FIRST ROCHESTER CLS GRADUATING CLASS

December 18, 2009 marked many firsts for the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program. This was graduation day, not only for the first graduating class under the new Clinical Laboratory Sciences hybrid curriculum, but for the first graduating class from the University of Minnesota, Rochester campus. It was also the first combined graduation ceremony for the programs in the Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP). Dr. Cindee Quake-Rapp, Director for the CAHP, led the procession carrying the University of Minnesota mace. Graduates from both the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program and the Occupational Therapy Program from both campuses were conferred their degrees by the Honorable Richard Beeson, Regent of the University of Minnesota. Dr. Richard Oliver, Dean of the School of Health Professions at the University of Missouri-Columbia, gave the commencement address. Dr. Oliver received his training as a medical technologist at the University of Missouri. He is a nationally known expert in allied health professions and is currently the president of the Allied Health Research Institute, a national academic, private-industry coalition working to solve the allied health workforce shortage.

Forty-six Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) students were in this year's graduating class. Class President, Matthew Wilkie, addressed the audience in Ted Mann Concert Hall, informing parents and friends about the profession, the challenges that had been overcome, and the friendships that had developed over the past year. Among this year's graduates, Ashley Spahn graduated with high distinction (grade point average 3.9 or higher), and Afi Gbati graduated with distinction (GPA 3.75 or higher). Although the combined CAHP ceremony was somewhat different than it had been in past years, many things remained the same. The new graduates stood together to recite the Clinical Laboratory Science Oath, and still walked across the stage to receive their diploma and a handshake, (and in many cases a hug) from Interim Program Director Donna Spannau-Marlin.

The ceremony and the reception that followed were held in the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota campus.

Congratulations, graduates!
I recently returned from the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) held in Biloxi, Mississippi this year. CLEC is an annual conference that began in Minnesota in 1985. I was proud to see University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill CLS Program Director Dr. Sue Beck, a University of Minnesota alumna, talk about her attendance at the first CLEC. She spoke about how so many of the issues that university CLS programs are facing now were the same issues discussed in 1985. The faculty then and now continue to have high teaching loads, yet as university faculty, they must still find time to do the research necessary to advance the profession.

Although many of the issues we have to deal with have remained the same, and our job is still to teach, the students to become competently trained clinical laboratory scientists, the tools that we have available to us to do that job have changed drastically in the twenty-five years since that first CLEC. Students are no longer limited to sitting in a classroom listening to lectures. They can now go online to listen to lectures and watch an online video demonstration of the laboratory technique they will perform in that afternoon’s laboratory exercise. In the case of the hemostasis laboratory, Cheryl Swinehart has been able to replace all of the laboratory exercises with simulated online testing available at the student’s convenience. Students can listen to a lecture and view the slides on their iPads as they ride the bus into campus. An iSeek grant has allowed Drs. Stephen Wiesner and Nicole Zitterkopf to produce digitally scanned versions of blood smears and gram-stained slides which will allow students to practice the identification of cells and microorganisms from anywhere using the internet almost as if they were looking into a virtual microscope.

These new technologies are allowing us to look at teaching in a whole new way, and the Center for Allied Health Professions encourages faculty to combine their research and teaching roles to look at the scholarship of teaching in this new world of technology-enhanced learning. The University of Minnesota has become part of a community using Quality Matters, a system that helps assure the hybrid and online courses meet the high standards that are expected and necessary in clinical laboratory education. All of these technologies will help our CLS program meet the workforce needs of the State of Minnesota, the needs of today’s students, and the needs of tomorrow’s laboratory professionals.

Donna J. Spannaus-Martin, Ph.D., MLS
Interim Program Director and Associate Professor
Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program

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Cindée Quake-Rapp, Ph.D.
Director
Center for Allied Health Programs
MARY DAMRON HONORED AT 2009 ALUMNI BANQUET

This year, we were privileged to honor an alumna from the 75th year anniversary Class of 1934, Ms. Mary Damron. Mary regularly attends the CLS Alumni Banquets, which allows many of her former co-workers and students an opportunity to catch up on everything she has been doing, and news of her family.

The program in Medical Technology began in 1923, so when Mary graduated, the program would have been considered fairly new. Few clinical laboratory programs existed at that time and University of Minnesota graduates were highly regarded. Hospitals around the country would write asking for graduates to consider employment with them. Mary recalls in March, 1939, she was sent a letter from Helen Knudsen, the program director at that time, informing her that a New York hospital was seeking a graduate of the University of Minnesota Medical Technology program for employment to replace the current employee, also a University of Minnesota graduate, who was leaving to get married. The salary was $175 a month, at a time when the average salary for medical technologists was $150 a month.

Mary didn’t take that position, but she did take advantage of opportunities to work around the country and the world. She worked in West Virginia, Connecticut, Trinidad, British West Indies, and Washington, D.C. Mary met Red Damron while working in Trinidad. They married and eventually moved back to Minnesota. Mary and Red lived in Willmar, MN and raised two children.

In 1961, the children were grown up, and Mary felt inspired to return to the clinical laboratory. The Damrons moved to Minneapolis, where Mary took an MT refresher course at the University of Minnesota, and then started working and teaching. Mary was influential in teaching urinalysis to many laboratory technicians in Minnesota and around the country. Her enthusiasm for her work and the profession is the same enthusiasm she has for her family and her retirement activities.

NEW CLS FACULTY AND STAFF (BUT WITH FAMILIAR FACES)

Our newest assistant professor is a familiar face to many of you. Nancy Brunzel returned to the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program in October, 2009. Nancy left our staff in 2004 after 25 years of service to the Medical Technology Program and after a two year hiatus, took a position with Access Genetics. She was the Education Coordinator at Medtox Laboratories just prior to returning to our Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program, where she can now be found teaching clinical chemistry and urinalysis to the students. Nancy has jumped right into the development of our hybrid curriculum. She is becoming a certified Quality Matters course reviewer and will be assisting other faculty in the delivery of quality online and hybrid CLS courses. Nancy is enjoying being back at the university and is looking forward to trying out the new educational technologies available to her.

Chris Desens (Class of 2007) joined our Rochester staff this summer as a teaching specialist. Chris received a BA in biology in 1998. He then worked in various roles before landing an opportunity in a large manufacturing company in the Twin Cities. Chris spent the next six years working in the business world before returning to school. He graduated from the Medical Technology Program in 2007, and moved to Rochester to work at the Mayo Clinic in their Special Coagulation Laboratory. With the expansion of the CLS program in Rochester, Chris left Mayo after one and a half years of service to fill the open teaching specialist position. Chris enjoys living in Rochester with his wife and their four year old daughter.

Welcome back, Nancy and Chris!

TECH’S TALK GOES DIGITAL!

In an effort to become more environmentally friendly, while also acting as good stewards of the funds we have during these difficult economic times, we will be converting Tech’s Talk to an online format next year. As the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program begins a redesign of our website, an online version of the newsletter will give us the opportunity to share the archived Tech’s Talk issues from 1947 to the present. For example, you’ll be able to read that in 1947, the speaker for the banquet was Dr. Richard Varco, a pioneer in heart surgery, senior students provided the entertainment, and the cost of the dinner was $1.35.

We know some of you may not have access to the Internet, or may not be comfortable in this digital world. We will be sending out more information later this year for you to respond if you would prefer to receive a paper copy, and provide information about the new features of our web site. For those of you who enjoy living in this digital world, you can get updates about the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program on our University of Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Sciences Facebook page.
CLASS OF 1935 (75TH ANNIVERSARY)

Charlotte Arnoldy Buchen
Helene Berens Youel
Gertrude Brauman Stein
**Eleanor Brenny
**Mary Bushfield Work
**Elsie Carlson
Francis Clark Plaa
**Alta Davis Kuhn
**Marion Diehl Templeton
**Phyllis Downey
**Thelma Erickson
Minnie Evenson
John Falley

**Dorothy Ferguson
Audrey Fjelde
Nancy Harrison Butler
Frances Hilden Piske
Edna Houge Urenn
Francis Jacobs Levine
**Grace E. Johnson
**Linnea Johnson Rovainen
**Cecelia Kramer Naegeli
Alice Lee
Loanna Miller Norris
Martha Morgan Park
Margaret Norman Halstad

**Margaret Peterson Rasmusson
Evaline Purdon Johnston
Dorothy Reger
Elizabeth Robinson
Dorothy Schroeder Eginton
Marcia Shellenbarger Dalrymple
**Charles Shields
**Genevieve Sinser Coombs
**Helen Spitzer Seltz
**Ruth Tessman
Catherine VanSickle Stone
Anna Wiener

CLASS OF 1960 (50TH ANNIVERSARY)

Joan Aldrich
Judy Baker Schelde
**Karen Bisset Schreiner
Ruth Brown Anderson
Mary Cervenka Zweber
Anna Cihac
Kathleen Dahle Moss
Donna Dauwalter Dzubay
Patricia Eans Pichering

Loretta Evenochek Lorenzo
Joanne Floeder Stemper
Lynn Flory Shaw
Jessie Hansen
Betty Hanson Hayes
Marilyn Hopp Koepcke
Phyllis Horovitz Hoffman
Jean Hyslop Carlson
June Inoshita Fukanaaga

Aija Kancitis Vikmanis
Mary Klun Cameron
Linda Mack Schloff
Paula Makenen Orland
Lucia Mandil
Patricia Maser Koors
Carol Nelson Tiernan
Sydne Nolden Helmer
Carole Sahlstrand
Carol Timmons Wallestad

CLASS OF 1985 (25TH ANNIVERSARY)

Hengameh Agha-Sharief
Beverly Anderson Ness
Jane Barbour Kreyer
Renee Bennett
Bridgett Cavanaugh Clark
Robert Dahl
Debra Glaser Bistodeau
Debra (Debby) Hammons Berry
Judi Iverson Micholic

**Jennifer Kissling Dupre
John Knuth
Shari Lindberg Honeycutt
Greg Meier
Brian Meline
Catherine Mueller Esades
Hang Thi Nguyen
Leann Oseth
Nancy Parker
Bernadette Pegors Thompson

Charlotte Rensch
**Kevin Schneider
Cheryl Scott
Jean Sonstegard Sevcik
Rita (Spinler) Jacobson
Dana Taufen Arnold
Kathy Trettel Litchfield
Payam Tristani-Firozi
Marilyn Wolters Pennington
Lisa Zelgert

**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 7. Classmates from the anniversary classes will be seated together, so you will have the opportunity to renew friendships.
2009 CONTRIBUTORS
THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTED $100 OR MORE TO THE
CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES PROGRAM IN 2009

$5,000-$100,000

Verna E. Mallek
Toni D. Okada

$1,000-$4,999

Marcine J. Forrette
Karim J. Libby
Ella M. Spanjers
Verne E. and Phyllis Weiss

$500-$999

Stella S. Cook
Mary Jane Eaves-Raich
Sally J. Economou
Susan K. Fautsch
General Mills Foundation
Andrew R. Yue

$300-$499

Loma II Canfield
Audrey L. Christenson Estate
Joanne S. Arvid
Robert A. Dahl
Todd & Mary Jacobson

$100-$299

Patricia A. Ackerman
Susan A. Adlis
Fritz & Carol Arnason
Nancy C. Ballot
Ann C. Benson
Joyce A. Blomquist
Harriet I. Brown
Marilyn T. Budge
Michelle V. Wieland-Cain
Karen M. Chatt
Sheila M. Clough
Geraldine M. Cochran
Virginia R. Coxe
Larry M. Davidson
Joy J. Dean
Sharon M. Deml
Dr. Robert Dexter
Robin L. Donner
Grace Mary Ederer
B. Laurel Eldred
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Ruth M. Hartman
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A. Paul & Carol Lehman
Mary M. Lericke
Jean J. Linné
Marnie J. Loven-Bell
Connie J. Luebke
Marilyn J. Lueck
Kay M. Malerich
R. Lucille Malmo
Jane F. Mayer
Betty L. McMartin
Barbara G. Melamed
Diane M. Michelak
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Aija K. Vikmanis
Nettie M. Warwood
Dr. Robert and Karen Wasson
Marilee Huisinga Welliver
Dr. Kristi L. Werden
Kathleen M. White
Joyce M. Wian
Donna J. Wieg
Dr. Stephen M. Wiesner
Xcel Energy Foundation
Darlene E. Zimmer Schneider
CLASS OF 1959 REUNION

Row 1: Livija Vilinskis, Kay L. Draves
Row 2: Grace Engler Anderson, Sharom Malmstrom Bastian, Joy Ellitsen Sacre, Jeanette Frazier George, Darlene Howe Schneider, Suzanne Renaud Miller
Row 3: Karen Gates Lofness, Barbara Flueger Jackson, Arlyce Rylander Anderson, Alice Pritchel Aamodt, Patricia Chambers Kriesel (hidden), Phyllis Segal Post

CLASS OF 1984 REUNION

Left to Right: Brian Lauber, Dawn Sheppard, and Gregory Rynders

KATHY HANSON GIVEN FRIEND OF CLS AWARD

Kathy Hansen was selected by the alumni as the 2009 Friend of Clinical Laboratory Science for her legislative efforts for the profession. Kathy has dedicated years of leadership to the laboratory profession, holding many local and national offices in professional organizations. She has been President of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Minnesota, National Credentialing Agency, and she served as Chair of the ASCLS Government Affairs Committee. Kathy currently serves on the Joint Commission Professional Technical Advisory Committee, the Minnesota Medicare Carrier Advisory Committee, Minnesota Health Education Industry Partnership, the Minnesota Laboratory Licensure Coalition, and the newly formed Board of Certification of the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Kathy received her BS degree in Medical Technology from Macalester College. After graduation, Kathy accepted a position at the University Hospital as a Medical Technologist, and eventually became the Director of Laboratory Operations. Although she retired from the University of Minnesota Hospital—Fairview in 2009, she continues to work as a technical consultant. Kathy has focused much of her time on the laboratory licensure issue in Minnesota. Although the bill did not move forward in the 2010 session, we can hopefully join Kathy and the others in the Licensure Coalition in working for licensure next year.

Along with her professional accomplishments Kathy also volunteers in her church and community. Kathy and her husband Lee have two children and 3 grandchildren.

Kathy Hansen received the Friend of Clinical Laboratory Sciences Award at the 2009 Alumni Banquet.
Join us at the Ramada Plaza Minneapolis for this year’s annual banquet and reunion. Friends and spouses are welcome!

**Date:** Friday, April 23, 2010  
5:30 p.m. Social hour with cash bar  
6:30 p.m. Dinner with the program to follow

**Place:** Ramada Plaza Minneapolis  
1330 Industrial Boulevard  
Minneapolis, MN 55413 (612) 331-6827  
Free parking available

**Menu:** Grilled Marinated Flank Steak  
Served with green peppercorn sauce and mashed red potatoes  
or  
Herb Baked Tilapia  
Served with coconut shrimp, sweet and sour sauce, and rice pilaf  
or  
Sonoma Chicken  
Stuffed with goat cheese, spinach, and sun-dried tomatoes, topped with cream sauce and served with six grain pilaf

**Includes:** Garden salad, seasonal vegetables, warm rolls and butter  
**Dessert:** Deep dish apple pie

If you prefer a vegetarian option, please call the CLS Office at 612-625-9490

**Cost:**  
Alumni Association Members ............. $36.00  
Nonmembers ........................................ $38.00

Special recognition will be given to the classes of 1935 (75 years), 1960 (50 years), 1985 (25 years), and to the 88th graduating class of 2010.

**Deadline for reservations:** April 9, 2010. Send in your reservations early because seating is limited.

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Please reserve ________ place(s) for me at the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Alumni Dinner.

I enclose $ __________ as payment.

- Flank Steak
- Tilapia
- Chicken

Please reserve ________ seat(s) for me at the 1960 table.

Please reserve ________ seat(s) for me at the 1985 table.  
M.A.A. Member: Yes ________ No ________

Name (please print) ___________________________  
Class ________  
M.A.A. # ________

Address: ___________________________  
Phone # (area code) ________

Guest Name (please print) ___________________________

Make check payable to University of Minnesota. Reservations should be received by April 9, 2010.  
Mail to: Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program, MMC 711, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455
GRACE MARY EDERER HONORED

Grace Mary Ederer, a former faculty member of the University of Minnesota’s Medical Technology Program, was inducted into the Minnesota’s Redwood Valley Schools’ Hall of Fame, an honor recognizing her outstanding contributions to the field of medical technology/clinical laboratory science and for her service contributions.

Grace Mary graduated from the College of St. Catherine in 1940, and then did her Medical Technology internship at Providence Hospital in Detroit. She began her career as a chemist at Henry Ford Hospital, but returned to Minnesota during World War II to teach Cadet nursing students at the College of St. Catherine. She became manager of the Bacteriology Section at Northwestern Hospital. In 1952, she became an Administrative Laboratory Technologist at the University Hospital Microbiology Laboratory, where she stayed for 15 years. After earning a Masters in Public Health, Grace Mary began teaching Clinical Microbiology in the University of Minnesota’s Medical Technology Program. Grace Mary developed the concept for a rotating device to improve the mixing of blood in collection tubes. These blood rotating devices are still standard equipment in many clinical laboratories across the country today.

She retired from teaching as a professor emerita in 1982, but she has remained active doing volunteer work and communicating with her former medical technology colleagues. Grace Mary also marked another important milestone in 2009. She celebrated her 90th birthday in the spring.

The 2010 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative meeting will be held May 24-26 at the Crowne Plaza in downtown St. Paul. The meeting will again run Monday to Wednesday. This year’s theme is “Remembering the Past, Looking to the Future”. This year’s keynote speakers are:

Monday – Mary McLane, President of ASCLS – “Searching for the Face of the Clinical Laboratory”
Tuesday – Jeff Jacobs – “The Effects of Healthcare Reform”
Wednesday – Karen Karni – “Remembering Our History, Legacies that Shape Our Futures”

The three day sessions will include a variety of topics and the exhibit hall will feature all the latest in equipment and technologies in the laboratory field. The social event will be a night at the Minnesota History Center, which includes dinner followed by a chance to explore the many exhibits at the center.

A silent auction located in the exhibit hall, will take place to benefit the Children’s Miracle Network. Registration forms and meeting program are available at the ASCLS-MN web site (www.asclsmn.org) under upcoming events.