

The History of the Fuller Award

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The first Dentist Advisory Board to the University of Alabama School of Dentistry included Dr. Fuller

The Dentists Advisory Board to the University of Alabama School of Dentistry was created by the legislation that established the School of Dentistry in 1945. Governor Chauncy Sparks did not appoint the first Board until November 1946 and funds to operate the school were not appropriated until 1947. The first Dentists Advisory Board was composed of Dr. Moren H. Fuller (Centerville), Dr Olin Kirkland (Montgomery), Dr. C. B. Bray (Birmingham), Dr. John H. Sullivan (Mobile) and Dr. Richard R. Moorner (Eufaula). Dr. Fuller was appointed chairman by Governor Sparks.

Dr. Fuller was not well known by his Alabama colleagues and he was completely unknown in dental academia. He never held an ALDA office, but he was highly respected by his community. Governor Sparks figured competent academicians could be hired, but respected Alabama dentists knew what was best for our citizens.

Dr Kirkland was the best-known Alabama dentist before the dental school was established. His peers had voted him “The Alabama Dentist of the First half of the 20th Century” in 1950.

Dr. John Sullivan’s brother, Joseph C. Sullivan, Jr., J.D., introduced the bill in the Alabama House of Representatives that created the School of Dentistry. Another brother, Dr. George J. Sullivan, was a Mobile dentist, as was their father, Dr. Joseph Charles Sullivan, Sr. (Philadelphia Dental College, 1891). Dr. Richard R. Moorner was Governor Spark’s personal dentist, which certainly justified his appointment.

Dr. Fuller spent a lot of time at the school during its early years and Dean Volker treated him with proper respect. The first students were thankful for the school because many of them were World War II veterans with impeccable credentials (or tickets, as Joe Volker called them) to enter dental school, but they had been unable to find a spot in out-of-state universities. They came to believe that Dr. Fuller was their personal benefactor, so the young Dental Alumni Association chose to honor Dr. Fuller and to make the award his namesake.

H. Moren Fuller Award Recipients

1955	Dr. H. Moren Fuller
1956	Dr. Charles W. Lokey, Sr.
1957	Dr. Edward G. Rhoads
1958	Dr. Hunter S. Allen
1959	Dr. Claude C. Cannon
1960	Dr. William A. Wood
1963	Dr. Joseph A. Volker
1964	Dr. William L. McCarty, Sr.
1965	Dr. William L. McCracken
1966	Dr. Newton E. Allen
1967	Dr. David D. Bloom
1968	Dr. J. Luther Hughes
1969	Dr. Charles A. McCallum, Jr.
1970	Dr. George W. Matthews, Sr.
1971	Dr. Sidney B. Finn
1972	Dr. Leonard H. Robinson
1973	Dr. Paul E. Hammons
1974	Dr. Edwin M. Speed
1975	Dr. Paul R. Huffstutler
1976	Dr. Joseph C. Stewart
1977	Dr. John H. Mosteller
1978	Dr. William M. Lawson
1979	Dr. Morris W. Hollis
1982	Dr. Polly Ayers

1983 Dr. William D. Powell, Jr.
1985 Dr. Marvin L. Barron
1986 Dr. Roy R. Kracke
1987 Dr. David F. Greer
1989 Dr. Roy G. Cowan, Sr.
1990 Dr. Morgan A. Tunstall
1994 Dr. Mario G. Martinez, Jr.
1998 Dr. Charles Ray Graham
2000 Dr. Mary Lynne Capilouto
2001 Dr. Chalmus W. Strickland
2002 Mr. Wayne McMahan
2003 Dr. Thomas W. Weatherford, III
2004 Dr. Thomas W. Jones
2005 Dr. Charles W. Lokey, Jr.
2006 Dr. Zack Studstill
2007 Dr. Hiram Johnson
2012 Dr. George Lewis "Lew" Mitchell, Jr.
2013 Dr. Joel P. Hearn
2014 Dr. Milton Essig
2015 Dr. James Calvin McCulloh
2016 Dr. Benjamin J. Cumbus
2017 Dr. Alvin "Red" Stevens
2018 Dr. Micheal D. Edwards
2019 Dr. Barry L. Booth
2020 Dr. Mark R. McIlwain
2021 Dr. John Anderson
2022 Dr. Perng-Ru Liu