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**UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON TO BUILD APARTMENT-STYLE RESIDENTIAL FACILITY
TO ACCOMMODATE SURGE IN UNDERGRADUATE ENROLLMENT**

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton will begin fast-track construction in May of a \$6.75 million residential apartment facility at the corner of Lawnview Avenue and Lowes Street in the south student neighborhood.

The project, part of an estimated \$90 million long-range redevelopment plan for UD's north and south student neighborhoods between now and 2030, is on an accelerated 10-month pace for completion to accommodate a surge in undergraduate enrollment, according to Brother Bernard J. Ploeger, S.M., senior vice president for administration.

Groundbreaking is tentatively slated for May 17. Completion is expected in April 2000.

The four-story brick building, similar in architectural style to the Virginia W. Kettering Residence Hall on campus, will house 165 juniors and seniors in mostly four-person apartments, complete with fully furnished kitchens and built-in computer workstations in the bedrooms. Other amenities in the building will include a multi-purpose room for meetings and programs. Four UD-owned houses will be torn down to make way for the residential facility.

The executive committee of UD's board of trustees approved initiation of construction and selected Miller-Valentine Group as construction manager. UD will seek tax-exempt bonds to finance the construction, according to Ploeger.

"I don't think that it's any secret that the University of Dayton has a pressing need for additional housing for upperclass students. The design-build process we're using will allow for fast-track approvals and a compressed design, bidding and construction schedule that could save up to six months," said Michael Greitzer, director of business development for Miller-Valentine Group. One of the area's leading commercial real estate developers and contractors, Miller-Valentine Group has built a variety of facilities in the Dayton area, including

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the Wright Executive Center, Park Center, Lincoln Park Retirement Center and Nursing Home and the Beaver Creek Towne Center.

Facing an increased housing demand by juniors this fall, UD administrators have reassigned houses and apartments from graduate to undergraduate housing and reserved apartments for 48 students in Irving Commons near campus. UD enrolled 1,817 students last fall, the largest first-year class in nearly 30 years, and has received a record number of applications for this fall's entering class. In 1997, UD enrolled 1,635 first-year students, a 4 percent increase over 1996.

The new residential facility is part of numerous in-the-works or proposed projects for the campus neighborhoods. UD broke ground on three duplexes on Kiefaber Street this past fall. The connection of 350 houses in a 25-block area to the campus network through a high-speed fiber-optic link will be completed in July. Other plans for the next five years include construction of a Living and Learning Arts Complex, expansion of Founders Field, creation of a small park called the "Village Green" and replacement of some of the older single-family homes with new single and duplex houses.

"We're carefully charting a course to preserve the area's characteristic architecture, community and vitality while at the same time providing quality housing and enhancing UD's environment for learning," said Ploeger, a longtime resident of one of the Marianist communities in the neighborhood.

About 83 percent of UD's undergraduates live in University housing, and another 9 percent reside in private landlord housing.

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