

Love Legends: Mr. & Mrs. Gann

BY KIRBY VARNADOE-RUSS

What was your most interesting date?

Mrs. Gann: On our first real date, we went to a Chinese restaurant, and Chris got something that was really, really spicy.

Mr. Gann: Yeah, it was, like, the spiciest thing I've ever eaten. I didn't get it to be impressive or anything, I love spicy food, but it was hot

Mrs. Gann: I didn't actually notice anything, I found out when we were talking about it a couple of weeks ago, so he must have pulled it off really well. I think he might have been a little sweaty.

Mr. Gann: Yeah, I definitely didn't finish the dish.

How did you meet each other? First impression?

Mrs. Gann: We met in college freshman year – we both went to Berry College in northwest Georgia. We had seen each other around campus, and we had some mutual friends.

Mr. Gann: The first time I saw [her], we were at a pool hall and...

Mrs. Gann: (laughing) One of the people in the group I was with broke a light in the pool hall! It wasn't me, it someone else. Definitely not me.

Mr. Gann: We really met 2nd semester freshman year, we were in a class together called "Authority, Freedom, and Postmodernism"; it was an honors class.

Mrs. Gann: I thought, 'Who's that cute guy with the eyebrow ring and the sweet smile?'

Mr. Gann: I used to have an eyebrow ring. I remember telling my friend, 'that girl Cheryl in our class, she's pretty cute. I think I'll talk to her after class.' During class I think we had been having some kind of debate, so that was an opening to talk to her. I think she happened to be tying her shoe and so I was able to catch up to her.

Mrs. Gann: He asked me to hang out later and so we hung out in his dorm room. I think we talked, and maybe strummed the guitar a little.

Talk about the time you dated. Any enlightening or funny stories?

Mrs. Gann: There was one time when I convinced my parents to let me spend spring break with him in Pennsylvania, and I went to meet his parents. Chris didn't have a car, and I didn't want to put a lot of miles on mine, so we decided to take the bus all the way there. It was a horrible adventure. It took 20 hours. We had to wait in all of these dirty bus stations at 2 in the morning with all of these shady people around.

Mr. Gann: At one point on the trip, the only two seats that were together were right in front of the bathroom, and so they didn't recline. So the whole time we sat bolt upright with people practically in our laps. It wasn't exactly comfortable.

Mrs. Gann: And then when we got to his house we were disgusting, and

that was the first time I had ever seen his parents. Also, later that day Chris and I were driving in the car with his dad, who was talking about how appalling he thought tattoos were. I had gotten a tattoo about a year before, and Chris new about it of course, so we just kept our mouths shut... until later that day when I bent down to pick something up and his mom saw it and asked me about it. His dad was really embarrassed, especially because we got along really well.

What was the proposal like?

Mr. Gann: It was shortly after we had returned to school from Christmas break. I had gone ring shopping with my dad over break, and so I took Cheryl to this spot on campus...

Mrs. Gann: I think we had gone on a date there before...

Mr. Gann: It had a little pond and a little lamppost and a walkway.

Mrs. Gann: It was actually in sight of the chapel we got married in, Frost Chapel. Anyway, it was really cold outside and so I was like 'I don't want to get out of the car!' but Chris said 'No, no, come on!'

Mr. Gann: It was dark outside, and so we stood under the lamppost in the freezing cold.

Mrs. Gann: He just said very sweet things about how much he loved me and things like that, and then he asked me to marry him. We immediately started making plans for the wedding... we definitely wanted to wait until we were out of college. We got married on July 6, 2002... it was the hottest day of the year.

When did you know that he/she was the right one?

Mr. Gann: Almost right away when we started dating we spent a ton of time with each other. I think we realized that we were really serious when the school year was coming to a close and we had to decide what to do about the summer... it would be a long time to spend away from each other. So I spent most of the summer in Georgia living with her and her parents... it was a lot of fun, we both had jobs a temp agency, which was interesting...

What do you think about changing yourself for the person you love? Is it a good thing or should you never change yourself for somebody else?

Mrs. Gann: I think that the motivation for changing should be motivated by your desire to. You shouldn't do it just for someone else but it's okay if it's partly a factor.

Mr. Gann: People change because people are dynamic, but in a good relationship, people talk about their self goals and if they're in accord, people can keep each other accountable for the changes they want to see in themselves.



The Ganns work at NCSSM together, and both are instructors in the math department. •Photo courtesy of Dustin Burleson



Swan Lake, near where Mr. Gann proposed to Mrs. Gann, has a view of Frost Chapel from some of its walkways. •Photo courtesy of www.berry.edu/vtour