1968

Encouraging Excellence: commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the School of Dentistry

Joann Spitler

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ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE

COMMENORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY, MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA
MEDICAL COLLEGE OF VIRGINIA
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY
1893-1968

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On the cover: Dental Building II

THE AUTHOR
This booklet was written by Miss Joann Spitler, director of publications at the Medical College of Virginia. Miss Spitler is the daughter of the late Dr. J. Vincent Spitler, a 1924 graduate of the school of dentistry.

HARRY LYONS, Dean
School of Dentistry

ENCOURAGING EXCELLENCE

The school of dentistry was born in an atmosphere of strife in medical education in 1893 when a second medical college opened its doors just two squares from the Medical College of Virginia's Egyptian Building. Christened the College of Physicians and Surgeons when it opened, it became the University College of Medicine in 1894. This College opened its doors with a dental department as one of its original divisions. The first dental class of three students was graduated in 1895.

The Medical College of Virginia inaugurated a program of dental education in 1897. In that year, the first dental class of five was admitted and subsequently graduated in 1900. When the Medical College of Virginia and the University College of Medicine merged in 1913, their dental faculties and student bodies were combined.

The University College of Medicine was founded by the great Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire who was a major and the medical director of Stonewall Jackson's corps in the War Between the States. He was professor of surgery on the faculty of the Medical College of Virginia from 1865 until 1880. During his distinguished career, he served as president of both the American Medical Association and the American Surgical Association and held many other important offices.

The University College of Medicine was composed of three schools: medicine, dentistry, and pharmacy. The first two had three-year curricula, and the latter, a two-year program. Clinical facilities for the dental school
were in the College Building, now known as McGuire Hall. The Virginia Hospital provided the necessary clinical facilities for the school of medicine and for the training of nurses, which later led to the development of the school of nursing.

The establishment of the new institution was to have a most salutary effect on the Medical College of Virginia which it stirred to stronger efforts.

The University College of Medicine was destined to have a life span of only 20 years as an independent institution, fruitful though those years were to be. Early in the first decade of this century, Dr. Simon Flexner visited the medical schools throughout this country. The findings he reported in the volume, now universally known as the Flexner Report, changed the face of American medical education. This resulted in the closing of many medical schools and the consolidation of others, leaving the country with fewer but stronger medical educational institutions.

Among the schools which were consolidated were the Medical College of Virginia and the University College of Medicine, with the combined institution carrying on the name of the older Medical College of Virginia. The story of the University College of Medicine's 20 years is best told in the words of Dr. Stuart McGuire, son of its founder, who served as president and chairman of the Board of Visitors of the Medical College of Virginia. In his address to the 20th and last graduating class in June, 1913, he said, in part:

"When the curtain rose tonight it was to celebrate the completion of the 20th session of the University College of Medicine. When it falls tonight it will mark the end of the legal existence of the Institution."

"Had I the time to tell, and had my audience the patience to listen, I would like to give in detail the history of the College."

"It would be the story of a small beginning, of rapid growth . . . of the great fire that destroyed the College building . . . of teaching for two years in a tobacco factory . . . of personal differences, of professional rivalry, and of political contention that have at last found happy consummation in an honorable and satisfactory agreement."

The present Medical College of Virginia school of dentistry, which dates from the founding of the University College of Medicine in 1893, was the 16th dental school to be founded in the United States. The original dental department was headed by Dr. Lewis M. Cowardin as dean. The faculty consisted of 13 members, all on a part-time teaching basis.

The catalog for 1894—1895 contains much interesting information and lists the faculty of dentistry for that session:

L. M. Cowardin, M.D., D.D.S.
Chairman of Dental Faculty and Professor of Principles and Practice of Dentistry, and Associate Professor of Clinical Oral Surgery

Hunter McGuire, M.D., LL.D.
Professor of Clinical Oral Surgery

Stuart McGuire, M.D.
Professor of Principles of Surgery

J. Allison Hodges, M.D.
Professor of Anatomy

Charles L. Steel, M.D., D.D.S.
Professor of Orthodontia and Dental Prosthesis

M. D. Hoge, Jr., M.D.
Professor Histology, Pathology, and Urinology

Jacob Michaux, M.D.
Professor Materia Medica and Therapeutics

William S. Gordon, M.D.
Professor of Physiology

Charles H. Chalkley, M.D.
Professor Chemistry and Metallurgy
The Bruce-Lancaster House, first home of the school of dentistry. This was the former residence of the vice-president of the Confederate States, Alexander Stephens, and stood at the northwest corner of Twelfth and Clay streets.

The first clinic of the school of dentistry, 1893.
DEMONSTRATORS

A. R. Bowles, M.D., D.D.S.
Demonstrator of Operative Dentistry
and Assistant Professor of Principles
and Practice of Dentistry

(To be appointed)
Demonstrator of Prosthetic Dentistry

James N. Ellis, M.D.
Demonstrator of Anatomy

Noted in this catalog for the department of dentistry is the following:

“The regular winter course of instruction in the Dental Department of the University College of Medicine, Richmond, Virginia, will commence on the 18th of September, 1894, and continue until April 15th, 1895 . . . and will offer to students advantages not surpassed by any other Dental College.

“In addition to the facilities offered in the Dental Department, students of dentistry will have the privilege of attending a full course of medical lectures and hospital clinics without extra charge, thus enabling them to become familiar with diseases and operations connected with general surgery and medicine.

“Richmond offers to the student advantages equal to those of any city in the Union—social, climatic and economic.”

Requirements for admission conformed to the standards established by the National Association of Dental College Facilities, including “a good English education.”

The first curriculum included basic science courses in anatomy with dissections, physiology, chemistry, and materia medica and in the clinical sciences of dentistry, in name, not unlike those offered currently.

Every student was required to furnish his own instruments with the exception of extracting forceps. A set

Dental clinic in McGuire Hall, circa 1914-1928.

Opposite, top: Constructed in 1845, the Egyptian Building was the original building owned by the College. Bottom: An aerial view of part of the campus as it appears today.
The founding of the Medical College of Virginia dates back to December 1, 1837, when the president and trustees of Hampden-Sydney College created a medical department to be located at Richmond and appointed to the first four professorships to be filled the petitioners who had sought the department's founding—Doctors Richard Lafon Bohannan, Lewis Webb Chamberlayne, John Cullen, and Augustus Lockman Warner. Two additional professors were appointed prior to November 5, 1838, the opening day of the first session. These were Dr. Socrates Maupin and Thomas Johnson.

The honor of first appointment to the deanship went to Augustus Lockman Warner who had been the leader in the earlier negotiations with the trustees.

In this day of salaried professors, the original tuition arrangement seems somewhat strange, for the regulations provided that each professor should receive from every student attending his lectures a fee to be fixed by the medical faculty not exceeding $20.

The College opened on November 5, 1838, in the old Union Hotel located at the corner of Nineteenth and Main Streets.

The Egyptian Building, completed in 1845 on a site then known as Academy Square, was the original building owned by the College. Doctor Warner planned the Egyptian Building to fulfill his highest conception of a building adapted in every way to the purposes for which it was dedicated. It was financed through contributions from the State of Virginia ($25,000), the City of Richmond ($2,000), and loans to a total of $55,000. Thomas Stewart of Philadelphia was the architect, carrying out this commission simultaneously with the design of St. Paul's Church in Richmond. His remarkable versatility is evident in the totally different styles of the two structures.

Who would believe that the Egyptian Building was the first of the buildings of the Medical College of Virginia that would dominate the Richmond skyline during the next 130 years.

The archives reveal no remarkable events until 1853 when a controversy in the medical department led to a rupture. Thus, the medical department of Hampden-Sydney College became the Medical College of Virginia, an independent institution, chartered February 25, 1854.

In 1860, the Commonwealth of Virginia appropriated $30,000 for the Medical College of Virginia's first hospital—Old Dominion Hospital. When this was done, the College became a State institution.

The first outpatient clinic was established in 1867.

Following the consolidation of the Medical College of Virginia and the University College of Medicine in 1913, the spirit of the new institution was high, and the Medical College of Virginia took on new life and continued to expand and grow in many directions.

A dietetic internship program was established in 1930, and an X-ray technology course was begun in 1935. Rapid expansion followed World War II, and 1945 saw the beginning of the school of physical therapy. The school of hospital administration was established in 1949. Medical technologists have trained at the Medical College of Virginia since 1932, and the school of medical technology was formally opened in 1952. The College has conferred graduate degrees since 1936, and the school of graduate studies was inaugurated in 1957. The newest school at the Medical College of Virginia is the school of radiologic technology, established in 1966. In addition, there are courses in cytotechnology and blood banking. The enrollment in all schools and courses is over 1,600 plus 291 interns and residents who are receiving their postgraduate medical education here.

Various hospitals have been erected, remodeled, and replaced through the years until today four hospitals, the A. D. Williams Memorial Clinic (which serves as the outpatient department), and the new self care unit in the Clinical Center provide patient care. The hospitals—MCV West, MCV South, MCV North, and MCV East—and the self care unit have a total bed complement of approximately 1,400, including bassinets.

Today's Medical College of Virginia covers more than 33 acres of downtown Richmond. Its buildings alone, exclusive of equipment are valued at approximately $70,000,000, based on replacement costs. Tunnels connecting most of the buildings of the institution carry utility lines and provide for pedestrian traffic.

The Medical College of Virginia has a variety of continuing education
such as a student needed in that day and time could be obtained for about $25 or $30.

The fees for each session totaled $100 plus a diploma fee of $30 in the graduation year.

Postgraduate dental education was available at that time for a fee of $5.00 plus one-half the regular tuition fees for graduates in dentistry from other colleges. Graduates from the University College of Medicine would be charged only the matriculation fee of $5.00.

In 1897, the Medical College of Virginia's school of dentistry was established with a three-year graded curriculum under the leadership of Dr. Henry C. Jones, chairman of the faculty and professor of operative, prosthetic, and clinical dentistry.

Other faculty members listed in the catalog of the day included:

**THOMAS R. MARSHALL, M.D., D.D.S.**
*Professor of Principles of Dentistry, Oral Surgery, and Special Anatomy of the Head*

**WM. H. TAYLOR, M.D.**
*Professor of Chemistry and Metallurgy*

**H. H. LEVY, M.D.**
*Professor of Physiology and Hygiene*

**WM. P. MATHEWS, M.D.**
*Professor of Anatomy*

**E. C. LEVY, M.D.**
*Professor of Histology, Pathology, and Bacteriology*

**R. F. WILLIAMS, M.D.**
*Professor of Materia Medica and Therapeutics*

Quoting from the catalog, we note:

"In presenting this the first annual catalog of the Dental Department of the Medical College of Virginia, special attention is called to the fact that this is purely a DENTAL SCHOOL, not directly connected with any other department of the college.

"The Faculty in this Department will maintain the same high standard of teaching which has characterized the mother school.

"The Collateral Branches of Medicine will be thoroughly taught, but as they may best meet the needs of the dental practitioner."
Admission to the dental school of the Medical College of Virginia required a "... preliminary education ... sufficient to justify ... entering on the study of Dentistry."

Graduation was based on fulfillment of academic standards established by the National Association of Dental Faculties and provided "... there are no opposing moral or intellectual reasons."

The four-year course based upon high school graduation for entrance went into effect in 1917. The minimum of one year pre-dental education became effective for all dental schools in 1924, although the Medical College of Virginia instituted that requirement in 1921. Beginning with the 1937-1938 session, a minimum of two years of college education was required for admission. Since 1951, the prerequisites for entrance to the school of dentistry have been three years of college study. The vast majority of students now admitted hold baccalaureate degrees.

The first graduating class (1895) in dentistry at the University College of Medicine was composed of three members. Although the Medical College of Virginia graduated one student in 1898, its first graduating class (1900) consisted of five members. The entering class now includes 80 students and will expand to 100 or 120 upon completion of facilities now under construction.

Two hundred ninety-seven undergraduate and 17 long term postgraduate dental students are enrolled in the current academic session.
Clinical training for dental student utilizing chairside assistant.

With the increase in scientific knowledge, the courses of study have been changed to meet new conditions, and many new subjects have been added to the curriculum. The dental faculty has been enlarged constantly and now consists mostly of full-time career teachers in both the basic and clinical sciences.

Today, the quality of instruction offered to our dental students in the basic and clinical science departments is of extraordinarily high quality as is evidenced by the scores posted by our students on National Board examinations.

The financial status of the Medical College of Virginia has changed significantly through the years. In the beginning, the institution received a small annual appropriation from the State. In 1913, the year the Medical College of Virginia consolidated with the University College of Medicine, an appropriation of $5,000 was made in support of a total budget of $45,000. The current value of College property and equipment approximates $70,000,-000; the State maintenance and operation appropriation for the Medical College of Virginia in 1967 was $11,402,868, and total expenditures were $31,430,704.

Dental practice and education have made eminent progress through the years, and the Medical College of Virginia has always kept pace with the newest developments. Often, it has been in the forefront in the advance of dental education.

From 1913 to 1954, the school of dentistry was located primarily in McGuire Hall where the dental laboratories, clinics, and lecture rooms were housed. The facilities of the College Hospitals have always been utilized for instruction in oral surgery.

Ground was broken for the Wood Memorial Building in October, 1951. In January, 1954, this building was occupied. It now provides space for dental clinics, technology and research laboratories, lecture and demonstration rooms, and television studio. Although ample in 1954, this building is now wholly inadequate for expanded current operations and developments planned for the near future. Construction of additional dental school facilities has begun. Dental Building II will face on Twelfth Street and will be back to back with the existing Wood Memorial Building. The two structures will be connected by corridors on their first two levels. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has awarded a $2,000,000 grant for this building, and the State of Virginia has appropriated a total of about $1,900,000.

Enlargement of the school of dentistry's physical facilities will provide for expanded and new training programs in the dental health field. Space in the new building will be available for the inauguration of a school for dental auxiliary personnel. It also will enable the school of dentistry to extend research and postgraduate training programs as well as continuation education programs for practicing dentists.

Research activities by dental faculty, both in volume and the number of faculty members involved, have increased greatly during recent years. The National Institute of Dental Research supports the graduate training program which is highly effective in preparing dental graduates for careers in research and training. A number of students holding dental degrees are enrolled in the school of graduate studies.

Continuing to look toward the future, the Medical College of Virginia school of dentistry plans to keep abreast of the rapid progress being made in teaching methods by employing new techniques and tools. It anticipates securing additional teachers in a number of important areas and for special programs over and above the staff presently employed. The
Top: Partial view of general clinic, Wood Memorial Building.
Bottom: Ground breaking ceremonies for Dental Building II. Left to right: Dr. John M. Hughes, oldest living graduate of the school of dentistry; Mr. Eppa Hunton IV, a member of the Board of Visitors and chairman of the Executive Committee; Dr. W. C. Henderson, secretary of the Alumni Association; Mr. R. Reginald Rooke, chairman of the Board of Visitors; Dr. R. Blackwell Smith, Jr., president; and Dr. Harry Lyons, dean of the school of dentistry.
school plans to continue establishing fellowships that encourage and support recent graduates who may wish to prepare themselves for a career in dental education. It expects to continue expanding its basic undergraduate teaching program by the addition of lectureships; it wants to bring many teachers, research men, and practitioners of national prominence before its classes to supplement the fine basic instruction offered by the present able staff.

The Medical College of Virginia school of dentistry aspires to provide an environment wherein men and women may prepare themselves for careers as highly competent practitioners, teachers, or researchers in the field of dental health and related biological, physical, and social sciences.

This school provides excellent facilities and dedicated faculty personnel . . . a health educational center environment that makes possible a superior quality of dental education in an interdisciplinary health setting . . . continuing education for practitioners . . . preparation for specialty practice, teaching, and research . . . an expanding research program . . . ideal dental health care as a basis for education at all levels, for research, and as a community service . . . leadership in planning community dental health care programs. It encourages excellence and continuing scholarship for both faculty and students. It creates in its students a social consciousness related to their professional privileges and responsibilities.

The Medical College of Virginia school of dentistry of 1968 would make the founding fathers open their eyes wide with wonder.
The history of dentistry is concurrent with the history of man. Being both an art and a science, the practice of dentistry has undergone a series of changes in keeping with human progress in general. Its early practice constituted a part of the practice of medicine. Medical advance in every country has always progressed in proportion to the achievements of the general civilization.

Dentistry had its beginning among the ancient Eastern civilizations. It is impossible to fix the exact time in history when the dental art made its first appearance. There is ample proof, however, of its existence among the civilizations of ancient Egypt and Phoenicia. The reference to physicians of the teeth among other medical specialists of ancient Egypt indicates an interest in dental maladies by these ancient people. The earliest practice of the prosthetic art of which there is acceptable proof was among the ancient Phoenicians. It is reasonable to assume that dental prosthetics belongs late in the period between the 11th and 4th centuries B.C. when ancient Sidon flourished.

China’s medical system, established in 2797 B.C., included careful attention to oral diseases and their treatment.

In ancient Greece, Hippocrates established what has since been known as scientific medicine. He is regarded as the first analytic student of medical science. Dentistry as a special branch of medicine is not discussed independently in the Hippocratic Canon. There were many different references to the teeth, jaws, and oral cavity, however, that indicate the careful interest in them by Hippocrates.

Aristotle’s observations on the teeth and his recorded conclusions represent the first scientific study of the oral organs.

As Greek culture was developing, the dental art was reaching a relatively high degree of perfection. This art was probably perpetuated under the Romans who were the immediate successors of the Etruscans. After the conquest of Greece by the Romans in 146 B.C., the center of medical interest shifted.

Cascellius is the first dentist of whom we have historical records. He lived during the first century A.D. Many references provide conclusive evidence that the art of dental practice, including the use of restorative appliances, had become independent of the medical art by this time. The end of the period of ancient history found the art of dental practice well established.

Although dentistry, along with medicine, suffered during the Dark Ages, it was preserved, and some progress was made.

The Age of Revival, which commenced to exert itself about the middle of the 11th century, merged with a new epoch at about the end of the 15th century. Guy de Chauliac, 1300-1368, a distinguished French surgeon, who is ranked as the most eminent authority on surgery of the 14th and 15th centuries, was the first to indicate that dentists, as a special class of society, were looked upon with favor. He concluded that they were not mere “tooth pullers,” but the best among them “cured teeth” as well as the scanty knowledge and means of cure then available enabled them to do.

The beginning of the 16th century is regarded as the beginning of modern history. The opening of that century also marks the beginning of a useful
THE DENTAL MUSEUM

The dental museum of the Medical College of Virginia was named to memorialize the late Dean Harry Bear. These are items of antiquity housed in the Harry Bear Dental Museum, Wood Memorial Building.

An antique dental instrument cabinet.

An antique mechanical dental chair.
An antique dental instrument cabinet.

An antique dental instrument cabinet.

Dental equipment, circa 1920.
dental literature which aided materially in the advancement of both the art and the science of dentistry. The first dental text of value was published in Germany about 1530 by an unknown author. The title is "Medicines for the Teeth to Keep Them Good and Sound, and Cure their Diseases Without Damage and Pain." The first scientific text on the anatomy of the teeth was contributed in 1563 by Bartholomeus Eustacheus.

Scientific dentistry took form under the influence of Pierre Fauchard, who is believed to have lived between 1690 and 1761.

The 17th century saw a rapid development of the art of dental practice and its coordination with the scientific dental knowledge that had evolved through the past.

Early dentistry of recognized worth in America was an extension of the French and English methods practiced by trained dentists who transplanted to America the art of dentistry as it then existed in France and England.

The name of William Dinely has been preserved as one of the first dentists in America. There is reasonable doubt that this man practiced dentistry beyond the extraction of teeth.

James Reading is the first known "tooth drawer" to practice in America.

The first person in America to practice the art of dentistry in its best manner was a French trained dentist, Sieur Roquett, who came to Boston from Paris in 1749.

The first dentist in America to devote his full time to the dental art
was Robert Woffendale, surgeon dentist, from London. He came to America late in 1766.

John Baker may be regarded properly as the first dentist in America to give caste to the profession. Baker went from Boston to New York, to Philadelphia, to Baltimore, to Annapolis on his way to Virginia. In 1771, he was in Williamsburg, Virginia, where he continued to practice for about nine years. He returned to Philadelphia where he is known to have been as late as 1785. John Baker, a dentist of splendid professional and social standing, was George Washington's dentist for a number of years.

Michael Poree, "operator for the teeth" from Paris, came to America in 1768. He was the first American dentist to decry the abuses which some pretenders to the practice of dentistry were imposing on the public, and he was the first dentist in America to publish a lay article on dentistry.

Benjamin Fendall stands at the head of dentists in 18th century America. He was the most prolific contributor to the press of all the American dentists of the 18th century and is the first American born dentist of note of whom we have knowledge. He practiced for a period of 35 years, from 1773 to 1808.

Richard Cort Skinner occupies the unique position of having been the first dentist in America of whom we have knowledge to receive official appointment as a dentist to a medical dispensary and also of having written the first textbook on dentistry. He solicited and secured an appointment to the dispensary in the City of New York either in 1791 or 1792. He wrote a treatise on "The Human Teeth" which was copyrighted in 1801. Although fairly well written, it is of more general than special value. This book had been handed out to patients in Baltimore as early as 1794 and in Richmond in 1796.

Thomas Bruff practiced dentistry in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He acquired a good reputation in patenting the first dental instrument (a perpendicular extracting instrument) recorded in the U. S. Patent Office. The U. S. Patent Law was passed by Congress in 1790; Bruff's patent, dated June 28, 1797, was number 245.

As early as 1805, the dental surgeon had been recognized, and dentistry had been regarded as a branch of health service. Dental education had become very important, and many leading dentists of this period admitted students (for teaching) to their offices.

As early as 1819, Horace H. Hayden lectured on dentistry at the University of Maryland. The first dental school in the world, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery (now the dental school of the University of Maryland), was founded in 1840.

The Baltimore College of Dental Surgery met fully and capably the dental educational needs of the time with a high plane of quality comparable to the standards in the other professions accepted by the leaders in both medicine and dentistry. This college established the pattern for modern dental education.

Although Hayden first proposed a national society of dentists in 1817, the first meeting of the American Society of Dental Surgeons (forerunner of the American Dental Association) was held on August 18, 1840. This was seven years before the American Medical Association came into existence. The first issue of the American Journal of Dental Science was published in 1839.

Professional dentistry was at last a reality.
During its lifetime, the University College of Medicine had two deans: Lewis M. Cowardin and Richard Lee Simpson.

Doctor Cowardin, a native of Henrico County, Virginia, graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1874. He headed the University College of Medicine's school of dentistry from 1893 until 1910, serving without remuneration and making substantial contributions to the school to keep it going when there were no endowments and no State aid. He was a member of the Executive Committee and of the Board of Trustees of the institution.

One of the founders of the Richmond Dental Society in 1894, Doctor Cowardin practiced dentistry for over 56 years. He died in 1938.

Dr. Richard Lee Simpson succeeded Doctor Cowardin as dean in 1910. He served in this capacity until 1913 when the two colleges consolidated, and he was named dean of the combined school of dentistry. He served in that capacity, with no salary, until 1915.

Born in Botetourt County, Virginia, in 1873, Doctor Simpson attended Washington and Lee University. He earned his dental degree at the University of Maryland in 1896, ranking first in a class of 54 members. He received the honorary A.M. degree from the University of Maryland in 1907 and was named a Fellow of the American College of Dentists in 1929. Doctor Simpson served on the Virginia State Board of Dental Examiners for several years.

It is said that he was a great psychologist and a student of human nature who possessed a keen, active mind with the ability to produce with his hands the things his mind conceived. Doctor Simpson died in 1947.

When the school of dentistry of the Medical College of Virginia was authorized in 1897, Dr. Henry C. Jones was named chairman of the faculty. He held this post until 1901.

Doctor Jones, a native of Richmond, studied medicine at the Medical College of Virginia. He began the practice of dentistry in Richmond shortly after his graduation from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1871. Records indicate that he retired from private practice in 1913.

Apparently, Doctor Jones was a
popular figure who had a wide and enviable reputation as a dentist. He was director-general of the Exposition held in Richmond in 1888 and was colonel of the First Virginia Regiment.

Dr. J. Hall Moore served as chairman of the dental faculty from 1901 until his death on December 28, 1906. Born in Washington, D.C., Doctor Moore was educated in Washington at Ritten House Academy. He studied dentistry for five years with Doctors Luther Parmele and William Malster and began the practice of his profession in January, 1853. He received the M.D. degree from Georgetown University. From 1853 until 1861 Doctor Moore held a position in the United States Treasury Department, practicing dentistry in the afternoons.

At the beginning of the War Between the States, he came to Richmond to cast his lot with the Confederacy.

Doctor Moore, who practiced dentistry when many quacks were rampant, labored indefatigably to raise dentistry to the same footing as that of medicine among the other professions. His work as a leader in the making and framing of the dental law of the State of Virginia earned for him the designation "Father of Dentistry in Virginia" as well as a place in "Men of Mark in Virginia."

Dr. Frank Whiting Stiff served as chairman of the faculty from 1906 until 1913 when he was succeeded by Dr. Richard Lee Simpson who headed the combined schools.

Born in 1861, Dr. Stiff graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1886. He was a charter
member (and later president) of the Richmond City Dental Society. Doctor Stiff served as president of the Virginia State Dental Society in 1911. His varied interests and broad abilities led to his appointment to the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary.

Doctor Stiff retired from practice on January 1, 1931.

Dr. J. A. Cameron Hoggan was dean from 1915 to 1925. Born in the province of Ontario, he attended Trinity College at Toronto. Doctor Hoggan graduated in 1901 from the Royal College of Dental Surgeons at Toronto and in 1907 from the Angle School of Orthodontia in St. Louis, Missouri. Before coming to Virginia, he practiced for 12 years in the province of Ontario.

It is said of Doctor Hoggan, who was named a member of the American College of Dentists and served as president of the Richmond Dental Society, that he “gave his talents unsparingly” for his profession. He died in 1928.

Dr. Robert Dunsmore Thornton was named full-time dean in 1925 “to meet the growing activities and demands of the School of Dentistry, which had wonderfully developed under the able administration of its former head.”

Doctor Thornton, who earned his dental degrees from the University of Toronto and the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Toronto, was associated with the later institution from 1914 until 1932. He was president of the Toronto Dental Society and served for two years with an army hospital in the Canadian Expeditionary Forces.

Doctor Thornton did not hold his deanship long, resigning in 1929 to return to private practice in Toronto. He died in 1943.

Dr. Harry Bear, who succeeded Doctor Thornton as dean in 1929, was the first graduate of the Medical College of Virginia’s school of dentistry to serve as its dean.

Born in Richmond on November 20, 1890, Dean Bear was educated at the University of Richmond, receiving his degree in dentistry from the Medical College of Virginia in 1913. Soon after graduation, he became a part-time instructor at the College and in time was made professor of exodontia, dental jurisprudence, ethics, and economics. From 1929 to 1945, he served as part-time dean of the school of dentistry and in 1945 gave up his private practice to devote his full efforts to the deanship. He held this position until his death in 1950.

In 1945, Temple University conferred upon him the honorary degree of doctor of dental science. He served as president of the Richmond Dental Society, Virginia State Dental Association, American Association of Dental Schools, and the American Society of Oral Surgery and was a Fellow of the American College of Dentists.

Dean Bear earned a national reputation in the field of dental education and took an active part in everything he felt tended to further dental education and dental research.

Our present dean, Dr. Harry Lyons, assumed the deanship in 1951. Born
in Washington, D. C., he attended Washington and Lee University for one term before entering the Medical College of Virginia school of dentistry in 1919. Dean Lyons joined the school of dentistry faculty shortly after his graduation in 1923 and served through all the ranks from instructor to professor and head of the department of oral pathology, diagnosis and therapeutics, and periodontia.

He is the only Virginian who has served as president of the American Dental Association and is one of only five persons who have been elected president of the three major dental associations: the American Dental Association, the American Association of Dental Schools, and the American College of Dentists. He was speaker of the House of Delegates of the American Dental Association for four terms and has chaired at least five national committees in the profession.

In addition, Dean Lyons has served on other important committees for the profession and for the federal government and has been a consultant to the Veterans Administration in Richmond, Roanoke, and Washington, D. C., to the Council on Federal Government Dental Services of the American Dental Association, and to the U. S. Food and Drug Administration. He is honorary civilian consultant to the Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy and in 1956 received the Alpha Omega Achievement Award.

Doctor Lyons holds the honorary degrees of Sc.D. from Temple University, LL.D. from Manitoba University, and Sc.D. from New York University.