

ALUMNI

Paul knew at an early age that he wanted to go to college and do something meaningful with his life. He felt that was part of his identity.

When a teacher at his public school told him attending college was an unattainable goal, Paul learned something new about his identity. He learned about his strength and his determination. Paul and his parents were determined to find a new school that would be supportive in preparing for college. Their parish in Cleveland informed them about St. Rita School for the Deaf and in 1996 Paul became a student. He made friends right away and was eager to get involved. It wasn't long before Paul became one of the busiest and well-liked students at school. He immersed himself in numerous activities including the Drama club, soccer team, yearbook staff and Optimist club. His outgoing personality made him a great Student Council President his junior and senior year. Paul was even Homecoming King. But it wasn't his new popularity or being involved in activities that got him to college. Paul says it was wonderful teachers like his role model, Maryanne Barth, who made it possible for him to reach his goals. She and other teachers at St. Rita helped him improve his reading and writing skills, and encouraged

him to learn new things. The most important thing they did for Paul was *believe* in him. They knew he could go to college and be successful.

As Paul began his studies at Gallaudet University, his positive attitude and leadership skills continued to grow. While finishing his bachelor's degree in mathematics, Paul decided to coordinate the first 30 Hour Famine Program on campus. It was a huge success and Paul received the award of "Outstanding Student Volunteer of the Year". By the time Paul graduated in May of 2003 he had accumulated 220 hours of community service. With a strong desire to become a teacher for the deaf, Paul decided to attend RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology). He is working towards his Masters of Sciences degree in Secondary Education for the deaf and hard of hearing. Paul is currently doing his student teaching internship at Austine School for the Deaf in Vermont. He says being a role model for his deaf students is the best thing he could be. Paul is now the teacher telling his students that he *believes* in them.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

"Attending St. Rita was the best experience. It changed my life." - Paul Glaser, Class of 1999