



**Interview No.:** OH 5.2

**Title:** W. Eugene Atkinson, DMD, Interview by Brooke Fox, 21 October 2011

**Interviewer:** Fox, Brooke

**Interviewee:** Atkinson, W. Eugene

**Date:** 2011-10-21

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**Subject (Topical):**

Medical College of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina.

Medical University of South Carolina. College of Dental Medicine.

Dental students.

Dental school--United States.

Education, Dental--United States.

**Subject (Names):** Atkinson, W. Eugene

Buhler, John

Macaulay, Neill

Fingar, Walter W.

McTeer, George C.

Owens, Cathy Moss

**Subject (Genre):** Oral histories.

Interviews.

**Summary:**

W. Eugene Atkinson, DMD, was a student in the third graduating class of the College of Dental Medicine (CDM), 1973. Dr. Atkinson begins his interview with a history of the CDM. He discusses the state's need for a dental school and provides an overview of the work that went into opening the school. He details the South Carolina Dental Association's (SCDA) involvement in founding the school at the Medical College of South Carolina. He goes on to discuss the issues involved with establishing the school, including securing funding, hiring a dean and faculty, developing the curriculum, and admitting the first class. He finishes his history of the CDM by detailing the growth of the school since its establishment in 1964.

Dr. Atkinson then focuses on his personal experiences as a student. He recalls attending lectures and labs the first few years in Colcock Hall. He identifies early faculty and describes their teaching styles. He talks in great length about the first dean, Dr. John Buhler. Additionally, Dr. Atkinson recalls the college's first female and first African-American students, changes in dental education, and his continued support of the CDM.

**Collection:** Waring Historical Library Oral History Collection

**Contributing Institution:** Waring Historical Library (MUSC)

**Media Type:** Oral Histories

**Note:** This interview is part of "The College of Dental Medicine Oral History Project" series. These interviews document the experiences of early students, faculty, and staff. Nine interviews were conducted between September 2011 and March 2012 in preparation for the College's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Transcript has been edited by the interviewee.

In cases where the audio and the transcript differ, the audio is provided for background use only.

See also: Collection # OH 5-5.9

**Language:** English

**Digitization Specifications:** Audio recorded using a Marantz digital recorder. Archival masters are .mp3 files.

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**Series Title:** The College of Dental Medicine Oral History Project, 2011

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**Transcript:** 30 p.