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March 30, 2010

### **Kueber takes helm at Scientific Properties, Bartlett back to Self-Help**

Scientific Properties, owner of the Venable and Golden Belt complexes plus the Foster St. facility housing the restaurant Piedmont and other tenants, announced a change in leadership on Monday, with its COO heading back to Self-Help and with a familiar face to Durham's blogosphere taking the operational reins.

Tucker Bartlett has held the chief operating officer role since company president and founder Andy Rothschild decamped for New York in 2008.

But Bartlett, who previously guided commercial lending activities for Durham-based CDC/lender Self-Help -- and who was a key man in the initial funding of American Tobacco, after Self-Help stepped up when local and national banks wouldn't -- is on his way back, recruited ([per the H-S](#)) by Martin Eakes to become Self-Help's new executive VP over the non-profit's commercial lending and real estate investment portfolios.

Kueber is no stranger to central Durhamites, and was first-known for his terrific work at Endangered Durham, the blog that chronicles Durham's architectural history, from its embarrassing teardowns to the properties that have managed to be saved and preserved over the years.

Like Rothschild a physician by training, Kueber's professional interests followed his personal passion, as he left general medicine in the mid-2000s to a masters degrees in both public health and urban planning. Kueber has worked for Scientific Properties since soon after completing his graduate studies at UNC, most recently as the development manager overseeing the operations of Scientific's key redevelopments.

The change comes at a crucial time for Scientific, which has completed the redevelopment of its initial phase of properties but faces a big-gulp of new development activity ahead.

It holds site control at Heritage Square, a long-challenged strip center on an urban renewal site. Will its initial plans for redeveloping the center into a dense mixed-use center come to fruition, or be stalled by the current financial challenges -- and what role will the City's steady progress forward on Rolling Hills have in the effort?

Similarly, what's in the works for the Van Alen project, set for the old Johnson Chrysler site?

It's been one of the more talked-about sites in downtown, with the rumor mill holding out everything from a boutique inn deal with a Louisville, Ky. based hotelier, to a strong push for a corporate HQ -- with the state headquarters of AT&T purportedly lobbied to relocate to the tower.

And it's also proposed for square footage rivaling or surpassing American Tobacco, on a much-smaller site.

Of course, the Van Alen site has one very marketable amenity: it's right across Dillard St. from the new County Courthouse that has its groundbreaking tomorrow. Will that be enough to get this project moving forward?

These are just some of many challenges ahead. Scientific's press release touts a 2 million sq. ft. "pipeline" of new development, a pretty significant number when you consider that the completed Golden Belt project is only around 150,000 sq. ft.

And the next phase of Scientific's work marks a transition from redeveloping older structures into new development on urban infill sites.

We wish Kueber (whom I consider a personal friend) the best of luck in his new venture. It's great to have someone as passionate about Durham as Gary is taking the reins at Scientific.

And of course, this means whoever is chronicling Durham's architectural triumphs and raspberries fifty years from now will be able to build off Gary's groundbreaking work in two very distinct and different ways.

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Well deserved promotion for Gary. Good news on many levels.

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This is really nice to read Gary. All the best with this new position. Your passion for historic preservation is right on target. Thanks for the contributions you've made, and thanks in advance for the contributions you will make!

Myers

Posted by: Myers Sugg | [March 30, 2010 at 10:01 AM](#)



Great news for Gary, Scientific and Durham. Well deserved and congrats to all.

Posted by: Aaron | [March 30, 2010 at 10:11 AM](#)

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