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## After the Aisle: Kerry Ellett '04 & Will Glenn '07

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**K**erry and Will's love story is the stuff of romantic comedy—old friends who became something more. Over a glass (or two) of wine at Northampton Wines in downtown Greenville, they gushed over their long courtship, the beauty of marriage closer to 30 than 20, and their dog, Chester—a raven-haired lab Kerry included in her official bridal portraits at Furman.

When they first met, Will was a freshman and Kerry was a senior. That wasn't the only difference between them. "Kerry is the oldest child and I am the youngest," Will says. "Kerry, a biology major, never skipped a class at Furman except for senior skip day and I, a political science and history major, missed the maximum number allowed per term. That pretty much describes us to a T," he laughs. "She always goes by the book and I am always trying to broker a deal." (A valuable trait for an associate attorney at Leinster Law Firm.)

When the two first crossed paths after Furman, Kerry was in D.C. for the swearing in of David Wilkins, former ambassador to Canada, through

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**"I STARTED DESCRIBING THE KIND OF GIRL HE SHOULD BE DATING, AND THOUGHT, WAIT, I AM DESCRIBING MYSELF."**

—KERRY ELLETT



**Kerry Ellett '04 & Will Glenn '07**

*"Friendship first" is a principle many endorse for romance, but what surprised this couple was how they never expected more than that.*

By Kate Dabbs '09

her work at Smoak Public Relations, where she is now senior account executive. They were friends first, of that they are both adamant. After a short stint in Greenville, Will decided to go to law school at the Charleston School of Law. "I was sad when he left, but we were really just friends then," Kerry says.

By Will's third year of law school, the "just friends" line didn't seem to fit anymore. "I think I knew in the back of my mind she was the one before we started dating, but I didn't really know until that time," he

says. Kerry confirms this. "I was more like his life coach, always giving him advice on dating. But one day, I started describing the kind of girl he should be with and thought, wait, I am describing myself and he is kind of perfect for you."

But there were major obstacles to overcome regarding life stages. "I was eight years into my career, and he was just getting started," Kerry says.

"And I was an outsider in my own hometown," adds Will. "Kerry had turned into the local even though I grew up here."

While it took them some time to hit their stride, when the couple became serious about pursuing one another, it happened fast. "It was a change to be two very independent people trying not to be independent. We had to figure out how we each needed to be loved," says Kerry.

Will proposed to Kerry at his family home on Lake Burton, where his sister-in-law and brother helped set the scene with an outdoor fire and champagne. "I had no idea. I thought someone was in the house and then I thought he was apologizing for something," Kerry laughs. The two were married on September 6, 2014, at First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, and a reception followed at the Poinsett Club.

"I am glad I waited until 32 to be married," Kerry says. "I was absolutely sure and it enabled me to eliminate societal pressure to marry before you are ready. Ultimately, I think it is best to wait until you cannot picture your life without that person before you make a commitment like marriage."

Marriage for the Glenns is a combination of Christian values, commitment, and selflessness. "All through life everyone tells you it is all about you and you can't think that way in your marriage. You have to die to yourself every day," Will says.

On how that first year is going, Kerry says, "It is a lot of fun but there are days it requires work. You see each other on your worst and best days."

"But you are the one I'd want to be with on my worst days," Will says with a grin before drifting back to a less rose-colored reality. "You have to have the patience to put up with one another. And that might be the best advice we could offer." **F**