

ASUO presidents have a future

Post helpful in
attaining jobs,
say past execs

By Richard Burr
Of the Emerald

The ASUO presidency is meant to serve and represent students, but it also has helped former presidents land the jobs they now hold.

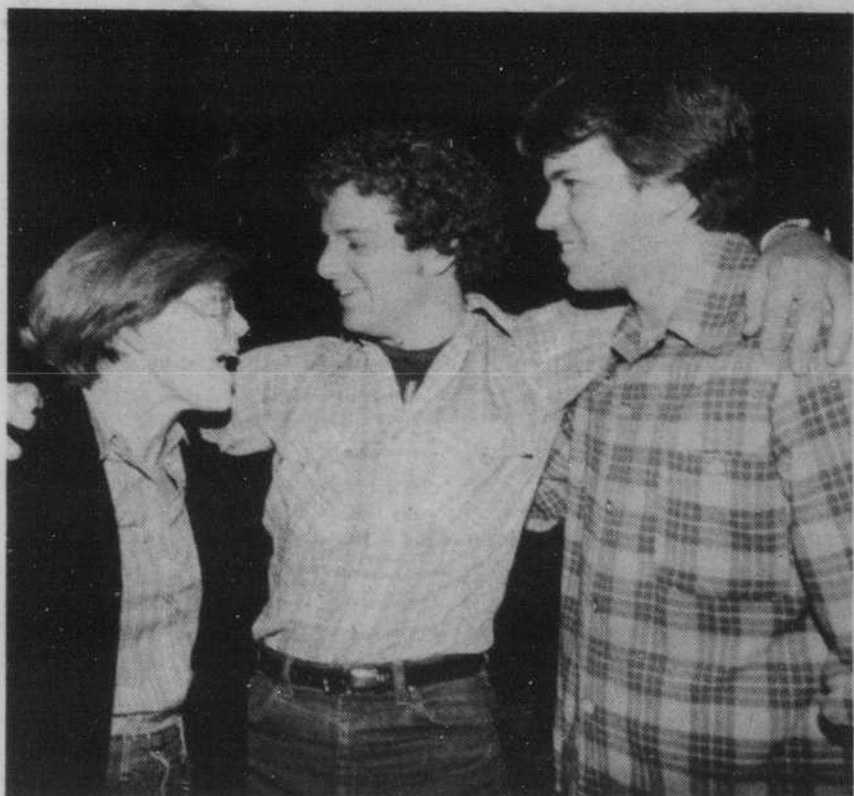
"I learned a lot about basic administration," says Dan Williams, 1961-62 ASUO president who recently was named University vice president for administration. "I learned how to get results through other people."

Williams says if he had not become student body president, he would have never been hired as the University housing director.

"I have a tremendous fondness for the University of Oregon," he says. "I was able to see what the University administration was all about."

Williams became a full-time employee at the housing department after one year of law school and was promoted to assistant director of dormitories. He then moved on to Stanford in 1967, eventually becoming the student union director before returning to the University three years ago.

The presidency helped accelerate his learning process, giving him major responsibilities that people do not handle in the business world



Former 1980-81 ASUO Pres. Dave Eaton (center, celebrating his election victory in 1980) now works as a salesperson for Doug Crichton Associates in Portland.

Emerald Photo

until they are promoted to management positions, Williams says.

Edwin Allen, 1945-46 ASUO president, agrees that having to accept responsibility and exert leadership gave him personal traits that have helped with his job.

"It was an excellent teaching vehicle of how to get along with other people," the Lane County Circuit Court judge says. He became a judge in 1962.

Rich Wilkins, 1981-82 ASUO president, says the presidency strengthened his ability to deal with different people and taught him to deal with a large group of people and with money. He is a sales representative who does marketing for Truitt Brothers Inc. in Salem.

The presidency exposed 1980-81 ASUO Pres. Dave Eaton to his future employer, who saw his name in several publications and subsequently met with Eaton several times.

Eaton is a salesperson for Doug Crichton Associates, a Portland-based manufacturer's representative, and is on his way to being a company partner in about five years.

Although the presidency helped some former presidents get jobs, the

responsibilities for each president have changed. The office of some former presidents didn't match today's \$68,000 budget and 20 paid staff members.

"The office consisted of two rather small rooms in McArthur Court," Allen says. An ASUO Council consisting of the president, vice president and other student representatives including two class presidents carried out policy, he says.

Allen says he tried to start an ASUO Senate.

"I apparently was too far ahead of my time because it failed," he says.

When Williams was president, he presided over the ASUO Senate and a Student Cabinet consisting of such representatives as the Interfraternity Council president and the student union board chair. The budget was about \$11,000.

But the more things change, the more they stay the same.

"There was an incredible number of issues then that are still issues today," Williams says. The ROTC, the athletic department and a tuition increase were issues during his presidency, although they took different forms than current controversies, he says.



Rich Wilkins, 1981-82 ASUO president, works as a sales representative for Truitt Brothers Inc. in Salem.



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