

fun couple

Jake and Page Fehling
'Create Their Own Normal'

By Dawn Liles | Photos by Ray Sepesy





The first thing you notice about Jake Fehling and Page Crawford Fehling is they are really tall. But their heights (6 feet, 5 inches and 5 feet, 11 inches) aren't the only reason they command attention when they walk into a room together. The parents of three children under 9 juggle busy careers while remaining upbeat, generous, ambitious, self-effacing and light-hearted. Here's a sample exchange between them:

Page: *I'm an expert napper.*

Jake: *You're amazing.*

Page: *I don't want to brag, but I can nap with the best of them.*

Jake: *Pro napper.*

Both graduated from the journalism school at UNC, but didn't officially meet until they were both living in New York City and attended a UNC alumni event in 2005. They bonded over a "Dumb and Dumber" quote-off of movie lines and married in her hometown of Falls Church, Virginia, in 2006.

They eventually moved to Raleigh, where Jake, now 37, worked for USA Baseball, and Page, also 37, was



Hamming it up comes naturally to the Fehlings, whether in the studio or out and about in Ballantyne.

Click here to view behind-the-scenes footage from their photo shoot.



hired as an on-air reporter for WNCN. Their three children, Ford, 8, Cal, 7, and June, 4, were all born in Raleigh, and the family moved to Ballantyne in 2014 when Page was hired as a news personality for “Good Day Charlotte.” “We go uptown all the time, but we

love living in Ballantyne for the convenience, the amazing schools and the incredible growth,” says Jake. They tag-team each day, as Page rises at 2 a.m. to get ready for her day at Fox 46 (hence, the expert napping), and Jake takes care of kid duties before heading to Move-

ment Mortgage in Fort Mill as the vice president of content and social strategy. Their street is the veritable family affair. There’s Page’s brother, Casey Crawford, CEO of Movement Mortgage, a former tight end for the Carolina Panthers and a featured “Face” in



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What Famous Couple Are You Like?

Jake: *Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell.*

Page: *We love them.*

Jake: *They feel legit. #goals.*

this magazine's summer 2013 issue. Casey and his wife, Michelle, have two children, and she is the owner of Rising CrossFit Ballantyne, where Jake and Page work out. Michelle's sister, Lorraine Castle, also lives on the same street, so the cousins and

aunts and uncles get together as much as their busy schedules allow.

Podcast, Emcees

In addition to working full-time jobs and raising three kids, the dynamic duo hosts their own podcast, "Date Night

with Jake and Page," in which they interview other Charlotte couples (see sidebar). They also serve as emcees for local charities, such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and offer public speaking and personal and professional development through SkillPop.



Live Streaming Double Dates

Earlier this year, the Fehlings created their own podcast, "Date Night with Jake and Page." Each month they host a live double date over mics and drinks with prominent Queen City couples at Hygge, a co-working space in Charlotte.

Guests have included Muhsin Muhammad, a former wide receiver for the Panthers, and his wife, Christa. "Jake and I talked about what Charlotte couples we would like to meet and go out with, and we figured other people in Charlotte would also have fun meeting these couples in a casual setting," Page says.

Past shows can be found on www.jakeandpage.com, iTunes and other podcast locations. They live-stream each episode on Facebook (Page Fehling Fox 46), and the videos are posted to www.youtube.com/jakefehling.



Even when recording their podcast together, the Fehlings are a playful pair. Their podcast companions here are Montell Watson and Emily Breeze Watson.



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“Page has the background and training to be an excellent and effective communicator,” says Jake. “I’m basically the sideshow clown who comes in and makes people laugh.”

“And reaches things on high shelves,” Page adds.

A secret to the couple’s success is that they “create their own normal,” Page says, instead of judging themselves and their family by other people’s expectations. They also say their ambition has limitations. “We have been writing a he said/she said pregnancy book for five years but have never finished it,” says Jake. “Sometimes DiGiorno (frozen pizza), beer and ‘The Bachelor’ take over.”

They make time for a weekly date night to keep their connection strong, but they also love

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“One of the reasons we like to do all this stuff is that we really just like to hang out together.”

—Jake Fehling

to spend time with their kids and make them a priority.

“One of the most memorable and fun nights with our kids was when we bid on and won a date night through the Ballantyne Ball,” says Page. “But we didn’t want to leave them for another night, so we brought them with us to 5Church for dinner, followed by a Hornets game and a night at an uptown hotel. I was so worried about our kids bothering other people at 5Church, so we went to dinner at 5 and finished just as the kids were starting to fall apart.”

The Fehlings’ love and admiration for each other is palpable. “This may sound corny,” says Jake, “but one of the reasons we like to do all this stuff is that we really just like to hang out together.” ©



Photo courtesy of the Fehlings

Ford, Cal and June Fehling enjoy a silly moment with their parents.

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