



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*Former Miramont Server and Restaurant Supervisor Mason Meek*

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

By the time Miramont Members receive this edition of *Home Away From Home*, Mason Meek says he is pretty sure he will once again be clean shaven. Mason was painting the new house he and his wife, Sydney, had just purchased in Jacksonville, Florida when we contacted him for this story, and the beard was becoming a nuisance.

First and foremost, too much paint was ending up on the beard instead of the walls, Mason said.

“Besides, it’s getting much warmer here in Jacksonville, and I have not been keeping it trimmed like I did when I first grew it out,” Mason said. “But I am a little afraid I am not going to like looking into the mirror once I shave it.”

Undoubtedly, many Miramont Members remember the fresh-faced college kid who first started working as a part-time server at Miramont in February 2015. The youngster from Grandbury (roughly 40 minutes southwest of Fort Worth) grew up considerably during his nearly four full years at Miramont.

He advanced from a part-time server to a bartender and then moved into a lead server role before being promoted to a restaurant supervisor. In addition, he met and married his wife during his time at Miramont. Looking back, Mason says Miramont prepared him well for what he is doing now.

He is now a Superintendent for a company called Metal Container Corporation, which is owned by Anheuser-Busch. Mason works in a supervisory role at the aluminum can manufacturing portion of the company.

“I started working at Miramont in my second semester in college, and I was hired by Elisha Cicerone, who was the Director of Food and Beverage,” Mason recalled.

It was a great job that allowed me to advance to numerous roles. I was able to pay my bills and put my way through school. The supervisor role prepared me in a lot of ways for the job I am in now in leadership management. I was managing 20 to 30 people at Miramont, and right now, I have 22 people I am leading as a manager.”

Following his graduation from Texas A&M in December 2018, he received a job offer from Anheuser-Busch and then took some time off before going to St. Louis in February 2019 for three months of training. He and Sydney then moved to Jacksonville, Florida in April 2019. They have been in Jacksonville a little over two years. Their 2-year-old daughter, Dolly Gene, has spent most her life in Florida.

“Dolly Gene will repeat anything you say, so you have to be careful with that,” Mason said. “But she is a lot of fun, and Sydney is a great mom. We bought our house at the end of March (2021). The house is on an acre and a half, and it’s a really cool lot. My two dogs, Cowboy and Ranger, absolutely love it. We plan on being here at least a couple of more years, maybe longer. We definitely miss Texas, but Jacksonville offers a lot of what we had in Texas. The biggest thing we miss is our friends. My folks moved to Ohio, but her folks are still in Houston.”

Mason says when he returns to Texas, he hopes to make it back to Miramont to see all of the familiar faces who meant so much to him during his college days.

“I miss all the Members at Miramont,” he said. “I hope we can get back and see them at some point. I have always appreciated all the Members did for me. They allowed me to get married in college and to go to school, graduate and have this job now. I really appreciate all they did for my family.

“As I look back, the most valuable aspect of being able to work at Miramont was working alongside individuals who wanted to better themselves every day. Then I was able to work long enough that I earned the opportunity to receive management experience, which was invaluable. Finally—and this may be the most valuable aspect—you get to know Members who have been fabulously successful and have a real passion for serving as mentors to college students and those who have big ambitions. Those are relationships that I hope to keep for many years moving forward.”