



# WILLIAM M. GREENE IV

## WILLIAM M. GREENE IV

I was born on April 7th, 1977 to Buzz and Mary Lynn Greene. I grew up in the N.C. Piedmont: home to many Shag legends. One hotspot for Shag was High Rock Lake. My best childhood memories were made at the lake, including my introduction to Shag. I remember my sister, Ashley, and I would often watch our parents dancing on the pontoon boat. My family was part of a group of friends called the River Rats that often met at the Boat Dock Marina to see bands and DJs. I noticed the girls there that were Shagging and asked my parents if I could learn so I could dance with them.

At 11 years old, I started Shag lessons at the Boat Dock and soon found a partner. My father made a "studio" for me in the basement with a little plywood dance floor, some mirrors on the wall, and an old stereo. I spent countless hours wearing out that floor. I often thought of steps in the middle of the night and woke up my mom to do them with me. My practice paid off and my partner and I were successful in local contests. In 1991, we were thrilled to win the Junior 1 National title.

Over the years, I learned from some of the greatest and most influential dancers in Shag. I loved dance so much and wanted to absorb everything I could. So I learned Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Hip-Hop, Ballroom, Latin, and Swing. My talent and style took shape from countless basement practices, the help of my mentors, and influences from other dance forms. I went on to dance in contests around the country, won National titles, was a member of the National Shag Dance Team for 13 years, and received many accolades along the way, including the honor of being named a Keeper of the Dance. I believe everyone is given something in life, and my talent was dancing.

This dance has given me so much happiness. Most of all, it introduced me to the love of my life: my wife, Lani. At SOS, I saw a beautiful girl walk in and watched her for hours before asking her to dance. As we danced, we both felt something amazing and knew we didn't want to let each other go. Lani and I have been together ever since. We married and made two beautiful daughters, Lillie and Rosie, and made a beautiful life together. My wife and daughters are the most important things to me and Shag dancing made that possible.

I am proud to say that Shag is a family tradition. My parents introduced me to Shag. I also have a wonderful step-father, Bob Myrick, who is a Shagger and a huge influence in my life. Lani and I enjoy Shag as our hobby and we are passing the tradition on to our daughters. We also try to spread our love of Shag to others so that they can find joy like we have.