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Alumni Snapshot: Steve Snyder

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Alumni Snapshot: Steve Snyder

September 02, 2008

Liberty University alumni Steve and Patty Snyder have three children: Titus, Taylor, and Judson. Steve and Patty met at Liberty and have been married for 24 years.

Name: Steve Snyder

Graduating Class: 1982

Residence: Tigerville, S.C.

Occupation: Attorney, representing physicians and hospitals, practicing exclusively in the areas of medical malpractice defense litigation and hospital risk management

Hobbies: Travel, reading, music, occasional golf, speaking at conferences and seminars on legal-medical issues

Affiliations: Elder and teacher, Mitchell Road Presbyterian Church; Christian Medical Society; American Bar Association; South Carolina Bar Association; Defense Research Institute; South Carolina Defense Trial Lawyers Association; Greenville County Bar Association; Global Adapt; John Schindler Ministries, Champions for Christ Foundation

Education: B.S., broadcasting and journalism, Liberty University; Juris Doctor, University of Virginia School of Law (1988)

Why did you choose to attend liberty university?

My parents moved to Lynchburg in 1976, the summer before my junior year of high school, to join the faculty of what was then a comparatively small LBC (Liberty Baptist College). It then became a given that I would attend Liberty. We drove into town only days before the July 4 Bicentennial celebration on Liberty Mountain that was home at the time to fields, forests, the Carter-Glass mansion and literally nothing else. That patriotic celebration, attended by thousands, was a landmark event in the history of the university that struck even this cynical and detached teenager as exciting and uplifting. One year later, classes were held for the first time on Liberty Mountain. My parents, Al and Evelyn Snyder, remained on the faculty at Liberty until they retired.

What is your fondest memory of liberty?

My friends were obviously central to my fond memories. Bright and engaging professors who seemed to take a personal interest in me, such as Tommy Thomason, Mike Korpi and Dean Ed Dobson, are also fondly remembered. I now recall most fondly the sense of having been a part of something very special, sharing in the vision God had given Dr. (Jerry) Falwell who in turn inspired us to believe that Liberty would become great and its ministries and alumni would powerfully impact the world. Those of us who were there during its relative infancy grew to believe Dr. Falwell when he said we were all a part of God's plan to build that little college into a great ministry and university.

How did attending liberty prepare you for your life after graduation?

The diversity of students was great preparation for a diverse world. Learning to talk my way out of "write ups" and penalties for minor rule infractions was, perhaps, good preparation for my career as a litigator. My journalism professor, Tommy Thomason, who turned me on to the writings of great Christian thinkers like Schaeffer and Lewis, helped me begin to comprehend the distinctions between the rules, expectations and rituals of conservative American Christianity and the importance of developing a genuine relationship with a real and personal God. And, of course, I met my awesome wife Patty Glenn ('85) at Liberty. She is someone without whom I absolutely cannot imagine the past 24 years of my much-blessed life.

What would people be surprised to know about you?

Many people who knew me probably did not know I had been raised in Liberia, West Africa, and that my parents were missionaries prior to joining the faculty at Liberty. I now spend six weeks or so each year leading retreats and speaking at conferences across the globe as part of a non-profit organization Patty and I founded, Global Adapt, which teaches, trains and consults on issues such as growing up cross-culturally and transitioning between cultures.