Class of 2001
2015 Newsletter
Hi everyone! Welcome to another edition of the Class of 2001 newsletter. We’re just about a year out from our 15th Reunion in June 2016. I hope many of you are planning to make the trip to Northfield to reconnect. I’m very much looking forward to a trip up this August to help plan for next summer. Before I get to the updates sent in by our classmates, I did want to give a very quick plug for the Alumni Annual Fund. Money donated to the AAF goes directly to financial aid for students who want to attend Carleton but can’t afford the full cost. It is the worthiest of worthy causes if you have a soft spot for Carleton. If you’re able, give today at carleton.edu/giving/

And without further ado, I’ll start the updates:

Sarah Moore (Chattanooga, TN) - I’ve had a pretty action-packed last year. I took a promotion at work, and am now the Alumni Relations Coordinator for McCallie School here in Chattanooga. I oversee all of our out-of-town alumni events, which had me on the road once or twice a month for the past year. It’s been a fun new role to take on, and I love getting to travel all over the country. I’ve gotten to see my sister in NYC, Carleton and grad school friends in DC, and a personal highlight, the dance floor that inspired Saturday Night Fever in Birmingham (see picture). I also started volunteering as a Big Sister with the local chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters, and have been mentoring a great 11-year-old girl. This has been one of the best things I’ve done for the past many, many years, and I’m so glad for it. My husband and I took a few trips last year, primarily to visit my family in Texas and Oklahoma. We’ve seen a lot of good concerts, too—Nick Cave, Lucinda Williams, Jason Isbell, etc.

Melissa Battis (Carrollton, TX) - Carleton definitely helped me catch the Ultimate bug. Over the past two years I have had the pleasure of being the Volunteer coordinator at the USAU National Club Championship. If anyone from the class joins us in Frisco this year, they should be sure to wend their way to Volunteer Central to say hello, it is always fun to see all the CUT jerseys out there on different teams. I have also become the President of the Dallas Ultimate Association (2nd year in a row) and we have had some exciting growth in the area as youth ultimate is taking hold and growing exponentially. When not playing and organizing Ultimate, I continue to teach Math at Greenhill School in Addison, TX, and this past year have become the 10th Grade Class Dean as we have structured and strengthened our advising program.

Stephanie Burcusa (St. Louis Park, MN) - Mike and I are still living in the same house we bought shortly after graduation, but we've had several significant life changes in the past few years! I'm now working as a psychologist at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center, Mike is now a high school chemistry teacher, and our daughter Rose just turned 3. We're looking forward to catching up with everyone at reunion next year!
**Ernie Cruz (Chicago, IL)** - Hi everyone. It's been a while so I guess we should start at the beginning. Last we wrote we had one son and were living in Santa Fe. Well, now we have two sons and we live in Chicago.

Things are good in Albany Park. We bought a bungalow last summer that's a 15 minute El ride from Wrigley Field and a 30 minute drive to work and family. Anya is working as a College Counselor for the Schuler Family Foundation, a non-profit that seeks to help First Generation students attend Liberal Arts Colleges. Anya's proud to report that one of her current seniors will be attending Carleton in the fall. In her spare time she enjoys adding Tewa to the 40+ languages being yelled at kids on our local playground (our ZIP code is one of the most diverse in the country, apparently) Ernie is teaching history at the Latin School of Chicago and playing in various bands. Ramon is finishing Kindergarten at Latin and enjoys playing the guitar and baseball. Salvador is two and very much enjoys flannel robes and fine, imported pacifiers. We also have a tuxedo cat named Lobachevsky who enjoys chasing the boys around the house and staring menacingly at the chickens next door.

**Pictures:** The first is Ramon and me with one of Ramon's literary heroes Dan Santat and then the other is Anya, Salvador and Lobachevsky during the big blizzard this winter.

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**Carrie Munson Goodnight (Seattle, WA)** - Brian Goodnight and I welcomed a second son into our family last winter, and both our boys are keeping us rollin'! I still teach dance and Pilates, and will be joining some graduate school colleagues, choreographing for a homecoming-of-sorts dance concert in Eugene, OR, this fall.
Kelly Hallberg (Chicago, IL) - After 10 years working for American Institutes for Research, I've taken a new position with the Crime and Urban Education Labs at the University of Chicago. A good overview of the work that we are doing can be found here: https://crimelab.uchicago.edu/page/about-us. In my new role, I manage the Labs’ internal capacity, providing day to day operational leadership and scientific direction. I also continue to lead a portfolio of applied research projects, including my work on research methods. So far it's been a fun new challenge. Mike and I are still living in Chicago with our now somewhat elderly pug, Gus.

Jaimi Johnson & Phil Spindler (Duluth, MN) - We reconnected in 2012 while we were both living in Colorado (Phil was working for the United States Antarctic Program, based in Denver, and Jaimi was a veterinary medicine intern at Colorado State University). After a year of enjoying the mountains and breweries of Colorado, we relocated to our dream city along the shores of Lake Superior - Duluth, Minnesota. Phil works in logistical informatics at Essentia Health and Jaimi is a veterinarian at North Shore Veterinary Hospital. We are getting married next summer, 15 years after graduating from Carleton! We are looking forward to seeing everyone at reunion!

Ted Mathys (Saint Louis, MO) - Rachel Greenwald Smith and I welcomed our daughter, Lucy, in 2013, and she's quickly careening through her twos. My third book of poetry, Null Set, was published this spring by Coffee House Press, and I'm currently Creative Writer in Residence at Saint Louis University.

David (Lemly) McFerrin (Jamaica Plain, MA) - I don’t think I’ve ever submitted to the newsletter before, so let me offer the CliffsNotes version of my life post-Carleton: After a number of years as a traveling troubadour (in Cincinnati, Miami, New York, Bavaria, and parts in between), I settled in Boston in 2010, and feel at home. I am still working as a freelance classical singer, with a nice variety of opera, solo concert and small ensemble opportunities. I travel periodically, but try to sing in the Boston area as much as possible; thankfully, Boston has a cultural scene rich enough to make that doable and rewarding. The most exciting recent news is that I married Erin Doherty last October in Amherst, Massachusetts. We had a fantastic New England fall celebration with family and friends, including a number of Carls. Erin is preservationist who oversees three historic districts in the city - Boston is a good location for her line of work as well. I feel lucky to have a number of Carleton friends in this area, and hope to see more at next year’s reunion!

Left: Aaron Swoboda ’01, Jean Capizzi ’99, Nick Reich ’01 and John Lemly ’67 (not pictured: Anna Coldham ’01)
Nic Netzel (Portland, OR) - I got married this summer to Susannah Maynard. Jason Zieger '01 was the officiant, and Gratuitous Umlaut was the headlining band. I've been living and working as a High School Librarian at an Independent school in the Baltimore/D.C. area. However, I'll be moving to Portland, OR this summer. No job yet (hopefully that will change before this is printed...), but I don't intend on letting Portland be "where young people go to retire".

Iain Robertson (Washington, DC) - After 7 years following Barack Obama on the campaign trail (2008) and in the White House (2009-2015), I quit my job as a Staff Officer in the Office of the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council in mid-April to take some badly needed downtime prior to matriculating into Georgetown’s MBA program in the fall. I also moved in with my girlfriend, Caroline. Life is pretty dynamic for me at the moment, but it’s going pretty darn well.

Tyler Rogstad (Dhaka, Bangladesh) - My three kids and I (now 10, 5, and 3) moved to Dhaka, Bangladesh, in summer 2014. In December we were fortunate enough to serve pizza to a group of Carls studying development economics under Professors Bhuiyan and Seneviratne. In a city of eight million they happened to be staying...in the hotel right across the street. We've also hung out with a couple of other Carleton grads and soon-to-be reunion buddies living and working here: Eddie Bertot '11 and Kai Knutson '11. Hoping to make reunion next year!

Pictured in Photo: Professor Seneviratne (who blends in with the students, far-right), a bunch of interesting Carls, me, and my daughter Terra.

Simine Vazire (Davis, CA) - I moved to Davis, California, in 2014 to take a job in the psychology department at UC Davis.

A great big thanks to everyone who sent in an update! I hope to see all of you next June for our 15th Reunion. Until then, keep being awesome.

—Sarah Moore