

## Kathleen (Burnell) Olson, SCA Class of 2009



Dr. Kathleen (Burnell) Olson felt that her teachers at SCA stimulated her interest in learning and encouraging her to take on meaningful projects beyond the normal curriculum. This led to a rewarding career in medicine.

Science teachers (Mrs. Cheri Dubes and Mr. Craig Chambers) encouraged Kathleen in science and medicine. Quality experiments, projects, and lectures illuminated opportunities seldom considered in high school. Kathleen felt that these teachers pushed her to develop critical thinking skills and fostered her curiosity. This encouraged her to study biochemistry at the University of Minnesota, which paved the way to medical school.

SCA provided Kathleen with a solid foundation for writing skills, and a more rigorous education compared to her peers, preparing her for the challenges at U of M and Medical School. Bible verse memorization taught her skills in efficiency as well as attentiveness to detail, all of which became essential to her career path. Being versed in the Bible also gave Kathleen an important resource to call upon during life away from home and daily challenges she faces as a physician.



Dr. Olson graduated from University of Minnesota (Twin Cities) Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in Biochemistry. During her time at U of M she was in the University Honors Program, a member of Phi Sigma Theta Honors Society, and was on the dean's list 4 of 8 semesters in recognition of her academic achievements. She was also awarded the Sigma Xi Outstanding Presentation Award for her undergraduate Honors Thesis Presentation "A Green Chemistry Approach to Peracetic Acid for Cleaner Water".

In addition to her academic achievements, Dr. Olson was a member of the Navigators group on campus. Dr. Olson was also a founding member of Minnesotap, a college organization dedicated to bringing the art and skill of tap dancing to the campus through instruction and performances to the student body.

Dr. Olson then enrolled at University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine and received her Doctor of Medicine in May of 2018. During medical school, she received clerkship honors in surgery, internal medicine and pediatrics as well as basic science honors in foundations of medicine and human structure and function.

Cited as a contributing researcher for the published paper concerning opioid prescribing practices after surgery, Dr. Olson presented her research at a national meeting. She was also a researcher for a study on testicular cancer, mammography screening in Vermont, and healthcare of patients in recovery from substance abuse, to name a few.



Dr. Olson's volunteer work has included weekly girl's teacher of the Boys and Girls Club of Vermont, elementary school volunteer in the Smile Docs Program, group leader for Med Mentors, and UVM College of Medicine Admissions interviewer.

In 2018, Dr. Olson was honored to be selected to the Urology Residency program at Mayo Clinic Hospital, AZ. Her first year was spent in General Surgery. And she was recognized as Surgery Intern of the Year.

This is a 5-year urologic surgery residency program where Kathleen's time is spent covering all aspects of patient care.



In addition to these duties, she is involved in numerous research projects and volunteering her time at a local clinic in Phoenix. Dr. Olson currently plans on pursuing a urologic oncology fellowship after graduation.



Dr. Olson resides in Arizona with her dedicated husband, Jon, who is an engineer working with a local company on battery technology.

Mother Carol Burnell states, "We don't get to see our children very often, but Dave and I are so blessed just knowing they have found so much happiness in their lives with their spouses and their work. We had so many great years at SCA."