

UHA News



The monthly newsletter for the community and partners of the University Heights Association.

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New ACP logo reflects institutional growth, diversification

Albany College of Pharmacy has a new look to match its expanded mission.

In the midst of a bold strategic plan to significantly expand its academic offerings, physical campus and student body, ACP unveiled a new logo in January, implementing a design that reflects the college's growing programmatic diversity and institutional vision, said President James J. Gozzo, Ph.D.

"This was a logical time in our strategic growth to examine the symbol of our institution," Dr. Gozzo said. "The profession of pharmacy and career opportunities for pharmacy students are expanding rapidly thanks to scientific breakthroughs and full implementation of the six-year Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum as the sole degree path leading to licensure in the United States. This is preparing pharmacists more than ever for expanded roles as members of health care teams.

"We also have added academic programs and professional options that build on our traditional

strength in the sciences and complement our Pharm.D. program. Our emphasis has grown thoughtfully yet dramatically, and with even more diversification in our plan for the future, we felt the time was right to broaden our scope."



The new logo features the acronym "ACP" and the college's new tagline, "Sciences for Life," in a horizontal design. The new tagline emphasizes the expanding vision of the college to include more professional options for Pharm.D. graduates and the addition of new degree options in the biomedical sciences. It represents the college's mission as an institution grounded in the sciences preparing students on a variety of academic pathways to care for people and to save and improve lives through a multitude of careers.

Since Dr. Gozzo's arrival in 1998, ACP has undertaken a sweeping strategic initiative to

expand and diversify its campus to better meet the needs of the new era of health care that dawned with the sequencing of the human genome at the start of the 21st century.

Respected as a national leader in pharmacy education, the college is building on that core strength to add new academic options that complement the college's

traditional focus while adding related disciplines to the academic environment. Along with the traditional Pharm.D. degree, ACP currently offers B.S. programs in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Biomedical Technology, and a one-year Certificate in Cytotechnology.

Further academic expansion is in the works, including graduate-level programs and joint programmatic offerings with other Capital Region institutions. ACP currently has joint programs and articulation agreements with The Graduate College of Union University, Albany Medical College and The College of St. Rose.

Albany Medical College receives cancer research funding

Two Albany Medical College faculty members recently received funding to continue their research in the areas of cell biology and cancer.

Kevin Pumiglia, Ph.D., associate professor, received a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his research in the understanding of the process of tumor growth and the development of new drug therapies to block the process.

According to Dr. Pumiglia, tumors grow by recruiting new blood vessels. Starved of oxygen,

cancer cells send a chemical "cry for help" called vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), which promotes the growth of new blood vessels toward the tumor. This process, called angiogenesis, ultimately promotes tumor growth.

Dr. Pumiglia and his team have identified two proteins essential to cell growth in response to VEGF as well as several other angiogenic factors. Their objective is to clarify the molecular mechanisms these proteins use in integrating biological response to VEGF, and in enabling the growth of blood vessels.

The American Cancer Society awarded \$720,000 over the next four years to Dorina Avram, Ph.D., assistant professor, for her work with transcription factors, or the switches controlling gene expression, associated with B-cell leukemia. Dr. Avram will investigate how these factors influence excess cell growth.

According to Dr. Avram, researchers have identified a gene isolated in leukemia and now are trying to determine why it doesn't occur in healthy cells – a first step toward developing a treatment.

University Heights Association was established in 1995 to create an academic/medical consortium of international stature. The four member institutions – Albany Law School, Albany College of Pharmacy, Albany Medical College and The Sage Colleges – are a unique collaboration promoting quality education, premium health care, public discourse of important issues, cutting-edge research and technology, vibrant neighborhoods and progressive private and public partnerships. UHA continues to build upon a network of shared resources to enrich academic connections for the benefit of students, faculty, staff and the surrounding neighborhoods.

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DID YOU KNOW ...

the total number of alumni from the four UHA institutions is approximately 54,000?!

Two UHA seminars set for spring

University Heights Association, consistent with its long-term effort to contribute to the betterment of the community, announces two spring seminars on legalities of the hiring process and retirement issues. UHA is pleased to offer these valuable seminars to the faculty and staff of its four institutions.

“A Hire Standard: Ensuring Legal Compliance Throughout the Hiring Process,” is scheduled for March 9. The program is developed and presented by John Bagyi, Esq. Mr. Bagyi is a partner at Bond, Schoeneck & King, LLC, where he counsels and represents employers of all types and sizes in a variety of labor and employment related contexts.

This seminar will afford faculty and staff of UHA’s institutions the opportunity to gain awareness on how to avoid legal pitfalls during the hiring procedure. Participants also will receive an overview of federal and local laws concerning pre-employment inquiries and recordkeeping requirements.

Mr. Bagyi is a graduate of the University at Albany and Albany Law School, where he served as an executive director of the Albany Law

Review. He has been honored by the New York State Association of Health Care Providers as Associate Member of the Year and named a “40 under Forty” honoree by *The Business Review*.

On April 12, UHA will present “Preparing for a Secure Tomorrow ... Today.” The priority of this session is to provide participants with the tools necessary to identify and work toward financial goals with respect to retirement and to make appropriate decisions that will lead to a successful transition to retirement. This workshop is primarily designed for those who may be contemplating retirement in the next three to five years and is open to both academic and support staff.

The seminar will help employees identify and address immediate issues associated with retirement plans, provide a framework to plan long-term goals, and present specific information in the key areas of financial planning. Participants also will be guided through the interpretation of Social Security benefit statements.

This workshop is sponsored jointly by TIAA-CREF and the Social Security Administration.



June McQuide, Executive Director

Thoughts from the Executive Director:

University Heights Association seeks to provide programs and activities that will enhance its three communities: its community of students, of faculty and staff and its neighborhoods.

This fall we will host the second annual Student Services Fair. This much anticipated event affords our student community a whole new perspective on what is available right around the corner in the neighborhood they now call home, and enables area organizations to connect with four rich markets at one festive event.

Collaboration and open dialogue between our Human Resources departments resulted in two extremely relevant spring seminars that will provide added value for our faculty and staff.

The sharing of resources in this way is one of the things I find most exciting about UHA; our contiguous borders facilitate such possibilities.

www.universityheights.org

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