Glasgow Nursing Alums

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A Glasgow couple is travelling the world working as Family Nurse Practioners after obtaining their degrees from WKU and Vanderbilt University.

Would you believe they were both high school dropouts? Amy Bingham has their story in this week’s View from the Hill.

How do you go from being a drop out to getting your Masters degree from Vanderbilt University? For Jacob and Nikita Read the first stop was WKU Glasgow and from there, the sky was the limit.

It’s almost like a reunion at the WKU Glasgow Campus for Jacob and Nikita Read who graduated in 2012.

“to come to the satellite locations it made us feel more comfortable.”

Growing up, school was not a priority.

“I quit school in the 8th grade. I really didn’t like school. I didn’t do very well because I didn’t pay attention.”

Nikita says she quit in high school. Both later decided to earn their GED which ironically brought them together as a couple.

“She was someone I knew had taken the GED also so yes I called her. We scored within seven points of each other.”

The two began dating after that and working a lot to make ends meet.

“Odd jobs wasn’t really working out, wasn’t what we wanted in life and so we come to a mutual decision that we need to get in college.”

Not just college, the couple set their sights on nursing.

“I think initially we picked it because of job security. We thought no matter what there will always be that need.”

An Associates degree and a Bachelors degree from WKU, they went on to receive their FNP, Family Nursing Practitioner degree from Vanderbilt in 2014.

“ A lot of people said you won’t get into Vanderbilt. They’re not gonna take you you’ve got GED’s, don’t even think about it.”

But the Read’s stuck with their dream and now have an inspirational story to share when they come across a patient they think would benefit from it.

“ Maybe they’re struggling in high school or have a pregnancy in high school or thinking of dropping out or have dropped out. I’ll tell them you know, hey I went down this path and really an education is the best thing you can have happen in life.”

The Reads love to travel and have taken a gypsy like approach to their nursing career. They’ve logged time on the Health Wagon in rural Virginia and spent three months in New Mexico.

Their next stop this summer is a large Native American reservation in South Dakota with very limited access to health care.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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