



Celebrity Chef Mai Pham Visits UAlbany

Mai Pham, celebrity chef, author and entrepreneur, brought her culinary skills and passion to the UAlbany campus this April for a meet/greet book signing and expertly crafted lunch. Ten student contest winners and the first thirty patrons who attended the event received an autographed copy of Mai's book entitled, "Pleasures of the Vietnamese Table."

The menu for the event included delicately flavored grilled lemongrass coconut chicken, oven roasted tofu with sweet onions, tomato lime leaf sambal, steamed Asian greens with shitake mushrooms, pineapple cucumber salad, fragrant jasmine rice with pandan and Thai iced tea.



Mai's visit to UAlbany was intended to get the campus community excited about her Star Ginger concept, which will open at the University's Campus Center once construction is complete in Fall 2017. "We were delighted to welcome Mai Pham to campus. Star Ginger promises to be a popular venue for the UAlbany community. Our students have requested more authentic Asian options and we want to deliver on that request," said University Auxiliary Services' Executive Director Stephen Pearse.

The event was well received by all who attended. "The Vietnamese luncheon was delicious and a memorable one for me," commented Professor Stephen Howe, a longtime fan of Mai and a recipient of an autographed cookbook.

After lunch Mai toured the construction site with Steve Pearse and seemed pleased with the progress and the location. “I am thrilled about opening Star Ginger at UAlbany,” stated Mai while she walked through the site. “The community here has been incredibly welcoming. Asian cuisine will be a perfect fit.”

When construction is complete, the campus will have 20+ retail dining locations. In addition to Mai’s Asian cuisine, other ethnic options under consideration include Indian, Caribbean, and Mexican.

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