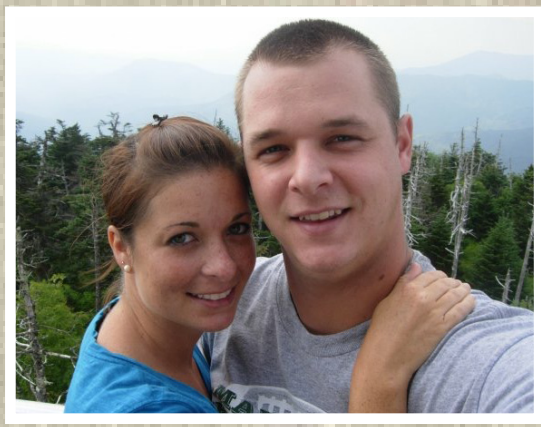
# Mike & Caitlin

# ABOUT US

## Our Story

began 10 years ago when our college roommates introduced us during graduate school. At the time, Mike was spending most of his days (and nights) watching film, assisting practices, and game day operations for our college football team, while Caitlin spent her days playing in rivers, gathering samples for research and teaching biology courses. When our two worlds collided, it was a new adventure for us both. Caitlin introduced Mike to the mountains and small town country living and Mike introduced Caitlin to the city and of course, all things football (all sports really). In June 2013 we had a small wedding surrounded by close family and friends. We both love our jobs and find comfort in the financial stability our careers bring to our family. Caitlin works as a trainer in the IT department for an academic medical center and has a lot of flexibility with her schedule. Mike coaches football and is the Offensive Coordinator at a small local college. We are grateful for the added benefits associated with working in academia, as education has been a priority for us and will continue as we grow our family. In our spare time we enjoy spending time together at home with our 2 dogs. We love to cook meals together, tend to our home grown vegetable garden, go to the movies, watch live sporting events (or pile on the couch and watch them from home), hike with the dogs, and spend as much time as we can enjoying the outdoors.



# FAVORITES...

## Mike

written by Caitlin

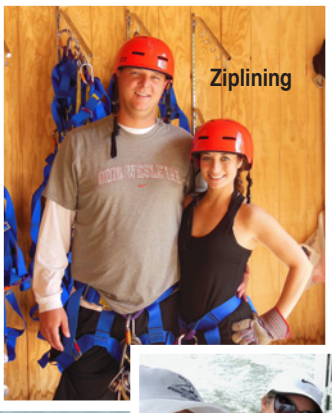
Mike is that genuine, all around great guy that everyone adores. I am so lucky to call him my husband and best friend. He has a playful sense of humor and makes me laugh at the most random times. He knows no stranger and kids seriously flock to him. He is like a giant teddy bear with his strong stature, baby face, kind and gentle persona and contagious smile, but he does have a competitive streak, which makes him a great coach. He is an amazing mentor, teacher, and communicator, interacting daily with young adults and families from all over the country, from all different cultures and backgrounds. His players really look up to him and it shows in their interactions together on and off the field. Mike is obviously passionate about sports, but I love that he also supports me in my interests of music and theatre and will surprise me with tickets or the idea to go to a show. He is an amazing cook and loves to come up with new and authentic recipes on his own. He will keep the smoker going all day making the most tender and delicious meal for dinner. What I love most about Mike is that he is fun and adventurous and has a positive outlook on life. He is my rock and reminds me that life is a journey that is meant to be tackled one day at a time. I know he can't wait to become a father, and I know he is going to be the best.

## Caitlin

written by Mike

Caitlin is a beautiful, smart, kind, caring, fun, strong and independent woman and has a way of being able to portray all of these qualities simultaneously. It was easy to see how incredible of a person she was as soon as we met. She positively impacts the lives of people that are fortunate enough to know her. Caitlin is very good at her job. She is a natural leader and her superiors are always looking to give her more responsibility. She has a passion for music, art, and the outdoors. She has a beautiful voice and I know she looks forward to rocking out to Disney tunes in the car one day with a little one (she graciously tolerates my sports pod casts and radio shows now). Caitlin is a daily inspiration to me in many ways. I am most inspired by her passion for starting our family and giving a child the best life. Caitlin is motherly in many ways already. I know she will be an incredible mom and I can't wait to share parenthood with her.

| | Mike | Caitlin |
|---|---|---|
| Color: | Blue | Teal |
| Food: | Mexican | Steak, fruit, avocado |
| Place: | Any coastline/beach | Any lake or beach |
| Things to do: | Watch sports, play golf, run, hike with my family and dogs | Sing, yoga, paint, hang out with my family and pups |
| TV/Movie: | The Shawshank Redemption | This is Us |
| Holiday: | Christmas | Christmas |
| Childhood Memory: | Spending time at our community lake | Boating on the weekends with my family |
| Occupation: | College football coach | Sr. IT Consultant/Trainer |
| Education: | Masters of Science (Adult Technical Education) | Masters of Science (Biology) |



Ziplining

Kayaking

Boating with family

# OUR HOME

We own a 2 story home with 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a finished basement. We have a fenced in back yard and love spending the warmer months outside BBQing and enjoying the covered gazebo on our deck. Our home is located in a family oriented development where the sights and sounds of children and dogs fill the streets all year round. We love being a part of a small town college community. We spend a lot of our evenings and weekends downtown supporting our local restaurants and store fronts. We walk our dogs around the beautiful college campus and stop for a smoothie or ice cream during our outings. There are several small local parks nearby with plenty of activities for kids and hiking trails. At the end of our street is a small neighborhood park. We also love that we get the family friendly feel of a small town, but still have the luxury to experience the city amenities with sporting venues, the zoo, and the theatre 20 miles away.

# OUR PETS

Our family grew for the first time in 2012 when we adopted our first dog, Roma. A few years later, we adopted Rocco. Roma loves to be outside and would stay outside all day if she could. She enjoys lying in the grass, chewing on bones, exploring her surroundings and going for hikes. Rocco enjoys going on runs and chewing on tennis balls, but prefers to curl up on the couch or chair and sleep (as long as a human is nearby). Roma and Rocco are two of the sweetest pups and they can't wait to welcome a new brother or sister to the family.

Caitlin's Extended Family Gathering

Mike with his parents after a game

Vacation with our niece and nephew

Our families are our biggest supporters. We love spending as much time as we can with them. We gather often for family meals and to celebrate birthdays and other milestones. Caitlin's parents enjoy traveling to spend weekends with us and Mike's family is close enough to make day trips. We love watching our niece and nephews grow and enjoy attending their dance recitals and sporting events. We see both of our families a lot during Mike's football season. Even our extended families will travel from afar to make it to a game. We split our time during holidays and started hosting Thanksgiving at our home with both families present. Mike's family consists of sports enthusiasts (coaches and athletes). We enjoy attending sporting events with them, going on outdoor adventures, or out for a dinner and a movie (with a guaranteed stop for ice cream on the way home). Caitlin's family loves the water, boating, and fishing. Each year we go on vacation at a lake or beach with the entire family (including aunts, uncles, cousins and their kids) and set a goal for catching enough fish and/or crabs to make a meal one night (or at least enough for everyone to have a taste).

## Our Family

Us with both families after a game

Mike's aunt, mom and grandfather

Caitlin's immediate family

Mike and his brother

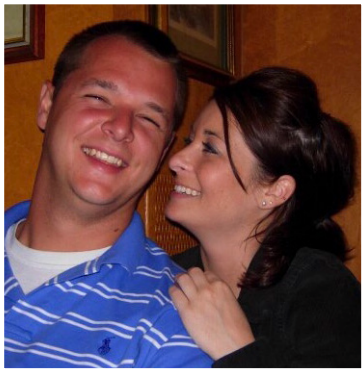
Mike's golfing buddies

We are blessed to be surrounded by an entire community of friends. We keep in close contact with our childhood best friends and close knit group of college friends. We make every effort to see them multiple times a year, even those far away. We make our rounds during holidays and plan weekend gatherings throughout the year. We love being the proud honorary aunt and uncle to our friend's children. The kids enjoy coming to our games and it's always fun to watch them run and play on the field afterwards. Our friends continue to follow and support us on our journey and are just as excited to add another child to the growing play group.

## Our Friends

Visiting with friends

Hockey game with friends



# Dear Birth Parent,

Thank you so much for taking the time to learn about us, our life, and our family. We hope that you feel a sincere connection with us and are eager to learn more. We want to start by saying that YOU are the true hero(es) in your child's story. We are beyond excited to learn more about you and how you imagine your child's adoption to go and offer our support to you throughout this entire journey. Our hearts are already exploding at the sheer chance that you could select us to love and care and provide a safe and stable home for your child. We want nothing more than to be parents and promise that your child will be loved, provided for, and protected every single day.

Sincerely,

*Mike & Caitlin*

# Why Adoption?

It has been our dream since we were married to become parents. Unfortunately, we didn't realize how challenging it would be to conceive ourselves. We have been down many roads, but with each new challenge, we found ourselves opening our hearts and minds naturally to adoption. Our dream is to provide a safe and loving home for a child and give them a fulfilling life full of opportunity and adventure. We respect and support diversity and wish to open our home and hearts to a child of any race or ethnicity and will help them embrace their own identity and cultural background. We believe that God has been leading us down this path all along.