

Retail Openings

February 11, 2011

In Chapel Hill, accessories boutique **4** opened last week at 149 E. Franklin St. UNC seniors Taylor Walters and Chelsea Crites are trying to learn about how businesses can raise awareness for local charities. 4 was started with the help of UNC advertising professor Dana McMahan and a grant. All of the proceeds go to four charities: the Ronald McDonald House of Chapel Hill, the Center for Child & Family Health in Durham, TABLE in Carrboro and The Arc of Orange County. Appropriately, 4 will be open for only four months, closing in May.

In Durham's **Northgate mall**, the **Sea of Learning** educational store moved to a larger store next to customer service. ... Nonprofit **Dress for Success**, which provides work-appropriate clothing to underprivileged women, leased a store near mall entrance No. 2 for special events and sales. ... **Something Special**, which sells work by local artisans, is relocating to the Macy's end of the mall. ... Apparel store **Gen 19** will move into the former Something Special space. ... Men's fashion store **Icon for Men** is open next to Lane Bryant. ... And women's apparel store **KISS** will open next week near the carousel.

Samuel Cole will open a salon this summer in the **Market at Colonnade**, the new Whole Foods center near Six Forks and Strickland roads. The only other tenant named for the shopping center thus far, Panera Bread, will also open in June. Whole Foods will open in March.

Retail Closings

February 11, 2011

Cross stitching and needlework store **Lazy Daizy** closed in Plantation Square in Raleigh after more than 28 years. The owner she will revamp the website to add a selection of merchandise, and she will do private consultations

In Raleigh's Stonehenge Market on Creedmoor Road in Raleigh, the **ABC** store is closed for expansion, but **Crowleys** restaurant closed permanently.

The **Westgate Deli** closed at 6405 Westgate Road in Raleigh

Wendy's at 12849 U.S. 70 E in Clayton has closed.

Retail News

February 11, 2011

In Raleigh, trendy fashion retailer **Lilly Pulitzer** is preparing to test a new store model at Raleigh's Cameron Village. The company, which is known for its bright, bold patterns and fun accessories, will be moving into the former Victoria's Secret spot on Cameron Street in May. The store will be a **Lilly Pulitzer Lifestyle Store**, the first Lilly Pulitzer store in the country to sell home and fashion items under one roof. It will be similar to stores from companies such as Anthropologie that put different kinds of merchandise in one outlet. The company's Palm Avenue store, on Daniels Street in Cameron Village, will be consolidated into the new shop. No replacement tenant has been signed yet for the Palm Avenue space. The new store will be twice the size of the existing Palm Avenue store.

Bassett Home Furnishings at 8201 Glenwood Ave. in Raleigh was renovated and reopened this week.

After years on the drawing board, plans for the **Chick-fil-A at Raleigh's Cameron Village** are finally moving toward fruition. If all goes as planned, the restaurant could open this fall. The opening would end a four-year saga for the restaurant, which is to be the country's first two-story Chick-fil-A. Along with being the first two-floor Chick-fil-A, the new restaurant will contain other features that will be new for the chain. Site plans show a 60-seat outdoor patio on the second floor of the restaurant, a two-lane drive-through and the largest kitchen ever put into a Chick-fil-A restaurant. It also features conveyor belt systems to take food from the kitchen out to the drive-through and upstairs to the second-floor dining area.

Accolades

February 9, 2011

The **Durham Performing Arts Center** has joined an elite company. According to Pollstar magazine, an entertainment trade journal, DPAC was No. 9 among U.S. theaters in 2010 ticket sales and No. 11 worldwide. That puts the 2-year old DPAC in the same league as such venerable venues as Radio City Music Hall and the Theater at Madison Square Garden, according to the Pollstar figures. Owned by the city of Durham, the 2,712-seat DPAC is the largest theater in the Carolinas and recognized as a major factor in the renaissance of downtown Durham. According to Pollstar's chart, DPAC sold 263,556 tickets. The actual total of tickets sold to DPAC events was 307,366, spokesperson Rachel Gragg said, but that includes sales for special events and shows for which the theater was leased to other groups. DPAC did not report those in its own total to Pollstar, she said. Radio City was No. 1, said Brad Rogers, Pollstar's box-office editor, with about 1.5 million tickets sold. DPAC came in just behind Detroit's Fox Theatre, which sold 292,899, and ahead of the Au-Rene Theater in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., which sold 261,082. The Belk Theater in Charlotte was the only other venue in the Carolinas to make Pollstar's top 100. With 74,896 sales, Belk was No. 66.

Jobs/Economy/Housing

February 5, 2011

Contract research firm **Health Decisions** has rebounded from a tough 2010 and anticipates hiring 60 employees this year to handle the new business it has attracted. "We are in a high-growth mode right now," said Alicia Paladin, chief operating officer and chief financial officer of the Durham company. Contract research organizations, or CROs, are hired by pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies to test the safety and efficacy of experimental drugs. Health Decisions, which has 100 employees and 18 full-time contractors, is seeking employees for sales and marketing and information technology positions as well as contract research associates and project managers. Most of the new hires will be in Durham. Paladin said the company's pay scale is "very competitive," but she didn't provide specifics.

February 10, 2011

Merck is moving ahead with ambitious hiring plans at a massive vaccine factory in Durham, with a goal of adding another 150 employees this year. The new jobs will come on top of the 230 people Merck hired last year, increasing the current total to 450. The facility is preparing to package and eventually grow vaccines to protect against chicken pox and other diseases. The company announced plans in 2004 for the campus on 262 acres in northern Durham's Treyburn Corporate Park, further reinforcing the Triangle as a hub for vaccine production. Construction on several buildings is expected to finish in 2012, and officials anticipate the factory will win full regulatory approval in 2013. In 2012, Merck will probably need to add about 100 more workers at the facility, and then hiring will probably level off. The campus includes several buildings with a total of about 650,000 square feet.

Business News

February 8, 2011

Salix Pharmaceuticals, one of the Triangle's best-performing public companies over the past year, is adding another drug to its portfolio. The Morrisville company has agreed to buy the rights to Relistor, a drug that treats constipation in patients taking pain medicines. The deal with Progenics Pharmaceuticals, based in Tarrytown, N.Y., calls for Salix to pay \$60 million up front and payments worth up to \$290million more if the drug meets development and sales milestones. Relistor had just \$16 million in worldwide sales last year, but Salix thinks the drug has the potential for peak annual sales of a billion dollars. Relistor is an injected drug used in patients taking opioid painkillers, which often cause severe constipation. Salix plans to seek regulatory approval for an oral version of the drug, and to get it approved for use by patients who have chronic, nonmalignant pain.

Investment firm **Triangle Capital** announced that it has increased the number of newly issued shares it plans to sell to the public and expects to receive \$54.8 million after deducting fees and expenses. The Raleigh company announced before the markets opened today that it has boosted the number of shares it is selling by 500,000 -- putting the total at 3 million. It also reported that the shares had been priced at \$19.25 per share. Triangle makes loans to mid-sized, privately held businesses and also takes a minority stake in its portfolio companies. It plans to use the net proceeds from the stock offering to increase the pool of capital it has to invest.

February 9, 2011

The **Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce** wants to harness the city's diversity and educated young population by promoting Durham as **the place to be for entrepreneurs**. Outlining the chamber's objectives its annual meeting today, board Chairman John Messick said a new task force plans to get the word out that Durham is a "wonderful place to start a new business." As part of the initiative, a project called the "**Durham City Start-up Stampede**" will be launched in April. Free office spaces in downtown Durham will be provided for entrepreneurs for 60 days, to give them a taste of building and operating a business here.

February 11, 2011

Quintiles, the Durham drug-research company, is getting **kudos for its worker training**. The company is No. 31 in Training magazine's annual list of 125 companies that are "unsurpassed in harnessing human capital." That's up 16 spots from last year. Companies must apply to be considered and are ranked based on factors such as total training budget, hours of training per employee annually and types of training programs.

Commercial Real Estate

February 11, 2011

The Residences at Quorum Center will auction its remaining 14 condos March 20 in the downtown Marriott. Starting bids for the condos range from \$120,000 to \$325,000. That's significantly less than the \$300,000 starting price listed on the project's website. Next month's auction will be a "reserve auction," meaning the seller reserves the right to accept or decline any bids.