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MAGAZINE

Newlyweds Lacey Eberle and Steve
Caussaeux. Photo by Alistair Blair

BLOOMINGTON

*Wedding
Guide*

2007



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Weddings &

A LOT OF FABULOUS IDEAS!

The four couples all tied the knot in Bloomington, but that's where the similarity ends. Katie Martin and Gate Jantaraweragul knew from the get-go that they wanted a *traditional country club wedding*. Lacey Eberle and Steve Caussaeux, who met in Los Angeles, wanted to recreate the ambiance of the *wine tastings* they enjoyed in California.

Angi Lenhart and Matt Mondlock planned *Shakespearean-inspired* nuptials. And Jill Harkness and Brian McGinnis merged their affection for IU with their love of music to create a *jazz-era celebration*.

All found a way to express their individuality within the whirlwind of a mass-market industry. Romance and rice aside, weddings are big business. An estimated 2.4 million weddings take place annually, with an average cost of \$20,000-\$25,000.

How did the four couples find their unique paths to the altar?

They agreed to share their visions for their weddings, the practical steps they took, and the local resources they turned to for help. All said, the most important thing about planning a wedding is finding the right people to help make their dream a reality—that is, after finding the right life partner, of course.

BY LEE ANN SANDWEISS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JON ASP, ALISTAIR BLAIR, JANELL SPENCER, AND KEVIN SWAN

{WEDDING NO.1}

GATSBY-ESQUE

Elegance

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Katie Martin and Gate Jantaraweragul met on a blind date while still in high school. Five years later they became man and wife. *Photos by Janell Spencer*

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Little did Katie Martin know that her blind date to Bloomington High School South's senior prom — Gate Jantaraweragul from crosstown rival Bloomington North — would be her future husband. But after dating for a year, Gate and Katie realized that they were destined to be married, and four years later, after graduating from IU, the couple became engaged.

Before wedding preparations were in full swing, Gate, whose parents are Buddhists from Thailand, honored his family's tradition by going to the Buddhadharma Meditation Center of Chicago for several weeks and immersing

himself in Buddhist monastic study. The experience was deeply enriching, Gate says. It led to a deeper understanding of his ancestral religion and confirmed his readiness to enter into marriage with Katie.

From the beginning, Katie and Gate knew that they wanted a traditional wedding with what Katie describes as "Great Gatsby" elegance. "I wanted everything to be timeless and chic, something I wouldn't look back on years later and say, 'What the heck was I thinking?'" recalled Katie.

Her family belonged to Bloomington Country Club, so that was the choice for the reception.



The reception was held at Bloomington Country Club where pink, black, and white was the color scheme. A wedding cake served as the centerpiece at each table.

Untold hours of meticulous planning went into making sure that every detail—the table linens, satin chair ties, elegantly scripted menu cards, floral arrangements, and wedding cakes that served as centerpieces at each table—reflected the event’s pink, black, and white color scheme. Subtle pink satin accents here, pink rosebuds there, and a dusting of sparkling crystals on each table contributed to an aura of effortless elegance.

The couple consulted with Alan Simmerman, the Country Club’s food manager and chef, to plan a menu that emphasized freshness and featured classic dishes like bistro salad, roasted flank steak, and potato ratatouille. The main meal was followed by a fountain of warm, gourmet chocolate into which guests could dip strawberries, pineapple, and other fruits.

For entertainment at the reception, Katie and Gate booked jazz trombonist Nate Sutton’s quintet through the Jacobs School of Music’s Office of Musical Attractions to serenade guests with dance music that had a multigenerational appeal.

Janell Spencer of Ball-Spencer Photography captured Katie and Gate’s wedding day from morning until night with an awareness that the couple wanted the images to reflect the natural grace of the event. No gimmicky techniques or poses.

As the day drew to a close, Katie and Gate added a warm, personal touch in the form of hometown comfort food for departing guests—square donuts and tiny cartons of milk “to go” with a napkin and tag that read, “Enjoy your midnight snack. Love, Katie and Gate.” ✱



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{WEDDING NO.2}

HOOSIER HOSPITALITY
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Style

Lacey Eberle and Steve Cassaux had perfect weather for their ceremony at the T.C. Steele State Historic Site in Brown County.
Photos by Alistair Blair



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Native Hoosiers Lacey Eberle and Steve Cassaux had to go all the way to Los Angeles to meet. Both professionals in the design field—Steve is an architect and Lacey an interior designer—they began as coworkers who shared camaraderie and Indiana roots, but before long, love blossomed.

Steve, who graduated from Ball State and left Indiana vowing never to return, found himself making frequent visits to Bloomington

with hometown girl Lacey. When the couple was ready to pick a wedding site, Lacey had only one choice: Bloomington. Steve agreed, on the condition that their wedding incorporate the feel of the Santa Barbara wineries they loved visiting.

On their multiple trips to Bloomington to scout the perfect reception site, the couple always went to tutto bène Wine Café on South Rogers Street to decompress and discuss their findings.

“I think Steve was the one who finally said,



Lacey's best friend, a floral designer, supplied the flowers as her wedding gift to the couple.

probably out of frustration, "Why can't we just have it here?" Lacey recalled. "I couldn't think of a reason why not—other than that tutto bène hadn't done a reception for as many people as we were hoping to have. But we quickly agreed that this was the place."

Finding a location for the ceremony that appealed to both Steve and Lacey was a little more difficult, as several of their top choices didn't do weddings. Finally, a friend mentioned the T.C. Steele State Historic Site near Nashville that includes the home and studio of Indiana artist Theodore Clement Steele.

"My mom went out to the T.C. Steele site and took photos, which she sent to us in California. Although we loved the outdoor garden and the beautiful scenery, it was hard to get a real feel for the place," said Lacey. "We decided to make a stop on our next visit to town. That visit sealed the deal."

Because Lacey and Steve were on a tight budget, they took advantage of offers from talented friends and family members to provide special touches that made their wedding memorable and unique. Lacey's best friend, a floral designer in Chicago, offered to do the flowers as her wedding gift. One of Steve's friends played the trumpet while Lacey walked down the aisle with her father. Lacey's sister made their wedding cake, and a friend of her mother's drove the newlyweds to the reception in his restored 1956 Hudson.

And the reception at tutto bène was exactly what they had desired; it had the feel of a California wine tasting.

"We had wine at each of the food stations," said Steve. The wines complemented the dishes being served at each of the stations. "For seating, we used tutto bène's collection of mixed-sized tables and upholstered furniture. We wanted our guests to feel like they were at a dinner party, or the home of a friend, and tutto bène allowed us to have just that."

Code Blue, a popular Bloomington blues band, provided music at the reception. "They were fabulous," said Lacey. "We couldn't have asked for more soulful music—the dance floor was always full." ✨



The newlyweds were driven to the reception at tutto bène in a restored 1956 Hudson.

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{WEDDING NO.3}

A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S

Dream

Wedding



The wedding ceremony for Angi Lenhart and Matt Mondlock was held "in the round." Photos by Jan Asp

Angi Lenhart and Matt Mondlock both have ties to Indiana and theater in their blood, so it's no surprise that both elements played a role in their wedding plans. But it took almost six years for the two voice actors, who met in 1999 through their mutual agent in Chicago, to realize that what they had been calling friendship for so long was, in fact, love.

Although Angi is from Ohio and Matt from Illinois, each has a Hoosier connection. Matt comes from a family of IU grads, and himself

attended IU for three years until he decided to pursue his career in Chicago. Angi's family had moved from Ohio to Angola, Indiana, about the time she moved to Chicago more than a decade ago. After they became engaged, Bloomington won out over Chicago, Angola, and Ohio as the site for their wedding.

Before the couple's first visit to Bloomington to look for possible sites, Angi's aunt, Jan Miller, who lives in Bloomington, had discovered Deer Park Manor. To jumpstart the



The ceremony was performed by Rev. Joe Everly, the best friend of Angi's late father.

planning process for the out-of-town couple, Miller met with Pat Bailey, then Deer Park's event coordinator (now owner of social butterfly and associate publisher of *Bloom*).

When Angi, who had been a theater major in college, came to town, she brought along a bridal magazine advertisement depicting a scene evocative of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, her favorite play. By chance, Bailey had won a national table design competition using *A Midsummer Night's Dream* theme.

"My mom was overwhelmed at the serendipity and insisted, no matter what, we had to have Pat plan our wedding," says Angi. "We didn't want the event to resemble a renaissance fair, but we wanted the same vibe—the feeling of romance and frivolity in a lush setting of green."

Angi credits Bailey with envisioning and executing 95 percent of the details, including having the ceremony in the round, which allowed the couple's parents and many guests to see their faces. Other details that reflected the enchanted woods motif—all accomplished within a fairly modest budget—were lush

moss-and-herb centerpieces, the bridal party's herb and floral nosegays by Linda Chapman of Harvest Moon Flower Farm, a dinner prepared by Lemley's Catering of Columbus that included marinated forest vegetables and a succulent roasted hog, and a cake by Lisa Farkas of The Cake and the Caterer, decorated with mushrooms, twigs, and leaves—all made of sugar. Add Elizabethan music, performed on lute and violin by musicians booked through the Jacobs School of Music's Office of Musical Attractions, and the Bard himself would have felt right at home.

Angi couldn't imagine walking down a church aisle without her father, who had died in 2000. What made things so much easier was that the ceremony was performed by Angi's late father's best friend, the Rev. Joe Everly, who flew in from California to officiate.

"When we called to ask, he didn't hesitate," Angi said. "Since the last ceremony he performed for us was my father's funeral, it was amazing to come full circle with this joyous event." ✨



In keeping with the theme of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, there were moss-and-herb centerpieces and a cake decorated with mushrooms, twigs, and leaves made of sugar.

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{ WEDDING NO.4 }

A Jazz



TIME WAS
HAD BY ALL



Jill Harkness and Brian McGinnis wanted the romantic feel of a jazz-era wedding.
Photos by Kevin Swan

Even though they both spent their formative years in Greenwood, Indiana, and attended IU, Jill Harkness and Brian McGinnis' paths didn't cross until 2002, when both were attending law school at Valparaiso University. Three years later, on New Year's Eve 2005, at a romantic party he planned for just the two of them, Brian dropped to his knee at midnight and proposed to Jill.

"The wedding planning started pretty much immediately, and we solidified our choice to get married in Bloomington in the fall," said Brian. "We both come from IU families and loved the idea of giving our family and friends an excuse to

come back to Bloomington for a few days. Many of them hadn't been back since they graduated."

First Christian Church on Kirkwood Avenue was the natural choice for the ceremony. Brian had fond memories of attending the church while at IU, and Jill appreciated its simple, elegant architecture and dark wood interior. In keeping with their vision of an IU-centric event, the couple chose Alumni Hall for the reception.

"We decided fairly early on that we would have the Indianapolis Jazz Orchestra, a 20-piece group we always enjoyed, play at the wedding. Alumni Hall, with its huge stage, wood floor,



The couple chose Alumni Hall and a black-and-white color scheme for the reception. (below) The 20-piece Indianapolis Jazz Orchestra set the mood.

and wide-open layout, seemed perfect,” Jill explained. “The feel of our reception really started with the Jazz Orchestra. We’re not big on much of the traditional wedding stuff—we came at this looking to basically throw a big, fun party for our family and friends.”

To Jill and Brian, the orchestra evoked the spirit of the jazz era of the 1930’s and ’40s: a black-and-white color scheme, sleek art deco design, ferns and palms. They consciously worked that motif into all of the details—from ivory-and-black invitations with vintage fonts, to an antique centerpiece at the entrance, to the reception that included a fedora, umbrella, and suitcase (to collect gift cards), all of which Brian found at the Midland Antique Mall in Indianapolis.

Although Jill’s priority was entertainment and Brian’s was food, both say that staying consistent with their theme was of paramount importance. They worked with Bari Kuhlman, Indiana Memorial Union event planner, who coordinated aesthetic elements that reinforced the jazz club ambiance and designed a menu with swanky supper club flair—pomegranate martinis, iceberg wedge salads, encrusted filets, and a station where Bananas Foster was prepared for the guests.

“What wasn’t important to us was a lot of the typical wedding traditions,” reiterated Brian. “We didn’t have the chicken dance, no garter

toss, no dollar dance, no speeches from the hosts, and though it was planned, we never even did a bouquet toss. My advice is to trust your instincts and go after what you want—don’t let others try to sway you from your vision.”

On the evening of October 14, 2006, when couples glided across the gleaming dance floor of Alumni Hall to a swinging jazz orchestra, it was easy to imagine the spirit of Hoagy Carmichael smiling down at Jill and Brian, giving them the thumbs up. ✨



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27 Tips FOR A Better Wedding

1

Communicate with your partner.

Discuss what type of event you want to create, how you want to remember it, and how you can make the wedding reflect who you are.

2

Allow 9-12 months for planning.

Having ample time will increase your chances of getting what you want and reduce stress.

3

Book your hotel for out-of-town guests ASAP.

In Bloomington, local hotel rooms can be booked up to six months in advance for events such as homecoming, graduation, or a basketball game.

4

Use the Internet as a resource.

There is an abundance of easy, affordable ideas online that will help you plan your wedding. An excellent one-stop site is weddinglinksonline.com.

5

Check out "I do" software.

An inexpensive (about \$30) program can help you organize everything from budgets to seating charts (elmssoftware.com).

6

Save money by thinking "out of the bridal box."

Look for deals, get married out of season, choose a site that's not an obvious choice for weddings.

7

Enlist the help of friends and family.

They'll save you money, and their involvement will make the entire event more personal.

8

Hire an event planner.

No detail will be overlooked if there's a professional in charge of pulling the whole event together.

9

Personalize your invitation.

It should express your personalities and/or principles, set the tone for the wedding, and/or reflect your passion—whether it's Eastern spirituality, gardening, or medieval history.

10

Make size your principal concern in choosing a venue.

It must be large enough to hold the number of guests you anticipate.

11

Get a dress that you love, regardless of the season.


Don't rule out a strapless dress or chiffon fabric even for a winter wedding. When you look back at your wedding pictures, what the weather was like won't matter; what you were wearing will.

12

Consider using an officiant who isn't a clergyman.

The ceremony can be presided over by judges, city clerks, even a friend, including that special person who's known you since you were "this big." Getting a license to marry couples is easy online.

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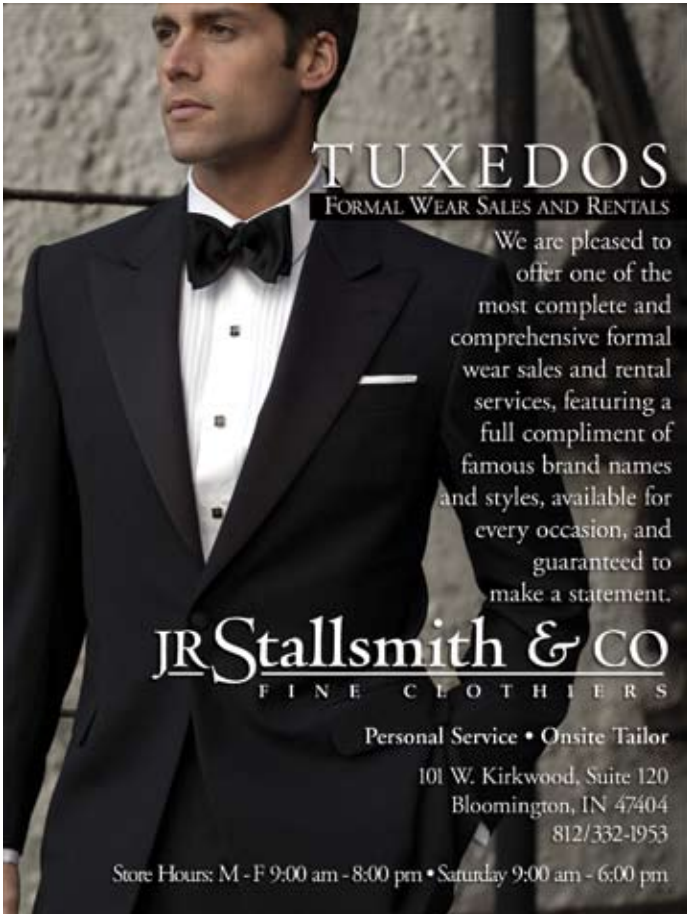
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13

Write your own vows.

Creating your own pledges to one another can be one of the most romantic things you'll ever do.

14

Use the program to explain traditions that may be unfamiliar to your guests.

Describing special ethnic or religious portions of the ceremony in the program will help make the event more meaningful to those in attendance.

15

Consider alternates to a buffet or a traditional seated dinner.

Your caterer may offer "family-style" service for a small group, a variety of food stations each manned by a chef, or passed hors d'oeuvres ("heavy cocktails") served to accompany drinks.

16

Personalize the menu card if possible.

If you have included a particular dish because it has special meaning to you as a couple or a dessert for which the recipe is a family tradition, let your guests know.

17

Enliven your reception décor with color.

White tablecloths and white napkins are no longer the only option for wedding receptions. Choose a color scheme that helps express how you feel.

18

Serve a signature drink at your reception.

Offer guests a choice of that drink or wine rather than a full bar. This will reduce your bar costs and also make your reception distinctive, particularly if you match the drink with the theme and décor.

19

Assign the seating with care.

You know your guests, and if you place them with others whom they are likely to find interesting, it will add to their enjoyment of the day.

20

Book the best musicians you can find.

Here in Bloomington we have access to high-quality musical talent at a reasonable fee through the Office of Musical Attractions at the Jacobs School of Music (musattr@indiana.edu).

21

Choose the right photographic style.

Photographers work in a variety of styles—classical, photojournalistic, and illustrative. Decide which will yield the most pleasing results for you.

22

Have your hair and makeup done professionally.

Your pictures will be even more flattering. But have a trial run to make sure you're totally comfortable with the look.

23

Buy locally grown flowers.

Not only are they fresher, but also buying locally will help keep your floral costs down.

24

Recycle ceremony flowers at the reception.

Use your altar arrangements to dress up the buffet tables. The wedding planner or a close friend/family member can do the transporting.

25

Create welcome packages for your out-of-town guests.

Have them available at the hotel at check-in. Along with a welcome note and information about Bloomington, you might include a snack, a split of Champagne, and/or toiletries.

26

Keep the big picture in mind.

Though a wedding involves dealing with myriad details, try not to be overwhelmed. Focus on how lucky you are to have friends and relatives around you for such a joyous occasion.

27

At the wedding party make sure to savor the moment.

Assign someone to take you and your spouse away from the excitement for a few minutes, and view the event from a distance to see what you achieved together.

Best of Luck!

Dance into your wedding

Get started early! Starting dance lessons two or three months before the wedding gives you time to achieve a polished and graceful look for that special first dance.



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