Honor the Past, Support the Future...Preserve the Museum!

Nearly 30 years ago, several Minnesota veterinarians recognized the great progress of the Minnesota veterinary profession over the last century. They believed their colleagues responsible for this progress should be given credit for their efforts. In 1985, they created the Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum. Since then, the Museum has served as a valuable resource to College of Veterinary Medicine students, faculty and others interested in veterinary medicine.

Thanks to the generosity of the College, we continue to have some exhibit space, an administrative office and storage for artifacts, equipment, awards and other materials. But we need your help now to ensure continuation of the Museum, as well as update existing space, add new galleries and hire a part-time curator.

Timing is critical because later this year, the College plans to begin construction to renovate the old Dairy Barn, now the Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center. We need your donations now to pay for display materials, cabinetry and hardware, wall and lighting fixtures and signage in the new Center for Museum exhibits. Two new galleries are planned in the Center: one will honor Dr. Benjamin S. Pomeroy and the other, an Honors Gallery, will recognize the numerous accomplishments of other faculty and alumni. With sufficient funding, we will also upgrade existing exhibits in the Museum so they will complement the new galleries.

Finally, we need to hire a part-time curator to manage all Museum collections, as well as these galleries and display areas. With a curator, we will also create an interactive learning center in the Museum that offers students, faculty, professionals and others computer modeling and online access to catalogued Museum resources. We are particularly excited about creating a more meaningful learning experience with state-of-the-art computer technologies.

To date, unpaid volunteers have developed and maintained the Museum, many of whom are retired faculty members. They are simply not able to continue this important work. Without your help now, the Museum and its displays, artifacts, equipment, instruments and other invaluable resources cannot be maintained, much less expanded.

A More Modern, Interactive Museum with New Galleries and Displays

That’s why we’re asking you to contribute now. We want to keep the Museum as an important resource to the veterinary profession, as well as honor Dr. Ben Pomeroy and other outstanding veterinarians. The many challenges and opportunities facing the veterinary profession today deserve a more modern Museum and expanded displays and exhibits. Creating
displays in the new Center can only occur at this time. Once the Center is completed, it would be too expensive to retrofit displays at that time.

Currently, the Museum is open only a few hours per week and many awards and artifacts remain uncatalogued, in storage. We believe students and others deserve greater access to this treasure-trove of scientific documents, chronicles of news events that span decades, hundreds of unique artifacts and fascinating display equipment and other veterinary medicine items.

With your help, a renovated Museum will feature:

- New galleries and displays in the Pomeroy Student-Alumni Learning Center and elsewhere
- Greater access to all materials in the Museum
- Better organized written papers, textbooks, artifacts and other resources invaluable to a first-class veterinary education
- Attractive, modern displays that highlight the many veterinary medicine accomplishments throughout the College
- An interactive learning center, with computer modeling and online access to Museum resources
- A paid, part-time curator to professionally oversee these resources.

We Need Your Help Now

Our campaign goal is $750,000. As an endowment fund, that will cover the costs associated with construction of the new galleries in the Pomeroy Center, an update of current Museum displays and a part-time curator position. We must raise much of this amount now. Construction will begin on the Pomeroy Center later this year, so we need funding now to pay for display materials. At the same time, we need to update existing Museum displays so they will be compatible with the displays in the new Pomeroy Center. Finally, we need a paid, part-time curator to professionally oversee these projects.

There are numerous groups of people who are or will be a part of supporting this worthy campaign: the Museum Board of Directors; College of Veterinary Medicine alumni; and, the larger veterinary, health sciences and agricultural community throughout Minnesota and beyond. It is essential that alumni and others interested in veterinary medicine vigorously support this fund raising effort.

You can see why the Museum needs your support now. Please contribute today by sending your donation to: Minnesota Veterinary Historical Museum, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Minnesota, 1365 Gortner Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108. Or, call 612 625-7770 for more information. The Museum is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax deductible. All donations will be recognized and naming opportunities exist to honor larger gifts.

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