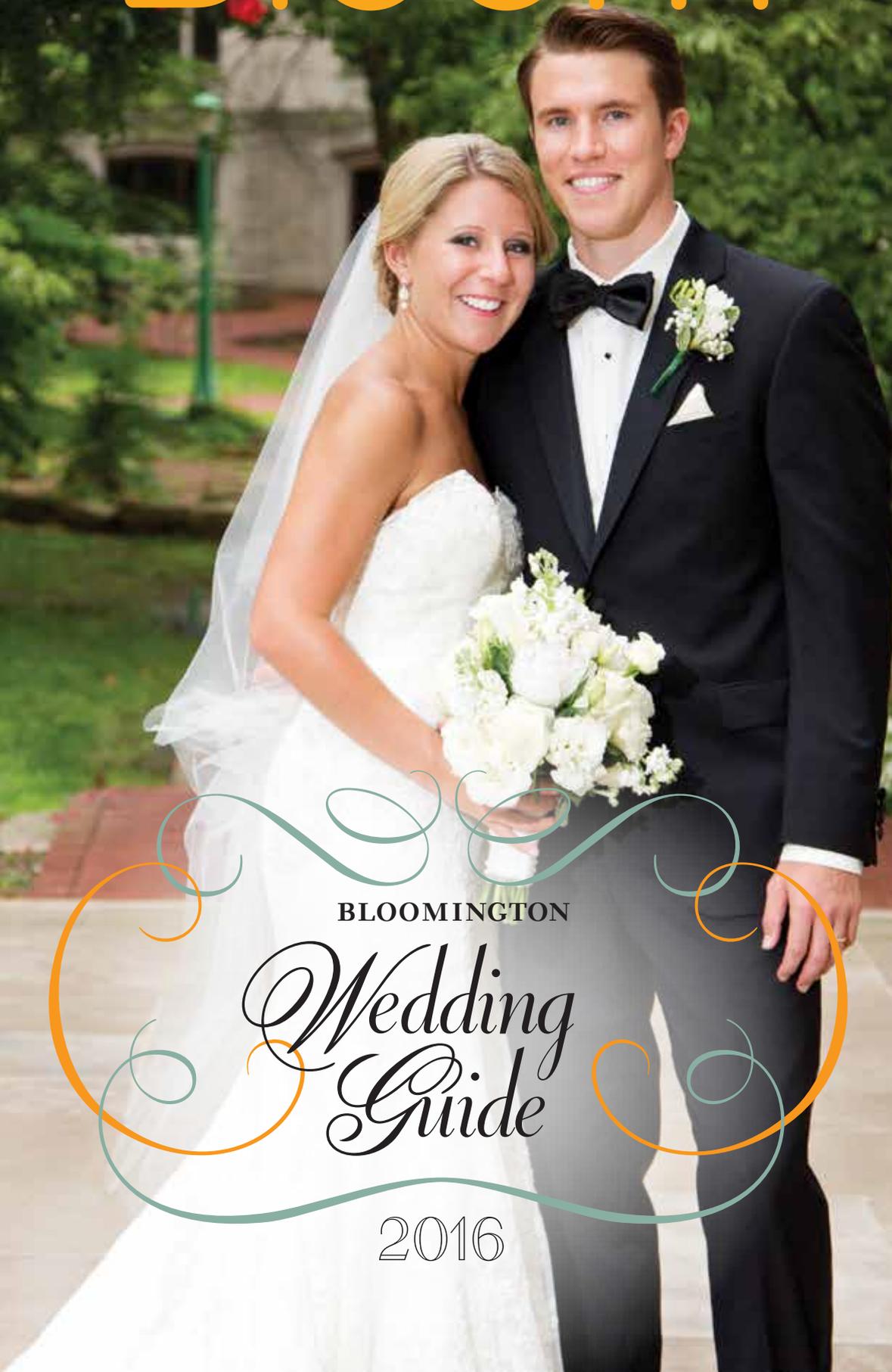


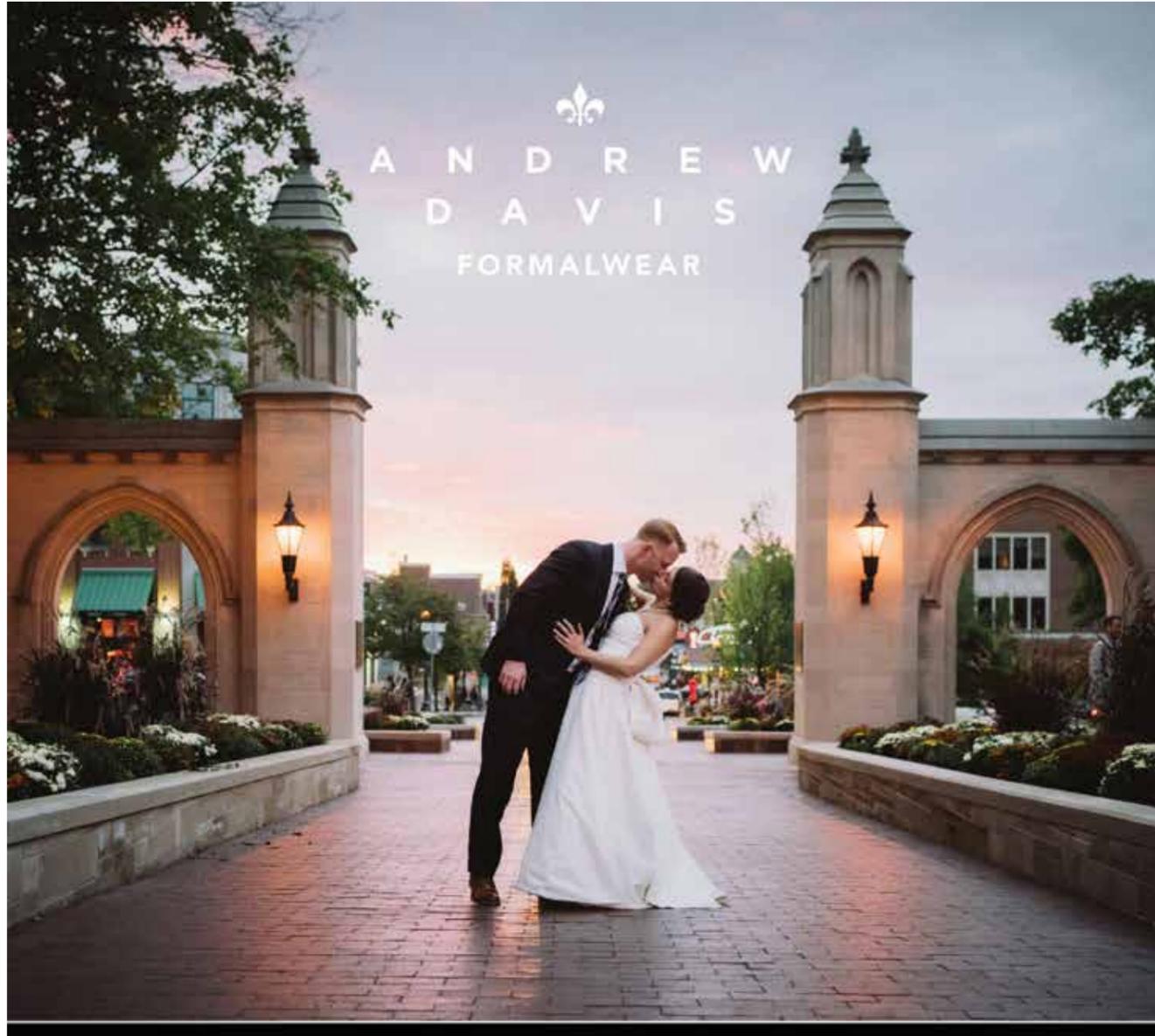
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Wedding Guide

2016



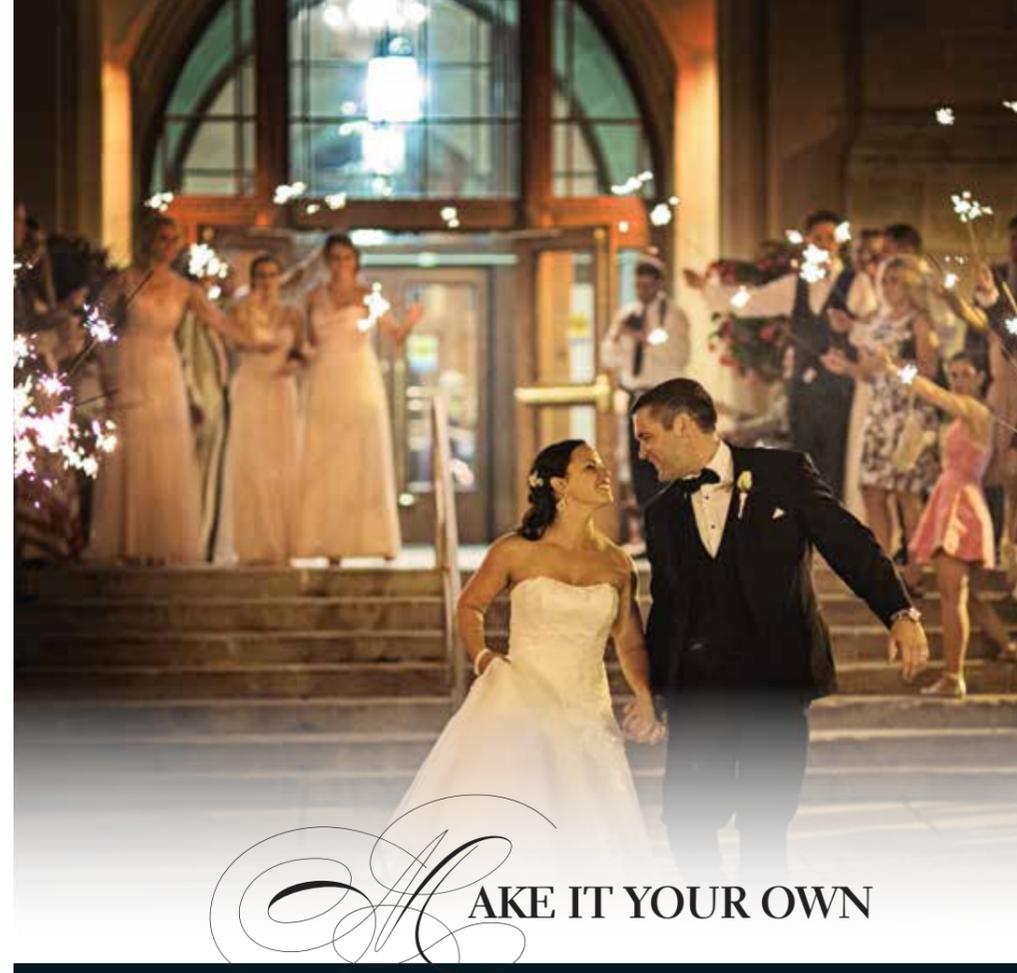
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Whether the proposal was a complete surprise or expected, as soon as the decision was made, the planning began on the four weddings featured in our 10th Annual Wedding Guide. The couples made sure their weddings reflected who they are and what they value.

Aubrey Wathen and Jordan Hulls' traditional ceremony was followed by a reception appropriately held in Indiana University's Henke Hall of Champions. For Megan Tippmann and Ryan Kemp, it was most important that their friends and family have a relaxed, wonderful time. Alexis Fuson and Stefan Coonan live in Chicago, but the IU alums went all-out Hoosier for their big day. Michal Adut and DeJohn Rose had a beautiful, traditional Jewish wedding held in an unorthodox setting of special significance, making the day even more special.

And while each wedding and reception was as unique as the couple who planned it, you can be inspired by their examples to plan a wedding that reflects who you are and, in doing so, makes your own special day unforgettable.

COVER: Indiana University basketball star Jordan Hulls and his bride, Aubrey Hulls, née Wathen. *Photo by Hudson Photography*

ABOVE: Alexis Coonan, née Fuson, and her new husband, Stephan Coonan, exit the Indiana Memorial Union in a sparkler sendoff. *Photo by She Designs Photography*

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A WEDDING FIT FOR A
HOOSIER HERO
 & HIS

Bride

HE IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR basketball players Bloomington has ever produced, but it took a little help for Jordan Hulls to get the girl. "Indiana Mr. Basketball" 2009 and a four-year standout with the Indiana University Hoosiers, Jordan met Evansville, Indiana, native Aubrey Wathen at IU where their paths crossed in the School of Public Health. But that was about it until Jordan's teammate Derek Elston and best friend Caleb Konstanski intervened.

Aubrey worked at Opie Taylor's, one of Jordan's favorite eateries. One day in early 2013, Jordan, Derek, Caleb, and a few other friends stopped in for a bite. When the group left, Aubrey saw a phone number and the words "call me maybe" on the back of Jordan's receipt.

"I thought he had written it, but I found out later Jordan had no idea," Aubrey says. "It was Derek and Caleb." Aubrey decided to take a chance, texting Jordan a few days later. Texting led to talking. "And we've been talking ever since," Jordan says with a smile.

"We did everything together for five or six months straight," Jordan says. "I knew it was good when I was with her all the time and we never got tired of being together."

In July 2013, Jordan and Aubrey took a trip to Chicago with friends Todd and Shelley Bontrager. "We did the tourist thing — Navy Pier, the boat tour, the Ferris wheel — and I knew Aubrey had no idea what was coming," Jordan says. The last stop was Skydeck Chicago at Willis Tower. The Bontragers had been taking photos all day. "I said 'Let's take one more picture,' and when Aubrey turned around, I was down





on one knee," Jordan says. He knew he had surprised her when she didn't really say yes. "She just kept asking, 'Are you sure?'" he says, laughing.

Wedding plans started immediately because Jordan was leaving in August to play basketball in Poland. The wedding date was largely based on the availability of the only place they wanted to hold their reception — Henke Hall of Champions in Indiana Memorial Stadium — and Jordan's schedule.

Aubrey, now a nurse, did most of the 23 1/2 months of planning. Their June 27, 2015, ceremony was at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, where Aubrey carried her grandfather's handkerchief as the "something old" added to her bouquet. "We'd both lost our grandparents in October 2014, so we tried to find little ways to pay tribute to them," she says.

Zeta Tau Alpha sorority was a big part of college life for Aubrey, and her sorority sisters were a big part of her wedding day; four of her eight bridesmaids and maid of honor Morgan Momcilovich were in her pledge class. Jordan's IU teammates were well-represented, too, with teammates Derek Elston, Cody Zeller, and Christian Watford serving as groomsmen, and Will Sheehey and Victor Oladipo ushering. Older brother Jay had

(clockwise from top left) Aubrey's bouquet from White Orchid Distinctive Floral Studio included lisianthus, spider mums, and sweet peas; stealing a kiss; this photo of Jordan with his groomsmen and ushers in their candy-striped warm-up pants was an Internet sensation, going viral in the days following the wedding.



(counterclockwise from below) The four-tier cake from Sugar Coated Cakery included white almond, red velvet, and peanut butter cup flavors; Aubrey and Jordan chose a traditional mass for their ceremony at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church; a happy sendoff after the ceremony.



best-man duties — on his own anniversary. Jordan had been Jay's best man six years earlier to the day.

The reception was a fun affair, with groomsmen changing into Hoosier candy-striped warmup pants to complement their formal shirts and jackets. And food was abundant. "We had a buffet," Jordan says. "We wanted to make sure the guys got enough food. They eat a lot." The wedding cake was from Sugar Coated Cakery, which also provided cupcakes and a groom's cake in the shape of Assembly Hall. And just in case anyone was still hungry, the Big Cheeze food truck showed up for a late-night snack.

After a sparkler sendoff, the two spent a week in St. Lucia. Now they're in Belgium where Jordan is playing basketball. They say their wedding was everything they hoped it would be. "It's all kind of a blur, because there was a lot going on," Aubrey says. "But in a good way. We were just so in the moment." —Carmen Siering

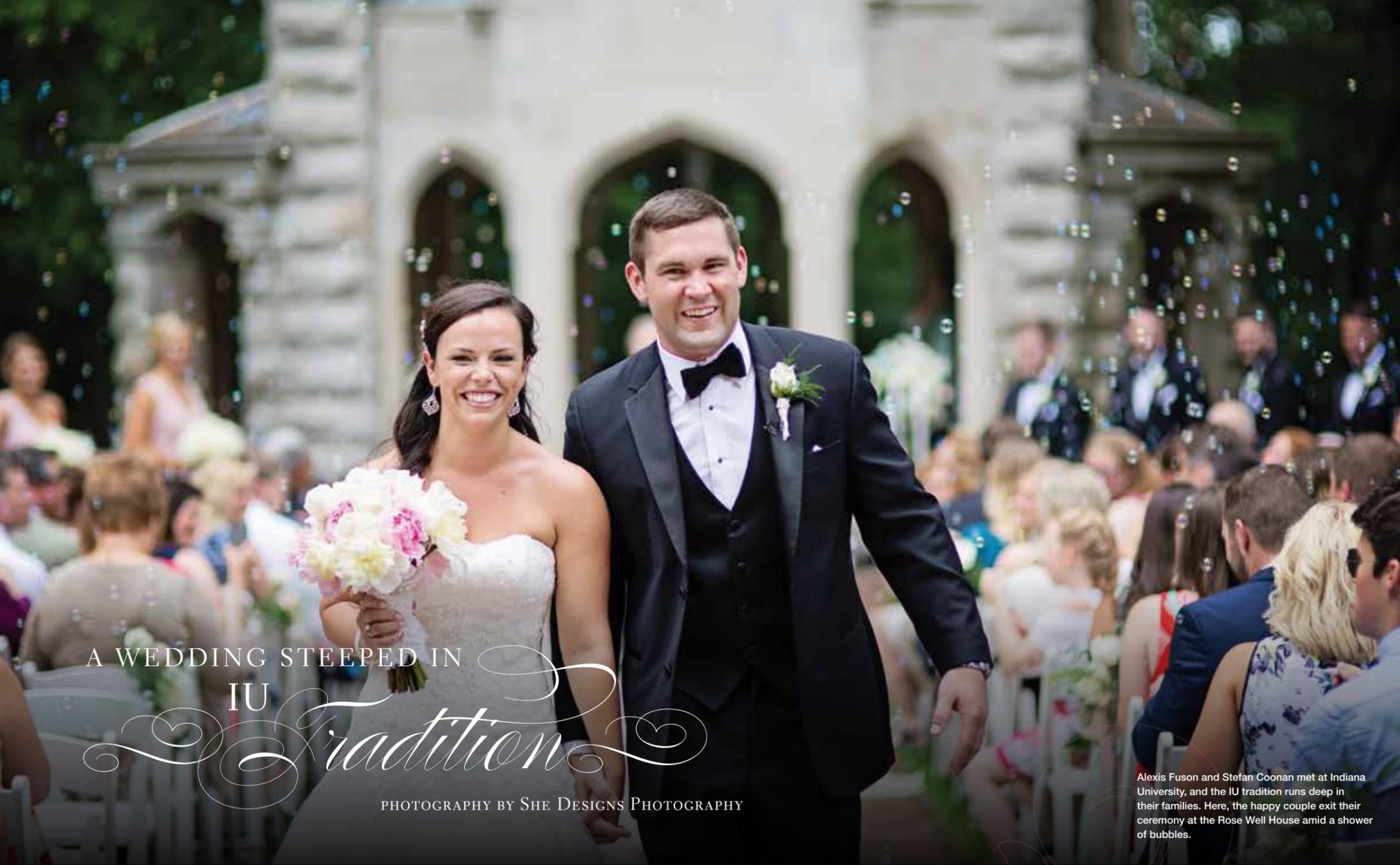


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A WEDDING STEEPED IN
IU
Tradition

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Alexis Fuson and Stefan Coonan met at Indiana University, and the IU tradition runs deep in their families. Here, the happy couple exit their ceremony at the Rose Well House amid a shower of bubbles.



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*A*LEXIS COONAN IS FROM Midland, Michigan, and Stefan Coonan is from Fort Wayne, Indiana, but their hearts belong to Indiana University.

The two graduated from IU in 2011, and when it came time to pick a location for their June wedding, the leafy Bloomington campus was really the only possible choice. After all, Stefan, 27, had proposed to Alexis Fuson, 26, in front of the Sample Gates.

The IU tradition runs deep in their families. “My dad went to IU, and he just loved it,” Alexis says. “When he found out

I’d gotten into IU, he cried.”

Stefan’s late grandfather was also an IU alumnus. In addition, his final visit to his beloved campus was to attend his grandson’s wedding. “It was nice for him to get back to his old stomping grounds one last time,” says Stefan.

And the couple each have brothers who attended IU. In addition, says Alexis, “Stefan’s youngest brother was attending IU orientation the week of our wedding.”

Their ceremony took place at the Rose Well House, with a reception and dinner following in the Indiana Memorial Union Tudor

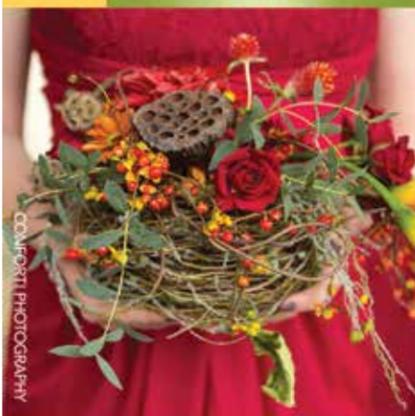
Room. There were other Big Red touches, such as groomsmen waving the IU flag as the couple strode into the reception to the IU fight song.

Alexis and Stefan met their sophomore year and dated throughout college. Conveniently, they lived in neighboring Greek houses — Alexis is Chi Omega and Stefan is Phi Sigma Kappa. During their senior year, Alexis, who majored in marketing, received a job offer from the Chicago firm where she’d done a summer internship. The couple waited anxiously, hoping that Stefan, a management major, would land a job in the Windy City, too.

“We were actually in the car together, on our way to visit Stefan’s home, when he got the call that he’d gotten a job in Chicago,” says Alexis. Stefan is now a pricing analyst for the freight broker Coyote Logistics, and Alexis is a benefit consultant for Arthur J. Gallagher & Co., an insurance brokerage firm.

The couple planned the wedding from Chicago, with local help from Alexis’ parents, who had retired to Bloomington. Alexis wasn’t afraid to tailor traditions. “Instead of a maid of honor, I asked my brother, Zach, to be my man of honor. He was a good sport the

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WEDDINGS

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whole time," she says. Alexis also asked Stefan's mother, Theresa, to accompany her and her own mother, Suzanne, in the search for Alexis' wedding dress. "Stefan's mother is the mother of four boys, so I was really glad we were able to bring her with us," she explains.

Stefan had a role to play, too. "Alexis was like, 'I'll plan the wedding. You plan the honeymoon,'" Stefan says. And he rose to the challenge, arranging for a getaway in Aruba full of Jeep tours and snorkeling that the couple were almost too exhausted to enjoy.

And though the wedding took place far from Alexis' Michigan hometown, her childhood minister, James Chilton, presided. "He had married my parents 31 years ago," Alexis says.

In the midst of the IU hoopla and general magnificence, quiet details meant the most to the couple, who agree that one of their favorite moments was their private "first look," when Stefan glimpsed Alexis in her wedding gown.

"It was nice to share some moments together before the craziness," says Stefan. Alexis adds that their other favorite moment was when they walked together into the reception. "Everyone was cheering and clapping for us," she says. "We felt really loved."

—Julie Gray



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(this page, clockwise from top) Cocktails and dinner were served in the Tudor Room at the Indiana Memorial Union with flowers by Cathy Teeters Beautiful Weddings; ushers Alex Rogers and Noah Coonan (Stefan's youngest brother, now an IU freshman) carry in the IU banner as they are introduced at the reception; the five-tier cake was from Sugar & Spice at IMU; Stefan's grandfather, IU alumnus Terry "Coach" Coonan, was 95 when this photo was taken with his grandson Tom Coonan and great-granddaughters Emalyn and Ashlyn Watson.

(opposite page, l-r) The couple shares a quiet moment; Alexis and Stefan dance to "This is Indiana" by Brice Fox and Daniel Weber.

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“

MICHAL PICKED A ROSE” READ ONE OF the hand-lettered signs posted on rustic wood panels that dotted the grounds of Sycamore Farm, a 20-acre working horse farm in southwest Bloomington. And indeed, last September Michal Adut picked DeJohn

Rose to marry in an outdoor ceremony at the farm, followed by dinner and dancing in a beautifully decorated barn.

DeJohn is a local boy, the son of A John and Judith Rose, the owners of Bloomington’s Textillery Weavers. But Michal was

(above) Michal and DeJohn Rose under the canopy of lights at Sycamore Farm. (right) Flowers by Linda Chapman of Harvest Moon Flower Farm.



born in Israel and grew up in the New York City borough of Queens. The couple live and work in Manhattan. DeJohn, 28, is an account executive for Jack Victor, a menswear manufacturer, and Michal, 29, is a senior account manager for a public relations firm.

“We met at a birthday party in New York in July 2012,” recalls Michal. The party was for Michal’s college friend, who was dating a friend of DeJohn’s. “They didn’t last very long, but we did,” Michal says with a laugh. “We had our first date three days later,” DeJohn adds. They’re New Yorkers, so it was sushi. The proposal was also very Manhattan. It took place on the Bow Bridge in Central Park in April 2014.

You might expect the couple would choose the Big Apple for their wedding. “We did a lot of exploring for venues in New York, but they just didn’t feel right,” says Michal. “But we were sold on Sycamore Farm as soon as we saw it.” As DeJohn explains, “Michal had grown up riding horses, and Bloomington is a big part of who I am, so it was a really nice blend.”

All the planning had to be done long distance, but that was easier than expected. DeJohn had worked for Indiana Memorial Union catering, so the food decision was a no-brainer. The couple worked with IMU Executive Chef Thomas Berinati on a menu that could be grilled outdoors. “We added our own flair to the presentation,” says Berinati, with touches like an artichoke aioli for the New York strip steaks and baby pearl potatoes.



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1. DeJohn's mother, Judith, wove the cloth for the chuppah under which the couple was married.
2. Polished horseshoes held each guest's table setting.

The florist, Linda Chapman of Harvest Moon Flower Farm in Spencer, Indiana, was another obvious choice. Chapman is the mother of the manager at Andrew Davis Clothiers, where DeJohn had also worked.

"The vision was all Michal, though," says DeJohn. "I loved the aesthetic of the barn and I wanted the wedding to feel elegant, simple, and natural," Michal says. There were many horsey accents, because Michal had been on the equestrian team at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. Her brother, Omri, who is a riding instructor, collected and polished the horseshoes that held each guest's table assignment.



3 & 4. Following Jewish tradition, the bride and groom were rocked aloft at the reception. So were the groom's parents, A John and Judith Rose.
 5. Dinner with rustic elegance, courtesy of IMU Catering. 6. DeJohn and Michal enjoy a quiet moment with a friend at Sycamore Farm.



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"Religion is definitely a very important part of our lives," says DeJohn, so Rabbi Sue Silberberg of Indiana University's Helene G. Simon Hillel Center led the ceremony. DeJohn and his family have known her since he was a child. DeJohn's mother wove the cloth for the chuppah, the canopy under which they were wed. She also wove a blanket for each of the attendants.

Because most of the 99 guests were from out of town, Michal and DeJohn arranged a long weekend of events so everyone could spend time together. "It was really cool to see our friends making friends with one another," DeJohn says. "And a lot of those friendships are continuing." In the end, then, Michal and DeJohn's wedding was a union of more than two people. —Julie Gray



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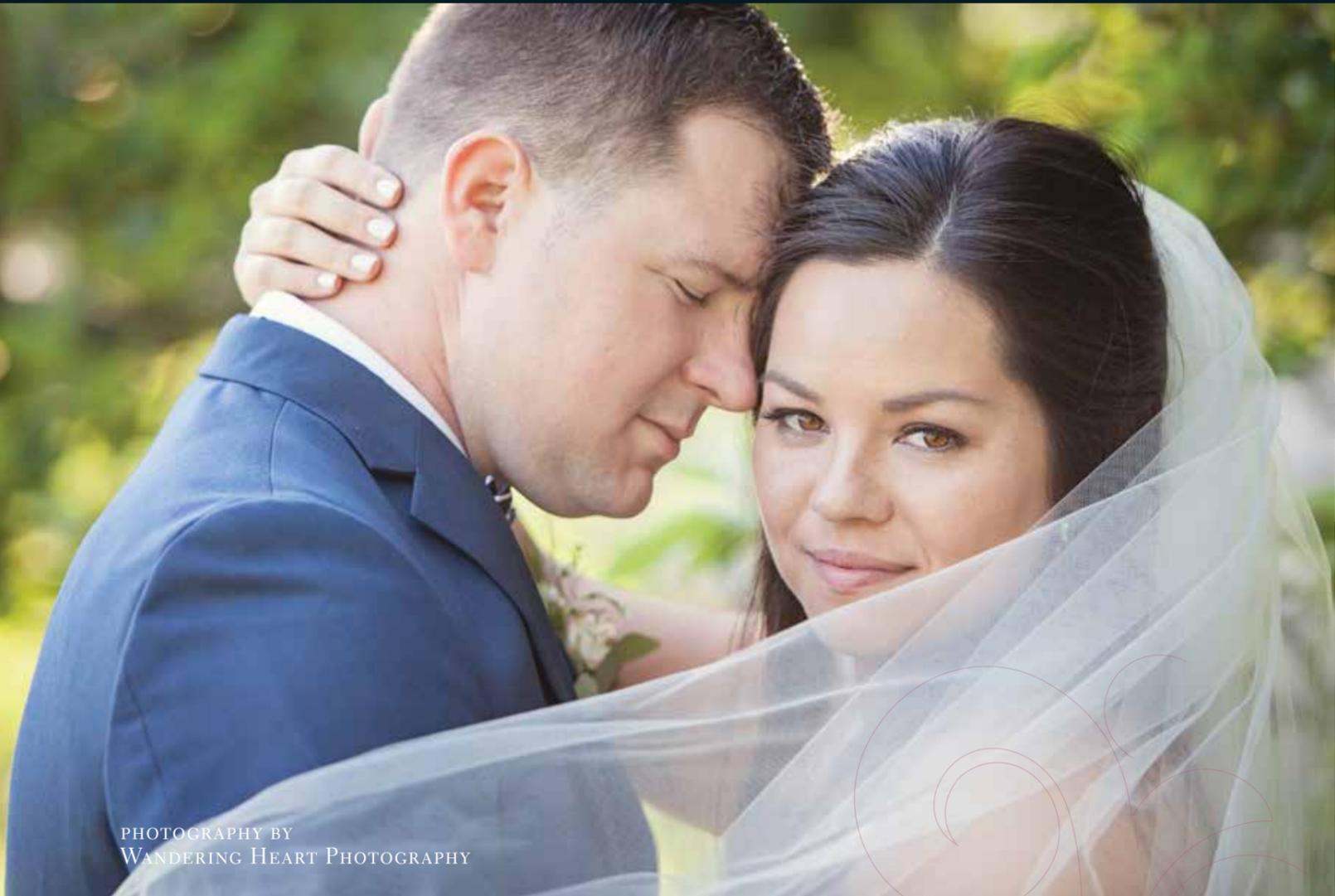


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(left) For Ryan and Megan Kemp, the most important part of their wedding day was ensuring their family and friends were comfortable and that everyone had a wonderful time. (above) The Loft at Walnut Hill, a former cattle farm, provided a beautiful setting for an outdoor wedding.

A WEDDING ABOUT WHAT'S

Important

Megan Kemp lives and breathes weddings. She is the brand manager for the bridal blog *Wedding Sparrow*, which features the most haute of weddings in the most gorgeous of settings. But that was of no help when it came to planning her own nuptials to Ryan Kemp.

"It's almost counterintuitive," the former Megan Tippmann says, "but working for a

wedding website made things more difficult for me." For one thing, the couple was on a budget. "And Ryan and I had heard horror stories of people getting lost in the details of things that don't really matter," Megan says. "So we sat down to talk about what was most important to us. And we kept coming back to this principle: We wanted our friends and families to feel comfortable and

have a good time."

They succeeded. The wedding took place in May at The Loft at Walnut Hill, a former cattle farm situated between Bloomington and Bedford, Indiana. Megan and Ryan had barely finished their first dance before their 250 guests rushed the floor. "People did not stop dancing the whole night long," says Megan.

Ryan, 30, a 2010 Indiana University–Southeast grad who is now a sales manager for Sherwin-Williams, and Megan, 28, who graduated from IU–Bloomington in 2011, met in 2011, in Louisville, Kentucky. After mutual friends suggested they get together, Ryan sent Megan a message on Facebook. Megan replied, but accidentally sent him the wrong phone number. Ryan texted her. When, a day and a half later, he still hadn't heard back, "I thought, 'Well, this isn't going anywhere,'" Ryan says.

When the two finally did meet for dinner, they both realized instantly that, in fact, it was going somewhere. They dated for two years and bought a house together in Bloomington. Ryan collaborated with one of Megan's friends and her sister to surprise his bride-to-be with his marriage proposal.

While the couple was out celebrating their dating anniversary, 30 friends and family, from as far away as Texas and Tennessee, slipped into their house. Returning from dinner, Ryan hurried into the house ahead of Megan, and when she entered the kitchen, he was on one knee, surrounded by their guests. Megan was so surprised, she says, "I don't even remember him asking. I think I blacked out. I was bawling my eyes out and I attacked him with a big hug."

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Ryan left most of the wedding planning to Megan. As she explains, "Ryan didn't have very many strong requests, but the food, the alcohol, and the cake were three things he cared a lot about." The food was a barbecue buffet and the cake was red velvet with buttercream icing. The cake was decorated simply with eucalyptus leaves by Ryan's aunt, Darlena Knapp, owner of Campbellsburg Floral Creations & Gifts, who also did all of the flowers.

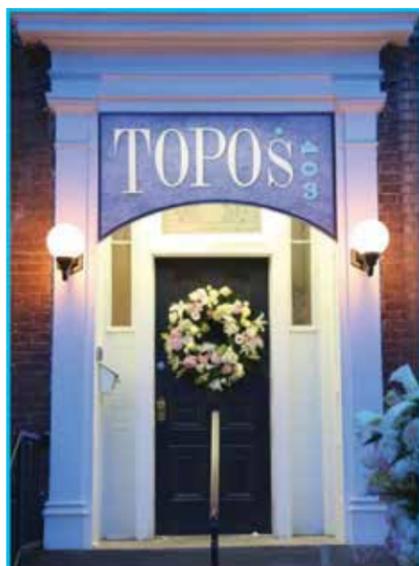
"I love flowers," Megan says. "It was really special to work with Ryan's aunt. I had the best florals I could ever dream of." Megan and Ryan also dreamed up their own vows. "After we recited them," Megan says, "there wasn't a dry eye in the house. It was so meaningful."

The tears evaporated as soon as the celebrating started.



(left) The dancing was virtually nonstop at the Kemps' wedding, and guests partied until the last shuttle bus headed back to town. Here, Megan leads the conga line. (above) The couple wrote their own vows. When they'd finished reciting them, "there wasn't a dry eye in the house," the bride reports.

"We were sore the next day from all the dancing," Megan says. The couple had more than met their goal. "We just wanted everyone to have a good time, and they did," Megan says. —Julie Gray

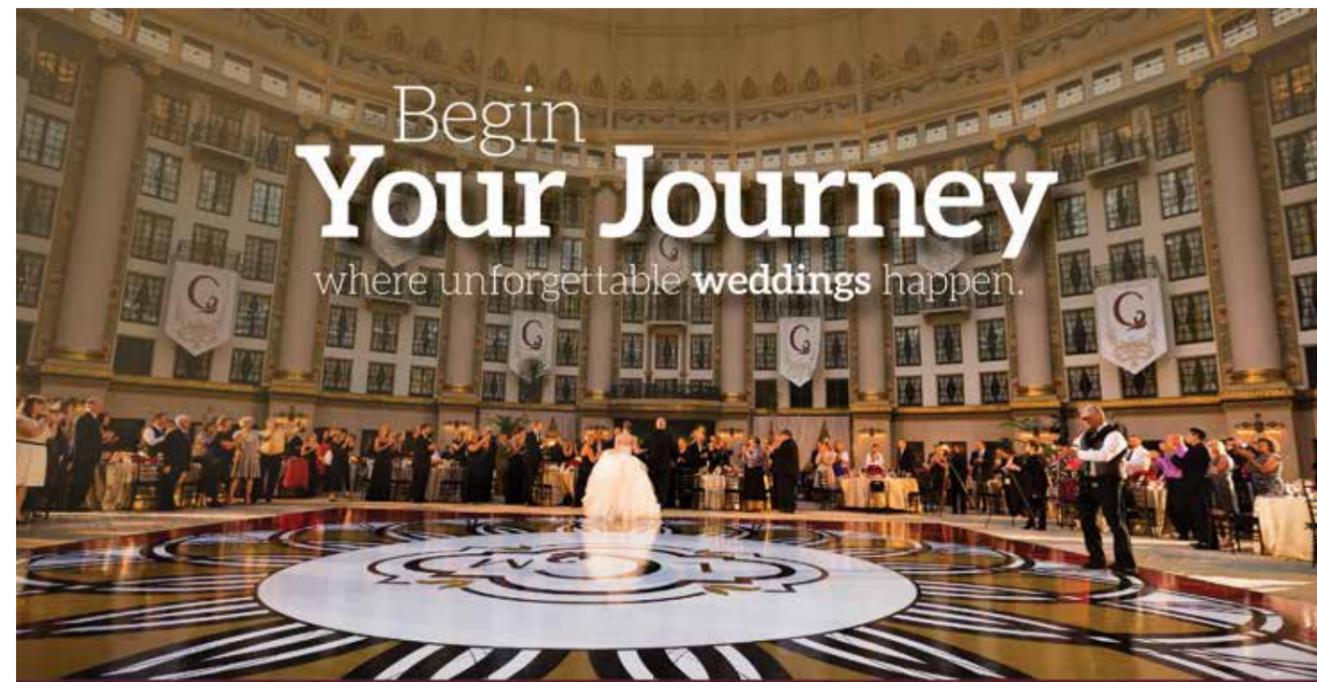


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(above and left) Megan loves flowers, so she was especially happy to work with Ryan's aunt, Darlena Knapp of Campbellsburg Floral Creations, on all of her florals for the day.



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