

Alumni Profiles

- 1.) Briefly tell us about your current job.

Currently I am the Executive Producer of Special Projects for Waterman Broadcasting Corp. which owns WBBH (NBC2) and manages WZVN (ABC7). I am responsible for overseeing large scale projects like elections and hurricane coverage both on-air and online. I also oversee Investigative Stories and long term series like Tracking your Tax Dollars and Ways 2 Save – part of our Economic Survival Guide. I lead a team of roughly 8 people, including 2 photojournalists, 4 reporters and 2 promotions producers who make sure that we stay on task building the stations' images.

- 2.) Briefly tell us about your career path.

After graduating from DePauw I went back to my hometown of Columbus, Ohio and was hired as an Assignment Editor for NBC4. I was quickly promoted to producer and spent 3 years there working on various shows. In 1996 I moved to Hoboken, NJ for a Producer's job with MSNBC's history show: Time & Again. There, I researched, wrote and produced hour-long history programs incorporating NBC archive footage. In 1997 I decided to get back into local news and took a job as an Executive Producer here at Waterman Broadcasting Corp. Two years later I was promoted to Assistant News Director, overseeing all aspects of daily coverage. I did that for 6 years – until I had my second child. That's when I took the job of Executive Producer of Special Projects. I am also a freelance writer for Gulfshore Business Magazine, the premier business magazine of Southwest Florida.

- 3.) What were some of your activities at DePauw?

I was heavily involved in WGRE as a radio news anchor and DJ. I was a member of the Union Board and the College Republicans. I participated in every winter term via internships and studied off campus in Washington, DC for a semester. I rode in Little 5 and was also a member of the Alpha Phi Sorority. I was on the Dean's List and received the Gold Key honorary.

- 4.) How has DePauw influenced your career (and perhaps, life)?

I think the biggest thing I learned at DePauw is that it's OK to fail. It sounds funny – but it's true. When I arrived at DePauw I was a member of the Management Fellows. I had a scholarship and was looking forward to being part of that group. As things progressed, I didn't get the grades I needed in the required classes and I realized that I wasn't interested in economics or business as a career path. Ultimately I lost my scholarship

and was asked to leave the program. At that time the media center had just opened. I had always been interested in journalism so I swallowed my ego, walked down to that center – and the rest is history. I joined WGRE and worked with Jeff McCall to create my own major in Media and Politics. I worked in a newsroom during Winter Term my senior year, and when I graduated, they had a position waiting for me. The bottom line – sometimes failure is truly success – because it opens your eyes to other possibilities. I have spent the past 15 years in media and wouldn't change a thing.

5.) What is the best career advice you would give students today?

Most of the jobs out there are found by word of mouth – or knowing someone who knows someone. With that, there are 2 pieces of advice I would give students today: “network” and “get involved.” Don't be afraid to cold call people in the industry in which you wish to work. Ask to take them to lunch, to review your resume and give you feedback. Many of the people you call will have had a mentor who helped them – and most are eager to give back. “Get involved” means volunteering in your community. Sit on the board of a non-profit, volunteer at festivals, at the hospital – whatever you have an interest in. The more people you meet the more word will travel about you.

6.) What city and state do you call home?

Fort Myers, FL

7.) What do you do in your free time?

My husband and I have three children, 4, 3 and 9 months – they pretty much take up all of our free time!

8.) Where have you traveled in the past 5 years?

In the past 5 years we have made trips to see family in Columbus, Ohio & Cullen, VA. We have also traveled to CA – San Francisco and Napa Valley specifically.