

# Tech's Talk

Spring 2019



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# From the Director's Desk



It's been another busy year in MLS and I am happy to report that our program is flourishing! Thank you to all of our alumni and program friends who continue to support us.

As with most universities, reorganization and change are routine occurrences and the

University of Minnesota is no exception. We have experienced growth and organizational changes in our unit with several upper administration changes coming in the next fiscal year, including a new University President. Dr. Joan Gabel will begin her role as University of Minnesota President on July 1st. We are looking forward to new beginnings with our first female President. Learn more here: <https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/joan-ta-gabel-appointed-17th-university-minnesota-president>.

We are also undergoing a reorganization of the Academic Health Center with the intent to streamline many of the services and processes, integrating them more with central administration and strengthening each of the three mission areas. Now that we have a collaboration agreement with Fairview Health System, we have organized the clinical practice units into one unit focused on the Clinical Enterprise. Dr. Jakub Tolar, who is also the Dean of the Medical School, will head this unit.

The Research mission from the AHC now directly reports to the Office of the Vice President for Research and will have an associate VP that is focused on health sciences. Similarly, the academic deans from the AHC professional programs will now report directly to the Provost office, more in line with the other Deans on campus. There will also be an associate VP for academic health sciences. The MLS program, along with CAHP and several other units, will also be reporting directly to the Provost office. For the MLS program, it is business as usual and we hope that this reorganization will provide us with better visibility and access to resources. Learn more here: <https://president.umn.edu/health-sciences-restructuring>.

Within the Center for Allied Health Programs, we have completely reorganized our student services unit. Charles Crain moved into the Director of Student Services position and we have hired two new admissions and academic advisors: Lara

Christley and Robin Peterson. Learn more about Lara and Robin on page 11.

The biggest news within the MLS program is that in Fall 2018, we began our professional master's degree (MMLS). This degree plan is for students who already have their bachelor's degree but who need to get their MLS credential to work in a clinical laboratory. The first 10 students were admitted this past fall and could graduate as early as this December 2019 (see page 5).

We also hope to submit a proposal for a post-credential MS degree by the end of spring semester and admit the first students in Fall 2020. This degree plan will be for those who already have their MLS credential. Courses will be entirely online and self-paced so that people can keep working while they earn their degree. Stay tuned for more information about this degree plan as we progress through the University's approval process.

## **Kudos to our faculty for their achievements:**

**Hannah Gartzke** completed her master's degree in Curriculum Instruction from the Western Governor's University (see page 11).

**Lorna Ruskin** is working with teams of laboratory practitioners to develop clinical simulation laboratories for student training. Currently Allina Health provides a simulation for transfusion medicine and UMMC Infectious Disease and Diagnostic Laboratory (IDDL) provides one for microbiology. Students work with secondary specimens and the Laboratory Information System prior to going on the bench with real patient work. This allows students to work safely and lightens the workload impact for bench preceptors once students move to patient specimens. Students and clinical sites gave positive feedback about these simulation experiences. We look forward to continue working with Allina Health and IDDL!

**Donna Spannaus-Martin** has continued in the role as UMN Legislative Liaison. She meets with the Faculty Senate, the Board of Regents and legislators to discuss topics relevant to the University (see page 10).

**Steve Wiesner** and I travelled twice to Kigali, Rwanda and once to Bangalore, India working

*(continued on the next page)*

## From the Director's Desk (continued)

with local universities to provide workshops for KUMS faculty about our laboratory teaching methods. In January 2019, we took our last trip overseas to present our workshop in Cairo, Egypt. We will continue our collaboration with KUMS faculty through web and teleconferencing.


As always, we want to thank all of our alumni and program friends for their continuing financial support through donations for student scholarships. Every donation makes a difference for our students. This year we were able to give out over \$50,000 in scholarships and financial aid to our students. As you all know our senior year of courses is very intensive with lots of time spent in laboratory courses each week. If we can help our students financially so they don't have to work

or can work fewer hours, we are supporting their success in the program. Page 8 lists the students we were able to help this year with your generous support. Thank you so very much.

### **Save the Date for the MLS Alumni Banquet!**

The upcoming MLS Alumni Banquet is on April 27, 2019 at the Weisman Art Museum and will honor the graduates of 1944, 1969, and 1994. See page 15 to register for the banquet.

As you can see, we've had yet another very busy but also very productive and rewarding year in our program. I hope you enjoy this issue of Tech's Talk and hope to see you at the Alumni Banquet in April.

Warm Regards, 

Janice Conway-Klaassen  
PhD, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>/SM<sup>CM</sup>, FACS

## MLS Program Annual Report

**N**AACLS accreditation requires that each program report three key outcomes and provide this information to the public. We host this information on our web site, in our student brochures, and now here in our alumni newsletter. In addition, the University requests that we report student demographics and other statistics related to program effectiveness.

NAACLS accredited programs must demonstrate the quality of their educational plan by meeting certain minimum student performance outcomes including student graduation (program completion) rates; performance on the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC) Exam; and ability to obtain employment. We are proud to say that the outcomes for graduates of our MLS program consistently exceed the minimum requirements. ■

NAACLS Graduate Outcomes	2015	2016	2017
Graduation Rate (% on time)	95	89	87
ASCP BOC pass rate (Nat'l Mean = 80%)	95	100	100
Employment Rate % (6 months after grad)	100	91	100

Clinical Experience Rotations	2016	2017	2018
Number of Rotations	149	197	208
Number in Minnesota	117	157	161
Number in Rural Areas	32	40	47

Demographics of Incoming Students	2016	2017	2018
Average Age (years)	23.8	24.5	23.6
Gender (F/M)%	59 / 41	68 / 32	68 / 32
Cum GPA	3.08	3.15	3.27
MN resident %	84	89	79
Ethnicity %			
Asian	31	29	17
Black/African American	10	25	4
Native American	--	2	--
Hispanic	9	5	2
White	50	39	77



# MLS Faculty at Professional Meetings

Faculty, students and alumni were all represented in a variety of local and regional professional meetings held throughout the year.

## Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative 2018

The Clinical Laboratory Collaborative meeting was held the week of April 23 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Park. U of M faculty were represented both on the planning committee for the meeting and as attendees. Over 340 laboratorians attended three days of continuing education and networking activities. There were 50 vendors who shared their ideas and innovations with the lab community. The annual collaborative meeting is organized in cooperation with eight local and regional laboratory professional associations, AACCC-Midwest Section, AGT, ASCLS-MN, ASCP, CLMA-MN, MnABB, MN-AMT and MIMA. ■

## ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium

The 2018 ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium was held in Brooklyn Center on Oct 4-5. In addition to two half days of educational sessions and a vendor exhibit, the Region V Leadership Academy included two days of educational events.



2018 Leadership Academy graduating class

This year's Leadership Academy graduating class included Raedean Heibert from Minnesota who works at Beckman Coulter and is the ASCLS-MN President for 2018-2019 and Crystal Paul from Minnesota who works at the VA Medical Center. ■

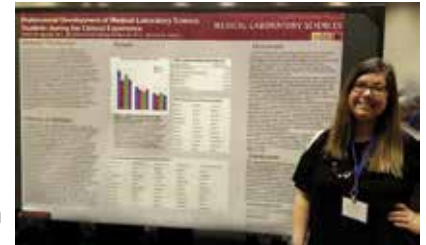
## MLS at the MN State Fair

The Medical Laboratory Sciences Program was back at the Minnesota State Fair for our 4th year! We were there on the first day of the fair, August 24, with a record-breaking opening day attendance of 122,695! This year's theme was "Going Viral" where fair goers could become a virus! We had fun promoting our program and our profession. Look for us again at the 2019 Great Minnesota Get-Together! ■



## CLEC 2018

The 2018 Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference (CLEC) was held February 22nd – 24th in Houston, Texas. Janice Conway-Klaassen and Tami Alpaugh attended the conference. Tami presented a poster entitled "Professional development of MLS students during clinical experience" from research using



reflective journaling to track student comfort and confidence during their clinical experiences. Key outcomes showed that students gained knowledge, confidence, and understanding of laboratory operations as well as the importance of good communication and teamwork. ■

## ASCLS National Meeting 2018

Janice Conway-Klaassen and Donna Spannaus-Martin attended the ASCLS National Meeting in Chicago in July. Eykka Gundlach, a student in our MLS program, also attended as the Minnesota ASCLS Student Representative. Janice presented a poster about the project she has been working on with Steve Wiesner, training faculty from Kabul University of Medical Sciences in Afghanistan on medical laboratory science. Janice, Donna, and Eykka also attended the Alpha Mu Tau dinner which was held in the Terrace Banquet Room at the Chicago Navy Pier. ■



Minnesota delegation at the National Conference

# High School and Community Outreach and Recruitment

## MLS Students Promote MLS at Area High Schools

University of Minnesota MLS Faculty – Charlotte Romain, Christine Maleck, and Lorna Ruskin – once again participated in outreach activities at area high schools and the St. Louis Park Career Expo. At St. Louis Park and Richfield High Schools, faculty led the freshman biology classes for the day, bringing along an infectious disease/immunoassay activity. The first half of the class was spent providing a brief summary of immunoassays and then the students each got a patient sample. The students mixed their samples with three classmates, one at a time, in order to simulate the spread of infectious disease. The students then performed an immunoassay and analyzed the results to detect who in the class was “patient zero.”

After the hands-on experiment, students received information about the MLS profession, opportunities in the field at all levels, and about our MLS program. Many students expressed interest in the field and were given pamphlets

about the program and the variety of employment opportunities in the field. This past year, current MLS students also participated in the events, allowing them to field questions from the high school students and at the Career Expo.

### Outreach efforts reap results

Over the past several years, MLS faculty have engaged in outreach activities at area high schools without really knowing the impact it has had with students who are in their first year of high school. In 2018, four years after the first high school outreach at Richfield High School, we saw evidence of that impact. Out of 27 Spartan Foundation Scholarships awarded to 2018 graduates, three students declared MLS as their college major. One student is attending the University of Minnesota. Two others are attending Normandale Community College with plans to use the MN transfer curriculum to move to the University of Minnesota. ■



## Introducing a New Professional Master's Degree in MLS

When the MLS program moved into the Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP) in 2006, the master's degree in CLS remained in the medical school. When we revised and updated the curriculum and began the MLS degree in 2014, we also had goals to develop advanced degrees in MLS. After examining the market need, we realized that about 30% of our current applicants already had a BS degree – usually in Biology. These students had often just discovered our field of practice, but needed the MLS credential to work in a medical laboratory. They completed our program obtaining a second BS degree or a post-baccalaureate certificate. Both of these pathways were not eligible for most financial aid, placing these students at a distinct disadvantage.

To help fill this gap, MLS faculty developed the Professional Master's in MLS (MMLS). Students accepted into this degree plan complete the traditional MLS degree requirements, additional content for lecture courses, one advanced clinical practicum, an advanced course in laboratory operations and management, and a capstone research project. Although their first job may be the same as other MLS graduates, we anticipate that these students will have an accelerated career path toward supervisory and leadership roles. The first class of MMLS students will graduate in December 2019. Our next project is to develop an MS degree for people who already have their MLS credential. ■



*Full-time MMLS students gather after Transfusion Medicine lab*

# Spotlight on Students

**HANNAH JEFFERS** grew up in Sussex, Wisconsin with two sisters. Hannah enjoys running and spending time with her family's three dogs. She has completed three half marathons and is hoping to run a full marathon in the spring. She also enjoys relaxing with friends and exploring the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.



Hannah learned about the MLS Program in her Orientation to

Health Care Careers class and was instantly hooked! She was indifferent about being pre-med and wanted to see what other options were out there. She was excited when she learned about the U of M's accredited program and applied in her sophomore year. Hannah sees Medical Lab Science as a vital pillar of healthcare in that we provide much of the information needed to make a diagnosis. She is excited to be a part of something that is so important for quality patient care. After graduation, Hannah hopes to work in the Twin Cities for a few years and eventually return to school to pursue a Masters in Epidemiology. ■

**EDWARD HETZER** is from White Bear Lake, Minnesota and is the oldest of six children. Edward's interests include reading Sci-Fi books, strategy board games, ultimate Frisbee, Frisbee golf, and mountain biking. Edward also owns a canoe and likes to take his friends out fishing.



Edward holds a BS degree from Winona State University in Biology: Environmental Science with a minor in Philosophy. Edward is one of the first students in our Masters in Medical Laboratory Sciences (MMLS) Program. After graduating from Winona, he worked in the environmental conservation field, but found it to be too much about physical labor and not enough about science. Edward moved into more scientific based positions including lab technician in food science at General Mills and Eurofins, and quality control chemist at Flint Hills and Sanimax, but he was still not satisfied.

Edward discovered the MLS profession through online research and appreciates the day to day needs for a variety of lab techniques and the variety of disciplines available. MLS is the perfect starting point for a career in advanced Biology. Edward hopes to work at HCMC specializing in Microbiology after he graduates. ■

**WILSONIQUE DELSON** is from Nassau, Bahamas. Wilsonique is part of the U of M Track and Field Team. In addition to track, she is part of an organization called Athletes in Action. She also enjoys biking, swimming, indoor rock climbing, and weight lifting.



Wilsonique first learned about Medical Laboratory Sciences from her mother who researched different jobs in the medical field. Wilsonique knew she wanted to work in a medical profession and that she did not want to be a doctor, but she was not sure what she wanted to do. She knew that direct patient contact would be a lot for her to handle emotionally, as empathy is one of her top strengths. MLS allows her to assist patients without seeing them suffer which is very important to her.

Microbiology is her favorite part of the lab because she loves putting the pieces together like a puzzle to determine the identity of an organism. She perceives it as having fun while helping others. Wilsonique discovered Minnesota on a visit to another college and fell in love with the state and the "crisp clean air". After graduation, Wilsonique plans to work as an MLS for a couple of years and then enter the Pathologists Assistant graduate program at the University of Western Ontario. She hopes to gain experience in the pathology field and eventually open a private lab back home in the Bahamas. ■

**KAYLEE KANGAS** is a year three MLS student originally from Hibbing, Minnesota. She has been living in Woodbury since 2008. Her hobbies include painting, hiking, and camping.



Kaylee will complete her Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Studies this spring. She heard about the MLS program in her Introduction to Pre-Health careers online class and applied to the program that same day! MLS has the two things she really enjoys — helping people and laboratory work. She has always been fascinated by laboratories and wanted to understand all of the tests that laboratory scientists perform. Kaylee would like to work for a few years in the MLS field, possible at the Children's Hospital, and eventually return to school for a Master's in MLS. ■



# Students in Action

## MLS Volunteers at Phillips' Neighborhood Clinic

The student-run, free Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) is comprised of University of Minnesota students from various health programs. Students apply and interview for a volunteer position at the clinic during the early fall. This is the third year that the MLS program students have been invited to apply and accepted to volunteer at the clinic.



In fall of 2018, the PNC accepted nine MLS students as laboratory volunteers. Training was provided by the MLS program faculty including Tami Alpaugh, Charlotte Romain, and Andrew Yue. MLS students continue to hold a clinic board member position to advocate for the laboratory and to actively work to improve the laboratory at the clinic. Testing at the clinic is limited to some point of care testing. The remainder of testing is processed and sent to the UMMC West Bank Acute Care Laboratory. ■

## National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

The MLS program celebrated national medical laboratory professionals week April 22-28, 2018 by hosting a blood drive and a Be The Match drive. Students and faculty came together during laboratory week for an international potluck where students brought in their favorite dishes to share. There was also a raffle drawing for Lab Week merchandise.



During the MLS-coordinated "Save a Life" event held in Coffman Union, the American Red Cross blood drive collected 26 units. This event also provided an opportunity for other health care programs to showcase how their profession helps save lives. The programs that participated included MLS, OT, PT, Dentistry, Public Health, and the Center for Spirituality and Healing. There was also a raffle drawing for lab week merchandise. ■

## Dr. Gorlin Lends Expertise to Students

In August 2018, University of Minnesota MLS students hosted a blood drive for Memorial Blood Center (a Division of Innovative Blood Resources). Under the direction of Tami Alpaugh, the blood drive collected 24 units, capable of saving 64 lives. The blood drive exposed MLS students to the processes of collection, testing and distribution of blood products. Medical oversight of blood collection and distribution represent essential functions in the practice of transfusion medicine and Dr. Jed Gorlin continues to lend his expertise to both.



Dr. Gorlin serves as VP of Medical and Quality Affairs for Innovative Blood Resources. He is also the Co-director of Transfusion Medicine at HCMC and Children's Hospitals of Minnesota and Associate Clinical Professor of Laboratory Medicine at the University of Minnesota. Over the last two years, students in the University of Minnesota MLS Program have benefited from Dr. Gorlin's insightful and entertaining presentations featuring current topics in transfusion medicine. In addition, Dr. Gorlin has made several financial contributions to our scholarship funds. This year we look forward to increasing our collaborations with Dr. Gorlin and members of Innovative Blood Resources molecular genotyping and reference laboratory teams! ■

## MLS Student Elected as ASCLS Vice-Chair of Developing Professional Forum

At the 2018 annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, senior MLS student Eykka Gundlach was elected to the position of Vice-Chair of the Developing Professional Forum. Eykka, who is also the ASCLS-Minnesota Student Forum Representative, has found being a part of ASCLS to be a great way to meet people and to learn more about the profession and the opportunities it presents. Eykka is originally from Florida, but she moved to Minnesota five years ago, and now considers this to be her home. Eventually, Eykka would like to use her degree by working at the Department of Health or the Centers for Disease Control. When she's not studying, she enjoys knitting and crocheting, and spending time with her two cats, Heisenberg and Roselyn (named after Rosalind Franklin). ■

# The Power of Giving



Alumni play a huge role in supporting our students through generous donations to our program. Each year donations to our scholarships make it possible for students to afford textbooks needed for classroom success, meet the increasing cost of tuition, or to find temporary housing during clinical rotations in rural Minnesota. Many students would find it difficult to begin their new careers as medical laboratory scientists without such support. We want to thank everyone who generously donated in 2018 and continue to ask for your help in 2019 – no matter what the size of the donation. *Below is a listing of the students you have helped through your scholarship donations in 2018.* ■

## **Alumni Fund Scholarships**

- Alicia Gunderman
- Megan Heimermann
- Edward Hetzer
- Samantha Keopraseut
- Davis Nennig
- Tascha Stanaitis
- Robyn Syverson
- Judy Thao

## **Yvonne Chenoweth Cooke Scholarship Fund**

- Elizabeth Guzik
- Chinwenwa Iheme
- Stephanie Lanzdorf
- Le Pham
- Kai Saito

## **Ruth Stravitsky Scholarship Fund**

- Phouc Thai
- Kai Saito

## **Gonyea-Stewart Scholarship Fund**

- Julia Hudgens
- Samantha Keopraseut

## **Karen R. Karni Scholarship Fund**

- Shequaya Broadus
- Alexis Dunlop
- Matthew Formanek

## **Clarice J. Olson Scholarship Fund**

- Elsayed Hassanein

## **Betty Rae McConnell Scholarship Fund**

- Kai Saito

## **Elizabeth Stone Scholarship Fund**

- Samantha Keopraseut

## **Audrey Lapeyrouse Scholarship Fund**

- Tran Troung
- Amy Vang

## **William A. O'Brien Scholarship Fund**

- Callie Kutnink
- Lincoln Mathews
- Hayley McCormack
- Mubarek Kadir
- Amanda Nguyen

## **Abner M. Neeley Scholarship**

- Carmen Berkan
- Isabel Brown
- Amanda Burns
- Katelyn Chester
- Erick Domingo
- Kylie Duong
- Ali Hassan
- Elsayed Hassanein
- Julia Hudgens
- Kaylee Kangas
- Kelley O'Brien
- Nicole Organ
- Le Pham
- Renee Thomas
- Christina Vo

## **New Grace A. Byers Scholarship Announced**

We are pleased to announce a new Medical Laboratory Sciences scholarship – the Grace A. Byers Scholarship. The family of alumna Grace Byers (class of 1969) made the gift after her passing in January 2018, and shared that her time at the U “was the happiest time of her life.”

## ASCLS-MN 2018 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to two University of Minnesota Medical Laboratory Science students who received ASCLS-MN Scholarships in 2018.



**Julia Hudgens**, the recipient of the ASCLS-Claussen scholarship, is from Lino Lakes, Minnesota. She learned about the profession through an aunt who is an MLT. She is passionate about science, healthcare, interprofessionalism, helping people, and the sense of community demonstrated by ASCLS.

**Elizabeth Guzik**, the recipient of the ASCLS-MN Minnesota Society of Pathologists scholarship, is from Orland Park, Illinois, but will be calling Minnesota her home as she begins her career as an MLS Generalist at Children’s Minnesota in the Twin Cities. She fell in love with laboratory science while looking for a career that could marry her passion for science with her lifelong love of puzzles. ■



**Congratulations to both Julia and Elizabeth on their scholarship awards!**



# Thank You for Your Generous Contributions to the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in 2018

## **\$10,000 and up**

- August Droege (in memory of Grace E. Byers)
- Ella M. Spanjers

## **\$1,000 to \$9,999**

- James K. Ferderer
- Stephen J. & Susan K. Fautsch
- Todd C. & Mary E. Jacobson
- Todd C. and Mary E. Jacobson Charitable Fund
- Karin J. Libby
- Barbara J. Moser
- Judith A. & Dale D. Winter

## **\$500 to \$999**

- Anonymous Donor
- Joanne S. & Lee W. Arvid
- Sheila M. Clough
- Mary J. Eaves-Raich & John J. Raich
- Erin J. Fendin
- Ronald D. Halvorson
- Robert P. Hirte
- Debra C. Rodahl
- Katherine A. & Wayne J. Vagts
- Andrew R. Yue

## **\$100 to \$499**

- Anonymous Donor
- Patricia A. Ackerman
- American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
- Frederick R. & Carol A. Arnason
- Anne & Michael Borman
- Joseph & Marilyn T. Budge
- Kimberly A. & David W. Butler
- Jacqueline A. Carlson
- Sandra J. Carter
- Annie O. Chow
- Robert A. Dahl
- Barbara M. Deisting
- Sharon M. Deml
- Robin L. Donner
- Donna E. Dzubay
- Deborah A. Evans
- Claudine E. Fasching
- Catherine L. Foster
- Linda L. Fredrickson
- Reggie L. Gausman
- Mardie G. Geiser
- Kathryn H. Glen
- Jed B. Gorlin & Jocelyn Bessette-Gorlin

- Ingrid B. Graff
- Joyce A. Gunderson
- Marilyn J. Halonen
- Jacquelin A. Heggernes
- Janet D. Hegland
- Henry V. & Mary L. Holec
- Karen K. Huff
- Julie A. Jacobs
- Phyllis M. Jacobs
- Rita M. Jacobson
- Karen R. Karni
- Marlys B. Keefe
- Sridhar & Usha R. Kota
- Francene H. & Lonny R. Lebahn
- Connie J. Luebke
- Marilyn J. Lueck
- Jane F. Mayer
- Betty L. McMartin
- Arlene M. Meadows
- Barbara G. Melamed
- David J. Melby
- Brian J. Meline
- Diane M. Michalik
- Minnesota Association of Blood Banks
- Donald M. & Kathleen W. Nadreau
- Beverly R. Ness
- Patricia L. Norgren
- Jeanne C. Olsen
- Sheryl F. Olson
- David J. & Mary Jo Pennington
- Marba L. & Richard R. Pogue
- Quest Diagnostics
- Karen L. Ringsrud
- John L. Roesler
- Ruth M. Rosendahl
- Laura G. Rude
- James L. & Sandra R. Rutzick
- Joy E. Sacre
- Norynne M. Schiminsky\*
- Nancy A. Stanaway
- Michael R. & Kathleen P. Tekautz
- Constance C. Verre
- Aija K. Vikmanis
- Nettie M. Warwood
- Phyllis J. Weiss
- Kristi L. Werdin
- Donna J. Wieb
- Nancy A. Witstine
- Xcel Energy Foundation

## **Up to \$100**

- Melissa L. Aitken
- Marilyn J. Ambjor
- Linda J. Bowers
- Wanda E. Clark
- Mary E. Clay
- Joanne G. Deden
- Timothy E. & Carolyn E. Donovan
- Lorilee B. Echternach
- Pamela R. Elliott
- Arthur T. & Kay E. Emmons
- Leanna L. Erickson
- Susan K. Feist
- Harriet D. Fritts
- Marilyn R. Haglund
- Patty Hallgren
- Gail R. Held
- Edward M. & Julie R. Idzorek
- Cheryl A. Kaup
- Phillip M. Korkowski
- Patricia J. Kriesel
- Vickie L. Larson
- Leslie A. MacKichan
- Marvin L. & Cynthia A. Menken
- Mary Lou G. Mohn
- Judith A. Nelson
- Margrette N. & John Newhouse
- Patricia A. Nistico
- James S. & Harriet J. Noreen
- Lucille K. Norman
- Sandra V. Pearson
- Susan A. Piasecki
- Elizabeth A. Plumhoff
- Marilyn R. Plummer
- Ronald A. & Jennifer L. Prasek
- Diane K. Rappe
- Gregory P. Rynders
- Sandra L. Sauer
- Clarice M. Seim
- Kathleen Skradski
- Lois J. & Peter M. Smith
- Patricia L. Solum
- Pamela D. Swanson
- Mary R. Zweber

\* Deceased

If you wish to make a contribution, please visit: <https://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/medical-laboratory-sciences> or call: U of M Foundation at 800-775-2187 and specify MLS.

# MLS Partnerships Reap Rewards

## Students Learn about the Industry side of MLS at Beckman Coulter



In 2018, Beckman Coulter hosted two full-day events on August 20th and October 1st for our MLS students in their clinical experience semester. A total of 31 students and four faculty attended this event at the Beckman Coulter branch in Chaska, MN. The first part of the day was spent viewing presentations by various scientists and professionals to provide insight about the industry-side of medical laboratory science to the students and faculty.

Following the morning presentations, a networking lunch was hosted by professionals from different departments within Beckman Coulter. The afternoon consisted of department tours including the reagent production laboratories, instrumentation assembly area, as well as the research and development department. We greatly value the partnership our program has developed with Beckman Coulter, hosting these events for our students and faculty each year and appreciate their scholarship donations. ■

## Donna Spannaus-Martin Serves as UMN Faculty Legislative Liaison

MLS faculty, Dr. Donna Spannaus-Martin, has been spending 25% of her time serving as one of the two University of Minnesota Faculty Legislative Liaisons. In this role, she spends time at the Minnesota Capitol when the legislature is in session, meeting with individual legislators, attending the Senate and House of Representatives' Higher Education and Policy Committee meetings, and visiting with faculty at the other UMN campuses. Her work has brought increased visibility to our program.

Donna also serves as ASCLS-Minnesota's Government Affairs Chair, attending the Annual Legislative Symposium held in Washington, DC and meeting with the legislative aides of Minnesota senators and representatives. This year, the Minnesota delegation was able to meet in person with Senator Amy Klobuchar to discuss issues affecting clinical laboratories, including the workforce shortage and the Protecting Access to Medicare Act (PAMA). A love of politics may run in Donna's family. Her uncle, Warren Spannaus, was Attorney General of Minnesota for twelve years and also ran for governor of Minnesota. ■

*Donna – front row center next to Senator Amy Klobachar*



# Focus on Faculty & Staff

## Staff Changes at CAHP

### **TODD GITZLAFF – Data Administrator**

Todd joined CAHP in 2018 as a Data Administrator. He brings over 25 years of private sector experience in a variety of fields. Outside of work, Todd enjoys running, music, sports and animals. He plays bass guitar in a band and is also currently training for his first half marathon.



### **ROBIN PETERSON – Student Services Admissions and Academic Advisor**



Robin joined CAHP in 2018 and works with students who are interested in entering the Medical Laboratory Sciences profession or the Occupational Therapy field.

Robin also advises current MLS and OT students to help them be successful in the program. She previously worked at the University of Minnesota for eight years and recently returned to the U of M after living in Chicago. Robin is excited to be back in Minnesota and is looking forward to working with students at CAHP. Robin received her BA from Bethel University and her MA in Intercultural Communications from DePaul University.

### **LARA CHRISTLEY – Student Services Admissions and Academic Advisor**



Lara has a Natural Resources and Environmental Studies degree from CFANS at the U of M. Her first job was in Outdoor Environmental Education and included a stint in the Peace Corps in Honduras. She has

also worked in HR, including recruiting, training, and development. Lara earned a master's degree in higher education focused on creating universally designed learning environments and supporting the access and success of underrepresented students in higher education. Before joining CAHP in 2018, Lara worked in other departments at the U of M and in the Minnesota State College system. She is a Gallup Certified Strengths Coach and loves helping people connect their greatest strengths to work and life. Outside of work, she has two small rescue dogs she is training. She cooks and bakes from scratch and is a small urban gardener and canner. ■

## Hannah Gartzke Earns Graduate Degree

Hannah, a teaching specialist with the MLS program, earned her master's degree in Curriculum Instruction from the Western Governor's University in October 2018. Her capstone project was "Evaluating the impact of using an advance organizer as a pre-laboratory activity for MLS students." Hannah liked that the program was competency based through online delivery which allowed her to continue working full-time teaching in the MLS program. Congratulations Hannah! ■



## Goodbye to Former Faculty

**VERNA L. RAUSCH**, age 95, a lifelong resident of Minneapolis, passed away January 18, 2019. Verna

graduated from the U of M Med Tech program in 1945 and joined the faculty in 1946. She received her master's in Physiological Chemistry in 1952 and remained as a faculty member until her retirement in 1987. Working at a time when men



*MLS Faculty in the early 1980's; Verna Rausch – front row, 2nd from right*

significantly outnumbered women in the medical field, she and a colleague wrote a seminal paper which created new standards for quality control in laboratory medicine. In 1977 they received the Professional Achievement Award from the American Society for Medical Technology for that paper and subsequent career accomplishments. On May 1, 1984 she received the Horace T. Morse - Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to Education. She was a lifelong supporter of Gopher athletics, holding season tickets to hockey and football for over 50 years. Her knowledge and strength will be missed. ■



## HSEC Puts Students at the Center of Learning

The new Health Sciences Education Center (HSEC) currently under construction will enhance teamwork among health professionals, preparing students to meet the changing needs of communities across Minnesota and around the world. The new space will improve the student

experience and will help us to attract the best and the brightest students and faculty to our state. This state-of-the-art facility will help us train health professionals who are ready to leverage each other's talents—to improve the health of the communities we serve. The classrooms will be the center of the

new Health Sciences Education Center health sciences interprofessional education. A mix of



active learning and small group teaching spaces will support this student-centered model.

Each day we watch the continuing construction of the HSEC right outside our windows. In March, the remodeled portions of Phillips-Wangensteen building (PWB) should be finished and occupants will gradually move in over the spring months. PWB will include a combined student services and health sciences library facility. The HSEC will be completed early in 2020 and ready for classes in Fall 2020. Visit <https://www.health.umn.edu/education-training/health-sciences-education-center-hsec> to see pictures of on-going construction as well as architects renderings of completed classrooms and study spaces. ■

## MLS Faculty Convert Course to Flipped Classroom

Drs. Michelle Henry-Stanley and Donna Spannaus-Martin were awarded the Academic Health Center's (AHC) Fellowship for Teaching in Active Learning Classrooms. This fellowship gives them access to a team of technology experts tailored specifically to their project as they convert the current MLS immunology course to a flipped classroom format using active learning strategies. Active learning strategies have been shown to increase

students' retention of course content, critical thinking skills, and problem-solving abilities. They will be showcasing the newly designed immunology course at the AHC Best Practices in Health Education Day in 2020. The award will give the MLS Program priority scheduling in the active learning classrooms of the soon to be completed Health Science Education Center. Congratulations, Michelle and Donna! ■

## 2018 Clinical Affiliate Spotlight

During 2018, 46 clinical affiliates offered clinical experiences in the areas of Chemistry/UA, Hematology/Coag, Transfusion Medicine, and Microbiology for our 44 senior students during the summer and fall semesters. We are so thankful for their ongoing support of our MLS students and program. Thank you! ■

### Allina Health System:

Central Laboratory  
Cambridge Medical Center  
Coon Rapids Clinic  
Mercy Hospital-Unity Campus  
New Ulm Medical Center  
Owatonna Hospital  
St. Francis Medical Center  
United Hospital  
West Health

### Avera Marshall Regional Medical Ctr.

### CentraCare Health:

St. Cloud Hospital

### Essentia Health:

St. Joseph's Medical Center  
St. Mary's Medical Center

### Fairview Health System:

Lakes Medical Center  
M Health Maple Grove  
Northland Medical Center  
Range Medical Center  
Ridges Hospital  
Southdale Hospital  
UMMC-East Bank  
UMMC-West Bank  
IDDL

### FirstLight Health System

### HealthEast Care System:

St. John's Hospital  
St. Joseph's Hospital  
Woodwinds Hospital

### HealthPartners:

Methodist Hospital  
Regions Hospital  
Hudson Hospital

### Mayo Clinic Health System:

Eau Claire Hospital  
Mankato

### Minneapolis VA Health Care System

### Minnesota Department of Health

### Northfield Hospital

### North Memorial Medical Center

### Rice Memorial Hospital

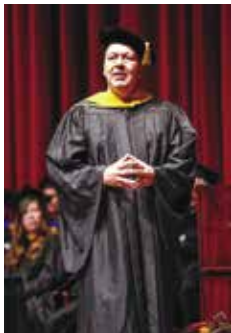
### Ridgeview Medical Center:

Ridgeview Medical Center  
Two Twelve Medical Center

### St. Luke's Hospital

# Commencement for the Class of 2018

The Center for Allied Health Programs held its annual graduation ceremony for the Medical Laboratory Sciences and Occupational Therapy Programs on December 14, 2018, at Ted Mann Concert Hall on the West Bank of the Twin Cities campus. Dr. Terrienne Jones, an assistant professor and director of professional continuing education in Occupational Therapy, led the procession, carrying the ceremonial mace of the University of Minnesota.



Mr. Joe Schmit, an author, award-winning broadcaster, community leader, and popular keynote speaker delivered the commencement address. Mr. Schmit. In his remarks, Joe noted that “we make our biggest impressions when we are not trying to be

impressive.” He said “the words we say or don’t say, the things we do or don’t do, and the ways we react or don’t react can have a tremendous influence on those around us.” Weaving in stories of iconic Minnesota sports icons, he explained how these individuals made a profound influence on others by demonstrating purpose, passion and persistence in their everyday lives. He encouraged graduates to “recognize the opportunities they will have in their life and careers to make an intentional impact on the patients they will care for and others they will encounter.”

Kylie Labog delivered the MLS student address with poise and confidence. She highlighted how during her year 4 clinical experience, her patient contact through blood draws gave her courage and reassurance and how these interactions



“solidified the importance of vulnerability and empathy in our profession.” She closed her speech encouraging her fellow graduates to “be proud of your achievements. As medical laboratory scientists, our eyes are trained to recognize cells responsible for disease states such as leukemia, meningitis, or sepsis. Our hands are trained to perform

manual tests on even the smallest amounts of precious samples of blood or spinal fluid. Our judgments are trained to make decisions that can affect the course of a patient’s treatment. These skills we now possess are valued greatly.”

As students walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, they also received congratulatory handshakes from Dr. Christine Mueller, Associate Vice President for Education in the Academic Health Center, Dr. Janice Conway-Klaassen, Program Director of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program, and Mr. Schmit. A reception followed the ceremony for the graduates, guests, and faculty. ■

## Congratulations graduates!

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES GRADUATES

Abdurahman S. Ahmed	Stephanie J. Lanzdorf
Chiara M. Aziz	Linh R. Le
Shequaya Broadus	Sviatlana Liaschova-Stanley
Anna Chebykina	Ziyad Hulle Mahammed
Kara E. Curtis	Justin A. Markfort
Rebecca DeValk	Josiah D. Murray*
Shelby B. Finneman	Carly R. Neren*
Matthew J. Formanek	Anh T. Nguyen
Elizabeth M. Guzik	Linh X. Nguyen
Melanie C. Ho	Nhu H. Nguyen
Emma Hoang	Erika N. Remillard-Hagen
Chinwewa Esther Iheme	Kai Saito
Ilia M. Isacov	Terry D. Sarpong
Rami A. Kaissi	Jenna C. Scherber
Bridgette N. Kennedy	Sarah M. Schroeder
Jared J. Krier	Mitchell B. Schulte
Kylie J. Labog	Gabriela K. Shaffer



Eryn N. Stewart  
Phuoc H. Thai  
Kamal H. Tusa  
Amy M. Vang  
Kalley E. Vetter  
Dake Wang  
Heidi L. Wigstrom

### CERTIFICATE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES RECIPIENTS

Kirsti R. Kallinen  
Trang N. Truong  
Ka Zoua Xiong

\* Graduated with Distinction

## 2018 Alumni Banquet

Over 100 alumni, students, and friends gathered at the University of Minnesota Weisman Art Museum overlooking the Mississippi River on Saturday April 21, 2018. We had 22 alumni from the 50th Anniversary Class (1968) including:

Mary Anderson, Ann Claesgens, Sarah Clysdale, Katherine Cooper, Kirsten Engelbrecht, Leanna Erickson, Susan Gans, Joyce Gunderson, Mary Jacobson, Carol Johnson, Kathryn Lambert, Pauline Lileng, Phyllis Maercklein, Paulette Martinson, Linda Mikyska, Toni Okada, Rodney Sandberg, Trish Seguin, Joanne Sinaiko, Michael Sinclair, Kay Wolfe, and Kathryn Young.



Class of 1968 reunion activities included a walk through the labs in the Mayo Court area and the Acute Care Lab at Minnesota Health, and a tour of the current MLS student room and student teaching laboratory spaces. Happy hour at the Weisman began at 5:00 PM allowing guests time to reunite and to tour the "Prince" exhibit on display. The banquet followed with MLS Program updates from Janice Conway-Klaassen, and a summary of the partnership building with Kabul University of Medical Science (KUMS) in Afghanistan from Dr. Stephen Wiesner. The evening ended with the presentation of the Alumni of the Year award to Joanna George. ■



## Alumni of the Year award recipient Joanna George

Joanna George knew early on that she wanted to make Medical Technology her profession. As a child, she often had strep throat and was frequently in the lab of a small hospital in Richardton, ND getting throat cultures done. The technologist was so kind and would tell Joanna about the lab which spiked her interest. She attended UND in Grand Forks for two years after high school and then transferred to Minot State University where she got her Bachelor of Sciences degree in Medical Technology.



Joanna started her career as a generalist working late nights. She eventually married Rick who was a career Air Force man. They were stationed at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia for four years. There, Joanna was hired into the blood bank at Norfolk General Hospital, attended Tidewater School of Blood Bank Technology, acquired SBB certification, and gave birth to her daughter Nicole. Joanna became assistant supervisor of the blood bank and HLA lab until the Air Force transferred their family to the Netherlands. When their time in the Netherlands was up, Joanna was fortunate to be hired by Clareyse Nelson at the blood bank of the University of Minnesota Hospital.

In 1990, Joanna was hired as the teaching laboratory manager in the Med Tech program.

She also prepped and taught blood bank and microbiology labs. In winter 2004, she became the course director for transfusion medicine lecture and lab, continued as lab manager, and taught lab medicine to second year medical students. Joanna earned a Masters in Professional Studies from the University of Minnesota in 2012. She retired in 2014, but returned to teach Transfusion Medicine lecture and lab in the spring of 2015 and 2016. Joanna has loved all of her jobs, but feels especially honored and privileged to teach so many bright people over the years. The future of Laboratory Medicine is in good hands!

In retirement, Joanna stays active as a Master Gardener and has helped to launch a food shelf garden at her church. She is also in two church choirs and one community choir. She has enjoyed traveling to Costa Rica, Peru, Florida, and Hawaii. In 2019 she has plans to travel to Ecuador and the Galapagos along with a cruise to Alaska. She continues to garden on her 10 acres with her two dogs Mira and Bosco. Congratulations Joanna! ■

### Note to the Class of 1969!

Your classmates would like to organize a 50th anniversary class reunion prior to the Alumni Banquet on April 27th. Please contact Linda Maleitzke, CAHP Projects Coordinator, at 612-625-8936 or [lmaleitz@umn.edu](mailto:lmaleitz@umn.edu) if you would like to help plan your reunion.



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2019 MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES ALUMNI BANQUET!

The annual Alumni Banquet will be held at the Weisman Art Museum on the University of Minnesota East Bank Campus, Saturday, April 27th. Cocktail hour (cash bar) will begin at 5:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:00 p.m. and with a brief program to follow. There will be a special recognition of the Classes of 1944, 1969 and 1994. We encourage all alumni to attend!

### 75th Anniversary Class of 1944

Marjorie (Marvin) Addington*	Janet (Eyster) Doutt*	Margaret (Kaiser) Johnson	Carlton Ould*	Elizabeth (Shields) Stephenson*
Maxine (Hugos) Anderson	Mildred (Miller) Enquist	Shirley (Pankow) King*	Mariellen (Frank) Palm	Lorraine (Gonyea) Stewart*
Marilyn (Balsar) Balsar*	Evelyn (Naseth) Fluggen	Shirley Kubon*	Armond Pappone	Elizabeth (Hall) Suttie*
Marie (Prebonich) Beech*	Helen (Jorgenson) Fowler*	Betty (Wile) Levy*	Dorothy (Benson) Pennie*	Barbara Tucker*
Sigrid (Serum) Berg*	Margaret Giebenhain*	Jane Lynn	Kathleen (Klein) Pinke*	John Van Ost
Jean (Jacobs) Bingham	Margaret (Moulton) Green*	Elizabeth (Geiger) Marnette*	Marjorie Pomeroy*	Marjorie (Due) Vollhaber*
Elizabeth (Robbins) Birchwood*	Frances (Nelson) Haight*	Joyce (Marion) Merting	Shirley (Jasoy) Pucci	Mary (Richards) Walker
Florence (Holst) Carney*	Mildred (Huettner) Hakomaki*	Eunice (Carlson) Mills*	Della (Kruse) Ramsden	Cleo (Abbott) Wangeness
R. Carroll*	Ernestine (Fischer) Halberg*	Margaret (Thielicke) Moore	Sarah (Juster) Ring	Theo Wells
Norma (Christensen) Christenson	Charlotte (Helgeson) Hansen*	Helen (Johnson) Moufang*	Gael Robinson	
Natalie Cremer*	Marian (Trapp) Hill*	Carole (Bjoraness) Newberg*	Daphne (Von) Rohr	
Mariann (Helleckson) Dicks	L. (Hanson) Hultgren*	Ollie (Stubblefield) Olsen*	Margaret Sanderson*	
Angeline DiSalvo	Jane Humiston	Florence (McKevitt) Ould*	Marion (Bartl) Stein*	*Deceased

### 50th Anniversary Class of 1969

Jacquelyn (Einhorn) Battis	Marie Coyer	Carol (Luck) Harris	Diane (Olson) Michalik	Sandra (Zeleschnak) Steen
Elizabeth (Kirker) Bixby	Mary (Goossens) Dieveney	Susan (Dobrin) Harris	DeVonne (Ostman) Nilsson	Gloria (Schaap) Strandberg*
Lenore (Freeberg) Bolfig	Linda (Kirchhoff) Donley	Barbara Jo (Behan) Holmen	Carol Oolman	Elaine (Hendrickson) Strom
Kathleen (Jagiela) Bourdeaux	Miriam (Schultz) Ebeling	Karen (Kloss) Huff	Margaret (Huie) Polta	Charlott (Peterson) Taylor
Susan (Rosenwald) Brusio	Christine (Windedahl) Fausch	Ronald Karsnia	Janet (Tiede) Redman	Sharol (Stone) Thomas
Cynthia (Strub) Busian	Joyce (Rolla) Forbort	Robert Larter	Barbara (Fykson) Reinhardt	Cynthia (Kaley) Thompson
Grace Byers*	Margaret (Erlinger) Gabriel	Karin (Rittgers) Libby	Kathryn (Pribyl) Reisinger	Charlotte Trambley
Carol (Krueger) Christiansen*	Linda (Farley) Gagnon	Maureen (Loven) Loven-Bell	Faye (Crickmer) Rood	Marlene (Shears) Tuttle
Jackie (Hsing-Ning) Chu	Barbara (Buckman) Gilb	Janet Porter Lundberg	Jean (Hardy) Rysavy	Katherine (Lakso) Vagts
Cheryl (Briggs) Clancy*	Andrea (Durand) Girtz	Cynthia (Moe) Menken	Mary (Engman) Schmalz	Yumi Ward
Leah (Pihlstrom) Clark	Janis Gustafson	Donna (Messerli) Meyer	Meredith (Lund) Schurr*	Norma (Weisert) Williams

\*Deceased

### 25th Anniversary Class of 1994

Phillip Bauer	Lawrence Carroll	Arla Keckeisen	Julianne Newham
Maria Bausero	Janell (Stiles) Gazdecki	Siew-The Lee	Katherine Pearson
Jane (Ullmann) Bester	Sharon (Bydlon) Hasslen	Pocheng Liu	Marisa Peterson
Michelle Blasing	Judith Haswell	Joseph Masloski	William Petik
Mary Jo	Stacy (Babich) Hemer	Radhiya Mehdi	Carolyn Young
Luke Bonawitz	Tripat Kaur	Kristina (Sitarz) Newell	

- **To register online, go to <https://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/events/save-date-mls-alumni-banquet-2019>.**
- **To register by mail, please include this form and your check payable to Regents of the University of Minnesota. Address to: Medical Laboratory Sciences Program, University of Minnesota, MMC 711, 420 Delaware St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (Attention L. Maleitzke)**
- **Please contact Linda Maleitzke, CAHP Projects Coordinator with questions at 612-625-8936 or [lmaleitz@umn.edu](mailto:lmaleitz@umn.edu).**

**Yes! I will attend the 2019 MLS Alumni Banquet! (Please register by April 19, 2019)**

Please check your entrée selection (salad and dessert included):

- Braised Walleye with Almonds and Fine Herbs .....\$45.00
- Beef Pot Roast with Dijon Shallot Sauce .....\$45.00
- Lemon Artichoke Chicken Breast.....\$40.00
- Butternut Squash Ravioli with Green Beans, Pine Nuts and Parmesan Cheese.....\$40.00

Check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ dinner/s

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation year \_\_\_\_\_ Former name \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a handicap parking space reserved for you?  Yes  No

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