WEDDINGS by lisa stamos \cdot photos by dennis lee photography



Newlyweds Courtney and Adam Coons and their bridal party gather at Chicago's Riverwalk. The raised bridge behind them is a reminder of the civil unrest taking place in Chicago during the pandemic in the summer of 2020.

Courtney & Adam

A BARRINGTON COUPLE DOESN'T LET THE 2020 PANDEMIC SLOW THEM DOWN

"WE JUST MOVED TO BARRINGTON!" Courtney Coons said in June. At press time, the Barrington born-and-raised newlyweds had bought a home at Wynstone in North Barrington, an older Victorian they had eyed and patiently waited to become available. They purchased the home in April and have plans for renovations. If that was not enough great news after their unstoppable mid-pandemic wedding in July 2020, the couple has welcomed their first child, a son named Christopher. Both of their families also live in Wynstone, a blessing for everyone as they settle in to being parents for the first time.

Holding one of the first weddings as the pandemic-restricted gathering rules slightly eased up wasn't easy. The couple had planned on inviting 250 guests to join them on their special day, with a reception at the Peninsula Chicago. It was on the rooftop terrace at the Peninsula that Adam proposed to Courtney in June 2019-and they booked the hotel for their reception that day. A worldwide pandemic could not have been imagined at the time. A year later, due to health concerns, their hotel of choice canceled. Yet this would not stop the Barrington High School graduates from pursuing their dream to get married in July of 2020. The couple had hired Christina Currie Events. Christina supported their decision to hold the original date and began calling all venues to accommodate the event. She coordinated with vendors to ensure safe protocols were put in place. Everything went flawlessly with her help and support.

While travel restrictions and concerns were

the talk of the day, Courtney and Adam made their way to Naples, Florida, for a seven-day honeymoon at The Ritz Carlton.

REORGANIZED WEDDING PLANS

"It was very stressful, and we had to sacrifice many of our plans," Courtney said. The couple wanted their 90-year-old grandparents to attend, though they were worried about it. "We took precautions, and the social rules were adjusted to 50 people per event just a few weeks before our wedding. Our reception was held at Gibsons Italia with its fourth-floor space opened to the outside using a retractable roof and large open windows. We could have six people seated at each table." The couple had to then trim their guest list to 50 close family and friends.





TOP LEFT: The couple's custom wedding cake by Amy Beck Cake Design. BOTTOM LEFT: Outside the Langham Hotel which the couple says was very accommodating during the pandemic. ABOVE: Courtney and Adam Coons pose at the Langham Hotel where they stayed. BELOW: The fourth floor at Gibsons Italia offered a viable option for the wedding reception as the roof was retractable and the patio doors could be opened offering fresh air for guests.



The wedding took place as planned at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. Courtney and Adam were the only people on the alter. Bridesmaids and groomsmen walked down the aisle individually and were seated apart. It was at a church where the couple reconnected after college. Adam was ushering and Courtney was attending mass. They were both living in Chicago, he working at Morgan Stanley, and she at Dyson corporate. He asked her out and later they began dating seriously in 2017. He popped the question two years later.

Courtney grew up in Barrington, attending

Rose Elementary School and Station Middle School. Adam also grew up in Barrington, but attended Roslyn Road Elementary School and Prairie Middle School. They would not know about each other until high school, where Adam, two years older, played on the BHS baseball and hockey teams. Courtney danced for the teams as a Poms member and then knew who Adam was.

Their paths would cross again after college— Courtney at Purdue and Adam at Indiana University—when mutual friends from school married. "My best friend from BHS married a fraternity brother of Adam's," Courtney said. Soon after, it would be their turn.

The couple goes to church at Saint Anne Catholic Community regularly, as their faith is central to their lives. "We are both family oriented and have wonderful memories of growing up here," Courtney said. "We love the community, our schools, and team sports. We're glad we didn't wait on our wedding so we could start a family of our own."



ABOVE: The wedding ceremony was held at Holy Name Cathedral. RIGHT: The couple's "first look" took place near the Riverwalk. BELOW: Even though the reception plans could not allow for dancing, a space was made for Courtney and Adam's first dance together as husband and wife.



