

FROM:

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DALLAS--The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas will have its 25th birthday next week.

It was on July 1, 1943, that Southwestern held its first class, in borrowed rooms in a Dallas public school building.

Southwestern Medical Foundation, which had been created some years earlier to promote medical education and research in Dallas and in the Southwest, launched Southwestern Medical College during the height of World War II, shortly after Baylor Medical College moved from Dallas to Houston.

There was an urgent need for more physicians and surgeons for the armed forces, and the new school couldn't wait for construction of proper buildings. First classes were held that summer in the Alex W. Spence Junior High School, until temporary wooden buildings could be erected on the grounds of old Parkland Hospital (now Woodlawn).

A nucleus of faculty members and students from Baylor remained in Dallas to start the new school, and in March, 1944, the first class of 61 seniors received M.D. degrees.

This year Southwestern passed the 2,000 mark in new doctors graduated.

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When, shortly after World War II, a new medical branch of The University of Texas was proposed, the Foundation offered the equipment of the College, its library and certain funds. The offer was accepted, and in September, 1949, the school became Southwestern Medical School of The University of Texas. In 1966 the name was changed to The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas.

The present campus site on Harry Hines Boulevard was occupied in 1955. Parkland Memorial Hospital's new building adjoins the present school buildings, and Parkland continues to serve as Southwestern's primary teaching hospital. In turn, the school's faculty provide medical services for the patients at Parkland, thus continuing the partnership between school and hospital that has existed throughout the 25 years.

No birthday party is planned for this summer at Southwestern. Instead, alumni and friends of the school will celebrate next March, on the 25th anniversary of the first graduating class.

The 25th anniversary year marks the launching of a far-reaching plan for expansion and development of Southwestern into a full-fledged life sciences campus, offering training and research in many allied professions as well as medicine. The development program was approved earlier this year by the Board of Regents of The University of Texas System.

First phase of the development program will begin next January with start of construction on the McDermott Basic Science Hall, which will be the fifth building on the campus. Other new buildings will go up in the next few years, to house a student body that will more than double by 1978.

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