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THE CAMPANYS Family Business



THE CAMPANYS

Family Business

BY DALLIS FORSYTHE | PHOTOGRAPHS BY MACY AYCOCK AND THE COMPANY FAMILY

The Company family is brought together not just through love and commitment, but also through business and opportunity. Brooks (35) and Port Company (35) moved into their wonderful Oxford home in 2018. The Campanys live in the Grand Oaks neighborhood with their two sons, Porter (4) and Wills (2), and their golden retriever, Ollie, who Brooks jokingly describes as “our first child.” “We fell in love with the neighborhood years ago, as my parents have had a home here for our family to enjoy the many activities, festivals, and events that the town of Oxford has to offer!” she says.

Brooks and Port met during an elective class together in the first semester of their freshman years at Ole Miss and remained friends for many years. Brooks graduated from Ole Miss and moved to Nashville in 2007, while Port returned to his hometown of Memphis after completing his master’s in accounting in 2008. Their paths continued to cross over the years in the Grove and at weddings, until they eventually went on a few dates. When Port moved to Nashville in 2011, their paths crossed once again—this time for good. The Campanys said “I do” in Alys Beach, Florida, in April 2014. “Alys Beach remains the most special place for us to vacation as a family,” Brooks says.

As the son of two Ole Miss graduates, Port always wanted to attend Ole Miss himself, and went on to earn his bachelor and master’s in accounting from the university. After graduating, he took a job at Ernst and Young in his hometown of Memphis. Port worked for the firm for several years, auditing large publicly traded companies before moving to a new role in the healthcare industry in Nashville, focusing on strategic planning, margin improvement and financial operations. Today, he uses his knowledge and 10 years of healthcare industry experience to help investors find alternative investments through commercial real estate.

Brooks’ story is a little different. Her father, Argent Financial Group founder Kyle McDonald, took her and her younger sister Blair on a tour of colleges the summer before Brooks’ senior year of high school. On that tour, Blair (then entering her sophomore year of high school) announced she was going to Ole Miss, while Brooks leaned more toward the University of Alabama. Brooks changed her mind in the eleventh hour and enrolled at Ole Miss, despite having only been to Oxford three times before starting at the university in the fall of 2003. She graduated with a degree in marketing and finance in 2007.

After graduating, Brooks moved to Nashville and began to work for Avenue Bank, then a startup founded by Ole Miss graduate

Ron Samuels. Two years later, her father called her with an exciting opportunity. Argent Financial Group, a trust and wealth management company that Kyle McDonald had founded in 1990 in Ruston, Louisiana, was looking to expand into Tennessee. Brooks was offered the opportunity to move to Memphis for one year to learn the “nuts and bolts” of the trust business, working with a team her father had put together, before moving back to Nashville to form a team and open an Argent office there.

During the years that Brooks, Blair and their youngest sister, Mary-Kyle, attended Ole Miss, their parents spent a great deal of time in Oxford. Having observed the growth of this small college town,

Kyle McDonald saw real opportunity for Argent to expand to Oxford, adding value to the city’s families and businesses in the same way it did in Ruston. Because of Brooks’ previous experience opening two offices, Kyle presented her the idea of moving to Oxford from Nashville so that Brooks could run a new Oxford office for Argent.

Little did they know, God had a bigger plan for the Company family. Around the same time, Blair’s husband, Drew, was granted a promotion within Regions Bank that would require



Wills' baptism.



PAM Awards, NYC.

a move to a town in North Mississippi. Blair, who herself had been working for Argent for six years, was excited about the opportunity to move back to Oxford and potentially work with Brooks. Port was offered an opportunity to work with longtime family friend Elizabeth Randall at Randall Commercial Group in Oxford. Six weeks after their second son was born, the Campanys left Nashville to start a new chapter in their family's life in Oxford.

Sisters Brooks and Blair continue to work at Argent's Oxford office, located inside a historic pink house near the downtown. Brooks assists high-net-worth individuals, while Blair helps



Ollie and boys.

organizations and nonprofits with managing their wealth. "It's such a privilege to work side-by-side with my sister, who loves this community as much as I do," Brooks says. "We love the work we do and feel privileged that our clients entrust us with the fiduciary responsibility of managing their wealth."

Now, let's learn more about the little ones that round out this beautiful family. Porter just wrapped up 3K at Willie Price Lab School and is looking forward to 4K at Bramlett Elementary School in the fall. Wills goes to First Baptist Church's weekday program, and both boys absolutely adore their schools. "Port and I have been so grateful for the extra time we have had with our boys at home during the quarantine period. In between work calls and work for our clients, we love playing with the boys outside. They are at such fun ages, learning something new every day!" Brooks says. The kids' favorite places in Oxford are Square Books Jr. and Oxford Creamery. "In fact, many of our neighbors have probably seen the full meltdowns that come when our toddler is told it is time to leave," she says.

The Company family is involved in serving their community as well. They became members of Christ Presbyterian Church after visiting many wonderful churches in the community. "Through our work and our church, we have had many opportunities to get to know many wonderful organizations and the people who work for them in our community and the surrounding



St. Jude-Taste of Oxford.

areas," Brooks says. In addition to serving their community through church and work, the Company family enjoys vacationing by the water at Pickwick Lake, Orange Beach, and of course, Alys Beach. "Our family is happiest by the water!" Brooks says. The Campanys also love enjoying their favorite town of Oxford together, watching Ole Miss football games, and tailgating at the Grove, as well as enjoying the amenities and fun their neighborhood of Grand Oaks and the Country Club have to offer.

"Grand Oaks has been a wonderful place to raise our boys. We are surrounded by so many friends and quick access to the Country Club. We have so much fun playing tennis with neighbors, yoga at the club, dinner at the clubhouse and cookouts with neighbors! The neighborhood has had neat activities during our quarantine like going on teddy bear hunts,



Ole Miss football game.

Easter egg hunts in our own homes, praising our city workers, and the list goes on! When remembering our own childhoods and imagining where our boys would grow up, it was hard to pass up the opportunity to live in a neighborhood with access to a golf course and all of the fun that brings, like ponds, golf carts and a club pool. It has been as magical as we imagined! We are most grateful for our family's

health, our friends and neighbors' love, our clients' trust, and a community like Oxford to call home!" ❁



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