

  
GABRIEL  
NEW YORK



*GOLD CASTERS*  
FINE JEWELRY

430 S. WASHINGTON ST.  
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47401  
(812) 332-1071

[www.goldcasters.com](http://www.goldcasters.com)

# Bloom



BLOOMINGTON

*Wedding*  
*Guide*  
2019



From consultation to preparation to on-going support, we work with your wedding party to ensure perfection. With meticulous attention to detail, we create clothing that will complement your wedding's unique style.

And, when the day is yours, our place is yours. Reserve the Andrew Davis Bespoke Showroom to host your groomsmen. We'll look after every last-minute detail and accessory fitting.

When you call, we answer.

**A N D R E W  
D A V I S**  
B E S P O K E

 101 W. Kirkwood, Bloomington  
812.323.7730  
andrewdavisclothiers.com



# FOUNTAIN SQUARE

*A Collection of Shops & Event Spaces*

Mid-1800s Venue • Multiple Levels • Small & Large Events

Caterer of Choice • Discuss the Possibilities Today

812.332.0053 • 101 W. Kirkwood Avenue, Bloomington



*Ashley*  
weddings • events



{stylish wedding planning & event coordination}

AshleyWeddingsandEvents.com • 812.322.3952



### ADD LIVE MUSIC TO YOUR NEXT EVENT

Jacobs School of Music students are ready to perform at your next party, wedding, or corporate event! Proceeds benefit our students.

812-855-7047  
musattr@indiana.edu



# A WEDDING OF *Many Cultures*

Photography by Tall + Small Photography

When Mati Sharaf met Torrey Byrd, a fellow medical student at Case Western Reserve University, it was love at first sight. Torrey, on the other hand, wasn't convinced they were right for each other.

"I was really nervous around him, and I was like, 'Oh, he's way out of my league,'" says the Bloomington native and Indiana University graduate. She even tried to set him up with her roommate. But Mati persisted, and on New Year's Eve 2013, the couple went on their first date. Within a few months, Torrey says, she was "head over heels," and the two were inseparable.

In January 2017, the couple took a trip to Ecuador, Mati's birthplace. In a small town in the mountains outside of Quito, Mati asked Torrey to marry him, giving her a ring that had belonged to his maternal grandmother.

The couple hired Christina Rockett of Sincerely Yours Weddings and Events to help them plan a wedding that would incorporate their families' diverse cultural and religious traditions. Mati's Afghan-born father is Muslim and his mother, from Ecuador, is Catholic; Torrey's father is Jewish and her mother is Presbyterian. "We wanted to find a way to blend these cultures and introduce some of these traditions into the wedding," says Mati.

On May 26, 2018, just one week after graduating from medical school, Torrey and Mati were married at the IU Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. Officiated by the Reverend Mary Ann Macklin of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington, the ceremony in the Neal-Marshall courtyard paid tribute to the pair's heritage and gave their loved ones the opportunity to participate in their special day.

Both Torrey and Mati were escorted down the aisle by their parents, and Torrey's brother and Mati's three sisters read poems. Mati's nephews served as ring bearers. Torrey's father performed a flute piece he composed for the occasion. Even the couple's dog, Rio, made an appearance.

Mati Sharaf knew from the moment he met Torrey Byrd that it was love at first sight. The couple were married on May 26, 2018.





FAR

## THE PERFECT LITTLE DETAIL

A modern wedding venue that gives back to the Bloomington arts community.

Located at Fourth And Rogers.

BOOK YOUR WEDDING AT [FARWEDDINGSANDEVENTS.COM](http://FARWEDDINGSANDEVENTS.COM)

For Mati, the highlight of the day was when he and Torrey recited their vows. "All of the craziness just stopped for 20 seconds, and it was very meaningful and powerful," he says. "I will never forget that." The ceremony concluded with the Jewish tradition of the groom breaking a glass wrapped in cloth.

The reception was held in the Neal-Marshall Grand Hall, where guests dined on Middle Eastern food by Cynthia Moriarty Catering. The menu included hummus and baba ganoush, golden rice pilaf with peppers and parsley, spicy chickpea stew, roasted chicken with a cardamom and cumin rub, and lamb meatballs.

A table in the Grand Hall displayed family photos and keepsakes, including an Islamic prayer rug that had belonged to Mati's grandfather and a tallit, or Jewish prayer shawl, that had belonged to Torrey's grandmother. Mati's aunt performed a traditional Afghan henna ceremony in which the bride and groom cut the cake together after their hands are painted with henna.



(left) The happy couple, Mati and Torrey Sharaf; (above) a kiss in the courtyard of the Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center. The Reverend Mary Ann Macklin of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington officiated the ceremony that incorporated the couple's diverse cultural and religious traditions; (right) the couple was sure to include their dog, Rio, in the ceremony.



*private events*

WEDDING RECEPTIONS, BRIDAL SHOWERS, REHEARSAL DINNERS, AND CELEBRATIONS OF ALL KINDS.



Our private dining room has a capacity of 50 guests seated or 75 guests for an appetizer reception. Please call 812-339-0900 for more information.

102 EAST KIRKWOOD AVENUE | BLOOMINGTON, IN | 812-339-0900 | [THE-UPTOWN.COM](http://THE-UPTOWN.COM)



**THE TAILORED FIT**  
CUSTOM CRAFTED CLOTHING

**Nick Farmer and Alejandra Martinez**  
Couture flower work & design  
by the Tailored Fit

**OFFERING**

Custom Men's Suits,  
Tuxes, and Shirts  
by Alabaster & Chess

Custom-tailored men's  
and women's clothes,  
tailoring/alterations and  
complete wardrobe services

Call to order your  
made-to-measure menswear  
or custom made womenswear  
from the Tailored Fit.

*Because One Size Fits No One*

**NEW LOCATION**  
611 W. 11th St. • Bloomington, IN  
Monday-Friday 10:30 - 6 pm  
Saturday 12 - 5 pm  
**(812) 323-2665 • TheTailoredFit.com**



The couple's friends  
hoist them into the air  
for the hora.



A happy moment at  
the reception.

For their first dance, the couple performed a salsa and kizomba number they choreographed themselves. Later, their guests joined them on the dance floor for the hora, a dance traditionally performed at Jewish weddings in which the newlyweds, seated in chairs, are hoisted into the air as their friends and family circle around them.

"I just felt so honored to have so many people there with us, and so loved and supported," Torrey says. In keeping with Middle Eastern tradition, the couple gave each guest five Jordan almonds, which symbolize wishes for the newlyweds: health, wealth, happiness, fertility, and longevity.

After honeymooning in Colorado, Torrey and Mati returned to Indiana to begin their residencies at the IU School of Medicine in Indianapolis. — *Molly Brush*



EST 2012  
**SYCAMORE FARM**  
BLOOMINGTON

STACY ABLE PHOTOGRAPHY | WWW.STACYABLE.COM  
TALL AND SMALL PHOTOGRAPHY | WWW.TALLANDSMALLPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



**WELCOME TO SYCAMORE FARM**  
SOUTHERN INDIANA'S SPECIALIST IN ELEGANT WEDDINGS & EVENTS.

OUTDOOR WEDDINGS | RECEPTIONS | REUNIONS & GATHERINGS  
CORPORATE EVENTS | PRIVATE PARTIES

812.824.2950 | WWW.SYCAMOREFARMBLOOMINGTON.COM



# A ROMANTIC WEDDING ON A *Wintry Day*

Photography by  
Stacy Able Photography

When Greg Daniele decided to propose to April Lofton in October 2016, he had to use a bit of subterfuge to carry out his plan. "I made up a story that one of our friends wanted to get together and have lunch at Millennium Park [in Chicago, where they lived]," he says.

April, however, wasn't sold on the proposed lunch date. "I was less than thrilled about the idea on a Sunday," she says. "It took a lot of persuading for me to get going."

The couple, who began dating as students at Indiana University and moved to Chicago after graduation, eventually made it to the park. With the Chicago skyline behind them, Greg revealed the outing's true purpose as he knelt and asked April to marry him. Afterward, they celebrated their engagement with family and friends, who were waiting at a nearby restaurant.

Greg, 29, and April, 30, knew from the start that they wanted to get married on New Year's Eve at IU. They chose Indiana Memorial Union as the venue and



(left) Greg Daniele and his bride, April Lofton, chose the Indiana Memorial Union as the venue for their New Year's Eve wedding; (above) warm wraps ward off the winter chill outside the IU Sample Gates; (below center) a cool groom and his entourage; (bottom) April and Greg are all smiles as they walk up the aisle after their ceremony, which was held in the Frangipani Room.



**MIRTH**  
*wedding & special  
occasion wear*

FOUNTAIN  
SQUARE

101 W. KIRKWOOD AVE. • SUITE 107 • BLOOMINGTON  
812.822.1624 • MIRTHMARKET.COM



enlisted Morgan Banks from Ashley Weddings and Events to plan a wedding that would also be a fun New Year's Eve party. "We just really wanted people to have a good time," April says.

On the day of the wedding, a light dusting of snow on the IU campus heightened the sense of romance. The ceremony took place in the Frangipani Room against a backdrop of white roses, calla lilies, and hydrangeas arranged by VS Designs, with softly glowing candles lining the center aisle. Wearing a 1920s-inspired satin gown, April was escorted down the aisle by her father as harpist Vivian Hsu from IU Musical Attractions played "Marry Me" by Train.

When he saw his bride enter the room, Greg was overcome with emotion. "As she was walking down the aisle, I teared up," he says. Adds April, "I think that his crying really sealed the deal for me."

April's friends Natalie Goodwin and Sara Rennich were her maids of honor, and Greg's brother, Vince Daniele, was his best man. Rick Belden, a longtime friend of April's family, served as the officiant.

"Rick has always been there for us throughout the years, so it was really special to have him officiate," April says. The cer-



emony included readings selected by Greg and April's mothers, as well as a recitation of vows and exchange of rings.

The highlight of the day, says April, was "having all of our favorite people in the same room and knowing that they were there to support us and celebrate our love for one another."

(top) A private moment for a stolen kiss; (above) the reception, held in the Tudor Room, was decorated with arrangements of white roses, calla lilies, and hydrangeas; (opposite page, top) the cake, with a "Mr. & Mrs." topper, featured chocolate and vanilla layers; (opposite page, bottom) Greg and April dance back into their reception.



Among those in attendance were the couple's grandparents. "We were lucky that our grandparents were able to travel and make the wedding, which was really special to us," April says.

After the ceremony, guests assembled in the Tudor Room for the reception. The room was decorated with lush arrangements of white roses, calla lilies, and hydrangeas. Gold accents added a festive sparkle. IMU Catering served steak, salmon, and penne pasta for dinner; for dessert, guests had the choice of chocolate layer cake or vanilla cake with raspberry filling.

Event One DJs provided musical entertainment and a photo booth for the reception. The party was still going strong at midnight when the couple and their guests welcomed the new year with a champagne toast.

The couple honeymooned in Fiji, New Zealand, and Australia. They continue to reside in Chicago, where April works for a media marketing agency and Greg is employed by an investment managing firm.

— Molly Brush



ATMOSPHERE  
unlike anywhere else.

Book private events and elevated occasions at Oliver Winery.  
We'll make the wine. You make the memories.



HOST YOUR NEXT EVENT  
IN A PRIVATE WINERY SPACE.

→ OLIVERWINERY.COM/PRIVATEPARTIES ←

OLIVER  
WINERY & VINEYARDS

200 EAST WINERY RD • BLOOMINGTON, IN 47404  
OLIVERWINERY.COM | EVENTS@OLIVERWINERY.COM

**Creekside Retreat**  
lodging & gatherings



**Brown County's destination for Weddings, Banquets & Receptions**

**Call today to book our Conference Center, Event Patio or Pergola**  
Luxurious Guest Rooms and Suites

**CREEKSIDERETREAT.NET**     
844-473-8732 • 2450 State Road 46 East • Nashville, IN 47448



*"The icing on your wedding"*



Call us for your special event plant rental needs

**42<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary**

**nw** Nature's Way, inc.  
Interior and Exterior Landscaping and Design  
812-876-7888 [naturesway.net](http://naturesway.net)

Photography by Tall + Small Photography

# A Scottish Wedding

## KILTS AND ALL

Bridie MacDonald takes great pride in her Scottish heritage. Her late father was 100 percent Scottish, and she's been performing traditional Highland dances for most of her life. So it's no surprise that when she accepted Rob Poerner's marriage proposal, she already had a plan in mind for their wedding. "It was really important for me to have a Scottish wedding," Bridie says.

Bridie, originally from suburban Detroit, and Rob, a lifelong New Jersey resident, first met at a running club event in Philadelphia. Shortly after their first meeting, they crossed paths again at a similar event in Chicago.

"Once we saw each other again, it was love at first sight, and we started dating immediately," says Bridie, who lived in Bloomington at the time. Six months later, Rob proposed to Bridie in Detroit's picturesque Belle Isle Park.

Because many guests would travel long distances to attend the wedding, the couple planned a four-day celebration over Labor Day weekend in 2018. "We had people come from all over," Bridie says. "That was really meaningful for us."

The festivities commenced on Friday night with the couple's bachelor and bachelorette parties. On Saturday, the pair led members of their running club on a five-mile trek through the Indiana University campus, followed by a welcome party and rehearsal dinner at Upland's Bloomington Brewpub that evening.

The outdoor ceremony took place on Sunday at Whippoorwill Hill, a historic farm and event venue on Bloomington's south side. Rob and his groomsmen all wore traditional Scottish attire featuring the MacDonald tartan. The men's ensembles included kilts and Prince Charlie jackets as well as kilt hose and ghillies, a type of shoe traditionally worn for dancing. Each man also wore a *sporrán*, or pouch, and had a small knife known as a *sgian dubh* tucked into his kilt hose. Their boutonnières contained thistle, Scotland's national flower.



Bridie MacDonald has always taken pride in her Scottish heritage, so it was only fitting that her groom, Rob Poerner, and his groomsmen all wore traditional Scottish attire featuring the MacDonald tartan on the couple's wedding day.



Bagpiper Dave Martin leads the recessional after the ceremony, held at Whippoorwill Hill.

Bridie, wearing a lace and tulle mermaid gown, was escorted down the aisle by bagpiper Dave Martin, who played the awe-inspiring "Highland Cathedral." Her friend Natalie Wetzel served as her maid of honor, and Rob's brother, John Cambria, was his best man.

During the ceremony, the pair recited their vows beneath a reclaimed-wood arbor draped with lace and flowers. Officiant Matthew Osborne performed a handfasting ritual, an ancient Celtic tradition in which a couple's hands are bound together with cloth, symbolically joining them.

The heartfelt ceremony moved many guests—and the groom—to tears. "I'm not a crier, and I cried during the ceremony," says Rob. "I lost it."

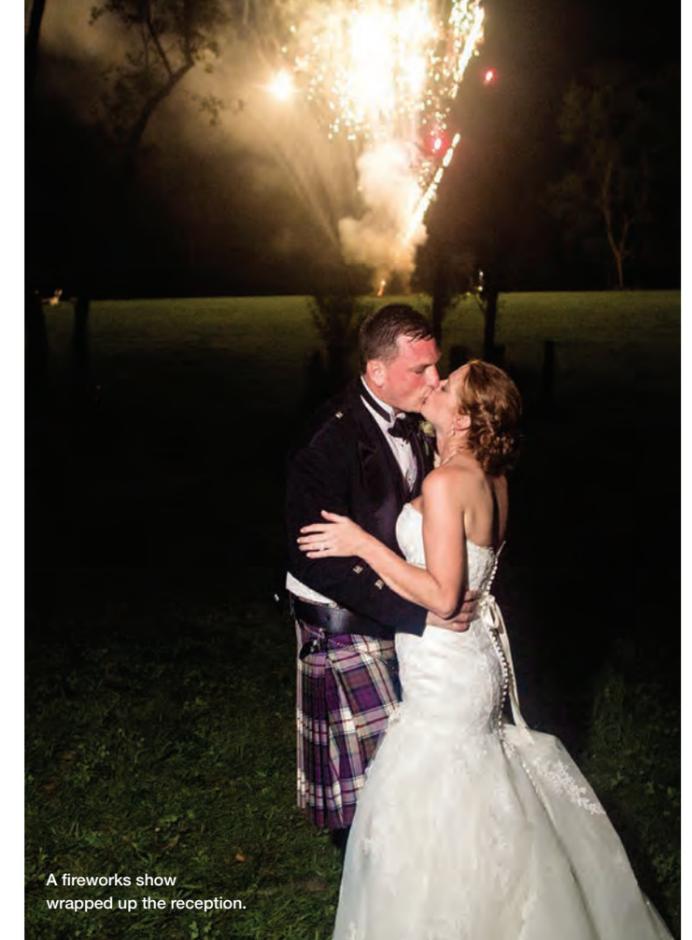
The reception was held in Whippoorwill Hill's historic barn, where the tables were decorated with bouquets of roses, peonies, hydrangeas, and baby's breath that Bridie arranged herself. For dinner, First Class Catering served steak with red wine sauce,

chicken piccata, macaroni and cheese, fingerling potatoes with Asiago cheese, and green beans. A chocolate cake with buttercream icing was decorated with the MacDonald tartan, and guests received pieces of homemade Scottish shortbread as wedding favors.

Officiant Matthew Osborne welcomed guests to the reception and led a champagne toast, opening the champagne bottle with an engraved saber that he presented to the couple. Before the guests took the dance floor, Bridie gave a solo performance of the Highland fling, a traditional Scottish dance.

A fireworks show brought the festivities at Whippoorwill Hill to a close, and the party moved on to The Crazy Horse Food & Drink Emporium. On Labor Day, Bridie and Rob wrapped up the four-day celebration with a farewell brunch for their guests at Hyatt Place in downtown Bloomington.

After honeymooning in Italy, the couple returned to New Jersey, where Bridie is a logistics manager and Rob is a train conductor.



WEDDINGS AT THE BCT

enchanting

BUSKIRK-CHUMLEY THEATER

INDIANA

Historic venue  
Personalized service  
Versatile elegance  
Downtown location

BUSKIRKCHUMLEY.ORG  
(812) 323-3022



Look Your Best For  
**The Big Day!**

- FITNESS KICKBOXING
- STRENGTH TRAINING
- NUTRITION GUIDANCE
- PERSONAL COACHES
- SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY
- CHANCE TO WIN \$1,000
- MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Start Your **FREE Week Today!**

**FARRELL'S**  
EXTREME BODYSHAPING

430 S. Landmark Ave., Bloomington | 812-822-2712 | www.fxbbtown.com



Photography by Tall + Small Photography

## A TRADITIONAL WEDDING

# Full of Surprises

Maggie Tull is not a night owl—she’s usually in bed by 8:30 p.m. But on one of her first dates with Dani Castro, the conversation lasted until the early-morning hours. That experience convinced Maggie that their relationship could be something special. “What did it for me was that we spent basically a whole night talking at Lake Monroe,” Maggie says. “We were watching stars on one of the old boat launches.”

Maggie, 28, and Dani, 32, began dating when they were students at Indiana University. After Dani graduated and moved back to her home state of California, they maintained a long-distance relationship until Maggie finished her degree and joined Dani there. A couple of years later, Maggie proposed to Dani on a quiet evening in their home in San Diego, presenting her with a scrapbook of letters about marriage from their families. The last page in the scrapbook displayed her proposal.

As the couple began planning their big day, they wanted their wedding to reflect their personalities and relationship, but they also didn’t want to stray too far from convention. “We wanted to keep it similar in style to traditional weddings,” says Dani, who works in integrity assurance for a background investigations company. “It was important for us that it was recognizable to our families as a real wedding.”

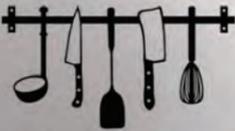
On October 21, 2017, Maggie and Dani were married at the Lake Monroe spillway against a backdrop of limestone cliffs, russet-tinged trees, and blue waters. The brides, both accompanied by their parents, walked down a path lined with chrysanthemum-topped tree stumps. As they approached the center aisle, they stepped through a white-frame doorway decorated with flowers and lanterns.

Maggie and Dani wanted their wedding to be conventional and to reflect their personalities and their relationship with one another.

HELPING COUPLES BEGIN LIVES TOGETHER SINCE 1973

EST 1973

**GOODS** *for* **COOKS**  
KITCHENWARE • GIFTS • FINE FOOD



*The Goods Registry*

KITCHENWARE | TEXTILES | WEDDING GIFTS | PANTRY | BARWARE



*Love doesn't sit there like a stone,  
it has to be made, like bread;  
re-made everyday, made new.*

- Ursula LeGuin

115 N College Ave | [www.GoodsForCooks.com](http://www.GoodsForCooks.com) | Downtown Bloomington

argentum  
JEWELRY



812.336.3100

205 N. College Ave. Bloomington, IN 47404

[www.argentum-jewelry.com](http://www.argentum-jewelry.com)



*we do!*

We know you've dreamt about this day, envisioning wedding memories to cherish for a lifetime. It's your wedding and we'll ensure it goes effortlessly with attention to every detail, guaranteeing you a truly memorable occasion.

 **monroe convention center**  
DOWNTOWN BLOOMINGTON

302 S. College Ave. | Bloomington, IN 47403  
p 812-336-3681 | f 812-349-2981  
[MonroeConvention.com](http://MonroeConvention.com)



Katie Griswold, a friend of the couple, officiated at the ceremony, held at Lake Monroe.



Dani dances with her dad.



Maggie and her dad share a dance.



Cathy Teeters  
*Beautiful Weddings & Design Studio*

**We Create an Atmosphere Where Joy is Possible**

(812) 333-7540 • (812) 327-9794  
[www.CathyTeetersBeautifulWeddings.com](http://www.CathyTeetersBeautifulWeddings.com)



Dani and Maggie included everyone—not just the single women—in their nontraditional T-shirt toss.

The couple's friend Katie Griswold officiated the ceremony during which the two recited vows they wrote themselves and exchanged rings. The couple concluded the ceremony with a celebratory chest bump, and the newlyweds recessed to the hip-hop classic "It Takes Two" by Rob Base and DJ E-Z Rock.

After the ceremony, everyone returned to town for a reception at the Bloomington/Monroe County Convention Center. The reception's camping-related theme was a nod to Maggie's occupation as a park ranger for San Diego (California) County. Paper stars hung from the ceiling; centerpieces made of driftwood, succulents, and votives adorned the tables; and squirrel figurines added a whimsical touch to the decor.

Instead of a traditional wedding dinner, guests enjoyed a breakfast buffet of pancakes, eggs, and bacon. Also, on the menu was *lumpia*, a traditional Filipino spring roll, in honor of Dani's Filipino heritage. In lieu of a wedding cake, heart-shaped cookies provided a sweet treat.

Adding their own spin to the end-of-the-reception bridal bouquet toss, Maggie

# Extraordinary Celebrations



Master Rental has grown over 325% within the tent/event category in 2014-15. This kind of growth within a 30 year old company does not occur by accident. Our commitment to become the BEST in South Central Indiana now provides you with the most modern selection of tents, linens, chairs, lighting, and more for your indoor or outdoor wedding.

Whether a small dinner party for twelve or an elegant wedding of five hundred – Master Rental's exceptional customer service and personal commitment will create an event and experience that will exceed your expectations.

It's your special day! These memories will last a lifetime – you owe it to yourself to see why so many others have referred us at every opportunity they have had. Check us out online, give us a call, or stop by for a personal consultation at our on site Party/Event store.



2002 W. THIRD ST, BLOOMINGTON, IN  
812-332-0600  
[MASTERRENTALPARTY.COM](http://MASTERRENTALPARTY.COM)  
[MASTERRENTAL.COM](http://MASTERRENTAL.COM)



One World at  
**Woolery**  
MILL

oneworldatwoolery.com  
(812) 334-3663  
weddings@bloomington.com



### Venue

up to 500 guests | free parking | industrial chic | additional amenities

with *One World Catering*

bridal shower | cocktail hour | dinner | sunday brunch | full service bar

catering available at your venue or at Woolery Mill



And a good time was had by all.



A magical moment caught on camera.

and Dani created a more-inclusive T-shirt toss, inviting all of their guests (not just the single ladies) to take part. “We wanted everybody to feel included,” Maggie says.

The evening concluded with guests surrounding the newlyweds on the dance floor, holding hands and dancing in circles around them. “It was a perfect ending to a really cool night,” Maggie says.

The best part of the experience, Maggie says, was “having all of our friends and family there to love and support us. It was probably the coolest feeling I have ever had in my life to feel that much love and support.” Adds Dani, “It was fun to have everyone together and enjoying each other’s company in celebration of our love.”

Following the wedding, the couple returned to San Diego. They plan to honeymoon in Hawaii this year. —Molly Brush

# Real love. Real food.

fresh ingredients

iconic venues

local food



executive chef

## David Tallent

Nine-time James Beard Award nominee utilizing local, organic, and seasonal ingredients

Venues and catering on campus and in the community.

812-855-1777 | catering.indiana.edu | iucater@indiana.edu

**Ψ CATERING**

iucatering

iuweddings