

New Mid-Rise University Housing Complex to Open This Summer

By Pamela Lewis, Public Affairs

A new 306-unit, mid-rise apartment complex for students, faculty and staff of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and the UT M. D. Anderson Cancer Center will open for occupancy this summer, according to Charles Figari, vice president for Auxiliary Enterprises.

The four-story complex is located at 1885 El Paseo, just west of the UT Recreation Center, 7779 Knight Road, which also is operated by Auxiliary Enterprises. The proximity of the Rec Center, said Billy Hinton, manager of University Housing, is a significant plus for those individuals wanting to explore avenues to a healthier lifestyle.

In essence, said Figari, due to the fire during redesign construction, the Rec Center is brand new — new buildings, new exercise equipment, and brand new tennis and basketball courts. In addition, new leisure games, such as ping pong, shuffleboard, and billiards, are being added to the Rec Center amenities.

“Covered parking will be provided for residents in a garage located in the middle of the complex. Visitor parking will also be available in specified areas,” Figari explained. “Carports on the fourth floor of the garage will provide covered parking on that level. A new Commons Room, similar to the one at the UT Cambridge Apartments, also is being built.”

Each of the contemporary-styled apartments comes equipped with a stackable washer and dryer and an all-electric kitchen. “We asked for input from the students early

in the process. This input was very meaningful in determining what would be incorporated in the final design,” Figari said. “Their

requests included the elimination of upper cabinets between the kitchen and living area, for a greater feeling of openness, and floor

plans that allow for cross-ventilation during the appropriate seasons.”

The complex at 1885 El Paseo will include common green space courtyards for gatherings, a jogging track and a retention pond. There also is a city of Houston park next door, and the complex is on the UT Shuttle Bus route.

Pre-leasing has been going on for several months, with current residents in the UT Cambridge Apartments and UT students, staff and faculty given the first option to lease at the new complex. Sixty apartments have been reserved by Cambridge dwellers, opening up spots in the 7900 Cambridge complex for lease, as well. Marketing to the wider Texas Medical Center community will begin soon.

As of press time, 86 one-bedroom apartments — units 2 (\$595) and 3 (\$615) — were available. (See floor plans at <http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/housing/ElPaseo.html>.) Either a six- or 12-month lease is required, as well as a minimal application fee and a \$200 deposit. A printable application is available online at <http://ae.uth.tmc.edu/housing/1885application.doc>. Submit the application to the complex's temporary leasing office, 7900 Cambridge, Houston 77054-5500.

For questions, contact a member of what Figari calls “the greatest management staff of any apartment complex in town”: William.C.Hinton@uth.tmc.edu, Lisa.A.Sheydy@uth.tmc.edu, or Catherine.R.March@uth.tmc.edu. The leasing office telephone numbers are (713) 500-8444 (voice) and (713) 500-8448 (fax). ★



Architect's rendering of the 1885 El Paseo complex.



Construction nears completion on the new 1885 El Paseo complex. It is located just west of the UT Recreation Center. Photo by Pamela Lewis

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UT Health Science Center at Houston faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the 2005 Advances in Teaching and Learning Regional Conference.

The sixth annual conference highlighting research, innovation and technology in education will be **9 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, May 10**, at the School of Nursing and Student Community Center. Texas Medical Center area educators will cover a variety of topics in podium and poster presentations.

The conference is sponsored by the health science center's Office of Academic Affairs and the School of Health Information Sciences. Chaired by Cynthia Phelps, Ph.D., assistant professor of health informatics, the conference planning committee represents a university-wide effort.

Registration is free. For more information visit <http://www.shis.uth.tmc.edu/TeachingDay> or contact Connie.J.Tapper@uth.tmc.edu or (713) 500-3973.



Sim Man Becomes Mr. Ben

Students Shawn Coleman, Mindy LaFour, Laurie Hemphill and Elyse Parchmont, left to right, gather around the high tech mannikin that helps educate them at The University of Texas School of Nursing at Houston. The sophisticated simulated patient has been named Mr. Ben “in honor of our very special friend Ben Love,” Dean Patricia Starck, D.S.N., announced at the March 29 PARTNERS luncheon. Love, former president and chairman of Texas Commerce Bank and a longtime member of the UT Health Science Center at Houston Development Board, was honored at the luncheon, which raised more than \$460,000. The funds will complete the \$1 million PARTNERS endowment to support student scholarships and faculty research at the School of Nursing.

Photo by Jennifer Canup