

Wesleyan Wednesday

Chad '09 & Kristen (Chinn) Hart

We think it's safe to say that Chad '09 and Kristen (Chinn) Hart '10 can best be described as a #PowerCouple! The Ohio County natives were high school sweethearts and Chad, who started his college career at another university, ended up transferring to Wesleyan and walking onto the football team to follow Kristen, who'd been recruited to play soccer for the College.

Chad was a Fitness and Sports Management major and spent his time off the football field working at the Owensboro Family YMCA. After graduation, Chad left to obtain his master's degree in exercise science. Nowadays, he's back at the YMCA... but he's CEO of the Hopkins County Family YMCA in Madisonville, KY. Chad has been responsible for a hugely successful capital campaign and complete renovation of the facility, and always keeps work pleasant for his employees, encouraging community involvement, stressing the importance of being a team player and reminding them of the humor the occasional prank brings.

Chad remembers his time at Wesleyan fondly, describing his time as a student athlete here as one full of accountability, life lessons and sweet memories and his decision to transfer as one of the most influential decisions of his life.

"A lot of things Wesleyan did for me I didn't understand until later. It wasn't so much about the diploma, it was more about finishing something you started, relationships, accomplishment, effort, showing up and growing into a young adult." He went on to tug at our emotions, saying "I am married to my high school sweetheart because I chose Wesleyan. I have two beautiful daughters and one on the way because I chose Wesleyan. I was closer to home because I chose Wesleyan. I can walk on campus and still see people I know, 10 years later, because I chose Wesleyan. I belong to a prestigious group of alumni because I chose Wesleyan."

Kristen is a self-proclaimed 'small-town girl' who committed to a soccer career at Wesleyan because she felt the atmosphere here mimicked the strong sense of community she got at home. "My identity, friendships, challenges and accomplishments were all made on that field and campus," said Kristen. "I convinced both of my younger sisters, Courtney (Chinn) Calloway '12 and Leslie (Chinn) Pemberton '15, to attend Wesleyan, too... because you matter at KWC. Your professors, coaches and classmates all care about your success. The connections are deep and the ties last forever."

As an accounting major, Kristen found those connections were easy to find. She began her career as an intern and eventually an assistant controller at Riney Hancock CPA's. Nowadays, she's a controller at Wendell Foster.



Fun fact about Kristen's career – she was recruited by another Wesleyan alum, Beth (Mitchell) Shepherd '08, to do the job. She enjoys being part of an organization whose mission is to empower individuals with disabilities to realize their dreams and potential.

As if two full-time, philanthropic careers weren't enough to keep the couple busy, Kristen also runs a blog focused on fashion, home décor and travel where she shares her favorite products and brands with her followers and Chad is an active member of the Madisonville Rotary Club and Hopkins County Young Professionals. Oh, and don't forget the most important job of them all – they're parents to two (soon-to-be three!) daughters! Sounds like you're outnumbered, Chad. Kristen, we hope you'll encourage your girls to attend KWC just like you did your sisters!

Both credit their years at Wesleyan as formative ones that taught them the importance of building relationships, developing soft skills and working hard. We are so proud to call them part of our Wesleyan family. If this isn't the perfect depiction of #TheWesleyanWay, we don't know what is.