

July 18, 2008

Blake Hall major renovation and expansion completed for fall 2008

Residential Life is pleased to announce the reopening of the newly renovated and expanded Blake Hall for fall 2008! This \$12.3 million construction project included the major renovation of Blake's existing 4-story wing, and the construction of a new adjoining 3-story wing. The newly remodeled wing is home to the new Agriculture Residential College, housing 166 Agriculture students, and the new adjoining wing is home to the new BIOShere Freshmen Interest Group (FIG), housing 97 students majoring in the Basic Sciences. The renovation and expansion of Blake Hall is part of Residential Life's Housing Master Plan, and it joins the Engineering and Business Residential College as the newest residence halls on campus.

On the Agriculture side of Blake, the renovations included the complete remodeling of all the hall bathrooms and bedrooms, new electrical wiring, new heating and air conditioning system, a new fire sprinkler and fire alarm system, new ceiling tiles and light fixtures throughout, carpeting in the hallways, new floor tiles in the bedrooms, new wall treatments, and updated data/phone/cable TV service to each room. The rooms are the hall bath configuration with a vanity sink in each room. On the BIOSphere FIG side of Blake, the rooms have suite bathrooms that are nearly identical to those in the new Residential College buildings. With the exception of the suite bathrooms, all other features in these rooms are identical to those on the Agriculture side.

Each student will have the following moveable furniture in his/her room; a loftable bed (adjustable from 12" to 57" off of the floor), a desk with a detached and movable drawer pedestal, a desk chair, a chest of drawers, and a large wardrobe. All the rooms have a vanity sink with storage underneath, new energy efficient windows with encased window blinds, as well as central air conditioning and heat with adjustable thermostats.

Blake Hall's renovated common areas all have wireless connectivity, and include a new 24-hour front desk and foyer, a beautifully furnished lounge overlooking Campus Lake, study/lounge areas and study rooms on each floor, a computer lab, and a state-of-the-art multi-media classroom where students will attend classes without leaving the building. There are also on-site faculty offices where students can meet with their faculty advisor right in the building. The students will also enjoy a fully modern kitchen with two ovens, ample counter and cupboard space, tables, chairs, ice and vending machines. Adjacent to the kitchen is a modern laundry facility with machines that will text students when their laundry is finished. There is also an on-site apartment and office for the Residential Life Coordinator that oversees student activities and helps resolves students' issues. Blake Hall is completely ADA accessible, with ramps, an elevator, and rooms for 18 disabled students.

We look forward to the arrival of Blake's 260+ students who will enjoy this newly remodeled facility and the two new Living and Learning programs housed at Blake Hall.