

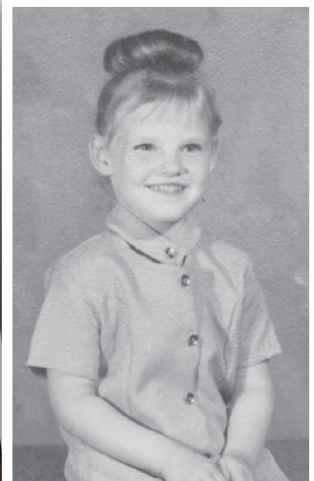
by Jackie Perrone

Annette Sudduth



If “Industrial Engineering” sounds like something that has to be done in a factory, think again. Annette Sudduth can demonstrate that whether the business world is focused on mortgage lending, publishing, retail or other avenues, an industrial engineer can be of service. She has proven it over 20-plus years in that field.

“My father headed a small factory in my home town of Walhalla, South Carolina,” she says. “I worked there as a teenager, in the office, on the floor, getting things done, learning the procedures. I decided that was what I wanted to do with my life, so I majored in Industrial Engineering at Clemson. It just so happens that I met Bryan Sudduth there, with the same major. It has worked out just fine for us.”



Now enthusiastic residents of Lexington, this dynamic couple found their niche with the franchise Mathnasium of Lexington. Both had worked for large companies as engineers, and had carved out a place for themselves and their two children in the community. Annette lists 12 years as an officer, a volunteer, and

chairperson at Lexington Elementary PTA, as well as 15 years serving as a director at their church, Mt. Horeb United Methodist in Lexington.

She likes to quote from Proverbs 3: 5-6 as their guideline: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart... Remember the Lord in everything you do, and He will show you the right way.” Bryan was employed at Eastman Kodak in the Midlands when the plant was shut down, and he was offered a transfer to their corporate headquarters in Kingsport, TN. It meant leaving their friends and their church, where all four were heavily involved in activities and mission work. Start over in Tennessee, or figure out a way to stay right here with the family life that was working so well? Annette was joining the Mathnasium office in Lexington, and they decided that the way had indeed been shown to them.

Since 2015, the Sudduths have owned the Lexington Mathnasium franchise. The company was established 14 years ago by Larry Matinak, a math teacher who saw the need for tutoring and help in math. The service is now world-wide, 800 centers in the U.S., nine of them in S.C. Annette quotes her slogan as, “Don’t let math hold you back.” With guidance and help, students who find themselves struggling with math can figure it out for themselves (and the parents can step aside from the homework!). Students who have an aptitude for math and wish to improve on classroom progress can get ahead with the individualized instruction offered at Mathnasium. Catch up, keep up, or get ahead; they call us “Geeks,” she says.

The office here has 14 employees, including retired teachers, college students, engineers, and for the first time an alumnus who is now an instructor.

The students commute from six school districts in the Midlands, including some from as far away as Orangeburg. They range from second grade to 12th, and come from public, private and home schooling.

Daughter Ashley, 19, is a Junior at Clemson, and son Corey is a Junior at River Bluff High School in Lexington. ■