



Robert Taylor

In an early effort to give everyone a stake in the building of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, DinoBanks in schools and offices across Oklahoma became the recipients of kids' allowances and parents' pocket change. With the remaining banks as incentive, the Friends of the Museum are mounting a drive to add the Limestone Cave to the museum's Hall of Natural Wonders.

The DinoBanks

Scores of major gifts went into the making of the museum, each with its special story and significant impact. But nothing in the years-long project quite captured the hearts of museum supporters as did the DinoBanks. The charming depiction of a baby *Acrocantosaur*—a dinosaur unique to Oklahoma—emerging from an egg became the symbol of a “people’s museum,” involving everyone from multimillion-dollar donors to the state’s schoolchildren.

The limited-edition, collectable banks were created and donated to the campaign by the internationally successful figurine company, United Design Corporation of Noble, Oklahoma, founded by OU alumni Gary Clinton and Jeanie Macy Clinton. Intended for the pennies, nickels, and quarters of schoolchildren in targeted Oklahoma communities, the banks were soon in demand by their parents and grandparents, popping up on reception desks of state and local businesses. When the accumulated pocket change totaled \$50, the sponsoring group was allowed to keep the bank, and many still are collecting “dino” coins.

At the end of the campaign, approximately 2,500 banks remained—appropriately, like their dinosaur models, the last of their kind. Now these DinoBanks are being brought out of storage by the Friends of the Museum, the indomitable support group whose early tenacity jump-started the fund-raising campaign in 1991. By offering one of these cherished keepsakes for a \$50 contribution, the Friends hope to achieve their new goal of \$100,000 to construct the Limestone Cave, a permanent exhibit planned for the Hall of Natural Wonders.

All the DinoBank donors will be listed by name and city on a touch-screen computer to be located in the SNOMNH entrance lobby. More information is available from Friends liaison Melanie Davidson at 405/325-4712, option 7.

