



# DFW Weddings

FALL 2005

sparkling looks  
precious keepsakes  
genuine couples &  
brilliant wedding pros

*your*  
**DAZZLING**  
*day*

# Julie & Craig

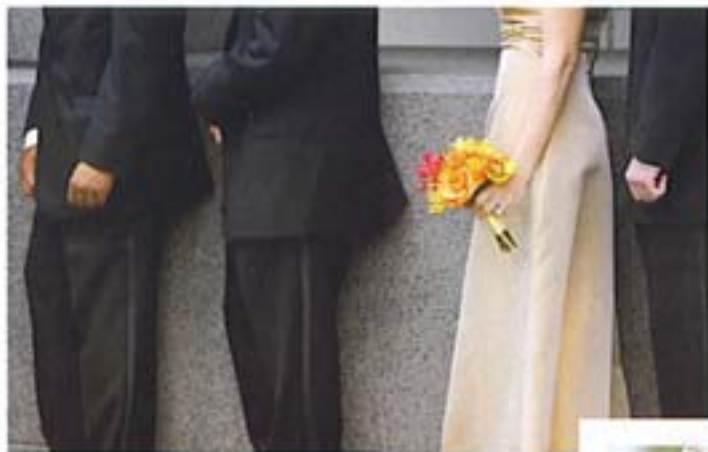
March 19, 2005



*Very Happily Attached*

photographs by [Simple-Moments.com](http://Simple-Moments.com)





**Y**ou hear about of-  
fice romances all  
the time. For Julie  
and Craig, finding  
each other at work  
was a near statis-

tic improbability. Both work at Las Colinas-based VHA where – among the roughly 1,000 other employees – they happened to bump into each other at a random meeting. Craig asked Julie to see him again...not on a date, but to set up an appointment to talk about...work. Still, their “strictly professional” session gave way to conversations about life. All of a sudden it was not business as usual; it was the beginning of a new venture. When it came time to tie the knot, Craig and Julie knew they had quite a task in front of them, beginning with their first difference of opinion: she wanted a small and intimate wedding, he wanted a larger one. They negotiated something in between. Still, for Julie it seemed like a bigger wedding than she was used to. “Both my sisters had small weddings. Most of my friends had smaller weddings. This was new territory to me.” They decided on Marie Gabrielle for their ceremony and reception because of its sophisticated ambiance and non-traditional wedding menu. They also enlisted the help of wedding planner, Mandy Phalen (incidentally a former VHA employee) to pull off their event. From there everything fell into place. The couple divided and conquered, each one contributing to the success of their wedding *celebrations*. (That’s right, there was more than one.) With 70-percent of their guests coming in from out of town, it was important for Julie and Craig to give everyone an experience beyond their expectations. The actual wedding was just one part of a 3-day extravaganza that began with a festive rehearsal dinner at a Mexican restaurant (reflecting Julie’s roots), and capped by a Sunday night crawfish boil (a nod to Craig’s Cajun background). In all, Julie and Craig found the entire process to be a great opportunity to get to know each other better. As it is in matters of business, communication is the key to success in matters of the heart.









## the big picture

**Most Memorable Moment:** For Julie, it was walking down the aisle with her dad, who was cracking jokes to keep her at ease. For Craig, it was seeing Julie walk down the long aisle. He recalls feeling nervous until he caught sight of his bride, then feeling fully present for the rest of the ceremony.

**MVP:** Wedding planner, Mandy Phalen for taking a lot of stress off the planning.

**Unique Touch:** Officiant Ken Byrd integrated an inscription – written on Craig's copy of *The Prophet* by Khalil Gibran – into the ceremony. The inscription has great meaning to Craig's parents, but Byrd managed to tie it in with Julie, too.

**Advice:** Don't underestimate the last two weeks before the wedding, don't get hung up on traditions, and hire a wedding coordinator.

