

Start a capture



Tyler & Julie



SFLY051114-347



Hello!

We are Tyler and Julie and we
are so excited to share our
lives with you.

Our Story

We met through a mutual friend just after high school, in the summer of 2004. We became friends over the next few months, but then, Julie went away to college, and we didn't see much of each other over the next four years.

Julie moved back in 2009, and we reconnected a few months later. After a walk at a beautiful hazelnut farm, we went to dinner to catch up. It turned out to be our first date, and we have been together ever since (over 14 years)!

After two years of dating, we became engaged, and two years after that, we got married. Our first date, the date Tyler proposed, and our anniversary are all on July 20th (although in different years)!



A year before we got married, Tyler finished graduate school, and we moved to Southern Oregon, where he began his teaching career.

Julie started working in education a few weeks later. We have both worked in the same schools ever since.

Moving away from our family was hard, but we have built a strong community of friends in our new home, and have grown to love it here.



Our Relationship

We value

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Empathy for Others
- Curiosity
- Family



Together, we love to

- Travel and explore new places
 - Kayak
 - Try new restaurants
 - Go camping
- Play board and card games
- Experience live music and theater
 - Listen to audiobooks
- Play with our dog, Pippin



Our Dog, Pippin

Our dog, Pippin, is 4 years old. We got him as a tiny puppy on January 1st, 2020. He is about half beagle. His other half is made up of many other breeds. He is sweet, fun, naughty, energetic, and snuggly. His greatest passions in life are socks, and playing ball. He enjoys walks, running and digging on the beach, "helping out" at Tyler's work, and visiting our family (and their dogs).



About Julie

I grew up in a small town in Western Oregon. As the only child of a single parent, my mom and I have always been very close. My dad moved out when I was young, and had some contact with me until about the age of 12. My mother made it so I had many opportunities, such as Girl Scouts, gymnastics, dance, and amazing experiences traveling with her. We also would go to Duck women's basketball games, which is when I began to love basketball.

Some of my favorite memories growing up are of traveling with my mom. Every year, we would go to Wisconsin for Christmas, where my mom's side of the family lives. I always looked forward to getting to see all of my aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. We often did trips to the Oregon coast as well, which is still one of my favorite places to relax and reset.



As a teenager, I did a lot of babysitting and volunteering with Girl Scouts, school, a daycare center, and at the hospital. Some of this volunteer work helped me realize that I wanted to have a career where I could help people.

After graduating high school, I went to a college in Oregon, and got a degree in Social Science. I met some amazing life long friends in college and I am so grateful for that opportunity.

Now, I work as a Student Advocate in an elementary school. I help children find their strengths, process big emotions, and develop skills to help them be successful.



Occupation: Elementary Student Advocate

Favorite Food: Pasta

Favorite Color: Turquoise

Favorite Book: *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend* by Matthew Dicks

Hobbies: Gardening, going to Oregon Duck basketball games, reading, board games, Legos, cooking, kayaking, traveling, puzzles, sudoku, trying all kinds of chai tea

About Tyler

I grew up in a small town in Northwestern Oregon. As a kid, my earliest memories are of playing baseball with my parents, and of camping with family and friends.

Some of my favorite memories are of playing baseball as a kid. I was lucky enough to have my dad as a coach, and I still love baseball as an adult. Julie and I love to go to college, minor league, and major league games, and I follow the Giants and the Mariners closely.

As a teenager, my family moved to a larger city in Western Oregon, where I attended high school, and then, went to college. In college, I studied geology, and later, went to graduate school to become a teacher.



People would describe me as a friendly, caring, outgoing, and dedicated person. I am very close to my family, especially my parents and my sister. I take after my mother with my interest in science and math, and my father with my love of music and sports.

I love my job as a third grade teacher, but talking/performing in front of people has always been a fear of mine. I often talk to my classes about overcoming fears and challenges (I had to overcome dyslexia to learn to read and write as a child), to help kids realize that they can overcome their own challenges.



Occupation: Third Grade Teacher

Favorite Food: Mac and Cheese

Favorite Color: Green

Favorite Book: Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss

Hobbies: Playing music, playing board games, camping, building legos, reading, going to sporting events, playing disc golf, kayaking



Fun Facts About Julie

1. Doesn't drink coffee, but absolutely loves chai tea
2. Has flown in a hot air balloon
3. Played clarinet in middle school.
4. Was editor of her high school yearbook during her senior year
5. Favorite band is Green Day



Fun Facts About Tyler

1. Loves dogs of all shapes and sizes.
2. Enjoys playing and listening to music.
3. Is an avid sports fan, especially baseball.
4. Prefers to read fantasy and science fiction, but enjoys books from many genres.
5. Studied geology in college, and is very interested in all types of science.



What Tyler loves about Julie



- I love so many things about Julie. Some of those things are:
- Her silly side
 - The love and compassion she shows for everyone
 - Her devotion to the kids she works with
 - Her sense of adventure
 - Her curiosity
 - Her positive outlook on life



What Julie loves about Tyler



- Some of the things I love about Tyler are:
- How goofy he is
 - He is always up for an adventure with me, especially traveling
 - His dedication to his students
 - How much he cares about me
 - His love for animals and sports
 - He encourages me to try new things



Our Friends and Community

Our friends, near and far, old and new, are dear to us. We have known some of our closest friends for most of our lives.

After moving to a new community in 2012, we have formed many strong connections, and built many new friendships.

Some of the things we enjoy doing with our friends are dinner dates, board game nights, concerts, camping, sporting events, going to the Oregon Cheese Festival, and generally spending time in each other's company.



Our Immediate Family

We are fortunate that all of our immediate family lives around the same city. When we visit, we usually are able to spend time with all of them.

We spend most of our holidays and birthdays together as a family, whether they come to us, or we go to them. Over the years, our two families have grown together, and now, most holidays are spent with both sides of the family.

We also love to travel with our family, whether it is close by (like the Oregon coast), or far (like the Peloponnese Peninsula in Greece).

We are extremely close to our family, and feel very fortunate to have all of them in our lives.



Tyler, Julie, and Nancy (Julie's mom) at a Giant's game.



Tyler's parents, Dan and Alice, celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary.



(Left) Tyler and Dan enjoying the shade at a monastery in central Greece. (Above) Tyler, Julie, Sally (Tyler's sister) and Travis (her partner). (Right) Julie and Sally at a concert



Our Extended Family



We love spending time with our extended family, who live all across the country, as well as abroad (one of Tyler's closest cousins lives in Northeastern Spain).

We frequently journey to Wisconsin, Louisiana, and elsewhere to see our family for holidays and special occasions. They often come out to Oregon to visit us as well.



Our Home and Neighborhood



We live in a small town in Southern Oregon. There are mountains in every direction from us, and many lakes, forests, and trails close by.

Our area has lots of arts and culture, including a major theater festival, and a major music festival, both of which run all summer. We have cold winters, hot summers, and lots of wind in the spring and fall.

We live in a house in the middle of town. There are numerous parks nearby, and we enjoy taking Pippin on walks throughout the town. We often also go up into the mountains to find snow, or to hike and kayak around the lakes.



Our Traditions

Traditions are very important to our family.

We love to visit pumpkin patches in the fall, and decorate our house, porch, and Tyler's classroom with pumpkins.

We have been going to Oregon Women's basketball games for many years, and make time to go to several games each season.

For each first day of school, we do a back to school picture. It's fun to look back over the years of first day pictures!



In the summers, we go camping each year for Tyler's birthday, and to the beach each year for Julie's birthday. Our anniversary is also in the summer, and we take a trip every year, sometimes to the coast, and sometimes further away.

For Christmas, we spend every other year in Wisconsin with Julie's family, and every other year with Tyler's family in Oregon.

There are also many yearly events and festivals in our area that we love to attend. Our favorite is the Oregon Cheese Festival, which we always go to with our close friends!



Dreams For Our Child

We have many dreams for our child. We hope they feel empowered to be curious and ask questions. When our child struggles, we want them to know that challenges are part of growing, and that they can learn from their mistakes. We also hope they feel the confidence to explore their place in the world.

We hope they find activities they are passionate about, whether they are art, music, sports, or other hobbies, and hope that they find a way to be creative. We also hope they build a love of learning new things that sticks with them throughout their life.

Above all, we hope that they know they are safe, cared for, and loved by all of their family members, including their first family.



Open Adoption Aspirations

It is very important that our child knows that their first family is an essential part of where they came from, who they are, and who they will become.

As our child grows up, having their first family as a daily part of their lives through pictures, stories, open communication, and visits will help our child build and maintain a relationship with their first family and their culture. We look forward to helping our child share their achievements, milestones, and sources of joy with their first family.

We also are committed to helping our child build a strong bond with their culture in our community, through experiences, traditions, learning, and building relationships. We look forward to building new traditions, which blend our history with our child's cultural and family history.

Our dream is that our child's first family becomes a part of our extended family, and that our child sees and feels the connection between all of the adults that love and care about them.





Thank you for taking the time to get to know us!
Julie and Tyler