

LEXANDER TRZASKA LEFT BAR-RINGTON for college, heading southwest to Lawrence to attend the University of Kansas. After graduation, when he returned to Barrington, he left behind his future bridethough he hasn't realized it yet. He was one year ahead of Payton, and time and distance tested their romance. She stayed behind in Lawrence to finish school. Her small hometown of Ottawa, Kansas was nearby, easy for her to go home on weekends to get the laundry done and see mom and dad, who she says keep her grounded. Payton lived the simple life in Ottawa, with everything in her quiet town close by.

Alex was introduced to Payton by one of their friends at a party to watch a KU basketball game. "I am usually rather shy, but I started a conversation with her," Alex said. "And I wanted to meet her again. She is a breath of fresh air!"

Payton noticed that the young man she had met was a true gentleman. "He was actually interested in me, and wanted to know my background," Payton said. He took her phone number. Then spring break intervened on the budding romance, as Alex had left town that week. "We texted each other, and we were both glued to our phones. There was no gap, the responses were rapid-fire," she said. The couple dated through her senior year.

Payton and a school friend from California were planning a girl's trip to visit downtown Chicago right after Alex graduated. Alex had moved back home, and the two planned to make a day trip up to Barrington. But the friend pulled out, and Payton told Alex. It didn't take long before Payton was a guest at the Trzaska home for the week. "I met everyone all at once, as there was a big birthday party at Bob Chinn's for three birthdays in the family," she said.

After her return home and back to school that fall, Alex flew to Kansas on weekends to maintain the long-distance relationship. Alex realized that he did not want to be without her after his many trips back to Lawrence. On October 20, 2018, they were married.

The couple worked with Christina Currie Events to organize their wedding. The venue they chose is just outside of Nashville. Mint Springs Farm is a full-service venue located on 40 acres in the rolling hills of Williamson County. The spacious, rustic venue was decorated for the rehearsal dinner, ceremony, and reception for their 170 guests.

"Christina Currie was helpful, and she was able to create the vision I had in my head for the wedding," Payton said. "She has a close relationship with her vendors and she is a pro." Payton's advice to other brides is to get a wedding planner. "Accept the help from your planner and listen to others, as well, who offer their opinions," she said. Alex agrees. "Be receptive and listen to your parents; you don't' have to have all your ideas set in stone," he said.

Today, the newlywed's favorite tradition here in Barrington is to have brunch on Sunday at a local restaurant. She loves the modern side of her new life—especially the local trains that can take her to Chicago-and he loves the qualities she brings from her slower, rustic country life.

Most important, the couple has some not-sosecret words of wisdom. "Laugh it off," Payton said. "Find the humor when things aren't going smoothly. You'll look back soon enough and say to yourself 'that was hilarious'!"



Payton and Alex have their First Look before the wedding ceremony.



The couple's 170 guests fit comfortably in the reception barn.



The floral designs were created by the groom's



## grandfather, Walter Maes.



Fresh and modern décor accents the rustic venue.

## THE WEDDING VENDORS

Ultimate Bride, Chicago -Monique Lhuillier Gown His Suit – J. Hilburn Her Ring - M. J. Miller Jewelers, Barrington His Ring – Long & Co. Jewelers Christina Currie Events Venue – Mint Springs Farm

Dulce Desserts Nashville SheHeWe Photography -SheHeWe.com

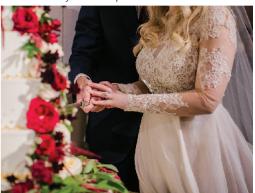
G Catering, Nashville

Charmant Invitations





The flower girls eagerly await the ceremony.





The ceremony pavilion at Mint Springs Farm.