

Scott McGowan: ASB PRESIDENT

Majors:	Social science and philosophy/theology
Dream Job:	Working for the State Department
What's Next:	Foreign Service Exam
Can't Live Without:	Friends, California burritos, and Pooka (his little sis)
Favorite Teams:	Chargers and Sea Lions
Favorite Profs:	Dr. John Wright and Dr. Dwayne Little



Scott McGowan deeply loves Point Loma. And he is willing to work hard on its behalf. He's currently ASB president, has served as a resident advisor (R.A.), and was on Student Congress and served as senior class vice president last year (because as a third-year student, he already had enough units for senior standing). Scott's commitment to PLNU and his willingness to lead are clear. And those same qualities bode well for his future.

Interested in the Foreign Service, Scott's ultimate goal is to work for the U.S. Department of State. It was former Under Secretary of State Marc Grossman who inspired the idea. During Scott's freshman year, he went with fellow students from the Department of History and Political Science to Washington D.C. to attend the presidential inauguration. While there, Dr. Ron Kirkemo, then professor in the history and political science department, was able to set up an unexpected tour of the State Department. Unlike the typical tour group, the Point Loma students were treated to up-close views of Colin Powell's office and important conference areas. Most significantly, Grossman spent about an hour talking with them.

"Near the end, I asked him what it takes to move forward in the business or to really make a difference. He said, 'You need to be someone who asks questions like that,'" Scott said. Encouragement of that kind from someone in Grossman's position meant a lot. Scott's previous thoughts of becoming "a bow-tied history teacher" (which he still imagines might be a fun retirement job) shifted.

Scott will likely take the Foreign Service Exam near the end of this year or during the summer after he graduates. The process takes time – after the written test, there is an oral exam and then a thorough screening process. While all of this is taking place, Scott is interested in working at Point Loma as a resident director (R.D.) because his experience as an R.A. was so meaningful to him.

"The residence halls function as brotherhoods and sisterhoods," he said. "That's where my best relationships formed, and it's where a

lot of what we call 'the second education' occurs. For me, getting to not just partake of that experience but to actually help people grow was really amazing."

Scott's interest in making a difference, his commitment to asking important questions, and his love for Point Loma and his fellow students all make him an ideal ASB president.

"I'm really proud to be part of student government," he said. "This year, we will be able to demonstrate that our recent structure changes are sound and that student government can be a reliable one-stop shop for student voice and advocacy."

Some recent changes have included the creation three years ago of Student Congress, which works collaboratively with the ASB board of directors. This year, for the first time, the congress includes one elected representative from each residence hall and six commuter representatives for a total of 65 members. PLNU also has a student judicial branch, the Board of Review.

"One thing that has been really eye-opening for me has been building relationships with the administrators and learning just how much they care for students. For example, as president, I am a member of the Judicial Council, a group that has shown me how much the discipline process is intended for the love and growth of the student, not for hard-line institutional policies," he said.

Overall, Scott hopes to foster an environment where students feel empowered.

"My biggest personal goal is to see the student body believe in the possibility of change," he said.

He's just the man for the job. ☯

– C.S.