



# PROFILE

the **STEVEN & FELIPE** MAGAZINE

**Everything  
you may  
want to  
know about US  
and a lot more**

# content



## CONTACTS

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# LETTER FROM THE authors



Felipe and Steven

Thank you for taking the time to consider our adoption profile. We are very excited as we anticipate the newest arrival to our family, and we respect and admire your decision to consider open adoption. We hope that this profile will give you insight into who we are and the kind of life we will provide for your child.

We have been in a committed relationship for over 11 years. We met when we graduated from college and have spent most of this time laying the foundation for our future. We are very lucky that we completed our educations, established our careers, and created a home together. Adding a child to our family is the next step in this great journey. We explored many options and ultimately learned about open adoption. We know that adopting a baby is the perfect choice for us and cannot wait to be dads.

We will provide a warm, caring, and loving home that is full of happiness and joy. We look forward to playing games, reading books, watching sporting events, attending musical recitals, helping with homework, and celebrating numerous holidays and birthdays. We will teach your child about the world, encourage their creativity, nurture their mind, and provide every opportunity possible. We will raise a child to love life, give to others, and make a difference in the world. Most importantly, we want to raise a child who will become a happy and fulfilled person.

Again, thank you for considering our profile, and we hope that you enjoy learning more about us as the prospective adoptive parents of your child. Please contact us or our adoption attorney Lori Surmay if you have any questions or want to talk further. The contact information is on Page 2. You may also visit our website at [www.StevenandFelipe.com](http://www.StevenandFelipe.com) for more details. We would love to hear from you at any time.

*Steven & Felipe*



# editorial

**A**s the oldest of four children, I naturally took on the role of big brother/third parent with my younger siblings as we grew up (and still do sometimes!). In fact, my youngest sister is 10 years younger than I, so sometimes I joke with her that I feel as though I am already a parent. Both my mom and dad also come from large families - so there have always been lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins around. The next generation of my family has now begun. Two of my siblings are having their own children, and I am a proud uncle to four beautiful little girls (from a few months to 5 years old) and one baby boy (just a few months old).

I cherish and value my family and would not be who I am without them. I am now at a point in my life where I want to establish my own family. Having spent the last 11 years building a life with someone as wonderful as Felipe, I am confident that we are now ready to be parents and to provide an amazing life for a child.

*Steven*



**I**'ve come to realize that life is full of uncertainties. It's not knowing how things will turn out that makes life so challenging and interesting. Despite all the things that I certainly don't know, there are few that I do know with certainty. I know that I was put on this earth to be a dad. I never doubted that God intended for me to be a father. It is clear in my mind and through my faith that He equipped me with the necessary aptitudes, morals, beliefs, and abilities to instill in a child the guidelines and values necessary to succeed in life.

At this point in my life, I'm ready to embark in this lifelong commitment. The privilege of being a father is not something I take lightly. I know that this is a huge responsibility that comes with great challenges, but I am ready to tackle them head-on. Together, Steven and I will be able to provide a very happy and loving home, and we are ready to embrace this wonderful responsibility.

*Felipe*



At the beach in Florida during the yearly family trip in 2007



Junior and Sidney in our old home. They love to sit and bask in the sun.

# OUR FEATURE STORY: FAMILY

Felipe grew up in Colombia, South America and speaks both English and Spanish fluently. In 1995, he moved to the United States to attend college, and about five years ago he received his "Green Card" (permanent residency). In 2009, he will officially become a U.S. citizen.

Steven has called the South home all his life. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee and grew up in Atlanta, Georgia.

We met in 1996 when we were both seniors at different colleges. Felipe was finishing his Industrial Engineering degree at Clemson University in South Carolina, and Steven was finishing his Chemical

Engineering degree at Georgia Tech in Atlanta. A mutual friend introduced us, and after graduating, Felipe moved to Atlanta for a job and Steven stayed at Georgia Tech to work on his Masters Degree. The rest, as they say, is history!

Shortly after we began dating, Felipe adopted a puppy he named Junior. He was the smallest Boston Terrier in the litter, and we immediately fell in love with him the minute we went pick him out. A few years later we adopted Sidney, a Jack Russell Terrier. Sidney came to us when he was three years old. Sidney and Junior love children and all our nieces love playing with them.



Felipe loves cooking out on the grill.



With friends during Steven's PhD graduation party



Felipe serves as "Best Man" at a good friend's wedding



Sidney loves to go to Steven's parents' house



Junior and daddy after a snow storm in 2003



The whole gang in Florida during the 4th of July holiday in 2007



New Year's Eve 2007 in Barranquilla with Felipe's mom, and siblings



Our moms at Felipe's 30th surprise birthday party

# INSPIRATION: OUR EXTENDED FAMILIES

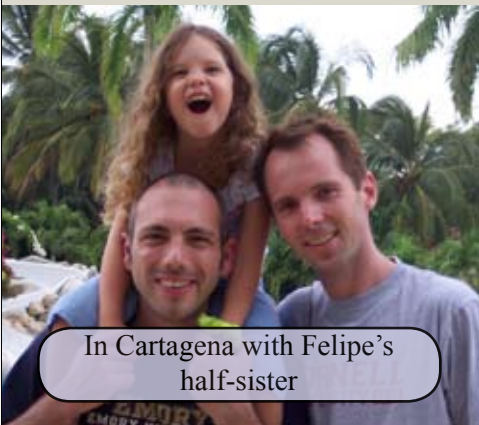
The child we adopt will join an amazing extended family, full of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins who will provide endless love and support.

Felipe's family is very global. His oldest sister lives with her husband in Sydney, Australia. His parents and other two siblings live in Colombia and visit us often. We visit Colombia regularly and can't wait to introduce your child to this wonderful culture. The baby we adopt will be the first grandchild on this side of the family, and his mom is extremely excited to have a grandchild.

Most of Steven's family lives in Georgia. His mom and dad own a lake house- with a boat. We

spend lots of time there, including almost all of our family holidays. We especially love Christmas with our nieces and nephew. Last year, Steven's mom ("Gamma") and dad ("Dada") hired a Santa Claus to come and surprise all their grandchildren on Christmas Eve. Santa even read "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Despite coming from such different origins, we have very similar backgrounds. We are both the oldest child in our respective families, and we each have two sisters and one brother. We were also both raised Catholic, and we both have very large and close extended families. In fact, Felipe's great-grandmother is still alive and healthy at the youthful age of 98!



In Cartagena with Felipe's half-sister



Felipe with his niece during Easter brunch in 2006



Steven with his nieces after a big Thanksgiving Dinner



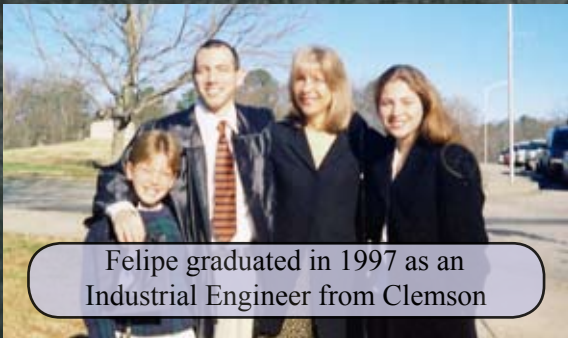
Steven is the Godfather of two of his nieces

# ABC to PhD

## the importance of education



Steven graduated as a Chemical Engineer from Georgia Tech in 1997



Felipe graduated in 1997 as an Industrial Engineer from Clemson



In 2006 Steven received his PhD in Environmental Chemistry from Emory

We were both raised in families that instilled in us the value of education. Everyone in our respective families graduated from college. Felipe earned a degree in Industrial Engineering and will finish his Masters in Business Administration (MBA) this year. He currently works in the corporate world in the area of finance and will continue when he finishes his MBA.

Steven is a natural-born teacher. Even as a young child, one of his favorite activities was to "play school" with his younger siblings. It is no wonder that Steven earned four college degrees, including two Masters Degrees and a Doctorate (PhD).

He currently works as a college teacher and administrator, where his passion is helping his students succeed.

The education of your child will be one of our highest priorities. Our commitment to education involves making sure that we select the best school possible. Steven feels so strongly about education that he started college funds for his two godchildren. Planning and saving for your child's college will be a top financial priority for us. We also know that the best school education must be complemented at home, and we'll plan many experiences to enhance the learning of your child.

# ADVENTURE BOUND

**W**e believe life is a wonderful journey. God put us on this earth to experience its wonders. There are so many beautiful places to see and so many awesome adventures to experience that many lifetimes would not be enough to do them all...yet it can't hurt to try. We love to travel – a passion passed down by our parents. We believe experiencing different places is a very important part of life. We have friends and family scattered around the country and the world who we enjoy visiting. Some of our fondest childhood memories are family trips. Some by car and some by plane, they were all adventures.

As parents, we will take your child on our many travel adventures. Our parents traveled with us because they knew that there is incredible joy in experiencing new places with children. We went to the Disney parks in Orlando, FL in 2007. Although it was great fun, we cannot wait to go back and experience it through a child's eyes.



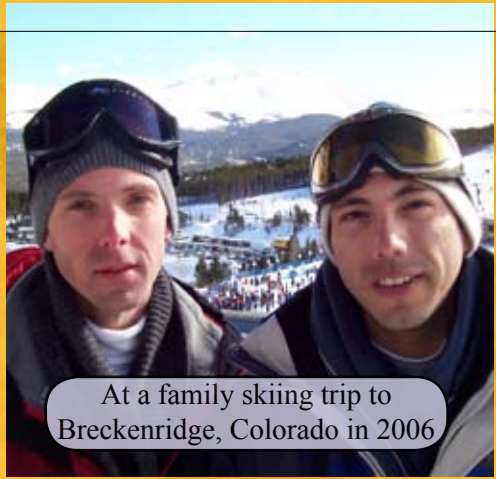
Visiting San Francisco, CA  
in Spring of 2002



In Paris, France for Steven's  
30<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2004



Our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the Grand Canyon



At a family skiing trip to Breckenridge, Colorado in 2006



Our first trip together: Amelia Island, Spring of 1998

Rafting down the Ocoee River in NC with friends in 2007

# HAVING FUN



Felipe in his office. How many Lego things can you see?

**W**hat do tennis, golf, college sports, rollercoasters and Legos have in common? They are all tons of fun – of course! Sports are important to us. We both have been playing tennis since early ages. Both of our fathers were avid tennis players and taught us to play. Through our 11 year relationship there is no telling how many times we've played against each other. Although Felipe holds a slight victory advantage, the games are always close and exciting. Steven is currently playing competitively in a tennis league.

the sport while in college and plays with friends and co-workers a few times a year. He loves it and is pretty good at it, although he's no Tiger Woods.

College sports are big in the South, and that includes our household. Rivalries get red-hot during football and basketball seasons. Clemson and Georgia Tech are rival universities, and we enjoy watching them play against each other – even though we know one of us will be upset with the outcome.

Felipe is an avid golfer. He picked up

We both greatly enjoy theme parks and roller coasters. Being so close

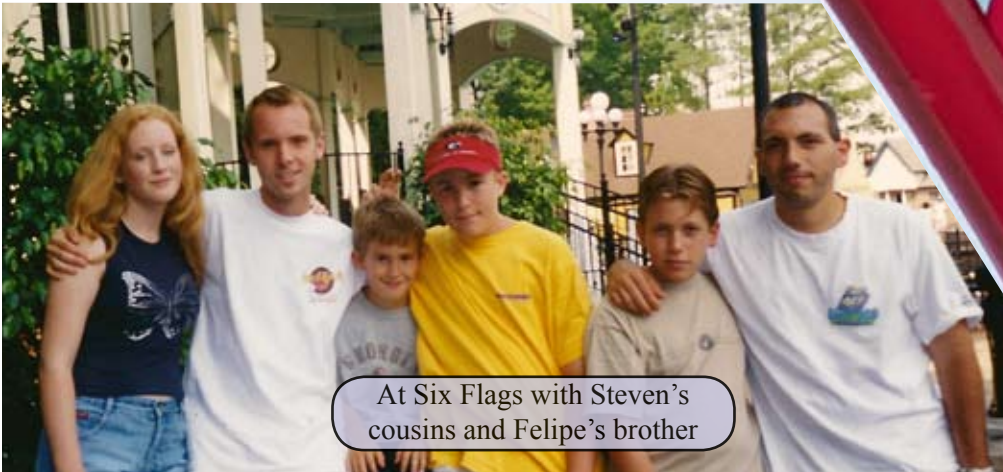


Steven in Disney's Animal Kingdom park in 2007



Felipe after a golf tourney with his MBA friends

# FUN



At Six Flags with Steven's cousins and Felipe's brother

to Six Flags Over Georgia definitely helps. We visit the park at least once a year – usually with friends, Steven's cousins or Felipe's brother.

Since he was a young kid Felipe has loved playing with Legos. He was five years old when his dad gave him his first set. Almost 30 years later he is still building. First, Felipe comes up with an idea and then he tries to make it out of Legos. One action stimulates creativity and the other technical ability. It's just like solving puzzles that can be played with.



Who says you can't win the big prize at the carnival games?



With the Clemson mascots before the 2008 kickoff



Steven and his parents before a game at Georgia Tech

# SOUTHERN LIVING

Atlanta, Georgia is a great place to live and a wonderful city for children. We live within a couple of miles from parks, museums, theatres, a zoo and the largest aquarium in the world. The convenience of living so close to these sites will allow us the opportunity to visit them regularly.

Children love animals, and Atlanta is a great place for animal-watching. The Georgia Aquarium, the largest in the world, is fantastic – full of sea creatures from clown fish like Nemo to Beluga whales. Zoo Atlanta is proud to have four pandas: Lun Lun, Yang Yang, Mei Lan (their cub born in 2006), and a brand new baby

cub (born in 2008). Along with them, the zoo houses a host of other fascinating animals, from giraffes to lemurs.

Also within a couple of miles are the Fernbank Museum of Natural History and the High Museum of Art. Both have excellent exhibits – some tailored exclusively for children. Fernbank has amazing dinosaur displays, fascinating to kids and adults alike.

Finally, we both love the theatre, and we plan on taking your child to many plays and shows at the Fabulous Fox Theatre or the Alliance Theatre. Both these venues are right around the corner from our house and they host many performances just for children.



# in closing...



**W**e appreciate your looking at our profile and considering us as prospective adoptive parents of your child. We hope that it provided you insight into the kind of people we are, the type of dads we will be, and the life we will create for your child. We want to do so much for the child that we adopt, and we can't wait to get started!



We would love to hear from you, learn more about you, and answer any questions you may have about us. Please feel free to call us anytime at 1-877-302-DADS (3237), email us at [steven.felipe@comcast.net](mailto:steven.felipe@comcast.net), or contact us through our website [StevenandFelipe.com](http://StevenandFelipe.com). You may also call or email our adoption attorney, Lori Surmay, with any questions. You will find her contact information on page 2.



Thanks again for your interest.

Best,

*Steven and Felipe*



