



Shawn Camilleri

A Student's Path

Shawn Camilleri is one of a growing group among college students, the re-entree student.

Coming from a well educated family, Camilleri knew the importance of having a good education. Going back to college was in his best interest, especially for his future. He realized that going back to college would only work if he was passionate about what he was learning. The re-entree student registered at Gavilan College because it had a news station and he knew sports and story telling were two things he loved.

While completing his AA degree, Camilleri took a class that let him be a part of his junior college's news show and helped pitch the idea that the campus news show should have sports segment. Succeeding in his endeavor, he also took on the responsibility and privilege of co-hosting the news show's first ever sportscast. The Gavilan sports anchor was able to spin that situation into an opportunity to start commentating on the college's football games, as the JC's TV station began to broadcast the games and Camilleri was asked to be one of the commentators. From a re-entree student to a college sports anchor to a college football on-air commentator, Camilleri knew he was ready for his next step-university life.

The former Gavilan student applied and was accepted to San Jose State University. As soon as Camilleri had his first class he knew he was entering a whole new arena of higher learning. Classes were more demanding, teachers were less forgiving, and expectations were higher from everybody, including himself. The most apparent skill Camilleri knew he would have to improve was his knowledge of computers and his ability to master different programs. When asked about his high school teaching of computers Camilleri said, "When I was in high school we still had typing class instead of computer class. Sure it was done on a computer but we didn't even learn how to turn the things on, just how to punch in the keys."

The now SJSU Spartan knew, however, that journalism was a skill that relied on knowledge and thought process over technical skill. So he forged on concentrating on improving his ability to analyze a story and the different effects it would have on different people. This ability he knew would allow him to tell the news to a wider array

of people. In his final year at SJSU, Camilleri has become a senior member and one time Sports Director of the Update News staff. Update News is the student produced newscast of San Jose State. Some of his accomplishment has been interviewing local sport icons, interviewing one-time CNN Vice President and Senior Executive Producer Charlie Caudill, and covering the NCAA Basketball tournament with Dan Harris as correspondents to Inside the Big East. Although he has done some hard news stories Camilleri is still concentrated on reporting on sports and hopes one day he will be fortunate enough to be a local or even national sports reporter.

Camilleri has made many connections and friendships throughout his collegiate career; he has even taken on the role of a devoted partner and father to his girlfriend and son. When asked how he manages school, work and raising a family Camilleri simply said, "It's easy, you just have to give up sleeping!"

No matter where life takes Camilleri and his family he knows one thing; that the education he has received over the years will serve as a strong foundation in whatever he does.