The Medical Heritage Center recently opened three new off-site permanent exhibits that share Central Ohio’s rich medical heritage with the greater community.

Two of the exhibits focus on the history of medical education in central Ohio and on the history of the physician’s profession. Installed in two classrooms within The Ohio State University College of Medicine, these exhibits were made possible through a partnership between the Medical Heritage Center, The Ohio State University College of Medicine Offices of Alumni Affairs and Academic Services, and the Wexner Center for the Arts.

The exhibits were researched and written by MHC staff and scholars-in-residence and used images and materials from the center’s collections. According to MHC curator Judith Wiener, “the goals of the exhibits are to provide medical students with an introduction to medical history and to explore the usage of visual images as a mode of adult learning.”

A third exhibit was installed in the William G. Myers Library and Conference room at the James Cancer Hospital. The exhibit contains reproductions from the William G. Myers collection at the Medical Heritage Center and traces the lives of William G. and Florence Lenahan Myers. The exhibit was researched and written by Myers-Lenahan archivist Mary M. Manning. According to Manning: “Re-

searching, selecting images and artifacts for display, and writing the narrative for this exhibit was a marvelous experience and great fun! I learned a great deal about Myers and his tremendous importance to the field of nuclear medicine at OSU and around the world. I want to thank Dr. Reinhard Gahbauer, Norma Flesher, Virginia Little, and my colleagues at the Medical Heritage Center for their help in making the exhibit possible.”

Tours of the Myers exhibit can be arranged by contacting Manning at manning.84@osu.edu or 614-292-9273.

The MHC will continue to branch out into the community and campus. Future off-site exhibits are in the planning stages for other classrooms and areas within the OSU College of Medicine.

A visitor views the new Myers exhibit in The OSU James Cancer hospital.

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The Medical Heritage Center is pleased to announce that it was named as one of the 60 national host sites of the national traveling exhibition “Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians.” The exhibit, which will start touring the country in August 2005, will be at the Medical Heritage Center from March 31 through May 14, 2010.

The exhibit tells the extraordinary story of how American women who wanted to practice medicine have struggled over the past two centuries to gain access to medical education and to work in the medical specialty they chose.

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), Bethesda, Md., and the American Library Association, Chicago, Ill., organized the exhibition with support from the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health, and the American Medical Women's Association. The traveling exhibition is based on a larger exhibition that was displayed at the NLM from 2003–2005.

Since the mid-1800s, when Elizabeth Blackwell became the first woman in America to earn an M.D. degree, women have made enormous strides in every area of medicine and have achieved success in work once considered “unsuitable” for women. Women physicians are now found in every branch of medicine. They are researchers on the cutting edge of new medical discoveries, educators, surgeons, family practitioners, specialists, and government officials. “Changing the Face of Medicine” features the life stories of a rich diversity of women physicians from around the nation and highlights the broad range of medical specialties women are involved in today.

Two interactive kiosks traveling with the exhibition offer access to the NLM’s “Local Legends” web site (www.nlm.nih.gov/locallegends), which features outstanding women physicians from every state, and to a web site created for the larger exhibition at the NLM (www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine). The exhibition web site offers access to educational and professional resources for people considering medicine as a career, as well as lesson plans for classroom activities. A section of the web site called “Share Your Story” allows the public to add the names and biographies of women physicians they know.

More information will follow as the exhibition date at the Medical Heritage Center draws nearer. For information, contact exhibit coordinator Judith Wiener at 614-292-9273 or wiener.3@osu.edu.

An illustration of anatomical lectures at the Women’s Medical College of the New York Infirmary, Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, April 16, 1870. The Women’s Medical College was founded by Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell and her sister, Emily Blackwell, in 1869. National Library of Medicine, Image from the History of Medicine
Save the Date: Fall Lecture Announced

Ronald E. Batt, MD, MA, FACOG, FRCSC, will focus on the professionalization of clinician historians in the field of medical history as a topic of discussion for a lecture slated in the Fall.

According to Batt, “Clinician historians virtually owned the terrain of medical history when they founded the American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM) over seventy-five years ago. Then starting in the 1970s, PhD historians raised the level of scholarship until fewer and fewer clinician historians presented at the AAHM. During that same period PhD epidemiologists similarly elevated the level of scholarship in peer-reviewed medical journals until some satisfied the rigorous criteria for inclusion in a Cochrane Systemic Review.” In his lecture, Batt will argue that a Masters of Arts in History is both necessary and sufficient for most clinician historians who desire to teach and publish scholarly medical history in the 21st century.

Batt is a professor of Clinical Gynecology and Obstetrics at the Department of Gynecology-Obstetrics, School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University at Buffalo, State University of New York, and a Ph.D. Graduate Student in History of Science and Medicine at the Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, University at Buffalo, State University of New York.

The lecture will take place on October 27, 2005. The time and location of the lecture will be announced at a future date. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture will be sponsored in part from endowment funds established by the family of Nathaniel R. Coleman (1843-1911). Coleman was a local physician who taught at Columbus Medical College and Ohio Medical University. The Coleman Medical Library was established in 1913 and was the sole repository of medical history at The Ohio State University Medical Library. This library served as the core originating rare book collection of the MHC.
Local Elementary School Visits the MHC

Third and forth graders from Chapman Elementary School in Dublin, Ohio, visited the MHC in February to learn more about the medical history of the area. During their visit, the students also visited the OSU Clinical Skills Education and Assessment Center, located on 005 of the Prior Health Sciences Library.

While touring the MHC the students viewed medical texts, matriculation and class tickets, and teaching models from the collection. Archivist Mary Manning led the students through interactive activities and provided them with hands-on experience with the proper care and handling older materials.

“The day provided the students with the unique opportunity to learn about the past and future of medicine,” said MHC curator Judith Wiener. “Our staff enjoyed interacting with the children and explaining how the teaching objects and methods of medical education have changed throughout time.”

Educational tours of the MHC can be scheduled by contacting Judith Wiener at wiener.3@osu.edu or (614) 292-9273.