Latest News from the Indiana Medical History Museum

Indiana Medical History Museum
Quarterly Newsletter
Fall 2015

Gutters and Up!
Phase One of Building Repairs Now Underway

The rehabilitation of this property, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, has been funded in part by a matching grant-in-aid from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This program is administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

On Monday, November 9, 2015, work began on Phase I of repairs to the Old
Pathology Building! Masonry work on the roof, such as re-pointing, replacing damaged bricks, and repairing chimneys, is the first step; Phase I work will also include replacing the building’s shingled and membrane roofs and repairing and reattaching gutters. We will remain open to the public during this process.

There is still much to do on the exterior of the building to make it truly water-tight, but this is a huge first step!

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported our preservation efforts by donating to the Capital Campaign: Saving the Old Pathology Building or by sharing our story. It is thanks to you that this incredible historic building won't face another season of water intrusion from the roof due to ice, snow, and rain. We would also like to thank the Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology for a $50,000 matching Historic Preservation Fund grant that went a long way toward making this critical work happen.

Central State Time Capsule

Amphitheater Chair Restoration

The amphitheater chairs, which date back to the 1890s, are being re-caned by anesthesiologist Andrew Dick of Brownstown, IN. Dick is a graduate of the University of Illinois medical school and he did his anesthesia
A Time Capsule from the year 1958 was found in the cornerstone of the Bahr Treatment Center on the former Central State Hospital Grounds this summer. The time capsule contained audio and video recordings and documents commemorating the inauguration of the Treatment Center, as well as newspapers from July 1958, photos, and building plans.

Here are some links to news coverage about the time capsule.

Indy Star online article and Photo gallery

WTHR TV coverage and Online article

Several of these items are currently on loan at the museum and are on display in the autopsy room display case. We also posted a photo album of these materials on our Facebook page.

residency at the Medical University of South Carolina. He learned the seat-weaving trade from his father and has been restoring our chairs as an in-kind contribution. Read more in the Jackson County Tribune (PDF).

11th Annual Wizards Academy

At the 11th Annual Wizards Academy on October 25, families visited with exotic creatures from Animalia, Inc, and created a "human rainforest" (above). In our historic laboratories, kids learned how to make water flow up rather than down, had fun with bubbles and candy, and explored the magic of DIY holograms (known in the nineteenth century as "Pepper's Ghost" illusions).
The Annual Meeting of the Membership and
Glenn B. Mathers, MD Memorial Lecture

Sunday, December 6, at 2:00

A short meeting of the membership will be followed by a presentation by Dr. Stephen Nawrocki, "Fighting the Deadliest Killer: The National Tuberculosis Association’s Christmas Seal Campaign, 1907-1968."

Tuberculosis, or "consumption", was humanity's number one killer through history. During the first half of the 20th century, a massive public health campaign was conducted by the National Tuberculosis Association, whose cornerstone fundraising mechanism was the annual Christmas Seal campaign. This presentation examines how the NTA used seals and associated propaganda to combat TB both nationally and in Indiana.

New Medical Student Elective

Photo Courtesy of Tom Mueller Photography, LLC

Medical Students may now take a month-long elective course at the museum that allows them to develop their knowledge of medical history. Current student projects include analyzing patient histories behind the specimens on display in the anatomical museum and researching past anesthesiology tools and techniques.
Selected items from Dr. Nawrocki's collection of Christmas Seals will be on display at the museum from December 6 through the end of January.