

Tiffany Arrington Hamden was delivered to this Earth via stork on December 19, 1982. She spent her childhood dancing at Karen & Donna's (now Studio 219), riding horses with Tuke Shoemaker and dreaming of the day when she would be a high-powered, big city lawyer by day, a professional dancer by night – and an accomplished equestrienne on the weekends.

Those were dreams, this is reality: she works full-time as the head of business development/marketing for Patriot Buick-GMC in Killeen, and part-time as the District Director for State Rep. Ralph Sheffield. She's quasi-professional during the day, a mommy by night...and the only action she gets on the weekends is whatever the local grocery store has to offer. She cannot fit into a single one of her old leotards and the last time she rode a horse, she couldn't walk for days. And, for the record, the only stork Tiffany has ever shared face time with is the spokesman for Vlasic pickles.

Tiffany has a simple, yet interesting life story to date. After spending her high school days immersing herself in every conceivable organization, group and activity at Ellison High School, she left for the University of Texas at Austin in 2001 to pursue a business degree...and a *really, really* good time. Upon arrival in Austin, she was immediately thrust into the Greek community, where she rushed (and later pledged) Alpha Delta Pi. Though sorority life was fun, and a great way to meet new people, Tiffany enjoyed its social offerings at an arm's length. She then stumbled into the Texas Capitol for an unpaid internship in the House of Representatives in 2003, and there began her lifelong love affair with the Texas Legislature and politics.

Tiffany graduated from UT with a degree in Finance in August of 2005, and moved straight to Denver, Colorado. She always dreamed of living in the mountains, however, she figured Denver was the only way she could convince her father to give her his blessing; she'd live in the city, have a professional job and escape to the mountains in her free time. She did just that, hated every minute of it, and ran screaming back to Austin at the end of September 2006, the minute her lease expired. "Denver" will forever be regarded as the biggest, most humbling experience Tiffany will have ever experienced in her life. She continues to have nightmares about it to this day.

Upon parking her Uhaul in Austin, she went straight back to the Legislature; this time, to work in the Senate. She enjoyed the subject matter, learned the different nuances about the way the Senate operates versus the House, met some incredibly gifted and well-connected people...but still something was missing. Austin was not the same city she left a mere year earlier, and she missed working in the House.

After the 2007 Legislative Session ended, Tiffany took a family vacation and the rest of her life began to take shape. It was on this family vacation, a week-long Caribbean cruise including about 8 other families from Killeen, that Tiffany re-connected with her past acquaintance and future husband. Though they had been friends since pre-adolescence, Tiffany and Raymond didn't discover their true feelings for one another until this cruise (13 years later)...and the rest is pretty much history. They're now married with a perfect little brown-haired, brown-eyed baby boy named Ryder, and he has become the reason for their laughter, the sunshine in their days...and the motivation behind their sleepless nights!

Tiffany may not have her law degree. She may not be a professional dancer (at least not in public!). She's also not at all the equestrienne she'd one day aspired to be – however through being a wife, a mother, volunteer and rip-roarin' cynic – she's discovered that there are little pieces of those dreams being realized every day, in the subtlest of ways.

*Ed. note: Really, Tiffany can't bear the thought of being seen in a leotard public, is too lazy to get her law degree...and can't afford a horse. Thus the sentiments expressed in the last paragraph.*