

What you don't know about . . .

Christine Jamison: General Manager, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

She's an individual who reads the authoritative magazine, *The Economist*, on a regular basis, has earned a master's of business administration degree, gardens and bakes bread, yet her favorite sport to watch is Ultimate Fighting, an activity some describe as bloody and brutal.

Christine grew up in the Detroit area as part of a large Catholic family; she has five brothers and sisters. If you were to ask her siblings to describe her, Christine said you would get a different answer from each one. She said her oldest sister thinks she's a risk taker and also too liberal. While another sibling described Christine as a globetrotter.

Her older sister is probably right in her description of Christine because she has



As a champion softball player, Christine attended college on a scholarship.



To challenge herself, Christine left the comfort of the mid-west and moved to the scenic area of Lake Powell with its 1,900 miles of beautiful shorelines and gorgeous rocky surroundings.

always believed in trying different things. Christine also has the attitude that you need to expose yourself to new situations. And over the years, she has certainly done both.

Christine attended Grand Valley State University, located near Grand Rapids, MI, on a softball scholarship where she was a catcher. She shared that she liked playing that position because she could call all the pitches after analyzing the hitters, the pitcher's ball control and move-

ment, etc. This love of planning a winning strategy is one reason she enjoys watching mixed martial fighters even though she doesn't like the sight of blood. Today she still plays softball, but plays third base or outfield.

After graduating with a degree in hospitality and tourism, Christine went to work as a catering manager at a resort in Richmond, Virginia. She returned to the Detroit area and took a job for an advertising specialty company.

After a few years, she looked for a new challenge and went to work for a company that's a leader in providing professional services to various industries. While juggling her career and personal life, Christine earned a master's of business administration degree from Wayne State, an urban public research university in Detroit.

This career path eventually took her to the remote, yet popular tourist destination of Lake Powell, the second largest man-made reservoir in the United States that straddles the border between Utah and Arizona. Here, she honed her retail operations and gift buying skills. Christine shared moving west was one of the craziest things she has ever done.

After a few years in the desert, Christine and her husband, decided to move back to the mid-west to be closer to family and

the amenities offered in big cities. She landed in Fort Wayne at the zoo. Christine said, "I like the challenge and the diversity of my job. I actually enjoy my job and my work, I'm thankful I have a job that I really like. I get to do a lot of different things as a GM, I'm not stuck in one role."

Christine's first job was working in a pizzeria, making pizza. She shared that even though she made a mess while assembling the pies, she can still make a good pizza.

When you think of a Las Vegas wedding, do you think of an Elvis impersonator? Well, erase that image and picture a gorgeous traditional setting at the elegant Monte Carlo Resort, and it's where Christine got married in 2000 to the love of her life, DeAndre.

Her husband is an engineer as well as a licensed private pilot, who enjoys flying small planes. They like to take short flights to go to dinner and to visit friends and relatives. Christine laughingly said



Christine and her husband, DeAndre, have many favorite places, and one of them is in the cockpit of a small plane where DeAndre can fly them to visit friends or to go out to dinner.

it's her husband's very expensive hobby.

When Christine isn't working, she enjoys reading fiction, such as *The DaVinci Code*, and listening to music - her tastes run the gamut, except for country. She also likes to watch the popular television series *Dancing with the Stars*. Christine shared that she and her husband have taken ballroom dance lessons, and they enjoyed the beauty, the dignity and the elegance of the various moves they learned.

With her fast-paced life, Christine relaxes by gardening. Along with her four-season flower garden, Christine also nurtures an organic vegetable and herb one. When she has time, she likes to cook with a lot of fresh herbs as they help create a masterpiece. Also, she bakes bread as the smell of baking bread reminds her of her beloved grandmother. However, she prefers using frozen dough.

Christine is fond of "M&Ms" - not the candy ones, but her

two golden retrievers named Murphy and Maxy. The six-year-old dogs are the exact opposite of each other: Maxy is a calm dog while Murphy is the rambunctious one - their antics provide laughs for Christine and DeAndre.

Christine is a proponent of trying different things and exposing yourself to new situations. And in March 2012, she and DeAndre will be definitely exposing themselves to a new challenge when they welcome their first baby to the family.