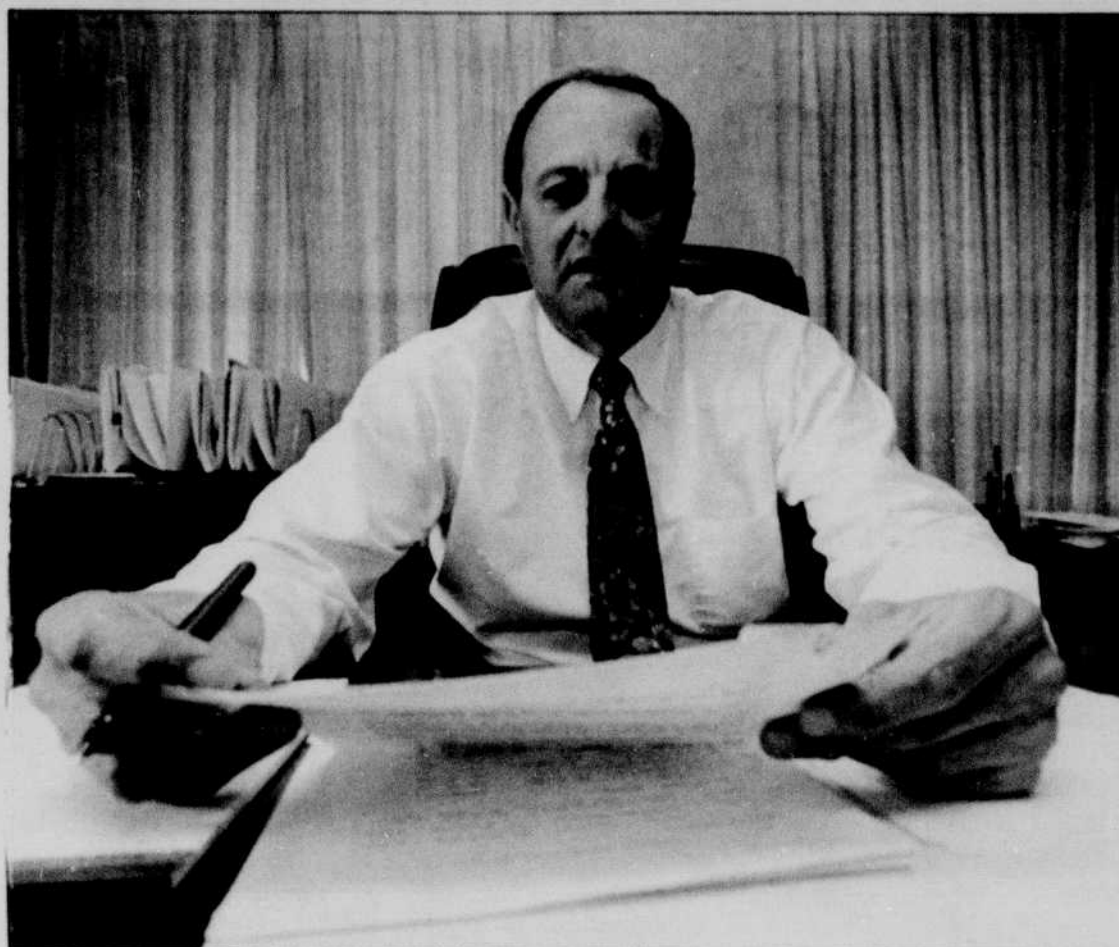




UO alumni Conrad Schultz, a UO law school alumni carefully examines his clients' estate planning documents in a busy afternoon.

WILSON CHAN/Emerald

University alumni relate experiences in finding good jobs

For graduating students, the prospects of getting a good job in the right field may look bleak, especially according to economic doom-sayers. But the experiences of University alumni say otherwise.

With an impressive list of alumni, including Nike President Phil Knight and author Ken Kesey, the University's record may prove that a degree still means employability and can help build the foundation for success.

University graduates Helen Kitchen, R. Conrad Schultz, Jack Hamann and Kimberly Brater are examples of people who have left the University to find success in the job market. Their advice to the graduating class ranges from being persistent to keeping up with technology.

Helen Kitchen graduated from the University in 1942 with a degree in journalism. The first female editor of the *Emerald*, Kitchen joined her fiancé in Africa shortly after graduating. Today, she is the head of the African Studies program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a top think tank in Washington, D.C.

Kitchen was recently featured in the alumni magazine, *Old Oregon*, as one of the "25 for the 90s," a group of graduates who are movers and shakers in the 1990s.

Kitchen's work in journalism-related fields has included a variety of African correspondent positions, including an 8-year editor job for a journal about Africa.

Kitchen has worked for the state department, the Rockefeller Commission and now, at the strategic studies center, publishes a newsletter on African issues.

Although Kitchen said that her time at the University was a "complex story," she said that her journalism degree and experiences working for the *Emerald* were the beginning of a long line of work, starting with journalism job opportunities that led her to an interest in Africa.

A graduate of the University Law School in 1965, today R. Conrad Schultz owns a law practice in Eugene. Crediting at least part of his success to "a good legal education and wonderful professors," Schultz received his pre-law undergraduate degree at the University in 1962.

Schultz's first job out of law school was with a local firm, and he has practiced law ever since. Practicing various types of law for almost 30 years, Schultz now specializes in estate planning.

A father of four and an avid fisherman, Schultz said that he believes it was a desire to help people that led him to become a lawyer.

Schultz said that one of the most important things for students to remember is to be practical.

"Sometimes the new student tends to be caught up in the philoso-

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Growing market for jobs awaits skilled graduates

It's official! Spring graduates can look forward to a successful future with the prospect of employment, say University business professionals, career specialists and economists.

The nation's economy has crawled out of its recession and is enjoying moderate growth, says Joe Stone, economist and associate dean for the College of Arts and Sciences.

"The national market has improved modestly compared to the last two years, with prospects for continued growth in the future," Stone said.

That is good news, and the outlook for Oregon is even better. Graduates who choose to stay in Oregon may have an edge over the rest of the nation's graduates.

"Oregon's economy is ahead of the national average and has been so for the past two years," Stone says.

He went on to say there is rapid growth in diverse careers. Fields that are expanding include professional consulting, computer-related jobs, the service industry and engineering and advertising.

The days of large companies sweeping 100 graduates away in recruitment seminars are gone, says Marian Friestad, assistant professor of marketing in the College of Business.

"The northwest and national trends for job opportunities have

been with the mid-size to small companies," she says.

A broad-based liberal arts education is marketable and desirable, she says.

"When I read the back of journals and trade magazines, 80 percent to 90 percent of the advertisements list effective writing and speaking skills as a priority."

An education that allows students to exercise their flexibility is another quality employers look for in graduates.

"Employers are looking for initiative, inter-personal skills and team players," Friestad says.

She suggests graduates market themselves by "being honest with yourself about your strengths and weaknesses."

"Look for an organization you can make a contribution to, an organization that will give you that spark of interest and excitement."

A liberal arts degree develops critical thinking skills, which are crucial from an employer's point of view, says Lawrence Smith, director of the University's Career Planning and Placement Service.

The various employers who contact the placement office are looking for graduates who can solve problems, produce results, accept responsibility, work in a team and communicate well,

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