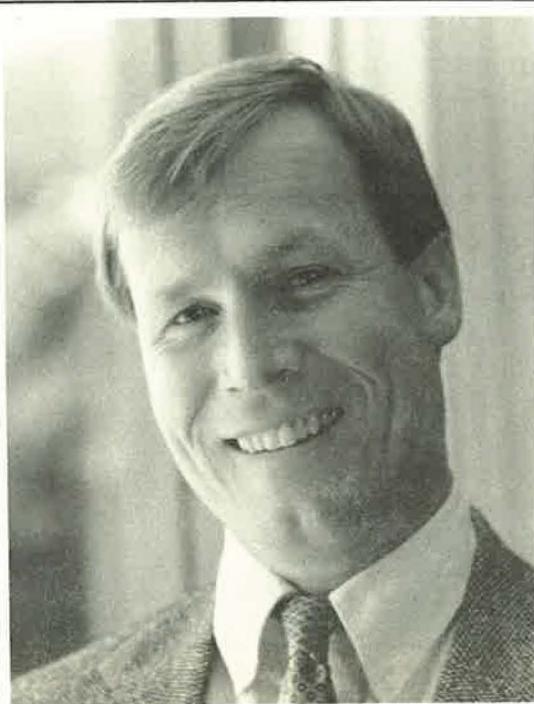




PEOPLE WHO
MAKE IT
HAPPEN:
DAVID
EDWARDS



David Edwards

"I'm the facilitator," says David Edwards, manager of the Marian Miner Cook Athenaeum. "I make sure that what they want to have happen, happens."

Edwards works closely with Jil Stark, director of the Athenaeum. "I don't know of any college in the country that presents the opportunities to be exposed to different viewpoints that we do," he says.

Edwards arrives each day at about 8:30 a.m. and generally leaves at 6:30 p.m. "I make sure things get set up beforehand, hope enough people show up to work, make sure everyone has enough to eat, and then I let the staff hold their hands from then on."

Edwards earned a BA in hotel and restaurant administration and a BA in business administration from Washington State University. "After graduation I bought a circle ticket," recalls Ed-

wards, explaining that a circle ticket allowed you to take the train all over the United States, returning to your starting point. "I took the train from city to city, interviewing and staying in \$5 a night hotels that I could walk to from the train station."

Edwards began work at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles during its renovation. He started as a management trainee in the food and beverage department, cooking and washing dishes. When he left the Biltmore he was responsible for all hotel purchasing and was administrative executive chef, supervising 80 cooks.

Edwards and his wife, Susan, have three children: John, Alexandra, and Mike. "John is six," says Edwards, "and John Roth's wife, Lyn, is his first grade teacher. Xany is four, and she goes to pre-school at the Methodist Church. Mike is two. He stays home and plays with his mom.

"The hours at the Athenaeum are somewhat flexible. I take John and sometimes Xany to school in the mornings, and I read stories in John's class at lunchtime on Tuesdays. I get to watch them grow up.

"I have the best job," says Edwards. "I get to talk to all the kids; I can be everybody's friend. If someone hasn't turned in a paper or has missed a class they don't have to hide from me. The freshman class that I came in with will graduate this May. It's been fun watching the freshmen grow up." ❖