



The newlyweds are joined by their families, with the Nelsens on the left, and the Fetzers on the right.

Darcy & Chad

FOR THESE HIGH SCHOOL PALS,
TIMING WAS EVERYTHING

ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2017, the downtown Chicago sky was crystal clear and the 55-degree day “just perfect” for the couple who were to be married that day at Fourth Presbyterian Church. A reception for 285 family members and friends—including a large group who share the newlywed’s Barrington High School alumni status (with classes ranging from 1974 to 2015)—followed at the posh University Club of Chicago.

Darcy Nelsen’s mom’s family moved to Barrington in 1972, and her dad’s in 1968. Her grandparents joined the Barrington Hills Country Club in 1971. Darcy’s parents had met at Barrington High School in 1973 in their freshman year math class.

As Darcy headed out the door to catch the bus on her first day of high school in Barrington, her mom left her with these parting words: “Watch out Darcy, your future husband could be in your freshman math class!”

While attending Barrington High School, Darcy Nelsen and Chad Fetzer were friends who had two classes together their freshman year. Chad was active with the BHS tennis team and Darcy was a dancer.

They spent the most time together around their crew of good friends. “I was hoping that Chad Fetzer, my crush, would ask me to the Junior Prom, but he chose a mutual friend instead,” Darcy says of the bittersweet moment that would turn fortuitous. The newlywed couple believes that their prom’s fork-in-the-road-moment resulted in a post-high school reunion that became their permanent union.


“I believe that if we had dated in high school, we would not have married,” Darcy says.

“We were just too young, and we connected faster when Darcy moved back to Chicago because we were more mature, and already knew each other well,” Chad added.

Darcy was born at Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital and grew up in North Barrington. She danced at Bataille Academie and with Orchesis at school. Chad moved to Barrington with his family from Park Ridge when he was a young boy. “My parents met in high school in the city,” Chad says. “They moved us to Barrington for a better life. When I went away to college at Butler, it was a wake-up call for me. We take it for granted how we were raised.”

“I loved my education in Barrington,” Darcy said, noting that she went to Station Middle School, and Chad went to Prairie. “I didn’t realize how much our public schools offered until I went away to Iowa State for college,” she said.

In January 2014, Chad was reminded of his high school friend, Darcy, when he ran into Darcy’s mom at a Barrington restaurant, pl8. He had known her mom, affectionately called “Big Sue,” from his school days. He sent Darcy, who lived in Atlanta, a text message that he saw her mom back home. By January 2015, they began hanging out together as friends once again, as Darcy had moved to Chicago. “Things moved fast for us, because we knew a lot about each other having both grown up in Barrington,” Darcy said. “We had a similar upbringing and are both the oldest of three siblings in our families.”

On his birthday, July 15, in 2015, they had their first date. A little more than a year later, at the closing of the home they purchased in Barrington, Chad got down on one knee in the home and proposed, bringing their next chapter to life. 



A warm welcome for the husband and wife.



Darcy and Chad



The couple's first dance.



The reception at the University Club of Chicago.



The Barrington High School alumni group.



An after party was held at the University Club.



Dancers traveled in from Germany to share a traditional dance for the newlyweds. Chad's brother is second from the left.

WEDDING DETAILS

- Coordination—Clementine Custom Events
- Ceremony—Fourth Presbyterian Church
- Reception/Catering/Cake—University Club
- Lighting—Frost (through venue)
- Linens—BBJ
- Chairs/Chargers/Plates—Halls
- Photographer—KingenSmith Photography
- Videographer—Mirar (13HRS)
- Band—Rendezvous
- Hair—Robyn Tornabeni
- Makeup—Vanessa Valliant
- Men's Hot Shave—Gold Coast Barbershop
- Transportation—Windy City Limo
- Wardrobe Stylist—The Wedding Dresser
- Hotel Accommodations—The University Club and the Palmer House