

TECH'S TALK

NO. 26

EDITOR: VERNA RAUSCH

MARCH, 1972

It's that time of year again. The high school hockey and basketball tournaments are upon us, the Twins are in spring training camp, the weather-men are quoting odds about flood possibilities, the New Hampshire primary makes daily news and you are the lucky recipient of this annual communique. News for you--of course, we have news (if it hasn't occurred, we make it up!)

Class of 1946, do not despair! The Medical Technology Alumni Association heard of your plight of not having a silver anniversary party last year and has made arrangements to honor you at its annual meeting. The important information about the meeting is:

Date: April 13, 1972 (Thursday)

Time: Social hour 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Place: Curtis Hotel, Minneapolis--Cardinal Room

Cost: Dinner to be \$6.00 (including tax, gratuity, and parking in hotel ramp)

Social hour--depends on your capacity

Program: "Backstage at the Guthrie" by a member of the production staff

Reservations may be made by completing the tear-off form at the end of this communique and mailing as directed. Separate tables will be reserved for the classes of 1946 and 1947.

Speaking of the class of 1947, here they are, all 79 of them. The asterisk (*) again denotes that we do not have current addresses (and possibly incomplete names) for these individuals. We shall appreciate receiving the missing information.

Audrey Anderson Petri
Mary Anderson *
Catherine Arens Boudreau
Elizabeth Athens *
Rosemary Bentson John
Evelyn Berg Woltjen *
Betty Berry Tesar
Ruth Bienhoff Brauer
Norma Bowers Robinson *
Rose Brgant (deceased)
Lois Burgan Gillott
Betty Burnes Rainey
Jacqueline Callies Rayman
Shirley Chapman Tennyson *
Irene Chucker Frisch
Betty Crawford Strong
Rita Curtis *

Donna Dahlquist Rustad *
Eleanor Davies Fowler
Dorothy Dodsworth Peterson
Elizabeth Dornbusch
Mary Dudley Norman
Elizabeth Eckoff Schierl
Olga Eklund Hamerston
Bernadette Eveslage Reilly
Catherin Gladson Manlove
Julia Glavon Waller
Saranette Goldman Frank
Barbara Hanson Subak
Kay Hanson *
Marian Harbo Natwick
Stellamae Hart Eriksen
Rhoda Harvey Thorsheim
Ruth Heinemann

Harriet Helming Bickert
Alyce Hollern Hellstrom
Carol Hudy Peterson
Grace Johnson Anderson
(deceased)
Maxine Jones Nelson
Deborah Juster Lautkin *
Mary Kauth Chambers
Dorothy Keranen *
Donna Laker Cole
Lorraine Lopic Pumper
Avis Larson Frethem
Frances Larson
Virginia Lee *
Jeanette Levich *
Mary Limond Clutter
Shirley Lindquist Michel

Joan Lowe *
 Ruth Minor Chamberlain
 Audrey Naas Engelen
 Vanjae Noren Engstrom
 Mildred Olson
 Vivian Olson Mulkern
 Ellen Omernik Newman
 Marianne Pribble Wasnick
 Meredith Rieke Melhart
 Georgia Rietz Parker

Harriet Rollins Kirk
 Joan Rooney Tregilgas
 Lorna Roper Brown *
 Anne Rothschild Welliver
 Phyllis Roy Reynolds *
 Jean Ryan Gabrielson
 Margaret Ryan Rodewald
 Shirley Rynda *
 Zelda Smidt Sawyer *
 Jane Soderlind Swanson

Clarice Stearns Olson
 Joyce Stolen Swanson
 Margaret Strunk *
 Genevieve Swanson Currie *
 Zona Swanson Rohs
 Kathleen Walsh Berry *
 Mary Welshons Lelwica
 Mildred Wicklund Schultz
 Virginia Winkle James

There sure were a lot of them, weren't there?

There is much concern today about the improvement and delivery of health care. The long standing concerns of many groups--the economically and culturally disadvantaged, the minorities, health specialists, the elderly, the government, insurance companies, industry--have culminated in some action rather than just words, and further developments are anticipated. In reviewing past issues of this worthy publication (part of our daily ritual), we realized that it has been some time since we have informed you of that aspect of health care which is near and dear to your hearts--namely, the Department of Laboratory Medicine of the University of Minnesota.

The chairman of the Department is Dr. Ellis S. Benson. He has found it necessary to employ a few other people to aid him in providing laboratory service and education. The chart below is an abbreviated version of the numbers and kinds of persons (in broad categories) who are members of the departmental staff.

	MD/PhD	Lab Mgr	Med Tech	Nurse	Lab Tech- nician	Secy	Atten- dant	Other
<u>Hospital Laboratories</u>								
Administrator (includes night personnel)	2	1	7.5		4	3	5	
Blood Bank	1		13	4		3		
Chemistry	2		56		11	5	6	
Coagulation	1		8			1		
Data Division	2					1		4
Electrocardiography			3		3	1.5		
Genetics	1		4					
Heart Catheteri- zation			5		1	2		
Hematology	2		20		12	3	1	
Immunology	1		4		4	0.5		
Microbiology	1		16		1	3	2	
Pulmonary Function			2			1		
Surgical Pathology	1		4		2	1		
Totals	14	1	142.5	4	38	25	14	4
Grand Total =	242.5							

Medical Technology faculty--Administration = 3; Chemistry = 7; Hematology = 2;
 Immunoematology = 2; Microbiology = 2.

Resident physicians = 11

There has been a change since the days of 1947, and now you know where part of your tax money goes.

Speaking of money, we welcome contributions to the William A. O'Brien Scholarship Fund. Contributions should be made payable to:

William A. O'Brien Scholarship Fund
Box 198 Mayo
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

Still speaking of money (we know that it's been shown to be covered with bacteria but it is a necessary, although dirty, thing) perhaps some of you are aware, through personal experience, that employment opportunities for medical technologists are not plentiful these days. Our graduates are finding employment, but there is sometimes an enforced gap between graduation and employment. The availability of positions in the Twin Cities area has been particularly low.

The major reason is the general state of the economy. The effect on the health industry has been

1. a decrease in hospital bed occupancy with a concomittant decrease in laboratory load;
2. a decrease in Federal support for research which released workers onto the general market;
3. a non-mobility of families--families tending to stay with relative security rather than risking a move and possible unemployment;
4. the necessity for wives to return to or to continue working where the husband's job was in jeopardy or canceled.

In line with point #4, we recently saw information which stated that the average working life of all medical laboratory personnel is from seven to nine years.

continued on page 4

<u>Age range</u>	<u>Further data states % of working medical technologists</u>
25-29	28
30-34	17
35-44	20
45-54	11

Editor's note: We can only assume that the remaining 24% are younger than 25 (mere babes) or older than 54 (in the prime of their lives).

If these figures are correct, then the long-held notion that most medical technologists have a short professional career is not valid and adjustments in enrollment may need to be made. To substantiate the situation for our use, we are asking you to check the item on the enclosed postcard pertaining to employment. As you know, we also use the returned cards to update our mailing files. Please take a minute to complete the card and return to us. We'll give you the results next year. Now, isn't that something to look forward to?

The 40th Annual Convention of the American Society of Medical Technologists will be held in Minneapolis from June 11-16, 1972. We are all pretty involved in the production and would love to have you all come. For details, contact the editor at the Mayo box address.

Reservation for Medical Technology Alumni Dinner to be held April 13:

I plan to attend _____ Name

Mail with check for \$6.00 (payable to Minnesota Alumni Association) to:
 Minnesota Alumni Association
 Administrative Services Building
 2610 University Avenue
 St. Paul, Minnesota 55114