

A Cross-University Collaboration To Revive and Reimagine a History of Pharmacy Museum

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INTRODUCTION & METHODS

The Marvin Samson Museum for the History of Pharmacy was established in 1996 at the University of the Sciences, home to the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. In 2016, staffing cuts caused the museum to go dormant. In 2022, USciences merged into Saint Joseph's University and the revival of the museum began. At that time, a cross-university coalition teamed up to rescue the museum and collection. They began: preserving, protecting, cataloging, and displaying the collection; providing educational benefits through internships, class visits, and course assignments; and hosting events for alumni, donors, and University and Philadelphia communities.





MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum takes an open-ended approach to material culture stewardship that reflects the University's and College's shared commitment to critical thought, social justice, public service and public health. Through exhibitions, collection access, and programming, the Museum aims to foster ongoing engagement with and educational resources related to the changing role of pharmacy in the broader social context, especially in the Philadelphia region. The Museum is dedicated to supporting cross-disciplinary research and curatorial opportunities for our University, professional, and local communities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hired an assistant curator and a project cataloger
- Established a student internship program
- Launched object-based learning class sessions
- Revived the gallery with new exhibitions
- Received two grants: Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation and CCAHA grant
- Engaged alumni and the university community through events and open houses
- Developed a collection management system and to date have cataloged 2,354 items
- Launched a museum website: www.siu.edu/pharmacvmuseum

















FUTURE GOALS

- Conduct a complete collection inventory
- Secure additional funding, museum staff positions, and long-term collection storage
- Expand educational offerings and curatorial and event programming
- Establish community partnerships and foster audiences beyond the university
- Ensure the long-term stewardship and accessibility of the collection

CONTACT INFORMATION

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