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Northup: The Ultimate Makeover

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Northup Hall, eerily quiet for too long, is coming back to life. The ghosts of the past have disappeared as walls and ceilings are removed, giant beams installed, and windows replaced.

Stale air and dust have been replaced by fresh breezes of summer and fall and even a little rain as crews scramble to get the roof on before winter sets in. The sounds of hammers, saws and forklifts fill the academic quad. Trenches resemble moats as the foundation is waterproofed and new pipes installed.

Inside, the original south wall briefly re-emerges, covered some 40 years ago when the south addition was built. Stack numbers, reminders of a library long moved, are revealed on some walls. But even as the renovation takes shape, much of the original structure remains, including the reading rooms, fireplaces and windows. Northup, once the intellectual heart of the college, is getting a complete makeover and will again become a center of academic life. Four departments – business, English, economics and philosophy – will soon call it home. Students will learn how to connect words and sentences into short stories, poems and research papers at the Writing Center. And the brand-spanking new Center for the Northwest will offer students opportunities to research topics of interest around the Northwest, intern in a non-profit agency, or perform community service, locally and abroad.

A sequel to a story that began more than 60 years ago will commence next fall when the hall is rededicated. New chapters will soon emerge, new voices will be heard, conversations will erupt, and creativity will flourish. A piece of Linfield’s history, restored, will again take its place as a hub of scholarly work.

– Mardi Mileham

See more Northup photos at www.linfield.edu/photogallery
The old stairway in Northup Hall. From left, exterior during construction; central area that will include a light tower; artist’s rendering of the light tower and main floor.