



Hollins Receives \$1 Million Gift To Support Capital Projects

Roanoke, Va. – Businessman and philanthropist Robert T. Priddy of Wichita Falls, Texas, has presented Hollins University with a gift of \$1 million. The alma mater of Priddy’s mother and grandmother, Hollins will use the gift to establish The Priddy Challenge Grant Fund for Capital Improvements, which will support building and renovation projects and the maintenance of those endeavors.

Hollins will secure at least a one-to-one match to this gift to raise additional funds for capital projects.

The \$1 million gift is just the latest example of Priddy’s generosity towards Hollins. In 2002, Priddy and his brother Charles established the Swannanoa Horne Priddy Scholarship Fund in memory of their mother, a member of the Class of 1911. (The Priddy brothers’ paternal grandmother, Lavinia Priddy, also attended Hollins as a member of the Class of 1867.) In May 2005, the Robert T. and Ruby T. Priddy Fund of the Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc., presented Hollins with a gift of \$1 million to renovate the university’s dance studio and to help implement its five-year strategic plan, which focuses on the recruitment and retention of talented students and faculty; enhancing academic and campus life facilities; and sustaining strong financial and human resources.

In April of this year, Hollins dedicated Swannanoa Hall, the new home of the university’s English and creative writing department. Originally built in 1910, the building’s extensive renovation was made possible by a \$1.27 million gift from Robert and Ruby Priddy. They also presented Hollins with a treasured family heirloom: a

Victorian door first installed in Swannanoa Horne Priddy's childhood home in Clayton, North Carolina, in 1885. The door still features its original leaded glass window, transom, sidelights and hardware, and is now installed in a prominent location on Swannanoa Hall's first floor.

Robert Priddy has another connection to southwest Virginia as a graduate of Virginia Tech. He went on to co-found Dual Drilling Company in 1951 and served as its CEO and chairman of the board from 1980 until his retirement in 1986. As president of the Priddy Foundation for 25 years, he is credited with having transformed a small family foundation into a major community asset.

Hollins is an independent liberal arts university providing undergraduate education for women, selected graduate programs for men and women, and community outreach initiatives. Founded in 1842, Hollins is Virginia's oldest chartered women's college.

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