



## **Hollins Honors Alumna By Preserving Son's Gift From Her Childhood Home**

*After 80 Years in North Carolina and 40 Years in Texas, the Horne Door Now Graces the New Home of Hollins' English and Creative Writing Department*

Roanoke, Va. - When Hollins University reopens one of its essential historic structures this spring, a special reminder of the alumna for whom the building is now named will be showcased in the restoration.

In addition to their gift of \$1.27 million to renovate the new home of Hollins' nationally recognized English and creative writing department, Robert and Ruby Priddy of Wichita Falls, Texas, presented the university with a treasured family heirloom: a handsome Victorian door from the childhood home of Robert Priddy's mother, Swannanoa Horne Priddy, a member of Hollins' class of 1911. In her honor, Hollins has renamed the restored building Swannanoa Hall, and the door has been installed in a prominent location on the building's first floor.

Hollins will officially dedicate Swannanoa Hall in a ceremony on April 21.

The Horne Door has been a striking example of quality craftsmanship and aesthetic beauty for 120 years, even after traveling more than halfway across the country and back during that time, and starting now on its third and final home. Still featuring its original leaded glass window, transom, sidelights and hardware, the door was first installed in Swannanoa Priddy's childhood home in Clayton, North Carolina, in 1885, where it remained for the next 80 years. In 1965, the door was moved to Texas and stored

until 1987, when Robert and Ruby Priddy added it to their home on the 2R Ranch in Clay County, Texas. The door was then shipped to Hollins this year to memorialize Swannanoa Priddy and enhance a building that itself is nearly 100 years old.

Swannanoa Hall was originally built in 1910 and was Hollins' campus infirmary until the 1950s, when it was converted into a residence hall. It was closed for its transformation into an academic building in the summer of 2005.

Despite the changes in function over the years, the building's exterior has remained virtually unchanged since its original completion, giving it a very high degree of historical integrity.

Robert Priddy is a Wichita Falls native who graduated from Virginia Tech and Harvard Business School. He co-founded 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.

Priddy and his brother Charles established the Swannanoa Horne Priddy Scholarship Fund at Hollins in memory of their mother in 2002. In May 2005, the Robert T. and Ruby N. Priddy Fund of the Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc., presented Hollins with a gift of \$1 million. From this gift, \$250,000 will be used to renovate the university's dance studio. The remaining \$750,000 will help implement Hollins' 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.

Founded in 1842, Hollins is an independent liberal arts university offering undergraduate education for women, selected graduate programs for men and women, and community outreach initiatives. While perhaps best known for its creative writing program, Hollins also features one of the oldest study abroad programs in the country, extensive internship opportunities, and the Batten Leadership Institute, which provides rigorous co-curricular programs that focus on students' personal, interpersonal, and intellectual development.

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