



ST. MARY'S
ACADEMY

ALUMNA FRIDAY PROFILE

DAHLIA BAZZAZ '12

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Dahlia Bazzaz, 2014

Dahlia Bazzaz received a well-rounded education at St. Mary's Academy. She had a full load of academic courses and varied extracurricular activities, but the experience that shaped her most was reporting for the Ms. Print. Since graduating just two years ago in 2012, Dahlia has gone on to pursue a career in journalism and has already made terrific gains.

"I owe my writing skills to the wonderful English teachers at St. Mary's Academy. I feel truly blessed to have received such a great foundation in high school for the profession I plan to pursue," said Dahlia.

This summer, Dahlia undertook a 10-week internship with Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) as a multimedia intern through the Charles D. Snowden Program for Excellence in Journalism.

"Every day that I walk into the OPB building, there's a new adventure waiting for me. I never know what to expect. Some days I stay in the office and work on long-term projects and other days I'm bolting out the door to cover breaking news. The spontaneity of the job is wonderful. I'm also not restricted in the types of stories I cover. While I'm officially an intern for the web team, I've worked with several other departments like Think Out Loud and the radio news team to create stories," Dahlia said.

Dahlia is currently enrolled at the University of Oregon's Robert D. Clark Honors College, majoring in journalism. However, the printed word is not the only thing that drives her passion. In the winter of her freshman year at the University of Oregon, she began volunteering as a news reporter for KWVA 88.1, the campus radio station.

In addition to KWVA, she dabbled in broadcast television journalism during the winter term of her sophomore year at Duck TV. In the spring she joined the campus newspaper, the Emerald, as a columnist.

Broadcast and radio journalism aren't Dahlia's only interests. For the last two years she has been taking Arabic classes at the university. She is considering a minor in Arabic studies in addition to Computer Information Technology. Her enthusiasm for technology was ignited at an early age.

"I've been around computers my entire life. My dad is a software engineer, so some of my earliest memories are of me sitting on his lap playing computer games. My two older brothers were also into technology, so I grew up being familiarized with the latest gadgets and operating systems. Then, I finally got to the point where I wanted to know how to actually make the devices I rely upon so much. I love finding out how things work. And technology is, at its core, all about problem solving," Dahlia said.

Dahlia hopes to pursue a career that allows her to pair her love of journalism and storytelling with a love of technology.

"I would love to create infographics and other forms of data journalism or build apps that help view news stories. However, my longtime dream has been to host a show on NPR or any of its affiliated stations, which is why it has been really amazing meeting the reporters and editors that make OPB possible. The default station on my car rides to school in the mornings was 91.5 during my childhood, and it has been pretty cool getting to match the faces to the voices I heard on the radio growing up," Dahlia said.

Dahlia grew up in a household where her family discussed politics and media coverage at nearly every meal. Her parents fled Iraq just as Saddam Hussein took power, and came to the United States in 1978. She was born and raised in Eugene before her family moved to Portland when she was nine.

"My childhood was spent watching coverage of the Iraq war and hearing my parents complain about biased reporting. I was also deeply interested in the stories other people had to tell. So my strong interest in journalism was a combination of my political upbringing and a belief that everyone has a story worth telling," Dahlia said.

While her main focus this summer has been her OPB internship, Dahlia also traveled down to Corvallis for a week to mentor high school students interested in exploring journalism. The mentorship was completed through the High School Journalism Institute, a program created by the Oregonian to encourage diversity in newspaper newsrooms and a program Dahlia attended as a sophomore at St. Mary's Academy.

To read Dahlia's OPB articles visit: <http://www.opb.org/contributor/dahlia-bazzaz/>

To read Dahlia's contributions to the University of Oregon Daily Emerald visit:
<http://dailyemerald.com/author/dbazzaz/>



Dahlia Bazzaz, 2012