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Renovations Continue Despite Economy

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As part of the University of Dayton's master plan to build and modernize student facilities, the University will perform \$15.2 million worth of renovations this summer to two residence halls — Stuart and Virginia W. Kettering.

These two halls, which house 1,268 students, are in the midst of a university-wide, five-year, \$42.5-million renovation to residence halls. The University already has completed a \$20 million renovation to the Marycrest residence facility and nearly \$6 million worth of renovations to the

Virginia W. Kettering and Campus South residence facilities.

Since local contractors have been hired for all of the projects, the University is helping the Dayton region weather the economic downturn.

During University of Dayton President Daniel J. Curran's seven-year tenure, the University has invested more than \$100 million on the construction of new residence facilities — Marianist Hall, ArtStreet and houses in the student neighborhood — in addition to the renovations. The University also built the \$25.3 million RecPlex.

"This is an investment in our distinctive learning-living environment," Curran said. "The University is fiscally sound and moving forward based on strong enrollment, record research and strong financial management."

The latest renovations, financed by University funds and bonds, include upgrades to elevators, air conditioning, windows, restrooms and central gathering areas and space for Campus Ministry, and installation of new drywall, carpet, ceilings and lighting. The overall goal is to "provide as comfortable and welcoming an environment as possible for our students," according to Leslie Groesbeck, University of Dayton director of planning and construction management.

The University will complete upgrades to Virginia W. Kettering Hall in August. It will finish upgrades to Stuart Hall in summer 2010.

Dayton, Ohio-based Ferguson Construction Company is performing the upgrades to Stuart and Virginia W. Kettering halls. About 90 Ferguson employees are working on the projects, according to Douglas L. Fortkamp, Ferguson Construction vice president of operations. He added that Ferguson Construction has issued almost 30 subcontracts to local companies for these projects, keeping the work in the Dayton region.

"We are excited the University of Dayton chose Ferguson to be a part of these projects. Ferguson shares the University's commitment to utilize resources within the Dayton region and contribute to the local economy," said Martin L. Given, president of Ferguson Construction.

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