

- 1 S** 1867: First four students enter Howard University.  
1998: Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther, author, dies.
- 2 S** 1844: Inventor Elijah McCoy, "the real McCoy," born.  
1995: Shirley Jackson assumed chairmanship of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
- 3 M** 1964: Frederick O'Neal becomes first black president of Actors' Equity Association.
- 4 T** 1961: Freedom Riders begin protesting segregation of interstate bus travel in the South.
- 5 W** 1950: Gwendolyn Brooks becomes first black to win a Pulitzer Prize in poetry for "Annie Allen."  
1988: Eugene Antonio Marino installed as first U.S. African American Roman Catholic archbishop.
- 6 T** 1812: Physician, author, explorer Martin R. Delaney, first black officer in Civil War, born.  
1991: Smithsonian Institution approves creation of the National African American Museum.
- 7 F** 1845: Mary Eliza Mahoney, America's first black trained nurse, born.  
1878: Joseph R. Winters patents first fire escape ladder.
- 8 S** 1983: Lena Horne awarded Spingarn Medal for distinguished career in entertainment.
- 9 S** **Mother's Day**  
1899: John Albert Burr patents lawn mower.
- 10 M** 1950: Boston Celtics select Chuck Cooper, first black player drafted to play in NBA.
- 11 T** 1895: Composer William Grant Still, first black to conduct a major American symphony orchestra, born.
- 12 W** 1820: The New York African Free School population reaches 500.
- 13 T** 1872: Matilda Arabella Evans, first black woman to practice medicine in South Carolina, born.
- 14 F** 1888: Slavery abolished in Brazil.
- 15 S** **Armed Forces Day**  
1820: Congress declares foreign slave trade an act of piracy, punishable by death.
- 16 S** 1927: Dr. William Harry Barnes becomes first black certified by a surgical board.
- 17 M** 1954: Supreme Court declares segregation in public schools unconstitutional in Brown v. Board of Education.
- 18 T** 1896: In Plessy v. Ferguson, Supreme Court upholds doctrine of "separate but equal" education and public accommodations.
- 19 W** 1925: Malcolm X born Malcolm Little in Omaha, Nebraska.
- 20 T** 1961: U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy dispatches U.S. marshals to Montgomery, Alabama, to restore order in the Freedom Rider crisis.
- 21 F** 1833: Blacks enroll for the first time at Oberlin College, Ohio.
- 22 S** 1921: *Shuffle Along*, a musical featuring a score by Eubie Blake and Noble Sissle, opens on Broadway.
- 23 S** 1900: Sgt. William H. Carney becomes first black awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 24 M** 1854: Lincoln University (Pa.), first black college, founded.
- 25 T** 1926: Jazz trumpeter Miles Dewey Davis born.
- 26 W** 1961: During Kennedy administration, Marvin Cook named ambassador to Niger Republic, the first black envoy named to an African nation.
- 27 T** 1919: Sarah "Madam C.J." Walker, cosmetics manufacturer and first black female millionaire, dies.  
1942: Dorie Miller, a ship's steward, awarded Navy Cross for heroism during the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.
- 28 F** 1948: National Party wins whites-only elections in South Africa and begins to institute policy of apartheid.
- 29 S** 1901: Granville T. Woods patents overhead conducting system for the electric railway.
- 30 S** 1965: Vivian Malone becomes first black to graduate from the University of Alabama.
- 31 M** **Memorial Day Observed**  
1870: Congress passes the first Enforcement Act, providing stiff penalties for those who deprive others of civil rights.



"Oral health is directly related to systemic health. The mouth is an organ that is responsible for speech, taste, swallowing and the first stages of digestion."

*Jeanne C. Sinkford, D.D.S., Ph.D.*

## DENTAL EDUCATION

# Jeanne C. Sinkford

## D.D.S., Ph.D. Washington, DC

When Dr. Jeanne Sinkford decided she wanted to be a dentist in the late 1960s, there were no female role models for her to emulate. Her father, she said, thought she was crazy. But with hard work and determination, she became her own role model, entering a field dominated by men, breaking through the glass ceiling and in 1975, becoming the first woman dean of an American dental school.

"It was very challenging. My race wasn't the barrier. It was more of the mental barrier with the men in the field," she said. "I was not their colleague, which made it difficult. They had to deal with this odd woman. Fortunately, now there are nine women deans at 56 dental schools across the country."

Much like medicine, the number of women entering the field of dentistry is on the rise, said Dr. Sinkford, who now works on women and minority recruitment and retention with the American Dental Education Association. "Women bring intelligence and energy to the profession. They are goal oriented, compassionate and have an eye for beauty. From an aesthetic point of view (we spend billions on beauty care a year), it's easy for women to understand the needs of others and see what has to be done."

Dentistry has changed significantly over the decades, she said. "I remember when I was first in dental school; people would ask to have their teeth pulled. Today people want to retain their teeth; they want to keep their beautiful smiles." Changes within the oral health care delivery system, she said, must be addressed, particularly as they relate to those who lack access to care and can't afford proper care.

"Oral health is directly related to systemic health. The mouth is an organ that is responsible for speech, taste, swallowing and the first stages of digestion," she added. Through her work with the association, Dr. Sinkford has had the opportunity to travel internationally to share the concept of pooling resources, sharing faculty and addressing community needs.

As for the future, the mother of three with husband Dr. Stanley Sinkford and first-time grandmother, sees herself relaxing on the beach with her husband and doing nothing. Then she quickly adds, "I hope to be useful as long as there is a need for expertise and advice on the transitioning and changing needs of the profession. I'd also like to place more focus on bioethics, cultural competency and teach graduates the importance of treating those who are medically compromised and who lack access to care."



**Extracting Instrument Set**

Parts of an extracting instrument set made in 1835 by blacksmith Henry Harrison Dean. The instruments were used by his son, James Dean, who practiced dentistry and medicine.

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