

Casey Roon de Pacheco, Part 2
Former Owl Volleyball Player

How did you come to marry a Venezuelan cattle rancher in 1999?

The short version of this story is to say that it was a 'love at first sight' kind of thing. He was a recent graduate of TCU and was on a shopping trip in Houston, preparing to return to Venezuela with his family. I saw him from across a room and instantly knew he was someone I needed to meet. I introduced myself to him and the rest is history. Thirteen years later, I am the first to tell you that yes, love at first sight does exist!

After Rice, what other interests did you pursue before you became a museum curator?

When I married my Venezuelan cattle rancher, we relocated back to Venezuela for a few years. During this time, I taught Fashion Illustration courses at the Universidad de los Andes. We eventually moved back to the States and in 2005, I started blogging. Just Me, the Crazy Rancher's Wife was my blog name, and I would post daily about life on the ranch. Little by little, the readership grew. Also, in an effort to marry my ranch lifestyle with my education and interests, I launched a design company called Fab Farm Design, that focused mainly on t-shirt designs with a western slant. The Fab Farm designs were always printed on very modest cut t-shirts, as I was horrified by the skin-tight, midriff showing shirts seen on young girls everywhere. Fab Farm was gaining some great recognition and a very grassroots-type-following when I decided to accept the position at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum. I still continue to blog (www.caseyroon.com), though my interests are now more diverse than just ranch life.

How did you come to be a Museum Curator at Sam Houston Memorial Museum in 2009?

Once our son was old enough to start school, I found myself antsy to get out of the house, off the ranch, and to do something in my area of interest. With the type of degree I have, most seek out museums, galleries or teach. The exhibits curator had recently retired from the Sam Houston Memorial Museum at the same time that I began my job search. I felt like I was home from the moment I sat down for my first interview.

What are your responsibilities as Museum Curator?

I am the Exhibits Curator, meaning that I deal with everything visual at the Museum. The collections, artifacts, and historic homes fall to the Curator of Collections, but I plan, install, and maintain temporary, traveling, and permanent exhibits for the Museum in several different venues spread out across our 18 acre complex. In addition to the exhibit duties, I also oversee the management of the marketing, events, rental, and membership organization of the Museum. As I'm sure is the case with most museums, we all wear several hats in an effort to bring the best programming possible to the public.

What's it like living on a cattle/horse ranch in a remote part of Texas?

The good things about living on a cattle/horse ranch in remote central Texas far outweigh the bad, and that is saying a lot coming from a self-proclaimed 'city girl'. When there is no sound from traffic, no hustle and bustle, and the only visitors you ever see all have four legs and tails, you become very conscious of the beauty around you, the magic that is nature, and like I tell everyone who asks me this same question: you feel so close to God. We moved off of the ranch and into Huntsville recently in order to better balance the crazy schedule I keep between working at SHSU and chauffeuring our son to school and his various extracurricular activities. Now I have the best of both worlds, I can escape to the ranch on the weekends when I crave some solitude, and I can be back in the hustle and bustle during the week. I always say that the ranch has been the greatest teacher for all of us, as a family we work the land and animals together and there is something very pure and satisfying about that. A ranch is a great place for a child to grow up, and our son has had a childhood full of experiences that have already instilled in him great love of animals and the earth, deep responsibility, and a work ethic that would knock your socks off!

Did your son inherit your athletic skill?

Honestly at eight years old, my son is already a much better athlete than I ever was. I was blessed with height, good hand/eye coordination, and competitive spirit. Athletic? Not so much. Thankfully, my husband is very athletic and seems to have passed his tremendous athleticism to our son. He takes after me by being tall and ambidextrous with excellent hand/eye coordination. Hopefully, the combination of traits he inherited from his father and me will help him to have the very long and successful baseball career that he dreams of!

Interview by: Alan Shelby

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Permission to print from: Casey Roon de Pacheco

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