

Cotter Alumni Career Day was held at Cotter High School on Thursday, February 2nd, in conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week and was a great success. Cotter welcomed three returning alumni; Justin Barrientos '94, Robert Knuesel '01, and Emily Ulrich '03. Besides talking to students about their chosen career paths and what guided them to that chosen profession, they also spoke about the value of the great education, friendships and experiences they received at Cotter.

Justin Barrientos '94

College Attended: Winona State University ('98)

Current Occupation/Place of Employment: HBC TV-25 Operations Coordinator, Play-By-Play Announcer, Newscast Director

Description of Occupation: I currently am a Play-By-Play announcer for High School & College sporting events covered by HBC. I have covered Football, Basketball, Hockey, Baseball, Parades, Dance Competitions, and one MMA fight! I also am the director of our Monday-Friday noon newscast, backup news & sports anchor, and do occasional field reporting.

What is your favorite Cotter memory? It would have to be our Senior Class trip to Florida. The bus ride down and back was something I don't think any of us will ever forget, and we just had a great time in Florida!

Imagine yourself as a Senior at Cotter again, what was a typical Friday night like? For me, I was usually doing something sports related.

What subject did you find most interesting when attending Cotter? What subject was the most beneficial? It was interesting to have a drama class the last 2 years I was at Cotter. I think that helped me get "out of my shell" a little, and gave me the confidence that I needed to go after a career in broadcasting! I think all of the classes were beneficial. Cotter really prepared me, not only for college classes, but for my life after school as well. And, I can't forget Economics class either, because we had to develop a business, and shoot a TV Commercial, which gave me my first taste of that!



Robert Knuesel '01

Colleges Attended: University of Notre Dame (BS '05), University of Minnesota (MS '08, Ph.D. '11)

Current Occupation/Place of Employment: Electrical Engineering/ Koronis Biomedical Technologies

Description of Occupation: While a Ph.D. candidate, I made contributions to the state of the art in engineered self-assembly, the process used to direct complex, 3D, Nano scale systems to assemble themselves, ultimately leading to a well-publicized, novel flexible solar cell. Now as a Staff Scientist at Koronis Biomedical Technologies, I participate in the government funded research and development of biomedical electronic devices covering a wide range of disciplines including wireless communication, embedded electronics, telemedicine, radiology, navigation, and learning enhancement.

What is your favorite Cotter memory? My solo performance in the Fiddler on the Roof marching band street show.

Imagine yourself as a Senior at Cotter again, what was a typical Friday night like? Friday nights as a Cotter student included cross-country practice, basketball pep band, and providing excellent guest service at Target.

What subject did you find most interesting when attending Cotter? What subject was the most beneficial? I have always been interested in the sciences. One of my favorite classes at Cotter was TEPS (Technically Enhanced Physical Science) and I have great memories and stories from biology. That having been said, I believe it was the courses I took in the English department that provided me the most substantial edge over my undergraduate peers.



Emily Ulrich '03

College Attended: University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Current Occupation/Place of Employment: Senior Staffing Specialist – Target Corporation

Description of Occupation: Administer and coordinate the internal and external staffing process including posting positions, scheduling interviews and travel, and administering assessments team members, Serve as the primary contact for candidates & clients regarding open positions and interviews, welcoming candidates to Target, some recruiting.

What is your favorite Cotter memory? Band was a big part of my time at Cotter, so our trip to Calgary, Canada for the Stampede was one of my favorite memories. The Canadians were so nice to us!

Imagine yourself as a Senior at Cotter again, what was a typical Friday night like? A typical Friday night varied for me, but it usually involved meeting up with friends, then going to a basketball game to play for pep band, watching the game, then going to a friend's house where we would eat and watch movies.

What subject did you find most interesting when attending Cotter? I went to a public school up until I started at Cotter, so I had never taken any religion classes. When I came to Cotter and was able to openly pray and talk about God was refreshing and gave me a deeper sense of faith. I really appreciated the fact our religion teachers were so strong about their faith.

What subject was the most beneficial? I really loved being a part of the Cotter band. It was such a great way to be with my classmates and people of all ages. I learned a lot about time management and balancing that with schoolwork. I enjoyed taking the trips and Mr. G. gave us so many great opportunities to be a peer leader. I believe it set me up for success in college and I was able to use that skill set and apply it to other areas of academia.



Love what you do? If you are interested in participating in Alumni Career Day during Catholic Schools Week, please contact Mandi Householder, Alumni Relations and Event Coordinator at mhouseholder@cotterschools.org.