The most notable achievement in December was the installation of the new 3rd floor slab. We wanted The Dean of the School of Social Work to be the first person from the school to step on the new slab. As luck would have it (Murphy and the Construction Industry are “best Pals”) the cold snap we received in December pushed the pour back a couple of days. However, Bailey-Harris, the General Contractor, persevered and were able to start the slab pour the morning of 12/15/16. Murphy’s Law was mentioned before due to the cold weather. The temperature was so low that the concrete would not set up. The concrete finishers had to work the mix through the night and did not finish the slab until 6:00 AM on 12/16/16. We scheduled the Dean to arrive at 11:00 AM that morning. Since the concrete was still hot, it provided a nice warm tour for the Dean. It should be noted that Deans tour was planned several weeks in advance. In her excitement, she invited the UA Interim provost and Assistant Provost to tour the building with her. It should also be noted that approximately three hours after the tour, The UA President – Dr. Stuart R. Bell, announced that Dr. Kevin Whitaker (pictured in the group photo) accepted the position of UA Provost.

NOTABLE DATES:
08-08-2016: Notice to Proceed
12-16-2016: Pour 3rd Floor Slab
02-28-2017: Complete Roofing
07-15-2017: Project Substantial Completion
08-04-2017: School of Social Work Move In
BUILDING HISTORY AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PLANNED RENOVATION

Little Hall was designed by Mr. Frank Lockwood of Montgomery, AL in a classical Revival style. The original structure contained a basement, a main floor level and an upper floor level. The exterior walls are load bearing brick and the interior construction was primarily wood framed construction with plaster walls and ceilings.

The first floor is almost 11,000 square feet. A large porch stands at the north face of the main entry and is supported by 8 Doric columns supporting the entablature approximately 30’ above the finished floor. A 50’ x 20’ tile-lined swimming pool was set at the central axis of the building. The renovation of the first floor includes new office suites for executive management and new offices for faculty and staff. The renovation also includes a new high tech conference room for the Dean, a conference room for the faculty and staff and a small classroom. The flooring on the first floor along with the stairs on the east and west sides will be intricate patterns of Terrazzo.

The second floor originally contained approximately 8,052 square feet of maple athletic floor with balcony seating at the east and west ends. The original locker rooms and the Directors office were located on the second floor. The new renovations includes two new state of the art classrooms and offices for faculty and staff.

The newly added third is the most interesting aspect of this renovation project. Since the structure is built on load bearing brick walls, built in 1915, MBA Structural Engineers from Birmingham, AL devised a plan to install internal columns that run from new footings under the crawl space through the first and second floors. The best way to think of it is the third floor is practically a standalone structure built inside the shell of Little Hall. To span the width of the gym, the Lockwood team designed very massive but beautiful trusses that are approximately 15’ tall in the center, pitched, section of the roof. It was decided early on in the programming and design of the project that the third floor would have an “open air” ceiling in order to showcase history of this grand old building. The third floor will contain an ornate reception room complete with warming kitchen. It will also contain a state of the art boardroom with a 90” TV to be used for presentations and for international communications over a network connection.

Architect: Payne Design Group – Montgomery, AL
General Contractor: Bailey-Harris – Auburn, AL

FUN FACTS

♦ Building Footprint Area:
  From 1915 to 2016 = 20,337.00 ft²
  As of December 16, 2016 = 28,383.00 ft²

♦ The building will be the home for the School of Social Work

♦ Total anticipated construction cost: $8,000,000.00

♦ From the Original Building Plaque: Little Hall 1915 – Erected as a gymnasium for male students. This building was named for William Gray Little (1873-1938) of Livingston. A transfer student from Phillips Academy, Andover, who introduced football to the University in 1892 – The year the University of Alabama launched its first football team.
The Original Gymnasium

A View of The Trusses

Provost & Dean “Hard at Work”

New Studs on Second Floor