

Peder Jensen interviewed by Chip Kerr



Peder Jensen was born in Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin, but only lived there a short time before his family moved to Decorah, Iowa. Peder's father is an Ordained Lutheran Minister and his opportunities within the church created a number of relocations for the family. At age 7, Peder was living in Washington, Iowa, then Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Finally he landed in New Albany, OH, where he graduated from High School. A few interesting facts...Peder attended 3 different high schools in 3 different states in a 3 year time period. At New Albany High School, where he graduated, he was the school's Golden Eagle mascot at sporting events. When asked if he was the tallest mascot they ever had, he said "No, I was only a little over 6 feet tall then...I grew 6 inches during college."

Peder had several key influences in his life while growing up. First his grandparents on his mother's side were farmers in Ocheyedon, Iowa. He spent many summers with them and always believed he would move there after high school and take over the family's farming business and build barns on the side. The second key influence in his life altered that path. While a senior in high school, one of the guidance counselors strongly encouraged Peder to follow his desire to be in the construction business. The counselor convinced Peder to join a local carpenters' union in Columbus, Ohio and then helped him enroll in a community college with a focus on construction management. While attending the first quarter of the community college, Peder became aware of a Commercial Construction Management program at The University of Cincinnati. Peder's high school G.P.A. was not high enough to get accepted to that program, but the strong recommendation written by his former guidance counselor was enough to get him enrolled.

A very admirable fact about Peder is that while in high school he was consistently at the bottom of his class as far as grades are concerned, but after the 5 year program at The University of Cincinnati, he finished top of his class (#1). He credits his guidance counselor with his change in direction. He graduated with 2 degrees; Civil Engineering Technology and Commercial Construction Management.

Work was a constant in Peder's life. Starting at age 9 to today. He mowed lawns as a kid, worked construction and farming jobs all through middle school and high school and actually paid his own way through college by working 40 hours a week while taking a full class load.

During college, he did a co-op job with a commercial contractor whose primary business was building Wendy's fast food restaurants in a multi state territory. His post college working life

took a slight turn. He became the outcast of his class by going to work for Centex Homes in Dallas, Texas. No one from his construction management program had strayed from the commercial side. Peder worked at Centex homes starting in 1999 as a Field Manager, then as a Project Manager, and finally as an Area Manager. In 2006, he moved to Middle Tennessee as an Area Construction Manager for The Jones Company. Just last year, he became Area Manager for the Sales Team at The Jones Company.

Peder met his wife Lynelle at The University of Cincinnati while they were both in the commercial construction management program. Lynelle still works in that field today as a Project Manager for D.F. Chase. They live in Columbia, Tennessee with their 2 boys; Owen is 6 and Grant is 4. The family enjoys all types of outdoor activities together and Peder's has a real passion for horses (they currently have three).

Peder and Lynelle attend Franklin First United Methodist Church. He is involved with Habitat for Humanity from a few different angles. Peder is on the Crew Leader Sub-Committee for HFH of WC and also is a volunteer on habitat builds at his church and through The Jones Company. He actually worked on his first Habitat Home while in high school.