

Information on GW's Renovation of The Aston - September, 2007

GW's recently approved 20-year Foggy Bottom Campus Plan includes a number of commitments made by the University to respond to community concerns. One of these commitments is a timeline for the transition of properties outside the campus plan boundaries to uses other than undergraduate residence halls by dates certain. Just as the Hall on Virginia Avenue (HOVA) is being used as graduate student housing for the second year in a row, GW is now moving forward to renovate the Aston (1129 New Hampshire Avenue, NW) and transition the use of this building to housing for law school students. The building most recently housed 114 senior students living in single unit apartments.

The Aston renovation project will involve extensive repairs and renovation including upgrades to the existing life safety systems; replacement of the building's elevators; and the renovation and/or replacement of HVAC systems, corridor light fixtures, exit doors and certain components of the electrical system. The project will commence this fall and will be completed by August 15, 2008. It will involve activities such as demolition, drilling of floor slabs, and general construction, which will result in significant amounts of dust, noise and vibration.

While GW owns the Aston and has housed undergraduate students in the building since 1996, there are five units at the Aston that remain occupied by long time residents and neighbors. GW has been working since spring 2007 to inform these residents of the extensive nature of the repairs and renovations that will take place over the next year and has offered to temporarily relocate these residents during the renovation project (at GW's expense) with the understanding that these residents would return to the building upon completion of the renovations and would continue to live in the building going forward. These residents have elected to remain in their units during the construction period.

While this building is under construction the University will continue its outreach to these residents and will have representatives from its Community Relations and Real Estate staff visit the Aston regularly to address issues of concern. There also will be a GW project manager overseeing the construction project who will be onsite regularly. If you have questions regarding this project, the University's outreach on this project or any other campus plan or campus development related issue, please contact the Office of Real Estate at 202.994.1700. Media inquiries should be directed to Tracy Schario at tschario@gwu.edu or 202-994-3566.