

Rodriguez, 30, and Malnar, 30

April 5 — What's a Longhorn love connection? Just ask John Malnar and Laura Rodriguez, who met in 1996 at the University of Texas at Austin. "Three years of innocent flirting occurred throughout college, but we were never single at the same time," recalls Rodriguez, an advertising account supervisor for Kirshenbaum Bond & Partners. The duo graduated and parted ways, but always wondered what might have been. Luckily, fate intervened a few years later when a mutual friend reintroduced the love-locked Longhorns. Malnar, vice president of global investment firm BlackRock, surprised his bride-to-be with a proposal during a business trip to Los Angeles. After dating for more than seven years, the Murray Hill couple finally wed before 140 guests at St. Austin's Catholic Church in Austin, Texas. They held their reception at Austin 71, a Spanish mission-style house. "I won the lottery of love," gushes the bride.

— *Christofer Cassuto*

ESSENTIALS

■ **First dance:** Al Green's "Let's Stay Together"

■ **Special guest:** a groomsman who flew in from Dubai

■ **Honeymoon:** 12-day excursion to French Polynesia, where the couple visited Tahiti, Moorea and Bora Bora

