

LOVE STORIES: Married couples working together at WSSU

Tiffany Gibson
 EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's the holiday season, and love is in the air — especially at Winston-Salem State.

There are at least 27 married couples employed at WSSU.

At least two of those couples appreciate their situation and find that it enriches their work life.

In 2005, cupid struck Jesse Pittsley, program director of exercised science and Sigrid Hall-Pittsley.

Pittsley said, "When I saw her, I went 'Whoa! Who is the hottie?'"

Pittsley described Hall-Pittsley as being mean when he first met her.

"So right then I knew she was a challenge.

"I remember going to another faculty member and saying there is a good-looking woman who works in marketing," Pittsley said.

However, the feeling was not mutual when Hall-Pittsley encountered him.

"I noticed him when I was in the Red Room," Hall-Pittsley said.

"He would always stop by the table and just chit chat. I

could not even fathom that he was interested. I just thought he was chatty. I finally got a clue when he kept bragging about his big TV.

"He was alluding to the fact that I needed to come watch his big TV at his house. I was like 'Oh my gosh.' Is he flirting with me?" Hall-Pittsley said.

Pittsley said he enjoys having his wife work at WSSU.

"Overall I enjoy having a spouse at the University," he said.

"When you work at a university it's a hard place to work because there is pressure from all angles. It is good to have a person who is on your side, who you know you can trust to be there for some empathy and to support you."

Dara Silver, Visitor Services/Installation manager and husband Mike Silver adjunct professor in the justice studies department don't see each other often on campus.

"We work close enough so that we can do lunch," Mrs. Silver said.

"Sometimes we go home for lunch."

Silver said that working



Above: The Pittsleys
Below: The Silvers

with his wife on campus is not an issue at all and that it has helped him better appreciate WSSU.

"Because Dara works at the [Diggs] gallery, I have a better appreciation of the school; we

are both connected and interested in the school. We try to support the student activities," he said.

The Silvers decided to use their honeymoon money to buy a piece of rare art.

"We have an amazing art collection. We have an original Beyonce piece by famous artist David Garibaldi," Mr. Silver said.

Silver says the only other person who has a Beyonce piece is rapper Snoop Dogg, but his piece is different from theirs. The Silvers also own a Barack Obama piece by Garibaldi.

Being supportive spouses gives the Silvers an opportunity to spend time together.

"We are definitely interested in each other's professions," Mrs. Silver said.

"Mike comes to a lot of events. If you come to a Diggs Gallery event, Mike will probably be there," she said.

"When he goes to his lawyer functions, I go and support his stuff as well. We try to get out in the community as much as we can."

The Pittsleys have worked together at WSSU for more

than five years, and Mrs. Hall-Pittsley says they even though they work on the same campus, they rarely see each other.

"I think that what most people don't understand is that by him being faculty and me being staff, our work environments are very different," Hall-Pittsley said.

"Even though we know a lot of the same people and we work at the same University it's as if we have two completely separate jobs."

Hall-Pittsley said in her position, it is helpful to have her husband working here because he spends more time with students than she does.

"We are often in positions where we are talking about making decisions that effect the students," she said.

"But because we generally do not work directly with the students, I think we are sometimes out of touch but think we know."

"It's really great that I can come home, and he can tell me the struggles students are having or perhaps he is having," Hall-Pittsley said.

"So it works well together."

ENTERTAINING CRITICISM

'Winter Songs' CD offers new versions of traditional favorites

Marcus Cunningham
 COPY DESK CHIEF

Get into the holiday spirit with "The Hotel Café Presents...Winter Songs."

"Winter Songs" is a holiday CD comprised of only female singers and songwriters including Katy Perry, Fiona Apple, and Sara Bareilles.

The album features both original and traditional holiday songs across multiple genres including rock, country and alternative.

Perhaps one of the best parts of "Winter Songs" is how it engages the listener with traditional tunes.

"Winter Songs" manages to maintain a modern sound with even the most classical of songs.

Perry sings a bluesy interpretation of "White Christmas" with simple acoustic instruments and a raspy tone that really bring the lyrics alive.

An original piece such as "Maybe Next Year" by Meiko is maybe one the most edgy in terms of content on the album.

Her lyrics tell the story of a woman who is unsympathetic for the wrong she has done, and per-

haps maybe next year she'll do better.

The cover song of the album is "Winter Song," and it is a duet with Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson. This as well is an original piece, and it is without doubt a love song.

Bareilles and Michaelson seem to fit perfectly together creating a slow song that is not boring and has a very smooth and mellow feel.

Songs like "Sleigh Ride" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" are just a few of the classics that were turned into up-to-date up tempo versions.

Apple sings a version of "Frosty the Snowman" that is one of my favorite cuts on the album.

It rings true to the original with lyrics and melody, and uses acoustic instruments that almost make you feel as if you're at a concert.

The women featured on "Winter Songs" showed great creativity with their original pieces as well as their interpretations of the classics, creating a holiday CD that is very contemporary and will also please those looking for the more traditional sounds.

'Bad Santa' DVD not too bad for holiday viewing

Marcus Cunningham
 COPY DESK CHIEF

Bring in this holiday season with one of the crudest Christmas movies you will ever see. "Bad Santa" is a 2003 comedy directed by Terry Zwigoff featuring Billy Bob Thornton, the late Bernie Mac and the late John Ritter.

Willie Stokes (Thornton) is the protagonist of the story and at times his actions can make it hard to side with him.

He is a foul-mouthed, thieving alcoholic who takes on the occupation of mall Santa as a cover-up. While in disguise, he robs the malls during the holidays and lives off the earnings until the next holiday season.

Willie is not alone in his schemes. He is accompanied by a dwarf (Tony Cox) named Marcus who plays an elf. While Marcus and Willie may work together, they do not like each other. "You are an emotional cripple," Marcus says. "Everything about you is ugly."

In the beginning of the movie, you can sense an internal struggle within Willie. After robbing another mall he tells Marcus he's moving to Miami, and he's cleaning his act up. Willie keeps good on one of his promises as

he relocates to the sunny Miami beaches. But he is far from clean.

Low on cash and tough on luck, Willie resorts to planning another theft with his partner Marcus, at a mall in Arizona.

Now we watch as Willie begins to change his ways.

Other key characters to watch are Bob Chipeska (Ritter) mall manager, who from the start has it in for Willie. And Gin (Mac) the chief security guard with an affinity for a nice pedicure and much like Willie, has a black heart. In one scene Gin catches a child stealing video games, in return threatens the boy and takes the child's MP3 player.

While in Arizona, Willie develops a relationship with a bartender named Sue (Lauren Graham) who has a fetish for men in Santa suits, and he befriends a young plump boy who seems to be possibly mentally challenged.

While his intentions of befriending the boy may be disingenuous, Willie eventually takes a true liking to him and gives him pointers on dealing with bullies and life in general.

Bad Santa is a "dark" comedy that may not be for all. However, if you are not easily offended and up for a good laugh, you will love it.