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Class News 1995 to 2008 — Fall 2008

1995

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Greetings Class of 1995:

I would love to tell you what's happening with everyone but unfortunately I haven't heard from anyone.

I hope this edition finds everyone doing well. Please drop a line and share your post-Coker life with us. We'd love to know what you are up to.

In the meantime, please remember Coker by sending a donation to the annual scholarship fund.

Ciao,
Heather

1996

Rep or co-reps needed

Deborah A. Knight was the keynote speaker at the 24th annual Memorial Day Service at Carver Memorial Gardens. Deborah is a retired Army Sgt. 1st Class.

1997

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1998

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Hello everyone! Boy it has been a crazy year so far. I was honored to serve as **Lisa Miller Sneed's** maid of honor in her wedding in February. The wedding was BEAUTIFUL and we had so much fun. She and Ryan make the perfect couple! In April, Peter and I tied the knot in Mt. Holly, NC. It was so neat for Lisa and I to plan our weddings together. Lisa, **Holly Hall Becker '00** and **Karol Lowery '96** all served as my bridesmaids and **Tara Trotter Neiger '00**, **Mirah White Welday** and **Matt Shores '96** made the trip in for the wedding. It was so good to spend time with everyone. Peter and I have set up house in Charlotte and are settling in to married life. He is still an Engineering Project Manager in Pineville and passed his PE (Professional Engineer) exam in December. I just accepted a job with Forest Hill Church in Charlotte as their HR Manager and am so excited about the opportunity! Hope all is well with everyone, can you believe it's been ten years since we graduated??? Time truly does fly by....**Tanya Keith Kobylarz**

Lisa Miller married Ryan Sneed on February 1, 2008 and they were so glad some of their Coker friends were able to share the special day with them. They are happily living in Columbia with their Labrador, Mallory. Lisa is still working at Colonial Life as the National Recruiting Specialist while Ryan works as a State Investigator. They have already begun planning their first anniversary trip with friends and family. Lisa would love to hear from her old Coker friends and can be reached at lisneed@coloniallife.com.

As of August 1st, 2007 **Katie Hanson Pate '97** jumped the coaching ship at Belmont Abbey College and dove in head first to athletics administration by becoming the Director of Athletics Marketing and Promotions at the University of South Carolina Upstate. Husband **Tully '95** is still the Director of Athletics for the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics. Tully was recently honored as the Regional Athletics Director of the Year. They reside in Belmont, NC.

Aloha, Everyone, from **Mirah White Welday!** I hope things are going well for all of you. I have been busy these past few months. I made a trip back to SC/NC in April for **Tanya Keith's** wedding...it was a great weekend and I got to see many other Coker Alums. I have also made a recent move...we're still stationed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, but we were relocated to a new home so our house could be renovated. Kurt is currently deployed and I am hoping I will get to go see him in port soon...he has

been gone since March and is not expected to return until the fall. Hope you all get time to enjoy the summer!

Karen Lear is co-chair of Coker's Board of Trustees, and is chairing Coker's Search Committee for its next president! She is an attorney, and teaches at USC's College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sports Management. In May, she chaperoned 16 USC fashion students on a study-abroad trip to Italy, where they visited Rome, Florence, and Venice. She was recently named to the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia.

Robert L. Spires and a team of engineers are designing and building barracks for the Afghan army. Robert is a member of the SC National Guard's 218th Brigade Combat Team and is chief of Task Force Phoenix's engineer unit in Afghanistan. He and the 26 troops under his command are handling 1,000 building projects—ranging from plywood huts to \$172 million chow halls. The highest priorities are more housing, chow halls, offices and protective walls.

1999

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Paige Brown Phelps will be joining the First Baptist Church Weekday Preschool this fall. She has worked at Thornwell Elementary and at Plainview Elementary. Paige is married to **Scott** '98 and they have two daughters Anna Carlin, 7, and Gracie, nine months.

2000

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Congratulations to **Christina All DeRienzo** and husband as they welcomed Emily Kate DeRienzo into the world on July 31, 2007. Emily has an older brother Tyler to keep her busy. They recently moved to Lexington and Christina has taken a job at Poison Control as their public health educator.

2001

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Natalie Selena Bee presented an interactive seminar “The Road Before You—Your Guide to Career Success” at the Greenwood Emerald Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professions on April 23. Natalie is also author of “Defining Moments in Life: Poetic Expressions”.

2002

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Hey 2002! I hope you are all doing wonderfully! Here's your news:

June Scott Barfield '01 says life is going extremely well! She just turned 30 and is “lovin it!” June has owned her own business for three years (www.aestheticdesigns.com)! Her son Jackson just turned 2 and her husband Billy is in his third tour in Iraq. They miss him dearly, but credit the love and support that they receive for helping them to move forward.

Curtis and **Jessica Brill Lloyd '05** are still living in Birmingham Alabama. Curtis is working at Leeds Elementary School in Leeds, Alabama (hometown of Charles Barkley) as a PE teacher. He coaches football, wrestling, and baseball. Curtis and Jessica are the Youth Directors at their church and are excited to be a new aunt and uncle to their niece Sydnee Shay!

Barbara “Babs” Williams got married on October 14, 2006 to Toby Whitaker of Lancaster, SC. They have a daughter named Annabeth Nicole who will turn 2 on August 1, 2008. They are enjoying watching her grow and change every day, and are amazed at the way she lights up their day with something as simple as saying “please.”

Kammie Rickels Mann completed her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction this March. She is still living in Chester and is teaching 8th grade Language Arts at Chester Middle School. Kammie hopes that everyone in the class of 2002 is doing well

Lerecia Shemel Jerman Thomas is still living in "Heartsvegas" with her husband. They recently celebrated their second wedding anniversary by going to Savannah, Georgia. Shemel said they loved every minute of their vacation!

Ellen Powell had this to say: "I moved to Princeton, NJ, in the fall of 2005, to work independently with a little boy who suffered a severe brain injury at birth. Princeton is a great little college town not at all what I expected of New Jersey. As always, I'm back on Cape Cod in Chatham for the summer, June-Sept., then will return to Jersey. Most of my days are filled with therapy but now that it's summer I have two girls working for me and so I work very little except for supervising. I've been traveling in and out of the United States and Dominican Republic with Stem Cell therapy. There is so much to learn in this new treatment that is not being explained to Americans that could really change the view of people. It has really been great and I am planning another trip in the fall. My grandmother, **Naomi Phillips Ward '49**, who was a Coker-nut, just passed away Sunday, June 6, from cancer. It was so nice of our Coker friends to show their support, Lyn Blackmon and **Madge Windham Zemp '87**. It meant quite a lot to me that they came and showed their support. My grandmother loved Coker so it was only fitting that we have memorials sent there. Then my mother, aunt, and brother flew out to Phoenix for 2 days, drove to the Grand Canyon for 2 days, and then to Las Vegas for 3 days. It was nice to get away from everything that had just happened and relax. Now I'm back in Chatham, Cape Cod, until mid-Sept. I'm planning to enjoy summer and hang out with friends. I can't wait to get down to Coker for a visit. I am trying to figure out when that will be now. Hope everyone is doing well. Ellen"

Stephanie Carwile Parker is currently working for the State of Texas as an Investigator. She has a "precious" 2 ½ year-old son who is "AWESOME!" They are living the simple life in Texas. They do lots of mud riding and going to the lake! Stephanie went to **Juliette Maybay's** wedding in May. Juliette is living in Georgia and working as a Veterinarian. Her husband owns his own pizza place!

Joel McEachran is living in Trinidad, running a Fire and Security company. He is still playing competitive golf and traveling a lot. He says that he is unmarried, and for any single girls looking for a life in the sun and sand to come his way. Haha! Joel also said that he and a few other people were planning on having one more "hoorah" this year at Homecoming. So, anyone that wants to have a "Bar Night" reunion should plan on being there!

There's not too much to report on my end. Eduardo and I are still living in Charlotte with our dog Bella. We had fun celebrating our 6th month anniversary on July 4th by going to see Bo Bice in concert. We've also had the chance to do a little traveling this summer and enjoyed visiting with friends and family at my brother's wedding in June. I am working as the Communications Coordinator for Dreamweavers Unlimited in Gastonia, NC and Eduardo is a Supervisor at Turfcare in Charlotte. Newlywed life is fun.

I hope to hear from all of you soon! Take Care!

Blayke

2003

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Emily Marovich Tupper is married! I was there to witness Emily's beach wedding in Fort Walton Beach, FL on May 17th where she married Greg Tupper. The beach ceremony was amazing and Emily was a beautiful bride! By Emily's side during the ceremony were some familiar faces, both **Courtney Smith** and **Erin Earle** served as bridesmaids in the wedding. Emily is now enjoying married life! She still lives in Redondo Beach, CA and travels all over for work.

The Canadian turned Australian, **Erin Earle**, has some big news. She is engaged! She will be married on January 10th 2009 in Australia. She is excited about the wedding and is busy planning out the details.

Courtney Smith is living in Charleston and working for Daktronics Sports Marketing at The Citadel. She and Mike Geiger have been dating for over two years. She stays busy playing in a kickball league and going out in the boat. If you are ever in Charleston, look Courtney up.

D and Amber Brown just celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary on March 26th. Their first child Heyward just celebrated his 2nd birthday and they are expecting a new baby in the spring. Congratulations to you both.

Cara Wilkerson Deese and **Conrad Deese** are currently living and working in Celebration, FL. They both are doing well and Cara is enjoying living so close to Disney World!

Ray Marrero has just accepted a job in the Coker Admissions Office. We are glad to have Ray back on Coker's campus.

Bessie Tomberlin is still working for Meineke in Charlotte. Her job takes her all over the US and she loves every minute of it.

As for me, I am working at Coker in the Institutional Advancement Office. My primary goal is to raise money for the Annual Scholarship Fund. This money provides student scholarships year after year. I am enjoying being back at Coker. The campus has never looked better. I hope you can all make the trip back for Homecoming 2008, October 3-5. Please send your class news to Emily or myself so it can be included in the next issue. We would love to hear from you. Don't forget to make your gift to the Annual Scholarship Fund!

2004

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2005

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Coker Class of '05 News!

Curtis Lloyd '01 and I are, as always, busy with our students and youth group in Birmingham, AL. Curtis still teaches PE and coaches football, wrestling, and baseball. I still teach dance and voice and am already working with our competition dance team for the third season. We are also looking for adoption attorneys, so please keep us in your prayers, as we will be making some very important decisions about building our family. I also still keep my niece, now 13 months old, Monday through Friday mornings. Sydnee loves to give kisses and hugs.

Jodi Williams continues to teach dance at Northside Elementary School of the Arts in Rock Hill. This will be her second year, and she is looking forward to returning. Jodi also is the Guard Instructor for York Comprehensive High School in York.

Classmates, if you have access to the Internet and have not received my e-mail messages, please send your e-mail address to SmileRainmaker@aol.com. I will be sure to add you to my list.

Thanks and God bless,
Jessica Lloyd

William C. James has completed his MBA at Francis Marion University and is currently a MAC graduate student at the University of SC. His written case study was included in Strategic Management Concepts and Cases, Twelfth Edition by Fred R. David about Wesley United Methodist Church. This text book is the leading textbook for undergraduate and graduate courses in strategy.

2006

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Co-rep needed\

Jennifer Jackson is currently employed at the Department of Social Services as a Human Services Specialist II. She is currently working in Child Protective Services and Adult Protective Services. Jennifer was recently offered the position at Spartanburg Methodist College as Residence Hall Director. She will begin her position at SMC August 2008, but she will continue to work and serve at Saluda Co. DSS.

Tavy Garcia is currently employed at Spartanburg Methodist College as a Residence Hall Director. He is also attending graduate school at Converse College and earning a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

Brad Hudson is currently attending Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC.

2007

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2008

Class rep or co-reps needed