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## **Redford Couple Meets, Marries and Earns Master's at Madonna University**

LIVONIA, Mich. – Madonna University's commencement ceremony will be twice as nice for one Redford family. Mark and Erin Priebe, husband and wife, will receive their Master of Business Administration degrees Sunday, May 3 at 1:30 p.m. at Computware Arena. This isn't the first time the two graduated together. In 2002, they received their bachelor's degrees in accounting.

It was an internship turned courtship. Mark started an internship with a CPA firm in Redford in the fall of 2000. Erin interviewed at the same firm for winter semester 2001, and became the third intern placed through Madonna's Career Services Department. Soon the pair was inseparable; working together, attending classes together and studying or having dinner together. They married 10 months after graduation.

Mark began his graduate program in January 2003 and Erin in September 2004. Their son Joseph, now three, was born during Erin's second winter semester -- Erin took the winter semester off so that she could stay home and care for their newborn. "Although we started at different times, we were able to take several classes together," Erin said. "If one of us couldn't make it to class, the other could share what went on. The professors were extremely understanding and helpful too," she went on. "They have encouraged us to call even after we graduate, because 'you're always a student' they've said."



Mark and Erin agree that the alumni tuition benefit made Madonna the most affordable and convenient choice for their MBA. (They earned a master's degree at undergraduate tuition rates.) "If we had a class at the Orchard Lake Center we could have dinner with my parents in Livonia, and leave the baby there," said Mark, who added four certificates to his master's degree so that he and Erin could graduate together.

Since January, Mark has been commuting to his new job with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C., while Erin stayed behind to finish out the tax season (she works at a different firm now). "I've been coming back to Michigan every two weeks," Mark said. "It worked out perfect that commencement fell on one of those weekends."

After graduation the family will pack up their home and move to Fredericksburg, Va. Erin has applied for employment where Mark is working.

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