

Richard Tam Alumni Center has two-fold purpose

By Michael Clayton
YELLIN' REBEL

The Richard Tam Alumni Center will allow a formal meeting place where alumni can be more involved in student activities, Fred Albrecht, alumni relations director, said.

"The [purpose of] the building will basically be two-fold," he said. "One, it's going to provide housing for the Alumni Association. Housing isn't in terms of living quarters. It's in terms of exactly where the organization [Alumni Association] will be situated. It's more like academic support for our graduates.

"When they come back on the campus they'll have somewhere to go to get information about say, fellow students, or about programs, or any variety of things. The second function of the building is to allow the Alumni association an area where they can provide functions and programs for students and graduates."

Albrecht, a UNLV alumni, said he feels that graduating does not mean that one has to no longer be associated with it.

"We want to make alums feel at home," he said. "For example, we'll have luncheons and we will utilize faculty members to speak on certain topics in the alumni center.

"The alumni association wants

to get more students involved so that when a student graduates they won't just say, 'Where's my job?' There's a tremendous educational process that goes on by the time a they [students] graduate, and by setting up a program through which alums and students work together will make that road a little bit easier."

Lyle Rivera, director of the UNLV Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the university said that the center would give group cohesiveness to alumni, and thereby creating a solid base of operations when graduates who visited from other parts of the country came into town.

"The beauty of it all is that this is, once more, a situation where the local community has almost paid for the entire structure," he said. "This great building adds to the stability of the whole community. Donations have been generous. We will be able to invite alumni and provide not only meeting space, but hospitality as well."

Rivera credited Albrecht as being the catalyst behind the center's development. "Fred's devotion has been overwhelming. He has worked hard to garner support from the community for this building. He has tapped into the community for donations."

The building, which will be

NEARING COMPLETION



Yell Photo / Michael Clayton

- PROGRESS The UNLV campus continues to grow as the Richard Tam Alumni Center nears completion.

called the Richard Tam Alumni Center, gets its name from Richard Tam, a Stanford graduate whose daughter graduated from UNLV and is now deceased. "He's the one

who helped make this possible by giving us the lead monies to start this facility. He donated \$500,000, plus he has pledged additional assistance and funds to the building," Albrecht said.

In comparing UNLV's Alumni Center with those at other universities, Albrecht said, "We're way behind. Most universities have had facilities a lot longer than us, but that's only because we are so young."

The main difference in the center will be in size, Albrecht said.

"Ours won't be quite as large as other facilities, but that won't stop us from incorporating a lot of things into it," he said.

"We're going to have an alumni art gallery," he said. "We're going to be able to have shows for our undergraduate artists that we sponsor through scholarships. We also give scholarships to the graduate school in order that we have graduate art shows."

An information center for the community will be included, along with a faculty lounge area, he said.

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