

# Mr. & Mrs. Texas Tech

**B**eing involved in organizations while in college is important for many reasons. It allows students to be connected to their school, gives them an opportunity to discover their passions and strengths, and it is also a great résumé builder. However, what some people may not realize is being involved in an organization may also introduce you to important people, maybe even the person you are going to marry.

Donnell and Sharla Echols are the epitome of the perfect couple. They graduated from Texas Tech in 1959 and were quite the success story. The couple was actively involved in campus life. She was homecoming queen and an education major. He was student body president and an agricultural economics major. Their involvement at Texas Tech seems to be what brought the couple together.

Donnell met Sharla their freshman year of college when a mutual friend introduced them. They dated the rest of their time in college, and while on a trip sponsored by the student council to a football game. Donnell asked Sharla to marry him.

"I decided it was time to make some serious decisions in my life," Donnell said. "Since we were both on the student council-sponsored trip going to the football game, I knew it would be the perfect time to ask her to be my wife."

Donnell and Sharla have often asked themselves what stands out in their minds about college at Texas Tech. Donnell said being able to make lifelong friends is what makes college such a great experience.

He said by joining clubs and organizations you open the door to meeting new people and learning new ways of doing things. He said he and Sharla were fortunate to attend Texas Tech and meet people who they are still friends with today.



"We became acquainted with people all over the country," Donnell said. "Not just Texas, but other states as well. It was special to make such great friends in such a short time period."

Because the couple was in many organizations and knew many people during their time at Tech, they were elected by the student body to be Mr. and Mrs. Texas Tech their senior year.

"The student body elected us into this position because they felt that we were actively involved in our school," Sharla said.

Sharla said it paid off to be so involved with campus life and its organizations because receiving Mr. and Mrs. Texas Tech was very special for them.

"We are so thankful for our time at Tech," Donnell said. "I not only made many friends, but I also met my wife, and I have the organizations I have been a part of to thank for that."

The couple has been married ever since and have three daughters: Pepper, Paige and Amber, all of whom graduated from Texas Tech. They also have four grandchildren. One has graduated from Tech, and another one will start next year.

The Echols are farmers and ranchers in Lamesa, Texas, but are still connected to Texas Tech in many ways. They celebrated their 50th class anniversary four years ago and still come back for all of Tech's events, including the ex-student's association, scholarship programs, and of course, the athletic events.

"Tech is forever a part of our lives," Donnell said. 

## Lindsey Beedy

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