

**March 30, 2009**

### **Renovations to West Laville Hall**

Res Life is pleased to report that renovations to West Laville Hall are well under way! Passersby may notice that the grounds and buildings are now teeming with construction contractor activity. The work being done to West Laville is extensive; a top to bottom, inside and out renovation, similar to what was recently completed to the four-story wing of Blake Hall.

The renovations of West Laville are the first phase of a two-phase, four-year project that will completely renovate the Honors House complex, including West and East Laville Halls, and the courtyard area that connects them. The first phase is West Laville which is currently under way, and is scheduled to be completed for fall 2010, returning 300 renovated student spaces to our housing inventory. East Laville Hall will immediately follow with construction scheduled to start in summer 2010 with scheduled completion in fall 2012. Improvements to the Laville courtyard area, as well as an infill area connecting the two buildings will be completed at the same time as the East Laville renovations. The project architects are Hanbury, Evans, Wright & Vlattas Architects, and Bani, Carville and Brown Architects, Inc. The construction contract was awarded to M.D. Descant, Inc. in December, and work began in January.

With more than 50 percent of the single student housing on campus being renovated or new construction in the last ten years, Residential Life is committed to completing its master plan to modernize its remaining facilities and make them more energy efficient. In West Laville Hall, all hazardous materials are being removed. All existing windows and doors will be replaced with new, more energy efficient ones. The window air conditioners will be replaced with a central air conditioning and heating system with individual room control. All the mechanical systems in the building will be replaced, as well as the electrical wiring, lights, and electrical components. New suspended ceilings will be installed in the hallways and common areas, as well as accent lighting in the hallways. In addition to the aesthetic improvements, these changes will provide an estimated 15 percent energy savings.

In the student rooms, data ports will be upgraded to category 6 high speed internet connections, with one data port per bed. Additionally, all student rooms and common areas will also have high speed wireless Internet connectivity. Each room will be furnished with new moveable furniture, including a loftable bed, desk, chair, file drawers and a chest of drawers for each student in the room.

There will also be many improvements and additions to student common areas. Nicely furnished lounges and study spaces will be added to each floor. A large central student lounge, recreation room, coin/card laundry, computer lab, and a full-sized kitchen will be also be added. On-site faculty offices and seminar rooms are also being built. Security will also be improved. Card access will be returned to exterior doors and all interior doors will be secured with a card access system. A new fire alarm system with fully automatic fire sprinkler systems is also being installed.

Throughout the building, all interior surfaces will either be replaced, or repaired and painted. Improvements to the floors include installing ceramic tile on the lobby floors, carpet tiles in the hallways, and vinyl tile in the student rooms. All of the elevators in the building will be replaced. Many improvements will be made to bring the building to full compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA) including wheelchair ramps, wheelchair accessible showers and bathrooms, and the addition of several ADA rooms. All of the hall bathrooms will be completely replaced and upgraded, including sinks, fixtures, showers, floor and wall tiles, lighting fixtures, and mirrors.

The landscaping surrounding the building will all be new. With the building exteriors that were recently cleaned and waterproofed, West Laville, the new home to the Honors House, will look like a new building inside and out!