

Jessica Felton
October 2014 Alumni of the Month

Jessica Felton graduated in 2005 from Conemaugh Township Area Middle School/High School. After graduation, she attended Shippensburg University for four years majoring in accounting. Miss Felton stated, "I loved the aspect of a small town feel, but at the same time attending a school where I knew no one, which seemed like an adventure to me."

Her first career out of college was as a staff accountant at a small health care company in Harrisburg, PA. Jessica was grateful for her first big break into the business world, but after only two years, she knew she was limiting herself from any personal or professional growth. She then moved on to the Graham Packaging Company in York, PA, taking on the position of plant accountant. By changing industries, Miss Felton knew instantly manufacturing was the business she felt most comfortable with. It was constantly evolving, which meant endless opportunities for her.



This new position gave Miss Felton the chance to travel across the country to cities she had always wanted to explore such as Los Angeles, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Houston, and Atlanta. After two years of traveling, Jessica had the desire to make a change both personally and professionally. Her next career move landed her in Louisiana, where she became a controller at one of the Graham Packaging manufacturing plants. Although Jessica is the youngest employee at the plant, she is constantly amazed by the amount of respect and support she receives from her co-workers.

Miss Felton said, "Every day I learn something new about the business and am constantly being pushed to overcome new challenges that arise." It is in those moments when she realized the path she had taken was exactly what she had been cut out for. She believes she is a natural problem solver.

Jessica currently resides in Baton Rouge, LA and admits that she was not cut out to be a professional crawfish peeler. In her spare time, she coaches soccer at the local YMCA and enjoys exploring all of the amazing southern culture.

In high school, Jessica's favorite teacher was Mr. Andolina. She credits her love for writing to him. "To say Mr. Andolina was my favorite teacher would be an understatement because he was without a doubt the most influential person throughout my high school experience." Jessica stated. "I was on the yearbook and newspaper staff for two years and spent a lot of time working in the Publications Office."

Miss Felton gives recognition to Mr. Andolina because writing became a hobby of hers, and Mr. Andolina encouraged her to use it as an outlet for expression. It was not until after Jessica graduated when she realized the impact of having a teacher like him. She understood later in life that among the lessons she had learned from him was the importance of character and being true to yourself. She stated that she has carried this lesson with her into her daily life.

Although selecting one fond memory from four years of high school was almost impossible, Jessica did not hesitate.

When asked, she simply replied, "The most important thing I've carried with me from my high school experience is lasting friendship with my eight best friends." It has been nine years since she graduated from Township, and Miss Felton states, "Even though we all live in different parts of the country, we still remain prominent figures in each other's lives." Over the years for Jessica and her comrades there have been eight college graduations, two weddings, one (soon to be three!) beautiful children, job promotions, and endless laughs.

Jessica emphasized "And guess what... these friendships were founded within the little halls of Conemaugh Township Area High School!"