

by Jackie Perrone

Jennifer Wilson

You've always heard that you should do what you love and you'll never have to work. Jennifer Wilson loves her family, journalism, and politics, and through skillful management of these things, she shines in it all. A three-point assignment that not just anyone could execute.

This wife/mother/career woman heads up Marketing and Public Relations for the booming Lexington Medical Center, serving as spokesperson at times, monitoring the latest developments in hospital technology and personnel and services, and overseeing the release of information to the public. She earned her stripes via a B.A. in Broadcast Journalism degree at the University of Missouri, followed by stints as a television reporter in both North and South Carolina, and feels that that training and experience was empowering her for the opportunity which came her way when Lexington Medical Center was looking for a spokesperson.

"I grew up in Fairfield, N.J.," she says. "My mother was a teacher in Special Ed, and my father was a financial adviser who commuted into Manhattan for his work. By the time I was ready for college I had decided that journalism was what I wanted, and I was glad to get into U. of Missouri which has an excellent journalism school.

"My first TV job was in Burlington N.C., an interesting old beach town. In 2000, I covered a hurricane in Wilmington N.C., and it attracted the attention of WIS-TV in Columbia. My first day on the job at WIS was the day the Confederate flag came down off the State House. I spent eight hectic years there with something important going on most of the time." She has two Emmy awards along with other career achievements from that WIS period.

Something else important was evolving for her also, as romance blossomed. She was following politics closely in her new home, and made the acquaintance of Joe Wilson when he made his first run for Congress. "He said to me, 'You need to meet my son Alan. He is 28, single and just now graduating from law school.'" They dated for a couple of years, and Alan Wilson served in Iraq with the National Guard for a year, while Jennifer waited. They were married in 2006; the Congressman is now her father-in-law, and the law school grad has been Attorney General of South Carolina since 2010.

"Television journalism is a hectic and demanding lack of schedule," she says. "It isn't easy to fit family life into that. I was thrilled when the opening came along to do Public Relations at Lexington Medical Center. I've always been interested in medicine, even thought of going to medical school, but journalism turned out to be more fun."

Now, of course, both husband and father-in-law are involved in election campaigns.

Jennifer and Alan are parents of Michael, 10, and Anna Grace, 8. Family, journalism, and politics: nothing could suit her better. ■

