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OU alum relaxes after finishing TV series

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Weary of the cameras and fame that come with being the star of a reality TV series, OU alumnae Lisa Shannon has returned to metro Detroit after finishing taping for "**Cupid**," a show depicting her quest to find true love.

"It was a lot of hard work," said Shannon from her Bloomfield Hills home, where she lives with her grandmother. "Every day I had to be up at 5 a.m. and get ready for the camera, get to the set, shoot scenes, wait between scenes to shoot again. I put in 18- to 20-hour days every day of the week. But it was definitely fun. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

On the show, Shannon and her friends – Kimberly Tarter of Oak Park, Mich., and Laura Restum of Birmingham, Mich. – traveled around the country to interview a diverse field of eligible bachelors to find potential marriage material. Viewers across America subsequently narrowed the selected men to one – Hank, a 25-year-old options trader from Chicago, who happened to be the man Shannon would have selected herself.

There was more at stake than love. If the couple married and remained wedded for at least one year, they would collect a \$1 million dowry. But in a surprising turn of events, in the show's 11th and final episode, when the Reverend asked Hank if he took Lisa to be his wife, he told Shannon he preferred to wait and have a ceremony on their terms, not before a national TV audience.

"Now we're dating like a normal couple," said Shannon, who majored in journalism at Oakland. "It was absolutely a relief not to get married on national TV. Neither one of us wanted to exchange money for love. Hank and I talked about it before the final episode, and we both agreed that if it came down to a marriage ceremony, we would put it off and do it our way. I didn't expect that we'd be forced into a wedding scene on the show. I thought that the man chosen would propose to me on the show, but not that I'd be expected to get married on the spot."

Besides love, Shannon also gained an increased sense of self-confidence.

"The best part of 'Cupid' was doing something that I thought was beyond my capabilities," Shannon said. "I never thought I could be on live TV and complete an entire series like this."

For now, Shannon is relaxing, visiting family and friends, preparing for an extended vacation with Hank, and not worrying too much about the future. She also has no immediate plans for employment. Shannon left her job as an advertising copywriter with Campbell-Ewald so she could tape the series.

"Getting back to normal almost seems abnormal because I don't have cameras in my face all day long," Shannon said.

"Employment is up in the air right now. That will depend on where Hank and I decide to live. I'd really like to stay in writing, but I'm not sure in what facet. I don't really want to go back to advertising.

"Right now, Hank and I are just spending time with each other and talking. It's a bit overwhelming trying to get to know someone on TV because you only have two or three hours with them at a time. In that time, you can learn the major things, but you really want to know all the little things that come with that person. I'm certainly happy with how things turned out. The premise of the show was to find somebody, and I have."

For more information on the series, including recaps of each episode, photos, and profiles of Shannon, her friends, Hank and the other suitors, visit the "**Cupid**" Web site.

SUMMARY

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