



TECH'S TALK

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

In late February, I sat in Washington, DC at a US Policy Hearing on Workforce sponsored by the Association of Academic Health Centers. Many organizations representing accreditation, regulators, the health professions, immigrant practitioners, higher education, and health systems were convened to give testimony regarding the workforce crisis and to recommend creative solutions. To my amazement, I met a Virginia community hospital human resource vice president who is paying \$30,000 signing bonuses - for billing clerks. As the day progressed, my mental image was the New Orleans meetings five years ago focused on levees - not if but when a serious hurricane would hit. We know the facts that all health professions are and will experience serious shortages - and unless we respond creatively now the US health care system will meet its Katrina. Yesterday's solutions are inadequate for today's and the future's challenges.

The University of Minnesota has an awesome responsibility to meet the health professions' workforce needs of the state, nation and world. Not only do we graduate a workforce for Minnesota and the upper Midwest, but we also have many graduates who become international leaders in health. As Assistant Vice President for Education, I'm charged with co-creating solutions with the University of Minnesota health professions educational programs and our stakeholders. We have many response efforts underway. One, growing out of a task force led by Dr. Frank Cerra, Senior Vice President for Health Sciences, is the creation of a new Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP) and in the future a statewide school for allied health professions. The Center is about solutions through signature academic partnerships: with learners and communities, with health care and other industries, and with the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system and other higher education institutions. This fall, the Medical Technology and Occupational Therapy Programs transferred from the Medical School into the Office of the Senior Vice President to begin work on Center development.

First, let me reiterate that this Center has the complete and full support of the University of Minnesota administration. By harnessing already existing University technology resources, we will deliver creative solutions. For example, the CAHP development will permit first-time comprehensive leveraging of the University's substantial enterprise-wide technology solutions in a seamless and flexible learner-oriented system. A

hybrid educational format will use a combination of technology, classroom, laboratory, and practice site education. Focus of first development is the Twin Cities and Rochester with plans for a statewide presence. Dr. Cerra and I are currently scheduling briefing meetings with colleagues across the state.

The Center development is moving to open in Fall, 2007. Donna Spannaus-Martin, MT Program Director, serves on the national search committee to appoint a Center Director to lead this effort. In January, an external review team of James Griffith, University of Massachusetts, Kathy Doig, Michigan State University and Mary Beth Miele, Pennsylvania State University, came to campus for two days. They are completing recommendations for the program. During the exit meeting, one message they delivered to Dr. Cerra and me is that the medical technology program has a very strong alumni and practitioner support. Plans are underway to hire two new faculty members to join the program. And, most significantly, the faculty are working to engage you to redesign an innovative state-of-the-art program to meet workforce and faculty shortage needs.

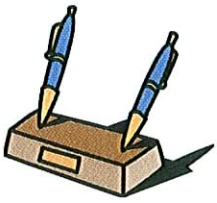
We are committed to finding creative solutions to health professional workforce needs and avoid our Katrina. Medical Technology is poised to not just respond but lead these efforts. We will be looking to you as their constituents and supporters to help us as we face the future together. We will need your unwavering support as we go forward. To learn more about our efforts, I direct you to the AHC Office of Education web site (www.ahceducation.umn.edu) where we are posting information on a number of efforts.

This article was authored by Dr. Barbara Brandt, Assistant Vice President for Education in the Academic Health Center of the University of Minnesota.

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From the Director's Desk



As you can see from the front page of Tech's Talk, there have been many changes recently in the Division of Medical Technology, not the least of which is our move out of the Medical School and into the newly formed center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP). The

CAHP was created in response to the workforce shortages in many allied health professions, including the shortage of clinical laboratory professionals across the State of Minnesota. Although the focus of the CAHP will start out in the Twin Cities and in Rochester, the long-range goal is to develop a mode of curriculum delivery that can be utilized across Minnesota. In order to meet the workforce needs of both out-state Minnesota and the Twin Cities metropolitan area, partnerships are being developed with colleges and universities in the MnSCU system, healthcare organizations and industry.

In order to achieve these goals, the Academic Health Center has hired an instructional design consultant to facilitate the incorporation of new technologies into our curriculum. In addition, we have been given permission to hire two new faculty members to help us in these endeavors.

As part of this transition process, an external review team consisting of leaders in the field of clinical laboratory education was brought in to help us determine where we are and where we need to go. In the review team's report, they state that people are an institution's most valuable resource, and the faculty and staff of the Medical Technology Program have demonstrated their enormous commitment to the program. They also commented on the fierce loyalty the alumni have for this program and the strong support from the laboratory community of Minnesota.

Your efforts over the past year have brought recognition to the profession within healthcare organizations and within the Minnesota legislature. You have played an important role in bringing us to this place of opportunity. I would like to thank each of you for the contributions you have made to the Medical Technology Program. This includes not only the monetary donations you have made to the program and our scholarship funds, but also for the letters you have written, the phone calls you have made, and every occasion you have taken the time to explain to someone just what a medical technologist or clinical laboratory professional does. I hope you will continue to communicate your thoughts to us concerning the changes we will be undergoing as the program moves forward with these new challenges.

You may have also heard that in Minnesota, the profession is moving forward with plans to obtain licensure of laboratory professionals. I hope you will continue to remain active in your contacts with your legislators as our profession proceeds with these efforts to assure the quality laboratory results and increase recognition of our profession.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna".

Lucille J. Hoilund 1914-2005

Former Medical Technology Program Director Dr. Lucille Jeannette Hoilund died September 10, 2005 at Walker Methodist Health Center in Minneapolis, MN. She was a 1936 graduate of the Medical Technology Program at the University of Minnesota and served as program director from 1942-1945. She graduated from the University's Medical School in 1948 and stayed on among its faculty.

In 1960, Dr. Hoilund completed a residency in pathology with an emphasis in hematology. Much of that residency was spent at St. Barnabas Hospital in Minneapolis. In 1964 she was invited to present her research findings at the International Hematologic Conference in Stockholm, Sweden. She remained at the University for 20 years and then took the position of director of the medical laboratory technician program at the Medical Institute of Minnesota until her retirement.

According to her friend, Dr. Maxine Nelson, Lucille was known to her students as one of the best teachers in the Medical School. Her students said, "she had the utmost patience and was a real teacher." Many of her students kept in touch with her throughout their own careers.

Dr. Hoilund was a member of Alpha Epsilon Iota Sorority that sponsors women medical students. She was also a member of the University Chapter of the Society of Sigma Xi, dedicated to research and science.

Lucille was an accomplished violinist who enjoyed Coffee Concerts at Orchestra Hall. She loved to travel, as well as take autumn vacations on the shores of Lake Superior, north of Duluth, where she grew up.

Can You Help Us?

Are you aware of alumni who have not been receiving Tech's Talk each year? If so, would you please send us their names and addresses, or ask them to contact us so we have their current mailing information. Information should be sent to Claire Bjorklund (address below). Thank you for your assistance.



Editor:
Donna J. Spannaus-Martin

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Clarice J. Olson Endowed Scholarship Fund Established



This year, the Clarice J. Olson Endowed Scholarship Fund was established by Mr. David Stearns in memory of his mother. Born Clarice Opdahl, she grew up in South Minneapolis, graduating from Central High School in 1939. She married Clarence Stearns in 1941, and had one son, David. When her husband, Clarence, was killed in World War II in 1944, Clarice enrolled in the University of Minnesota and graduated from the Medical Technology Program in 1947. In 1948, she married Robert Olson. She worked until the late 1960s in the surgical pathology laboratory at the University Hospital, when she retired after 20 years of service. She and her husband spent many winters in Florida during their later years, golfing and enjoying the winter sunshine. She became a widow again in 1999. Clarice Olson passed away on April 21, 2005 at the age of 83 and is survived by her son, three grandchildren, and five great grandchildren.

As a widow and single mother to a young son, preparing for a career in medical technology was not easy for Clarice Stearns Olson. Yet, she always viewed her Medical Technology education, training, and career in laboratory medicine at the University of Minnesota with great pride. She loved her profession and valued her experiences working with students and teaching them in the surgical pathology laboratory. It is with this in mind that her son, David Stearns, has established the scholarship in his mother's honor. This fund recognizes her contributions to the field of medical technology, her fondness for her alma mater, and her compassion for students struggling to get an education while raising a family.

Connie Bakken Provides More to the University of Minnesota

Constance (Connie) Olson Bakken, alumnae of our medical technology program, has once again given significant monies to the University of Minnesota - this time, for the new women's basketball locker room in Williams arena. Previously, the women's locker room was not located in "the Barn," and was not appropriate nor attractive for student athletes nor potential recruits.

Ms. Bakken contributed over \$400,000 of the \$1 million needed to establish the Connie Bakken Locker Room. In her typical, self-effacing way, she originally declined to have the facility named for her, but family and friends persuaded Connie to allow the area to be designated as such. Connie is chairman of Citizens Independent Bank. In the past, she established, and added to, two scholarship programs within Medical Technology and has contributed significantly to the Bob Allison Ataxia Research Center Fund within the Minnesota Medical Foundation.

The University's women's basketball team has been to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen the past three years, and in 2004 to the Final Four. When Connie was asked about her notable contribution to women's basketball at the U, she responded:

"I'm so happy to be able to support Coach Borton and these student athletes. Their achievements are truly inspiring, and I look forward to cheering them on to even greater accomplishments."

On behalf of many at the University, we thank-and salute-Connie Bakken for her loyalty, her vision, and her generosity.

Can You Match These 1955 Graduates with the Reunion Photograph on Page 7 from the 2005 Medical Technology Alumni Spring Banquet?



A



B



C



D



E



F

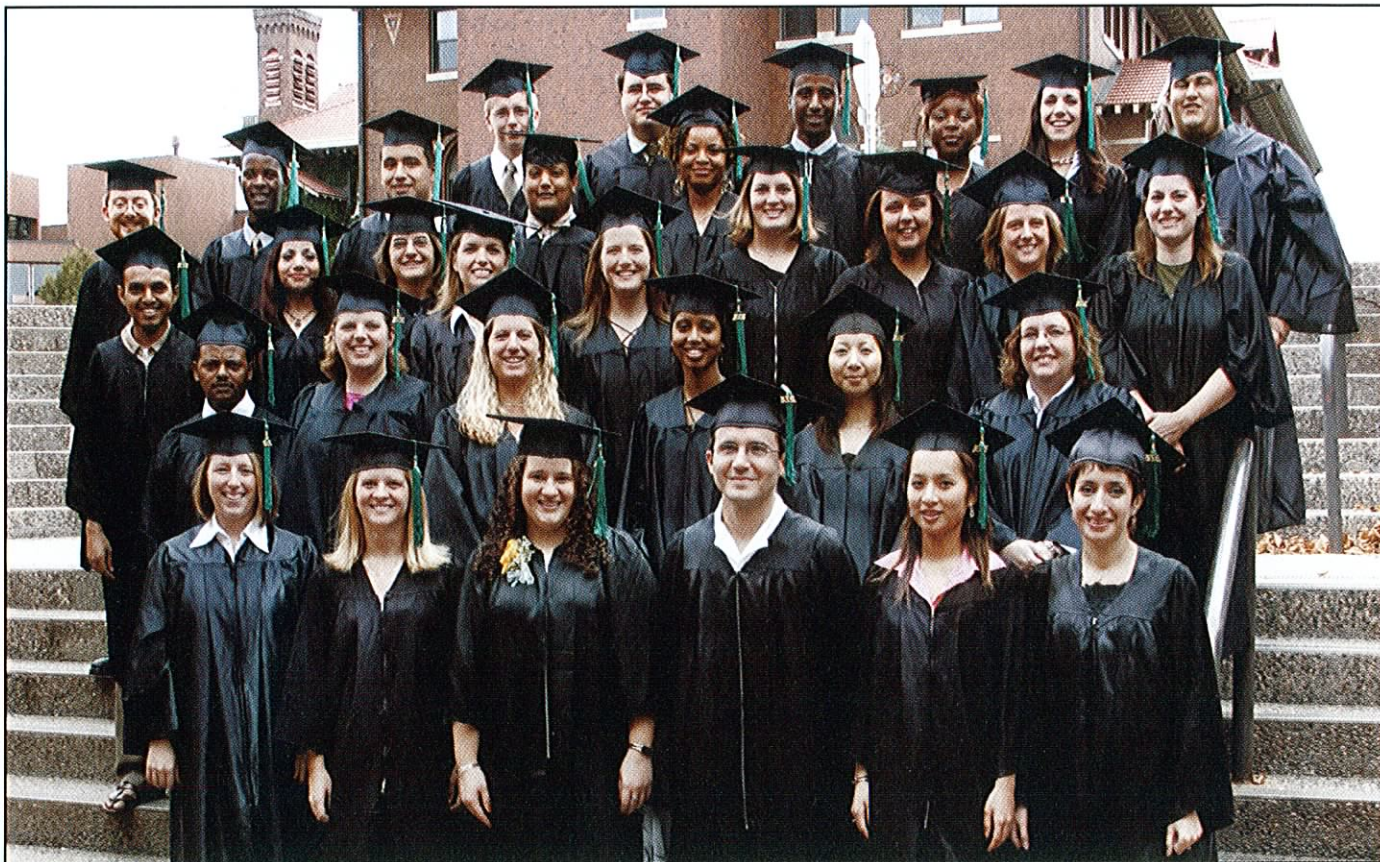
Names of these graduates and the identification of these photographs can be found on page 7.

2005 Graduation Ceremony

The commencement exercise for the thirty-four members of the 2005 graduating class of the Division of Medical Technology were held on the St. Paul campus on September 17, 2005. Senior class president, Chelsea Wallace, delivered the welcome on behalf of the class. Becky Rose, a laboratory consultant and instructor for this class, delivered the commencement address.

Amy Walsh, Jacob Basweti and Samantha McDonald prepared the senior slide presentation. Mary Jane Yue, teaching specialist in hematology, presented awards and led the Medical Technology Oath, introducing members of the class individually as they signed the oath.

Jeff Stewart and Julie Zimmerman were presented with a special gift in recognition of achieving the highest grade point average in the professional program. Chelsea Wallace was presented with the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards Honored Graduate Award. Donna Spannaus-Martin, director of the Division of Medical Technology, conferred the degrees. Mauri Bruggeman from the Medical Technology Alumni Society welcomed the new graduates as alumni of the University of Minnesota. A reception followed on the Student Union Terrace.



Medical Technology Class of 2005

Front row (left to right)

Chelsea Wallace, Apple Valley, MN
Heidi Carlson, White Bear Lake, MN
Kim Ruegemer, St. Joseph, MN
Thomas Fox, Amery, WI
Thu Thao Vo, Brooklyn Park, MN
Rita Shkurko, St. Paul, MN

Second row (left to right)

Netsanet Shewandagne, Addos-Ababa, Ethiopia
Myleah Myers, Blaine, MN
Samantha McDonald, Ripon, WI
Rahma Warfa, Minneapolis, MN
Minako Aihara, Yokohama, Japan
Julie Zimmerman, Big Lake, MN

Third row (left to right)

Mohamed Samatar, St. Paul, MN
Eman Aly, Minneapolis, MN
Anne Shifley, Apple Valley, MN
Jodi Gutzwiller, Andover, MN
Cate Richer, Anoka, MN
Jennifer Roe, Duluth, MN
Amber Schembri, Center City, MN
Sondra Wilson, Woodville, WI
Amy Thul, St. Paul, MN

Fourth row (left to right)

Alex Wilson, Woodbury, MN
Jacob Basweti, Nairobi, Kenya
Matt Kramer, New Hope, MN
Abdusemed Muktar, Minneapolis, MN
Caroline Eneh, Minneapolis, MN

Back row (left to right)

Nikolay Kindruk, Brooklyn Park, MN
Michael Barsness, New Brighton, MN
Akil Hamid, Dire Dawa, Ethiopia
Laura Ndingwan, Bamenda, Cameroon
Amy Walsh, Bloomington, MN
Nick Zuehlke, Windom, MN

Not Pictured:

Zeinab Nurahmed, Minneapolis, MN
Jeffrey Stewart, River Falls, WI

Photograph by :

Anita Sime Jader (Class of 1977)

2005 Major Contributors

The following contributed \$100 or more to the Division of Medical Technology in 2005:

\$5,000 - \$100,000

Verna E. Mallek
James G. Ruggles

David Stearns (in memory of Clarice J. Olson)

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Oliver S. Hansen

\$500 - \$999

Lorna H. Canfield
Mary Jane Eaves-Raich and
John Raich

Sally J. Economon
Margaret A. Gabrik
Kathryn Hammer Glen

Carol Kelly Johnson
Karin J. Libby
Joan B. Odell

Ethel Rodriguez
Ella M. Spanjers
Verne E. & Phyllis J. Weiss

\$300 - \$499

Beckman Coulter Inc.
Elizabeth Bixby

Cigna Foundation
General Mills Foundation

Julie S. Grudzinskas
Anne M. Ringgenberg

Joyce M. Wian

\$100 - \$299

Joan E. Aldrich
Fritz and Carol A. Arnason
Joanne S. and Lee W. Arvid
Craig L. Belcourt
Marcia L. Bell
Ellis & Ann C. Benson
James A. Berger
Cheryl A. Bertz
Justin P. Boese
Karen E. Bowman
George & Ruth Brauer
Kenneth N. Bredesen
Harriet I. Brown
Dawn G. Buck
Joseph & Marilyn T. Budge
Steven A. Carlson
Ruth G. Chamberlain
Stanford & Elise Church
Gerry M. Cochran
Stella S. Cook
Colleen A. Crampton
Robert A. Dahl
Mary Damron
Larry M. Davidson
Grace Mary Ederer
Bonnie L. Elder
David J. & Julie M. Fanger
Nancy G. Field
Beverly J. Fiorella
Catherine Leiendecker
Foster

Linda L. Fredrickson
Muriel French
Reggie L. Gausman
Nancy A. Geier
Mardie G. Geiser
Marjorie & Andrew Giesen
Ingrid B. & Lars U. Graff
Becky L. Green
Karin J. Grossman
Marilyn R. Haglund
Harris J. & Helen M. Hallgren
Ronald D. & Jean S. Halvorson
Annette L. Hanson
Carol Luck Harris
Marlene J. Hedenstrom
Jacquelin A. Heggernes
Heins Riverside Farms
Robert P. Hirte
Karen and Richard Huff
Marilee M. Huisinga
Phyllis Jacobs
Lisa J. Jarvis
Linda E. Johnson
Steven D. Johnson
Dorothy K. Karlen
Elizabeth M. Kearney
Barbara M. Koblinski
Patricia L. Koors
Usha R. Kota
George Kuprian
Carol J. Lahti
Gayle A. Lancette

Mary H. Lazarus
Jean J. Linné
Catherine G. Manlove
Joetta G. McClintock
Betty L. McMartin
Barbara G. Melamed
Diane M. Michalik
Barbara J. Moser
Gerald R. Mulcahy
Carol A. Mulder
Jean H. Mulvahill
Clareyse E. Nelson
Cynthia A. Ness
Dorothy A. Ness
Toni D. Okada
Jeanne C. Olsen
James R. Olson Jr. & Sheryl
Fisher Olson
Marilyn D. Olson
Lou Ann Page
Kathryn M. Parranto
Willard J. Patty Jr. & Diane
M. Patty
Elizabeth H. Perry
Gloria J. Peterson
James H. and Elberta L.
Prestegard
Kathryn L. Rantala
Paul C. Ratwik
Debra C. Rodahl
Delores & John L. Roesler

Elsa M. Rose
Ruth M. Rosendahl
Laura G. Rude
Thomas & Shelley K. Russ
Margaret C. Rutherford
St. Paul Travelers Foundation
Rodney J. Sandberg
Norynne M. Schiminsky
Melicent E. Schmidt
Paul C. Schreckenber
Janet E. Schultz
Phyllis F. Stapel
Joanne E. Stemper
Kathleen P. Tekautz
Naomi M. Thompson
Lori Lynn Thoreson
3M Foundation Inc.
Michael A. Tischler
Marguerite H. Uphoff
Katherine & Wayne J. Vagts
Elizabeth A. Van Der Hagen
Aija K. Vikmanis
Bethany J. Walters
Nettie M. Warwood
Karen H. Wasson
Mary K. Weimer
Lila Wengler
Kristi L. Werdin
Donna J. Wieb
Anthony B. Williams
Andrew R. Yue

Student Profiles



Gretchen Lee grew up in Apple Valley, MN as the youngest of three children. She graduated from Eastview High School in 2001 and spent two years as a music performance major at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain Georgia. She transferred to the University of Minnesota and changed majors several times before settling on medical technology. In her spare time, she enjoys running, playing the french horn, and watercolor painting.



Maxim Tynuv came to the US from the Ukraine at the age of 15 knowing only five English phrases (including "What's up?"). Over the next three years, he learned many more phrases and graduated from Highland Park High School with a GPA of 3.9. He obtained a Physiology degree from the University of Minnesota before coming to the Medical Technology Program. His favorite activity is martial arts, and he tries to spend four hours a day, five days a week in the gym, which he says keeps his HDL cholesterol in the seventies.



Although born in Minnesota, **Terra Lindquist** grew up in Garland, Texas. She became interested in the laboratory when she did a senior project in plant pathology investigating immunity to fungal pathogens in various rose species. Medical Technology combines her love of lab work with her interest in human health. She hopes to work in a microbiology or virology lab when she finishes school. In the meantime, she enjoys dancing, reading, traveling, and working on her Spanish.



Idil Farah immigrated from Somalia at the age of ten with her parents and ten siblings. She attended Roosevelt High School in South Minneapolis where she was a four year member of the Medical Magnet program. She heard about the Medical Technology Program at the University of Minnesota, and the rest is history. She is minoring in child psychology, and hopes to find a way to integrate that aspect of her education with her career in medical technology.



Jacob Krueger graduated from Totino Grace High School in Fridley, MN knowing he wanted to go into health care, but not sure which field. He discovered medical technology while attending North Hennepin Community College and was accepted into the program as a junior. When he is not working at North Memorial Hospital as an anesthesia aide, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and golfing.



Jessica Asp is one of seven children. She graduated from Park Center High School and played AAU basketball for many years, including national tournament appearances in places like Philadelphia, Orlando, New Orleans and Memphis. Jess attended Iowa State University for two years where she worked in an exercise immunology research laboratory and discovered her passion for lab work. She is President for the MT Class of 2006, ASCLS-MN student representative and ASCLS national student vice chair. Jess enjoyed spending a summer interning at the Mayo Clinic in the hematology lab on the bone marrow team.

Alumni News

Francis Clark Plaas (1935) is living in Grand Forks, ND. She has 2 sons, 1 daughter, 5 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Allegra Pedersen Stehr (1941) lives in Cathedral City, CA. She worked a variety of MT jobs, but has been retired for 30 years.

Ina Tausta Roholt (1945) is enjoying her retirement in Bemidji, MN with traveling, reading, going to concerts, cooking, and entertaining.

Marianne L. Pribble Wasnick (1947) passed away February 6, 2006.

Carol Vogel Dvorak (1949) passed away in August, 2005.

Janice Annis Sharp (1954) of Beavercreek, Ohio has six children and ten grandchildren. She enjoys traveling the country visiting them. She also enjoys fishing and gardening.

Ann Unseth Peterson (1955) worked at the U of MN chemistry lab from 1955 to 1962. She is currently living in Pittsford, NY where she works part-time as an accountant. She and husband, Gary, have two sons.

Carol Nelson Tiernan (1960) retired six years ago after working as a generalist in Polson, MT, although she's keeping her license current, just in case. She enjoys outdoor activities and recently took up yoga and African drumming.

Ferol Bangstad Hylander (1963) lives with husband, Don, in St. Cloud, MN. They have two children and two grandchildren. Now that she is retired, she spends her time gardening, quilting, oil painting, and square dancing.

Cheryl Hultman (1968) is a Health Scientist Administrator at the National Institutes of Health, in the Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases' Division of AIDS. In her spare time, she enjoys golf, ballroom dance, music and theater.

Class Reunions from the Medical Technology 2005 Banquet



Class of 1955

From left to right: Inez Krantz Schade, JoAnn Tangen Nelson, Shirley Nordgaarden Orth, Ann Unseth Peterson, Gerald Mulcahy, Aldora Loe Miller.



Class of 1980

From left to right: Laura Bergmann, Susan Klein Iisakka, Connie Wendel Luebke, Michael Halloran, Monica Rosin, Susan Crisman, Katherine Knott.

Identification of 1955 Class Photos on page 3. A. Ann Unseth Peterson; B. Gerald Mulcahy; C. JoAnn Tangen Nelson; D. Aldora Loe Miller; E. Shirley Nordgaarden Orth; F. Inez Krantz Schade.

Anniversary Classes Honored

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

Class of 1931 (75th Anniversary)

*Doris Carlson	Frances Larson Hanson	*Elinor Ringbloom Swanson
*Eileen Catlin	**Eleanor Bratholdt Peterson	*Virginia Vanderhoof Koughnet
**Dorna Clefton Arny	** Charlotte Davis Rasmussen	*Teresa Peterson Werner
*Phyllis Frederick Coombs	**Valborg Ravn	**Lydia Lux Wetzel
**Rose Gillig Giefer	*Grace M. Roth	Ruth Wilson

Class of 1956 (50th Anniversary)

Jane Burley	*Sallie Iverson Ditto	*Marjorie Rea Krejci
Carole Cristman Pehoushek	Helen James	Sandra Rutman Siegel
Thomas Doherty	Donna Johnson Gruett	Audrey Sutherland Martinson
Joetta DuBois McClintock	Carolyn McCall Gusinda	Joan Winter Schmidt
Sharon Erickson Wheeler	Shirley Nordgaarden Orth	**Marie Wujcik
Marjorie Forsythe Bjorhus	*Phyllis Peterson Stitt	

Class of 1981 (25th Anniversary)

Kim Ahlers Billings	Pamela Glass Robinett	*Karen Meixner Tucker	Carol Sinykin
Christine Boese Dinzl	Stephen Gott	Patrice Nadeau Olsen	*Mary Skube Senta
Jacqueline Borland Heggernes	Annette Hanson	MaryJo Ness Pennington	*Kim Smidt
*Kateryna Breslawec	Stephen Hellman	Cynthia Ness	Julie Stadheim Idzorek
Michael Carlson	Patricia Holland Wolfson	Kieu Nguyen Doan	Robert Stady
Diane Chick Lord	John Hughes	Phuc Van Nguyen	Joan Stepanek Gustafson
James Conley	*Laura Jarmon Dweiers	Allen Quigley Jr.	Amos Szajner
Cynthia Cottrell Johnson	*Todd Jensen	Karen Rauchbauer Koen	Naomi (Mi) To Tran
John Couture	Jennifer Ann Johnson	Susan Rotzien Corby	Pamela Tuveson Wymore
Mary Curtis Piscator	Janet Kampa Suprenant	Terese Sandkamp Shearer	Kristi Werdin
Barbara Deisting	Tamra Kulenkamp	Mary Schoenbauer Holec	Roselyn Wynne Tacheny
Jane Dickson Schnabel	Siew-Kam Loong	Peggy Shepard	Catherine Zimmer
Cynthia Finstad Woodley	Mary Mazanec Romero		

*Address unknown

**Deceased

If you are a member of an anniversary class, please make a special effort to attend the annual alumni banquet. The reservation form is on page 11. Classmates from the anniversary classes will be seated together, so you will have the opportunity to renew friendships.

We appreciate having the correct addresses of alumni. You can help by sending us any addresses of those graduates with whom we have lost contact. Thanks!

Grace Mary Ederer Recognized for Service

In 2005, the Alumni Society broke from tradition and instead of a Distinguished Alumnus Award, chose to honor someone who did not graduate from the Medical Technology Program. Grace Mary Ederer was recognized for her outstanding and sustained contributions to the Division of Medical Technology with the Honored Friend of Medical Technology Award.

Grace Mary graduated from the College of St. Catherine, did a Medical Technology internship at Providence Hospital in Detroit, and began her career as a chemist at Henry Ford Hospital. During World War II, she returned to St. Catherine's to teach Cadet Nurses, and subsequently headed the Bacteriology Section at the then Northwestern Hospital. In 1952, she became an Administrative Laboratory Technologist at the University Hospital Microbiology Laboratory, where she stayed for 15 years and earned a Masters of Public Health. Grace Mary then began teaching Clinical Microbiology in the Medical Technology Program. With Donna Blazevic, she developed an audiotutorial course using exquisite color images that remains in use today. These images will become a part of the web-based instruction currently under development in the Division.

Grace Mary's research focused on developing rapid methods for microbial identification. For example, fluorescent antibodies and hippurate hydrolysis simplified identification of Groups A and B streptococci, respectively. Her research interests broadened to yeasts and fungi, and her work is cited in prominent textbooks. In 1975, she and Donna Blazevic published *Principles of Biochemical Tests in Diagnostic Microbiology*, a book that "opened the door" for additional rapid methodologies.

In 1985, three years after retirement, the Conference of Public Health Laboratorians gave Grace Mary the Kimble Award for research. The award included a glass sculpture and \$1000, which she donated to the Medical Technology Division. A glass cabinet was built to house Grace Mary's collection of antique laboratory equipment. This collection, containing one of the last super accurate huge balances as well as equipment related to the development of colorimetry, is available for all to enjoy.

Grace Mary has had an active retirement. For example, she helped begin the Free Health Clinic started by the Sisters of St. Joseph, raised funds for her college and church, and volunteered in the University Retirees Association. She now confines her volunteer work to visiting house-bound friends throughout the Twin Cities.

The Alumni Society wishes to express its sincere appreciation for Grace Mary's many outstanding contributions to the Medical Technology Program. We are grateful Grace Mary came to the University early in her career, and we are proud she stayed to become part of "us"!



Microscope Donated to Medical Technology Program

Medical Technology was the recipient of a generous donation from a long time friend of the Division. Dr. James G. Ruggles, Yankton, South Dakota, donated a Leitz Laborlux microscope and camera to our teaching program. This top of the line photomicrograph system captures high quality microscopic images.

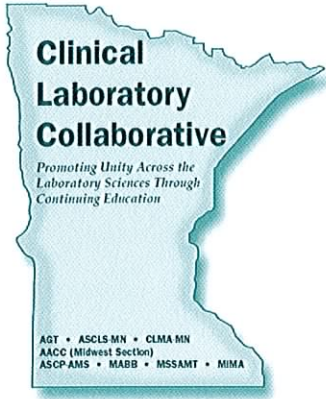
Dr. Ruggles completed a Laboratory Medicine Fellowship at the University of Minnesota between August 1968 and November 1970. During that period, he developed strong ties with faculty and staff in Medical Technology. He speaks highly of the leaders in the laboratory at the time such as Verna Rausch, Esther Freier, Grace-Mary Ederer and others. He planted a sugar maple tree on campus in gratitude to those individuals for the guidance given to him as a young pathologist and the tree continues to thrive near Peik Hall. A plaque under the tree reads: "Given by James G. Ruggles, M.D. in honor of the faculty of Medical Technology and Laboratory Medicine and Pathology".

Dr. Ruggles' career as a pathologist included serving as Medical Director for several Medical Technology programs. He retired in 2004 after 45 years in pathology and currently resides in Yankton, South Dakota. In addition to the donation of his microscope, he also plans on donating his medical library to a hospital in Iraq when the country stabilizes.

We look forward to the opportunity to use the microscope and camera as we proceed with our curriculum revision and technological updates. High quality photographs will be required for our course development and this photomicrograph system can help us create them. We thank Dr. Ruggles for his lifelong dedication and support of the Medical Technology profession.

State Collaborative Spring Meeting

The 2006 State Laboratory Meeting will be held May 10-12 at Mystic Lake Casino. "CSI: MN Style (Collaborative Scientific Interaction: MN Style)" is this year's theme. Featured keynote speakers are:



Wednesday: "50 Ways to be a Better Lover (Of Life)" by Dave Glenn
Thursday : "Beyond the Threshold of Death: A Coroner's Perspective" by Janis Amatuzio
Friday: "Diversity...How to Play Well With Others" by Yvonne Cheek

The three day sessions will include a wide variety of topics including a panel on "What killed Reece Meikle" the recent articles in the Minneapolis paper, diabetes, alternative medicine, mental health issues, and much more. A number of vendors/exhibitors will be present on Wednesday and Thursday. A silent auction for the Children's Miracle Network will take place on the 10th and 11th. This year's Social Event is a Murder Mystery, "The GOLD, GOLD, GOLD Game" put on by Whodunnit, Inc. The brochure for the meeting is available online at the ASCLS-MN web site (www.mnscls.org) under upcoming events.

Let's Keep In Touch

As in the past, we are asking you to send us an update of what you've been doing personally and professionally. Contributions, including letters and pictures, will be displayed at the alumni banquet. Pictures will be returned if you wish. Please be sure to have your name and address on the back and a note asking that it be returned. Thanks for keeping in touch.

Name: _____ (_____) Year of Graduation: _____
Name while in school (if it has changed)

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Career Information: _____

Family Information: _____

Special Interests: _____

Please mail to the address on page 2.

Annual Banquet News

for Alumni and Friends of Medical Technology

Join us in the Campus Club of Coffman Memorial Union for this year's annual banquet and reunion. Friends and spouses are welcome!

Date: **Wednesday, April 26, 2006**
 5:30 p.m. Social hour with cash bar
 6:30 p.m. Dinner with the program to follow

Place: **Campus Club**
 403 Coffman Union, 300 Washington Avenue
 Minneapolis, MN (612) 625-9696
 Parking garage available (for fee)
 Contact the Medical Technology Office if you would like a map mailed to you

Menu: **Beef Medallion**
 Served with baby vegetables, smashed potatoes and finished with a cognac cream
 or
Organic Farm Raised Salmon
 Seared in cast iron, served crispy with smashed red potatoes, assorted baby vegetables and demi-glaze
 or
Wild Mushroom Ravioli
 Tossed in a garlic cream sauce, finished with truffle oil and fresh herbs



Salad: Fresh baby greens, grape tomatoes, and red onions, tossed with herb vinaigrette
Dessert: Ice Cream with Cookie

Cost: Alumni Association Members \$33.00
 Nonmembers \$35.00
 Seniors (age 60 and over) \$32.00

Special recognition will be given to the classes of 1931 (75 years), 1956 (50 years), 1981 (25 years), and to the 84th graduating class of 2006.

*This is the only mailing you will receive for the Medical Technology Alumni Society Annual Banquet.
 Please mark your calendar and return the reservation form below.*

Deadline for reservations: April 18, 2006. Send in your reservations early because seating is limited.

Please reserve _____ place(s) for me at the Medical Technology Alumni Dinner.

I enclose \$ _____ as payment.

Beef Medallion _____ Salmon _____ Mushroom Ravioli _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) for me at the 1956 table.

Please reserve _____ seat(s) for me at the 1981 table. M.A.A. Member: Yes _____ No _____

Name (please print) _____ Class _____ M.A.A. # _____

Address: _____ Phone # (area code _____)

Guest Name (please print) _____

Make check payable to **Medical Technology Alumni Society**. Reservations should be received by **April 18, 2006**.
Mail to: Division of Medical Technology, MMC 711, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Laboratory Leaders Honored by MT Alumni Association

As part of the celebration for National Medical Laboratory Week (NMLW), the Medical Technology Alumni Association recognized four individuals at the 2005 Medical Technology Annual Spring Alumni Banquet. Rick Panning and Kathy Hansen from Fairview Health System, Daniel Olson from Hennepin County Medical Center, and John McClure, M.D. from Methodist Hospital were recognized for their support of the Medical Technology Program over the past several years and



From left to right: Daniel Olson, Kathy Hansen, and John McClure.

their recent efforts to increase awareness of the important role the University of Minnesota's Medical Technology Program plays in assuring adequate numbers of qualified laboratory personnel are available to meet the needs of the clinical laboratory in Minnesota. Each of the recipients received laboratory- and NMLW-related tokens of the MTAA's appreciation for their work, including laboratory ties for the guys, modeled in the photograph by Dr. John McClure.

This year, the Medical Technology Alumni Spring Banquet will also be held during National Medical Laboratory Week. The MTAA invites you to join them at the banquet to celebrate your profession as well as your alma mater. The banquet will be held at the Campus Club on the fourth floor of Coffman Memorial Union on Wednesday, April 26, 2006. The reservation form can be found on page 11 of this issue of Tech's Talk.

Medical Technology
Center for Allied Health Programs
University of Minnesota
Mayo Mail Code 711
420 Delaware St. S.E
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Forwarding Service Requested