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After the Aisle: Anthony '03 & Olivia '06 Esquivel

Kate Dabbs '09

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Hot off the success of Olivia Esquivel's latest business venture, Southern Pressed Juicery—a cold-pressed juice bar and raw restaurant from Table 301 in Greenville—the Esquivels are busy. And that may be the understatement of the year when the very interview for this story was defined as a “date” by the couple.

But when you take the dreams of a first-generation American (Olivia's parents are Cuban immigrants) and a fourth-generation Mexican-American on Anthony's side, add in the rigor of a shared Furman experience, and spike it with a wicked dose of entrepreneurial energy, you have quite the dynamic duo.

“I accidentally became a serial entrepreneur,” explains Olivia. “I just can't sit still.” In addition to Southern Pressed Juicery, Olivia has two other businesses that keep her bouncing between Miami and Greenville: A Public Affair PR, a public relations firm; and Petite Parade, a children's store. Not to be outdone, Anthony, as the associate head coach for Furman men's soccer, is also always on the move—from game to game, as well as from coast-to-coast to recruit promising talent.

The couple, going on year three of marriage, added Luca, their son, to the mix almost two years ago. But what now is a joyous, entropic existence was not always a done deal. “You could not find two more opposite people. Anthony is type A, and I am type B,” says Olivia. “Even for the simple act of going to the grocery store, you would see us going in two completely different directions to accomplish the same task.”

The two met when Olivia's older sister, **Karen Lopez Jordan '01**, attended Furman and was a classmate and friend of Anthony's. “I met her when



Anthony '03 & Olivia '06 Esquivel

Three businesses, a high-level coaching job, an almost two-year-old—and the marriage that balances it all.

By Kate Dabbs '09

she was this 16-year-old high school girl. After Karen graduated, she asked me to keep an eye on Olivia,” Anthony says.

“Too close of an eye, I guess,” laughs Olivia.

A close friendship formed but romance did not enter the equation until 2011, when Olivia was living in Miami and Anthony was in Austin, Texas, running the largest youth soccer club in the country. “We had been talking and decided to meet up in Denver while Olivia was there for work,” Anthony says.

“And when I saw him,

I immediately knew,” says Olivia.

“I always tell my guy friends ‘when you know, you know’ because in that moment, my whole future with her was clear,” adds Anthony.

“By the end of the day, we were figuring out where we were going to live [in order] to be in the same city,” says Olivia.

There was a six-month engagement, a wedding at the Biltmore Coral Gables in Miami, and 11 months later, a Luca.

With only 24 hours in a day and four jobs between the two of them, one quickly wonders how they do it all. “The one

thing we have certainly learned in being married is how to really help each other. Luca is always with me, too, so we have to balance taking care of him with family in different parts of the country,” says Olivia.

“On our days off, we support each other in the environments we work,” Anthony says. “I come to Southern Pressed when I am off and she will come to the soccer field when she is free.”

“The secret really is about communication, time management, and being smart—Anthony is really good at that,” Olivia reports. Anthony acknowledges that it may come naturally. “As a coach, I have to be organized and on time so I set up that structure as a father.”

After knowing each other as friends for so many years, there were not too many surprises once the two merged their lives in Greenville. Becoming parents was perhaps a bigger defining moment. “The birth of our son and seeing my wife as a mother—it was this amazing experience to see her connection with Luca. She had a natural birth and I was so proud and had so much respect [that] I immediately called my mother to tell her I love her,” Anthony says. “And I tell all moms I see how much respect I have for them.”

“He really does,” Olivia laughs.

“But all in all, it is always about just growing together. We were two single people living in big cities. I mean, I was living on the 42nd floor in Miami, and now we are this little family of three living in Greenville balancing it all,” Olivia says before bouncing to a meeting about bringing Southern Pressed Juicery to the Pala Den this fall.

From one observer's perspective, they seem to be balancing quite well. **F**