

[Archives & Special Collections, Columbia University Health Sciences Library](#)

[Columbia University. College of Dental Medicine. Records, 1892, 1915-1976](#)

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY. COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE.

Records, 1892, 1915-1976.

6.75 cubic feet (21 boxes)

SUMMARY: Correspondence, reports, minutes, financial records, printed material and photographs of the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, known from 1923 to 2006 as the School of Dental and Oral Surgery (SDOS), as well as some records of the College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York (CODOS) which merged with it in 1923.

HISTORICAL TIME LINE:

1892		Columbia President Seth Low discusses the possibility of establishing a dental school with a group of prominent New York dentists led by Dr. Charles F. W. Bödecker; the University declines to pursue the idea.
1915	Nov. 15	Faculty of Medicine urges the founding of a dental school "along University lines."
1916	Mar. 6	University Board of Trustees approve recommendation of Faculty of Medicine.
	May	The Committee for a Columbia University Dental School publishes "A Dental School along University Lines." It calls for a four-year course, the first two to be identical to the medical course, and recommends an entrance requirement of two years of college, the most stringent in the nation at that time.
		James N. Jarvie, brother of Committee member Dr. William Jarvie, pledges \$100,000 for a dental school endowment.
	Sept. 27	Two students begin dental course at the College of Physicians & Surgeons.
1917	Mar. 5	University Board of Trustees formally establishes the School of Dentistry, retroactive to September 1916. It is only the fourth university-affiliated dental school in the country.
	Mar.	New York School of Dental Hygiene is absorbed.
	Apr.	New York Postgraduate School of Dentistry merges with Columbia.

- 1922 Columbia awards its first DDS to Joseph Schroff.
- 1923 July 1 College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York (CODOS), founded in 1892 as the New York Dental School, merges with Columbia; combined institution is renamed School of Dental and Oral Surgery (SDOS)
- SDOS moves to former CODOS buildings on East 34th & 35th Streets.
- 1928 Sept. SDOS moves to Vanderbilt Clinic wing of the new Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.
- 1934 Willard Rappleye, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (College of Physicians & Surgeons), also becomes Dean of SDOS, a position he retains until his retirement in 1958; day-to-day running of the School is left to an Associate Dean.
- 1935 Dec. 12 Deranged handyman murders two faculty members including Associate Dean Arthur T. Rowe.
- 1945 Feb. 5 Faculty of Dental and Oral Surgery merged into Faculty of Medicine, although SDOS retains a separate corporate identity.
- 1959 Jul. 1 Faculty of Dental and Oral Surgery reconstituted as separate faculty.
- Gilbert P. Smith becomes the School's first separate Dean since 1933.

Dental School Administrators, 1917-1976

James C. Egbert (Director, University Extension), Chairman, Administrative Board, 1917-1920

Frank T. Van Woert, Chairman, Administrative Board, 1920-1923; Director, 1923-1926

Alfred Owre, Dean, 1927-1933

Willard C. Rappleye, Dean, 1934-1958

Arthur T. Rowe, Associate Dean, 1933-1935

Houghton Holliday, Acting Associate Dean, 1935-36; Associate Dean, 1936-1945

Bion R. East, Associate Dean, 1945-1948

Maurice J. Hickey, Acting Associate Dean, 1948-1949, Associate Dean, 1949-1956

Gilbert P. Smith, Associate Dean, 1956-1959; Dean, 1959-1968

Melvin L. Moss, Dean, 1968-1973

Edward V. Zegarelli, Acting Dean, 1973-1974; Dean, 1974-1978

ORGANIZATION: Organized in five series: I. Correspondence/Subject files; II. Committees; III. Courses and Programs; IV. Clinics; V. College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York (CODOS).

SCOPE AND CONTENT: Series I, Correspondence/Subject Files, covers the entire history of the School of Dental & Oral Surgery up to 1976 but it is particularly rich for the 1916-1933 period. The correspondence of the Administrative Board (Box 1) and of the Associate Deans (Box 4:6-9) provide a comprehensive picture of daily life at the School from its founding until the late 1940s. Box 8:3 documents the attempts in 1892 to found a dental school at Columbia, while Box 8:4 includes newspaper clippings relating to the successful 1916 efforts. Though correspondence diminishes after 1933, annual reports for 1948/49-1966 (Box 4:2-4) provide an overview of SDOS activities at mid-century. Other well-documented topics are fundraising, space planning, equipment and purchases, and relations with the American Association of Dental Schools. This series contains extensive correspondence from such noted figures in the School's history as William B. Dunning (Boxes 1, 11:3-4); Henry S. Dunning (Boxes 1, 9:5); William J. Gies (Boxes 1, 8:6-10); and Leuman Waugh (Box 9:6). Other figures for whom there is correspondence include Henry W. Gillett, Alfred Owre, and Frank T. Van Woert.

The committee records in Series II include much on admissions and curriculum (Committee on Dental Education, Committee on Instruction, Curriculum Committee), while Series III has information on individual courses, particularly post-graduate offerings. Records relating to the School's outpatient services can be found not only in Series IV (Clinics) but also in the Presbyterian Hospital folders in Series I (Boxes 9-10).

The materials in Series V relating to the College of Dental & Oral Surgery of New York (CODOS) are fragmentary and largely from its final years. There are annual reports, a budget for 1922/23, and a commencement program for 1907. The correspondence is largely about the 1923 merger with Columbia.

It should be noted that these records appear to be a combination of those created by the Offices of the Dean and of the Associate Dean of SDOS in the course of normal business, with those created by other University offices and by individuals added later as self-consciously "historical" material. For instance, much of the early correspondence of the Administrative Board contains both sides of Chairman J.C. Egbert's correspondence: the carbon copy his office retained and his original signed letters received by members of the Board. This was also true of much of the correspondence of William B. and Henry S. Dunning, two prominent early faculty members. Some of these two types of records were still distinct when they were accessioned by Archives & Special Collections, but most were so intermingled that it was impossible to separate them out. The important run of Administrative Board correspondence, 1915-1932 (Box 1), in particular,

should be seen as a “created collection” incorporating records from different offices and individuals and not reflecting any original arrangement.

RESTRICTIONS: Minutes of the University Board of Trustees are closed for 50 years from date of creation. Other records containing personnel or student information may be restricted according to the Archives & Special Collections Access Policy.

REMOVALS: Most photographs have been removed to the general or biographical photograph collections.

RELATED COLLECTIONS: There are extensive files relating to dental school in the Central Records of the Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences/Dean of the Faculty of Medicine; these are particularly voluminous for the period 1933-1958 when the Dean of Medicine was also head of the dental school.

Archives & Special Collections also holds minutes of the SDOS Administrative Board (1917-28) and Faculty (1930-93) as well as runs of course announcements, deans’ annual reports, yearbooks, and alumni publications. College of Dental & Oral Surgery (CODOS) records include minutes of the Board of Trustees (1904-23) and Faculty (1913-23), a largely complete set of announcements, a few yearbooks, other student publications and an alumni register.

Personal papers of members of the SDOS faculty include those of William B. Dunning, William J. Gies, and Irwin Mandel. The papers of William Jarvie, though containing little directly relating to the School, have a wealth of material about dental education and practice in late 19th and early 20th century New York.

SUBJECTS

Dunning, William B. (William Bailey), 1874-

Dunning, Henry Sage.

Gies, William John, 1872-1956.

Gillett, Henry Webster, 1861-

Owre, Alfred, 1870-

Van Woert, Frank T.

Waugh, Leuman.

Columbia University. School of Dental and Oral Surgery.

College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York.

Dentistry – Study and teaching – United States.

Education, Dental – New York City.

Schools, Dental – New York City.

Dentists.

Collection processed by Roy Felshin and Henry Blanco, 2001; finding aid written by Stephen E. Novak, 2001. Processing was supported by funding from the William J. Gies Foundation for Dental Education.

Series I: Correspondence/Subject Files

Box 1

- 1 Administrative Board, 1915-1917
- 2 Administrative Board, 1918-1919
- 3 Administrative Board, 1920
- 4 Administrative Board, 1921-1922
- 5 Administrative Board, 1923
- 6 Administrative Board, 1924
- 7 Administrative Board, 1925
- 8 Administrative Board, 1926
- 9 Administrative Board, 1927-1929
- 10 Administrative Board, 1930-1933

Box 2

- 1 Administration, 1944-1947
- 2 Accreditation, 1963: Correspondence, 1963-1970
- 3 Accreditation, 1963: Survey Form, 1963
- 4 Accreditation, 1968-1972
- 5 Alumni Association, Annual Meeting, 1936
- 6 American Association of Dental Schools, 10/1931-9/1953
- 7 American Association of Dental Schools, 1/1954-6/1956

Box 3

- 1 American Association of Dental Schools, 7/1956-1/1958
- 2 American Association of Dental Schools, 2/1958-12/1959
- 3 American Association of Dental Schools, 1/1960-6/1961
- 4 American Association of Dental Schools, 7/1961-12/1962
- 5 American Association of Dental Schools: Survey of Dental Education, 1973/1974

Box 4

- 1 Anniversary Dinner Program, 1942
- 2 Annual Reports, 1948/49-1963
- 3 Annual Reports, 1964-1966
- 4 Annual Reports (pages from Columbia Presbyterian Annual Report), 1961-1962, 1965-1968
- 5 Art Committee, 1969-1970
- 6 Associate Dean, 1933-1935
- 7 Associate Dean, 1936-1938
- 8 Associate Dean, 1939-1943
- 9 Associate Dean, 1945-1947
- 10 "Better Dental Service for New York": fundraising brochure, including photos, ca. 1930

Box 4 (cont'd)

- 11 Bicentennial Fund: Class Chairmen, Classes of 1903-1950
- 12 Bicentennial Fund: Class Letters, 1954
- 13 Bicentennial Fund: Dental Hygienists Alumnae Association, 1952-1953
- 14 Bicentennial Fund: Faculty, 1953

Box 5

- 1 Bicentennial Fund: Financial Report on Gifts Received, 2/14/1955
- 2 Bicentennial Fund: Form Letters, 1952-1955
- 3 Bicentennial Fund: Fundraising Brochures, c.1953-1954
- 4 Bicentennial Fund: Operating Plans, 1952-1953
- 5 Bicentennial Fund: Orthodontic Division [Columbia and the Future of Dental Science], 1953
- 6 Bicentennial Fund: Periodontic Division (Frank E. Beebe, Chairman), 1952-1953
- 7 Bicentennial Fund: Report, 1954-1956
- 8 Bicentennial Fund: Special Gifts Campaign, 1952-1954
- 9 Bicentennial Fund: Student Committee, 1953
- 10 Bicentennial Fund for the Medical Sciences, 6/23/1966
- 11 Budget, 1919-1937
- 12 Building Plans, c. 1924-1930: space requirements for SDOS at medical center; correspondence with architects re changes to SDOS quarters in Vanderbilt Clinic building
- 13 Building Plans, 1946-1949: proposals for renovations and expansion
- 14 Carnegie Foundation: statistical reports to the Foundation; merger plans between Columbia and College of Dental & Oral Surgery of New York, 1923-1925
- 15 Cavitron (Ultrasonic Drilling): News Release, etc., 1954-1955
- 16 Cavitron (Ultrasonic Drilling): Newsclippings, 1954
- 17 Cerebral Palsy Dental Program, 1951-1952
- 18 CPMC Development Plans, 1945-1948: expansion of SDOS, etc.
- 19 CPMC Development Plans, 1949-1950

Box 6

- 1 Committee on the Survey of Dentistry in the United States (ADA), 9/1958-3/1959
- 2 Committee on the Survey of Dentistry in the United States (ADA), 4/1959-1/1960
- 3 Conference for the Advancement of Dental Science and Education, 1947
- 4 Consortium, 1971-1972: correspondence, grant proposal, etc., regarding joint effort among metropolitan New York dental schools to increase minority enrollment
- 5 Cordier, Andrew, President of Columbia University, 1968-1970
- 6 Council on Dental Education, ADA. Survey of Dental Schools: Report on the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, Columbia University, 1942-43, 1946
- 7 Curriculum: schedules, courses of study, 1922-1923
- 8 Dental Education Reprints, 1920s-1940s
- 9 Development and Planning, 1945-1950: physical expansion, curriculum revisions

Box 6 (cont'd)

- 10 Development and Planning, 1951-1955: fundraising, University Bicentennial campaign

Box 7

- 1 Development and Planning: Fund-Raising Campaign, 1949
- 2 Dickinson, John, professor of prosthetic dentistry: 1921-1924
- 3 Dunning, Henry: Plaque, 1949
- 4 Dunning, William: Plaque, 1949
- 5 Engines, 1932-1936
- 6 Equipment, 1928-1938
- 7 Equipment, 1963-1968
- 8 Exhibits: Atlantic City, 1937
- 9 Exhibits: Chicago, 1938
- 10 Exhibits: St. Louis, 1938
- 11 Exhibits, 1939-1940
- 12 Faculty Survey (Directory of Dental Educators), 1973-1974
- 13 Fellowships, 1946-1966

Box 8

- 1 Fellowships, 1967-1968
- 2 Financial Assistance Committee. Subcommittee on Admissions: correspondence, 1970-1971
- 3 Founding: Early Efforts, 1892: letters of Seth Low to Dr. Charles F. W. Bödecker; petition of New York dentists to Columbia College
- 4 Founding of Columbia University Dental School, 1916: newsclippings re James N. Jarvie gift, opening of school, etc.
- 5 Fundraising plan, 1927
- 6 Gies, William J., 1921-1922
- 7 Gies, William J., 1923
- 8 Gies, William J., 1924
- 9 Gies, William J., 1925
- 10 Gies, William J., 1926-1929
- 11 Historical data, 1920s, 1944-1976
- 12 Increased Enrollment Report, 1949
- 13 Institute of Preventive Dentistry, 1950-1954
- 14 Institute of Preventive Dentistry, 1955
- 15 Kirk, Grayson, President of Columbia University, 1963-1969
- 16 Miner, Leroy, Dean, Harvard University School of Dentistry, 1925

Box 9

- 1 New York State Department of Education, 1916-1919
- 2 New York State Department of Education, 1923-1927

Box 9 (cont'd)

- 3 New York State Department of Education: Study of Dental School and Dental Manpower Needs, 1958
- 4 Oral Hygiene staff: minutes, reports, correspondence, 1927-1940
- 5 Oral Surgery, Department of: correspondence and reports, largely from Henry S. Dunning, 1923-1941
- 6 Orthodontics, Department of: correspondence and reports, largely from Leuman Waugh, 1932-1948
- 7 Postgraduate Faculty Committee, 11/1947-6/1962
- 8 Presbyterian Hospital: dental service at Presbyterian; inclusion of SDOS in Medical Center; financial concerns, etc., 1923-1931
- 9 Presbyterian Hospital: 25th Anniversary of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, 1953
- 10 Presbyterian Hospital Medical Board: minutes, 4/1955-5/1960

Box 10

- 1 Presbyterian Hospital Medical Board: minutes, 6/1960-7/1961
- 2 Presbyterian Hospital Medical Board: minutes, 9/1961-10/1962
- 3 Presbyterian Hospital Medical Board: minutes, 11/1962-6/1963
- 4 Purchasing Department, 1945-1949
- 5 Purchasing Department, 1950-1958

Box 11

- 1 Registrar, 1928-1950
- 2 Registration, 1950s
- 3 Research, Division of/Clinical Research Laboratory (W.B. Dunning), 1930-1948
- 4 Research, Division of/Clinical Research Laboratory (W.B. Dunning), 1949-1957
- 5 Secretary of the University, 1/1921-3/1963

Box 12

- 1 Secretary of the University, 6/1963-12/1963
- 2 Special Events, 1929-1952: dedication of plaques in honor of William Carr, William Gies and Leuman Waugh; dinners in honor of William B. Dunning and William Hopkins Crawford; dedication of Paul Kamen Seminar Room
- 3 Students: Courses, fees, etc., 1945-1965
- 4 Tuition, 1953-1970
- 5 Trustees, Columbia University, 3/1928-6/1960: abstracts of minutes with reference to SDOS
- 6 Trustees, Columbia University, 10/1960-1/1966: abstracts of minutes with reference to SDOS

Box 13

- 1 Trustees, Columbia University, 2/1966-5/1967: abstracts of minutes with reference to SDOS
- 2 Vice President and Dean of Faculties, Office of (Polykarp Kusch), 1969-1971
- 3 Vice President and Provost, Office of, 1967-1971
- 4 Vice President for Finance, 1969
- 5 W.K. Kellogg Foundation Fellows, 1950-1951
- 6 Ward, Marcus, Dean, College of Dental Surgery, University of Michigan, 1920-1921
- 7 William Jarvie Society for Dental Research [student society]: minutes, constitution and by-laws, articles, correspondence, 1925-1937
- 8 Work Conference on Improving Teaching Procedures in Dentistry, Proceedings, 1954

Series II: Committees

- 9 Ad Hoc Committee on Professional Ethics, 1971
- 10 Admissions, 1933-1947

Box 14

- 1 Admissions, 1948-1955
- 2 Admissions, 1968-1973
- 3 Admissions Committee, 5/1948-2/1960
- 4 Admissions Committee, 3/1960-10/1964
- 5 Admissions Committee, 11/1964-6/1966
- 6 Admissions Committee Report, 1970

Box 15

- 1 Committee Members, 1932-1945
- 2 Committee Members, 1949
- 3 Committee on Dental Education, 1945-1949
- 4 Committee on Dental Education, 1950-1958
- 5 Committee on Dental Education: Minutes, 1945-1958
- 6 Committee on Instruction: Minutes. 1966-1972
- 7 Committee on Instruction. Subcommittee on Curriculum: Minutes, 1966-1972

Box 16

- 1 Committee for Present and Future Programs for a School or Division of Allied Health Sciences: Report Concerning the School of Dental and Oral Surgery, 1970s
- 2 Curriculum Committee, 1927-1932
- 3 Curriculum Committee, 1933-1934
- 4 Curriculum Committee, 1935-1941
- 5 Curriculum Committee, 1945-1949
- 6 Curriculum Committee, 1950-1957

Box 16 (cont'd)

- 7-8 Faculty Class Committees, 1944/45-1949/50, 1971-1973: faculty committees for the four classes of the school
- 9 Faculty of Medicine, 1936-1958: some minutes, but largely correspondence and résumés

Box 17

- 1 Recruiting Committee, 1972
- 2 Subcommittee on Recruitment (Admissions Committee), 1969-1972
- 3 Subcommittee on Recruitment: Recruiting Task Force, 1971

Series III: Courses and Programs

- 4 Class Lists and schedules, 1962/63
- 5 Class Lists and schedules, 1962/63
- 6 Class Lists and schedules, 1963/64
- 7 Class Lists and schedules, 1965/66

Box 18

- 1 Courses, 1961-1967
- 2 Dental Hygiene Program, 1970s
- 3 Graduate Medical Education Brochure, 1946/1947
- 4 New Building Planning Questionnaire: space requirements for courses, 1961-1966
- 5 Postgraduate Courses, 1945-1970
- 6 Postgraduate Courses, 1961-1966
- 7 Postgraduate Courses and Curricula: Class lists, 1928-1940, 1945-1949

Box 19

- 1 Postgraduate Courses and Curricula: Correspondence, 1945-1949
- 2 Postgraduate Courses: General, 1960-1965
- 3 University Extension, 1928-1941

Postgraduate course descriptions:

- 4 PD 300: Biology of Orthodontic Practice, 1968-1970
- 5 PD 374: Dentistry in Cerebral Palsy, 1957-1961
- 6 PD 374: Dentistry in Cerebral Palsy and Accompanying Conditions, 1968
- 7 PD 401: Restorative Dentistry, Oral Medicine, and Periodontology, 1959
- 8 PD 403: Diagnosis, 1968-1969
- 9 PD 420: Extraoral Force Therapy, 1969-1970
- 10 PD 421: A Rationale and Technic for Early Class II Treatment, 1968-1969
- 11 PD 422: Edgewise Appliance Therapy, 1969
- 12 PD 424: The Begg Treatment Method, 1964-1969

Box 19 (cont'd)

- 13 PD 424A: Advanced Begg Technic, 1969
- 14 PD 427: Applied Roentgenographic Cephalometry, 1966-1970
- 15 PD 432: Temporomandibular Joint Disorders, 1963-1969
- 16 PD 432A: Survey of Temporomandibular Joint Disorders, 1956-1957
- 17 PD 440: Modern Concepts of Operative Dentistry, 1968

Series IV: Clinics

- 18 Clinic: general correspondence, 1933-1934, 1940-1947

Box 20

- 1 Clinic: general correspondence, 1948-1951
- 2 Clinic costs and receipts, 1936/37-1940/41
- 3 Clinic Fees, 1929-1938
- 4 Clinic Function and clinic reports, 1947-1954
- 5 Division of Clinical Oral Physiology/Temporomandibular Joint Clinic, 1951-1959
- 6 Reports of Clinic Admissions and Treatments, 1933-1947
- 7 Reports of Clinic Admissions, 1948-1956
- 8 Presbyterian Hospital Dental Service Accreditation, 1951-1963

Series V: College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York (CODOS)

- 9 College of Dental and Oral Surgery, Annual Report, 1913-1923
- 10 College of Dental and Oral Surgery: Budget, 1922/23

Box 21

- 1-2 College of Dental and Oral Surgery: correspondence, reports, etc., largely regarding merger with Columbia (1923), 1910, 1920-8/1923
- 3 College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York: Charter and by-laws, 1905 (with emendations to 1915)
- 4 College of Dental and Oral Surgery of New York: Commencement Program, 1907
- 5 History of CODOS, c.1920, 1934