



Dana Boren:

Building for the Future



Robert Taylor

Development officer Dana Boren's job in gathering support for the SNOMNH takes many forms—one being the Oklahoma Heritage Walkway featuring large paving stones engraved with donors' names.

The Oklahoma Heritage Walkway

Some people feel so strongly about the mission of the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History that they have written their commitment to the museum in stone—quite literally.

The Oklahoma Heritage Walkway allows supporters to add their names or the name of a loved one to a stone path that leads into the museum entrance. The Walkway accommodates 2-by-4-foot stones honoring 512 individuals or families who have contributed \$5,000 to the museum endowment, payable over five years.

An extension of the Heritage Walkway, made up of 40 larger, 3-by-5-foot stones, encircles the patio outside the south rotunda. These stones bear the names of \$25,000 donors. Since the Walkway is part of the facility's architectural design, the donor names become a permanent part of the museum and Oklahoma history.

"The Walkway is one of several projects that will enable the museum to continue growing and developing its programs," says SNOMNH Director Michael Mares.



Just as the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History never will be completely "finished," the task of garnering support for the museum also is never-ending. That responsibility falls to the museum's development officer, Dana Boren, who came to SNOMNH in December 2000 from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, formerly the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Charged with marketing and fund raising, as well as overseeing the public relations efforts, volunteer programs, and special events at the new facility, Boren views SNOMNH not only as a state treasure but also a national one.

Constantly enhancing this treasure and expanding its public outreach is a job Boren welcomes, including her active speaking schedule to inform civic and professional groups statewide about the museum. From the membership in the venerable Friends of the Museum to sponsorship of the Oklahoma Heritage Walkway to major donations to permanent exhibits still in the planning stages, Boren can offer museum enthusiasts a full range of support opportunities.

More information is available from the SNOMNH Development Office at 405/325-1020.