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Living is Easy: Students Enjoy New On-Campus Apartments

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The roar of power saws and the clatter of hammer has given way to an exciting new development for UB Law School: newly built apartment-style housing dedicated solely for the use of law students.

"Having a feeling of community is so important whether you are a first-year undergrad or a graduate student," says Alyson C. Wutz '04, who recently became a tenant.

In the new Flint Village complex situated near the old football stadium, two buildings with a total of 80 beds have been reserved for a "Law School Village." The initiative marks the first time the Law School has offered such housing, and it is the first UB professional school to do so.

"They are great apartments," said Dean Nils Olsen.

"It is our initial effort to develop affordable apartment-style housing on campus. Our first-year students in particular have expressed strong interest. It's a wonderful opportunity to live in housing connected to the campus.

"There are only three law schools in New York State that have residences for their students — Cornell, NYU and Columbia. But they have dormitories, not apartments. We are fully aware that our students are adults, and they have outgrown dorms. I think we are going to do well."

Olsen also said he expects that Law School-specific services, such as computer labs and tutoring programs, will be incorporated as the student population in the apartments reaches a critical mass.

The apartments will be divided among first-, second- and third-year students, and are a mixture of one-bedroom and two-bedroom styles. Besides their convenient location — just a short walk from O'Brien Hall (closer than many parking lots, some note) — they feature several amenities including wiring for Internet access, cable television and laundry facilities. All the apartments are fully furnished, and utilities are included.

"This is an exciting pilot project, UB's first experiment in group living for our graduate and professional students," said UB President William R. Greiner. "On-campus housing for designated groups of UB undergraduate students — such as Honors, Engineering and Leadership — has been a resounding success, and we are equally optimistic that our law students will re-
spond enthusiastically to this great opportunity, our latest effort to make UB a truly residential community."

"The Law School wanted to do two things: attract students to the University and the Law School who might not otherwise come, and provide quality on-campus housing with a Law School focus," said Dennis R. Black, UB's vice president of student affairs. He said the UB Law apartment buildings will feature study rooms that could be used as small classrooms, and he sees the possibility of a small law library and other Law School-specific features.

Clifford B. Wilson, associate vice president for student affairs and associate vice president for auxiliary services, said the entire Flint Village complex comprises nine two-story buildings plus a shared community building, with space for about 600 occupants. This is the fourth apartment complex the University has built, he said.

The two buildings set aside for UB Law students, he said, are on the west side of Flint Road, separate from the rest of the complex.

Each apartment, he said, includes a living room, a kitchen, a bath and one or two bedrooms. The rent compares favorably with the Amherst market: $555 monthly for a single, $490 for a double with one bath, $525 for a double with two baths. Those figures, he said, cover operating costs and all utilities, including campus phone, computer access and cable television, as well as debt service on the building.

"This certainly is something we have been looking forward to, particularly to be able to offer not only prospective students but also people currently enrolled," said Jack D. Cox, the Law School's associate dean for admissions and financial aid.

"Many of the men and women we speak to every year ask about housing opportunities on campus. For example, many potential students from New York City have no automobile, so living off campus presents a difficulty.

"These apartments will be a wonderful benefit to us. We are delighted to be at the forefront of graduate programs taking advantages of the housing opportunities now available to us."

A "virtual tour" of the apartments is available at www.ub-housing.buffalo.edu/flintvillage.shtml.

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Site plans, apartment floor plans and a 24/7 video cam are also available at the Flint Village Web site.