

UHA News



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

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Second Annual Neighborhood Expo a big hit

The second annual University Heights Association Neighborhood Expo was a home run!

Held Sept. 20 in the Albany College of Pharmacy Gymnasium, the event attracted more than 650 students from the four neighboring colleges – ACP, Albany Law School, Albany Medical College and The Sage Colleges.

Students had an opportunity to browse, sample and chat with 35 vendors from University Heights area

businesses and organizations.

Raffle drawings, held every half hour, drew excited crowds. Prizes included MP3 players, tickets to local events, gift certificates, luggage and many more. Attendees also had the opportunity to make their own

sundaes, sample delectable treats, take home a flower, gain useful travel tips, find a financial institution that works for them and learn about entertainment



venues as well as places to help them stay healthy, fit and stylish.

UHA and the member schools also provided a business directory and map of the UHA campus and surrounding neighborhoods to help students find what they are looking for all year round.

Students gave the event an enthusiastic thumbs-up and walked away with tingling taste buds, goodie bags full of treats and heads filled with ideas and

valuable insight about their new neighborhood.

Executive Director Peter Hughes was thrilled with the connections made between the shared campus and the business community.

“Students received a whole new perspective on what is available in their neighborhood, and

area organizations tapped four plentiful markets with one festive event. We’re looking forward to an even more successful expo next year.”

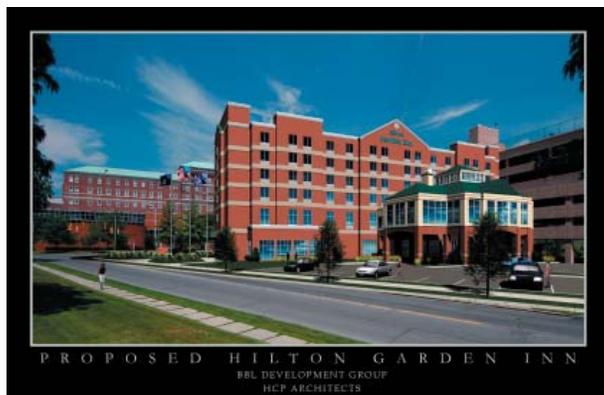
Everyone who attended this great event would echo that sentiment!

Hotel planned for University Heights

Officials from Albany Medical Center and BBL Development Group joined Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings recently to announce plans for a 126-room hotel that will cater to Albany Med patients and their families as well as visiting faculty, physicians and prospective students from each of the University Heights Association institutions.

The new facility, to be known as the Hilton Garden Inn at Albany Medical Center, will be built on an Albany Med surface parking lot at the corner of New Scotland and Holland avenues, adjacent to Albany Med’s parking garage.

The facility will include several retail shops on the ground floor, as well as a business center, conference facilities, a restaurant, indoor pool and spa, and a number of



other amenities such as high-speed Internet access in all rooms.

“This is an exciting day in the

City of Albany,” Mayor Jennings said. “This new state-of-the-art hotel will further strengthen the world-class location that has been created by Albany Medical Center and the other University Heights institutions.

“In addition, this project will leverage the redevelopment of Park South to the benefit of existing residents and businesses as well as the institutions of UHA.”

The project is expected to cost \$15 million to construct, a cost that will be borne by BBL. It is hoped that construction can begin

by the end of the year and be completed within a year.

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.

University Heights Association, Inc.
130 New Scotland Ave.
Albany, NY 12208
518/434-9603 phone
518/462-3207 fax

Peter Hughes
Executive Director

Laura Lang
Public Relations Coordinator/Office Manger
mail@universityheights.org

DID YOU KNOW ...

Sage Graduate School alum, Prudence Bushnell, former U.S. Ambassador to Kenya and Guatemala, is now dean of the Leadership and Management School at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Va.?

Live where you work

The Midtown Homeownership Program, a new benefit available to employees of the University Heights Association partners – Albany College of Pharmacy, The Sage Colleges, Albany Law School and Albany Medical College – as well as those who work at the College of St. Rose and University at Albany, will make working and living in the neighborhood a reality for participants.

Together with Citizens Bank, the six colleges will invest more than \$600,000 in homeownership assistance to help new owners enjoy Midtown's convenient location, historic character, affordability and sense of community. The Midtown neighborhood comprises portions of the Pine Hills and Delaware Avenue neighborhoods that surround the colleges.

Employer Assisted Housing grants, offered by the colleges to their full-time employees, are forgivable \$5000 loans, with no income restrictions, toward purchase of owner-occupied homes. Loans will be forgiven at a rate of 20 percent a year, providing borrowers remain employed at the college for five years following the grant. Employees should contact their Human Resources office for information.

Down Payment Assistance grants, available through Citizens Bank for part-time employees of the colleges or members of the general public, are also \$5000 forgivable loans. Mortgages must be obtained through Citizens Bank. Those interested in the program can contact Georgette Stephens at (518) 434-2532, extension 27 or steffensg@ci.albany.ny.us.



Peter Hughes, Executive Director

Thoughts from the Executive Director:

UHA continues to pursue opportunities which can provide a forum for collaborations beneficial to its institutions and the community. These collaborations focus on partnerships amongst the institutions and neighborhoods. Such is the case with the recently announced Employer Assisted Housing Program, as discussed in detail in this newsletter. Sometimes, the collaborations are geared specifically to benefit our institutions, as in the retirement series of seminars we are hosting this academic year. In October we presented a seminar on Living Wills and Health Care Proxies. Throughout the year, we will host seminars on such topics as long-term planning for those retiring in 15 or more years as well as legal issues retirees may face. We are proud to be part of these initiatives.



New faculty of the University Heights institutions mingle at a reception held August 31, 2005 at Albany Law School

www.universityheights.org

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
ASSOCIATION, INC.
130 New Scotland Ave.
Albany, N.Y. 12208-3425

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