

Restoration of Scoates Hall

Daniels Scoates Hall, originally named the Agricultural Engineering Building when constructed in 1933, is undergoing a capital improvement (CI) project to address deferred maintenance work on air conditioning systems, electrical systems and roofing, and to meet modern building codes (ADA, fire suppression). In 1943, the building was named for Daniels Scoates, the Agricultural Engineering department head from 1919-39 and who developed its functional requirements. Architect Samuel C. Vosper designed the building and its interiors, along with nine other depression-era buildings on the campus. All of these buildings are known for their use of exterior ornamentation, metalwork, colorful tile and highly decorated interiors. After obtaining a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (the Cynthia Wood Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors), Biological and Agricultural Engineering and the College of Architecture's Center for Heritage Conservation enlisted a team of specialists to study the decorative painting treatments of the foyer and lecture room. Their report describes the many design details that have been lost over time and the actions that could restore many of those features. Biological and Agricultural Engineering is leading an effort to restore features that have been lost over the years. Restoration efforts are organized in two parts, the lecture hall and the foyer/entry.

Lecture Hall

The lecture hall was a highly decorated space, with an ornate ceiling and murals depicting Texas agriculture and the impacts of engineering advancements. The images below show the unique chandelier with the pattern of stenciled tiles, replacement stenciled tiles of both the square and circular patterns and stage area with the wooden turntable and fully exposed murals. All of these features will be uncovered and restored during the current project.



During the CI project, we are focusing on the lecture hall. That space can only be off-line for classroom use for the fall semester, so restoration activities must occur prior to January 2015. For this reason, we need to accomplish as much as possible during this period. The ongoing work combines three projects; deferred maintenance, classroom renovation and design restoration. Each is separately funded, but they will be accomplished simultaneously. Restoration addresses only those that must be completed during the CI project. The table below illustrates the project costs and how each project is funded.

Deferred Maintenance	
Asbestos abatement	
HVAC and fire suppression	
ADA compliance	
Plaster restoration and painting	
Subtotal (Fully funded by CI project)	\$250,000
Classroom modernization	
Instructional media installation	
Carpet, desks and handicap seating	
Repair of terrazzo stage area	
Exposure and restoration of wooden turntable	
Subtotal (Fully funded by Classroom Committee)	\$130,000
Restoration of architectural features	
Demolition of suspended ceiling	
Ceiling restoration with stenciled tiles	
Add lighting to meet modern standards	
Conserve and restore wheel and tool chandelier and medallion	
Reproduce original paint and glazing	
Architect fees	
Subtotal (Funded by BAEN and TAMU plus \$91,000 loan)	\$291,000
Total Lecture Hall Renovation and Restoration	\$671,000
Restoration items to be covered by future donations	
Loan for Fall 2014 restoration actions	\$91,000
Conservation and preservation of color and monochrome murals	\$150,000
Replace rear fixtures with original designs	\$45,000
Conserve or replace misc. design features	\$50,000
Contractor add-on & contingency costs	\$50,000
Total funding needed to repay loan and complete Lecture Hall	\$386,000
Project total cost	\$1,057,000

Foyer/Entry

Restoration of the entryway and foyer will be addressed as a separate project and primarily involves recovering original finishes and treatments on doors, tile and marble. This project would include the conservation of the ornate ironwork on the entry doorway. These areas are taking a secondary priority, as there is relatively little synergy to be gained by performing this restoration work during the Capital Improvement project. That project will utilize original paint colors where repainting is required. Restoration work in these areas will be undertaken when funds are available, and after the needs of the lecture hall are met. The following are estimates provided by the architect.

Restoration of foyer and entryway	
Metalwork conservation and refinishing, including entryway	\$35,000
Conservation of doorways and historic hardware	\$24,000
Reproduce/restore original finishes on plaster, terrazzo, tile, etc.	\$200,000
Conserve entryway chandelier and replace lighting in troughs	\$15,000
Total restoration estimate	\$274,000

Fund-raising Plan

We need help from all who love and appreciate the unique architectural design of Daniels Scoates Hall and the vision of Samuel Vosper. His original intent was that the building gives all who enter a sense of grandeur, wonder and appreciation of the beauty in the architectural detailed. Our goal is to reclaim those emotions for today's and tomorrow's students, while providing tools for a modern learning environment. Achieving this vision will require the assistance and generosity of many. The following matrix of gifts will provide the necessary funding of \$660,000. All donations will be recognized in materials describing the history of the building and the restoration project. A donation at the Platinum level includes naming of the lecture hall for the donor. Donations at the Gold and Silver levels will be recognized permanently on prominent displays in the building. Donations of any size are welcome. Gifts will be handled through the Texas A&M Development Foundation.

Level	Amount	Number required
Platinum	\$200,000	1
Gold	\$40,000	5
Silver	\$10,000	20
Bronze	\$1,000	60