

Mini Webisode: Caught in UR Web

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Maggie Johnson

Love is in the air, and what better way to celebrate it than with this special Valentine's Day episode of [As Spiders Do](#), from the University of Richmond Office of Alumni Engagement. I'm your host, Maggie Johnson, from the class of 2018, and today we have a heartwarming treat for you. Join us for a trip down memory lane, as a few Spider couples share how they got caught in each other's webs. Whether you're single, in a relationship, or simply a hopeless romantic like me, join us as we celebrate love in all its forms. Without further ado, let's hear our first story.

Jill Myers

My name's Jill Murphy, was my name in college, Jill Murphy Myers, and I was an '03 grad.

Brett Myers

Brett Myers, class of 2002, and a member of men's soccer.

Jill Myers

As a member of the field hockey team, it was tough to get out and socialize in the normal nights that other students did. And a lot of our parties that we attended revolved around the other athletes. A lot of nights we would go out would be Sunday or Monday. My roommate was a soccer player and she said, "do you wanna come with me to the men's soccer house?" They're having people over, whatever. It was a Monday or Tuesday. I didn't actually feel like going, but I rallied because I had a huge crush on one of the men's soccer players. And I can say his name because he knows the story. He was a player named Craig Ziadie. So I was like, well, this is gonna be a really good chance to maybe run into him. So I went and he was not there at the party. So I was like kind of bummed. And my roommate was off somewhere and I just kind of did my rounds around the house to like say hi to people and see who I knew. And I went upstairs and there was a study group and it was men's soccer, I think mostly freshmen who were having a tutoring session with one of the upperclassmen.

Brett Myers

From my standpoint, we had a game that night. So it was a rare Monday night where we had a game on campus. And so maybe look to do a little celebrating after a game at our off-campus house. We had a little get together, but it is a weeknight, you know, which



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means exams or homework. My intention was to go to this party and actually relax a little bit, but instead my tutoring services were called upon because there were certain freshmen, as Jill mentioned, who needed some help. In particular, I remember helping a freshman with Econ . And that's kind of the point where in walks in two girls, one that I knew who was on the women's soccer team and another who I never met before. Jill and I are starting to send instant messages to each other. She reveals to me that she needs some help in calculus. So, having that period of time where we're getting to know each other, I ended up helping her in calculus. I always joked that you know derivatives and integrals, I really found the most use out of that in meeting who ended up being the love of my life. Yeah, but it was the best use of calculus I think I've ever found since learning it.

Maggie Johnson

What was your first date? How did you go from IMing to dating?

Brett Myers

I guess the date was the tutoring session. We formally met at the library to do this. And then after some time, you know, I think we're obviously trying to stick to business, but then I think both of us just wanting get to know each other better. So I asked her if we wanna take a walk around the lake, which I think we did multiple laps around the lake. The rest was history.

Jill Myers

It just goes to show. I was so close to not going to that party and he was probably, was gonna go anyway, but just the fact that he was up in that room...it just goes to show you never know who you're going to meet at any moment and like what decisions can lead up to meeting someone you could potentially not only just meet and date, but end up having three kids and doing life. So that's the coolest part I think of college is, it is a time where a lot of people do meet the people they end up with and some people not, but for the people that do it's like that one, all of these things led to that.

Brett Myers

You know, now married three kids later, you know, we're very, very happy where we are.

Justin Fields

I'm Justin Fields.



Noelle Fields

And I'm Noelle LeCrone Fields.

Justin Fields

So I got a job at The Cellar in the late fall of my freshman year. All of the money that I had saved up for college that I thought was gonna be plenty to get me through the year was gone by October. So I needed a job. So my roommate worked at The Cellar and I was able to work there. And so that was '98-'99 school year

Noelle Fields

So my sophomore year, I also needed a job and my roommate also worked at The Cellar. She was a waitress and so she was able to introduce me to Libbo Talbot at The Cellar, but she was the boss and interviewed with her and so I took a position working in the kitchen and that's where we met, in the kitchen at The Cellar.

Justin Fields

She wanted to be a server, but they didn't have...

Noelle Fields

They didn't have any waitress spots, so I ended up in the kitchen, which is kind of funny because I'm not a good cook, but he was there. And we didn't know each other and had never met until I took the job and we met at The Cellar.

Maggie Johnson

That's awesome. I love a Cellar love story. When was y'all's first date? How did you ask her out or did you ask him out?

Noelle Fields

I was a member of Pi Beta Phi and I asked him to one of our socials. Yeah, that was our first date. It was nice though because we really, when we met at The Cellar, we became friends first and got to know each other and it's kind of a hilarious place to go alongside somebody in a kitchen.



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Justin Fields

In the kitchen, so all you had to do was work and talk and that's what? That's 10 hour shifts. Yeah.

Noelle Fields

When things were slow, everybody would just hang out and kind of intense at times when there were lots of orders and tickets. I think I still hear the noise of that machine printing those tickets and the stress of it. But we had a lot of fun just with the people we worked with and our boss was awesome. And so it was really fun. We used to just get to know each other.

Justin Fields

Funny memory of when we were working back there, we would just turn music on to help keep the time going. And I remember there was a moment where I looked over and Noelle was having a moment to herself kind of dancing and I just was like, "who is this girl?" And then our boss was the one that was like, "well, Noelle, you know, she likes you." And I remember my stomach kind of dropping like, *gasp.*

Noelle Fields

Yeah, he was kind of oblivious to the fact that I liked him a lot.

Justin Fields

Yeah, it would have started in April of our sophomore year, April of 2000. And then, yeah...

Noelle Fields

All the way through today as a married couple.

Justin Fields

And yeah, we got married in December of 2005. And then here we go. So we're creeping up on 24 years.

Noelle Fields

In some ways, like meeting in a kitchen and on the college campus, and like, you know, it really forced us to become teammates and work together in kind of high stress



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environment. I mean, even being, you know, 19, 20 years old, but, and then we just kind of, I thought about our approach to marriage has very much been like that from the beginning, just very team approach. We just try to do everything as best we can together and making decisions and we don't always agree, but trying to figure out what's best for the good of the family and just always, even in times that have been stressful throughout a marriage or challenging times, always making sure we are on the same side and everything else is kind of difficult and crashing around you instead of taking the approach where you're against each other, really trying to be mindful and come together as a team to take on challenges that life brings our way.

Allison Vogler

I'm Allison Jones Vogler, class of '78.

James Vogler

And I'm James Vogler, class of '77.

Allison Vogler

You want me to start?

James Vogler

Yeah, you do it.

Allison Vogler

All right. Well, he was a year ahead of me in school. And so at the end of freshman year, I saw one of my future suitemates talking to him on campus. And I said, hmm, he looks interesting. So I told her, I said, "hey, who was that guy you were talking to?" And she says, "Oh, that was Jim Dandy." And I said, "Jim Dandy?" And she said, "Oh, well, yeah, that's what everybody calls him, but his real name is Jim Vogler." I said, "okay, well, next year, you know, when we're living together, I want to meet him." She goes, "Mmh, I don't think he's your type." I said, well, you know, "I'll be the judge of that." So fast forward that first week we were in the dorm. You tell how you came over.

James Vogler

I had to come over and help them move a rug and move all the furniture in their room, and moved the rug several different ways and put the furniture at different places. They



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wore me out, didn't even give me a beer. So that's how we met and that's how I got her phone number. But it wasn't until second semester that I actually called her for a date.

Allison Vogler

And we ended up having our first date on Friday, February 13th.

James Vogler

To a Valentine's dance.

Allison Vogler

Yep, and I wasn't sure how it was gonna go because when he came to pick me up know, you know it's Valentine's. He didn't have a card. He didn't have any flowers or anything. He had a dog tag that had a heart on it. It was from SPCA.

James Vogler

The SPCA. That's all I could find that tied in with Valentine's Day.

Allison Vogler

It had come in the mail or something. So anyway, I'm like, okay, we'll see how this goes.

James Vogler

That was bad. But she put up with me.

Allison Vogler

That's right. We had a great time at the dance. He wasn't really a dancer.

James Vogler

We danced the first dance, sat down and talked and the next thing I knew, it was time for the last dance. So we did that. I took her back to campus. We had our first kiss. And that was it. Ever since then, we were a couple.

Allison Vogler

We got married in July of 1980. Lived in DC for a little while and then moved back to Richmond after about a year. And we've been in Richmond ever since.



James Vogler

We're Spiders.

Maggie Johnson

Spiders through and through.

Allison Vogler

Absolutely, yeah.

James Vogler

Big fans. Season ticket holders for football and basketball. At basketball, she sits in front of me and I sit on the aisle. She sits in front of me and she's always jumping up and oh, it's been fun.

Maggie Johnson

Do y'all have any advice for people who either looking for love or are maybe dating their Richmond college sweetheart right now?

James Vogler

Try to communicate. Talk your problems out and don't go to bed mad.

Jasmine Forte

I'm Jasmine Forte. At the time of being Richmond, I was Jasmine Cottle and I graduated in 2010.

Justin Forte

I'm Justin Forte and I graduated in the class of 2009. As I stated, I was in football and she was in track, we kind of ran into each other often. And I introduced myself to her before she got there and said, you know, it'd be nice to meet with you and be linked up and we would become friends. What's your interpretation?

Jasmine Forte

That is accurate. For sure we used to see each other in study hall, so we were familiar with each other. I always knew Justin as a person who always had food. I always knew you had Papa John's pizza all the time with that garlic sauce, which today it sounds gross. I like to



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eat late at night, apparently, he likes to eat late at night. So I was like, hey Justin, did you order food? He's like, yeah I got pizza. And so I would always come and find him. And we would have some sort of late night snack at study hall down while we were studying. And so that's kind of how we became friends.

Justin Forte

I had asked her for her phone number.

Jasmine Forte

You asked for it over Facebook Messenger or something. I was doing something else. And I was very distracted.

Justin Forte

And so she gave me the number. And I was just excited. I was like, I got her number. And I was running. So I had called her on the number that she gave me, like, late at night, one time trying to, I guess, either return a movie or get a movie. And this man picked up the phone and he was like, "Hello." And I was like, "Hello, is Jasmine there?" And he was like, "who?" And I said, "Jasmine, I'm trying to call Jasmine." He was like, "yeah, you got the wrong number." I could sense he was kind of frustrated. I was like, oh, and then I got back to my room and I messaged her, I was like, look, if you didn't wanna talk to me, you could've just said, you didn't have to talk to me. You didn't have to send me to someone. She was like, "what number did I give you?" I told her the number, she was like, "oh, that was my dad's number."

Jasmine Forte

We have a similar phone number. There's like a two digit difference than there was at that time. And so I used to do that all the time by accident. And so that was bad luck, but a genuine accident. A college relationship was awesome because we obviously had a lot in common with being really heavily involved in sports so we could relate. We were able to connect in that way.

Justin Forte

And I will say that one of the good things about us being, meeting in college, is basically her friends are my friends and my friends are her friends. We know each other's friends. Our friends were all together at the wedding. They all knew each other. And Jasmine's also part of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority that she pledged at Richmond. And so



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basically I got an extended amount of sisters-in-law. And they make it known that they're my sister-in-law.

Jasmine Forte

They do.

Justin Forte

So shout out to the AKAs. A lot of the people you meet with at college are those ones that stick with you for the rest of your life. Richmond was great with having a community of people that we all would associate and hang out with each other. So once you get out of Richmond, you go through life. That foundation is what you got to hold on to. But understand that, you know, it gets real, especially when you get kids involved. So, you know, a lot of times when our kids are running all over the place, jumping off the banisters and, you know throwing stuff across the room, we just look at each other and be like, could you imagine that this was going to be our life? Yeah, we started, when we were talking at Richmond. That happens all the time. Like, we sit there and be like, look at this.

Jasmine Forte

Like, look at us now. Who would have thought, at the Robins Center.

Ryan Locke

My name is Ryan Locke. I am the class of 2007.

Loren Locke

My name is Loren Locke. I'm the class of 2005. And when I was at Richmond, my last name was Smith. When I was a sophomore, I was in Alpha Phi Omega and we all had to like agree to canvas the entire floor of a dormitory to invite freshmen to an interest meeting. And I was living in North Court at the time and I picked Gray Court because it was closest dorm to North Court. And I got assigned to Ryan's floor. So I met every single resident who was there and he was the only one who showed up to the interest meeting from my canvassing.

Ryan Locke

Lorie knocked on the door and I answered it. And Lorie and I talked at length about the service fraternity, although maybe it was just to talk to this beautiful woman who showed up at my door and announced. And then she left. And a couple weeks later, it was my



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orientation advisor's birthday. So she invited all of us to come over to her room in North Court for cake. And so I went, and guess who her roommate is. When I went over for the birthday party and I saw that Lorie was Ashley's roommate, and this was pre-Facebook, so it was hard to figure out who was who. I realized you're the Lorie who came to my door. During the party, I added myself as Lorie's friend on her AOL Instant Messenger account.

Maggie Johnson

Amazing.

Ryan Locke

So then that way I could woo her over Instant Messenger.

Loren Locke

Shortly thereafter, we decided to go out. And that didn't mean like leave campus together.

Ryan Locke

Yeah, neither one of us had a car. So we went out to like the Pier. We got married when I was in law school and moved back here to Atlanta. Yeah, and then we've been here in Atlanta ever since. And now we have three beautiful children and one just okay dog.

Loren Locke

To look back, we were just like young and naive and didn't realize like the complexity that life would bring. We have been able to enjoy the good together and face the hard together and have a really beautiful family.

Ryan Locke

I've really enjoyed being a partnership from when we were young through now and being able to grow together as people and as a couple. What I've really liked is having a partner who really knows me probably better than I know myself. I think we've helped each other grow good versions of who we could be.

Maggie Johnson

Thanks for listening to *As Spiders Do* from the University of Richmond Office of Alumni Engagement. We hope you enjoyed hearing a few of the many Spider love stories. Tune in



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next month to hear from Spiders who are returning to campus for their reunions. This episode was edited and produced by Charlotte Pfamatter, Assistant Director of Student and Young Graduate Programming. This episode's music is by [Sergei Chetvertnykh](#) and sound effects by [floraphonic](#). You can subscribe to *As Spiders Do* wherever you get your podcasts. Rate our show and leave us a review to let us know what you think. We're always looking for new stories to share, so please email us your ideas at alumni@richmond.edu. That's all for this episode. Talk to you soon, and remember, there are Spiders everywhere, and that's a good thing.

