From the Director’s Desk

The faculty and students of the MLS program have been very busy again this year and the program is flourishing! As always, we want to thank all of our alumni and program friends for your generous financial support through donations for student scholarships. Every donation makes a difference for our students.

This year we were able to give out almost $80,000 in scholarships and financial aid to our students! As you 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 if they must work, they can work fewer hours, it supports their success in the program. See page 10 for the list of students we were able to help this year with your generous support. Thank you so very much.

As with most university programs, we have gone through some administrative and program changes again this year, all for the better. The Academic Health Center was reorganized with each new unit focusing on a primary purpose – education, clinical delivery/affairs, or research. The MLS program is now within the Academic Health Sciences unit, the education branch of administration, and reports through the Provost’s office. Since our primary focus has always been educating the best MLS students, this move aligns well with our needs. See article on page 12.

In September 2018, we admitted our first class of students in the Professional Master’s in Medical Laboratory Sciences degree. This degree plan is for students who already have their bachelors degree, but need the MLS credential to work in a clinical laboratory. Eight full-time students graduated in December 2019 and all of them found jobs right away. Two others are attending classes part-time and will graduate in December 2020 along with eight additional students admitted this past fall.

Starting this September, we will launch a post-credential master’s degree; the MS in Biomedical Laboratory Sciences (BLS). Why the different name? We needed to distinguish this new degree from our professional master’s degree and from the previous MS degree in CLS from the medical school. We have had lots of interest from local practitioners and we hope that this will be a great addition for the program. In this degree plan, students will take 21 core courses, but will also be able to select nine credits in an area of focus such as teaching, molecular diagnostics, research, management, and more. The degree plan is also completely online to accommodate students’ work schedules.

In other news, the Health Sciences Education Center (HSEC) will be opening in Fall 2020 and we are very excited to be able to teach in this new innovative facility. One of the main features of the building are the simulation and immersive training environments where Interprofessional teams can train in sophisticated, real-world settings, including both acute and ambulatory care spaces. See page 14 for more information.

Kudos go out to our faculty for their continuing excellence and professional engagement. Six faculty attended CLEC in Orlando in February 2020. Tami Alpaugh presented about our Clinical Experience Model, I presented on optimizing time during clinicals by integrating campus lab and simulations, and Lorna Ruskin presented a session on the use of simulations to augment clinical rotations. Tami Alpaugh and Steve Wiesner presented a poster describing a method we introduced on Improving Affective Behaviors in MLS Students. A number of us are also presenting at the Clinical Laboratory Collaborative in April 2020.

Donna Spannaus-Martin has continued in the role as UMN Legislative Liaison. She meets with the Faculty Senate, the Board of Regents and state legislators to discuss topics relevant to the University. At the same time, she provides great visibility for our program. Donna is also attending Legislative Day in Washington, DC with other members of ASCLS. Read more on page 13.

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.

(continued on the next page)
From the Director’s Desk (continued)

Save the Date!
• Clinical Laboratory Collaborative meeting is April 6th & 7th at the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center, MN.
• Alumni Banquet – April 25, 2020, honoring the graduates of 1945, 1970, and 1995. If you are interested in reserving a table for you and your classmates, contact Linda Maleitzke at cahpinfo@umn.edu (put MLS Banquet in the subject line) or call 877-334-2659.
• 2022 – Our 100th year Anniversary!!! Stay tuned for news about celebratory activities.

On a final note, this will be my last article of From the Director’s Desk; I begin my phased retirement in September. It has been 10 years of tremendous change, revitalization, and growth for the program and I’m very proud to have been the Program Director during this final chapter of my work career. It has been an honor and privilege. We have a great team and I know they will continue to do great things. One of the best things about this program is the support and engagement of the alumni. You’re the best!!

Warm Regards,

Janice Conway-Klaassen
PhD, MLS(ASCP)CM/SMCM, FACSc

MLS Program Annual Report

NAACLS 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Experience Rotations</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Rotations</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in Minnesota</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number in Rural Areas</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographics of Incoming Students</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Age (years)</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>23.6</td>
<td>25.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender (F/M)%</td>
<td>68 / 32</td>
<td>68 / 32</td>
<td>75/24/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cum GPA</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>3.27</td>
<td>3.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN resident %</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity %</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

https://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/medical-laboratory-sciences
Faculty, students and alumni were all represented in a variety of local and regional professional meetings held throughout the year.

**Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative April 2019**

The annual Clinical Laboratory Collaborative meeting was held April 24 – 26, 2019 at the River’s Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota. The meeting chair this year was a recent University of Minnesota Graduate, Galina Dronova.

Over 336 laboratorians enjoyed three days of outstanding educational talks and exhibits with 47 vendors. The three days were filled with three keynote speakers, 48 breakout sessions and numerous social activities for networking and visiting with old friends.

Once again the silent auction raised money for student scholarships. Money was also raised for a local charity, Pathways4Youth. In addition to collection items for the food shelf and cash donations, raffle tickets were sold for a grand prize of a $250 Amazon gift card, generously donated by Swisslog. The person who won the card donated it to the charity.

Save the date for the 2020 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Meeting to be held at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center. The dates are Monday April 6 and Tuesday April 7. Student day will be on Monday this year.

**ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium**

The 2019 ASCLS Region V Symposium and Leadership Academy was held at the Holiday Inn in Fargo, ND on September 26-27. Topics presented included hepatitis, genomics, organ donations, and mentoring teams.

There were approximately 125 people in attendance, and among them was Dr. Donna Spannaus-Martin, from our MLS faculty. Dr. Spannaus-Martin is the Region V Government Affairs Chair. While at the symposium, she gave a presentation on Advocating for the Profession to the Leadership Academy.

**CLEC 2019**

On February 21-23, 2019, Dr. Janice Conway-Klaassen, Dr. Lorna Ruskin, and Nicole Zahnle attended the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference (CLEC) which was located in Baltimore, Maryland. The faculty attended the conference to network with other educators about education best practices and challenges specific to MLS curriculum. Dr. Conway-Klaassen led a workshop session to develop new guidelines in General Practice, Immunology, and Molecular Diagnostics for the Body of Knowledge (Scope of Practice) documents.

The conference was well attended, setting a new attendance record, however, travel was interesting due to a blizzard in Minnesota. CLEC 2020 will be in Orlando, FL from February 27-29th.

**ASCLS Joint National Meeting 2019**

The ASCLS Annual Meeting was held June 23 – 27 in Charlotte, NC. Beginning in 2019, ASCLS and the Association of Genetic Technologist (AGT) started holding their annual meetings jointly. The single meeting integrates their educational programs, abstracts/posters, and exhibits. The Joint Annual Meeting or JAM, featured 70 educational sessions, 86 speakers and 685 attendees. Forty-one industry partners joined us in the exhibits area which included 36 poster presentations. The HOPE project raised $1,255 for Classroom Central and assembled 96 classroom kits. PAC raised $6,300 and the Silent Auction raised $6,500 for scholarships.

U of M student, Eykka Gundlach, was elected to the National Board of Directors as the Ascending Professionals Chair. Congratulations Eykka!

Save the date for the ASCLS/AGT Joint Annual Meeting to be held June 28 – July 2, 2020 in Louisville, KY.
Students in Action

MLS Volunteers at Phillips’ Neighborhood Clinic

In October, 2019 the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) accepted three MLS students and 17 students from other health profession programs as laboratory volunteers. The Phillips Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) is a free clinic operated by University of Minnesota students from various professional health science programs. Students apply and interview for a volunteer position at the clinic during the early fall.

This is the fourth year that the MLS program students have been invited to apply and accepted to volunteer at the clinic. Training was provided to all of the new PNC lab volunteers by the MLS program faculty including Tami Alpaugh, Hannah Gartzke, Donna Spannaus-Martin, and Nicole Zahnle. MLS students continue to hold a clinic board member position to advocate for the laboratory and to actively work to improve PNC laboratory operations. To learn more about the PNC, please visit http://phillipsneighborhoodclinic.com/.

MLS Students Join Paint the Bridge Event

Paint the Bridge is an annual event hosted by Student Unions & Activities. It is an opportunity for student groups to create community by painting artwork along the interior of the pedestrian walkway on the Washington Avenue Bridge. The panels serve as a platform to bring awareness to each group’s activities and to promote their group to students.

MLS students Claire Wilmesmeier and Rene Nelson participated in this year’s event, representing the MLS student group. Claire is class president and Rene is our CHIP (Center for Health Interprofessional Program) representative. The artwork on the panel is designed and painted by the members and officers of the group. They utilized the University of Minnesota Libraries Makerspaces to make a custom stencil for their bridge panel and as you can see from the photo, they included some free hand white blood cell and microbiology plate art! We plan to make this an annual tradition for the MLS student group.

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is a week dedicated to celebrate the important work done by professionals in the laboratory every day. This year we joined with other laboratory professionals by celebrating our profession April 21-27, 2019.

Several things were planned for the MLS students this year including donuts, pizza parties, lab themed cookies and other treats! The students also guessed how many transfer pipettes fit into a 2000 mL graduated cylinder as well as matching faculty to their pets. Each student received a small treat and gift from the program. Students were also invited to attend student day at the Clinical Laboratory Collaborative meeting in St. Cloud. We ended the week celebrating our profession at the Alumni Banquet.
MARIELLEN SHIRLEY PALM – Mariellen was born in Minneapolis to parents, Pearl and Carl Frank, on December 18, 1921. She passed away at the age of 97 on October 20, 2019. She was preceded in death by her husband Neil, brother Douglas, and son Brian. Mariellen met her future husband, Neil, in elementary school and they began dating in high school. She attended the University of Minnesota and graduated with a degree in laboratory sciences in 1944. Neil enlisted in the Army Air Corp flight school and they married prior to his deployment overseas as a pilot in the Pacific theater. During this time, Mariellen worked as a medical technologist.

When her husband returned from the war, he attended medical school at the U of M. They moved to St. Paul as Neil completed his surgical training and joined a medical practice. Mariellen held a deep belief in her Lutheran faith and was an active community member, participating hospital volunteer groups and the MN State Medical Auxiliary. She later became a realtor. Tennis, golf, bridge and all forms of socializing were her favorite past times. She was loved and cherished by many people including her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

JEAN E. HULBERT – Jean Hulbert passed away on February 25, 2019, at the age of 94, in the presence of two of her sons, Mark and John. She was born Jean Smaltz on July 23, 1924, in the northwestern Iowa town of LeMars. She was the eldest of three, having twin brothers. Her youth was affected by the dust bowl and the Great Depression, but her memories were positive.

Jean graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1948 with a degree in medical technology. There she met Lloyd, and they were married shortly thereafter. They moved to Manhattan in 1955, where she lived for the subsequent 63 years. Lloyd passed in 1986, and Jean continued to live independently in Manhattan until the summer of 2018. She then moved to the home of her son, Mark, and his family, in Hillsborough, North Carolina.

Jean loved coffee and good food, opera, or a good book, and was always interested in meeting a new friend. She liked to travel, and would find an old friend or make a new one, in cities near and far. Jean was involved in many Manhattan civic activities, including the League of Women Voters, the Kiwanis Club, where she was the first woman president, Habitat for Humanity, the Domestic Science Club, and perhaps her favorite, World Friendship, in which family members of international Kansas State University scholars met for food and fellowship. She maintained contact with these friends all over the world.

Jean's most significant involvement was with her family, raising four sons. She enjoyed daily calls and frequent visits. Some of her favorite times recently were hosting reunions of the entire Hulbert clan.

NANCY LOIS OHRN – Nancy Ohrn, 85, of Minneapolis, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gunnar; daughter, Martha and her husband, Thomas; and grandson, Christopher. Nancy was a 1955 graduate of the medical technology (Med Tech) program at the University of Minnesota. Nancy will be missed by her daughters, Elizabeth (Gary Booker) Ohrn and Catherine Coleman; grandchildren, Thomas, Susannah, and Eve; great-grandson, Gibson; sister, Barbara; and many other family and friends.
In February 2020, the Bentson Foundation announced a gift of $15 million to the University of Minnesota to reverse lower rates of undergraduate admission, retention and graduation among students with the greatest financial need. This recent gift to the University brings the Bentson Foundation and family’s cumulative giving to over $50 million, largely in support of students.

The Bentson Foundation’s gift will create new opportunities for low-income undergraduate students on every campus in the University system. It will also provide significant incentive funding to encourage other donors to establish scholarship endowments that help these students.

Larry Bentson and Nancy E. Bentson were both graduates of the University of Minnesota. Nancy was a 1945 graduate of the Medical Technology program and Larry a 1943 graduate with an engineering degree. The couple married in 1946 and they had two daughters, Jan and Laurie. Although Nancy died in 2004, 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of Nancy’s graduating class from the Medical Technology program.

Honoring a Special Student

MLS faculty were honored to hold a graduation ceremony for MLS student Jared Krier at his home on May 18, 2019. Faculty marched in to Pomp and Circumstance in a sea of maroon and gold as Jared’s friends and family were all dressed in University of Minnesota gear. Donna Spannaus-Martin conferred Jared’s degree and Stephen Wiesner pinned the UMN MLS pin on Jared. Donna led everyone in Hail! Minnesota and then everyone celebrated Jared’s accomplishments and achievements.

We are very sad to announce that Jared passed away on June 6, 2019 from a courageous battle with cancer. Faculty and fellow students will remember Jared for his hard work, his passion and positive attitude.

From left to right: MLS Faculty members Michelle Henry-Stanley, Hannah Gartzke, Donna Spannaus-Martin, Debbby Filler (Jared’s faculty advisor from Anoka Ramsey Technical College), and MLS Faculty members Stephen Wiesner and Christine Maleck.
ABDI FARAH was born in Nairobi Kenya. He immigrated with his family to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2005 and he has called it his home ever since. Abdi is part of a large family with eleven siblings, eight older and three younger. Abdi values his parents and siblings and the trust, respect, and unconditional love they have for each other.

Abdi’s favorite hobbies include playing basketball, soccer, and just about any other sport in existence because he loves being active and learning something new every day. Abdi also spends his free time reading, creative writing, and volunteering at places such as the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic, food drives, Sheridan’s Story, and local hospitals. The Medical Laboratory Sciences degree will be Abdi’s first and he will be the first in his family to earn a Bachelor’s degree. Abdi learned about the Medical Laboratory Sciences profession from one of his older brothers which prompted him to do some research. Through his research one sentence really stuck with him: 70% of medical decisions are based on results from the medical laboratory. This helped him to recognize the importance of laboratory testing and the tremendous impact results could have on patients. Abdi has always wanted to help people and this degree will help him realize one of his dreams in life, giving back to others.

Abdi plans to work in a lab and gain some experience with his MLS degree for some time with plans to advance his education in time. He is interested in Medical School or possibly a PhD to help quench his thirst for knowledge. Abdi stated that he would also like to become the President of Somalia in the future…but he will see how that goes! He also shared that the instructors, teaching specialists, and staff of the University of Minnesota MLS Program are wonderful and caring people and he could not have asked for better mentors to help guide him onto the path of success. He is grateful for everything and looks forward to seeing what the future holds for the program.

AMANDA NGUYEN AND CHRISTINA VO
are cousins both born in Rochester, Minnesota at the Mayo Clinic Methodist Hospital. They are only two months apart in age and have been besties from the start! They have thirty-nine people in their family, so they bring a lot of energy and have a large presence at any event. They are a close knit family and take advantage of the fact that most of them live in Rochester which allows them to spend as much time together as possible. Their family functions are always hectic, loud, and dynamic, and they wouldn’t have it any other way.

Amanda sees herself as the average college student, being interested in more sleep, cultural student organizations, and attending concerts during the time that she is not studying. Being around her friends and family gives her joy.

Christina enjoys exploring different fitness classes in the community like yoga, and interval training. Spending time with friends and family is very important to her and she tries to incorporate her love for coffee and food when doing so. She is passionate about trying new foods and reading different restaurant menus. When the Minnesota weather cooperates, Christina enjoys walking or running to the Stone Arch Bridge and getting ice cream for the return walk home.

Amanda and Christina went to rival high schools in Rochester, so college is the first time they have been able to enjoy being on the same campus, not to mention in the same major!

(continued on the next page)
Spotlight on Students (continued)

Amanda heard about the MLS profession from her mother, because she and her aunt both work in a laboratory at Mayo Clinic. When Amanda was looking for a major, her mom asked if she had ever looked into lab work and so she did. The practical nature of the major and the profession appealed to Amanda.

Christina, having been born and raised in the heart of medicine, always knew that she wanted to do something related to medicine. Her decision to major in MLS was influenced by Amanda and the fact that their aunts and uncles are also in the MLS profession. Her interest in lab work grew after an internship at Mayo Clinic in her freshman year of college where she learned microscopy and immunohistochemistry skills. She found that she loved working with her hands, the workflow, and the analysis that had to be done.

After graduation, Amanda plans to work at Mayo Clinic and see where that leads. She hopes to start out working in the lab with Christina and in the future, pursue a Master’s Degree in Health Administration. Christina also hopes to start out working in a lab at Mayo Clinic and, after a few years, plans to pursue her ultimate goal of becoming a physician.

Until then, Amanda and Christina are enjoying the fun and productive times they are having together in the MLS program. They look forward to continuing to work together when they begin their careers at the Mayo Clinic.

The MLS Program at the Great Minnesota Get-Together

The Medical Laboratory Sciences Program helped open the 2019 Great Minnesota Get-Together by hosting a booth on the opening day, August 22. That day marked a record-breaking opening day State Fair attendance of 133,326! It was a beautiful day with good weather, enthusiastic fair goers, and of course, plenty of fried food on a stick!

Fair goers had the opportunity to learn more about blood banking with a fun activity at the booth where they matched blood types to information provided to them. Most participants knew that Type O was the universal donor, but learned through the activity that Type AB is the universal recipient. MLS faculty had fun promoting our profession and talking about our important role in healthcare.

MLS Faculty Members Tami Alpaugh and Hannah Gartzke greet guests at the MLS booth at the 2019 Minnesota State Fair.
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 2019 and continue to ask for your help in 2020 – no matter what the size of the donation. Below is a listing of the students you have helped through your scholarship donations in 2019.

Visit page 13 to meet Jireh Mabamba, our new Manager of Engagement and Alumni Relations.

Alumni Scholarship Fund
- Nasra Ali
- Abdi Farah
- Taylor Harvey
- Ali Hassan
- Evan Kane
- Tam Nguyen
- Kaylee Renstrom
- Robin Thomas
- Mai Yer Yang

Grace A. Byers Scholarship
- Delci Christensen
- Allicia Gunderman
- Davis Nennig
- Judy Thao

Abner M. Neeley Scholarship
- Kaylee Kangas
- Rene Nelson
- Amanda Nguyen
- Hanna Norlinger
- Nicole Organ
- Dang Pham
- Sarah Schultz
- Kirill Syulyukov
- Renee Thomas
- Madeline Urick
- Claire Wilmesmeier

Karen R. Karni Scholarship Fund
- Delci Christensen
- Kaylee Renstrom

William A. O’Brien Scholarship Fund
- Collen Detztler
- Eykka Gundlach
- Hayley McCormack
- Claire Wilmesmeier
- Mai Yer Yang
- Mingyi Zhang

Elizabeth Stone Scholarship Fund
- Efkka Gundlach

Yvonne Chenoweth Cooke Scholarship Fund
- Evan Kane
- Kaylee Kangas

Betty Rae McConnell Scholarship
- Amanda Nguyen

Constance Bakken Scholarship
- Robin Thomas

Clarice J. Olson Scholarship Fund
- Judy Thao

Audrey Lapeyrouse Scholarship Fund
- Ali Hassan

Gonyea-Stewart Scholarship Fund
- Nasra Ali
- Isabel Brown

ASCLS-MN 2019 Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to five University of Minnesota Medical Laboratory Science students who received ASCLS-MN Scholarships in 2019.

JULIA HUDGENS (Class of 2019) learned about the MLS profession through her aunt who was a Medical Technologist. She selected the University of Minnesota’s MLS program because of its long history and reputation for producing quality scientists. She has a long-term goal of returning to school and applying her MLS knowledge and skills to new fields. Julia is currently working at Children’s Hospital.

QUYNH NGO (Class of 2019) is an international student who was attracted to the multi-disciplined education of the MLS program. After working as an MLS for a few years, Quynh hopes to obtain a specialty certificate or pursue a higher degree in pathobiology or pharmacology. She wants to use her knowledge and skills to help patients and advance the medical field.

ALI HASSAN (Class of 2020) realized he had a strong interest in healthcare after entering college. He selected the MLS profession for the opportunities it offered and its financial stability. In the future, Ali would like to go to Medical School to be a primary care physician or possibly specialize in pathology.

HAYLEY MCCORMACK (Class of 2019) has always had an interest and aptitude for the biological sciences and selected the University of Minnesota MLS program due to its high rating and proximity to her home. She would like to be a technical specialist in one of the laboratory areas and serve as a resource for her coworkers and the community. Hayley plans to pursue an MLS position in Portland, OR.

ABDI FARAH (Class of 2020) selected the MLS program after learning the importance of the profession in providing quality patient care in the hospital setting. His long-term goal is to be involved in virology or a forensics laboratory.
Thank You for Your Generous Contributions to the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in 2019

$10,000 and up
• Beckman Coulter Foundation
• Marilee M. & William H. Welliver

$1,000 - $9,999
• Stephen J. & Susan K. Fautsch
• Todd C. & Mary E. Jacobson
• Billie Anne & Howard A. Juni
• Karin J. & Mark J. Libby
• David H. & Barbara J. Moser
• John C. Okada
• Toni D. Okada
• Okada Family Trust
• Frederick C. & Marilyn D. Olson
• Mrs. Howard* & Howard C. Pierce*
• Debra C. Rodahl
• Ella M. Spanjers
• Todd C. and Mary E. Jacobson Charitable Fund
• Judith A. & Dale D. Winter

$500 to $999
• Anonymous Donor
• Joanne S. & Lee W. Arvid
• Sheila M. Clough
• Stella S. & Marvin D. Cook
• Robert A. Dahl
• Mardie G. Geiser
• Mary A. & John M. Grewe
• Ronald D. Halvorson
• Kathleen B Standing Giving Acct-Fidelity Char
• Francene H. & Lonny R. Lebahn
• Kathleen K. Reimers
• Kathleen B. Standing
• Katherine A. Vagts
• Verne E. & Phyllis J. Weiss
• Andrew R. Yue

$100 to $499
• Patricia A. Ackerman
• American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
• Marilyn T. Budge
• Kimberly A. & David W. Butler
• Jacqueline A. Carlson
• David & Julie Fanger Living Trust
• Barbara M. Deisting
• Sharon M. Deml
• Robin L. Donner
• Donna E. Dzubay
• David J. & Julie M. Fanger
• Claudine E. Fasching
• Richard J. & Susan K. Feist
• Catherine L. & John W. Foster
• Linda L. Fredrickson
• Barbara Fricke
• Harriet D. & Wes Fritts
• Reggine L. Gausman
• Kathryn H. Glen
• Jed B. Gorlin & Jocelyn Bessette-Gorlin
• Joyce A. Gunderson
• Marilyn J. Halonen
• Jacquelina A. Heggernes
• Henry V. & Mary L. Holec
• Karen K. & Richard L. Huff
• Julie A. Jacobs
• Judy T. Kingsberg
• Sridhar & Usha R. Kota
• Barbara Krier
• George Kuprian
• Vickie L. Larson
• Brian L. & Mary L. Lauber
• Mary H. Lazarus
• Marilyn J. Lueck
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• Joan A. & Donald E. Radtke
• Barbara J. Reinhart
• Karen L. Ringsrud
• Delores M. & John L. Roesler
• Ruth M. Rosendahl
• Dale W. & Cheryl M. Rozeboom
• Laura G. Rude
• James L. & Sandra R. Rutzick
• Marilyn J. & Gregory P. Rynders
• Sandra L. Sauer
• Nicole A. Trites Wiering
• Constance C. Verre
• Kent D. & Marcia K. Wall
• Kristi L. Werdin & Ronald T. Marchese
• Donna J. Wieb
• Nancy A. Witstine
• Joan Z. Woods
• Mary E. Zahradka

Up to $100
• Marilyn J. Ambjor
• Priscilla M. & Gerald J. Bormann
• Wanda E. Clark
• Joanne G. Deden
• Timothy E. & Carolyn E. Donovan
• Lorilee E. Echternach
• Arthur T. & Kay E. Emmons
• John W. & Carol I. Evans
• Linda A. Gallick
• Barbara A. Getchell
• Barbara J. Gilbert
• Naomi M. & James M. Hanson
• Ruth M. Hartman
• Gail R. Held
• Mark C. Hove & Leslie A. Mackichan
• Diane G. & Jeffrey C. Hutchinson
• Marlys J. Jensen
• David C. Johnson
• Arla K. Keckaisen
• Phillip M. Korkowski
• Douglas C. & Patricia J. Kriesel
• Linda A. Lewis
• John A. & Cheryl J. Luckow
• Lori L. & David J. Melby
• Marvin L. & Cynthia A. Menken
• Steven G. & Patricia L. Miles
• Russell A. & Mary Lou G. Mohr
• Judith A. Nelson
• Dorothy L. Ness-Everett
• Lucille K. Norman
• Jack W. & Sandra V. Pearson
• Marilyn J. Plummer
• Todd W. & Pamela J. Robinett
• Kathleen Skradski
• Lois J. & Peter M. Smith
• Patricia L. & Allan B. Solum
• Nancy A. Stanaway
• Pamela D. Swanson
• Tower Health Disbursements
• Emmy Zenk

*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.
In 2019, Beckman Coulter hosted two full-day events for MLS students and faculty - on June 18th and October 28th. A total of 24 students attended these events at the Beckman Coulter branch in Chaska, MN. The students and faculty had the opportunity to gain insights into the industry-side of laboratory science through presentations that covered the research and development phase of instrumentation, as well as the different components involved in being a developer and distributor of laboratory equipment and reagents.

After the presentations, a networking lunch was hosted by professionals from different departments within Beckman Coulter for the students and faculty. The events were completed after the students were provided tours of the various departments including research and development, manufacturing, and reagent production. We value our partnership with Beckman Coulter and appreciate their scholarship donations and hosting these events for our students and faculty each year.

In the summer of 2018, University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler announced an overhaul of the administrative structure of the University’s health sciences. The new structure included the creation of new administrative positions, realignment of research centers, and the restructure of operations within the Academic Health Center. The new structure was designed to place an emphasis on the University’s clinical work in light of its recent renewal of the partnership with Fairview Health Sciences. It was also designed to encourage collaboration across the health sciences departments.

As part of the shift, Jakub Tolar’s administrative role within the University was changed so that he transitioned to serve as Dean of the Medical School and Vice President for Clinical Affairs, a position created to oversee clinical research and training at the University. The restructure also created a new administrative position, the Associate Vice President for Academic Health Sciences, which was aimed at centralizing academic work and enhancing interprofessional education within the University.

In the summer of 2019, Dr. Trevor Ames was appointed to this new associate vice president role. Dr. Ames had spent the last 38 years as a faculty member of the College of Veterinary Medicine and the last 12 years as Dean of the college. A number of academic programs were placed under the new associate vice president, including the Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP), which includes Medical Laboratory Sciences and Occupational Therapy.

During the reorganization of the AHC, Dr. Christine Mueller, the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the School of Nursing, assumed the role of Interim Associate Vice President for Education in the Academic Health Center and helped support the President’s initiative to restructure the health sciences. In this role, Dr. Mueller also served as Director of CAHP. Upon assuming his new position, Dr. Ames asked Dr. Mueller to continue as the Director of CAHP and is thrilled that she will be leading CAHP and the MLS program going forward.
Focus on Faculty & Staff

Introducing Our New Manager of Engagement & Alumni Relations

JIREH MABAMBA - We would like to welcome Jireh (pronounced G-Ray) Mabamba as the new Manager of Engagement and Alumni Relations for the MLS program. Jireh is an alumnus of the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) and was a commencement speaker for his class. He graduated with a dual degree in Organization Management and Business Marketing, and most recently worked as an associate development officer for the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD). Jireh was one of the featured speakers for the University of Minnesota $4.2 Billion Driven Campaign launch in 2017 and is currently the youngest member of the board of directors for the Minneapolis Rotary Foundation. He looks forward to continuing his work with alumni and friends of the University to foster meaningful relationships that will connect passion with possibility, inspire generosity, and support greatness at the University of Minnesota. His email address is mabam001@umn.edu.

Staff Changes at the Center for Allied Health Programs

AMANDA “MATTIE” HAWLEY joined CAHP in September 2019 as the new Director of Student Services. Mattie comes to us from an educational technology company, where she worked with student services offices all over the country to develop processes. Mattie also has 15 years of experience working in student services at colleges and universities including Iowa State University, the University of Minnesota, and St. John’s University. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree from the College of St. Benedict, and her Masters Degree in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University. She has a passion for creating opportunities for student success, and is excited about working with our MLS and OT students.

MALLORY SCHWEIM started at CAHP in August 2019 and works with prospective and current students in Medical Laboratory Sciences and Occupational Therapy. Prior to joining CAHP, she was an academic advisor in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee Knoxville. Mallory is originally from Mankato, MN and graduated in 2018 with a master’s degree from the Department of Counseling and Student Personnel, College Student Affairs track from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Outside of work, Mallory enjoys spending time with her eight nieces and nephews, traveling, reading, and running.

Donna Spannaus-Martin - UMN Faculty Legislative Liaison

Donna Spannaus-Martin has continued in the role as UMN Legislative Liaison. She meets with the Faculty Senate, the Board of Regents, and Minnesota state legislators to discuss topics relevant to the University. At the same time, she provides great visibility for our program. Donna is also attending Legislative Day in Washington, DC with other members of ASCLS.

For the past several years, Donna has also served as ASCLS-Minnesota’s Government Affairs Chair, and she now serves as the ASCLS Government Affairs Representative for Region V, so she will again be attending the Annual Legislative Symposium held in Washington, DC, meeting with the legislative aides of Minnesota senators and representatives.
The new Health Sciences Education Center (HSEC) is almost complete and occupants will gradually move in over the spring months. In summer 2020, the Health Sciences Education Center will officially open its doors and the building will be ready for classes in Fall 2020.

At 202,000 gross square feet, the HSEC will be one of the most comprehensive interprofessional education facilities in the country. The HSEC will provide a unifying space that students and faculty can be proud of and that will promote teamwork across schools. The space will improve the student experience with:

- active learning environments to replace traditional lecture halls
- high-tech, high-touch simulation environments for learning and practicing in real-world conditions
- places to connect, collaborate, and communicate across disciplines

The classrooms include options for student group work, technology, recording, and video streaming. There are many study spaces in different formats for all students. The building will also include the Health Sciences Library, Wangensteen Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, and the Center for Health Interprofessional Programs (CHIP). One of the main features of the building are the simulation and immersive training environments where Interprofessional teams can train in sophisticated, real-world settings, including both acute and ambulatory care spaces. Other spaces include trainer stations, briefing/debriefing rooms, and actor prep areas. This new facility is vital as we prepare students and practicing health care professionals for an interprofessional, team-based approach to patient care. For more information, visit: https://hsec.umn.edu/.

As Minnesota considers whether it should join other states that have legalized marijuana, one of the issues that needs to be considered is how Minnesota will determine when someone is considered to be driving under the influence of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the principle psychoactive compound of marijuana. However, determining whether someone is driving under the influence of THC is not nearly as straightforward as it is for ethanol, and it seems as though no states perform their assessments in the same way.

To help legislators understand the factors affecting this determination, MLS faculty, Dr. Donna Spannaus-Martin, was asked to testify before the House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Committee held on March 5, 2019. “Most people don’t realize that because THC is fat-soluble, the blood concentrations that result in impairment can be very different in a first-time user compared to someone who uses marijuana five times a week. No published research has shown significant association between blood THC concentrations and level of impairment. This is why each state seems to have established different standards as to when someone is considered to be impaired.”

Although the legalization of marijuana for recreational use may not go any further this legislative session, Dr. Spannaus-Martin will continue to share what she has learned on this topic with interested legislators and at the 2020 Clinical Laboratory Collaborative in April.
Active Learning in the Immunology Classroom

MLS faculty Donna Spannaus-Martin and Michelle Henry-Stanley (in the photo on right) completed their one-year Fellowship for Teaching in Active Learning Classrooms. As part of their fellowships, they met with emerging technology specialists, innovative teaching experts, and University faculty from other health sciences disciplines throughout the year to design active learning tools to aid in their teaching.

Dr. Henry-Stanley utilized the University of Minnesota Makerspace, an area in the library which has 3D printers available to faculty and students free of charge, to create magnetic 3D-printed blocks of different colors to represent immunoglobulin gene segments. These gene segments can then be manipulated by students to demonstrate how gene rearrangement occurs in the synthesis of immunoglobulins. The fellowship culminated in the presentation of their work at the University of Minnesota’s Best Practices in Health Sciences Education Day held on May 2, 2019 and at the International Forum on Active Learning Classrooms held on August 8, 2019.

New Honors Track in MLS

The MLS program has been working with the University Honors Program to develop an Honors track in MLS. Honors students have struggled to fulfill the Honors requirements while pursuing an MLS degree because there were no honors specific courses in the curriculum. This past fall, MLS faculty members Charlotte Romain and Nicole Zahnle developed an honors course in Research Methods and Scholarly Inquiry (MLSP5013H). In addition, honors students can take our newly developed masters courses to fulfill Honors requirements. Masters level courses are available in hematology, microbiology, chemistry, transfusion medicine, molecular diagnostics, and laboratory management, as well as a thesis support course to guide them through their honors thesis work. This year, we have two honors students that will be working on their honors research over the summer of 2020 and completing their clinical experiences. They will then write their honors thesis in the fall for graduation in December 2020.

2019 Clinical Affiliate Spotlight

During 2019, 34 clinical affiliates offered clinical experiences in the areas of Chemistry/UA, Hematology/Coag, Transfusion Medicine, and Microbiology for our 41 senior students during the summer and fall semesters. In addition, we were fortunate to partner with several specialty laboratory areas to provide the advanced practicum to our new professional master’s in MLS (MMLS) students this summer. We are so thankful for their ongoing support of our MLS students and program. Thank you!
The Center for Allied Health Programs held its annual graduation ceremony for the Medical Laboratory Sciences and Occupational Therapy Programs on December 12, 2019, at Northrop Memorial Auditorium East Bank of the Twin Cities campus. Dr. Janice Conway-Klaassen, Director, Medical Laboratory Sciences Program, led the procession, carrying the ceremonial mace of the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Trevor Ames, delivered the commencement address. Dr. Ames is the Associate Vice President of Academic Health Sciences in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost. In his current position, he provides leadership that positions the University’s academic health sciences as a nationally recognized innovative interprofessional hub for education, research and practice. For 12 years prior to his current position, he served as Dean of the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Ames encouraged graduates to “recognize the important role that they will have in their careers to positively impact the patients they will care for.”

Eykka Gundlach delivered the MLS student address with confidence and pride. She noted that the journey to graduation has been full of highs and some lows, but she offered these words of encouragement to her fellow graduates: “Now that we’ve graduated, we get to go out into the world with all the knowledge and skills we’ve gained throughout our program and make a difference in patients’ lives.” She ended her speech by paraphrasing a line from her favorite show growing up, “Boy Meets World,” reminding her classmates “to not only do well in your career, but to do good as well.”

Congratulations graduates!

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES GRADUATES

Bisrat Afework
Hannah K. Bloomquist
Nicole Burgos
Amanda M. Burns
Christina K. Chan
Debanjan Das
Marissa L. Dawes

Wilsonique R. Delson
Colleen M. Detzler
Erick A. Domingo
Kyle D. Ebertowski
Mikela E. Edmonds
Melissa J. Fisher**
Hannah M. George

Eykka S. Gundlach
Scott A. Haughawout
Julia M. Hudgens
Hannah N. Jeffers
Mubarak Kadir
Jacob R. Kroll
Callie M. Kutnink

Hayley McCormack*
Col T. Minnick
Quynh D. Ngo*
Leah T. Pham
Kaleb H. Tilahun
Paige Trisko
Mai Yer Yang

PROFESSIONAL MASTER’S OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES GRADUATES

Alexis M. Dunlop
Allicia M. Gunderman
Edward J. Hetzer
Davis R. Nennig**

Desiree A. Reding
Derek R. Schindler
Tascha E. Stanaitis*
Robyn A. Syverson

Desiree A. Reding
Derek R. Schindler
Tascha E. Stanaitis*
Robyn A. Syverson

CERTIFICATE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES RECIPIENTS

Shelby J. Bennett
Carmen M. Berkan
Katelyn R. Chester
Lincoln Mathews
Sarah J. Mayer
Travis P. Wachter

* Graduated with Distinction
Mary Jane Yue was born in Manhattan and raised in New York City. She learned about the Medical Technology field from a fellow clarinet player in middle school. Mary Jane was further inspired by a historical novel about a lab researcher working to cure diseases. She attended college at Stony Brook University majoring in Biological Sciences/Pre-Med and followed that with a 12 month internship program in Medical Technology at Yale-New Haven Hospital with the option of applying and transferring to Yale Medical School upon completion of the program. A research project and a part time lab position allowed Mary Jane to discover her passion for hematology.

Her first job was at New York Hospital in the Blood Bank, but six months later when a position opened up in Hematology she transferred. Mary Jane was then accepted into the graduate degree program at Northeastern University in Boston for a Master’s in Medical Laboratory Science. She worked on her degree in night classes while working in the hematology lab at New England Deaconess Hospital. This job provided the opportunity to instruct med tech students and student workers. She wrote lecture notes and training manuals for new employees and found that she really loved to teach.

Being a Teaching Specialist meant more to Mary Jane than setting up labs. It was being creative in teaching methodology, working with Fairview University lab staff, attending conferences, presenting posters, lecturing on the profession, and being part of the innovative plan of interprofessional communication and collaboration of health professionals.

Mary Jane is a Christian and believes that God has gifted her with a career that has been adventurous, challenging, exciting, and full of passion. She has been part of fighting diseases and mentoring future health care providers. Mary Jane is grateful for her experiences and all of the people she has met, worked with, and been taught and inspired by.

Mary Jane is now a grandmother of four adorable grandchildren and does plenty of babysitting. For exercise she became addicted to pickle ball after having to give up tap dancing due to a knee injury. Mary Jane enjoys attending shows and exhibits with her mother, and stays grounded with two bible studies and a mom’s prayer group. Mary Jane is currently looking forward to a long dreamed of trip to Greece which is planned for this September.
2019 Alumni Banquet

Over 100 alumni, students, and friends gathered at the University of Minnesota Weisman Art Museum with a beautiful view of the Mississippi River on Saturday April 27, 2019. We were joined by thirteen alumni from the 50th anniversary class (1969) including: Barb Gilb, Barbara Jo Holman, Jean Rysavy, Karin Libby, Peggy Gabrik, Miriam Ebeling, Diane Michalik, Sharol Thomas, Elizabeth Bixby, Jacquelyn Battis, Devonne Nilsson, Katherine Vagts, and Elaine Strom. Two members of the 25th anniversary class (1994) also attended – Julianne Newham and Jeffery Boutain.

Happy hour at the Weisman began at 5:00 PM allowing guests time to reunite and to tour the exhibits on display. Following the banquet dinner, MLS Program Director Janice Conway-Klaassen delivered program updates. Class of 2019 student, Eykka Gundlach, co-president of the MLS student group, provided the opportunity to purchase MLS swag including t-shirts and sweatshirts designed by current students. The evening wrapped up with the presentation of the Alumni of the Year award to Mary Jane Yue, retired teaching specialist.

Note to the Class of 1970!

Your classmates would like to organize a 50th anniversary class reunion prior to the Alumni Banquet on April 25th. Please contact Linda Maleitzke, CAHP Projects Coordinator, at 612-625-8936 or lmaleitz@umn.edu if you would like to help plan your reunion.
PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2020 MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES ALUMNI BANQUET!

The Alumni Banquet will be held at the Weisman Art Museum on the University of Minnesota East Bank Campus on Saturday, April 25th. 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 1945, 1970 and 1995. We encourage all alumni to attend!

75th Anniversary Class of 1945

Martha J. Basenfelder (Jerrell)*
Muriel H. Hall (Griffith)*
Annette Knox
Kazuko K. Onomiya

Wanda W. Beardsley (Worth)*
Virginia Hansen-Grafton
Hilda M. Koryus (Theobald)
(Kitagawa)*

Nancy E. Benton (Ruben)*
(Donter)*
Lorraine M. Koza (Semanko)*

Esther P. Bjornson*
Dolores J. Harvey (Gullickson)*
Jean H. Kubon (Hageman)*

Ruth H. Bradley
Mary E. Herman (O’Brien)
Martha Lippincott

Eleanore A. Bredvold (Anderson)
Mary E. Herman (Johnston)*
Angela Manning

Sybil Brislai (Urnnes)
Dorothy Jensen*
(diGiambattista)*

Lorna H. Canfield (Fielder)*
Phyllis Jenson (Sunder)*
Carley McCaulay*

Donna S. Clark (Sink)*
Carol Jett (Johnson)
Betty R. McConnell*

Vivian Clark (Lundquist)*
Mary A. Johnson (Carey)*
Pearl B. McDonald (Englestad)

Grace M. Cross (Hegman)*
Alice J. Johnson ( Larson)*
Janene C. Mielcarek (Crosley)

Rosemary H. Dickson (Hope)
Jean Johnston (Zierke)*
Doris M. Nelson (Hansen)

Elizabeth A. Ferrin (Schneider)*
Eunice F. Jorovsky (Feldman)*
LaVonne Nelson

Teena B. Fletcher (Bruich)
Shirley E. Kenning (Peterson)*
Eileen M. Nienaber

Doris M. Groten (Fredson)*
Elaine Kirkaldie (Connors)*
(Jorgenson)*

50th Anniversary Class of 1970

Marilee J. Anderson (Preble)
Carolyn K. Dotzenrod
Bonnie K. Hultman

Valerie K. Askeland (Melgren)
Louise H. Du Charme (Tengquist)
Marjorie A. Jepseth

Diane M. Benz (Doll)
Harriet F. Edwards
(Christianson)

Cheryl A. Bertz (Lez)
Wendy S. Engel (Kagin)
Billie A. Juni (Herranen)

Margaret M. Borene (Menold)
Janet M. Flemming (Mongan)
Lynn M. King (Johnson)

Priscilla M. Bormann (Rupp)
Nancy L. Gordon (Levenson)
Vicki I. Kleeberger (Marti)

Sandra J. Carter (Benson)
Julie S. Grudzinskis (Nelson)
Nancy J. Koener (Gordon)

Annie O. Chow
Arlene L. Hart (Stetten)
Carol L. Koliar (Niemi)

Janis B. Crowther (Bruce)
Maureen P. Hart
Jean A. Korup

Joyce L. Cundy
Janis L. Hoffert (Jacobsen)
Marit E. Kvamme (Oden)

To check entrance (salad and dessert included):

☐ Honey Glazed Salmon with Soy and Honey Reduction ............................................................. $45.00

☐ Herb Seared Breast of Chicken with Pan Jus Sauce ................................................................. $45.00

☐ Seared Petite Tenderloin with Beef Reduction .......................................................................... $45.00

☐ Mushroom Ravioli with Sage Cream Sauce ........................................................................... $40.00

Check enclosed $ ___________________ for a total of ______ dinner/s

Name ________________________________ Phone ________________________________

Address __________________________________________________________ Email ________________________________

Graduation year ______________________ Former name ________________________________

Do you need an accessible parking space reserved for you? ☐ Yes  ☐ No

*Deceased

To register online, go to www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/event-type/mls

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.

Yes! I will attend the 2020 MLS Alumni Banquet!
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