



# Alumni Spotlight

## Maggie Espinosa '88

April / May 2018

### Travels with Maggie

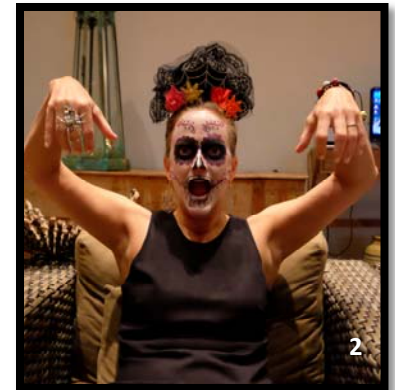


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Kiss a grey whale. Walk 800 miles. Sip espresso in Paris. Appear on national television. These incredible moments weren't always on Maggie Espinosa's dream board, but even in childhood, Maggie experienced the thrill of world travel. "When I was six years old, my father received a grant to work in London, England for one year," Maggie recalls. They returned to Lancaster following his term, where she lived until graduating from high school.

Maggie's higher education path began at American University in Washington, D.C., before her transfer to Millersville University where she studied Speech Communication: Advertising/Public Relations. Shortly after graduation, Maggie moved to San Diego, California, where she worked in advertising for many years. The love of travel still strong in her life, Maggie says, "In 2000, I sequestered my advertising writing and production expertise into my present day travel journalism career."

Eighteen years later, Maggie has touched down in 38 countries. She's passionate about sharing destinations with her readers and hopes to inspire more people to travel. "We live in a big beautiful world with so many amazing locations I've been blessed to visit," says Maggie. Some of her favorite locations include: Budapest, Hungary; Kyoto, Japan; Cook Islands in Belize; Fairbanks, Alaska (to view the Northern Lights); the San Ignacio Lagoon in Baja, Mexico; and of course, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She counts it a privilege to immerse herself in other cultures. For those wanting to see the world, Maggie advises, "Don't impose your culture on people in other countries.



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Travel is about experiencing other customs, traditions, food and ways of life."



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Maggie credits her time at MU for providing "useful, real-world skills," especially lessons taught by Dr. Bill Dorman and Dr. Stephen Shapiro. She believes, "To become successful in your career takes a lot of hard work and long hours, but it's worth it. That's why it's imperative to choose a profession you love. Don't choose your career based on status, income or exposure. Rather, pick a job that after working a ten-hour day, you don't mind getting up and doing it again tomorrow." Even when overseas, this Marauder stays connected to MU. She feels it's important that alumni continue to support Millersville University with their time and finances to "allow MU to continue its legacy of enriching future leaders and carry on

its rich history.” Maggie is proud of her accomplishments in travel journalism, but notes that success didn’t come easy. She notes, “Being my second career, I came to the field at an older age and had to catch up, so to speak.” In 2016, the California State Senate recognized Maggie for her outstanding service in the travel field, and more

recently, her persistent pursuit of her passion and consistent hard work has garnered national exposure.

Maggie joined NBC Nightly News for an interview with Lester Holt and even hosted a segment on the Travel Channel’s “Mysteries at the Museum.” Her interview focused on Arkansas’ legendary “White River Monster” and the creature’s tie to San Diego. Producers sought her counsel in hopes of revealing the menace’s identity. Her journalism accolades aren’t the only thing worth celebrating. Maggie continues, “A recent life accomplishment was completing an 800-mile walk to visit California's 21 historic missions from San Diego to Sonoma.” In fact, Maggie was only the 11th person in history to complete the epic sojourn!

But Maggie hasn’t yet reached her final destination. She will soon pursue a Masters of Hospitality & Tourism at San Diego State University and plans to continue writing from countries like Iceland, Russia and Africa. She wants ‘Ville alumni to join her journeys! You can “Travel with Maggie” at <http://travelwithmaggie.com/> and connect with her directly through [email](#) or her social media channels!

[www.instagram.com/magstravels/](http://www.instagram.com/magstravels/) | [www.facebook.com/travelwithmaggie](http://www.facebook.com/travelwithmaggie)



1) Petting gray whales in San Ignacio Lagoon, Baja, Mexico 2) Dia de los Muertos in La Paz, Mexico 3) Swimming with sweet piggies in Exuma, Bahamas 4) Posing with a statue in Havana, Cuba.5) Hiking Pacaya Volcano in Guatemala 6) "Kissing" a mountain goat at the Squamish Lil'Wat Cultural Centre in Whistler, Canada 7) Sitting at a cafe in Paris, France