Program Expansion to Rochester

We are currently witnessing an acute shortage of clinical laboratory scientists/medical technologists. In the 1970s we had enough people in the field, but this was likely the only time of plenty in the last 45 years. Our personal experiences in the clinical laboratory field gave us first-hand knowledge on how staffing shortages affect morale and work quality in the laboratory. However, in the past, no easy answers were available on how to curtail this work-force shortage.

Expansion of the University of Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) Program to Rochester allowed us the unique opportunity to be part of the answer.

Interestingly, our answer was found in the Centerplace Galleria Mall. After extensive renovations, the space became the home to the University of Minnesota-Rochester (UMR). The top floor, once a movie theater, is now the instructional site for new CLS students in Rochester. With the UMR capacity of 48 students, the University of Minnesota CLS Program will more than double its current student capacity.

The curricula at UMR is geared towards health sciences and incorporates cutting edge technology to reach a broad audience; technology that allows student participation in- and outside of the traditional classroom. A variety of distance technologies will be utilized to deliver instruction to students in Rochester and the Twin Cities. One such technology is interactive television (ITV) that allows lectures to be broadcast in real-time to multiple locations. ITV closely mirrors face-to-face lectures in that the instructor can see the students at any remote site and respond to questions.

Another distance technology is WebVista, which is an online “learning management system” used by the University. Each CLS course has its own WebVista site online that houses a variety of instructional materials including narrated PowerPoint lectures, tutorials, videos, discussion groups, quizzes, tests, hyperlinks to additional resources, podcasts, etc. Students at any location can access these course sites wherever they have internet access.

The laboratory curriculum at UMR is delivered onsite, in person and completely hands on, keeping the current model. Experienced University of Minnesota faculty and staff (both Twin Cities and Rochester) will oversee the laboratories at each site. The distance learning technology mentioned above will ensure that students experience the same quality of education at multiple sites.

We believe this expansion helps to address the work-force shortage. We also realize that this is just the beginning, and we hope that the UMR model will serve as a building block for continued expansion of the CLS program throughout the State of Minnesota.

Co-authored by Andrew Yue, Program Coordinator, and Dr. Nicole Zitterkopf, Assistant Professor UMR CLS
From the Director’s Desk

This past year has likely witnessed more changes than any year during my 27-year association with our program. Consistent with a widely accepted national movement, our name has officially changed from the Medical Technology Program to the Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) Program. The current shortage of CLS professionals has driven much change, and all of it has been good. The average starting salary continues to rise in Minnesota and is now approximately $50,000 per year (or higher) depending on geographic area, shift differentials, etc. Numbers of applicants are increasing, and the average GPA of a student entering the professional program is now 3.3 on a 4.0 point scale.

Our Minneapolis-based CLS program is expanding to the University of Minnesota at Rochester, where our first class of senior year students is planned for Fall 2008 (cover article). The new state-of-the-art teaching laboratory in Rochester has made our Minneapolis teaching laboratory pale so badly by comparison that the administration has agreed to completely remodel the Minneapolis teaching laboratory, to make it compatible with the Rochester campus. This remodeling should be completed before fall 2008. We plan to deliver our same nationally accredited CLS program at two separate sites (Rochester and Minneapolis), and there are affiliation agreements in place by which students pursuing bachelor degrees from State Universities (such as Winona and Mankato) may participate in CLS professional program course work in Rochester. This evolving plan for a statewide, interconnected CLS program depends heavily on our ability to deliver approximately half the curriculum (the half that does not involve hands-on laboratory experiences) in an online format via the internet. Although some of you (like me) may be skeptical of the online approach, we have had significant experience with this format this past year. Thanks to the high level of knowledge, dedication, and originality of our faculty, online modules have been produced that the students enjoy (many actually love them) and these modules seem to be effective learning tools. Because the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, our accrediting agency, demands that a large portion of the curriculum be delivered in wet laboratories, we will continue to have much face-to-face interaction with students, where (in my opinion) it is easier to convey important intangibles, such as a love of learning, the thrill of discovery, and a sense of professionalism.

To facilitate these changes and expansions, we have hired a new Assistant Professor in Minneapolis (Steve Wiesner) who has several responsibilities, including expanding our offerings in the evolving field of Molecular Diagnostics. Two additional faculty (Andy Yue and Nicole Zitterkopf) have been hired for the Rochester Campus, and they have actively participated in coursework design and delivery in Minneapolis this year, in preparation for their upcoming pivotal roles in Rochester next fall.

Thus, our CLS program is strong and vital. On behalf of all the CLS faculty and staff, I want to thank all of you who have supported us through thick and thin, and who have been so generous with your time and financial support. With your continued loyalty to our program, we will undoubtedly continue to provide well educated CLS professionals for the State of Minnesota and beyond.

Carol Wells

Where do graduating clinical laboratory scientists go?

Placement data for new graduates over the last 5 years (2002-2006) reveals the following:

- The majority (77%) are initially employed at one of the affiliate institutions that instruct our students during their clinical experience. These affiliate institutions have an early look at these students and an opportunity to recruit them.
- An average of 90% of the graduates remain in the State of Minnesota after graduation.
- An 8% average (range of 6-14%) of the students seek employment in another state.
- Occasionally one student in a class returns to their native country.
- An average of 5% of the graduates are employed in Minnesota out of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. We hope to expand this number with our new Rochester site.
- Nearly all students initially seek a “traditional” career in a clinical laboratory. However, each year a few students go to medical school or graduate school, are employed in industry, or seek a position in a clinic.
- Some individuals start out in a specialty lab and others are promoted to management quickly. Because approximately 40% of our students have previous degrees, management and promotion are seen at a quicker rate than in the past. The increased number of retirements is also moving this process faster.
Meet the New Faculty and Staff

Sheila Hoover, Ph.D., Associate Educational Specialist. Sheila has worked as an Instructional Designer for over 14 years, assisting faculty with repurposing their courses for online delivery in a variety of content areas including chemical engineering, alternative medicine, and public health. She has taught a graduate distance course on instructional design through Capella University and for the past three years has taught a course on digital media for graduate students in the Information Management program at St. Kate's. Sheila has a B.S. in Applied Design & Visual Communication, an M.Ed. in Curriculum Development & Instructional Technology, and a Ph.D. in Adult Education, all from the University of Minnesota.

Chris Sidorfsky, Distance Education Coordinator. Chris’ primary duties include developing and maintaining the websites which are being created for each course, as well as providing technical support and training for faculty, staff, and students. Chris has over ten years’ experience in the information technology field, in environments ranging from software vendors to music publishing. Most recently, he was a key player in a small startup providing data services to law firms, including imaging, video digitization, and customized database solutions. Over the course of five years, he helped the company grow from two employees in one small office to 25 people in three locations. Chris is also a composer. He holds a B.A. in Music from Macalester College and an M.F.A. in Musical Theater Writing from New York University.

Stephen M. Wiesner, MLT, MT (ASCP), Ph.D., Assistant Professor. Steve is originally from Wisconsin and moved to the Twin Cities in 1990. Steve worked in clinical laboratories as a laboratory technician during his instruction in our medical technology program and graduated with the Class of 1995. After graduating, he was the Hematology and Blood Bank section leader at a regional hospital in the Twin Cities area. After leaving the clinical laboratory, Steve worked as a Junior Scientist at the University and also as a Teaching Specialist in Microbiology and Hematology. Steve recently obtained his Doctorate from the University of Minnesota and joined the faculty in May of 2007. He is teaching Immunology and Molecular Diagnostics, two newly independent courses added to the curriculum. Steve resides in Minneapolis with his wife and two children, ages 9 and 2.

Andy Yue, MT (ASCP), CLS (NCA), Program Coordinator. Andy graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical Technology Program in 1991. After graduating he worked at the Mayo Clinic for eight years (five years in Transfusion Medicine and three years in Clinical Trials). Looking for new opportunities, Andy landed at Olmsted Medical Center where he was the Clinic Laboratory Supervisor for one year and then the Laboratory Manager for three years. Thinking he would like to get back to the Twin Cities, he took a job with the Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (formerly the American Red Cross, Tissue Services) as an Operations Director for three years. This past year, Andy joined the University of Minnesota CLS Program in Rochester. You can come home again!!

Nicole L. Zitterkof, PhD (ABMM), MT(ASCP), Assistant Professor. Nicole’s formal science education began as a biology student at the University of South Dakota. During her junior year of college she added coursework from the medical technology program and finished with bachelor’s degrees in both areas. Nicole completed a 12-month clinical rotation at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center (Sioux City, IA) and worked full-time for two years as a CLS specialist. She began graduate work at the University of South Dakota and continued working part time as a generalist for the Sioux Valley Health Care System. Upon completion of her PhD in biomedical sciences, Nicole was accepted into the clinical microbiology fellowship program at the Mayo Clinic. Following this two-year clinical fellowship, she took a position as director of the microbiology lab for the Baylor Health Care System and became board certified in medical microbiology. Nicole is looking forward to bringing a decade of clinical laboratory experience and microbiology training into the curricula of our program.
Philanthropy Report

Thank you to all the alumni who have supported the Annual Fund! Traditionally the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program has enjoyed great support from alumni and friends, and last year was no exception. Your gifts help support the special needs of the program and fill the gap created by declining state funding. This year funds supported student scholarships, helped faculty and students attend professional meetings, and purchased a digital camera with a light microscope to take micrographs for use in the development of technology-enhanced courses.

Unfortunately, today’s CLS students are burdened by student loan debt that would surprise most of our alumni, even relatively recent graduates. The University of Minnesota has responded to this situation by implementing the President’s Scholarship Match program. The University will permanently match the payout on any endowed scholarship gift of $25,000 or more, effectively doubling the impact of the scholarship! The result would be approximately a $2500 annual scholarship.

The gift may be outright or pledged over a period of up to five years. It may be from an individual or from a group of people, such as a class gift. Consider the example of a class gift from 25 alumni, pledged over five years: that’s just $200 per year per person!

If you have any questions about the scholarship match or other philanthropy opportunities, please call Michael Russell, our development officer at the Minnesota Medical Foundation. He may be reached at (612) 624-4429 or m.russell@mff.umn.edu.

Technology Update

In conjunction with our expansion to the new University of Minnesota - Rochester campus, the CLS program is developing a hybrid distance learning program. This will enable students at both sites to receive the same quality instruction, and allow faculty to utilize technology to enhance their teaching. The program has hired two new full-time employees to assist faculty with the development of online course materials, and we’re also working with video producers, computer programmers, and other specialists at the U’s Digital Learning Group.

The distance learning program has several components:

- The lecture halls in Minneapolis and Rochester will be connected through ITV (Interactive Television), so that faculty and students in both sites can see and hear each other.
- Faculty members are transforming lectures into multimedia presentations that combine photomicrography, text, graphics and audio narration. Students can access them at any time through the course websites. Preliminary data show that students are very appreciative of the online lectures and are spending a lot of time viewing them.
- We are filming the instructors demonstrating laboratory procedures and techniques. These videos are then being incorporated into interactive learning modules which students will access online. For example, they will be able to read a description of a laboratory technique, then view a video demonstration of that technique, then take a quiz to make sure they’ve understood the material. All of this takes place outside of class, so that students walk into lab prepared for the day’s work.
- Some processes, such as molecular biology, are far too small to capture on camera. We are creating computer animations to help students visualize these important concepts.

Sheila Hoover, Instructional Designer, and Chris Sidorskiy, Distance Education Coordinator, are excited to help the CLS program bring this ambitious new project into reality.
2007 Graduation Ceremony

The commencement exercise for the twenty-eight members of the 2007 graduating class of the Program in Medical Technology was held on the St. Paul campus on September 22, 2007. Senior class president, Joshua Pete, delivered the welcome on behalf of the class. Donna Spannus-Martin, Associate Professor and Program Director for the class of 2007, introduced the faculty and delivered the commencement address.

Samia Abdel-Kerim, Deka Bashir, Maggie Tam and Becky Wong prepared the senior presentation. The presentation was a movie that included slides from their senior year classes, clinical rotations and social events. Pat Solberg, Associate Director, presented awards and led the Medical Technology Oath, introducing members of the class individually as they signed the oath.

Dema Kawo and Maggie Tam were presented a special gift in recognition of achieving the highest grade point average in the professional program. Charles Christiansen, Director, Center for Allied Health Programs, conferred the degrees. Salli Clysdale, teaching specialist in chemistry, welcomed the new graduates as alumni of the University of Minnesota. A reception followed on the Student Union Terrace.

Medical Technology Class of 2007

Front row (left to right)
Trang Phan, Minneapolis, MN
Nebat Fahra, Dire Dawa, Oromia
Cindy Du, Bloomington, MN
Van Anh Nguyen, Blaine, MN
Becky Wong, Richfield, MN
Jennifer Brown, Woodbury, WI
Dursitu Abdurahman, Addis Ababa, Oromia
Deka Bashir, Mogadishu, Somalia
Samia Abdel-Kerim, Minneapolis, MN
Kate Gammell, Minneapolis, MN
Katrina Erickson, Burnsville, MN

Back row (left to right)
Mistir Mulatu, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
*Dema Kawo, Koffele, Oromia
Eric Haugen, Minneapolis, MN
Etsaf Boka, Aira, Oromia
Joshua Pete, Red Wing, MN
Erin MacIntosh, Stevens Point, WI
Reed Nystrom, Prior Lake, MN
Heidi Gluth, Springfield, MN
Erin Cordova, Wausau, WI
Erin Steiner, Lakeville, MN
**Maggie Tam, Hong Kong, China
Brad Lemke, Andover, MN
Chris Desens, Oakdale, MN
Jennifer Zeis, St. Louis Park, MN

*Honor of “with distinction”
**Honor of “with high distinction”

Not pictured:
Ahmed Ahmed, Mogadishu, Somalia
Mohamed Ansha, Alemaya, Oromia
Asma Data, Woodbury, MN

Photograph by:
Anita Sime Jader (Class of 1977)
## 2007 Major Contributors

The following contributed $100 or more to the Program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences in 2007
(We make every effort to include all donations and apologize if we have missed anyone.)

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Anniversary Classes Honored

Each year we continue our tradition of honoring the 75th, 50th, and 25th anniversary classes.

### Class of 1933 (75th Anniversary)

- **Evelyn Bannister Sholts**
- **Catherine Barrett Mulvehill**
- **Gleava Blain Erskine**
- **Evelyn Bolsad Ertl**
- **Carolyn Hammond**
- **Bernice Hansen Leiden**
- **Helen Hoff Hansen**
- **Ann Insweiler**
- **Margaret Jackson**
- **Mildred King Rohwer**
- **Vivian Larson**
- **Minnie Mark Bregman**
- **Genevieve McCabe Fisher**
- **Eileen Michalik Chaput**
- **Agatha Mueller Stanton**
- **Jeanette Olson**
- **Twylah Plummer LaCours**
- **Thelma Smith Schadwald**
- **Portia Swain**
- **Charlotte Thompson Jameson**
- **Marion Voight Andrews**
- **Constance Weld Jarvis**

### Class of 1958 (50th Anniversary)

- Sandra Benson Carter
- Roberta Carlson Walden
  - **Robert Farnham Ostrom**
- Carol Forssell Duos
  - **Joseph Gucasana**
- Anita Hagen Stoike
- Gordon Herbst
- Roman Hiszczynskyi
- Susan Jacob Sanchez
- Joyceelyn Johnson Duncan
  - **Rosalyn Johnson Smith**
- Jean Jorgenson Linné
  - **Eddie Kenigsberg Bear**
- Nancy Lee Kivi
- **Margaret Lehtinen Breivik**
- Caroline Lundberg Carlin
  - **Gail Mackey**
- **Carol Mardguard Holcom**
- **Kay McComb Warming**
- Carol McNamara
  - **William Pikal**
- Virginia Rollins Coxe
- Richard Seelye
  - **Elizabeth Stone**
- J.J. Svebodby
- Vivianne Swanson Younker
- Sandra VanSant Fardal
- Carmen Warner Rafferty
- E. Jane Wicherski
- Lila Wicklund Wengler
- Karen Wrabek Kok
  - **Joan Zittleman Yasmineh**

### Class of 1983 (25th Anniversary)

- *Marjan Ahmadi*
- **Verna Anderson**
- Brenda A. Baker Jarmoluk
- Linda Bakley Schantell
- Robin Brady Engelking
- Alan Cahanes
- Patricia Dunn
- Susan Ebert
- Joan Engenbreton Galliksen
- Carol Hemenway Claussen
- Donna Hively
- Robin Hoefs
- Jeanine Holmer Boettinger
- Tammy Hulbert Guyse
- Robin Krogsgen Arnfelt
- Melissa Love
- Mary Machacek Scherber
- Mary Neary Kuhlmann
- Beverly Osekovsky Freudenberg
- Linda Peterson VanEaton
- Carrie Rethwill
  - Laurie Rothenberger Krummel
- Nancy Sable Zander
- Janet Smith Heglund
- Laura Suchy Pipenhagen
- Elizabeth Swanke Lammers
- Paul J. Zander
- Gail Zimpel Jorgensen

*Address unknown
**Deceased

**************************************************************************

If you are a member of an anniversary class, please make a special effort to attend the annual alumni banquet. The reservation form is on page 11. Classmates from the anniversary classes and their guests will be seated together at reserved tables. In the past, some classes have used this time for a class reunion outside of the banquet and to renew old friendships.

We appreciate having the correct addresses of alumni. You can help by sending us any addresses of those graduates with whom we have lost contact. Thanks!
Student Profiles Class 2008

Rachelle Hoeft has lived all over the state of Minnesota. Born in Grand Rapids, she grew up in St. Bonifaciuss, obtained a previous BS in biology with a chemistry minor in Duluth, and worked for four years as a dental laboratory technician in St. Cloud. Her interests lie in choral music and camping when she has time. Rachelle became interested in medical technology when she had a medical procedure. Soon afterwards, her mother and aunt gave her information from an article about medical technologists in the Star Tribune career section.

Mikhail Panko was born in the Ukraine, where he lived in the country on a farm with his five brothers and five sisters until the age of ten, when he immigrated to the United States. He loves music and plays the following instruments: piano, trumpet, violin, and guitar. He played in high school and church bands and he also records. He enjoys volleyball, soccer, friends, and youth activities at church. He heard of our program from a friend who is a former student who graduated two years ago. At first he was not interested, because he thought our program was about fixing machines, until he learned more about it.

Selam Buta is originally from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She grew up in a family that included a sister and three brothers. She came to the United States five years ago when she won a lottery to immigrate. She has one brother and one sister who also now live in Minnesota. Her parents remain in Ethiopia. When time allows, she loves reading fiction and going to movies. She also has a friend who graduated from our program, and learned more about the curriculum from Pat Solberg, when Pat presented at Minneapolis Community Technical College where Selam was enrolled.

Alumni News

Edith Shumaker, graduate from the Class of 1952, retired from Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in 1987 and has volunteered more than 20,000 hours at the Animal Humane Society’s Golden Valley facility. A few years ago, she received an award from Judge Bruce A. Peterson and Elissa Hulin Peterson, founders of the Sullivan Ballou Fund, in honor of her work with the Animal Humane Society dogs. The Fund is a private foundation recognizing people who give selflessly to their communities and have not had their efforts adequately recognized.

Sharon Erickson Wheeler, Class of 1956, worked in hospital laboratories in Boise, Idaho, and Minneapolis until 1971. Last year marked 22 years of volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (Guardian ad Litem) for Hennepin County Juvenile Court, where she speaks for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court proceedings.

Can You Help Us?

Are you aware of alumni who have not been receiving Tech’s Talk each year? If so, would you please send us their names and addresses, or ask them to contact us so we have their current mailing information. Information should be sent to Claire Bjorklund (see page 11). Thank you for your assistance.
State Collaborative Spring Meeting

The 2008 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Meeting will be held May 14-16 at the Crowne Plaza in downtown St. Paul. “Laboratorians: The Ultimate Team Players in Patient Care” is this year’s theme.

New this year will be “Training sessions” held by the exhibitors. These will be small sessions held in the exhibit area, during the time of the regular breakout sessions, to highlight new instruments and techniques.

This year’s keynote speakers are:

Wed. “Act Happy – Live for the Health of It,” Dr. Dale Anderson
Thurs. “MRSA Antibiotics,” Dr. Keegan
Fri. “Professionalism,” Rick Panning

Along with the training sessions mentioned above, the three day sessions will include a variety of topics including “Autism – nutritional study”, “Ethics in emergency and disaster”, “WHO Knows about acute leukemia”, “Pharmacogenetic testing – Personalizing medicine,” and “Molecular testing”.

A silent auction will take place on Wednesday for the Children’s Miracle Network. This year’s social event will be a Minnesota Twins Game on Wednesday evening. The brochure for the event will be available online at the ASCLS-MN website (www.asclsmn.org) under upcoming events.

Let’s Keep In Touch

We continue to request updates on what you have been doing personally and professionally. As in the past, we will display contributions, including letters and pictures, at the alumni banquet. If you wish a photo to be returned to you, be sure to put your name and address on the back and include a note asking that it be returned. Thanks for keeping in touch with us.

Name: ___________________________ ( ) Year of Graduation: ___________________________

Name while in school (if it has changed)

Address: __________________________________________________________

Phone number: ___________________________ E-Mail Address: ___________________________

Career Information: __________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Family Information: __________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Special Interests: __________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Please mail to the address on page 11
2007 Medical Technology Banquet

Class of 1957
Front row: Nancy Elstad, Barbara Goldbarg Melamed, Joyce Iلس
Back row: Maija Stumbris, Marilyn Reinke Torgramson, Janice Beck Brethorst, Sharon Kastor

Class of 1982
Kathleen McJunkin, Julie Fanger, Carol Arnason, Alan Olson, Katherine Kukuk Newberg,
Margaret Jones, Kimberly Butler
Annual Banquet News
for Alumni and Friends

in us in the Campus Club of Coffman Memorial Union for this year’s annual banquet and reunion. Friends and spouses are welcome!

Date: Monday, April 21, 2008
5:30 p.m. Social hour with cash bar
6:30 p.m. Dinner, with program to follow

Place: Campus Club
403 Coffman Union, 300 Washington Avenue
Minneapolis, MN (612) 625-9696
Parking garage available (for fee)
Contact the Clinical Laboratory Sciences office (612-625-9490)
if you would like a map mailed to you.

Menu: Filet Mignon
Finished with a red wine demi-glace served with seasonal vegetables and mashed potatoes.
or
Panko & Almond Crusted Walleye
With wild rice and herb butter.
or
Polenta Crusted Breast of Chicken
Boneless breast with seasonal vegetable, sweet potato purée and rich pan sauce.

Salad: Mixed field greens, grape tomatoes, and red onions tossed with house vinaigrette
Dessert: Cake

Cost: Alumni Association members ---------------- $36.00
Nonmembers ----------------- $38.00
Special recognition will be given to the classes of 1933 (75 years), 1958 (50 years), 1983 (25 years), and to the 86th graduating class of 2008.

Deadline for reservations: April 4, 2008. Send your reservations in early because seating is limited.

This is the only mailing that you will receive for the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Alumni Society Annual Banquet.
Please mark your calendar and return the reservation form below.

Please reserve ______ places for me at the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Alumni Dinner.
I enclose $_______ as payment. Filet Mignon _______ Walleye _______ Breast of Chicken _______

Please reserve ______ seats for me at the 1958 table.
Please reserve ______ seats for me at the 1983 table. M.A.A. Member: Yes ___ No ___ M.A.A. # __________

Name (please print) ____________________________ Class _______ Phone # (area code) __________

Address _________________________________________________________________

Guest Name (please print) ____________________________

Make check payable to Clinical Laboratory Sciences Alumni Society. Reservation should be received by April 4, 2008.

Mail to: Program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences
MMC 711
420 Delaware Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Note: Tables are reserved for the honored classes: 1958, 1983, and 2008. For others who wish to sit together, we suggest you arrive early to meet your dinner mates.
Ella Spanjers Named 2007 Distinguished Alumnus

In 1994, the Medical Technology Alumni Association started the Distinguished Alumni Award. The award honors one individual each year for his/her contributions to the Alumni Association, commitment to the profession, support to the program and representation of the profession in the community. The Medical Technology Alumni Association Board determines the recipient.

On April 30, 2007, during our Annual Spring Meeting and dinner, Ella Spangers (1948) was presented with the Medical Technology Distinguished Alumnus Award. This award was based on Ella being a friend of and contributor to our program for over 50 years. Ella worked almost her entire career in the hematopathology field. Most of us remember her as the supervisor in the special hematology laboratory. During her 49-year career at the University of Minnesota Hospital, Ella taught hundreds of residents, fellows and medical technology students. She was and continues to be an unbelievable morphologist.

After retiring in 1996, Ella continued to work several days a week reading blood smears and bone marrows for Dr. Bruning. For the past several years she has been volunteering her help during the morphology course taught to the CLS students in the spring. Her knowledge and gentle ways help the next generation of students learn morphology as they double scope with her. She also is a great resource to the teachers in this course and has taught us all a great deal.

Ella always has been and remains a great booster of the University of Minnesota. She still attends Gopher football, basketball and hockey games and often converses with the students on current sports events. Ella remains active in her own life, bowling and golfing on a regular basis. Her golf often takes her to warmer climates during the cold months in Minnesota.

As you can see, Ella has shown continued support to the Alumni Association and the CLS program over the years, and we are proud to congratulate her on this award.

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