

TECH'S TALK

Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program
Center for Allied Health Programs
University of Minnesota

NEW TWIN CITIES TEACHING LABORATORY

Several milestones for University of Minnesota's Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) Program were realized this year, in addition to expanding the program to our Rochester campus. The most important event at the Twin Cities was relocation of the teaching lab to the Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB) Building, adjacent to our previous laboratory space in Moos Tower (MoosT).

Our previous MoosT space had six small laboratories, one small lecture room, office, and storage space. We needed space that could accommodate up to 48 students in one room. And, we needed state-of-the-art interactive television to facilitate real-time instruction between the Twin Cities and Rochester campuses. Many plans to remodel the existing MoosT space were considered before a final design was created on paper. Demolition was to begin as soon as classes were over in May 2008, with the goal of having at least some of the space ready for teaching by Fall 2008. Plans came to an abrupt halt in March, when extensive structural requirements and asbestos issues pushed the required budget out of reach.

Eventually, thanks to cooperation of the pathology, histology, and neuroscience courses within the Medical School, a room in MCB requiring only slight modifications was identified. Meetings resumed to plan audio visual (AV) equipment, ventilation, and cabinetry, and the project was broken down into two phases. Phase 1 would upgrade the AV equipment, and be completed by the start of classes in September 2008. In phase 2, new cabinets would be installed, student workbenches modified, ventilation and electrical upgrades made, and an adjacent room for specimen preparation remodeled.

The dust barely settled when 38 students were welcomed into one teaching space in 3-150 MCB in September 2008. The room is spacious and bright, with one entire wall of windows facing Washington Avenue and the Moos plaza. Installation of a camera, plasma TVs, projection screens, projectors, and a new sound system, enables students and faculty on both campuses to see and hear each other in real time. Pre-lab instructions can be given simultaneously to both sites. A document camera enables all students to see close up demonstrations.



Twin Cities teaching laboratory

Phase 2 was completed over semester break. Complete move-in and organization of the equipment and supplies into the MCB space will be completed by summer's end. CLS will retain the MoosT office space and the lecture room in 3-317. MoosT will remain a "homeroom" for CLS students.

Shuffling equipment and supplies between MCB and MoosT, and the unfamiliarity of the new space has often caused instructors to feel like fish out of water, but teaching all students at one time, in one space, has tremendous benefits. Former students have expressed jealousy at the new space. Equally exciting is the prospect of teaching the new class of 2009-10 in a completed, long overdue and much anticipated, state-of-the-art laboratory. You are more than welcome to stop by for a visit.

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Director's Message



It hardly seems like a year has past, although so much has happened, it seems like a millennium has passed. We have thirteen senior-year students in our first CLS class in Rochester, and we have watched their progress with hope and trepidation. The lecture portions of our curriculum are being delivered by interactive television (ITV), as well as via the World Wide Web. For some classes, the primary instructor resides in Minneapolis, and for other classes, the primary instructor resides in Rochester. A reassuring observation is that curriculum delivery seems to work equally well in either direction. Laboratory exercises take place simultaneously in Rochester and Minneapolis, and the teaching laboratories are in constant contact via ITV.

I was skeptical that this form of education would be effective. We are collecting substantial objective data to scientifically analyze the outcome, and I am pleased to share some of our initial data with you. These initial data were obtained from our lecture course in Diagnostic Microbiology, likely the most difficult course in fall semester. Student numbers were substantial, namely 13 students in Rochester and 38 in Minneapolis, facilitating the reliability of objective statistical analyses. Most of the results were surprising to a skeptic like me.

Importantly, there were no statistical differences in grades obtained by the students in Minneapolis and Rochester, and the average scores from the two groups often differed by only a point or two. We can

track every minute a student spends studying the course materials online, and it seemed logical to predict that students who received higher grades would have spent more time online, but this was not the case. Rather, the amount of time individuals spent online studying the course materials had no correlation with resulting grades. Interestingly, our CLS class has a high level of diversity and many have English as a second language, termed ESL students. The percentages of ESL students at Minneapolis and Rochester this fall semester were 50% and 69%, respectively. We were pleased to note that the average grades of ESL students were similar to their counterparts who have English as a primary language. The only notable difference was that ESL students, as a group, spent significantly more time online than students with English as a primary language.

Thus, these initial data indicate that our method of curriculum delivery to a distant site is effective, because students at both sites performed equally well. Interestingly, ESL students performed as well as their colleagues who have English as a primary language, although this result seemed to be related to the fact that ESL students may study longer hours than their counterparts.

These are exciting times for CLS education. Next year, our enrollments in Minneapolis and Rochester will further increase, as our class size continues to expand towards the targeted number of 96 students. The severe workforce shortage for CLS professionals should be alleviated, at least in part, by these efforts, and the goal is to eventually expand to other sites in the state of Minnesota. I will keep you informed. Have a good year and stay in touch.

Carol L. Wells

New Director for the Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP)

Cindee Quake-Rapp, PhD, joined us as the director of the CAHP on January 5, 2009. Dr. Quake-Rapp has a strong background in hybrid health professional education, leading an occupational therapy program of more than 300 students enrolled at Western Michigan University using blended learning educational delivery models. In addition, she was instrumental in expanding the program to a satellite campus to meet workforce shortage needs, developing a technique using Internet-based, tele-health technology to transmit high-quality, high-resolution video images to the students at the remote site.



Recent accomplishments include being appointed to the Ad Hoc group on Developing a Model Curriculum for the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), being one of three members on the AOTA Judicial Council pool, receiving a service award from AOTA for work as chairperson for the Panel to Explore Outcomes of the OT/OTA Degrees, and being appointed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to the first National Advisory Committee on Community-based, Interdisciplinary Linkages; a group created by the US Congress to consult on national workforce strategy. Dr. Quake-Rapp has served as the chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy at Western Michigan University from 1999-2008. She received her PhD in Child Health Policy from The Union Institute and University in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1999. We welcome Dr. Quake-Rapp to the University of Minnesota!

Meet Our New Staff

Mauri S. Brueggeman, BA, CLS (NCA), Teaching Specialist. Mauri is originally from central Wisconsin and moved to the Twin Cities to complete her Bachelor's in Physiology at the University of Minnesota. She continued her education and graduated from the Medical Technology Program in 2003. After graduating, she worked for the University of Minnesota Medical Center-Fairview in the Cytogenetics Laboratory as a CLS Specialist in Cytogenetics. She was also the safety officer for that lab for five years. Mauri was a TA for two spring semesters of Hematology and she has been on the CLS Alumni Board for three years. She joined the CLS Program in the Twin Cities as a full-time employee in September 2008. The best part about her job is working with students. Mauri resides in Minnetonka with her husband and daughter, age 17 months.



Phyllis Trcka is a 1982 University of Minnesota Medical Technology graduate. Phyllis realized her dream by seeking employment at the Mayo Clinic directly after graduation. The 26-year career at Mayo Clinic took her across many laboratory disciplines such as microbiology, virology, parasitology, and infectious disease serology, as well as transfusion medicine and laboratory services. Raising a family reduced Phyllis to a part time career but then she pursued leadership roles for the following ten years. Phyllis was fortunate to serve on many laboratory department committees and lead many initiatives. The most profound moments were watching the skilled hands of Mayo Clinic cardiac surgeons when she was an autotransfusion supervisor. Becoming a teaching specialist at the University of Minnesota Rochester campus is another realized dream, and she is happy to be a part of a program that has given her so much.



The CLS Program's Inaugural Year at Rochester from the First Rochester Teaching Specialist



Students at work in the Rochester teaching laboratory.

I have the privilege of being the first Teaching Specialist for the inaugural year of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) program at the University of Minnesota's Rochester site. As an alumnus (class of 1982) of the University's Medical Technology program, I can see first-hand how the traditional curriculum has been transformed into the technological marvel I now work with every day.

Twenty-five years ago, I could not have imagined teaching tools that incorporate sixty inch plasma screen televisions and personal monitors for students. High definition images of blood cells, bacteria, etc., can easily be projected from a central microscope to all students. Through a central computer, unlimited numbers of images of rare disorders are easily accessed, and immediate classroom discussions often follow. Interactive television (ITV) delivers course materials from the Twin Cities to Rochester and vice versa, where all

students see the same instructor at the same time and all are able to ask questions in real time.

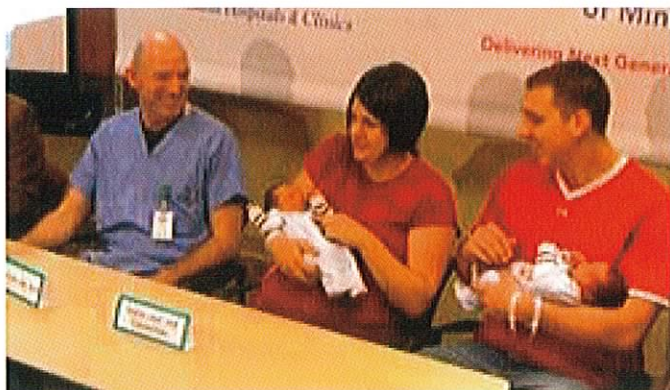
Preliminary data indicate that this model of delivering CLS education to multiple geographic sites is effective. It is our hope and anticipation that these additional CLS graduates will help relieve the critical state-wide shortage of CLS professionals, as they become active participants in Minnesota's health care delivery system.

Phyllis Trcka

Can You Help Us?

If you are aware of alumni who do not receive Tech's Talk, please send us their names and addresses, or ask them to contact us in order for us to have their current mailing address. Information should be sent to Claire Bjorklund. (See return address on back page.)

Alumnus in the News



Brad Feltis was president of the senior class when he graduated from our Medical Technology program in 1987. Several years later (1989), Brad married Lori Horning, a fellow Med Tech graduate who Brad described as "a woman who shares my dreams and goals." They now have five children. Brad worked in the clinical laboratory, primarily in blood banking, for several years before entering U of MN's Medical School in 1991. A residency in Surgery (at the U of MN) was followed by a two-year fellowship in pediatric surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle. Brad then returned home to Minneapolis and accepted a position with Pediatric Surgical Associates. He practices primarily at the

Minneapolis Children's Hospital and was recently appointed Surgical Director of the Midwest Fetal Care Center. Last October, the media was abuzz with news that healthy identical twins were born sixteen weeks after successful fetal surgery to correct an imbalance in blood flow from a shared placenta, a condition often fatal to unborn identical twins. This condition occurs in about three percent of all twins and is called Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS), where one twin receives too much blood and the other receives too little blood. Brad was instrumental in performing a novel surgical procedure to correct this condition. The birth of these healthy twins was covered by several news sources including ABC News' Good Morning America, Minnesota Public Radio, Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune, and KARE 11 TV News. Thus, we offer out kudos to Dr. Brad Feltis! In past years, as graduates left our program, Dr. Karen Karni (a former CLS Program Director) was well-known for her send-off phrase "Make us proud!" Brad certainly makes us proud, and we look forward to many more accomplishments from this outstanding alumnus.

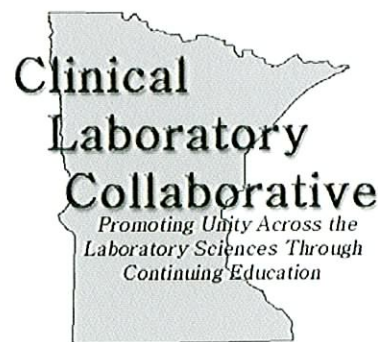
State Collaborative Spring Meeting

The 2009 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Meeting will be held May 4-6 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, MN. The Monday to Wednesday meeting will be a change from the previous days of Wednesday to Friday. This year's keynote speakers are:

Monday – Dr. Michael Astion – "Realistic Approaches to Patient Safety in the Clinical Laboratory." Dr Astion spoke at the national ASCLS meeting last summer.

Tuesday – Kent Rader – "Let it Go, Just Let It Go." Kent is an entertainer/comedian who formerly worked in healthcare as a CEO.

Wednesday – Gayle Jones – Performance Management/Positive Leadership



Along with the above keynote speakers, the three day sessions contain a variety of topics including "Myeloproliferative Neoplasms", "Assessing Genetic Risk Through Family History", "Enhancing Your Presentation Skills", "Molecular Diagnostics in Clinical Microbiology" and "What Will the Clinical Lab Look Like in 10 Years?" A silent auction will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday for the Children's Miracle Network. This year's social event will be a hypnotist/magician at the dinner Tuesday night. The brochure for the event is available online at the ASCLS-MN web site (www.asclsmn.org) under upcoming events. "Up & Away ---- Moving to New Heights" is the theme of this year's meeting.

As stated on the web site, overnight reservations (\$89/night plus tax) can be made at the Radisson Plaza Hotel (507-281-8000) and the Hilton Garden Inn (507-285-1234).

Class of 2009 Student Profiles



Afi Kowuvi is a CLS student at the Rochester campus. She is a native of Togo, West Africa, where she grew up with two other siblings. Today she is married with a three year old son. Afi currently holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Lome which is in Togo. Loving science and laboratory work brought her to the University of Minnesota's CLS program and a career she knows she will like. Afi is enjoying the Rochester campus with its new equipment and instrumentation, and the small class size gives a lot of one-on-one instruction. After graduation, Afi hopes to find work near the Twin

Cities area with a stable job to help take care of her family.

Natalie Le is a Vietnam native and moved to the United States when she was twelve. She currently lives with her parents and two siblings. Natalie loves to go out with friends but she also loves to eat her parents' home cooking. Natalie holds a B.S. degree in Biochemistry. She sought the CLS program because she wanted to become more job marketable and she wanted to work in broader areas than just the biochemistry degree allowed. Natalie enjoys the small class size Rochester campus has to offer plus individual help from the staff. She likes knowing her classmates well. Natalie hopes to become certified and employed after her clinical rotations, and she is well on her way to achieving her goal.



Ang David Sherpa immigrated to the United States from his native country of Nepal because of school closings and deteriorating political conditions in his home country. He understood there was a good education system here in the USA, and he has a sister living in the country. Ang David initially planned to attend dental hygiene school as a stepping stone to dentistry, but he read about Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS) in literature from Mankato State University and decided to pursue this career instead. He enjoys watching and playing soccer, and he is helping to organize a soccer group among the CLS students on the Twin Cities campus. As an international student, he will be able to stay in the USA for a year after he graduates from our program. Ang David still finalizing his future plans.

Martha Yigletu is a Clinical Laboratory Technician (CLT) who is now earning her bachelor's degree in CLS. She is working about 25 hours a week in St Paul while attending our CLS program on the Twin Cities campus. Martha came to Minnesota from central Ethiopia after winning a United States visa lottery when she was 19 years old. She first studied CLT while staying with the Hubert Humphrey Job Core Center and she found our CLS program through an instructor at St Paul College, where she received her CLT degree. Martha has also considered engineering. When not working, going to school, or studying, Martha loves watching movies and visiting coffee shops with friends. It is her hope to return to Ethiopia to give back to the people there some of what she has learned, and she is looking for an organization to help her with this goal.



Philanthropy Report

We wish to extend a very sincere thank you to all our alumni and friends who have contributed to our program! As you are aware, we are substantially increasing our enrollment to help alleviate the critical shortage for laboratory professionals in the state of Minnesota, and we are fortunate that many qualified applicants are applying to our program. We suspect that some applications may be facilitated by the depression in the job market in other sectors of our economy. Many seem to be spending more time researching promising careers and CLS is clearly an attractive option. With increased numbers of qualified students comes increased need for scholarship moneys, as well as increased need for faculty development funds to facilitate the work of our expanding faculty. In many respects, this is the best of times, but it is also the worst of times. Like nearly all programs in the University, philanthropic donations are at a low point, undoubtedly reflecting our depressed economy. Nonetheless, your donations continue to help bridge the gap between state funding and the needs of faculty and students. In response to the increasing debt burden carried by our graduates, the University of Minnesota has implemented the President's Scholarship Match program, where the University will permanently match the payout on any endowed scholarship gift of \$25,000 or more, effectively doubling the impact of the donation. The result would be ~\$2500 annual scholarship. 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@mmf.umn.edu.

2008 Major Contributors

The following contributed \$100 or more to the Program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences in 2008
(We make every effort to include all donations and apologize if we have missed anyone)

\$5,000 - \$99,000

Verna E Mallek

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Marilyn D Olson

\$500 - \$999

Beckman Coulter
Fdn
Lorna H Canfield
Sally J Economon

Marcine J
Forrette
Margaret A
Gabrik

Kathryn H Glen
Rita M Jacobson
T & M Jacobson
Karin J Libby

Marlys E Lund
Ella M Spanjers
Phyllis J Weiss
Andrew R Y

\$300 - \$499

Joanne & Lee Arvid
Robert A Dahl
J & R Halvorson

Lisa & Stephen
Jarvis

C Lahti & C D
Becker
Janet E Schultz

Mary K Weimer

\$100 - \$299

3M Fdn Inc
Aetna Fdn Inc
Sara Barnes
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Robert Dexter
Robin Donner
Janet Doult
Kay L Draves
Grace Mary Ederer
B Laurel Elder
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John E Fetzer Inst Inc
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Muriel French
Reggie L Gausman
Nancy A Geier
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Christi L Gordon
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Jacquelin A Heggerness
K Kloss Huff & R Huff
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Patricia K Johnson
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Marilyn J Koepcke
Patricia L Koors
Sridhar & Usha R Kota
Gayle A Lancette
Vicki L Larson
Mary Lazarus
Jean J Linné
Jeanne M Loeffler
Marilyn J Lueck
Kay M Malerich
R Lucille Malmo
Jane F Mayer
Joetta G DuBois
McClintock
Betty L McMartin
Arlene M Meadows

Barbara G Melamed
Gerald R Mulcahy
Jean H Mulvahill
D M & K W Nadreau
Joann M Nelson
Beverly R Ness
Toni D Okada
Jeanne C Olsen
James R Jr & Sheryl
Fisher Olson
Leann L Oseth
Bonita Parkman
Diane M Patty
Mary Jo Pennington
K Pfleghaar & P
Sullivan
J H & E L Prestegard
Joan A Radtke
Kathryn L Rantala
Janet S Redman
Karen M Ringsrud
Roche Diagnostics
Debra C Rodahl
John L Roesler
Ruth M Rosendahl
Betty D Roskos
Laura G Rude
James G Ruggles

Jean M Rysavy
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Norynne M Schiminsky
Paul C Schreckenberger
Cheryl L Scott
Mary E Shearen
Kathleen B Standing
Phyllis F Stapel
Carolyn B Stein
Joanne E Stemper
Claire J Stolee
Amos Szajner
M & K Tekautz
Naomi M Thompson
K A & W J Vagts
Marcia K Wall
Jo Ann E Wallgren
Nettie M Warwood
Marilee H Welliver
Lila Wengler
Kristi L Werdin
Donna J Wieb
Stephen M Wiesner
Anthony B Williams
Excel Energy Fdn

Anniversary Classes Honored

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

Class of 1934 (75th Anniversary)

**Laurena Anderson	**Ethelmae Eylar Carter	**Ardis Olson Bilben
**Alice Bardwell Caso	*Marjorie Hanstad	**Priscilla Ritchie Brill
Mary Batchelder Kelly	**Maxine Hill Peterson	**Jennie Roberts Holderreed
**Ruth Berens	**Hazel Hodges Marquis	*Gertrude Seigel Cohen
*Marion Braunworth	*Melba Johnston Robson	**Ruth Sisson English
**Beatrice Burlingame Mason	**Florence Jones Jenkins	Esther (Mary) Skerik Damron
**Helen Cox Baker	**Helen Knudsen	**Betty Smith Hall
Verna DeLeo Mallek	*Marguerite Kolb Harris	**Virginia Tincher Lemon
**Gladys Downey	*Katherine Lemon Lord	*Vivian Young Bennett
**Eleanor Duerr Farkas	**Geraldine Lundquist Tyson	*Grace Zschiesche Leighton
**Margaret Dwelle	*Anne Nechanicky	
Elizabeth Engel Brandel	*Hulda Nyland Palmer	

Class of 1959 (50th Anniversary)

Patricia Chambers Kriesel	Karen Gates Lofsness	Alice Prchal Aamodt
**Astrid Chmielarz Pocza	**Harriet Knudson	Nancy Preuss
**Georgianne Dieson	Shattuck	Suzanne Renaud Miller
Kay L. Draves	Joan Kosluchar Stately	*Virginia Rollins Cafe
Marilyn Ekberg Scherer	Lucy Leus Hoelzel	Arlyce Rylander Anderson
Joy Elliasen Sacre	Mary Maclean Ochsner	Phyllis Segal Post
Grace Engler Anderson	Sharon Malmstrom	Livija Vilinskis
Barbara Flueger Jackson	Bastian	**Laura Werner
Jeanette Frazier George	**Mary Mankell Petteway	Darlene Zimmerman

Class of 1984 (25th Anniversary)

Scott Bergmann	Rosalie Mack Phillips	Renee Peterson Burke
**Lillian Blomer	Debra Nelson	Gregory Rynders
Patrick Doyle	Elaine Oberle Dooley	Dawn Sheppard
Susan Hovis	*Joyce Papanye	Mary Skupa
Sandra Johnson Nagy	Laura Pavek Witschen	Halyna Zubar
Brian Lauber	Teresa Pawlowski	
Darleen Lukes Ferrin	Michael Pedersen	

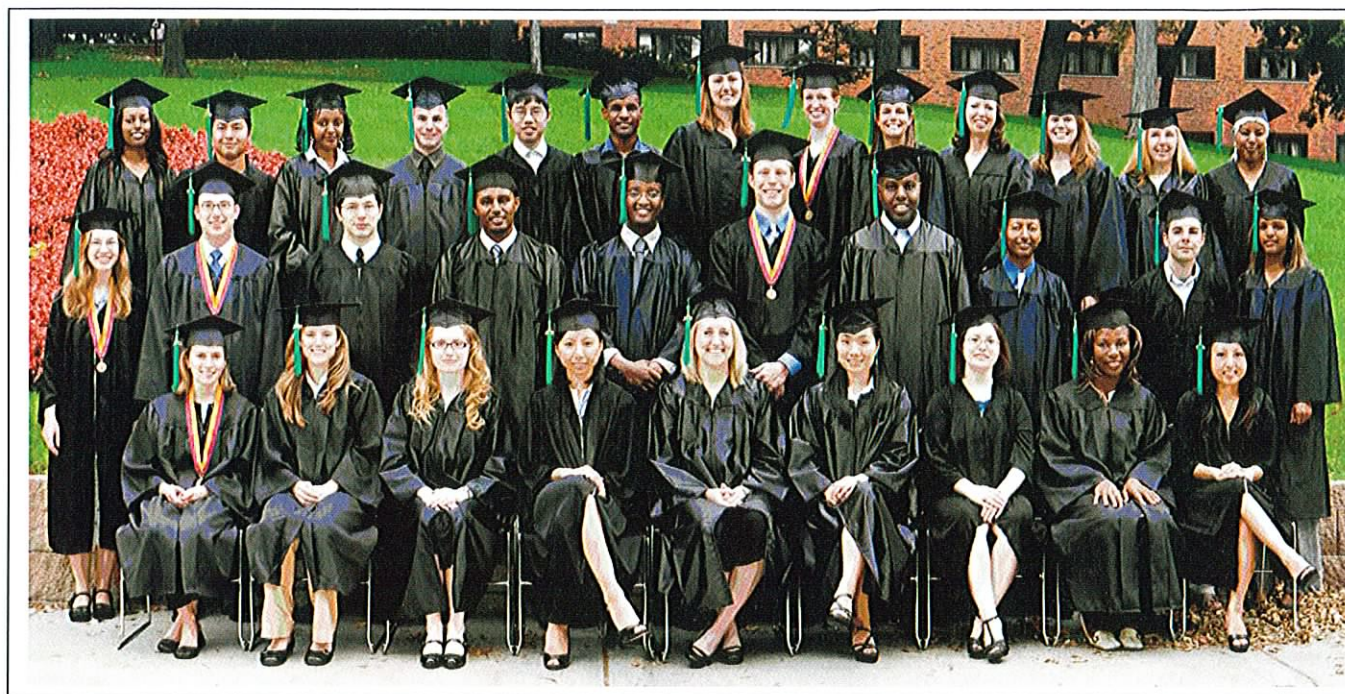
*Address unknown

**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!

Clinical Laboratory Sciences Class of 2008

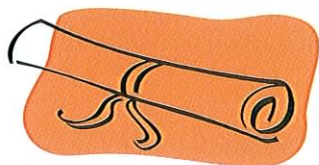


Front row (left to right)

**Danielle Jeske, Maplewood, MN
Katie Sapan, Rochester, MN
Christina Borgen, Shakopee, MN
Noi Xieli Oan, Farmington, MN
Elizabeth Bohn, Ham Lake, MN
Amy Le, Columbia Heights, MN
Melissa Olson, Saint Paul, MN
Anthonia Kum, Saint Paul, MN
Kabnyiaj Xiong, Madison, WI

2nd row (left to right)

**Stephanie Regnier, Brooklyn Park, MN
*Dean Stoa Swenson, Moorhead, MN
Mikhail Panko, Ramsey, MN
Solomon Raba, Nekemte, Oromia
Abdullahi Abdisalam, Eden Prairie, MN
*Chad Thompson, Bemidji, MN
Mahad Sheikh, Eden Prairie, MN
Tadi Yimamu, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Brad Johnson, Duluth, MN
Meron Ashenafi, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia



Back Row (left to right)

Merge Korsu, Mendi, Oromia
William Xiong, Corcoran, MN
Selam Buta, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Scott Stahowiak, Lakeville, MN
Justin Hsung, Shoreview, MN
Ibrahim Ali, Minneapolis, MN
Rachelle Hoeft, Annandale, MN
*Rachel Voss, Leawood, KS
Ann Kremer, Moorhead, MN
Michelle Fahey, Andover, MN
Jennifer Hebel, Sisseton, SD
Becky Husfeldt, LeSueur, MN
Safiya Badhaso, Haromaya, Oromia

*honor of "with distinction"

**honor of "with high distinction"

Not pictured:

Aaron Birch, Pierce, NE
Merlande Ekong, Maple Grove, MN
Ali Haji, Burnsville, MN
Ryan Nguyen, Burnsville, MN

Photograph by: Anita Sime Jader
Class of 1977

2008 Graduation Ceremony

The commencement exercise for the thirty-six members of the 2008 graduating class of the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program was held on the St. Paul campus on September 27, 2008. Senior class president, Chad Thompson, delivered the welcome on behalf of the class.

Dr. John McClure made quite a lasting impression with his entrance, playing bagpipes and wearing a kilt. Dr. McClure is a pathologist at Methodist Hospital and plays a role in our Hematology curriculum. He has been a long standing favorite with CLS students, and he is also a valued member of the CLS Program's External Advisory board. In his commencement address, Dr. McClure explained to the graduates how important their role is within the health care team.

Michelle Fahey, William Xiong, Becky Husfeldt, Rachel Voss, Jennifer Hebel and Rachelle Hoeft prepared the senior presentation, which was presented by Rachel Hoeft. This presentation included slides from their senior year classes, from their clinical rotations, and from various social events. Donna Spannaus-Martin led the students in reciting the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Oath, and introduced each member of the class as he/she signed the oath.



Stephanie Regnier was presented with a special gift in recognition of achieving the highest grade point average in the professional program. Regent Venora Hung, conferred the degrees. Mauri Brueggeman (class of 2003), a Teaching Specialist in the CLS Program, welcomed the new graduates as alumni of the University of Minnesota. A reception followed on the Student Union Terrace.

Update on Proposed Licensure for Minnesota Laboratory Personnel



Some states require licensure for laboratory professionals, but Minnesota currently does not. Licensure would assure that laboratory assays are executed by properly trained qualified personnel. During the 2007-2008 session of the Minnesota state legislature, a bill was introduced requiring that laboratory professionals have a license to practice the profession. This bill was drafted by the Minnesota Laboratory Licensure Coalition, a group made up of representatives of laboratory professional organizations with members in the state of Minnesota. The bill did not make it out of committee during the 2007 session, but the bill had its first hearing in the Senate in 2008.

This bill will be reintroduced during the 2009 session of the Minnesota state legislature. The bill requires that laboratory professionals have specific education, as well as certification and annual documentation of continuing education. If this bill passes, all current practitioners, even if they do not possess all of the licensure requirements outlined in the bill, will be grandfathered in and the new requirements will apply only to "new practitioners." Recently (December 2008), the College of American Pathologists changed its previous position opposing the bill, thus removing one of the perceived impediments to passage of this legislation.

Arguments against licensure include the claim that laboratory testing will become more costly if qualified professionals are required to execute the testing. However, if qualified personnel are required to execute laboratory testing, one outcome will likely include a decrease in medical errors, thus decreasing monetary costs and patient morbidity and mortality associated with inaccurate medical diagnosis and treatment. The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) has actively supported state licensure (<http://www.asclsmn.org/>). The ASCLS argues that the primary purpose of licensure is to protect public health and safety by excluding unqualified personnel from engaging in the scope of practice of laboratory professionals. Some argue that the worsening laboratory personnel shortage is related to a lack of appropriate recognition of the profession.

Many CLS professionals believe that this legislation is sorely needed and long overdue.

MEMORIES FROM THE 2008 SPRING BANQUET



Keeping CLS in the family: Liz Bohn (class of 2008) and her mother Sandra Bohn (class of 1975)



Class of 1958: Karen Kok, Jean Linne, Carol McLimans, Virginia Cox, Lila (Wicklund) Wengler, Joycelyn Duncan



Beverly Osekowsky and Melissa Love (class of 1983)



Class officers past and present



Banquet participants from the class of 2008

Annual Banquet News for Alumni and Friends

Join us at the Minneapolis Gateway Hotel for this year's annual banquet and reunion. Friends and spouses are welcome!

Date: **Friday, April 24**
 5:00 p.m. Social hour with cash bar
 6:00 p.m. Dinner, with program to follow

Place: **Minneapolis Gateway Hotel**
 1330 Industrial Boulevard
 Minneapolis, MN (612) 455-6326
 Free parking available



Menu: **Grilled Flank Steak**
 Marinated in balsamic vinaigrette and grilled, brandy green peppercorn sauce, mashed red skin potatoes.
 or
Almond Crusted Walleye
 Chardonnay thyme cream sauce, herb roasted Yukon gold potatoes.
 or
Tuscany Chicken Breast
 Braised with artichokes, mushrooms and prosciutto; bordelaise sauce and herb couscous.

Dessert: Cream cheese carrot cake

Dinner includes a garden salad, chef's choice of seasonal vegetables, warm rolls and butter, coffee, hot tea, iced tea or milk.

Cost: Alumni Association members ----- \$36.00
 Nonmembers ----- \$38.00

- **New location !!**
- **Convenient free parking !!**
- **Overnight stay at U of MN room rate of \$99/night**

From East
 Follow I-94 West towards Minneapolis.
 Take Highway 280 North.
 Turn left onto Hennepin Avenue.
 Go to the second stoplight and turn right onto Industrial Boulevard.
 Hotel will be on the left.

From North
 Follow I-35W South.
 Take the Industrial Boulevard exit (Exit #22).
 Go left onto Industrial.
 The hotel will be on the right.

From Mpls St. Paul International Airport
 Follow Interstate 494 West out of the Airport.
 Take I-35W North to Industrial Boulevard (exit #22).
 The hotel will be on the right as you exit.

From West
 Follow I-94 East.
 Take I-35W North to Industrial Boulevard (exit #22).
 The hotel will be on the right as you exit.

From South
 Follow I-35W North.
 Take the Industrial Boulevard exit (#22).
 The hotel will be on the right as you exit.

Special recognition will be given classes of 1934 (75 yr), 1959 (50 years), 1984 (25 yr), and the 87th graduating class of 2009.

Deadline for reservations: April 6, 2009. Send your reservations in early because seating is limited.

This is the only mailing 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. Flank Steak _____ Walleye _____ Chicken Breast _____

Please reserve _____ seats for me at the 1959 table.

Please reserve _____ seats for me at the 1984 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 the University of Minnesota. Reservation should be received by April 6, 2009.

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: 1959, 1984, and 2009. For others who wish to sit together, we suggest you arrive early to meet your dinner mates.

Donna Spannaus-Martin Named 2008 Honored Friend of CLS



At the 2008 spring banquet, the Medical Technology Alumni Society of the University of Minnesota named Dr. Donna J. Spannaus-Martin as the 2008 Honored Friend of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. The award was presented by former Program Director, Dr. Karen Karni. Donna served as Program Director to the Medical Technology Program from 2001-2006 and is an associate professor in the Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program. She was given the award to recognize her efforts to increase the awareness of the clinical laboratory workforce shortage, and the important role the University of Minnesota's MT/CLS program plays in helping to alleviate the shortage.

Rick Panning, President of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) at the time, stated that one of the things he has always appreciated about Donna was her understanding of the need to bridge the two sides of the profession – the practice side that occurs in the hospitals, clinics, and other laboratories, and the educational side that occurs in colleges and universities. He praised the way she has gotten students actively involved in the profession, including legislative issues, such as licensure. Her dedication to raise the visibility of the profession to potential students, to the legislature, and to the general public has been appreciated.

Donna is a native Minnesotan. However, she received her undergraduate education in Chicago, receiving her baccalaureate degree from North Park College and completing the medical technology program at Michael Reese Medical Center. She received her master's and Ph.D. degrees in Biochemistry from Iowa State University. Before coming to the University of Minnesota, Donna was Director of the CLS Graduate Program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. She has been active in the profession, serving as Chair of the Education Scientific Assembly for ASCLS, and is currently on the Minnesota Licensure Coalition. Donna recently assumed a new role in the Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP), serving as the CAHP liaison to assist in implementing and sustaining CLS and other allied health degree options through signature academic partnerships with Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, other higher education institutions, and private health industries.

Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Center for Allied Health Programs
University of Minnesota
Mayo Mail Code 711
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