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THE CHRONICLE

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Photo by Layla Garris
Dr. Robert Herring III stands on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

EYEWITNESS TO HISTORY

WSSU's Herring's James Meredith scrapbooks donated to Ole Miss

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

When it comes to the integration of the University of Mississippi, Winston-Salem State University Professor Dr. Robert Herring III is a walking history book.

Herring, the son of an Ole Miss professor, was living on the outskirts of the campus when James Meredith integrated the university in 1962. For months, Herring,

the oldest of five children, lived and breathed Meredith's historic enrollment and the explosive riot that marked his arrival on campus.

"It was really hard to concentrate on my studies in high school, really hard for a period of time," related Herring, who was a sophomore at the nearby University High School the year Meredith

arrived. "The eye of the nation – the eye of the world – was right here."

Herring recorded the story of Meredith's enrollment in three simple "school glue and paper" scrapbooks that he created by scouring six different newspapers daily for articles about Meredith. The scrapbooks cover Meredith's courageous story, from Sept. 18, 1962 – when reports of his impending enrollment began to surface – until Nov. 2, 1962, when Ole Miss football fans, under threat of expulsion, reportedly ignored Meredith's presence in the stadium and instead focused their negative energy on the opposing team.

In August, Herring donated the scrapbooks – now considered telling historical documents – and excerpts from his personal diary to the University of Mississippi

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Photo by Layla Garris

A *STOP MEREDITH?* BULLETIN

Some of the dozens of news clippings that Robert Herring collected as a boy.

Photo by Layla Garris

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