



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ERIN HANEY



Erin Haney (then Erin Sivula) graduated from USF in 2002 with a Bachelor's degree in Communication. A Tampa native, she attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church in downtown Tampa and led the youth group there for many years. On campus, she worked for the USF Sports Media Relations department, where she attended athletic events and learned to write and deliver sports media press releases. Haney says, "It was the best part of my college career...I made lifetime friendships working in that department." USF athletics is still close to her heart, as anyone who visits her sports-themed basement will tell you – it's filled with Bulls memorabilia.

Erin and her husband now live in Harrison City, PA with their two children Caitlin (10) and Jake (9); she is a Customer Success Director for HireVue, a video interviewing company. Beyond her career and her family life, she is heavily involved in the Autism Speaks organization and in spreading awareness of autism spectrum disorders. When Jake was diagnosed with autism in 2015, Erin says that she felt lost, but she ultimately realized that, "I could cry and wallow, or I could get up and work to change something." She now helps to lead an annual walk to raise money for Autism Speaks and says that the organization has given her a network of parents, siblings, grandparents, and caretakers who are affected by autism. This community provides support to one another, while also working to spread awareness and acceptance of autism. Erin's main goal? Ensuring that her son, and others with autism, will have the support and resources they need to lead successful, happy lives.

In addition to her participation in Autism Speaks, Erin remains connected to USF and her Catholic faith. She is a member of the USF Alumni Association and attends Mass with her family at Mother of Sorrows Parish in Murrysville, PA (the parish hosts special faith formation classes for children on the spectrum). Like her connections to Autism Speaks, one thing Erin values about her Catholic faith is the community that it provides.

"I have my faith, which is always with me, but being Catholic also gives me my community as well. And that gives me strength."