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Construction Will Feed Students' Minds, Bodies

08.12.2008 | Campus and Community, Students This summer's University of Dayton construction projects will help feed the minds and bodies of the students, and help keep the environment healthy.

A \$4.7 million renovation to Marycrest residence hall includes new dining options — international cuisine and specialty coffee. The intention of the dining room renovations is to give the area more of a restaurant feel, according to Kathy Gerardi, project manager for the Marycrest renovation. Plus, food service now will be available through the day and late into the evening.

Marycrest — home to nearly 900 students — also received a new look for its first two floors. Changes include a new chapel and sacristy, new meeting rooms, new offices for campus ministry, residence education and residential properties; new restrooms, a new front desk and new lobby furniture.

These renovations completed a total of \$25 million in Marycrest upgrades during the past three years that also included remodeled rooms for students.

To help the environment, UD built the first of three planned rain gardens. Rain gardens collect, retain and absorb water runoff from surrounding surfaces, acting as a natural filter so that when the rainwater enters a storm sewer or stream, it's clean.

Marycrest isn't the only UD residence hall with a new look. Crews also completed the first phase of a nearly \$3 million renovation of Virginia W. Kettering residence hall. The work included new finishes in the main lobby and some corridors, fire suppression systems and roof repairs.

Elsewhere on campus, the athletics practice facility and Kettering Labs received new façades and two of UD's main parking lots received new pavement.

Work continues on the design process for the renovation and expansion of the Immaculate Conception Chapel; its committee and advisory board met throughout the summer to assess needs, guide the design and ensure that the renovation balances the spiritual, sacramental and practical needs of the campus community.

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