

Upward Bound Alumni Newsletter

April 2011

The mission of Upward Bound at Mineral Area College is to serve eligible high school students by providing academic enrichment, cultural experiences, and a support network to ensure their success in attaining a four-year college degree.

We are always happy in the office when we learn that another of our students has earned a college degree. The purpose of our jobs, as you can see from our mission statement, is to help our students attain a degree that will allow them to be employed in a job that will support them and their family and also allow them to enjoy what they are doing.

In our data base we report a status for all former students. One choice is "1st Bachelor's degree." Another is "still enrolled in an undergraduate postsecondary program." There is also a category called "postsecondary stop out" for students who started college and didn't finish. We are always hoping that we will be able to change "postsecondary stop out" to "still enrolled" on students who haven't earned a degree yet. This isn't a one shot deal where you get one chance to get a degree, and if you don't make it you're done. You get as many chances as you need to reach your goal of a degree. I often think of the billboard that was on HWY 67 a few years ago of Nola Ochs who received her bachelor's degree at age 95. What an amazing attitude she must have to be attending college, writing research papers, studying for tests, and preparing for a career in her 90's. Attitude is the key ingredient that drives what we achieve in life.

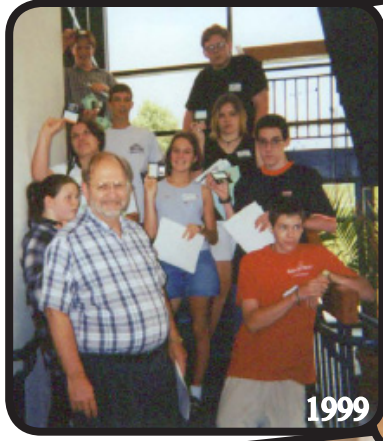
"Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing." Abraham Lincoln

Friend UB at MAC
on Facebook to see
pictures, videos, and
find your old UB friends!

If you are thinking about returning to college or maybe starting for the first time, we encourage you to pursue that dream. If you need any help you know where we are.

Darlene Logan

Photos from the past



Raising Scholars

At the dinner table last night my three children, age five, six, and seven, were discussing living together when they go away to college (of course, they know all about “23 and a college degree,” Remember?). We speak often about the “natural progression” of education—elementary school, high school, and then college. It is never too early to start talking with your kids about their education, including higher education. If kids know that a college degree is the expectation in your family, they will meet that expectation.

Unfortunately just talking about college isn't enough to get them there and help them to be successful once they make it there. It's a great start, but just talking won't be enough. So what can you do now to help them get ready for college?

•Read to them! We know that early literacy is so important to be successful in school! Start with just 10 or 15 minutes a day. Share a book you will both enjoy. Get library cards!

•Expect A's. Your children are important and they deserve high expectations from you.

•Know that you can't just leave it all to the schools. Our teachers work hard, but the fact is, you have more influence over your child than the teacher. Your child looks to you to find out what's important. Be sure you let them know education is important!

•Be engaged with what is happening with their school work. Ask questions about what they are doing in school—projects, papers, etc. If they know that you value education, they will value education too.

•Study every night with your children even when there is no homework. This will instill good study habits in your children from an early age—something we know will be so important in college. It will also promote a high GPA which will be so important in high school when your child is applying for that scholarship money! Talk to your child's teacher about what kinds of enrichment activities you can do at home if you aren't sure where to start.

•When they bring corrected work home from school, praise their efforts. Have them correct mistakes so they can learn from them instead of just “moving on.”

Adopt these pointers in your household now and your children will be ahead of the game in high school and when it's time to go to college.

by: Rebecca Young

STUDENT MEMORIES

We asked for students to submit some favorite UB memories. Here are some of the results.

“We only got hotel rooms, but I thought it was a lot of fun. I remember one year we had a shaving cream fight.” ...*Jennifer French* (1999)

“First year in the dorms, the girls upstairs toilet overflowed and started dripping through our ceiling. Great first night!” ...*Jimmy Bereniski* (2004)

“I remember when the bus caught on fire on the way back from St. Louis.” ...*Rachel Reed Bryan* (2004)

“Besides Charlie and I planning to run away and stay in Brooklyn on the trip to New York, my funniest, unforgettable memory was the look on everyone’s face when I got on the train in Alton the summer of ‘06, and the face they all made when I turned down coffee!” ...*Kathleen Drummonds* (2006)

“I remember an issue with the dishwasher overflowing from the first summer in the dorms or smoke detector being used as a cook timer.” ...*Gwen Merrill Kinney* (2003)

“Dorms?! We never stayed in dorms. We had Rosener’s Motel and their buffet.” ...*Kristi Cleghorn* (1999)

“I remember watching The Wiz; that was probably one of the coolest I have ever attended. I also remember singing some Styx with Dylan, and performing as Queen with Ryan. Oh yeah, Daeton and I were backup dancers for Britney Spears.” “What about Jerry assaulting some poor man’s truck in Springfield? Or what about eating Arthur Bryant’s in KC?” ...*Michael Wilson* (2002)

“I enjoyed all the good eating, imagine that, and all the great people I got to meet! ...*Stacey Goldacker Miller* (2002)

“I remember the fire alarm during the middle of the night, everyone running out in their pajamas or sheets, everyone huddled around. All the older kids knew what was going on, but I don’t believe the first timer’s really thought it would happen! I remember walking the tight rope and hiking. Those hikes felt like they took forever but looking back I’m so glad for them! I wouldn’t have gotten as much exercise those summers without the program. It was truly amazing when we went back to school the next fall at how everyone said we looked different!” ...*Sam Mandina* (2004)

“And someone needs to talk to Sherry Ritter about why Sally scolded us for coloring our anatomy homework green.” “Why don’t you ask Jerry about frozen chicken or the pizza from Krogers?” ...*Nena Kircher Degrant* (2001)

“Amanda Hensley, Stacey Goldacker, Emilea Wakefield and I got into a wet toilet paper fight. I think Stacey got wrapped up like a mummy with it sometime that night if I remember correctly. Then we were up all night cleaning up dried toilet paper from door knobs, off windows, off the ceiling, out of our hair, you name it. That was the night I came out of my shell that summer. I am sure we had other moments, but that stood out the most. We didn’t get voted best dorm room for nothing.” “I often think of the fun times I had with my classmates and with the staff. There never seemed to be a dull moment at the meetings, field trips or especially during the summer program” ...*Sarah Starkey Watson* (2003)

**Jerry remembers Mike
Easter launching water
balloons across 67
Highway with a sling shot!**

Kelly Adams Pounds

Kelly Adams Pounds graduated from Farmington High School in 1999. She received an Associate's Degree from MAC, a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, and a Master's Degree in Accounting from Missouri State University. After working full time throughout college at several different retail stores, she found her way into banking. She started out as a teller and then worked her way up to a financial analyst. She is currently a financial analyst for BancorpSouth in Springfield, Missouri. She is studying to become a CPA and hopes to work in the accounting/auditing industry or with the IRS.



Kelly married her best friend from high school, Steven Pounds. They live with their dog, a Rat Terrier named Chase. She is not quite ready to have children, but she stays busy working out, swimming, and playing on a softball league with her husband.

Some of her favorite memories of UB include the student leadership conference in Washington, D.C. and the summer trips to Memphis and Chicago. She remembers, "It was so hot the summer we went to Tennessee, I can still feel all the bug bites on my legs from camping at Ken Lake (I sat on an ant hill). I remember there being a 'hippie' concert near the river (where we saw some very interesting individuals). Chicago was probably the most fun because we were able to do so much fun stuff - walk to the Navy Pier, tour Sears Tower and the Field Museum, go shopping, and of course take a night cruise on Lake Michigan."

She continues, "I think the most memorable things for me were made while staying at the Rosener's hotel, our 'dormitory'. There was always some sort of entertainment - Michael Bailey sneaking into my room while I was sleeping to put toothpaste on my face; Christina Gillespie, Angie and I dancing/singing to a Grease song in the parking lot almost every night; or just walking laps around the buildings just talking with Shaun Gross and Amy Gross. I made lifelong friendships with a lot of wonderful people by being a part of Upward Bound. Speaking of wonderful people - what happened to Kenny Farkas? I have been able to track down several individuals from when I was in UB except Kenny - I miss that kid!"

From the archives

This little activity in Central Park, New York City, got the attention of several onlookers. So what were these UB students doing to pass the time on a hot summer day on the end of the summer trip in 2005? Would anyone believe sumo wrestling?

