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After the Aisle: David Hottel '11 & Katie Premo '12

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If you told Katie and David Hottel they would be working in similar fields when they met at Furman—ones that value sustainability and an organic lifestyle—they probably would not have believed you. It took a little doing for them to be on the same page on a few fronts.

The two met at a party when Katie, who works as a clean air and water project associate at Upstate Forever, asked David, who focuses on food and farming as a buyer specialist at Whole Foods, to dance. David turned her down. “I liked someone else at the time,” David laughs. “But I was a different person back then, and so was Katie. We didn’t necessarily think we would marry one another when we met, or that our lives would look the way they do now.”

Despite a rocky start, David came to his senses, as he says, and took Katie on a first date for sushi in the Paladen on campus. “And six years later, here we are,” says David, brandishing a grin common to those three weeks out from a honeymoon.

The Furman-transplanted Greenvillians were married in a hyper-local celebration exhibiting their shared values at Greenbrier Farms in Easley, SC, on October 25, 2014. “I locally sourced everything but our wedding attire—the food, favors, decorations, even the beer we brewed,” Katie says. The beer, dubbed “Beerly Beloved,” was a collaboration with fellow alumnus **Peter Calomoris ’11**, who works at newly successful Quest Brewing Company in Greenville. (Thanks to the friendship and David’s connections, Whole Foods of Greenville now carries Quest Beer.)

Although Katie and David dated throughout their Furman years, and a little beyond, love didn’t come immediately.



“I LIKED SOMEONE ELSE AT THE TIME, BUT I WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON BACK THEN, AND SO WAS KATIE.”

—DAVID HOTTEL

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“I knew I loved him,” Katie says. But David took more time. “I didn’t realize it was love. I knew she was always there for me and I think her love for me made me realize I loved her,” he adds.

Marriage slowly percolated. “I knew she was everything I wanted and needed, but when I first broached the topic with her mom, she suggested I wait to talk to her dad,” David says. He waited, nearly a year, and after getting her father’s blessing, proposed in an apple orchard in North Carolina in September of 2013.

“Marriage shows commitment and accountability. It shows the one you love you are dedicated,” Katie says. David agrees: “It is a partnership and, for us, how you honor God by entering into an ordained relationship.”

In their young marriage, their discoveries of each other as roommates, too, are new. “Katie is definitely the CEO/CFO, and I am learning her ways...I like to think I add good commentary and spontaneity. Although now that our finances are merged, I can’t surprise her as much because she watches the budget so closely,” he jokes. But, David adds, “It is so exciting to have this opportunity to love and cherish another human being.” **F**



David Hottel ’11 & Katie Premo ’12

Now their love is an “organic” connection, but it didn’t begin that way.

By Kate Dabbs ’09

