



# Mein Jahr nach Baker

Von Rahel Braunschweig

Ich bin nun schon seit mehr als einem Jahr wieder zurück in der Schweiz und manchmal scheint es mir als sei meine Bakerzeit noch viel länger her. Letzten Sommer, nach erholsamen Ferien, ging es bei mir wieder ans Studium um endlich meinen Bachelor zu machen. In mein altes Leben zurück zu gehen war am Anfang schwieriger als ich gedacht hatte. Bei Baker kennen sich alle, es ist viel kleiner als an der Universität von Bern. Das habe ich am Anfang gerade ein bisschen vermisst. Zusätzlich fehlte mir das Campusleben, da bei der Universität von Bern alle Gebäude in der ganzen Stadt verteilt sind und es keine Dorms und keine Union, keinen Chor oder eine Theatergruppe gibt.

Normalerweise gehen am Abend alle nach Hause (manche müssen sogar noch eine Stunde mit dem Zug fahren) und deshalb sind der Zusammenhalt und das Gemeinschaftsgefühl viel kleiner als bei Baker. Natürlich habe ich auch die vielen tollen Leute vermisst, die ich während meiner Zeit bei Baker kennengelernt hatte. Aber ich hatte schon vor meiner Abreise das Gefühl, dass mir Baker noch lange am Herzen bleiben würde und ich mit vielen Leuten noch länger Kontakt haben würde. Und ich hatte Recht! Im Frühling kamen Marci und Rand Ziegler, meine Gasteltern, zu Besuch und meine Familie und ich verbrachten ein langes Wochenende damit,

ihnen meine Heimatstadt und die Schweiz zu zeigen. Ein paar Monate später, im Juni, kam auch Aubrey Eicher (mit ihrer Schwester Mercedes Eicher) für eine Woche zu Besuch und reisten mit mir ein bisschen in der Schweiz umher. Und erst vor einigen Wochen bin ich Lindley Fritze, ehemalige Bakerstudentin, in Wien besuchen gegangen, wo wir uns beim Kaffee im Kaffeehaus an die alten Bakerzeiten erinnert haben.



Eines der vielen Unigebäude in Bern. / One of the many university building in Bern.

## My Year after Baker

By Rahel Braunschweig

It has been already over a year since I have been back in Switzerland and sometimes it seems to me that my time at Baker was even longer ago. Last summer, after a relaxing break, I had to go back to university to finish my undergraduate degree. Adjusting back into my old life proved more difficult than I thought. At Baker everyone knows everyone and it is smaller than the University of Bern. I did miss this quite a bit at the beginning. Additionally, I missed campus life, because at the University of Bern the buildings

are spread out all over the city and there are no dorms and no union, no choir or theater group. In the evening all the students usually head home (and for some this might even mean an hour-long train ride), which means that the feeling of solidarity and community is smaller than at Baker. Of course I also missed all the amazing people I had met during my times at Baker. But even before I left, I had the feeling that Baker would be close to my heart for a long time to come and that I would stay in contact with many of the people I had met. And I

was right! In spring Marci and Rand Ziegler, my host parents, came to visit and my family and I spent a long weekend showing them around my hometown and Switzerland. A few months later, in June, Aubrey Eicher (together with her sister Mercedes Eicher) came for a week-long visit and we travelled around in Switzerland. And only a few weeks ago I went to visit Lindley Fritze, a Baker alum, in Vienna where we reminisced about the old times at Baker while having coffee at the coffee-house.

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### Events:

- French Table every Tuesday at 11:45
- German Table every Thursday at 11:45
- Spanish Table next Monday at 5:00 and the following Monday (10/20) at 2:30

# Perderos y buscaros la vida, Universidad de Baker

Por Benjamín Sedillo

Antes de que muchos de mis lectores se sientan ofendidos, permitidme explicar el título. Hace diez años creé *La Visión* como un medio para que los estudiantes practicaran sus habilidades en francés, alemán, español y también para aquellos que quisieran perfeccionar su talento creativo en inglés. Mi objetivo era despertar un interés en aquellos quienes escribían y leían el periódico y no sólo que aprendieran otro idioma sino que también lo pudieran poner en práctica profundizando en los aspectos de la cultura en cuestión, y en el propio mundo, en su sencillez e inmensidad y al abarcar todas las facetas.

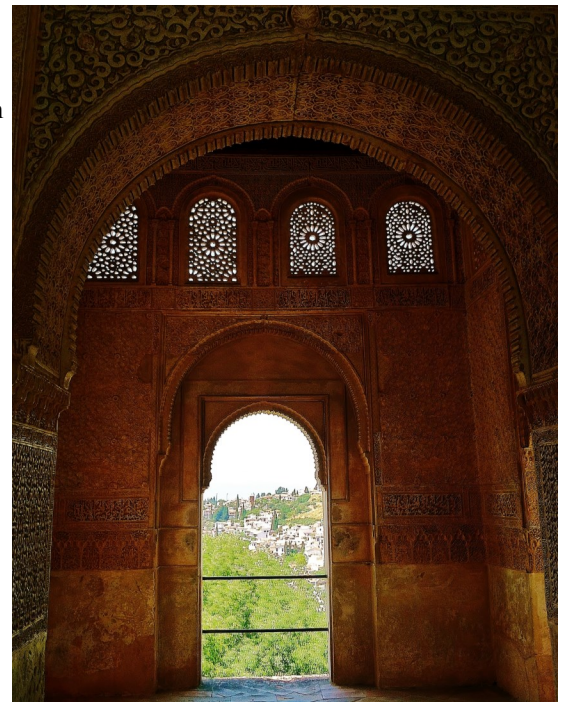
Para ser honesto, nunca en mis más atrevidos sueños pensé que *La Visión* hubiera durado después de graduarme...y aquí estamos, diez años después, y por lo que me han dicho, que todavía sigue adelante en las manos de grandes profesores y estudiantes que hacen honor a la "visión" de uno de sus ex-alumnos.

Desde lejos he luchado para llegar a aceptar algunas de las nuevas modas como el desafío del cubo de hielo que ha inundado el internet (que sirve como una de mis únicas fuentes de información sobre la vida actual en los Estados Unidos). Como resultado, por fin he entendido una de las frases más famosas de la película *Joe Dirt*: "El hogar es donde usted lo hace." Después de un total de casi cinco años de vivir en España, entre Sevilla y Madrid, empecé a descubrir que hay mucho más en el mundo que los clichés con los que la mayoría de los estadounidenses definen a algunos países, como cuando uno mira desde el exterior hacia adentro. Probablemente el 95% de las personas que han viajado a otro país o que han vivido en el extranjero durante uno o dos años, os lo puedo asegurar, que se han adherido a su zona de confort y hacen sólo lo que se describe en las guías de viaje o hacen lo que otros les hayan dicho acerca de cómo se vive en el extranjero.

Ningún museo, guía de viaje, blog, semestre en el extranjero, interterm, consejos de los padres o profesores, ni este artículo podrá prepararos para los desafíos que vosotros, estudiantes de la Universidad de Baker, os enfrentaréis después de la graduación, y mucho menos si decidís viajar o vivir en el extranjero. Sin embargo, os puedo asegurar que a pesar de los tiempos difíciles y luchas en un nivel totalmente distinto, bien vale la pena.

Después de graduarme de la Universidad de Baker, me fui a vivir a Sevilla, España a estudiar la guitarra flamenca durante unos cuatro años con unos de los maestros más importantes de la guitarra flamenca. Poco después, regresé a los Estados Unidos, en la peor parte de la crisis económica. Luego, volví a España de nuevo cuando todo el mundo me advirtió que iba a ser estúpido volver debido a los problemas económicos de España y las altas tasas de desempleo. Para ser honesto, he estado a punto de morir de hambre un par de veces, pero al final, cuando miro hacia atrás, sin duda valió la pena. Estoy siguiendo mi sueño y mi pasión. Algo que sí se ha convertido en otra entidad que es mucho más allá de cualquier cosa que yo hubiera jamás imaginado si no hubiera tomado esos riesgos. Tal vez me haya convertido en el cliché del sueño de un chico de un pequeño pueblo de Arizona, que una vez inventó de las muchas influencias musicales que le han inspirado a él durante toda su infancia, pero al menos puedo decir que cada momento he tratado de vivir la vida al máximo y he sacado lo mejor de todo lo posible dadas las circunstancias que he tenido. Actualmente enseño inglés en Madrid y vivo allí con mi novia, Gabriela, desde hace un año y medio. También estoy trabajando en mi primer disco que consta de guitarra flamenco casi en su totalidad, junto con otras sorpresas dispersas dentro, titulado: "Manos curanderas", o "Healing Hands", en homenaje a mis abuelos. El álbum incluirá poesía escrita por mí, mis propias ilustraciones y de los dibujos que he creado a lo largo de los años y de mis múltiples viajes y experiencias, así como la colaboración de familiares y amigos.

Por último, he llegado al grano de este artículo. Perderos y buscaros la vida, Universidad de Baker. A la luz de todos los desafíos a través de internet, os reto, estudiantes y profesores por igual de la Universidad de Baker, que os perdáis en lo que vosotros optéis por hacer porque nunca se sabe hasta dónde ese camino os llevará y os garantizo que realmente al perderos, os encontraréis. Buscaros la vida que nunca soñasteis posible, porque lo imposible se hace posible. No sigáis el camino de los que os precedieron, porque os puedo asegurar que muy pocos de ellos nunca han dejado su zona de confort. Sumergiros en el abismo de lo desconocido, incluso si todo el mundo que os rodea y todas las señales digan lo contrario. Vosotros os lo agradeceréis más adelante, confiad en mí. Al igual que en las palabras del gran Ernest Hemingway, "Es bueno llegar al final del viaje; pero es el viaje lo que importa al final".



La Alhambra en Granada , España / The Alhambra in Granada, Spain



# Get Lost and Get a Life, Baker University

By Benjamin Sedillo

Before I offend any of my readers, let me explain the title. Ten years ago I created 'The Vision' as an outlet for language students to practice their skills in French, German, Spanish, as well as hone their English creative writing talents. My goal was to spark an interest in those who wrote and read the newsletter in not only learning another language but also putting everything it entails into practice by delving into all aspects of the culture at hand as well as into the world itself in its simplicity and immensity by encompassing all of the facets that are miles away from the proverbial beaten path of overseas travel.

To be honest, I never in my wildest dreams thought that 'The Vision' would have lasted after I graduated. Here we are ten years later, and from what I am told, it is still going strong in the hands of great professors and students who honor the "vision" of one of its long lost grads.

From afar I have struggled to come to grips with some of the new lingo and fads such as the ice bucket challenge which has inundated the internet (which serves as one of my only sources of information on life back in the United States). As a result, I have finally understood one of the most infamous lines from the movie, 'Joe Dirt'; "Home is where you make it." After a total of about five years of living in Spain, between Seville and Madrid, I began to learn that there is so much more to the world than the clichés that most Americans define some countries as when one looks from the outside-in. Most likely, even if one has travelled to another country or lived there for one or two years, I can assure you that probably 95% of them or more stick to their comfort zone and do what is outlined in their guide books or live by what others have told them that living abroad is like.

No museum, guide book, blog, semester abroad, interterm, lecture from your

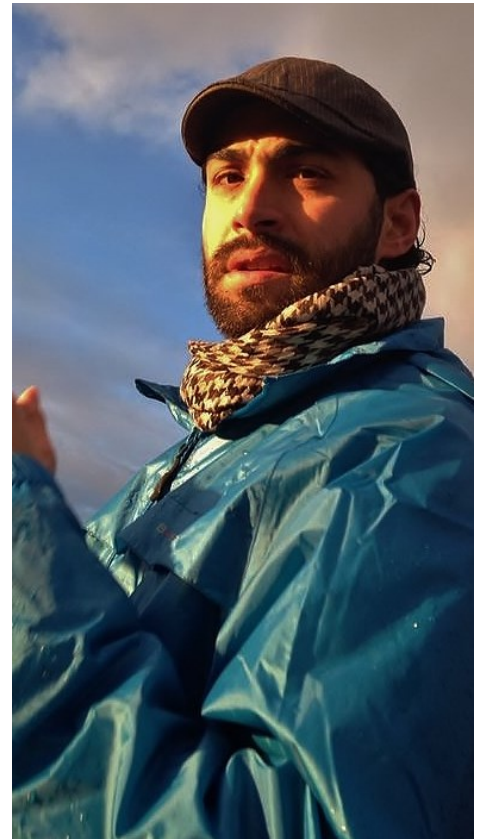
parents or professor, nor this article could prepare you for the challenges that you, students of Baker University, will face post-graduation, much less if you do decide to travel or live abroad. However, I can assure you that despite the hard times and struggles on a whole other level, it is well worth it.

After graduating from Baker University, I lived in Seville, Spain for about four years while I studied the flamenco guitar with some of its greatest guitar masters. After my stint in Seville, I went back to the United States during the worst part of the economic crisis, then back to Spain again when everybody warned me that I would be stupid to go back due to Spain's economic woes and high unemployment rates.

To be honest, I have been on the verge of starving a few times, but in the end when I look back, it was definitely all worth it. I am following my dream and my passion. Something that has converted itself into another entity that is far beyond anything that I would have ever possibly imagined had I not taken those risks. Perhaps I have become a cliché of the dream that a small-town boy from Arizona once concocted from the many musical influences that were bestowed upon him throughout his childhood, but at least I can say that every waking moment I have tried to live life to "my" fullest and make the best out of everything possible under the circumstances at hand. I currently teach English and reside in Madrid with my girlfriend of one-and-a-half years, Gabriela. I am also working on my first album consisting of almost entirely flamenco guitar along with other surprises scattered within, entitled: "Manos Curanderas," or, "Healing Hands" in homage to my grandparents. The album will include poetry written by me, my own personal artwork and drawings that I have created over the years throughout my many travels and experiences, as well as collaborations from family and friends.

Lastly, I am brought back to the title of this article. Get lost and get a life,

Baker University. In light of all of the challenges via internet, I challenge you, students and faculty alike of Baker University, to lose yourself in whatever you may choose to do, because you never know where that path will lead you and along the way I guarantee that you will truly find yourself by losing yourself. Get a life that you never dreamed possible, because the impossible becomes possible. Don't follow the path of those before you because I can assure you that few of them have ever left their comfort zone. Dive into the abyss of the unknown even if everyone around you and all the signs tell you otherwise. You will thank yourself later, trust me. As in the words of the great Ernest Hemingway, "It is good to have an end to journey toward; but it is the journey that matters in the end."



Benjamín Sedillo , creador de *La Visión*. / Benjamin Sedillo, creator of *The Vision*.

## Want to Contribute?

*The Vision* is Baker University's world language magazine, and is always seeking and accepting contributions. Writing for the publication is a great way to flex and hone your language and writing skills, so don't be shy!

*The Vision* loves and promotes all Mother Tongues, so whether you're writing about your time abroad in French, about your family in Russian, or trying to make sense of ancient Roman politics in Latin, **THE VISION WANTS IT!**

Like us on Facebook at *The Vision-Baker University*  
View past editions on the Baker U. website under "Student Activities"

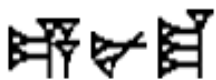
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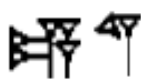
## Enuma Eliš

*Analysis by Nicholaus Pumphrey*

These are the first two lines of the Enuma Eliš, which is usually known as the Babylonian Epic of Creation or the Babylonian Genesis. The text was written in cuneiform in Neo-Babylonian (a dialect of the oldest Semitic language called Akkadian) on large clay tablets. When the text was first translated in the late 1800's by George Smith, he believed that this was the Babylonian version of the book of Genesis. Many scholars assumed that the Bible must have either been copied from this story or at least was influenced by it. Today, most scholars would not go to such extremes and instead read them together to attempt to see common literary themes or common theology. One such theme is the use of naming as creation. Here in the Enuma Eliš, the narrator tells the reader that the world cannot have been created because no names were established. After every creation in Genesis 1, the deity names the creation in order to solidify the meaning and essence of that creation. For instance in Genesis 1:5 after light is created, the deity "called the light Day." This calling is the Hebrew word *qarah* which is related to the Akkadian *zakrat* meaning to call or to name. Naming in the ancient Semitic sense does not necessarily mean attributing a word to some object or concept. Instead it is a process of recognizing the essence of that being and calling forth its true attribute. Thus, the Enuma Eliš gives us a clue into the folkloristic and theological themes of the ancient Babylonians, which we then relate to the biblical text.



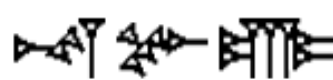
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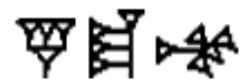
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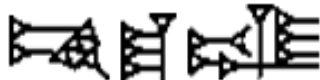
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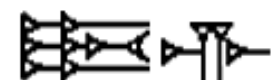
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### Translation:

When on high, the heavens had no name. Below on earth, there was no name.