

# Academic Advancement offers many programs

by Melanie Schoenfeld

There are 340 students involved in the Department for Academic Advancement program, and any student can benefit from the resources it offers.

This department is federally funded by the Department of Education and it is located on the third floor of the Flora Dungan Humanities Building.

The main program this department offers is academic support. To be eligible, a student must be a low-income, first-generation college student, or have a physical or learning disability.

First generation means that neither of the student's parents have a degree. And the low-income standard is decided by the government. As Academic Coordinator Velicia Haron said, "The government standard for

low income is two steps from a push cart living in a box."

She said many students who are not eligible for the program should be, and the government standard is set too low.

The main goal of the department in the Academic Support Program is to help students graduate, said Haron. They offer free tutoring, a referral system and scholarship services for the students. There are also progress reports for students which are an early-warning system to recognize students having academic difficulties, said Haron.

The Department for Academic Advancement also has programs for students not in college. These are termed outreach programs and include Upward Bound and Educational Talent Search.

Upward Bound is for students in the 7-12 grades. There

are 275-300 students in this program. It provides them with academic and study skills to do well in high school and get into college, Haron said.

These kids are on campus every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. They take four classes which include essay writing and research, college readiness class, studies skills, and leadership classes. They also get a free lunch in the dining commons.

On Saturday mornings they concentrate on academic skills to help them become better students, and in the afternoon they focus on personal skills to help them become better people, Haron said.

Their days on campus help them become familiar with college, and with college terminology and culture, Haron said.

There is also a parent's advisory committee to provide a

support base for these kids at home as well as through the department, Haron said.

The other outreach program is the Educational Talent Search.

"No, Ed McMahon will not be here," Haron said.

The program looks for students with academic talent or potential and provides the resources to bring the potential out, said Haron.

It is a program for people of all ages, said Haron, from seventh grade to 100-plus years old.

"We're in the business of preparing students to get to college," Haron said, "and to retain them so they can graduate."

Debra Turner is an Upward Bound graduate who is currently working part-time in the department as she waits for her California Bar results.

Turner graduated from Basic High School and then went to

college and law school in California. She was a straight-A student in high school before she got involved with Upward Bound.

Upward Bound helped Turner with college applications, letters of recommendation and scholarships, she said.

Turner came back to the program because it is a good program, she had a lot to offer the kids, and she cares about them, she said.

"It can't be just a job. We need people who care about the kids," Turner said. "Everyone here is dedicated to the kids."

The Department for Academic Advancement provides study skills workshops for all students. It also has job and internship boards, and posts scholarships on its bulletin boards located on the third floor of FDH.

## Small towns represented in student body

by Melanie Schoenfeld

Have you ever wanted to leave Las Vegas, but stay in Nevada? Where would you go?

Perhaps you could go to one of over 50 small towns in Nevada that you may never have heard of.

Your choice may include Winnemucca, Lund, Eureka, Battle Mountain, Elko or Logandale.

According to three students who came to UNLV from small towns in Nevada, there are a growing number of people moving to these towns.

Shauna McIntosh, a senior

in broadcasting from Battle Mountain, said the growth there is due to mining. Battle Mountain is about 200 miles east of Reno and half way between Winnemucca and Elko.

Elko is the small town that Travis Wright, a sophomore at UNLV, is from. Wright is quick to defend his hometown. "I'm not from a small town, I'm from Elko," he said.

Both McIntosh and Wright would like to raise their children in a small town.

Cassandra Cheney, a junior in political science, moved to Logandale when she was 15 years old because her father had

grown up in a small town and wanted the same experience for his children.

Cheney's father works in Las Vegas and drives the 50 miles from Logandale to work so that his children do not have to live in the city.

There are no stoplights in Logandale, and only one stop sign.

Cheney's first reaction when they drove through town was negative and she hated it for the first year. But then her feelings changed. "There are so many things to do in a small town once

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The Rebel Yell is the student newspaper of UNLV. It is published by Southwest Printers, Inc. every Tuesday and Thursday during the school year except holidays.

Opinions expressed within these pages do not necessarily reflect those of the UNLV student body or faculty.

Comments, questions, complaints or letters to the editor may be sent to: The Rebel Yell - STS, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas NV 89154; or delivered to The Rebel Yell offices in Room 302 of the Moyer Student Union (third floor). Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words. The Rebel Yell reserves the right to edit all submissions as necessary.

The Rebel Yell Offices: (702) 739-3478, 3479 and 3878.  
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