

Smooth Transition into UNMC Fold

In the six months since the College of Dentistry became formally realigned under Medical Center administration, the initial flurry of activity has subsided and the College seems to have settled back into the routine activities of life on Lincoln's East Campus. Even though the observable physical effects of the realignment will take time, the excitement and optimism generated in administrators, faculty and students have remained unabated.

Perhaps the main reason for the smooth transition and continued excitement has been the logic which underlies the realignment. No one is in a better position to perceive this than Dr. Richard Bradley, dean of the college. He feels that "It just makes sense to have our medical and dental programs educationally close together. Dentistry has much in common with other health sciences."

The "sense" of including a college of dentistry within a health science center has been recognized by most dental schools in the United States. Of the 60 accredited dental schools, 55 are located in medical complexes. In 47 of these, the administrative structure is much like that of the Medical Center with the academic unit deans reporting to a chancellor or vice president for health affairs.

The issue of realignment had been under board of regents consideration since the early 1970's as a logical extension of its decision to define the Medical Center as an autonomous component of the University of Nebraska.

In 1976, the American Dental Association's commission on accreditation visited the College of Dentistry and suggested that its excellent potential could be fully realized only through a closer liaison with the Medical Center. When the chancellors of the Lincoln and Medical Center campuses proposed realignment last year, they stressed the strengthening effect that enhanced interdisciplinary contact would have on the programs of the College. The board of regents approved the administrative realignment, effective July 1, 1979.

The realignment has not affected the internal structure and operations of the College. As one of the ten major units of the Medical Center, it retains the administrative functions under the direction of the chancellor of the Medical Center. The College retains primary responsibility for such internal matters as admissions, curriculum, degree requirements, and faculty promotion and tenure considerations. Like the administrative functions, most of the courses offered will remain on the Lincoln Campus. The Medical Center will serve as a site for clinical practicums and as an invaluable interdisciplinary resource.

The ultimate effect of the realignment, therefore, will be a strengthening of the programs by bringing administrators, faculty, and students in closer touch with the health disciplines represented at the Medical Center.

Dean Bradley noted, "Administratively it is of great help to be able to work with other health administrators. There are

many federal and state programs that affect dentistry and the other health professions in a similar manner. After being separated from the other health units for so long, we now realize how much we have in common with each other with regard to our interest in health care."

The faculty has retained most of the benefits of the Lincoln campus and will gradually acquire major advantages as a result of their new relationship to the Medical Center. They retain such Lincoln campus benefits as the use of the athletic facilities and the option to purchase football tickets.

They are slowly becoming assimilated into the Medical Center community as well. They now belong to the Medical Center Faculty Senate, and in the future some of them may extend teaching duties and research activities to the Omaha campus.

Dean Bradley foresees joint research opportunities as one of the major advantages for both the dental faculty and the faculty based on the UNMC campus.

It is the students, however, who will derive the greatest benefits from the realignment, for it seems that they will experience the "best of both worlds." Students continue to participate in such Lincoln activities as sports and commencement, and they retain such Lincoln privileges as participating in student government and purchasing football tickets. Student services have been improved by the realignment since both campuses have pooled their resources in recruiting students, in counseling both prospective and enrolled students, and in managing financial aid.

Dean Bradley stressed that the most important student benefit is still to come as the curriculum is revised to make increasing use of the facilities at the Medical Center for clinical practice. "I am excited that the realignment will provide our students the opportunity to treat the medically compromised patient, for they will commonly encounter such patients in their future practices."

If the University's 1980-81 capital construction budget request is approved by the legislature, permanent clinic space at the Medical Center could be available toward the end of 1980. A total of \$120,000 has been requested to renovate an area of University Hospital to establish a department of hospital dentistry. This would extend dental care to hospital patients and would offer unique educational opportunities to dental and dental hygiene students. The proposed dental clinic will be located on level three of the Clinic Building, east of the lobby. It will contain three treat-

Dozen Years for Dental Dean

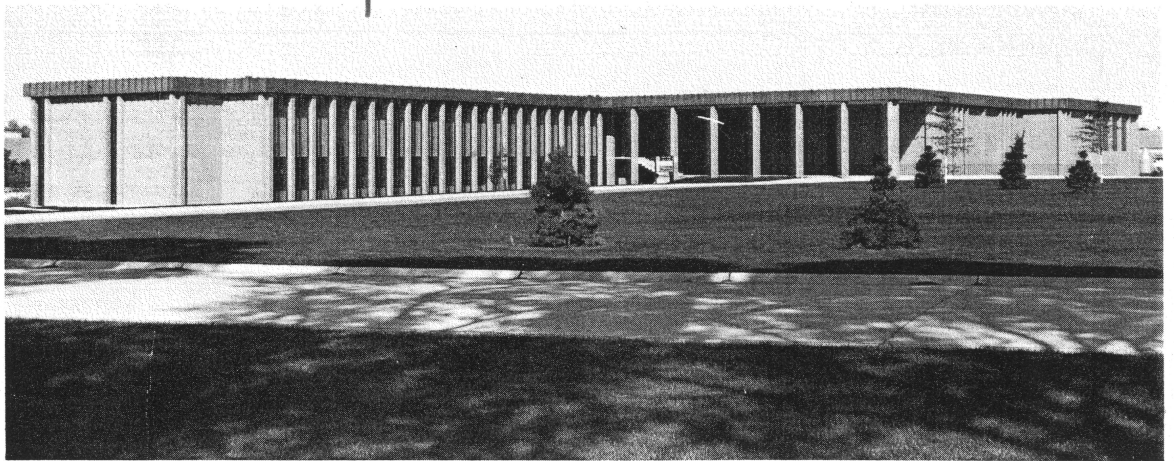
Dr. Richard Bradley is rounding out 12 years as dean of the College of Dentistry.

Shortly after he joined the faculty in 1959 he established the department of periodontics.

He was in private practice in Omaha for four and one-half years after graduation from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry. He took graduate work in periodontics — treatment of soft tissues — at the University of Iowa. His baccalaureate degree is also from Nebraska. Dr. Bradley attended Creighton University for pre-dentistry.



Dean Bradley



There never was an intention to move the College of Dentistry from the East Campus — UNL.

ment rooms, one supply and service room, a laboratory, a private office, and a conference room.

Dean Bradley anticipates that the College will establish a close working relationship with the department of family practice, its future neighbor in the Clinic Building. He foresees the possibility of a general practice residency program in dentistry which would interface with the existing medical residency training program in family medicine. If this materializes, the physical examination given to family practice patients could include an oral examination by a dentist.

If the Medical Center general operating budget request for 1980-81 is approved, an additional \$250,000 will be allocated to allow the College of Dentistry to improve the quality of its educational, research and service programs. Data from recent years indicate that the College of Dentistry has had the lowest total expenditure and the lowest state appropriation of any public dental school of its size in the nation.

Part of the proposed budget increase will be used to augment the number of faculty members in the College. Last year, 43.8 full-time equivalent clinical faculty members supervised 54,500 visits to the clinics in Lincoln while maintaining their teaching duties. A University Hospital dental clinic would substantially increase their responsibilities in clinical supervision.

According to Dr. James Griesen, Medical Center vice-chancellor, additional faculty members will be necessary not only to meet the increased clinical demands but also to allow each faculty member more time for research. Dental research is the area which has been slighted in the quest to maintain sound educational and service programs during an inflationary period, Dr. Griesen said.

Despite the budgetary concerns and the mechanics involved in the realignment process, daily life at the College of Dentistry goes on as if unaffected by the administrative change. The College's 259 dental students, 40 dental hygiene students, and 22 graduate students continue to follow their established curricula.



Oral Diagnosis Clinic

The current undergraduate dental program leading to the D.D.S. degree encompasses four academic years. It includes instruction in the basic biomedical sciences and extensive instruction and experience in the clinical sciences.

The dental hygiene program leads to a baccalaureate degree and certificate in dental hygiene. Students may apply to the two-year program offered by the College of Dentistry after two years at an accredited undergraduate institution.

A wide variety of continuing education courses for dental science professionals is offered by the College. Last year it offered 33 continuing education courses which attracted 1,394 registrants. The College will offer some continuing education courses at the Medical Center.

Viewed six months after its realignment, the future of the College of Dentistry appears bright. Its goals reflect a determination to maintain standards of excellence in education, public service, and research. Although the daily routine on campus appears unchanged, there is a clear sense of optimism and anticipation for the improvements to come.

Dental Hygiene Clinic

