

The Daily Item

More than just a school: Alumni choose university for their special days

By Katrina Hook | For The Daily Item and Inside PA Magazine | January 2026

Susquehanna University is affectionately referred to by many students as a second home. For some alumni, returning to campus to celebrate their weddings was a no-brainer.

The Susquehanna alumni community prides itself on building relationships that last well beyond their college years. “We have many alumni couples,” a university employee said, “and it’s great to see some of those stories come full circle.” Since 2001, five alumni couples have chosen to host their wedding celebrations on campus grounds.

Craig and Brittany

Craig and Brittany’s story began twenty-two years ago at the 2003 Shikilemy High School Prom. Shortly after the dance, they had their first date at Hershey Park. Loving the close-knit community, the couple chose to continue their studies close to home.

“We really enjoyed our time at SU, and we had so many opportunities to grow there,” Craig said. Craig and Brittany were both crowned at Homecoming during their time at school, and took advantage of various ways to get involved in the community.

Brittany dual majored in creative writing and French, taking advantage of Susquehanna’s blossoming study abroad program with a semester in Western France. Craig, now a history teacher within the Shikilemy School District, studied political science and enjoyed working as a teaching assistant for business statistics.

Upon graduating, they knew they wanted to stay close to the community they had built. “We were both really close with our families, and I got very lucky with my position opening up at the right time,” Brittany said. Brittany now teaches French in the Selinsgrove Area School District.

Erica and Nick

Nick and Erica’s story began at Susquehanna. “I was sold on attending Susquehanna from the moment I stepped on campus,” Nick remembered. “It had everything I needed.” Nick, a New Jersey native, grew up hearing stories about his aunt’s experiences with the institution.

Erica, on the other hand, was a first generation student who grew up a twenty-minute drive from the university. “I had no idea what college was about,” she said. Erica fell in love with the warm campus atmosphere while visiting for a holiday event held in Seibert Hall, and noted the comfort in paving her own path so close to home.

The pair met through mutual friends at a party during Erica’s first year. “It wasn’t one of those crazy movie moments,” Nick said. “We were acquaintances right off the bat, and it slowly morphed into something more.”

Nick graduated in 1999 with a degree in creative writing and began working in admissions while pursuing an additional degree in graphic design. When Erica graduated the next spring and started a role in the residential life department, the couple knew it was time to tie the knot.

“When we were planning the details of the wedding, we knew we wanted to hold it on campus. It was such a big part of our lives, and could handle our guest list. Why would we have it anywhere else?” Nick said.

A Community Affair

Wedding planning requires creative, out-of-the-box planning, Craig advised. “Our venue wasn’t something you’d typically think of for a wedding, but it ended up being really special.”

“We needed somewhere that could handle our large extended family,” Brittany said. They got married at a church in Sunbury, but returned to campus for the reception. Their wedding colors were orange and maroon, and many of their favorite photos were taken on campus.

“There’s one at the sign at the front of campus, and a few at the fountain outside Degenstein campus center. It was something special to dance together at the gazebo we walked by so many times,” Craig said.

Erica couldn’t recall considering other venues. “SU was home to us, and nothing else made more sense,” she said.

Erica and Nick held their ceremony in Seibert Hall, followed by a reception in town at BJ’s Market Street Tavern & Oyster Bar. “There was a beautiful meeting place in Seibert at the time called the University Lounge, and I knew that was our place,” Erica said.

The pair moved 25 chairs from the admissions building into the lounge for the event, and noted the happy memories of being so involved with their own celebration. “Not many people have the experience of literally building their own wedding,” Nick said. “It felt very ‘us.’”

“SU was really supportive, and helped make the wedding what we wanted it to be,” Erica said. A music student played the cello during the event, and they enlisted a journalism graduate to take their photos. Even their best man and maid of honor were Susquehanna alumni.

“It was really cool knowing everyone involved cared about us,” Erica said. Erica, currently working in the Center for Academic Success on campus, loves seeing reminders of their special day during her workday. “I’ll be in a meeting, and see the chairs that were in my wedding,” she said.

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Expanding the Campus Family

Craig and Britany live a short drive from campus, and bring their daughter for homecoming and other special events on campus. The couple remembers their wedding as celebrating the depth of their relationship and their many shared experiences.

“Susquehanna was such a supportive place where we met so many people we’re still connected to,” Brittany said.

Erica and Nick lived on campus until 2014. Their son came home from the hospital to live in a dorm suite. He was a week old when he experienced his first dorm building fire alarm activation. “We called it [campus] ‘Jack’s park,’ and he loved running around campus as a toddler,” Erica remembered.

Nick no longer works at the university, but still feels very connected to the community, “College isn’t just for an education. SU in my mind will always be where I found my partner. My time here was transformational both professionally and personally, and walking on campus feels like coming home,” he said.

To commemorate their fifth anniversary, Erica and Nick worked with the university to plant a tree on campus in close proximity to where they said their vows. The tree has since died, but they found humor in the situation. “Our love is stronger than a Vermont Silver Maple, and I wouldn’t change a thing,” Nick said.