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HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Giving Back to Education

HHS Alumni Recognition Feature!

Dear HHS Alumni and HPS Foundation Supporters,

Holdrege High School is fortunate to have many very successful graduates. We are excited to continue sharing the stories of some of those HHS Alums. Kristine (Long) Jacobson, Class of 1990, has joined our efforts with her journalistic talents to bring you this month's feature.

Many classes will be having reunions in 2013. Class organizers are encouraged to contact us - we can assist with communication by sending messages to classmates through Constant Contact. We welcome your suggestions and comments.

Sincerely,

Matt Allmand, Chairman - HPS Foundation Committee

Andrew & Tiffany Elliott - Class of 2004

Holdrege Alumni Find Success in Seattle



Andrew & Tiffany (Ackerman) Elliott

By Kristine Jacobson

Holdrege graduates Andrew and Tiffany (Ackerman) Elliott have followed their dreams from tiny Phelps County to the city of Seattle, where they are making their marks in a big way.

Andrew's talent and dedication to working with computers landed him a job as a Software Developer In Test at Adobe Systems, where he is working on exciting new computer applications.

Tiffany's interests and hard work led her to a career as a speech pathologist, a job which allows her to help premature babies learn essential life skills to prevent problems later in life. Both are happy with their careers that allow them to put their unique gifts to work.

Andrew and Tiffany graduated from Holdrege High School with the Class of 2004. They became better acquainted with each other in high school while both worked at Country Cookin'.

In high school, Tiffany was involved in choir, band, volleyball, cross country, basketball, soccer, student government, and musicals, and she played the organ at her church. Andrew was involved in band, golf, tennis, and bowling, and he worked on the stage crew for musicals.

Andrew always loved working with computers and enjoyed classes in AutoCAD in high school. "I always knew I was going to do something in computers," Andrew said.

He earned a spot in the computer science program in the Summer Honors Program, and that experience solidified his future career choice. "That's when I knew for sure that's what I wanted to do," he said.

Andrew earned a prestigious Walter Scott Jr. scholarship extended by The Peter Kiewit Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. It is a full-ride scholarship in the areas of engineering and information science and technology. He graduated from UNO in 2008 with a degree in computer science.

Tiffany attended her first year and a half of college at Nebraska Wesleyan. When she decided that her major would be speech pathology, she transferred to UNO for its high-quality speech pathology program. She graduated from UNO with a degree in speech language pathology, also in 2008.

After receiving their undergrad degrees, Tiffany pursued her master's degree in speech language pathology at Washington University in Seattle, graduating in 2010.

Meanwhile, Andrew landed a job in Seattle at Adobe, a computer software company that specializes in digital marketing and digital media solutions, including the popular Photoshop, Illustrator, and Adobe Acrobat and Reader. Adobe was named one of the 100 best companies to work for by FORTUNE magazine in 2012.

For the first several years of his job, Andrew worked on the Premiere Pro video editing software. It is a program used by video professionals to edit videos. His job involved making sure the program worked without any glitches. "I was making sure all the code worked how it was supposed to," Andrew said.

His current assignment at Adobe involves working on a "new product" that he can't reveal any details on yet.

Adobe is based in San Jose, Calif., and employs more than 10,000 people worldwide. Andrew is one of 200 employees at the Adobe location in Seattle. It's just slightly more than the number of people in his hometown of Funk, with a 2010 census population of 194.

"I really enjoy it," Andrew said of his career so far. "The company has really great benefits and values their employees." He also enjoys the freedom he is given at his job - freedom to create and do what he loves.

During her master's degree studies, Tiffany interned at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma, Wash., just an hour from Seattle. She enjoyed it so much that she accepted a job there after graduation in 2010. She works in a variety of areas of the hospital, some inpatient services and some outpatient. She does a lot of work with premature babies in the neonatal intensive care units, teaching them how to swallow and suck to prevent long-term problems later.

"It's a really broad new field," Tiffany said of her job. She enjoys helping parents feel comfortable in caring for their newborns and enjoys following the family's progress throughout their treatment.

Andrew and Tiffany married in 2010 and are enjoying their life in the city now. They still make it back to Holdrege a few times a year, have fond memories of

their time at Holdrege High School, and speak highly of some of their favorite teachers, Mr. Larry Lum, Mr. Tom Brestel, Mrs. Kris Olson, and Mr. Brian Alber.

About Us

The mission of the HPS Foundation is to support and enhance the educational efforts of students and teachers of Holdrege Public Schools by providing funding for innovative and challenging programs, learning experiences, and activities.

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