



participates in a Discovery Seminar Program. This is an optional program, open only to first-term students, which offers three-credit-hour courses that have no more than 25 students in each class and are taught by some of UK's most prestigious professors. Covert participates in the seminar, "Trends in Pop/Rock Music and Culture," with the other students on her floor. This class, taught by Kevin Holm-Hudson, meets twice a week in the dorm and discusses the history of rock 'n' roll. Although she comes to the class directly from another class on campus, it's very convenient for other students who are already in the dorm.

"A lot of people take a nap and then come downstairs in their pajamas," she said.

Covert said that the students on her floor also like to meet on Monday night and dine together. "It's really fun," Covert said.

Covert said she knows that she will benefit from the Living/Learning Fine Arts community simply by being surrounded by the other artists in her building — not just other musicians.

"I can draw inspiration from other people's art," she said. Some of the other students participating in the community include individuals majoring in creative writing and art studio, as well as vocal majors.

Covert said that an amenity that she and the other students are enjoying in New North Dorm is a baby grand piano in one of the lounges.

"I love living here and I would certainly recommend it to others," she said.

Been There; Done That

Covert's mother, Connie Covert, works at UK in the Taylor Education Building with "First Steps," Kentucky's early intervention system for infants and toddlers with disabilities. Even though her immediate family lives in Lexington, she says, she never thought — not even for

By the Numbers

At a total cost of \$46 million, the halls were financed through university housing and dining bonds. Ground was broken on the new facilities in September 2003. The new dorms meet the demand for on-campus housing due to the university's rapid growth. This year approximately 5,800 students have chosen to live in residence halls.

All four of the dorms are co-ed, with a common sitting area. The four facilities provide over 271,000 square feet of residential space and 684 beds, all configured in a suite-style format with every two rooms forming a four-person suite. Each floor of residential space houses a full kitchen, laundry facilities and two study areas. Each hall also contains a fully wired classroom that can seat up to 30 students; wireless data connections in all common areas; a faculty office; large lounge areas; 50-inch televisions with DVD players and special sound systems; and security cameras and door access controls. In addition, the three halls on south campus include gas fireplaces. Ingels and New North also contain a two-bedroom faculty apartment.



Photo: Linda Perry

Top -20 Housing

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in front of Baldwin Hall to open UK's four new dorms this fall. UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. said the new residence halls represent the first of several undergraduate initiatives that will be unveiled as part of a yearlong focus on undergraduate education at the University of Kentucky.

"We wanted to give our top-20 students, top-20 housing," UK President Lee T. Todd Jr. said. "We've succeeded. These halls are part of our overall strategy to have more students living on campus. We feel that on-campus living is an integral part of the collegiate experience.

"It is no secret that students who live on campus have better access to our libraries; are able to participate in the Living/Learning communities; have increased opportunities for social events; and better access to faculty and tutors. All these factors result in higher classroom success and improved graduation rates," Todd said.