeks back. Let me tell you, Scotty was in fine form. I believe we sang some song about West Virginia, because I recall yelling West Virginia a lot, as well as Mountain Momma or something like that. Don't ever let anyone tell you that Scott Christensen is not a champ, because, my friends, he is the definition of a champ, for John Denver tells me so. "Country roads, take me home, to the place I belong."

Finally, visit www.northfield.org for a good time. That's all folks.

Megan (Watson) Ritz

w/ Clark Ritz '04

I think "domestic" is a pretty apt description of my life at the moment. After all, I've been married nearly a year to Clark. I love being married – who could object to family health insurance and a guaranteed date for the farmers' market? The hard work, for me anyway, involves balancing graduate school with grocery shopping, cooking, and making sure that we have clean underwear.

When I'm not pursuing the domestic arts, I'm studying economics in the Ph. D. program in Madison, majoring in theory despite the fact that theorists aren't very employable. Being on such a big campus has really made me appreciate Carleton. The intro econ class here has lectures of 450 people! I see other Carleton people fairly often – there are lots of them in Madison. Even the professor I was a TA for last term is class of '81.



Patty Berggreen '05, April Anderson '04, Kayla Grady '05, Ryan Wakeham '03, Clark Ritz '04, Megan (Watson) Ritz '03, Bryan Gast '03, Rachel Kirby '03, Courtney Ritz '06, Pete Margraf '04, Erin (Schaefer) Koffel '03, Jon Koffel '02, Susa Stone '03



Abby Olsen

w/ Amanda Eckenroad, ex-ResLifer

One of the reasons that I like living in Philadelphia is that it's an "interactive" city. Random passersby never hesitate to ask questions, shout expletives, or remind you that they were Halle Berry in a former life (never mind that she's still alive). "What does your husband do?" is the question I'm most often asked when people see the silver band on my left ring finger. You would think at this point I would have a catchy answer prepared, but still I respond awkwardly with "Um, well, I'm not technically married, and my partner Amanda works at a Thomas Jefferson University." It doesn't have a nice ring to it at all. I know my Carleton classmates are clever, so suggestions for a better response can be sent to olsena@mail.med.upenn.edu.

My partner and I have been living together since graduation, and the details regarding how it happened are a bit blurry after the self-induced brain damage from Senior Week. In my quest for a topic for this little vignette, I decided to use those skills I learned at Carleton and conduct some online research. Searching for "moving in together" in Google immediately brought up the critically acclaimed peer-reviewed journal "Lifetimetv.com." I was expecting battered women, teens on drugs, and kidnapped babies, but the website proved to be decidedly less serious than the network. In addition to the highlighted story entitled "Are You Ready to Live Together?" it features soul searching games such as "Two-Man Tabulator" and "Love-o-Meter." Knowing I couldn't be lead astray by such a resource, I began to contemplate my relationship. The article lists 5 questions that you are supposed to have thoroughly discussed with your partner prior to moving in together. They are practical in nature, and include mundane topics like finance, cleanliness, etc. After applying these questions to my own relationship as it stood 2 years ago, I realized two things. 1) We did not discuss anything of importance before moving in together. 2) I have all of the characteristics of the bad man that women are not supposed to move in with. We can only hope that Amanda

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Dan Miller
w/ Jess Felt '02

After Carleton I headed off to Rochester, New York, not Minnesota (it's in western NY near Buffalo.) I was heading to a job as an electrician at the Geva Theatre, a professional regional theatre. I hadn't, however, chosen that location myself. It was dictated by where my girlfriend Jess was accepted to medical school, which was the University of Rochester. That was the first effect of having a post-Carleton relationship with a Carl, and it worked out pretty well.

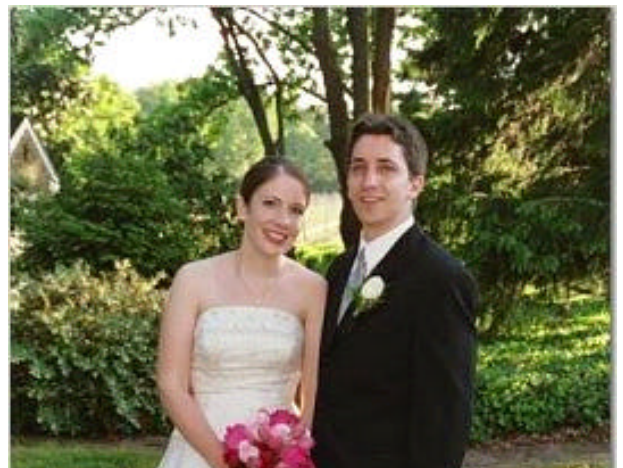
Things have gone well both personally and professionally over the last two years. At work I was promoted to First Electrician, which meant I didn't have to work in the evenings as often. That was nice because it allowed me to be at home in the evenings with Jess. We both have been learning the ways of living together: joint checking account, furnishing the apartment together, cooking meals. It has been good to have a partner to take these first steps into the "real world."

One of the few more difficult things for me has been in social interaction with my co-workers at the theatre. They go out regularly after the shows in the evening and I have tended to head home early to see Jess. This has lead me to have, I feel, less strong bonds with them than I would have if I had been single. Not that we don't get out; it is just more often together and to spend time with friends from the medical school, several of whom are married or in long-term relationships themselves. Overall though, it has been great to have moved here with Jess and to have someone to come home to at the end of the day.



Taylor Page
w/ Joel Brody

I was relieved to move with Joel Brody to Philadelphia after graduation. Living with him made it seem much less likely that I would end up being a crazy old lady with 100 cats. Yet, here we are two years later, living in a one bedroom apartment with two cats. We had a couple things working against us . . . like the fact that we moved in right next to a pet shop where they put sad little cats without homes in the window. But mostly, our new status as a family of four can be attributed to the dynamic between me and Joel. One of us comes up with a weird idea and then we totally egg each other on. At this rate, we will have fifty cats by our fifty year reunion. So, it looks like I still have crazy cat lady potential after all.



Karissa (Kramer) Binder
w/ Mike Binder '00

Having been married for almost as long as I have been done with Carleton, I don't really know what it's like to not have a husband and be out of school. For me, there are lots of perks to being married!

First, when the end of the month comes, it's really nice to have someone to share the bills with. I have been working as an AmeriCorps worker for the last two years with a nonprofit in St. Paul called Admission Possible. It's been a fun time, but I'm looking forward to a real

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is not an avid reader of the 2003 alumni newsletter, or the secret will be out, and we will surely be doomed.

Regardless of the sage wisdom of Lifetimetv.com that clearly says Amanda should move on and find a good man, having a partner who is willing to move across the country and stick with me through an 8 year MD/PhD program has proven to be the most fulfilling part of my life. No matter how many homeless men try and tempt me with their flattering comments like "You've been a bad girl...go to my room," knowing that I have someone who loves me waiting at home gets me through long lectures about such fascinating topics as bile and anal warts. I hope everyone can find their "Amanda" and when you do, be sure to keep them away from Lifetimetv.com or you may just find yourself taking that homeless man up on his offer.

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job and real wage this fall (I'm still looking for this mystical job and wage though).

Second, I was able to find a community of people my age after Carleton by being involved at the young adult church where Michael works. I really enjoy working alongside and partnering with Michael at his work too.

Maybe this isn't all that different from all of you singles out there—jobs, volunteering, and community involvement—but it has made a world of difference to me to have someone to share all of it with. Hokey, I know it, but there is a reason I like being married!

