



The Stephenson Family

Marquette University Brought them Together

By Julia Jaegersberg • Professional Photos by Lulu B Photography

Max and Megan Stephenson still have an ongoing debate regarding how they actually met as college students at Marquette but they hit it off and haven't looked back. Now their family has grown to include Callahan (3), Ellis (2) and a little girl arriving in September.

COLLEGE SWEETHEARTS

"We can't agree whether we met in the library or at a house party," shares Megan. "Max claims we met while studying at Raynor Memorial Libraries at Marquette during our sophomore year. But I believe we met at a house party when Max brought me a beer the summer before our junior year. Either way, we started dating in 2008, were engaged at the end of 2012 and got married in 2014 – so we dated about four years."

Being somewhat old fashioned, according to Megan, Max brought Megan's dad some cannoli to discuss his "intentions" and then proposed at the Christmas lights at Cathedral Square.

"We returned to the Marquette campus for our wedding," says Megan. "We celebrated the ceremony at Gesu Parish at Marquette University and our reception at the Grain Exchange in Milwaukee."

MAX'S CAREER IN FAMILY LAW

Max grew up on Shamrock Lane in Brookfield's Hickory Knoll neighborhood where his parents still live today. He graduated from Brookfield East High School in 2006.

He earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Marquette University in 2010. During his college years at Marquette, Max volunteered locally with Habitat for Humanity – Marquette encourages all students to get involved in community involvement and giving back. "I was selected to travel to Chile to assist in the first phase of building a home for a family in need," he says. "I spent two weeks in the Andes Mountains regions of Chile laying the foundation for a Chilean farming family."

Max continued his education at Marquette Law School and graduated in 2013 after working as a law clerk since 2012 at his current firm. While at Marquette, Max was also a member of the Pro Bono Society where he provided a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer legal services.

"I'm currently a partner at Gimbel, Reilly, Guerin & Brown, LLP, which is located in Milwaukee," explains Max. "I work in the Family Law department where I help clients work through the complicated and often emotional times of a divorce. My job is to help people in difficult situations and make the process as manageable and comfortable as possible."

RAISING A GROWING FAMILY

Megan grew up in Franklin and graduated from Franklin High School in 2006.

She earned a bachelor's degree in communications from Marquette University in 2010.

Megan and Max currently have two very active



little boys. “The boys are best friends and love playing outside, inside, with toys, without toys,” says Max. “Cal just started soccer and Ellis will join him this fall. Cal is also starting tee ball in the fall. We can occasionally get them to sit down for a bit during a basketball or football game!”

“Now that we’re expecting our third baby in less than four years, I joke that being pregnant has been a full-time job for me,” admits Megan. “It’s truly the best job out there, and I will never take for granted our ability to expand our family. But honestly I’m a mom first! My kids are my greatest joy and being a ‘boy mom’ over the past three years has been an absolute blast. Our sons are 17 months apart and their bond is so wonderful to watch as they grow. And we’re excited to welcome their baby sister into the chaos in September.”

While the family doesn’t have a dog currently, they had a wonderful Greater Swiss Mountain dog named Yogi, who was an incredible dog for their family who they were devastated to lose.

THEIR SHARED LOVE OF COOKING AND TRAVEL

Since Megan and Max first started dating in college, they shared a love for food and cooking. “We’ve crossed many different cultures in cooking and we’re always looking for new recipes – we particularly like cooking traditional recipes from around the world,” shares Megan.

That love for cooking has extended to Max’s love for BBQ and smoking. “Megan bought me a smoker for Christmas about 10 years ago,” says Max. “It’s a hobby that I really enjoy. It’s a long and detailed process, but Megan and the kids really enjoy the finished product!”

Like Max, Megan also loves to spend her free time in the kitchen. “I love to try new techniques in the kitchen, but there’s just something about classic French cooking that can’t be beat,” she states. “I also really like French wine, and enjoy playing around with food and wine pairings. I also love to read.”

One of their favorite vacations was a spontaneous trip to Seattle with no plans but to explore a new city for a long weekend. Max and Megan also planned to travel in 2020, but had to put those plans on hold given the pandemic. “We’re very much looking forward to taking a few kid-free vacations and maybe to catch up on some sleep!”

Avid sports fans – you’ll find them cheering for the Packers, Bucks, Brewers, Marquette basketball and Manchester United. “While it was easy growing up a Packers fan, it certainly has not been as easy as a Bucks fan through the years,” explains Max. “My family had season tickets throughout my childhood and I’m still mourning the 2001 Eastern Conference Finals loss, but being able to attend the Bucks Finals this year

(including the big win in Game 6!) has helped!”

BACK TO BROOKFIELD

After living in Hartland from 2015 to 2020, Max and Megan decided to return to Max’s hometown of Brookfield.

Both Max and Megan’s parents also live in Brookfield today, and Max’s sisters live a short drive away in the Sussex/Menomonee Falls area. “Our families are so close, and with our growing family, it made sense to move a little closer,” says Max.

Today we live in Charter Point,” says Megan. “We searched high and low beginning in January of 2020, which was prior to the pandemic. We finally found our home in July of 2020 and was able to move to Brookfield in October, which was still in the midst of the pandemic.”

They feel lucky to have met some wonderful neighbors already. “It’s been great to be in a neighborhood with young children and watch our kids form fast friendships,” says Megan. “Max and I have fond memories of growing up and making friends with our neighbors. One of the partners in Max’s law firm is a friend he grew up with in his Brookfield neighborhood. We’re also very excited for our kids to begin school in the same schools Max attended when he was growing up.”