

Ram sees high retention rate

Applications will be turned away

BY MEGAN HANNAY
STAFF WRITER

After a successful first year for Ram Village Apartments, officials say this year not everyone who wants a spot in the South Campus apartments will get one.

"We expect more applications than we have space for," said Rick Bradley, assistant director for the Department of Housing and Residential Education.

Applications were due Jan. 31, and recontracting also has concluded, with 136 students requesting their current Ram Village apartments. Another 166 requested to change apartments within the complex, Bradley said. Many students have not recontracted because they are graduating seniors.

That leaves about 600 spaces — about two-thirds the total capacity — open to students not now living in Rams Village.

The majority of apartments in Ram Village are four-bedroom (161 out of 253).

Last year, more than 700 students applied for these leftover spots.

"(Living in Ram Village) is just really convenient," said junior Bryan Ching, who recontracted in Ram Village for next year. "We were contemplating living off-campus, but it's easier to keep in touch with friends here."

Seniors, followed by juniors, are given first priority. Sophomores are selected by a lottery, and spots are not set aside for freshmen.

To deal with the demand last year, officials assigned four-bedroom apartments to students who wanted one-, two- or three-bedroom apartments but did not get them.

That meant some applicants landed apartments with strangers.

"Some people wouldn't be happy with this," Bradley said.

The process is different this year. Students will meet with housing officials on Feb. 4, 5 and 7 to choose their residence.

But officials said although most apartments are being reserved by groups of three, four or six students, there are still a number of spaces for those willing to go pot-luck and room with people they do not know.

With this new system, those who don't get the Ram Village apartment they want now have more time to search for other living arrangements. Open-campus recontracting begins Feb. 28.

"Now students can make their own decisions much sooner," Bradley said.

Junior Heather Jackson, who recontracted for Ram Village, said the process was very simple. "I was a little confused about whether I had to pay my fee," she said.

All students living on campus next year must pay a \$200 housing deposit by March 1, regardless of when they recontract.

"It's a prepayment toward the semester rent," Bradley said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

Granville offers gym, dining hall

BY MARY COLE ALLEN
STAFF WRITER

For students looking beyond dorms, Granville Towers offers a UNC-students-only alternative.

Granville Towers, located at 125 W. Franklin St., is only a few minutes from classes and offers residents some conveniences that on-campus housing does not.

Erin Angel, marketing director at Granville, said Granville Towers is the "place to be at UNC."

"Students can request a tower, floor and room if they choose," Angel said.

She added that Granville provides options for theme housing including an academic floor and a substance-free wellness floor.

And availability is rarely an issue at Granville Towers, Angel said.

The complex can house up to 1,300 students, most of whom are freshmen and sophomores.

Granville is a little more expensive than on-campus housing, but the meal plan is included and air conditioning is guaranteed.

A double room costs between \$3,500 and \$4,000 a semester, depending on the meal plan.

On-campus doubles cost \$1,980 a semester without air conditioning and \$2,525 with air conditioning, but meal plans aren't included.

Rick Bradley, assistant director of information and communication for the Department of Housing and Residential Education, said Granville is much different than other off-campus housing because it only houses UNC students.

"I like Granville for the most part," said sophomore David Hall, an East Tower resident who lived in South Tower last year. "Otherwise I would not have lived here for two years."

The Agora, an on-site dining facility, is one of the most popular selling points of Granville, Angel said.

Sophomore Ian Livingston said the food at The Agora is much different than the on-campus meal plan he had last year.

"I lived on South Campus my freshman year, and the biggest difference is the food. The Agora is definitely better," Livingston said.

Granville also boasts various amenities such as suite-style living arrangements, on-site parking, an exercise facility, outdoor pool and

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DAVID HALL, UNC SOPHOMORE

weekly housekeeping. Freshman Amanda Karam, of East Tower, said she chose Granville because she knew she would get air conditioning and The Agora.

She attended the N.C. School of Science and Math, where she lived in a dorm for two years.

"While I was at Science and Math, I didn't have the nicest living experience," Karam said. "When I got to Carolina I still wanted to live in a dorm but one I would enjoy."

Karam said the only thing she doesn't like about Granville is that the halls can get noisy at times.

"The boys on my hall play video games 24/7," she said.

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