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NEWS RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON PLANS TO CONSTRUCT MORE STUDENT HOUSING, EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF WIRELESS NETWORK

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton is moving forward with plans to build four student duplexes, purchase an apartment building and install a proposed wireless network to accommodate upperclass students next fall with housing and high-speed Internet access.

The duplexes, which will cost approximately \$2 million and involve no demolition of existing properties, will be built in the south student neighborhood, where UD has constructed four similar student residences since 1994. The new houses will accommodate up to 48 students. UD officials hope to have the duplexes ready for occupancy in August. The University is finalizing the purchase of an apartment building on Irving Avenue. It will be renovated and provide space for another 23 students.

Faced with record applications and larger-than-expected first-year classes each of the last three years, the University of Dayton has been steadily increasing the amount of housing it can provide to students. Last year, on a fast-track design-build construction schedule, UD built the \$6.75 million, three-story Lawnview Apartments to house 165 juniors and seniors. On the drawing board: a Living and Learning Arts Center with a proposed visual arts gallery, a small theatre, a cafe, rehearsal rooms, studios and housing for 80 students.

"If the traditional number of students request housing for next fall, the University of Dayton will be able to accommodate all upperclass students who desire to live in UD housing," said William Schuerman, vice president of student development and dean of students.

"However, next fall's junior class was the first class required to purchase a computer, and

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students have enjoyed high-speed access to UD's computer network and the Internet. We anticipate greater demand for University housing because of the high-speed connection and other services that are available. That's why we're also exploring the feasibility of installing a wireless network in the neighborhoods to provide network access to students in private rental properties."

The University is accepting proposals from vendors and is expected to make a decision about a wireless network by January. The technology would be available by next fall. Besides the campus neighborhoods, UD is exploring installing the wireless network in the Roesch Library and Kennedy Union.

Current students typically make their housing selections for the next academic year in February. That's when UD holds its annual housing lottery. Students participate online, are assigned a priority number by lottery, select the house, apartment or residence hall room of their choice and receive an instant confirmation. First-year students are automatically assigned to traditional residence halls.

Few private universities in the country house as many students as UD. According to the National Association of College and University Housing Officers, UD ranks 14th nationally among private universities in housing capacity.

Currently UD can provide housing to 5,327 of its approximately 6,600 full-time undergraduate student body. The rest either commute or live in private rental houses and apartments.