

# REFNI

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**Frank and Samantha get Married!**



## Frank and Samantha Celebrate Their Wedding

On April 28, 2018, at 1:30 in the afternoon, Frank and Samantha were joined by the holy sacrament of Marriage at Ascension Catholic Church located in the Tierrasanta community of San Diego. It was a beautiful wedding with many friends and family in attendance.

After the ceremony there was the usual picture taking along with many of the guests hanging around and getting to know one another. Richard and Liz both looked wonderful and could not have been more proud of Frank and their new daughter in law Samantha.

Since the reception was not scheduled to start until 4:30 the Riel family members decided to invade Birdy's home and have an impromptu party before the real one started. Birdy was very gracious and

opened her house up (after a quick run to the store with Lyle for some cheese, fruit and crackers) to all who wanted to attend.



Next it was off to the Tuesday club in Point Loma where the reception would be held. We all found our way in after watching a few more pictures being taken of the Bride and Groom. Each table had a unique center-piece that depicted a Disney character and as it turned out that is how they determined the order each table would be called to dinner.



Both the best man and bride's maid gave great speeches. I don't know if they were off the cuff or just really practiced a lot but the delivery and messages were both spot on! Frank and Samantha really have some extraordinary friends!

After dinner and speeches the party really got going with plenty of dancing and fun. We all wish Frank and Samantha the best for their new life together. On the following pages are two articles written by Frank and Samantha telling us about how they became a couple...



# The Journey through Frank's Eyes

In 2015 during the month of December, I proposed to the love of my life, Samantha Davis. I am extremely excited and flabbergasted that she said yes to me. Here is the story of how I met my future wife.

Four years ago, when I was 20 and unsure of relationships or what I was doing, I saw someone familiar at the Ascension Church Fiesta manning the bounce house. I was there with a friend of mine who had to set up the sound system, so I had plenty of time to look around. She was beautiful, and I knew I could talk to her because we used to be in youth group at that Church together while I was in high school. I sat down next to her on the air-filled entrance and began to talk to her about school and friends and anything I could think of to continue to sit there next to Sam.

When it was time for me to go I said my goodbyes and hugged her thinking of how I would get her to go out with me. Unfortunately, I didn't have the guts then to ask so it took another year. I went to that same fiesta and sat next to her again. I think she somehow knew I would be there again to see her. Every word of Sam's had me entranced with that radiant smile and her cute giggle. I had her this time and I knew it. But I couldn't bring myself to ask her right then and there.

I found her on Facebook and there I took her number. I know I took my sweet time getting to the asking out part, but I wanted Sam so badly I didn't want to mess this up. When I first asked her out it was to a movie with a large group of my friends, she said yes. She met me in front of the movie theater in Hazard Center before anyone else got there.

We joked and talked waiting for my friends to show up to accompany us in. I began to get texts from three separate people saying that they will not be able to attend. Then more and more until finally I realize that the only two people that showed up to this group event were myself and Sam. And so, it became our first official date.

I'm still not sure to this day if I have really good friends or really bad friends. Either way I know that I got to spend three hours after the movie by our cars discussing our likes and dislikes about the film. Time passed, and we had already been dating for a whole year. Sam came along to my best friend's wedding where I got my first chance to be a best man. After putting up with a night of my seizure like dancing skills and my improvised speech I knew I wanted to tell her those three sacred words, "I love you." She reciprocated thankfully, and I was filled with joy.



Another year would pass and once in a while she would ask what my plans for marriage were or if I had any. Of course, I wanted to marry her, but I needed to have some fun as well. I would say five to ten years. That would mean a punch to the arm, but I am a sucker for the comedic arts. I decided in October of 2015 that I wanted to bring Sam ring shopping, so I could see what she would like and how many paychecks it would take to get it for her.

It came down to two that she liked but couldn't decide on one ring. One month later I came back with the intention of getting my favorite of the two and that's exactly what I did. On December 13th, 2015, we agreed to meet near her school in Irvine to celebrate our anniversary that would actually be the next day. I had the intention that this would be the day I would make her mine forever.

That day, I got dressed and was ready to head out but as I put the ring box into my pocket I realize that it would never fit. Planning ahead was never really my strong suit. Also, didn't want to put the ring in my pocket because I didn't trust myself not to lose it. I decided I would wear a jacket in 80 degree weather in San Clemente.

We had lunch at a quaint California cuisine restaurant by the beach and afterwards headed down to the beach for a short walk during sunset. We walked and enjoyed each other's company as the ring heated and heaved itself in my side pocket. I spotted a clearing without any onlookers and she happened to stop right in that area as if to tell me I had the green light. We were talking and laughing, smiling as we gazed into each other's eyes.

Now I couldn't decide when to propose during our conversation. It dawned on me that you can't wait for the perfect time, I just need to do it. I dropped on one knee, seeing her expression change from laughter to an excited amazement. Once I pulled out the ring and it shimmered in the gleaming sunlight, I saw her for a moment turn to tears. As soon as a drop would pour out, a giggle broke out. One that would last for the rest of the day. She said yes, and we embraced and kissed. I loved that look of happiness and joy on her face. The one I bring out in her and the one she brings out in me. I want that for the rest of my life. On April 28, 2018, we became husband and wife. I love her and I am looking forward to spending the rest of my life with her.



# The Journey through Samantha's Eyes

When I was in high school I was a part of my church's youth group and it was there that I met Frank. I didn't really talk to him because at the time I was shy and really only talked to people that I already knew. It wasn't until a couple of years after youth group ended that I started talking to Frank.

I was working the Fiesta at my church at the bounce house and Frank came over and sat down. He started a conversation with me and we talked most of the time. Well, he talked I mostly listened because I was still shy and pretty quiet. My shift ended and the following year we met once again at the Fiesta. That year I spoke a little more and before I knew it we were friends on Facebook and this time we kept in contact.

The next time I saw Frank, he invited me to a movie with a couple of his friends. I remember agreeing to go, even though I had not seen the previous movies in the series. I showed up a little bit earlier and met up with Frank. We ended up talking for a few minutes before everyone started texting him and canceling. I remember being slightly amused at the situation and then we went and saw the movie.

I don't remember much of the movie, but I remember standing outside in the dark after the movie just talking. We talked for a long time and I remember being cold, but I didn't want the con-



versation to end. I was having such a good time, so when he suggested going into the Applebee's I agreed. We went in and ordered an appetizer to share. We sat and talked some more. I remember it being really late when we finally did leave.



From then on we spent a lot of time together. One of my favorite dates was one of our first dates, Frank tried to surprise me by not telling me where we were going or what I should wear. He picked me up and as we were driving he still refused to tell me where we were going. As we got closer to the destination, I had an inkling of where we were heading. So, I

asked him if we were going bowling, when he said yes, I looked at him and said, "I'm not wearing socks and I didn't bring any." Luckily the crisis was solved by one of his friends that joined us and we ended up having a great time.



As time passed, I would ask Frank about marriage and he would always said, "Oh 10 years from now we will get married." Which I would roll my eyes and occasionally smack him when he wouldn't give me a straight answer. In December 2015, Frank and I celebrated our three-year anniversary by meeting in San Clemente. We met at a small restaurant where we spent the date laughing and talking. After we ate I drove us to the beach where

we walked along the shore line just talking and laughing about everything. I remember at one point stopping because I was getting tired and we still had to walk back to the car.

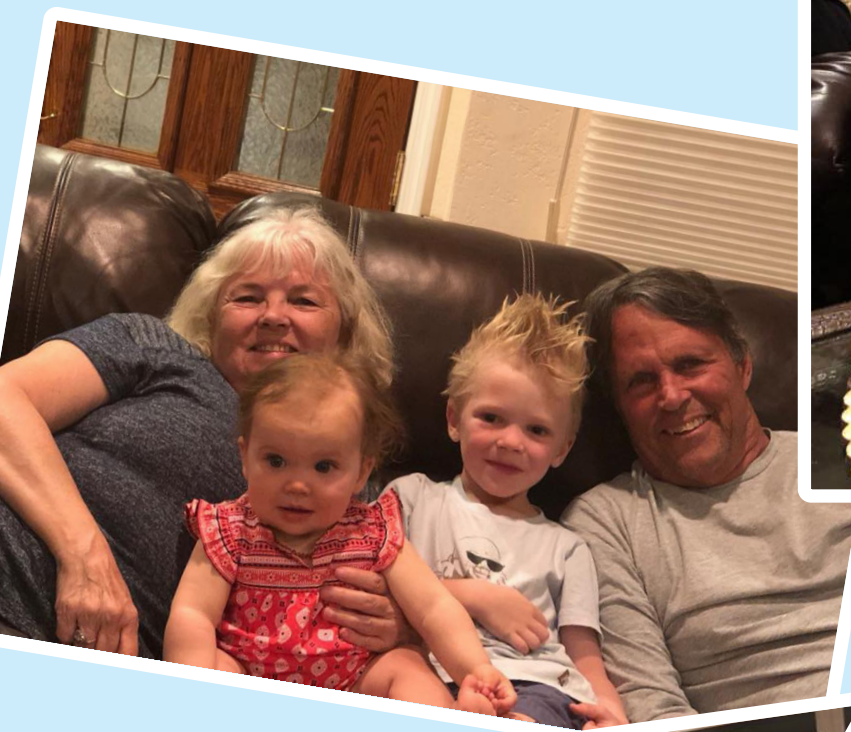
I turned to Frank and wrapped my arms around him. I was just so happy to be in his presence after not seeing him for so long. He kissed my forehead before he leaned away, and it was then that he looked at me and told me how much he loved me. As he was talking, he reached into his jacket pocket and pulled out the ring while getting down on one knee. I remember saying, "Oh my God." and I just kept repeating it as he asked me to marry him.

After I said yes, laughter just burst through my lips and I couldn't stop smiling for the rest of the day. Even when I was driving back to my dorm every now and then laughter would burst through my lips. I was so happy and excited that we were engaged. Of course, I still had to get through my finals when all I really wanted to do is come home to San Diego and celebrate with Frank, our friends, and our family. Frank makes me so happy, I am so happy that we found each other and I am excited to be spending the rest of our lives together.





# Happy 70th Birthday Jan!!!





## **Brian and Drew's Trip to Italy, 2018**

Drew and I got to take a trip to Italy a few weeks ago and we were able to see some amazing things that we have always wanted to. Our trip was a 6-day trip, 4 days down in Sorrento next to Naples and Pompeii. Followed by a two-day trip in Rome. We flew out of LAX on Saturday March 31 at 7am, which meant we drove from Phoenix, to mom and dad's house, to LAX all in one shot. Mom woke up at 2am to drive us to LAX so we would have time to get through security, thanks mom! We first flew to Dallas and caught a connecting flight to Rome. Right before we boarded the plane Drew couldn't find his wallet which had his ID and debit card (thankfully passports and credit cards on file with hotels/rental were in our travel wallet). After some quick heart attacks, we found his ID but no wallet or debit card, which is easily replaced. After a long flight to Rome we finally landed and begun our adventure, the first of which was getting a rental and driving 3 hours to Sorrento.

We upgraded the rental to an automatic because, well I can't drive a standard, and there was no way I was just going to give it a try in a foreign country where I don't





know my way around. The car was a brand-new Fiat! After first getting familiar with it we put in our hotel destination and we were on our way! Getting onto their freeway was easy enough but figuring out their signs were not. Thanks to google we were able to look them up and learned a few things about driving in their country (in hindsight we should have looked this up earlier, but Drew and I live dangerously and love doing things last minute). Interestingly enough, Italy not only has a speed limit but a speed minimum, which is more of what you follow. Italians don't care how well you drive, as long as you're going fast! They use tolls in Italy which was easy enough to figure out, take the ticket, get to the next booth and pay. But when

we got to the third booth and I didn't have another ticket, I was a little confused. Unable to speak Italian (there was a glass window, so I couldn't talk to the worker even if I wanted to) I had to figure out it was a flat rate and no ticket was needed. After the toll booths we were almost to our hotel.



We stayed at the Towers Hotel right on the coast looking across the bay to Mount Vesuvius. Our room was small but functional, and we settled in quickly. We took a quick nap, mistake, and barely made it to dinner where we had our first Italian meal! It was divine with gelato to follow. We went back to the room and passed out yet again.

The next day, Monday, we decided to drive through the mountains to Amalfi, a small town on a cliff side facing the sea. But first we had the free hotel breakfast which, by far, was the best free hotel breakfast ever.

Again, driving proved itself as an adventure in itself. The road was narrow, very narrow, I am surprised I didn't hit the car against the walls. Every time another car was coming the other way Drew grabbed the "oh s\*\*t" handle and closed his eyes.



After an hour we descended upon Amalfi and the view was breathtaking. We parked the car (thanks to a sketchy guy offering us a spot) and walked into town. We found a long street filled with shops



and restaurants and a large church and clock tower. It was a scene I had never seen before. We walked up and down the street looking at gifts and goods. We took a quick peek inside the church and then decided to walk to the next town over. After getting lost and a long elevator ride up, we were on top of the hill in the middle of a residential area. We saw some white arrows on the ground and decided to follow them, they didn't help. We had to make our way down steep stairs with the help of a few locals only to end up in the exact same spot we started before the elevator ride.



It was still Easter for the Italian people and this small town was starting to get busy with tourist and citizens who were enjoying their extra day off work. We decided to go back to the hotel for lunch. After lunch we took yet another nap (the jet lag really got to us). This time we woke up too late for dinner and now wide awake at 10pm. We weren't helping the whole jet lag situation and now needed assistance falling asleep. What better way to do that than going to the bar and having some drinks. It worked, within two hours we were back in bed falling asleep.



Tuesday was our most anticipated day of the week. We would be touring Pompeii! We met up with our tour group and made our way inside. Seeing the ruins was absolutely mind boggling. Being able to see how well preserved the city was just made it so much better. Our tour guide told us "Don't look or think about the differences between then and now,

look at the similarities". So, I was looking at these small shops/restaurants on the narrow cobblestone streets, and I realized that it wasn't nearly to different from what I see in my everyday life in Phoenix.



When we spent the next day in Naples (more on that soon), I realized that they still live and go about their daily lives in the exact same way they did back in Pompeii. Drew and I spent 6 hours exploring the ruins and learning as much as we could. We have both wanted to see the site since we learned about it in school and it was well worth the trip out there.



Wednesday we had a street food tour in Naples. I was excited to try some local foods and see some sights in this big city. We drove our way into the city and thankfully found a small parking garage where they parked the car for you (score)! We made our way to the meeting place and found the two of us were the only ones on the tour. Our tour guide was a lady our age who had grown up in Naples, so we had our own local tour guide.



She first gave us a lot of history about Naples and pointed out some great historical markers as we made our way to the first stop. We went to a small bakery and we got to try tarall, a small bagel shaped bread that was invented by poor people back in the day. They would take old stale bread, mix it with lard, boil it, and fry it. The result is a ring of dry salty bread. Not the best but something new. It's common to have them with breakfast and lunch.

Our next stop was a fresh seafood market. Drew and I aren't huge fans of seafood, but we were up for the experience. She got us both a small bag of fried shrimp, sardines, calamari, salmon, and other things. The calamari and salmon weren't bad. But the rest of the food still had their heads, eyes, legs, fins, tail, you name it, attached. We weren't even sure how to eat it. We pretended to at least try and then told her we were ready to move on.



Our next stop was a pizzeria where the "fold and go" pizza first came about. You could basically ask for a pizza, fold it up, pay for it later if you wanted, and eat it as you go. The pizza was great, and we got to eat it as we continued to walk around and sight see.

The next stop was a small restaurant where we would get to try some Ragu and wine. By the time we were eating the pasta, we were getting too full to breath. Thankfully the last stop was just for some coffee and baba cake. A nice soft rum filled cake which was very delicious. After the tour we continued to explore Naples and made our way back to the car. During the day we learned that parking was a bit of a commodity, and this fact was proven more so when we paid 48 euros or \$59 for parking. On the drive home Drew and I decided we were done with sea food for a while and it would be time for a nap when we returned to the hotel. Again, that was a bad idea as we slept through dinner, which resulted in another trip to the bar. While there Drew saw someone order a sandwich, he ordered one too, and it was tuna, just the smells made me want to never eat seafood again.



Thursday was the day we were to depart from Sorrento and make our way to Rome. We took a detour and headed to Tivoli to see a large villa with a large garden full of fountains and statues. When we arrived, we made our way into the garden only to be in shock of how large it really was and the beauty of all the fountains. Our little visit was cut short due to rain and our lack of umbrellas and jackets. We stopped for an amazing lunch and made our way back to our hotel. By this time the storm had picked up and there was thunder along with a small hail storm. We had planned to make our way into Rome but chose to stay in and, you guessed it, nap and miss dinner. We justified all these naps on the fact that we don't get much sleep in our normal daily lives and we were just taking the opportunity to do so now.

Friday came and it was time to go to Rome and see the sights. We jumped on a train and rode into town. Our train was stopped for a bit which put Drew and I behind schedule and we literally had to





run to the colosseum for our tour. We made it just in time as they were leaving. Once in the colosseum we were in awe of its size and all the history we were learning. The tour included all the ruins around the colosseum as well.



After the guided tour we went on our own and saw the Trevi Fountain. It wasn't busy, and we made it right to the front center, took some photos, and tossed our coins in. We followed this with a lunch of pizza and gelato in the same courtyard area. We then made our way to the Spanish steps, and then the Pantheon. The Pantheon was much bigger than I thought it would be and being inside was just as great! Before making our way back to the train we did some gift shopping of course more gelato.



Our trip was coming to a close and we had one final dinner before leaving. Waking up the next morning at 3am wasn't fun and the following adventure of not being able to check out of the hotel, not being able to return the rental, and not being able to find our flight, and then being delayed and missing our next flight was very stressful. When we returned home our luggage was not there thanks to that delayed flight. Mom picked us up and drove us back to San Diego where we slept and drove back to Phoenix the next day.

All and all the trip was a huge success and we really enjoyed it. We loved getting to see so many historical places and learning more about the history of Italy. I can also say I have successfully driven around a foreign country with no incidents. We are already planning our next trip to London for next year!

# FAMILY SHORTS



We have a new doctor in the family, Kevin Riel who earned his PHD in English literature. His graduation was held at the Claremont Graduate University on May 12th with close friends and family in attendance to watch this auspicious occasion. As Nicole put it “Sharing life. Today was a big one! Graduation day! Lots of hard work and long years culminating in celebration and love. Doctor doctor.”

Both Ed and Jan along with Kevin’s brothers are all very proud of this huge accomplishment. Everyone in the family sends their congratulations to Kevin and wish him nothing but added success in the years to come.



**Dr. Hutchins has pledged to designate \$50,000 of donations to a Multiple Myeloma research portfolio in memory of Francie Sorem.**

***Donate now!***

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