

THE RETURN OF VENTRESS HALL

Historic building back in shape



ROBERT JORDAN/UM



BRUCE NEWMAN

The foyer (TOP) leads to offices on the first and second floors of Ventress Hall, while new offices (BELOW) were added on the second floor.

Ventress Hall on the University of Mississippi campus illuminated at night.

College of Liberal Arts is back home

BY ALYSSA SCHNUGG
Staff Writer

When Dean Glenn Hopkins entered Ventress Hall to go into the office on a November Sunday afternoon, he didn't expect to find anyone there to greet him and he certainly didn't expect to find what did greet him — about 6 inches of water on the first floor of the historic building on the campus of the University of Mississippi.

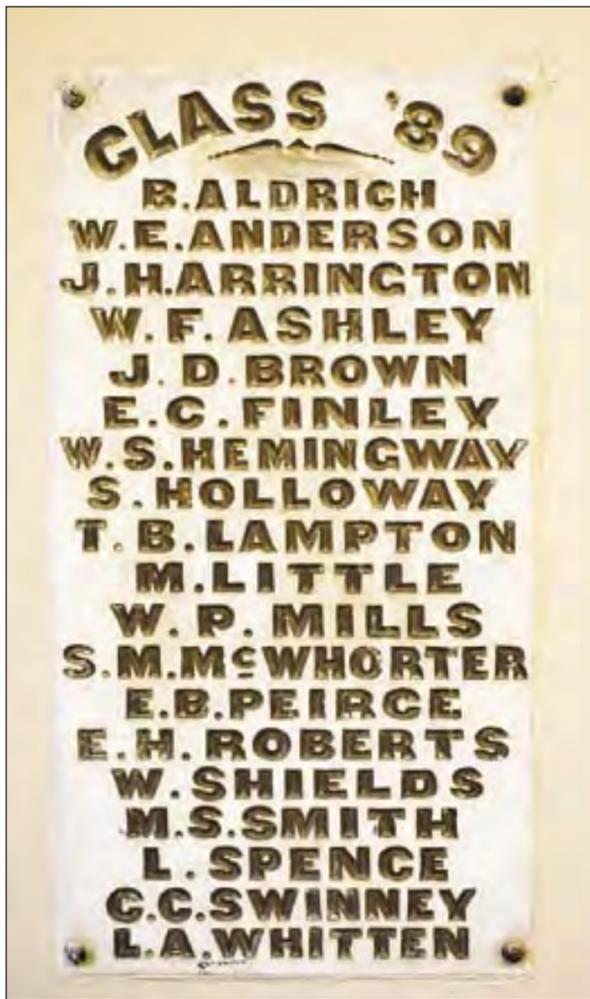
The building, built in 1889, had its water pipes in the attic. The Thursday before, a leak had caused some concern and maintenance crews were called in. "They stopped the leak at that point," Hopkins said Wednesday, sitting in his office inside the newly renovated Ventress Hall. "The pipe broke sometime after that and the water had been running for about 48 hours."

The ceilings were bowing down, about to cave in. The wooden floors were soaked and swollen, as well as several walls where the water ran down. The College of Liberal Arts was moved into Lester Hall so repairs could be made.

That was in November 2011 and renovations didn't begin until last summer. Two weeks ago, Hopkins and his staff were able to move back home.

"It's great to be back in the center of campus and where we have enough room for our staff and a conference room at our disposal," Hopkins said.

His office on the second floor was repainted but



BRUCE NEWMAN

A marker in the foyer recognizes members of the Class of 1889.

escaped any major damage. Most of the heavy damage was on the first floor and in the attic. The biggest job during construction was to move all of the water pipes out of the attic and into the basement so what happened in 2011 would never happen again.

Other work included the repair and painting of the walls, fixing the ceilings and

floors, rebuilding the elevator and adding additional office space on the second floor.

Part of the challenge for the construction crew was to meet the standards of renovations of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

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Oxford welcomes Dr. Darrell Sneed and Dr. Charles Allen Laney.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Ventress Hall in 1975.

University Museum unveils Faulkner Traveling Trunk

Trunk offers resources to aid classrooms, community groups

BY UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The University Museum is offering a new Traveling Trunk based on the life and work of William Faulkner. The William Faulkner/Rowan Oak trunk, eighth in a series of educational trunks available to the schools and other groups, will be unveiled during a presentation Thursday at the museum.

The event, which runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m., is free and open to the public.

This trunk includes classroom sets (35) of two Faulkner short stories, "Barn Burning" and "A Rose for Emily," and is the first trunk designed specifically for high school students. The highlight of the trunk is a 1918 typewriter that is similar to one used by Faulkner.

"The Museum's Traveling Trunk program has expanded its reach exponentially over the past year, and we are excited to provide more offerings for high school teachers," said Emily Dean, the museum's curator of education. "The William Faulkner/



The William Faulkner/Rowan Oak trunk, eighth in a series of educational trunks available to the schools and other groups, will be unveiled during a presentation Thursday at the University Museum.

Rowan Oak trunk will be a natural fit for teachers wanting to bring Faulkner into the classroom or supplement a visit to Rowan Oak."

Funded through a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council, the William Faulkner/Rowan Oak trunk is the first trunk to focus on a writer rather than on art.

Designed for educators

This preview event is designed for educators, but the museum invites all interested parties to attend the presentation. The Traveling Trunk program is free to educators. Museum presenters will travel within a one-hour radius of Oxford to present the trunks, or teachers may check the trunks out themselves for up to two weeks of use. To RSVP or to inquire

about the Traveling Trunk program, contact Emily Dean at esdean@olemiss.edu or at 662-915-7073.

The Mississippi Humanities Council is an independent, nonpartisan, nonpolitical organization funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and private donations. The council's primary objective is to shed light on the public policy issues of today by examining the larger value questions involved through the use of philosophy, literature, history and other disciplines in the humanities.

The University Museum is at the intersection of University Avenue and Fifth Street. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Admission is free for UM students, museum members and children under 5.

Hamblett's 'Dreams and Visions' collection on display at museum

BY UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

A selection of artworks by Oxford painter Theora Hamblett, from her "Dreams and Visions" collection, is on display at the University of Mississippi Museum through Nov. 2. New to the exhibition is "Birds in Flight," a piece never before displayed in a public venue, as well as a selection of her painted glass works.

Born in 1895 in the Lafayette County community of Paris, Hamblett lived her adult life in Oxford. She began painting at 55 and continued until her death in 1977. Based on her own dreams and regarded as a testament to her faith, "Dreams and Visions" was considered by Hamblett to be her most important works, and she chose not to sell the paintings.

"Because pieces in this collection were given only to close friends, they are rare and particularly special to have on display. The university is fortunate to have been bequeathed so many pieces



A selection of artworks by Oxford painter Theora Hamblett, from her "Dreams and Visions" collection, is on display at the University of Mississippi Museum through Nov. 2.

from Hamblett," said Robert Saarnio, museum director. "As the nation's largest repository of the artist's works, we are in the unique position of regularly exhibiting rotating selections from the collection, and these are sure to continue to amaze and delight."

Recent gift

"Birds in Flight" is a recent gift to the museum from Kathryn and Brian Chivers in honor of their aunt, Mary Faith Brunson, a 1944 Ole Miss graduate.

"We are grateful to the Brunson family for their generosity in thinking of the museum as a home for this piece," said Marti Funke, the

museum's collections manager. "It is a welcome addition to the collection and offers the public an opportunity to become more familiar with the vast talents of a beloved local artist."

The University Museum is at the intersection of University Avenue and Fifth Street. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays. Admission is free for UM students, University Museum members and children under 5.

To book a tour, contact esdean@olemiss.edu. For more information, visit <http://museum.olemiss.edu> or call 662-915-7073.

Ventress:

Continued from Page 1B

"The wooden floors aren't something you can just buy in a store," Hopkins said. "They had to find the same kind of wood that was here and match it."

Colors and light fixtures also had to be approved. What could not be duplicated completely had to be the closest in style and material to what was there originally.

History of hall

Ventress Hall served first as the library at Ole Miss and then housed the law school from 1911 to 1929. In 1929, it was used by the State Geological Survey until 1963 when it was used for classrooms.

In 1993, the Legislature approved \$1 million for restoration of the hall. When the restoration was complete in March 1998, Ventress Hall became home to the College of

Liberal Arts.

The hall is home to a Tiffany stained-glass window that is a memorial to the University Greys, a group of Ole Miss students who fought for the South in the Civil War.

Signing names

During the early years when the hall was used for residency for the law school, students began signing the walls of the building's turret.

An elderly Civil War veteran signed his name and military unit near the top of the tower and, over the years, thousands of students scribbled their names and messages on the walls. The area was untouched during the restoration in the 1990s and also this past year during the renovations.

"Ventress Hall is a beautiful space and we are glad to be home," Hopkins said.

—alysa@oxfordeagle.com

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SEPTEMBER 3RD THROUGH DECEMBER 20TH 2013

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(AQUATIC CLASSES WILL CONTINUE ALL OF AUGUST THROUGH SEPT. 26TH)				
EXERCISE CLASS I	K. SMITH	MON/WED	9 - 10:00AM	OPC GYM
YOGA I	B. BANNER	MON/THRU	5:30 - 6:30PM	OPC LLO
EXERCISE II	L. BARBER	TUE/THRU	10:30 - 11:30AM	OPC GYM
LINE DANCING	THE WILD BUNCH	TUESDAYS	12:30PM BEGINNERS	
			1:00- 2:00PM EVERYONE	OPC GYM
DOMINOES	THE AVENGERS	TUE/THRU	12:30 - 2:30PM	OPC LLO
COMPUTER	E. RAYBURN	TUESDAYS	4:30-5:15PM BEGINNERS	LLO
			5:30 - 6:15PM INTERMEDIATES	
DANCING W/A TWIST	L. JURNEY	TUE/THRU	5:30 - 6:30PM	OPC MULTI
NEW FITNESS N' FUN	S. PRYOR	WEDS	10:00 - 11:00AM	OPC LLO
MOVIE OF THE MONTH	M. YOUNG	3RD WEDS	1:00 - 3:00PM	OPC LLO
YOGA II	S. SELF	FRIDAYS	9:00 - 10:00AM	OPC LLO
ART W/A KICK	A. BEDSWORTH	FRIDAYS	10:30 - 11:30AM	OPC LLO

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