

Tying the Knot



PHOTO/LOUISE KRAFFT

Alison McKeever and Elizabeth Henry McKeever.

the MUPPET *and the* MONK

BY DENISE DUNBAR

When Elizabeth Henry McKeever left Little Rock, Arkansas for college in North Carolina in 2004, she left behind a large circle of high school friends, many of whom stayed in state for college. A number of those friends attended Hendrix College, a small liberal arts school about 35 miles north of Little Rock.

At Hendrix, Alison McKeever got to know many of Elizabeth's old high school friends. Though it took seven years, that overlapping friend group ultimately

brought the two together, and Alison and Elizabeth married in 2014.

Though they didn't go on their first date until 2011, Elizabeth and Alison had heard of each other through those mutual friends for years.

"All of my high school friends became all of Alison's college friends," Elizabeth said. "So, we'd always heard about each other because they'd say, 'Elizabeth, you remind me so much of Alison.' [And to Alison], 'You remind me so much of Elizabeth.'"

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Eric Black holds a child's pose, or balasana, while Julie Black balances on top of him in crow pose, also known as bakasana, at Radiance Yoga in Old Town. Julie has been teaching yoga since 2006, and Eric has been practicing since 2016

PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

Flowing through life TOGETHER

Yoga instructor and student fall in love

BY MISSY SCHROTT

Julie and Eric Black's love story began in summer 2016 at a yoga studio.

Julie, a seasoned instructor who has been teaching yoga for about 10 years, was the substitute teacher for a Yoga for Athletes class Eric was taking at Mind the Mat Yoga & Pilates in Del Ray. At that point, Eric had only been practicing yoga for a couple of months.

"She subbed the class one day and as soon as I saw her, I was like, 'Whoa, who's that?'" Eric said.

From that first class, Eric said he knew there was something special about Julie.

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PHOTO/MISSY SCHROTT

A 20-YEAR ADVENTURE

The journey of Gregory and Cheryl Hutchings includes two children, three graduate degrees and six moves

BY DENISE DUNBAR

When Gregory Hutchings and Cheryl Carter locked eyes across the room in a Norfolk restaurant in 1999, neither could have imagined the incredible adventure the next 20 years would hold.

Gregory, now superintendent of Alexandria City Public Schools, was at the time a self-described super senior at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, while Cheryl was a recent William & Mary graduate working for PricewaterhouseCoopers. The two were in the restaurant Benigan's, Gregory with a group of fraternity brothers and Cheryl with her sister and some friends.

They agree there was an immediate connection.

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