



@AeresUASIntOffice



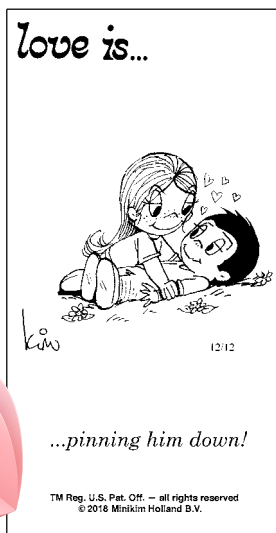
#Alumni - Aeres UAS (University of Applied Sciences) - CAH Dronen



HAPPY

Valentines

DAY



The best couple of the campus!

Name, surname alumnus: Jeremy Herve

Study program followed in Dronten:

BSc Livestock Production

Academic year: 2005 - 2006

Graduation year: 2007

Nationality: French

Current job/occupation: Software Engineer

Name, surname alumna: Adrienn Herve-Havasi

Study program followed in Dronten:

European Funds Management

Academic year: 2005 - 2006

Graduation year: 2006

Nationality: Hungarian

Current job/occupation: Photographer

Where do you live now: In Budapest, Hungary.

At the moment we are in a process of moving to France in the summer of 2021.

We have approached you, as we know that you met in Dronten and have a family together. What are your memories of how your love story started?

Jeremy: We met on the International campus, at the beginning of the school year. As students from all around the world moved in, shared

apartments, studied together, partied together, we got to know each other. We travelled and discovered some of the cities around Dronten together. We enjoyed spending time together on the markets of Utrecht, in the streets of Batavia Stad outlet and Amsterdam, on the canals of Giethoorn. In November, we started dating.

Adrienn: We were introduced by a common friend, she was a housemate of Jeremy. We went to parties and weekend trips together. In half way of the program I broke up with my boyfriend at home, and that is when we got closer with Jeremy. We went on trips just the two of us to Brussels and Paris. By the end of the school year he found an internship in Hungary and that is how we started.

Do you still remember what was that one thing why you fell in love?

J: I remember immediately noticing her when we got introduced. We then started spending more and more time together as we had the same circle of friends. I fell in love with her then, as I got to know her a little better every day.

A: He is 4 years younger than me, I was just out of a relationship when we met and the fact that I couldn't imagine how an international relationship could survive long distancing or cultural differences, I really didn't think that our relationship would last longer than the school year. But he never doubted us. He started learning Hungarian early on. When I had a 3 month internship in Brussels he came to visit every single weekend that is a 6 hour ride there and back. His enthusiasm and love infected me. I remember that we spent a long weekend in Paris at Easter, I felt so happy and liberated. I also remember that he was by my side helping and pushing me through the exam period at the end of the year. After that we spent a couple of days in France with his family in the beautiful Brittany, and later we just moved to a nice apartment the two of us in Budapest. I can't really put my finger on when I really fell for him, it was just a nice flow of being together, feeling effortless and natural.

Could you ever imagine that studying in Dronten would have such an impact on your life?

J: No, not really. If it hadn't been for Adri, I would probably have gone back to France,



I would have followed a "safe" life path, close to my family and to a job that wouldn't have been as fulfilling for me, but that I knew was waiting for me home. Instead I moved to a different country, learned new things about myself and about others, discovered a new passion, and Adri gave the encouragement and support I needed to transform that passion into something more, a job and a life.

A: No, absolutely not. I mean I expected to have a lot of fun, getting to know people all around Europe and to travel, but I could never imagine to find my husband in the Netherlands!

What did your family and friends say, when they heard that you had a foreign boyfriend/girlfriend?

J: I don't think they took it very seriously. Most of them probably thought it was temporary. They imagined it would end with the school year, and I would go back to France to my old life. They were taken aback when they learned that not only would we stay together, but I would move to a different country with her.

A: Well, just like me, I guess they didn't think that it would last too long. So when we visited Hungary in the spring of 2006, they welcomed him as a guest, as my classmate. They cooked all the traditional food and accompanied us to all the touristic places of Budapest. My parents liked him as he was really polite and kind. Afterwards





since they couldn't really talk because of language barriers, there were no arguments or disagreements. I think they took him as a third child. Jeremy is really hard not to like.

You come from two different countries. What is the "biggest" cultural difference of your partner (or challenge related to cultural differences) you have to deal with? And how do you deal with it?

J: I can't really think of a single cultural difference. Our life together has been a continuous discovery of what makes us different, and how it can bring us together. At first it was the language, then the food, music, habits, then the history and how it impacted our view on life and the people around us. In later moments, it was customs around marriage and how it was celebrated, and then differences in how we had been raised as kids and how we would apply that to our own kids.

I don't think that anyone of us has had to "adopt" more to changes; I think we've both changed and influenced each other's life.

A: It is true that we came from two different countries, and backgrounds, but to be honest I haven't met so many people that I feel more on the same page like him. I think that is in the core of our relationship. We have the same principals. Well, since we are living in Hungary for 15 years now, I am sure that Jeremy had to adopt more Hungarian habits than me French ones. However,

I try to implement some French traditions (food, Christmas...) to our daily life. Speaking of Christmas. In France the Christmas tree is decorated early, beginning of December, while in Hungary the tree is one of the biggest magic on the Christmas Eve on the 24th December. This one is hard to swallow. Every year - even last year - I grumble about how early it is, and it should be magical, but then I enjoy having the tree up all December and bring the light for the advent period.

Being together with someone who is "from another country" has come with some challenges (e.g. Christmas tree). But what is the best thing about your relationship?

J: I think we work well together, we make a great team. We face challenges, we are different, but we've always managed to find a solution to all our problems, together, as a team. In a way, our differences may be one of the things that help us complete each other so well.

A: As I said before, I think our ideals are aligned, so it helps with the small differences. We understand and respect each other and support one another when it comes to personal decisions. Our ideas are similar if we speak about the future, kids, politics. This helps a lot. But we also complete each other. I always have plans for the future, I'm always 2 steps ahead, Jeremy is really good at grounding me and focusing on what needs to be done in the present. We are good at planning and making projects together.

You also have a family together – 2 children. How do you raise your children – in traditions of which country? Which language do you

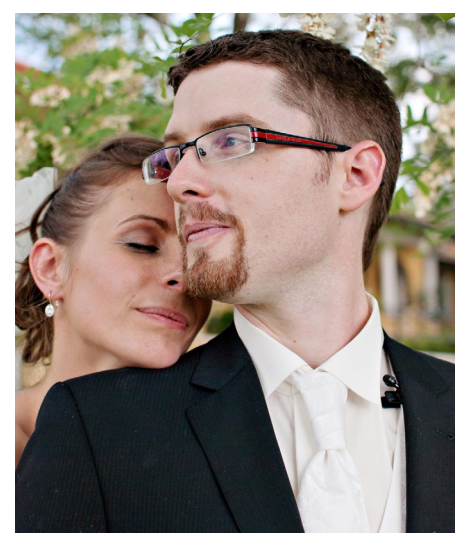
speak at home? Do you see any cultural differences when it comes to raising kids together?

J: This definitely has been a source of challenges. :)

We have two girls. We speak three languages at home: Adri and I speak English to each other, I speak French to our kids, and Adri speaks Hungarian to them. Around the table, we usually mix all three languages as we talk to each other. We teach our kids about both French and Hungarian cultures. We try to treat those two cultures, those two parts of our kids' identities, equally. It's not always easy, but as our children grow up it allows them to interact with their grandparents and understand why each culture is important to them.

In practice, that means we've had to be creative in some cases. Christmas celebrations and stories come to mind. In our home we've developed our own French-Hungarian twist on the whole thing, something that incorporates Saint Nicholas, Santa Claus, Little Jesus, into a single original Christmas story. :)

A: We are living in Hungary at the moment and we have two girls, one is 7 the other is 2. I think that attitudes towards young kids are different in the two countries. In France women go back to work quite early, while in Hungary staying at home with your kids for 2 or even 3 years is nothing out of the ordinary. Since we are living in Hungary we adopted the Hungarian way. Kids are at home till they go to kindergarten. In France it would have been different I think. As parents we rarely have arguments on this topic. We are both really involved in the lives of our children. Especially in 2020 I have to add,



since we are homeschooling the oldest, who is in 2nd grade. Language... We have read a lot about this when I was pregnant. And we came to the conclusion that we would just talk with the kids in our own language, and this way they will become bilingual. English was more tricky, as this is the language in which communicate, even today. This poses a problem sometimes for the kids, so we keep trying to speak Hungarian or French when we are all together.

What is important for you in a relationship? When do you "feel good" in a relationship?

J: Respect, acknowledgement of each other's achievements and struggles, support. All these things are important in a relationship in my opinion. Once you're with someone who works with you, not next to you or against you, there is no limit to what you can achieve together. There is no better feeling than being with someone who understands you, who can listen to you, who can show that they admire your achievements and be there when you struggle. That someone will push you towards what you can achieve next, because they know it's good for you, and they know you can do it.

A: Respect, listen and to take care of each other, accepting the other for who he is, having plans and future together while having fun.

What dreams/goals do you have that you want to achieve together?

J: I think that at this point in our lives, we'd like to create the best environment possible for our kids to grow up and live a good life. Everything we work on, every personal or professional achievement, drives us towards that single goal. In practice, that may mean finding a good place to live, having fulfilling jobs that also give us

time to be with each other, and enjoying every little moment we can to be happy as a family.

A: We are in a process of changing countries. In the past 15 years we moved 3 times, this will be the 4th and it is not the last one. I would really like to settle down in our own house finally. Also once the kids are in school, I would like to focus on my photography business, that was on and off in the last 5 years.

What do you like the most about your partner?

J: All I said before 😊 Also, she's beautiful 😊 I also admire her ability to challenge the status quo, not take everything for granted, and instead continuously push for things to change and get better for herself, for us as a family, and for the whole world.

A: I like about him the most, that I can talk to him about anything. He is open, attentive and always has opinion and constructive ideas. Whether we talk about planting our garden, raising our kids, moving to a different country, world politics, climate change or the menu of next week. I also admire how he can be focused, and I respect a lot how far he got in his career.

If you could only use one word to describe your relationship, what would that be?

J: Team.

A: Harmony

What do you wish to all the students/people out there, still looking for their true love?

J: I'd probably say something like "don't look



too much, love will find you eventually. Until then, may you enjoy every moment of your life as best you can!"

A: I think finding someone with whom you can live happily after is not easy, it needs a ton of luck of course, but also a great deal of knowing and believing in yourself to realize what is it that you need and you don't need from a relationship, what is it that you value. Also respect and openness for the other because you never know in which brickhouse you will find your prince charming.

As requested by Mrs. Anja Hetsen from the International Office: can you share an anecdote or an interesting story about your relationship?

J: Since we're talking about cultural differences, here is a little anecdote that never fails to make us smile. During one of our trips to Utrecht, we discovered that public displays of affection were not as acceptable in the Netherlands as they were in France and in Hungary. A passerby made it pretty clear that us kissing in the middle of the street was not okay. 😊

A: Once upon a time there was a party in the campus' communal space where we were dancing and having fun with Jeremy. Suddenly one of our French classmates hugged us. He obviously had one to many beers that night as he had just broken up with his Hungarian girlfriend. He looked at us with a bittersweet smile and said: You are the best couple of the campus. And that is our motto ever since, 15 years later. :)

J & A: Thanks for this interview! It was so great to look back on these times together, and particularly to stop for a moment and listen to the other telling nice memories and kind words.



My parents had a secret bet going on between them about whether or not I would meet someone in Dronten

Name, surname alumna: Catherine Harrop
Study program followed in Dronten:
 International Food Business
Start studies: 2012
Graduation year: 2016
Nationality: Canadian
Current job/occupation: PPE Production and Quality Assurance

Name, surname alumnus: Robbert Dijk
Study program followed in Dronten:
 International Food Business
Start studies: 2013
Graduation year: 2017
Nationality: Dutch
Current job/occupation: Business Analyst

Where do you live now: Currently living apart - reuniting (COVID permitting) Spring 2021

We have approached you, as we know that also you met in Dronten and still have a relationship. Can you share with us how your love story started?

Catherine: He lived with one of my best friends and fellow Canadians, but was in Iceland on a study trip when we first moved in. We didn't officially meet until the first USRA bar night, and ended up hitting it off within a couple of weeks of meeting each other.



Do you still remember what was that one thing why you fell in love with each other?

Robbert: Love at first sight. Seeing how charismatic and comfortable she was with the Dutch and other internationals at the bar drew me to her.

C: Later stage. It was his caring, fun-loving, laid-back and supportive nature that won me over.

Could you ever imagine that studying in Dronten would have such an impact on your life?

C: Not at all. I decided to switch from psychology to business so I could travel.

R: No, I had no idea I'd meet my future wife in Dronten.

What did your family and friends say, when they heard that you had a foreign boyfriend/girlfriend?

C: My parents had a secret bet going on between them about whether or not I'd meet someone here. Dad won saying if I did, I'd end up dating them within the first month of my being in Dronten.

R: They weren't at all surprised that I'd meet and end up with a foreigner, especially given the study.

You both come from two different countries.

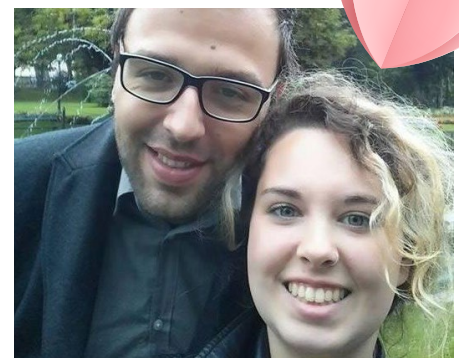
What is the biggest challenge related to cultural differences you have to deal with? And how do you deal with it?

R: Humor. Directness (or lack thereof). Trying to say something nice in English and finding out I said the completely wrong thing. I deal with it by laughing embarrassedly and trying to see what was done and said from her point of view. Studying in Canada was a big help with this.

C: Use of certain words in Dutch versus in English. Directness (or lack thereof). How loud the Dutch are even when speaking. Interactions (or lack thereof) with people in public; i.e. small talk. Saying "Sorry" too much. I come from an area in rural Canada where small talk and beating around the bush are our bread and butter, so I've learned to not be offended when people are direct or don't want to do small talk. I refuse to give up saying "sorry" too often. Sorry.

Is there anything you would like to "adopt" from the culture of your partner?

R: I'd love to be able to do small talk as easily and confidently as Canadians do - I feel like it would make



me, as a Dutchman, come across as less cold to foreigners.

C: I'd love to be more direct without feeling like I'm being rude and demanding. I feel like it would save me a lot of time in meetings and in projects.

Being together with someone who is "from another country" has come with some challenges. But what is the best thing about your relationship?

R: Since we've lived together and apart frequently

OUR ALUMNI: LOVE STORIES



and for long periods of time, I think we've come to really value our time together more. This also makes traveling and discovering places new and old together more interesting because we get completely different things out of it. Plus, she's very friendly and outgoing so we meet a lot of interesting people from all over and in places I'd never expect to talk to anyone.

C: His directness has led us both to be better communicators; I'm very rarely worried that either of us are going to offend or cause any strife when we talk about things, even serious things, because we've learned that it's better to just come out with it and work on whatever it is together. Also, everything he said about travel.

What is important for you in a relationship? When do you "feel good" in a relationship?

R: Independence. We function great together because, while we love spending time together, we understand and are more than willing to give each other the space needed to follow dreams and wishes, whether it be academic, a hobby, time with friends and family, or work related.

C: Understanding and a willingness to grow together. Everyone has ups and downs in life and it'd be far easier to just walk away and start anew with someone else, especially when long-distance is involved, but we don't. We hear each other out, we work things through until we've both reached an understanding and an agreement, and we allow the other person a chance to express themselves.

What do you like the most about your partner?

C: His easy-going nature, his sense of adventure, and his level headedness. I'm a very in the moment and somewhat chaotic person, so having someone who will go along with my adventurous side, but will reel me in when I'm being too much has done a lot to keep me out of trouble. Haha.

R: Her creative brain, her warm smile, and her charismatic nature.

If you could only use one word to describe your relationship, what would that be?

C: Quirky.

What dreams/goals do you have that you want to achieve together (be it personal, or professional)?

C & R: Be able to settle down together in our own house - preferably with a decent amount of land for a greenhouse and some animals. We'd also love to, once COVID has been controlled, travel the world and explore new-to-us regions and cultures.

What do you wish to all the students/people out there, still looking for their true love?

C: Find someone as weird and quirky as you are, it'll make the relationship more fun.

R: Don't go looking for love. Love will find you when you least expect it.

As requested by Mrs. Anja Hetsen from the International Office: can you share an anecdote or an interesting story about your relationship?


C: A couple of years ago we decided to vacation in Canada and to go camping so that Robbert could get the "authentic Canadian experience". We agreed on tenting in Cape Breton because it has many gorgeous hiking trails, great craft breweries, and many historical and cultural sites. As the trip went along, I gave Robbert warnings about what to do in certain situations and should different types of accidents occur since he didn't grow up in rural Canada with potentially dangerous elements. The one thing that he wasn't warned of was what to do should we encounter a bear.

Fast forward a few days into the camping trip, on a beautiful, sunny day, as we're hiking down the approximately 4km trail to an old gold mine along a salmon river. We've just passed the 3km marker when I hear a rustling in the bushes about 20m-30m ahead of us. I stop immediately and warn Robbert to stop too; he's unfazed, thinking it must just be a deer, but I argue that that's not what a deer rustling sounds like. Sure enough, a juvenile black bear comes out from the bushes and trots down the path away from us. Mom is nowhere in sight. I go into a defensive stance and scan the path ahead of us to see if I can spot mom, while Robbert shakes his head, says "nope", turns, and starts power-walking away. Up until that moment I hadn't warned Robbert that you never turn your back to a bear. Luckily, we were upwind so our scent never reached the cub or its mom, wherever she may have been hidden.

After a speedy, but cautious walk back to the beginning of the trail, we sat down, had a lovely picnic by the salmon river, and I explained to Robbert what to do should he encounter a bear again so that neither of us would become lunch. The real Canadian experience, eh? ❤️



Got married within 90 days!



Name, surname alumnus: Pagenkopf Craig
Study program followed in Dronten: Animal Science
Academic year: 2006-2007
Graduation year: 2007
Nationality: American
Current job/occupation: Dairy Farmer

Name, surname alumna: Ogonek Ela
Study program followed in Dronten: International Food Chain Management
Academic year: 2006-2007
Graduation year: 2007
Nationality: Polish
Current job/occupation: Accountant

Where do you live now: Lancaster (WI), Unites States

We have approached you, as we know that you met in Dronten and are still together. Do you remember how your love story started?

Ela: We were neighbors in the dorms and we started seeing each other at 2 months into program.

Do you still remember what was that one thing why you fell in love with each other?

Craig: I am not sure if this was love at first sight but we were both interested since beginning of the school and the love grew stronger as we spent more time together.

Could you have ever imagined that studying in Dronten would have such an impact on your life?

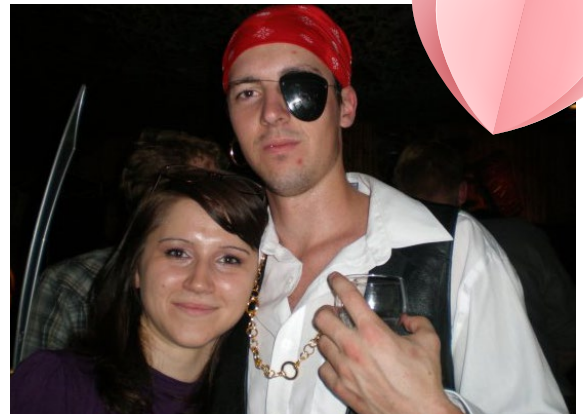
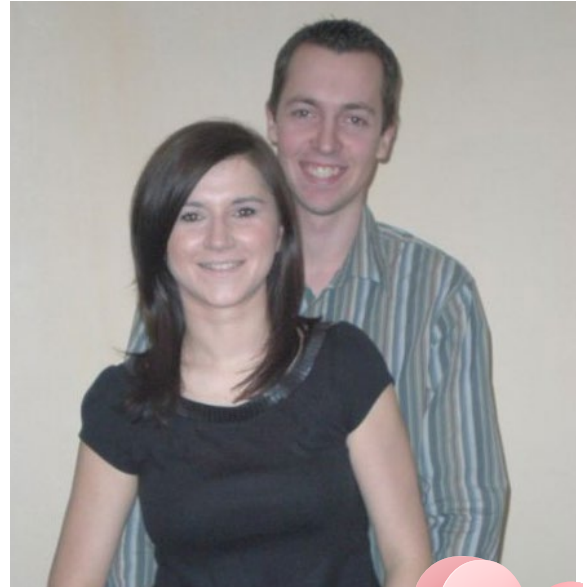
E: No not really, we both still laugh about that sometimes how crazy it all seems since looking back at past 12 years.

What did your family and friends say, when they heard that you had a foreign boyfriend/ girlfriend?

C: I think on both sides everyone was really accepting and we really did not have any problems. They were surprised and excited.

You come from two different countries. What is the "biggest" cultural difference you have to deal with?

E: It is funny but sense on humor and jokes are a lot different among different countries. As you





spend more time in the new country you tend to adjust. Also the cuisine, I really miss Polish food in United States so I make my own and Craig loves Polish food.

Who of you two had to "adopt" more in your relationship?

E: Me, since I moved to USA.

What is the best thing about your relationship?

C: I think that despite of all the differences we love and care about each other, we both have very strong work ethics.

You also have children together: how do you raise your children, which language(s) do you speak at home? Do you see any cultural differences when it comes to raising kids together?

E: We live in United States so our primary language at home is English. We have two sons (one is special needs). We try to raise both of them the best to our knowledge, teach them to always do the right things and try to implement the best of both countries in regards to traditions, customs, etc.

What is important for you in a relationship?

When do you "feel good" in a relationship?

E: The understanding and security of love and respect.

What do you like the most about your partner?

E: The strong work ethics and commitment to family.

C: Big heart and attention to details.

If you could only use one word to describe your relationship, what would that be?

E: Beautifully challenging (two words 😊).

What dreams/goals do you have that you want to achieve together (be it personal, or professional)?

C: We would like to travel the world together.

What do you wish to all the students/people out there, still looking for their true love?

E: The love will find you if meant to be.

As requested by Mrs. Anja Hetsen from the International Office: can you share an anecdote or an interesting story about your relationship?

C: We went through K-1 Visa and had to get married within 90 days of Ela entering the USA with her visa. ❤️





**Being deeply loved by
someone gives you strength,
while loving someone deeply
gives you courage.**

Lao Tzu