Sheldon Fernandez
BASc 2001, Computer Engineering, University of Waterloo

Since his graduation from the University of Waterloo 2001, Sheldon Fernandez has excelled both professionally, academically and philanthropically.

On the professional front, Sheldon joined a team of uWaterloo graduates after receiving his degree and co-founded Infusion Development Canada, which provided software and consulting services to the investment banking industry and to state and local governments. Today, the company has blossomed into a global firm consisting of 350 employees with offices in Toronto, New York, Boston, Houston, London, and Dubai. As its chief technical architect, Sheldon has been responsible for honing the firm's technical direction and ethos amidst ongoing revolutions in the industry. As result, Infusion is now considered a leader in the emerging technologies realm, and has won numerous awards for its innovative and inventive solutions.

Most recently, Sheldon served as Chief Technical Officer for the noteworthy Infusion spin-off, PersonIf (www.personif.com) a 'people discovery' platform that radically changes the way the entertainment industry locates and discovers talent. In addition to winning Microsoft's web solution of the year award, this technology was used to cast for The Glee Project, Sports Illustrated and HBO.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Sheldon has excelled academically as well. While an undergraduate, he won first place engineering awards at the provincial and national levels (OEC and CEC, respectively), for his design work on the 'Dynamic Infrared Photoretinoscopy system', a product for ascertaining the eyesight of children incapable of communicating with an Optometrist. This work, which began in the context of an Undergrad Research Assistantship (URA) in his second year of school with Department of Optometry at UW, blossomed over many years and exploited groundbreaking theoretical optics research in a technical context. After graduation, Sheldon continued to hone and refine the system, which was leveraged by doctorate students to deepen their important scholarship. From 2007 to 2009, Sheldon was made an adjunct lecturer at the Waterloo School of Optometry in recognition of his efforts.

Additionally, Sheldon completed a master's degree in theology at Regis College at the University of Toronto. By virtue of his academic excellence and thesis work connecting neuroscience with theological ideas, Sheldon was made a member of the *Alpha Sigma Nu* society honoring scholastic excellence. Sheldon also studied creative writing at Oxford University.

Outside of his professional and academic pursuits, Sheldon has also distinguished himself in his community.

For the past six years he has worked with the *Big Brothers Organization* as a volunteer in their 'traditional' program. Since 2005, Sheldon has served as a big brother to his 'little' Quinn, in an attempt to give back to the community and serve as a male role model. Since Quinn was eight, Sheldon has met with him on a bi-weekly basis to foster a positive relationship with his little brother.

Finally, Sheldon spent some time in 2008 working in the slums of Kenya for the *African Jesuits Aids Network* (AJAN), educating members of the local community on the realities of HIV and AIDS. In addition, Sheldon provided engineering and infrastructure support for the organization. This duality – responsibilities in both the technical and theological realms – provided a powerful platform for Sheldon to give back to a heavily marginalized community in the third world.