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Sharing marriage lessons

Couple use their life experiences to help others in relationships
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Kevin Decker of University City is the eldest of 22 siblings, children his father had with several women. His father left his mother when he was very young, he said.

Decker's wife, Joy Decker, is the daughter of Christian missionaries who spent years in Brazil. Her father would pull her mother near for a passionate kiss even late into their marriage.

The Deckers are now using their vastly different family life experiences to help others through relationship classes they teach at area churches and on their Web site, www.InspirationPoint.com. They also have a book out called "Romantic Antics: Creative Ideas for Successful First Dates, Adventurous Saturday Nights, and Playful Long Weekends."

It started as part of the couple's effort to keep their marriage healthy and strong, they say. They aren't counselors, but are certified by various marriage course authors to teach their methods. They also teach from their own experiences.

The Deckers met in 1991 in the Washington, D.C., area following a holiday concert. Joy performed in the concert with Kevin's friend. They enjoyed each other's conversation, playfully flirting as they talked about how cooking for one person isn't fun.

Kevin took the opportunity to ask Joy to cook for two.

It was a date. They made plans to have dinner at Joy's place after the holidays. When the day came, Kevin arrived with flowers and a bottle of wine. Joy made curried chicken. It went well.

Later, Kevin proposed on top of the Washington Monument.

But he worried that his background could be a problem. Already, he had experienced a failed marriage. He worried that his father had left him lacking in the skills necessary to maintain a healthy relationship, he said.

He didn't want to repeat the same mistakes, so he convinced Joy to attend a class called "Practical Applications of Intimate Relationship Skills (PAIRS)" while they were dating.

The couple married in 1995, and now have two young children, Benjamin and Annika.

After marrying, they started www.InspirationPoint.com. That eventually led to their book and the classes they teach.

The Deckers moved to University City last July. When they are not teaching, Kevin Decker is helping businesses through his home-based consulting service called Return on Relationships.

Want To Know More?

For more information about Kevin Decker's consulting business, visit www.KevinDecker.com.

For more on the Deckers' book, visit www.RomanticAntics.com.

For information about upcoming events and marriage programs, visit www.InspirationPoint.com.

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