A Surprise Beginning: The Medical and Pharmaceutical Departments of Southern Methodist University

Written and Presented by Nancy Skochdopole 11th Annual Legacies Dallas History Conference January 30, 2010

Opened in 1903, the Southwestern University Medical College was located at 1420 Hall Street, between Bryan and San Jacinto streets,

completed in 1905 at a cost of \$40,000, was described by the as a

and up-to-date facilities and apparatus. The 3-story, gray brick building was easily accessible by the Bryan, Swiss Avenue and San Jacinto streetcars.

and equipment and teaching facilities as will be necessary to place the Medical and Pharmaceutical Departments in Class A, as determined by the Council on Medical Education of

laboratories, including X-ray appliances and microscopes, as well as made plans to add a 4th story and addition to the rear of the building. The medical college was well on its way to

bookstore and a large assembly hall, divided by folding doors, of which half could be used as a senior lecture hall and the other half as a histological and embryological laboratory.

medicine and surgery which will best prepare

The dean of the medical department was Dr. John Oliver McReynolds, whose associa-

and SMU were well established. Not only did he donate the land upon which the medical college was built, Dean McReynolds also

location. According to the

, Dallas was in a heated race with Houston and Fort Worth to have the Methodist church establish its new university here. The night before the final vote was cast, Dr. McReynolds called upon Will Caruth to help the Chamber of Commerce sway the vote in favor of Dallas.

brought SMU to Dallas.

Born in Elkton, Kentucky in 1865, Dr. McReynolds received his medical degree from the University of Maryland in 1891 and attended clinics nationally and in Europe to specialize in eyes and ears. He moved to Dallas in 1892 where he began his medical practice and eventually his teaching career in 1903, when Southwestern founded its medical college. He was well-regarded as an expert in his field, contributing theory and research on eye and ear diseases in several textbooks. Among the many positions he held in various medical societies, Dr. McReynolds served as vice president of seedegae medicl s natirv4()-129(8(c)-15(e)4()-69(pr)-6(e)15(l)38(10e)

Federal Reserve Bank. Additionally, the Citizens Association of Dallas was organized under his
Another faculty member was a pioneer52≥21@051-1091 r deoioneer-29(B)7(4.38 6729(m)B)7(gr)-6()-4

societies and serving as vice president of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, as well as being named the first chief of orthopedic surgery at Baylor University Medical Center. He was a recipient of the Linz Award in 1925 for his outstanding service to Dallas.

Outstanding leadership and faculty attracted good students. Most of the

pharmaceutical departments were from Texas, although a few came from Oklahoma. Tuition was \$100 per year for general instruction and another \$5 for lab a capable manager of a first-class, up-to-date pharmacy might give his assistants if he has time to

Medical Department, graduates were required to be at least 21 years old, possess good character, complete four years of medical college (at least one of which had to be at SMU), be in satisfactory standing with 80% attendance, and owe no money to the University. Additionally, the

ferred upon any candidate who, without permission, absents himself from the public commence-

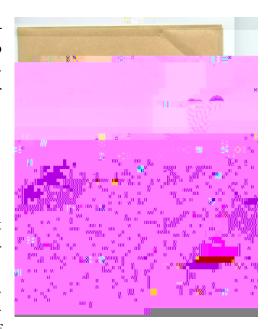
In 1911, 66 students matriculated in the medical department and 27 matriculated in the pharmacy school. By 1912, a full year after SMU assumed control of the medical college,

On May 31, 1913, SMU held the 10th commencement of the college and awarded 14 medical degrees to graduates and 10 pharmaceutical degrees. At the banquet following the commencement ceremony, Dr. Hyer

its way to developing its first successful program.

It was also in 1913 that SMU published its first volume of . Part yearbook, part recruitment brochure,

ter, its future as a university, and its medical department. It extolled the virtues of its dedicated faculty and talented students, including the graduates of the class of 1913.

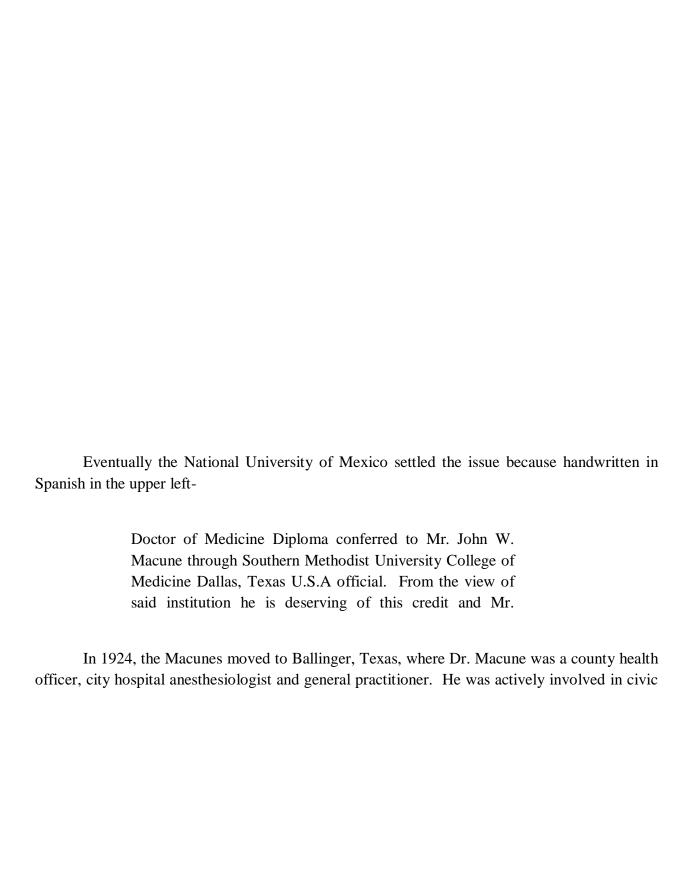


GRADUATION PROGRAM

college graduates in 1913 was a new doctor by the name of John William Macune. Under Dr.

How when he has hopes he will be humbled so low
By diseases that have baffled the best of our men
And will do the same for him thought (sic) he may not know when.
With a future like this I can only say now
It takes courage to keep up and your hands to the plow.

The son of a physician and Methodist minister, John Macune was born on January 9, 1882, and grew up in Cameron, Texas, a small town southeast of Temple. After receiving his medical degree, Dr. Macune served as a First Lieutenant in the Army Medical Corps stationed at Newport News, Virginia during World War I. He later moved his wife and two children to the border town of Eagle Pass, Texas. Although there is no record that Dr. Macune served as an official Methodist medical missionary in Mexico, according to his family he worked two days a week in Allende, Mexico, treating patients. Because Mexican authorities could not verify that SMU had a medical college, they repeatedly arrested Dr. Macune for practicing medicine without a license. For a year, Dr. Macune paid daily fines in order to continue his practice in Mexico.

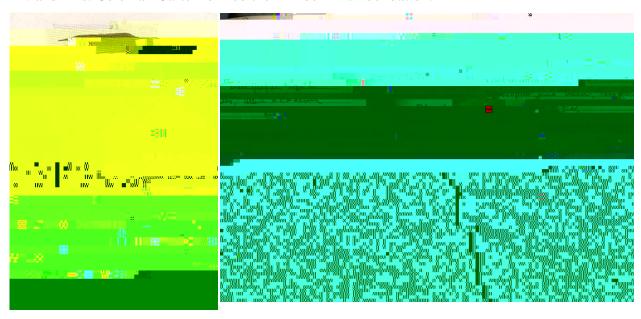


Another member of the Class of 1913 was Coleman J. Carter. Under his photograph, his poem read:

Has taken to medicine and there to stick.

Him for work that will win him great fame,

His poem was not prophetic. Yes, Dr. Carter did win great fame but not as a doctor. Born in Abbott, Texas in 1891, Dr. Carter attended SMU Medical College for three years. Shortly after graduation, he married Mattie Kimbell, sister of Mr. Kay Kimbell of Fort Worth. He served in the U.S. Army medical corps as a first lieutenant during a 1920 tour of duty in Serbia and practiced medicine in Fort Worth until 1934, when he left to work with Mr. Kimbell in his wide network of oil, grain, insurance and grocery holdings. In 1935, Mr. and Mrs. Kay Kimbell and Dr. and Mrs. Coleman Carter formed the Kimbell Art Foundation.



DR. COLEMAN J. Cd49i90ER

COLEMAN J. CARTER'S MATRICULATION RECORD

Collecting mostly 17th and 18th century European paintings, the Kimbell Art Foundation

foundation, which established and built the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth. Dr. Carter served as chairman of Kimbell, Inc. and the Kimbell Art Foundation until his retirement in 1974. He died in 1990 at the age of 99.

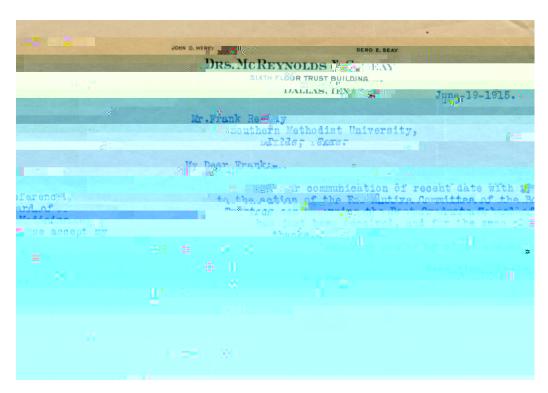
By the fall of 1913,

One week later, the trustees officially disbanded the medical faculty. The decision

Class A standing at this time by the American Medical Association. Its dean, Dr. E.H. Cary,

of Medicine. Baylor College of Medicine existed in Dallas until 1943, when the MD Anderson Foundation asked it to join the newly-formed Texas Medical Center in Houston, where it still

Polyclinic-Postgraduate Medical School, a postgraduate program run by Dallas physicians.



LETTER ALLUDING TO DISBANDING THE MEDICAL COLLEGE

SMU did open its doors that September but without a medical college. Now, almost 100 years later, it is interesting to reflect on whether the Board of Trustees made a wise move in dis-

have thrived as they did in those early days had SMU kept its medical school. What we do know -known medical col-

lege four years earlier than the first faculty and students to enter the Hilltop through Dallas Hall.

Endnotes

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, September 28, 1915
                                               by Page A. Thomas
                                               by Page A. Thomas
                                , April 17, 1911
                            , February 4, 1904, July 30, 1905 and September 22, 1905
                                                                                           , August 1911
                                                                                           , August 1911
                            , August 4, 1911
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                            , August 4, 1911
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                            , June 16, 1930
                            , July 8, 1942
                            , June 16, 1930
                                                                                      , April 25, 1930
                             , www.wbcarrellclinic.com and
                             , www.wbcarrellclinic.com
                                 , February 24, 1944
                                                                                           , August 1911
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                                 , October 1, 1912
                                 , October 1, 1912
                                                    , Volume I, 1913
XXX.
                        , April 12, 1945 and
                                                                      , October 5, 1987
                                 , April 22, 1990
                                 , November 2, 1966 and April 22, 19prjeut23 30358 Tf.al,eut23 30358 Tf.ahod c , Dallas (as)3
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