

## EDUCATION

# Dreams Keep Law Student Reaching, Achieving

### At Young Democrats Convention

Nash, and wife, Sherrie, had the chance to meet with George Stephanopoulos, senior advisor to President Clinton, at a national convention of the Young Democrats in New Orleans, La., in August. Nash said the convention was "an unbelievable learning experience that gave me the chance to meet young people with similar goals of helping those who need it."



By Stephanie Hall  
Contributing Writer

It has been said that most men lead lives of quiet desperation, often because they are unable or unwilling to pursue their dreams. But Troy Nash, a 25-year-old Kansas City native, knows that his dreams are what keep him alive.

"My dreams are important because they keep me going," said Nash. "They help give life meaning and give you a sense of direction."

Nash, a second-year law student at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, said that his biggest dream "is to create a world in which all people are

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treated equally, no matter what their race, religion, or gender, and to also leave a legacy that my family would be proud of."

Nash is taking every step he can to make his dream of serving the public come true. He already has a master's degree in Economics from Wesley College. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics at UMKC, in addition to his legal studies.

Nash said that his education is an indispensable ingredient for a successful career in public service.

"What is important to me is to try and learn as much as I can about economics and the law to the extent that it can then be applied to better the lives of real people with real problems here in Kansas City," said Nash.

While building a solid foundation with education, Nash realizes that his studies would be incomplete without real world experience.

"Having grown up one of six children in a single-parent home, I learned early on the concept of 'scarcity' all too well," said Nash. "For example, there were many days that the family as a whole had to come to  
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gether in order to make ends meet, which meant finding work - whatever, whenever."

One work experience changed Nash's life forever, preparing him for the harsh realities of adulthood.

"After graduating high school, I was faced with the same decision many new graduates have to face," said Nash. "I didn't really know much about going to college or how much it would cost, so I decided to work two jobs and attend Penn Valley (Community College) in the evening."

"After about a year I decided to join the Air Force," said Nash. "It was at this point that I was given enormous responsibility - dorm chief for 50 people, a student leader, among other things. That responsibility gave me the foundation to do the things I am doing today," said Nash.

While serving nearly four years in the Air Force in Dover, Del., Nash attended school full time and was named the Dover Air Force Base Honor Graduate. He also received the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

After his tenure in the Air Force, Nash returned to Kansas City and became increasingly involved in public service. He is the deputy director of the Program for Adult College Education (PACE), a UMKC-sponsored program that help busy

adults receive a college degree.

Nash is the chairman and finance director of the Young Democrats of Greater Kansas City. He is also the president of Frontlash, the youth arm of the AFL-CIO, an organization that encourages grassroots activism to bring about social change.

Much of Nash's attention is focused on politics. Most recently, he campaigned during the 1995 Kansas City, Mo., mayoral race. He served 10 months as the deputy finance director for former U.S. Rep. Alan Wheat, D-Mo., during which time he organized fund-raising events nationwide.

This summer, Nash was an associate at the law firm of Gage & Tucker, where he performed legal research and writing, and assisted attorneys in preparation for court.

Many wonder how Nash manages to juggle the responsibilities of school and his leadership roles in public service organizations. He said that he is often asked about his boundless energy and determination.

"I can remember my mother taking me to the doctor because I was so hyper," said Nash, "but nothing came of it."

"I guess the energy stems from the fact that I not only love what I'm doing, but I also believe the work I am doing is important," said Nash, and that gives me the energy to move mountains."