While studying abroad in London during the summer of 2006, Eleanor Burke and Kevin Nameth, both students at the University of Dayton, became fast friends and upon returning to school and graduating started dating and quickly fell in love. An irony appeared in their overseas meeting: Dayton is not a particularly large school and their roommates had dated each other for more than two years. "We only had to travel halfway around the world to see what was already in our own backyards," said the bride.

Written by Emily Vandevender
Photography by Mr. Stacey Photo

Eleanor Burke & Kevin Nameth, Cuneo Mansion & Gardens
The great 2010 “Thundersnow” of Chicago lead the couple to abandon their car on Lake Shore drive instead of Kevin proposing. But in a classic approach over a candle-lit dinner at home two days prior to Valentine’s Day, Kevin reached into his pocket amidst a hug from Eleanor. With Eleanor being the oldest and only girl, her parent’s Susan and Mike Burke were an enormous help. “I couldn’t have planned everything without my mom going to the printers, my dad handling correspondence with the vendors and their help with late night invitation stuffing,” said Eleanor. The INVITATIONS ordered through The American Wedding, Peru IN, were a classic cream with opal shimmer and black script, with a grey lining to the inner envelope to accent the color palette of the wedding. The ceremony had a Renaissance feel with the ornate landscaping of the grounds at the CEREMONY/RECEPTION SITE Cuneo Mansion & Gardens, Vernon Hills. The processional took place to the rear of the grounds between two rows of ornamental pillars where OFFICIANT Rev. Dr. Thom Bower officiated. “I loved seeing Eleanor for the first time emerge from the trees and make a grand entrance with a long walk to the aisle, as we kept to the tradition of not seeing each other until the ceremony,” said Kevin. The bride walked down the aisle with her father to the sounds of MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT Wellington Strings, Niles wearing a Pronovias Barcelona gown from the 2011 Spring Collection. The satin trumpet style gown was accented with a crystal belt sewn along the waistline. “I wore flats because I am 5’9 and a comfort kind of gal,” said Eleanor. Setting the Cuneo Mansion & Gardens with a romantic, almost ethereal atmosphere, the couple opted to keep the décor simple and elegant. FLORAL/DÉCOR Tina and Dollie, LTD, Chicago, designed alternating centerpieces of short square vases with purple and pink roses, while other tables had high floating candles and rose petals, incorporating the eggplant and graphite color scheme with splashes of lavender and pink. CATERING Bauer’s Catering, Libertyville, created a MENU of Mesclun salad with mixed baby lettuces, fresh vegetables and toasted pine nuts, dressed in a balsamic vinaigrette and followed by carved sirloin of beef in a wild mushroom demi glaze. The meal was then finished with a square shaped, four tier chocolate raspberry mousse WEDDING CAKE by Oak Mill Bakery, Chicago. MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT “The Chicago Catz, Chicago played Motown, funk and modern hits that had the dance floor packed the entire night,” said Kevin. The night ended with Eleanor serenading Kevin to ‘At Last’, by Etta James. “It was amazing and must have been all of the karaoke from college,” said Kevin. BRIDE’S GOWN Doris Bridal, Highwood. HAIR Carolyn Lorraine Salon, Northbrook. MAKEUP Ana Steinberg, Northbrook. BRIDESMAID’S DRESSES Gigi’s Closette, Glenview. PHOTOGRAPHY Mr. Stacey Photo, Harwood Heights. HONEYMOON Marriott, Curacao St. Regis, Puerto Rico.