

RECENT ALUMNI

Larry Bachus (BA, Spanish major, 1974) is founder and CEO of The Bachus Company, and his areas of expertise include diagnosing pump problems and seal failure. He is also a member of ASME (American Society of Mechanical Engineers), and most of Larry's products find application in civil and mechanical engineering. Today, Larry travels the United States and the World lecturing on pumps, and he can conduct his courses and consultations in both English and Spanish. Larry has written a book on pumps that is published in both languages.

Carla Benson (BA, Spanish major, 2004) is a Bilingual Receptionist and student at the University of Texas at San Antonio, where she is working on a Master's Degree in Bilcultural-Bilingual Studies with a Concentration in Teaching English as a Second Language. She plans to teach English internationally, hopefully in Spain and/or Italy upon completion of her degree. Carla shares, "Being the only Bilingual Receptionist at my job has led me to increase my everyday vocabulary to include very simple and very technical medical terms. I have also helped to increase our Spanish-speaking clientele by 20% since I have been employed (July 2004)."

Natalia Bentley (BA, Spanish major, 2005) is pursuing a PhD in Spanish at the University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa.

Malinda Blair O'Leary (BA, Spanish major, 2000, FL Education 2003) is currently the Director of Foreign Language Media Services at UAB and is Instructor of Spanish. She is also completing her PhD at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Lacey Bowen (BA, Spanish, 2006), after having served as a Surgical Physician Assistant in School of Health Professions at UAB, is a Parent Coach in Department of Pediatrics UAB Hospital. She is on her way to becoming a Surgical Physician Assistant.

Dr. Christopher P. Eckstein (BA, Spanish major Spanish, 2001; UAB Medical School, 2005) is a first year Neurology resident at UAB Hospital.

Pamela Fossett (BA, Spanish major, 1993) is the Director of the Education Policy & Professional Practice (EPPP) Division at the Alabama Education Association (AEA). Her expertise in Spanish has enabled her to assist in the editing and implementation of AEA's *Jumpstart into Spanish*, a professional development program provided by the EPPP Division of AEA, which assists educators with communicating with their Spanish-speaking students, as well as with incorporating strategies for the instruction of English language learners. Pamela is also a member of the National Education Association (NEA) English Language Learner (ELL) Training/Advisory/Strategy Team, which will soon release an association guide about effective education for English language learners.

Additionally, Pamela serves as the Advocacy Chair of the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers.

Victoria Garrett (BA, Spanish major, 2003) received her MA in Spanish at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was also a coordinator for the nationally renowned Carolina Conference on Romance Literatures. She is now pursuing her PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Angela Ginder (BA, Spanish major) is currently serving as Co-Coordinator of the Foreign Languages Media Services lab at UAB and is teaching introductory Spanish courses. She also is the faculty adviser to the UAB Spanish Club. Angela is currently completing her MEd with emphasis on Spanish from Valdosta State University.

Becky Glenn Smith (BA, Spanish major, 2004), married to Paul Smith, is the proud mother of her newborn, Brian. Becky participates in a variety of professional activities ranging from work with a CPA to the translation of documents from English into Spanish. During the fall of 2005, Becky served as Teaching Assistant in UAB's SPA 202: Intermediate Spanish II.

Mandy Heatherly (BA, Spanish major, 2005), after having first taught Spanish at Thompson High School in Alabaster, now teaches ESL at Meadow View Elementary.

Donna Hill (B.A., Spanish major, 2004) is pursuing a Master's in Public Health at UAB.

Stephen L. Ledford, Jr. (BA, Spanish, 1996; BS, Economics, 1999; MA, Finance 2001) was the second student in UAB history to be awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. He spent an academic year in Mexico studying graduate-level finance at ITESM, Campus Monterrey and working at one of Mexico's largest banks, BANORTE. Stephen also spent two years on the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program and studied Japanese at Middlebury College. He is now employed by Raytheon in Washington, D.C., as a Principal Field Engineer. He has spent the past five years traveling throughout Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East working as a technical expert on proprietary government contracts. Stephen was recently accepted into the JD program at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and plans to practice in the field of international corporate law. He is married with two children and enjoys traveling the world with his family.

Breana Lipscomb (BA, Spanish major, 2006) is pursuing her Master's in Public Health at UAB. Her concentration is in Maternal and Child Health.

Toya Matthews (BA, Spanish, 2006) is currently working for the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (HICA).

Pamela May (BA, Spanish major, 2005) was first an interpreter for the Early Intervention Program after graduating from UAB. Now she is a Project Assistant for the ABC Program (Breast Cancer Awareness), where she interprets at the Breast Care Center.

Chris Mazie (BA, Spanish Major, 2005) is a Bilingual Research Specialist for the UAB Center of Research in Reproductive Health. He is the only Spanish-speaking staff member and interprets for the Hispanic community during their prenatal care and study visits. He is also a volunteer interpreter for Cahaba Valley Health Care, an organization that provides free vision and dental care to the Hispanic community. Chris will start Nursing school at UAB in the Fall of 2008.

George D. Medlock, Jr. (BA, Spanish and BS, Electrical Engineering, 1998) After completing his studies at UAB, he graduated from Harvard Law School in 2001. He is currently an attorney working in the Atlanta office of Finnegan Henderson Farabow Garrett & Dunner LLP, the largest law firm in the United States engaged exclusively in the practice of patent, trademark, and copyright law.

John Miller (BA, Spanish, 2006) is working a bilingual real estate agent in Birmingham who has both English- and Spanish- speaking clients.

Cotrena Mosely (BA, Spanish major, MAE, Foreign Languages-Spanish, 2004) teaches Spanish at Minor High School in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Lauren (Oshinski) Hoffman (B.A., Spanish major, 2006) married Jeremy Hoffman in June 2007, and is finishing up her second year of Optometry school at UAB. Laurie works part-time as a Parenting Coach for the UAB Shaken Baby Prevention Program where she uses both Spanish and English to speak to parents about the dangers of Shaken Baby Syndrome. Laurie is also a part of NOSA (National Optometric Student Association) where, among other activities, she volunteers to help the underserved and uninsured Hispanic community through Cahaba Valley Healthcare wherein she and other students provide eye screenings and exams. She will graduate in May 2010 with a Doctor of Optometry (O.D.) degree.

Harrietha Pippen (BA, Spanish major, 1988) is in her nineteenth year teaching Spanish. After first teaching at Banks High School, Harrietha now teaches at Fairfield High School.

Jemise Ray (BA, Spanish major, 2000) has over 5 years experience studying, working and volunteering in Latin America. As part of her university education she studied Spanish and Latin American culture in Mexico, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

Upon completion of her Bachelors of Arts degree in Spanish, she returned to the Dominican Republic where she continued her volunteer work with Fundación Melassa. There she participated in building a library, cultural workshops, and taught English and computer skills to persons living in the Mata de los Indios community. Her interest in participating in global understanding and travelling eventually lead her to a career with GAP Adventures. She currently facilitates the experience of small adventure groups through Central America. To date, she has currently lead over 10 tours of 22 days through Mexico, Belize and Guatemala and also 4 tours of 46 days through 6 different countries. As a child, she always dreamed of exploring different worlds. Her mother would take her to the library and each time she would leave with a stack of books so high she could hardly carry them all. Years later, she is now living her dreams and looking forward to sharing these experiences with others.

Melissa Rivera (BA, Spanish Major, *Suma Cum Laude*, 1999), married to Ismael Rivera, is the proud mother of their six-year-old son, Deven. Melissa has used Spanish for both personal and professional reasons every day since graduating from UAB. Upon graduating, she worked as a bilingual customer service representative for a local insurance company before finding her true passion - teaching. Melissa has been teaching in public schools since 2000, first as an elementary Spanish teacher, later as a high school Spanish teacher, and currently as an English as a Second Language teacher grades 3 through 8. Melissa was awarded the Birmingham City Schools Teacher of the Year Award 2006-2007 for her efforts and achievements with our inner city youth.

Walter “Juanito” Ruggerio (B.A., Spanish major, 2003) is currently living and working in Costa Rica with his wife and child.

BreAnne Seay Wingard (BA, Spanish major, 2003; FL Education, 2005). She is now the ELL teacher at Meadowview Elementary in Shelby County.

Eric Wallace (B.A, Spanish Major 2001) is currently in the United States after studying in Chile, Spain, Mexico, and most recently doing malaria research in the jungles of Peru. He is currently a medical student at UAB.