



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Former Miramont Server Ashley Watson Hood and Former Member Service Attendant Jake Hood

by **RUSTY BURSON** *Director of Membership and Communications*

Former Miramont server Ashley Watson Hood now considers herself a dyed-in-the-wool Texas Aggie, who led her sister and her future husband to Aggieland, as well. The irony is that Ashley once vowed she would never consider Texas A&M.

“My aunt and uncle went to A&M, and I saw how into it they were, and I thought it was a cult or something of that nature,” Ashley said from her home in Roanoke, which is roughly 10 miles northwest of Grapevine in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. “I even visited as a senior in high school, and I really didn’t like it. My first year of college I stayed home and went to a community college. My cousin was going to A&M, and I visited her during my freshman year. It was a totally different experience, and I loved it. I went to a game, stayed on campus with her in a dorm and experienced A&M like I had never seen it before. It was so friendly.

“I decided I was going to go to A&M, and so did my sister, who was a grade below me. My cousin was already here, and my boyfriend, Jake Hood, was at OSU at the time, but he decided to come to A&M, as well. So, we had a whole group of us. It was a great college experience.”

Part of Ashley’s great college experience was working at Miramont throughout her college days. She started at Miramont in August 2015 and continued working until the summer of 2018, six months after her graduation in December 2017.

“I saw an advertisement for an opening once I got to A&M, and I wanted to work at a place that was really nice,” Ashley said. “I had previously been a waitress at a really nice restaurant in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Once I walked into Miramont, I knew it was the place for me. It also

turned out to be the perfect place for Jake, who worked as a Member Service Attendant.”

Looking back, Ashley says that working Heartball was one of her favorite annual events at Miramont, despite 15-hour work days.

“I have a lot of good memories, but my favorite thing about Miramont was the people,” she said. “I still stay in touch with Members media. The Watson boys (John Davis, Cross and Raines) referred to me as their cousin because we had the same last name. Some Members gave us wedding gifts. The Gessners got us dancing lessons for our wedding. The ladies golf group got us all our kitchen pots and pans.

“It was a great place to work. I would highly recommend college students to apply at Miramont. It’s not just a great place to work; the relationships you build will also be a huge blessing.”

Ashley is currently working as an executive assistant for Goosehead Insurance Company, while Jake was promoted in July by Fidelity Investments to a Senior Shareholder Operations Analyst.

The couple bought their first house together in the summer of 2020, and they have begun discussing expanding their family sometime soon.

“Our intention is to start building a family soon,” she said. “Maybe not immediately, but we have had discussions. We are at three years of marriage, and it’s almost time to take the next step of life together.”