

Triangle Business Journal - May 24, 2010
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TRIANGLE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Friday, May 21, 2010

Kristen M. Hess

President, HH Architecture

Triangle Business Journal

Age: 36.

Description of employer: Full service architectural firm.

Hometown: Indianapolis and Valdese, N.C.

Family members: Husband, Steven; children, Ethan and Lauren; parents, Rita and Dave Hart; brother, Jason Hart.

Education: North Carolina State University College of Design.

Who is your hero? Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouts.

What accomplishments are you most proud of from the past year? Purchasing and renovating our new office building in downtown Raleigh.

What is your professional goal five years from now? Continued success of the company that I co-founded.

What was your first childhood job? Baby sitting and camp counselor.

What was your first job as an adult? Building models at an architecture firm in Indianapolis and in Stuttgart, Germany.

What is the most difficult question you've faced in a job interview? In my first interview I was asked, "If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be?" I uttered the first name that came to mind, "Katie Couric?" Unimpressed, my interviewer replied, "Mine would be Thomas Jefferson." Immediately I responded, "Oh! They can be dead? Then it would be Juliette Gordon Low!"

What community cause or charity have you invested time in during the past year? Ronald McDonald House of Durham, Communities in Schools, and the East Wake Education Foundation.

If your house caught fire and you had time to grab two things, what would they be? My children.

What are your hobbies or favorite pastimes? I enjoy traveling, attending musicals and the theatre, gardening, and cooking for friends and family.

What is your favorite restaurant? Irregardless Café.



Kristen Hess with husband, Steve, son, Ethan, and daughter, Lauren, dress it up for Easter Sunday.

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Nothing makes me madder than ...: Apathy.

Who is the most famous person you've met and what did you say to that celebrity? I once saw Andre the Giant in an airport. I just said, "Wow."

Who would make the guest list for your dream dinner party? My old friends who are scattered all over the country.

What online social/business networks are you on? None.

Dream purchase in the next five years? My next building.

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