

SPOTLIGHT ALUM

This Medaille Grad Makes

GOING GLOBAL

His Second Nature



Joel Shaw '02 LS

“My first job out of college was as a legislative assistant with the New York State Senate in Syracuse.”

In December 2008, **Joel Shaw '02 LS** exchanged the brittle winters of New York for the sun-soaked sites of Cartagena, Colombia.

“I focused on four subject areas at Medaille: languages, new media, writing and computer sciences,” explains Shaw. “Having this potpourri of skills has qualified me for a lot of different types of positions.”

“My first job out of college was as a legislative assistant with the New York State Senate in Syracuse,” remembers Shaw. After two years in that position, Shaw worked as a graphic designer for agencies in Miami and New York City.

He turned a passion for teaching into his next career by spending two months in an intensive English as a Second Language certification course in Vancouver, BC, Canada. “I’ve travelled to over 15 countries, each unique and different in its own way,” says Shaw. “I kept coming back to Colombia on account of the astonishing beauty, rich culture and unsurpassable hospitality.”

“I had been to Colombia four times previously, and I had a lot of close friends who live here,” he continues. “Once I arrived, I was promptly hired by a local high school, where I teach English, graphic arts and social studies.” While there, he also continues to work as a graphic and web designer.

As for a typical day in Cartagena, Shaw starts off as “Professor Joel,” teaching grades 6-11 at Cartagena International School. He offers additional help to students in the afternoon, and spends evenings and weekends as a creative director contractor, providing affordable solutions to clients around the world. “I would like to grow my contracting to include more North American clients,” Shaw says.

“It’s a tough economy right now, and jobs are scarce,” he continues. “Don’t narrow your job search to just your local market – expand it to include the whole world.”



Local Business Leaders

SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Charles J. Wonch '07 MBA

On Friday, April 3, 2009, nine alumni participated as panelists for Medaille College’s Business Symposium: Building a Sustainable Future for the Buffalo-Niagara Region and Beyond. Undergraduate students, faculty and alumni contributed to open discussion about critical topics they will face in the business world.

“The intent of this symposium was to help students learn beyond the classroom and to give students the inspiration that can help turn individual and communal aspirations into realities.” said Michael P. Lillis, MBA, Ph.D., chair of the Business Department.

David Schnettler '08 MBA encouraged students “not to ask what’s in it for me but rather what can I do?” as he addressed the Stimulating Community Revitalization session.

The symposium ended with keynote speaker **James R. Kaskie**, president and chief executive officer of Kaleida Health and a member of the Medaille College board of trustees. Students, faculty and panelists joined for lunch immediately following the keynote.



Spring Jam



Jamie Gregorio '05 ED, '06 MSED and Jessica Colvenback '05 SM

On Friday, March 20, 2009, the lights were turned low, palm trees swayed, fish swam and the Sullivan Center transformed into an island oasis. Alumni and local friends partied to the tunes of Pirate Dreams at Medaille’s first Spring Jam Concert. Dancing, leis, a friendly game of beach volley and bountiful margaritas made an enjoyable time for all. This Spring Jam Concert presented by the Buffalo Campus Alumni Board was a great success! Send band suggestions for next year’s Spring Jam to alumni@medaille.edu.