

# BARRY SAYS BYE TO HOLLY HOUSE APARTMENTS...

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Ready or not, come fall semester, off campus Holly House Apartments will no longer be available for Barry student housing. Built in 1968, the 57-unit apartment building at 11950 Northeast Second Avenue has been a part of Barry's resident housing since the new millennium.

First opposed to the idea of living off main campus, sophomore LaQuontae Wright said that living at Holly House essentially gave him a better sense of independence.

"Having a kitchen and being able to cook when I want to and getting away from campus has been an overall positive experience," he said.

However, according to Housing and Residence Life, this past school year, out of all residence halls, Holly House has received the most amount of complaints and discontent from students with regard to maintenance, indoor air quality, the commute to the main campus, safety and security and other problem areas. For instance, Wright also mentioned that out of the entire apartment building, there are only four washers and dryers available—and most of the time, one or more of them are not working properly.

Even with renovations in mind, Barry's President Sister Linda Bevilacqua, student government, board of trustees and Department of Student Affairs ultimately decided on selling the Holly House property to offset the \$8.6 million budget gap.

## So, how does this affect Barry residents?

Due to an overall decrease in occupancy over the last couple of years, Barry does have the available space to accommodate

all incoming, returning, and transfer students. For instance, Browne Hall, Mottram Doss Hall and Flood Hall will all be assigned as double-shared rooms in the fall for upper class returning students, instead of the current single-shared layout for graduate students. The single rooms in Sage Hall will also be doubles this fall.

Meanwhile, graduate residents are getting an upgrade—but that's not all that's going up. Administration has decided that graduate residents will be relocated from single-shared rooms in Flood Hall and MD Hall to single-private rooms with their own private bathrooms in Kolasa Hall and Benincasa Halls.

However, with housing upgrades and privacy, graduate residents will also have to pay the higher housing rate of \$4,605—meal plan not included—for a single-private room, which is almost \$300 more than what they would pay for a single-shared.

Although Barry does not have an official graduate housing program, improvements in graduate residency options were long overdue.

"So far, living on campus has been a step down from when I was an undergrad," said Blaine Duncan, graduate resident pursuing his MBA. "As an undergrad, I stayed in Dominican Hall, which was the best option in my opinion. Even then I got to choose which hall I wanted to live in."

Duncan explained that he was never given an option of where he wanted to live before being assigned to Sage Hall, a freshmen/overflow residence hall.

Graduate resident Ryan Baldwin, also pursuing an MBA, but with a focus in finance, agreed with Duncan yet admits that graduate housing at Barry seems to have a quieter and calmer atmosphere compared to undergraduate housing.

"In graduate housing, most residents

just focus on getting their work done, and do not tend to mingle with their neighbors as much," said Baldwin. "Though, personally, I liked undergraduate housing much better. To me, it had much more of a community feel, and I believe that is the way college should be."

Meghan Junor, associate director of business services in the department of housing, residence life and student conduct, reassured graduate residents via email that when they are applying for housing, they can communicate their preference in room location or floor for Benincasa or Kolasa Hall.

Although the housing application does not specifically ask for room location preference, Junor has notified students that if they would like special accommodations, they can personally reach out and discuss the situation with her.

"I will be living alone next semester anyway, but if I were moving back to campus and had to room with someone, I don't think I would like it," said Wright, who is going to be a resident assistant next semester on campus.

Room selection has even been pushed back until the last week of April this year, the week before finals, to allow as many students as possible to get registered and be able to participate in the room selection process.

In the past, the deadline for room selections at the beginning of April stood as a barrier for many students in getting a room and roommates of their choice because it did not give students enough time.

Barry's undergraduates and graduate students have continued to express a variety of mixed opinions and concerns about these changes.

"It's hard finding roommates that you can actually vibe with and I've been lucky enough to have it happen twice, I don't

think I would be lucky enough to have it happen a third time," Wright said.

Junior advertising major Derrick Brown, who currently lives in a single-private room, also believes that this change is unfair and will cause confusion by combining undergraduate and graduate residents in the same buildings.

"I feel just a preliminary email without asking students how they feel about this is ludicrous. In the end, it will do Barry an injustice because some students will not want to do shared living for their entire college experience," he said.

Brown thinks housing officials should think of fall semester as a trial period.

"There is just not enough space, but if they say there is, then I say let's just wait and see," said Brown. "[We'll] give this a trial period for the fall and if it doesn't work, then they should return to the previous living conditions where graduates and undergraduates live in separate dorms."

Duncan, on the contrary, sees the bright side.

"I believe that Barry is taking a step in the right direction allowing graduates to live in Beni and Kolasa next year. Being closer to Landon and the athletic activities will help me out a lot."

Junor's advice to all residents, now, is to ensure that they fill out their FAFSA, get registered for fall housing, which has been open since March 15, sign their housing application and start to form their roommate groups if they want to have roommates.

Junor also encourages undergraduates who would like a single-private room to still apply for one; although they are limited, they do still have a chance to get the room they would like if they complete all housing requirements on time.

# ...MEANWHILE, GRADUATE RESIDENTS GET AN UPGRADE