

Charles R. Modica, JD '65

Charles Modica is a 1965 Bay Shore High School graduate who then went on to earn a BS degree from Bethany College and a JD degree from Widener University. He later was awarded Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Barry University in Miami, Florida and the University of Northumbria at Newcastle, England.

Charles attended the Fourth Avenue School when he began as a third grade student after his family moved from Brentwood to Brightwaters in 1955. He then went to the newly opened South Country School, Bay Shore Junior High School and then, Bay Shore High School.

After leaving college, Charles attended medical school in Spain for one year where he decided that medicine was no longer his career goal. But his time spent there was not without a great impact in his life as he attended class with many other Americans who could not find enough seats in US schools to accommodate the increased demands. After realizing the amount of money many had spent to gain admission to schools in Europe through placement agencies, Charles wrote a small catalog describing international medical schools and the admissions processes. The "Foreign Medical School Catalog" became widely used in many US colleges and universities. Within the next few years he realized that an international medical school based in an English speaking country would be the school of first choice for the more than 20,000 college graduates each year that could not find enough seats to fulfill their dreams in the US.

Charles convinced his father, Louis, as well as Patrick Adams and Edward McGowan, all of Bay Shore to open the doors of St. George's University in Grenada. It took over two years to secure the school's charter and classes started in January of 1977. The University was supported by a large number of Bay Shore residents in the offices at One East Main Street for over 30 years with a staff that numbered over two hundred. St. George's University has become the largest provider of new physicians to the United States of any school in the world for the last seven years and counting. It also accounts for approximately 25% of the GDP of Grenada. Charles continues to serve as the University Chancellor and Chair of the Board. He was also named Ambassador at Large of Grenada and was awarded the title of "Commander of the Nation" a few years ago.

Charles is extremely grateful to those who were so important at the beginning of his journey. From teachers like Mr. Tom Murray and classmates at Bay Shore High School who gave each other a real sense of caring and camaraderie. He has always felt a great pride in the fact that his early years were blessed by being in an environment that had no place for racial or ethnic slurs or judgements. Bay Shore High School was composed of a student body that truly did not even entertain such thinking.

Most important of all is Charles's lifelong observation that his success was made by a young man surrounded by good things and people and he was able to do that as an average student academically. He feels that this should be a motivational fact that all future Bay Shore High School students can be inspired by. An average Bay Shore High School graduate has all the tools needed for success. That's why he is so proud to be just one member of the class of 1965.