



Baltimore College of Dental Surgery  
Dental School  
University of Maryland  
*Founded 1840*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Thanksgiving's approach often prompts me to reflect on the many reasons, both personal and professional, to be thankful. This year, as I prepare to step down after eleven years as Dean of the University of Maryland Dental School, this reflection takes on special significance. I am pleased to share with you that, thanks to the hard work, generosity, and dedication of you and so many members of our community, the Dental School continues to gain stature in a number of areas, and is poised to reach even greater heights in the years to come.

At the core of this institution's success are the many people who comprise our diverse and growing community, and my gratitude to each is sincere. The 550 students enrolled in our DDS, hygiene, and certificate programs – selected from an applicant pool that continues to grow annually – mirror the enthusiasm, clinical proficiency, and professional dedication that also characterize our top-notch faculty and staff. On these fronts, the School retains, thankfully, a very solid footing.

The merger of the School's two alumni organizations into one recognized Alumni Association places this important relationship on much more solid ground, as well. The tireless efforts of the many alumni who worked to make the merger happen are already paying off, as new and improved programs and receptions – sponsored by the Alumni Association, Inc. in conjunction with the University of Maryland Dental School – already fill the coming months' calendar. Though so much has changed during the 162 years since the School's founding, our growing body of alumni remains the cornerstone of the institution, and I am grateful for the many ways in which our alumni support their *alma mater*.

Two other noteworthy signs of long-term success for the Dental School are well worth sharing. In the past year, research funding showed a remarkable 33% increase over 2001 funding, as the University of Maryland Dental School received grants that, for the first time, exceeded \$10,000,000. Increasingly, Maryland and our peer institutions are demonstrating that research is an essential complement to our clinical programs, and that institutional strength and longevity are closely tied to research potential.

Additionally, both the Dental School's present strength and future potential are tangibly symbolized in the new dental school building now under construction in the lot adjacent to Hayden-Harris Hall. The building project has begun in earnest, and the progress that is noticeable on an almost daily basis energizes all of us who enter the building. Upon completion in 2005, the world's newest dental school will be equipped to offer the best in patient care, oral health education, and research. I remain grateful for the support that Maryland's legislature has shown for this important project, and confident that our alumni and friends will rise to the \$20 million funding challenge now before us.

Finally, reflected in the enclosed Honor Roll of Donors are the supporters whose contributions have strengthened the Dental School in the past fiscal year, which ended on June 30, 2002. Thus far in the new fiscal year, Annual Fund support has been very strong, and I sincerely appreciate the generosity of those who have already participated. With thanks in advance, I ask each and every member of our community to include the School among your Thanksgiving reflections, and to find a reason to contribute to the Annual Fund. Best wishes to you and your family during this holiday season.

Gratefully,

Richard R. Ranney, DDS, MS  
Dean  
*November 2002*