

### Brian Hawkins, Class of 2007

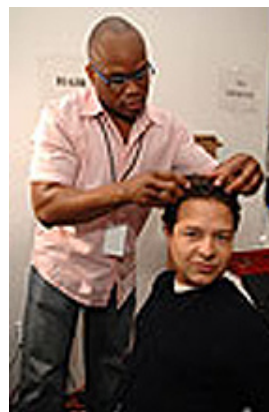
*The Ohio Academy – A Paul Mitchell Partner School*



Brian Hawkins is not your typical cosmetology student. The 35-year-old has a degree in business administration and a background in bank management, but he wasn't happy with his work. When his company downsized, Brian seized the opportunity to do what he loved.

Seizing opportunities has become Brian's mantra throughout his time at The Ohio Academy Paul Mitchell Partner School. While in school, he has been the hairstylist or assistant stylist for top fashion shows, photos shoots, and an independent film. He assisted at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in Los Angeles and New York Fashion Week and he was the key hairstylist and makeup artist on male models for *Instinct* magazine's "Leading Men of 2006" event in Manhattan. Most recently, he was the key hairstylist for *Gimme the Mike*, a TV talent show in Columbus, Ohio.

How does a Future Professional get opportunities like these? By making connections, saying yes, and always looking and doing his best. School owner NeCole Cumberlander initially put Brian in touch with Winn Claybaugh, who connected him to Theodore Leaf, a Paul Mitchell alumni recently seen on the hit TV show *Shear Genius*. Theodore invited Brian to LA Fashion Week, where his work and attitude caught the attention of the show's sponsor. That led to an invitation to style hair for fashion designer Alvin Valley's private show and for Alvin Valley himself.



Brian styling Alvin Valley's hair

Brian working with model at the Alvin Valley show



"You never know who's paying attention to you, so you always have to be on," Brian says. "I send out e-mails to people everywhere. Wherever I see a fashion show happening, I send e-mails to the designers and say, 'If you need someone to come, I would love the opportunity.' I'm on the computer two or three hours a day searching for what's going on."

Brian advises fellow Future Professionals to say yes to everything. You never know who's watching and what other opportunities will come your way.



"Brian is probably one of the biggest go-getters I've ever seen. He's truly the networking king, the epitome of taking one opportunity and turning it into three different jobs. He's an amazing guy and I expect amazing things from him."

— **NeCole Cumberlander**

Co-owner of the Ohio Academy Paul Mitchell Partner School