

SHELLEY CONTINUED FROM 12

"It was a great challenge hiring and training the staff, establishing the news programs and starting from our small quarters in a diesel generator warehouse to a new building," Shelley said.

When the six month contract in Malaysia ended Shelley returned to the U.S. as a freelance producer. He worked with correspondents on stories for the "Nightly News," live shots for the "Today Show," or both for MSNBC.

"It was all very unpredictable," Shelley said. "I would work for a month solid and then be virtually idle for a few weeks."

During this time Shelley was hired by Jupiter Entertainment to produce a crime documentary for a new A&E series called "City Confidential." Over the next two years Shelley produced 20 such documentaries and traveled all across the U.S. in the process. In 2002 Shelley was in Spokane working on a "Confidential" when the manager

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of KHQ approached him about producing the station's 50th anniversary program.

"I was a little jammed for time but took it anyways," Shelley said. "It was really a labor of love because it allowed me to reconnect with a lot of old friends and colleagues, people who had helped me so much in my career."

On a trip to Belgrade, Shelley discovered that IREX was looking for a senior media advisor in Kosovo.

Shelley applied in January and was hired last May after several months of long distance phone interviews.

"I remember doing telephone interviews at 4 a.m. in San Francisco when

I was working for NBC, then again at 4 a.m. from a hotel in Modesto." Shelley said.


Since Shelley graduated from UI almost 30 years ago, he has lived a journalist's dream, traveling across the world, and experiencing cultures and events many have only seen in the newspapers or on television.

"Life today is good," Shelley said. "I enjoy travel, I enjoy teaching and I enjoy producing. The job I have is ideal in many ways. ... I have had a fascinating career so far, and I want others to have a shot at that as well. That may be here in Kosovo, some other IREX posting, or it could be in America."

In July the IREX program is expected to end. Shelley does not know where he will go after that, but he is not worried.

"There were a few bumps from time to time and some difficult moments," Shelley said.

"But it all lead to where I am today and I have no complaints about that."

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