



# Tech's Talk

Spring 2018



MOVING YOUR  
LAB FORWARD

# From the Director's Desk



Welcome to the 2018 edition of *Tech's Talk*. We've had another great year and like most years, some challenges too. But no matter what, we keep moving forward.

The MLS program continues to thrive and receive recognitions from within and outside the University. Our program was highlighted in an article naming the University of Minnesota as one of the best colleges for online education and MLS was featured as one of those programs (<http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-schools/>). Donna Spannaus-Martin was chosen as a faculty legislative-liaison for the University to the Minnesota State Legislature. Steve Wiesner received tenure and was promoted to associate professor, and I was selected as a site visit accreditation inspector for an MLS program at the University of Sharjah, UAE. The Center for Allied Health Programs now has two representatives on the Faculty Senate - Leann Shore from Occupational Therapy and me from MLS. I also sit on the Academic Health Center (AHC) Faculty Consultative Committee, which is a faculty governance committee with representatives from across the AHC.

Steve Wiesner and I are part of an FHI 360 grant which includes other University faculty providing curriculum development and professional development for new faculty from Kabul University of Medical Science in Afghanistan. The MLS program received a \$10,000 grant from Beckman Coulter toward student scholarships. Students from the 2017 graduating class and MLS faculty toured through the Chaska facility and got a behind the scenes look at instrument development. Students also participated in human-instrument interface design development with researchers from Beckman Coulter. We hope to repeat the experience this next year and have applied for another scholarship grant.

Our biggest news this year is that we received approval for a professional master's degree program in MLS. This new degree plan is designed for students who already have a bachelor's degree or higher and who want to obtain their MLS certification. About 30% of our current applicants have a degree in Biology or other sciences and find that they cannot work in a hospital laboratory without the MLS credential. They come to us to

receive a certificate or second bachelor's degree, but these academic plans were not always eligible for financial aid. In addition, our local facilities need employees who can go a bit further with their skills and abilities. This degree plan contains the current MLS program requirements plus additional courses in molecular diagnostics, laboratory operations and management, and a capstone project. Although their first job will be the same as our current graduates, their ability to accelerate their career is greatly enhanced. We look forward to our first admissions this fall. Additional information is on our web site at [www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/medical-laboratory-sciences](http://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/medical-laboratory-sciences).

Unfortunately, we also had to phase out teaching MLS at the Rochester campus location. Although we were sad to close that location, we still have an academic affiliation with the students at UMR. Andy Yue and Nicole Zahnle who managed the program in Rochester are now teaching on the Twin Cities campus.

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the articles inside this edition of *Tech's Talk*:

- Reports on local, regional, and national professional conferences
- Program staff retirements – we will miss you Beverly and Claire
- New Health Sciences Education Center classroom building
- Introductions:
  - New faculty member – Michelle Henry-Stanley
  - New staff member – John Nordstrom
- Highlights from the 2017 Alumni Banquet honoring the classes of 1942, 1967, and 1992.
- Upcoming Alumni Banquet in 2018 honoring the graduates of 1943, 1968, and 1993. If you are interested in reserving a table for you and your classmates, see page 15.

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 Dinner in April.

Warm Regards,

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



# MLS Faculty at Professional Meetings

MLS faculty, students, and alumni were all represented in a variety of professional meetings throughout 2017.

## CLEC 2017

The Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference (CLEC) was held February 23-25, 2017 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place in Boston, MA. Several faculty members presented at CLEC, including Janice Conway-Klaassen on Successful Clinical Site Recruitment, Lorna Ruskin and Janice Conway-Klaassen on the MLS Program's Two-stage Admissions Process Model, and Donna Spannaus-Martin on Using Writing as a Learning Tool. All of their presentations were the product of the ongoing work in the scholarship of teaching and learning in the MLS department. There was also time to find the best Lobster Roll in Boston! ■



## Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative – May 2017

The Clinical Laboratory Collaborative meeting was held in Duluth, MN at the Duluth Entertainment and Conference Center. University of Minnesota faculty were well represented

both on the planning committee for the meeting

and as attendees. ASCLS Omicron Sigma Awards for 2017 were announced at the annual members meeting. Faculty receiving awards included: National Award – Charlotte Romain; Region V Award – Janice Conway-Klaassen; and State Awards – Donna Spannaus-Martin and our UMN student, Taylour Hansen. There was also time for catching up with lab friends and colleagues. ■



## ASCLS National Meeting 2017

The ASCLS National meeting was held July 30th – August 3rd in sunny San Diego, CA.

The Twins were playing right next door to the hotel, and many in the Minnesota delegation took advantage of the opportunity. In addition to the usual business of the society and the sessions, there was ample opportunity to visit the exhibit hall. It seems like the vendor booths get bigger and more elaborate every year.



Minnesota faculty brought back two awards from the National Meeting: Charlotte Romain – Bio-Rad Scientific Assembly Professional Achievement Award for Molecular Diagnostics and Janice Conway-Klaassen – CLS Distinguished Author Award for Education. ■



*Minnesota delegation at the National Conference.*

## ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium

The most recent professional meeting was the ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium. This year the symposium was held in Sioux Falls on Oct 5-6. In addition to two half days of educational sessions and a vendor exhibit, the Region V Leadership Academy had two days of educational events. This year's graduating class included Jenna Amundson from Minnesota who works at Ridgeview Medical Center in Waconia. ■

# Medical Laboratory Sciences at the Great Minnesota Get-Together!

This was the third year that the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program had a booth at the State Fair. This year we were there on opening day in the U of M Central Crossroads building.



Faculty planned a new activity this year with the spotlight on infectious diseases. Participants matched the disease name to pictures of the infectious agent, vector, and symptoms or geography locations. One example is a picture of a rose, hay bale, and moss was matched with the disease Sporotrichosis caused by *Sporothrix schenckii*. After matching the correct disease with the picture, faculty discussed the answers, and participants could learn more about the

disease—incubation period, common symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment. Faculty also discussed the vital role of MLS in healthcare. The MLS program also handed out sticky notes, pens, and bandages. Faculty participants included: Tami Alpaugh, Hannah Gartzke, Charlotte Romain, Donna Spannaus-Martin, Andy Yue, and Nicole Zahnle. We hope to see you next year at the Great Minnesota Get-Together! ■



## Giving Back to the Next Class of MLS Students – New Professional Spotlight



Brooke Wilson graduated from the MLS program in 2016 and immediately began working as a Medical Laboratory Scientist in the Infectious Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Minnesota Medical

Center. She states that she loves what she's doing, but notes that "the most challenging thing about working in a lab is that everyday is different. Every day presents a new problem to solve and another opportunity to learn."

During the summer and fall of 2017, less than a year after starting her position, she began mentoring and working with the current MLS students during their clinical experience. Although she's now a professional in the field, she says "I feel nervous and excited. I was just in their position not too long ago, and now I am able to share what I've learned in such a short amount of time with the next class of MLS students."

Brooke says she enjoyed her time during the program and talks about the MLS community on campus. She says "Right away I felt important and I felt as though professors wanted me to succeed." Brooke enjoys sharing her experience during the program with students and offering advice on how to succeed when entering the workforce. She often tells

***"Every day presents a new problem to solve and another opportunity to learn."***

students "Study hard for the board exam and take it sooner rather than later. Don't stress if you don't get your dream job right away... experience is everything and you might even learn to love something different."

In her free time, Brooke enjoys reading, road trips to see friends and family in Iowa, camping with her family, playing mini golf, and having game nights with friends. ■



## High School Outreach

# MLS Students Promote MLS at Area High Schools

By Hannah Gartzke

This past spring, Christine Maleck, Hannah Gartzke, and three of the Year 4 students — Tori Contreras, Lyubov (“Libby”) Gittsovich, and Patrick Zahner— went to the Richfield High School for an MLS outreach event. The team of faculty and students were invited into five biology classes for the day, teaching a mix of freshmen and sophomores. They presented a mini-lecture on antibody and antigens and then the high school students had a hands-on activity



*MLS students Tori Contreras, Libby Gittsovich, and Amanda Stromback at St. Louis Park High School outreach event.*

where they could practice what they learned by performing an immunoassay agglutination test.

After the activity, the Year 4 students had a discussion with the high school students about different disciplines in MLS, the MLS profession and career options, and the U of M’s MLS program. The high school students had great questions for our students and we are proud of our students for promoting our profession!

Also during this past spring, Tami Alpaugh and three Year 4 students—Tori Contreras, Libby Gittsovich, and Amanda Stromback—visited St. Louis Park High School for an MLS outreach event where they answered questions and promoted the MLS profession. ■



*MLS students Patrick Zahner, Tori Contreras, and Libby Gittsovich at Richfield High School outreach event*

## Creating a Space for Teamwork, Innovation, and Learning in the New Health Sciences Education Center

The groundbreaking celebration for the Health Sciences Education Center (HSEC) took place on February 13, 2018 welcoming a new era of health sciences education for the University. The education and training facility will enhance teamwork among health professionals, preparing students to meet the changing needs of communities across Minnesota and around the world.



Responding to the needs of health care providers, this new facility will help Minnesota become a national leader for interactive education and training, producing a health professional workforce that is ready to meet the needs of the community. Training all professions

to work at the top of their license and to collaborate as teams will increase access and affordability of care. The building will serve as the new “front door” for the Academic Health Center and will include a state-of-the-art simulation center; a mix of active learning and small group teaching spaces; a revamped library; ample study spaces; offices for student services and recruitment; a visitors center; a café; and interprofessional student lounge spaces.



This new 202,000 square foot education facility, located on the corner of Harvard and Delaware, is critical to the future success of our students. Most of the HSEC will be built on the current site of the VFW Cancer Research Center and the Masonic Memorial building, however the facility will also connect and extend into the Phillips-Wangensteen Building (PWB) where some existing space will be renovated. It will replace old and outdated classrooms to provide interprofessional and active-learning environments as well as access to technology and simulation needed to train the next generation of health care providers. ■

# Spotlight on Students



**SARAH SCHROEDER** has lived in St. Paul all of her life. Sarah's family includes her mom, dad, brother, and two dogs, Oreo and Honey. Her parents work in the healthcare field, and her brother is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota in the College of Science and Engineering.

Sarah enjoys learning new languages, is an avid reader, and even writes some of her own short stories. She heard about Medical Laboratory Sciences at a college fair while she was a student at the University of Minnesota - Morris. She was curious about the lab sign in the auditorium and took the time to go and check it out. Sarah chose this career because it will give her the opportunity to help patients from behind the scenes while being an integral part of the healthcare team.

Sarah looks forward to finding a job after graduation and to a future of traveling and learning languages that coincide with her travels. Sarah is currently serving as the Class President, and she feels very fortunate to be a part of the MLS program and to be able to work with so many wonderful people. ■



**ABDURAHMAN AHMED** was born in Wichita, Kansas. His large family, including two sisters, four brothers and many other half brothers and sisters, is originally from Somalia.

Abdurahman enjoys spending his free time playing basketball and video games. His all-time favorite sport is soccer

in The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). He discovered MLS during his sophomore year while scrolling through lists of majors on the U of M website. The profession caught his attention because he wanted to do something with an applied science which was also relevant to healthcare.

Abdurahman has plans to apply to graduate school after graduation. He also hopes to spend some time traveling after he completes his Clinical Experiences. ■

**ELIZABETH GUZIK** is from Orland Park, Illinois where her sister and parents still reside with their new golden retriever puppy, Cooper. Her Minnesota family consists of her boyfriend of four years and a four-year-old rescue dog named Tiny. Elizabeth enjoys spending time working on jigsaw puzzles.



Elizabeth heard about Medical Laboratory Sciences in her "Orientation to Health Careers" class. She was immediately hooked and applied to the program six months later. In her exploration of the profession, she realized that working as an MLS is like always having a new puzzle to solve.

After graduation, she plans to pursue some form of advanced medical education and is particularly interested in Clinical Pathology. Elizabeth is also the MLS Program representative to the Center for Healthcare Interprofessional Programs (CHIP) Executive Council, and an officer for the MLS student group. She loves to advocate for MLS among other professions and to educate others on how vital MLS is to the healthcare team. ■



**PHUOC THAI** is originally from Vietnam and moved with his family to St. Paul in 2010. Phuoc loves to travel and enjoys nature and outdoor activities like biking around the lakes in the summer. He earned an associate's degree in Health

Science from Century College in White Bear Lake, and he is certified as a Medic/EMT through the Minnesota Army National Guard.

Phuoc learned about the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program from a friend who graduated from the program. He finds the MLS courses challenging and likes to push himself to the limit. He also enjoys the hands-on aspect of the MLS profession.

After graduation, Phuoc would like to work in a hospital lab and hopes to be accepted to the future U of M MLS Master's Program. His long-term goals include possible mission trips to Africa and becoming a Pathologist. ■

# Students in Action

## MLS Volunteers at Phillips' Neighborhood Clinic

Since the summer of 2016, MLS students have volunteered at the free, student-run Phillips' Neighborhood Clinic (PNC) in the laboratory practitioners. During the spring of 2017, Sviatlana Liashchova-Stanley, who is currently a Year 4 MLS student, was appointed to the PNC Administration Board as the MLS-At Large Chair where she advocates for the laboratory and works with the administration board to improve operations in the clinic and laboratory. During the start of the fall semester in 2017, ten MLS students were selected as new laboratory volunteers at PNC (listed below). These new volunteers are joining the five Year 4 MLS students that are going on their second year of volunteering (Zach Rollins, Sviatlana Liashchova-Stanley, Carly Neren, Phuoc Thai, and Chiara Aziz). Congratulations to the new volunteers!

Colleen Detzler (Yr 3), Julia Hudgens (Yr 3), Callie Kutnink (Yr 3), Feraol Adem (Yr 3), Debanjan Das (Yr 3), Quynh Ngo (Yr 3), Trang Son (Yr 3), Kai Saito (Yr 4), Elizabeth Guzik (Yr 4), Linh Nguyen (Yr 4)

More information about the Phillips Neighborhood Clinic can be found on their website at <http://phillipsneighborhoodclinic.com/>.

## MLS Student Organization Sponsored Blood Drives

During the spring and fall semesters, the MLS student organization worked with faculty to schedule blood drives. Students recruited donors at a donor drive two days prior to each blood drive. During the donor and blood drives, the MLS students educated other students about Medical Laboratory Sciences and the importance of blood donation.

Spring 2017 blood drive results: April 27, 2017: 90% of our goal achieved, 18 units collected, 13 first time donors recruited, MBC estimates 54 lives saved!



**Spring 2017 Blood Drive** (from left): Amanda Stromback, Patrick Zahner, Libby Gittsovich



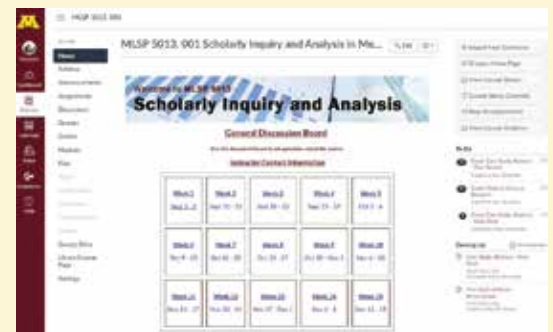
**UMR Blood Donation Day Spring 2017** (from left): Peter Marohl, Nicole Zahnle, Philip Nguyen, Jessica Le, Corinna Baker, Jesse Pingel, Chelsey McIntyre

Fall 2017 blood drive results: October 20, 2017: 113% of our goal achieved, 18 units collected, 19 first time donors recruited, MBC estimates 50 lives saved! ■

## University Converts Learning Management System to Canvas

Over the next two years the University of Minnesota will be transitioning from the Moodle Learning Management System (LMS) to Canvas. The MLS program has a head start on that transition as we have been a part of the pilot project since July of 2015. The LMS plays a large role in our day to day teaching because of the hybrid delivery format we use. Students find most or all of their course content through the LMS and some of our courses are taught completely online. Having a LMS that is easy to use and intuitive for both instructors and students is critical.

So far, the transition from Moodle to Canvas has been very positive. Some of our favorite tools in Canvas are the speed grader, the online communication tools, and the mobile app. There is a dynamic syllabus where students can find all of their assignments. Any schedule changes are automatically updated in the syllabus when they are made on the calendar or in the assignments. Students can click on an assignment in the syllabus and are taken directly to that assignment. We are looking forward to completing this conversion to Canvas. ■





# 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 2017 and continue to ask for your help in 2018 – no matter what the size of the donation. ***Below is a listing of the students you have helped through your scholarship donations in 2017.*** ■



## **Alumni Fund Scholarships**

- Tamirat Ali
- Chiara Aziz
- Nicole Burgos
- Anna Chebykina
- Kara Curtis
- Nhat Duong
- Matthew Formanek
- Elizabeth Guzik
- Melanie Ho
- Chinwenwa IHEME
- Le Pham

## **Beckman-Coulter Foundation Scholarship Fund**

- Kara Curtis
- Kyle Labog
- Linh Le
- Anh Nguyen
- Jenna Scherber

## **Yvonne Chenoweth Cooke Scholarship Fund**

- Mai Yer Yang

## **Gonyea-Stewart Scholarship Fund**

- Linh Le
- Hamdi Mahamed
- Ziyad Mahammed

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

- Gabriela Shaffer
- Paige Trisko

## **McConnell Scholarship Fund**

- Le Pham

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

- Hok Sreng Te
- Kamal Tusa

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

- Le Pham

## **Abner M. Neeley Scholarship**

- Stephanie Lanzdorf
- Linh Le
- Hamdi Mahamed
- Ziyad Mahammed
- Josiah Murray
- Nhu Nguyen
- Erika Remillard-Hagen
- Kai Saito
- Sarah Schroeder
- Gabriela Shaffer

# ASCLS-MN Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to four University of Minnesota Medical Laboratory Science students who received \$1,000 scholarships from ASCLS-MN in 2017.

from St. Cloud State University prior to enrolling in the MLS program.



Patrick Zahner was the recipient of the ASCLS-Claussen scholarship. Patrick entered the MLS program after teaching high school biology for a few years. He was the 2017 MLS Class President and the student speaker at the 2017 MLS Graduation Ceremony.

Two other students, Ka Zoua Xiong and Taylour Hanson were the recipients of the ASCLS—Elizabeth Panning scholarship. Ka Zoua, currently a Year 4 MLS student, obtained her Biomedical Sciences degree



Taylour Hanson, a 2017 graduate of the MLS Program, was also the 2017 ASCLS-MN Student Representative.



Chinwenwa (Esther) IHEME received the ASCLS-Minnesota Society of Pathologists scholarship. Esther, a very active volunteer in the St. Paul community, is currently a Year 4 student in the program. We extend our congratulations to Patrick, Ka Zoua, Taylour, and Esther on your scholarship awards! ■



# Thank You for Your Generous Contributions to the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in 2017

## ***\$1,000 and up***

- Lynn G. Abe
- Beckman Coulter Foundation
- Stella S. & Marvin D. Cook
- Karin J. Libby/Living Trust
- Barbara J. Moser
- Amy Sajko
- Ella M. Spanjers

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

- Joanne S. & Lee W. Arvid
- Jacqueline A. Carlson
- Erin J. Cordova
- Robert A. Dahl
- Mardie G. Geiser
- General Mills Foundation
- Kathryn H. Glen
- Todd C. & Mary E. Jacobson
- Billie Anne & Howard A. Juni
- Joan B. O'Dell
- John C. Okada
- Toni D. Okada
- Okada Family Trust
- Frederick C. Olson
- Clareyse E. Nelson
- Clareyse Nelson Fund-Mpls Fdn
- Debra C. Rodahl
- Phyllis J. Weiss
- Andrew R. Yue

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

- Melissa L. Aitken
- Anonymous Donor
- Susan J. Beck
- Joseph & Marilyn T. Budge
- Kimberly A. & David W. Butler
- Ann D. Claesgens
- Sheila M. Clough
- Robin L. Donner
- Terence E. Duffy
- Mary J. Eaves-Raich & John J. Raich
- Catherine L. & John W. Foster
- Linda L. Fredrickson
- Reggie L. Gausman
- Ingrid B. Graff
- Joyce A. Gunderson
- Marilyn J. Halonen
- Ronald D. Halvorson
- Carol L. Harris
- Marilyn B. Hawkinson-Hickey
- Jacquelin A. Heggernes
- Robert P. Hirte

- Henry V. & Mary L. Holec
- Karen K. Huff
- Edward M. & Julie R. Idzorek
- Phyllis M. Jacobs
- Rita M. Jacobson
- Stephen J. & Lisa J. Jarvis
- Carol J. Josephs
- Barbara M. Koblinski
- Nancy M. Kochevar
- George Kuprian
- Vickie L. Larson
- Connie J. Luebke
- Marilyn J. Lueck
- Betty L. McMartin
- Arlene M. Meadows
- Lois G. Meiners
- Brian J. Meline
- Diane M. Michalik
- Kathleen W. Nadreau
- JoAnn M. Nelson
- Beverly R. Ness
- Patricia L. Norgren
- Anita A. Oakman
- Timothy M. O'Donnell
- Jeanne C. Olsen
- James R. & Sheryl F. Olson
- David J. & Mary Jo Pennington
- Marba L. and Richard R. Pogue
- James H. & Elberta L. Prestegard
- Thelma J. Purcelli
- Quest Diagnostics
- Kathryn L. Rantala
- Kathleen K. Reimers
- Karen L. Ringsrud
- John L. Roesler
- Ruth M. Rosendahl
- Dale W. & Cheryl M. Rozeboom
- Laura G. Rude
- Joy E. Sacre
- Norynne M. Schiminsky
- Kathleen P. Tekautz
- Constance C. Verre
- Kent D. & Marcia K. Wall
- Nettie M. Warwood
- Marilee M. Welliver
- Kristi L. Werdin
- Donna J. Wieb
- Judith A. Winter
- Nancy A. Witstine
- Xcel Energy Foundation
- Carolyn A. Young

## ***Up to \$100***

- Patricia A. Ackerman
- Susan A. Adlis
- Janet Agrell-Doehring
- Ruth A. Anderson
- Lenore J. Bolfiging
- Linda J. Bowers
- Eleanore A. Bredvold
- Sandra J. Carter
- Wanda E. Clark
- Irene D. Coran\*
- Ruth E. Davidson
- Joanne G. Deden
- Barbara M. Deisting
- Debra A. Dvorak
- Lorilee B. Echernach
- Pamela R. Elliott
- Arthur T. & Kay E. Emmons
- Carol I. Evans
- Claudine E. Fasching
- Richard J. & Susan K. Feist
- Harriet D. Fritts
- Barbara J. Gilbert
- Naomi M. Hanson
- Gail R. Held
- Jean E. Hulbert
- Diane G. Hutchinson
- Patricia S. Keairnes
- Arla K. Keckeisen
- Dorothy J. Kelly
- Phillip M. Korkowski
- Patricia J. Kriesel
- Brian L. Lauber
- Francene H. Lebahn
- Sharon J. Leivestad
- Janice C. Lohman
- Leslie A. MacKichan
- David J. Melby
- Mary Lou G. Mohn
- Judith A. Nelson
- Alicia C. Nguyen
- Lucille K. Norman
- Leann L. Oseth
- Sandra V. Pearson
- Ronald A. & Jennifer L. Prasek
- Diane K. Rappe
- Barbara J. Reinhardt
- Gregory P. Rynders
- Sandra L. Sauer
- Clarice M. Seim
- Kathleen Skradski
- Kathryn L. Smith
- Pamela D. Swanson

\* 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



# MLS Partnerships Reap Rewards

## MLS Students Benefit from New Partnership with Beckman Coulter

During 2017, the MLS Program entered into a partnership with Beckman Coulter. Beckman Coulter graciously donated \$10,000 in scholarships to our students. As part of our partnership, two groups of MLS students and faculty were invited to Beckman Coulter for an event on June 15th and October 20th, 2017.



During the events, professionals from Beckman Coulter in various areas including research and development as well as operations, spoke to

students about their work. Several MLS currently working at Beckman Coulter also spoke with students about their career path and current role. Later in the day, students toured the Beckman Coulter campus in Chaska, MN.

A select group of students returned to Beckman Coulter in Chaska to participate in usability sessions in August and December, where they had the opportunity to work with instrumentation currently in development and offer their feedback. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Beckman Coulter and appreciate their contributions to our program and students. ■

## National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2017 Students Tour Labs at Mayo and Federal Medical Center in Rochester

As part of lab week, MLS faculty arranged laboratory tours for MLS students at Mayo and the Federal Medical Center in Rochester, MN. Students had the opportunity to network with laboratory professionals from both facilities and tour several areas including the core laboratory at the Federal Medical Center, as well as the clinical core, bacteriology, and transfusion medicine laboratories at Mayo. ■



# Focus on Faculty & Staff

## Staff Changes at the Center for Allied Health Programs



### **JOHN NORDSTROM – Operations Manager**

John joined CAHP in July from the Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch in the College of Liberal Arts, earning an MA degree in Germanic Studies with a focus on critical theory and media studies. Prior to his graduate work, John served in the United States Air Force as a Captain in Nuclear Operations as a Missile Combat Crew Commander at the 91st Missile Wing at Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota from 2009 to 2013. John earned his BA in European History and German Literature from Kansas State University in 2009. John grew up in

Newport Beach, California and currently resides in St. Paul with his wife Stacy. ■

## Celebrating Retirement and Dedicated Service to the University

In 2017, we celebrated the retirement of two long-time staff members – Claire Bjorklund and Beverly Schmidt. We are grateful for their almost 80 years of combined service to the University and we wish them both well as they embark on this exciting new chapter in their life.



### **CLAIRE BJORKLUND**

On July 28, 2017, faculty, staff, former co-workers, friends and family gathered to together in the Mayo Auditorium to celebrate Claire's 44 years of service to the University. Claire's long career included working in administrative roles in the Center for Allied

Health Programs, Medical Laboratory Science Program, Lab Medicine/Pathology, and Dentistry. Claire reports that she is enjoying retirement so far, spending quality time with her husband, children, and grandchildren. Claire is also enjoying her free time reading and traveling to new and familiar locations. ■

### **BEVERLY SCHMIDT**

Beverly's retirement celebration was held on November 7, 2017 at the Children's Rehabilitation Center where she worked. Beverly began her career in 1968 as a nurse's aide. She went on to work for Continuing Education in the Arts, Gastroenterology, Supplemental Office Services, and Health Ecology before her 31 years of service with Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and the Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP).

Beverly was truly the "face" of the Occupational Therapy Program, greeting students and faculty with her friendly smile, warm demeanor, and vast knowledge of University systems and processes. During her long career at the University, Beverly wore many hats including student services, alumni relations, and event and administrative support to OT, MLS, and CAHP. Some of her more interesting duties included acting as a hand in the orthotics lab, watering brains, and "other duties as assigned". Beverly often commented after a long day, "Well, at least we're never bored at work!" But her most important duty was acting as a mentor and friend to her Occupational Therapy "kids", many of whom attended her retirement celebration to say goodbye and wish her well. Beverly is enjoying retirement so far, spending lots of time with her grandkids and enjoying her favorite hobbies such as knitting and reading. ■





# Welcome Dr. Henry-Stanley!

**M**ichelle Henry-Stanley is a new Associate Professor in the MLS Program. Michelle earned a BS degree in Cytotechnology from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. Her career as a Cytotechnologist includes employment by Mount Sinai Hospital in Minneapolis, University of Minnesota Twin Cities and Hennepin County Medical Center where she served as the cytopathology laboratory supervisor. In addition, she completed a MS degree in Clinical Laboratory Science (University of Minnesota) and obtained a PhD in Immunology

and Immunopathology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock.

Michelle completed postdoctoral work in the laboratories of Dr. Carol Wells and Dr. Stanley Erlandsen at the University of Minnesota. Following her post-doctoral studies, she remained at the University as a Research Associate in the laboratory of Dr. Wells in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. Michelle has also served as a Teaching Specialist and Instructor in the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences. Michelle lives in the Twin Cities with her husband, Mike. They are parents of Ben, 'Becca, Helen, and Hannah, and Grandparents of Colin and Cora. ■



## New Clinical Affiliate – Eau Claire Hospital

**M**LS added a new clinical affiliate in 2017 – Eau Claire Hospital in Eau Claire, WI. The hospital provided clinical experiences to three students from the class of 2017 in areas of hematology/hemostasis, chemistry/urinalysis, microbiology, and transfusion medicine. Students were impressed with their beautiful laboratory space, friendly and helpful laboratory staff and leaders, as well as the valuable experience they gained during their time at Eau Claire. Eau Claire Hospital is part of the Mayo Health Care System. Thank you to Eau Claire Hospital for providing experiences to our students in 2017 and in the future! ■

## 2017 Clinical Affiliate Spotlight

**D**uring the summer and fall of 2017, 38 clinical affiliates offered clinical experiences in the areas of Chemistry/Hematology/Coag/UA, Transfusion Medicine, and Microbiology for our 44 senior students. Clinical sites are located throughout Minnesota and into Western Wisconsin. We are so thankful for their ongoing support of our MLS students and program. Thank you! ■

### Allina Health System:

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

### Avera Marshall Regional Medical Ctr.

**CentraCare Health:**  
St. Cloud Hospital

### Essentia Health:

St. Joseph's Medical Center

### Fairview Health System:

Lakes Medical Center  
Northland Medical Center  
Range Medical Center  
Ridges Hospital  
Southdale Hospital  
UMMC-East Bank  
UMMC-West Bank  
IDDL

### FirstLight Health System

### HealthEast Care System:

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

### HealthPartners:

Methodist Hospital  
Regions Hospital  
Hudson Hospital

### Mayo Clinic Health System:

Eau Claire Hospital  
Mankato

### Minneapolis VA Health Care System

### Minnesota Department of Health

### Northfield Hospital

### North Memorial Medical Center

### Rice Memorial Hospital

### Ridgeview Medical Center:

Ridgeview Medical Center  
Two Twelve Medical Center

# Commencement for the Class of 2017



on December 15, 2017, at Ted Mann Concert Hall on the West Bank of the Twin Cities campus. Mr. Andrew Yue, teaching specialist in Medical Laboratory Sciences led the procession, carrying the ceremonial mace of the University of Minnesota.



Mr. Matthew Sanford, M.A., delivered the commencement address. Mr. Sanford is an internationally recognized yoga teacher, a sought-after public speaker, founder of the non-profit Mind Body Solutions, and a paraplegic for the last thirty-seven years. He noted that while he has experienced hard times, he is “exactly who he is because of the

life he’s had – because he let in his humanity.” He also focused on the need for graduates to stay nourished and to be “in the moment.” He encouraged graduates to “let life in” and “enjoy the champagne moments.” He closed by noting that we are “all together in the dance of healing,” and urged graduates to “be unafraid to be more present in your life and to stay connected to the people you work with throughout your career and life.”

Patrick Zahner delivered the MLS student address with grace and a deeper look into the work of the MLS profession. Patrick stated that is sometimes hard to see the faces and stories behind all of the specimens and tests - the human connections in our endeavors. Adding that “more people than ever before have access to the care we provide, and while MLS may feel far removed from the faces and stories that go along with our work, the fact is that we see them all around us. We are quietly and humbly making it possible for our neighbors, friends, and loved-ones to live longer, happier lives. That’s why we decided to make this our profession.”



As students walked across the stage to receive their diplomas, they also received congratulatory handshakes from the Dr. Christine Mueller, Associate Vice President for Education in the Academic Health Center, Dr. Donna Spannaus-Martin, Professor in the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program and Mr. Sanford.



A reception followed the ceremony for the graduates, guests, faculty and staff of the Center of Allied Health Programs. ■

## Congratulations graduates!



### CERTIFICATE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES RECIPIENTS

Corinna Baker  
Victoria K. Holly  
Chelsey L. McIntyre  
Philip V. Nguyen  
Jesse Pingel  
Samantha Schutz  
Jacob D. Tiegs  
Nestor D. Yanez Gutierrez  
Naomi Yanta-Huray



### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES GRADUATES

Aida A. Abdullahi	Taylor M. Hanson
Alexandria M. Acevedo	Jonathan A. Hunt
Joseph P. Brueske	Jan C. Iversen
Alexandra C. Cappuccino	Jasmine Kohler
Sokamarint Chak	Jessica Le
Victoria G. Contreras	Vuochly Long
Julie L. Danielson	Kyle Matheson
Adrian Dragomir-daescu	Nam Huu Nguyen
Jon Edmonds	Adam J. Obermiller
Kira R. Flenz	Todd W. Olson
Jamie P. Gendreau	Jacquelyn Rogers
Lyubov Y. Gittsovich	Katie J. Rooney
Lauren K. Goldstein	Fang Ruan
Darcy M. Hakes	Sarah J. Schneider



Amanda K. Stromback  
Karen I. Valverde  
Emily J. Vander Wyst  
Binh Y. Vu\*  
Khang A. Vuong  
Aubrie L. Williamson  
Patrick J. Zahner

\* Graduated with Distinction



## 2017 Alumni Banquet



Over 80 alumni, students, and friends gathered at the University of Minnesota Campus Club on Saturday April 22, 2017. We had twelve alumni from the 50th Anniversary Class (1967) including:

Jacqueline Bradbury, Miriam Ford, Ingrid Graff, Naomi Hanson, Norynne Schiminsky, Judith Winter, Nancy Wood, Janet Hiller Bailey, Lynda Knudson, Carol Lehman, Barbara Ramquist, and Jean Robbins. Naomi Quast Hanson organized afternoon reunion activities for the Class of 1967 including lunch at Stub and Herbs, a walk through the labs in the Mayo Court area and the



Acute Care Lab at the University of Minnesota Medical Center, and a tour of the current MLS student teaching laboratory.

Happy hour at the Campus Club began at 5:00 PM allowing guests time to mingle with classmates, students, and faculty, followed by the banquet, and MLS Program updates from Program Director Janice Conway-Klaassen. The evening wrapped up with a heartfelt presentation by Mary Ramey and Karen Ringsrud of the alumni of the year award to Fran Lebahn. ■

## Alumni of the Year Award Recipient Fran Lebahn



Fran Lebahn received her BS in Medical Technology in 1974 after working as a student in Clinical Chemistry between her junior and senior year. She worked in the Emergency lab running glucoses on the auto-analyzer and was occasionally trusted to titrate bicarbs and chlorides -- a big accomplishment for a student worker.

After graduating, Fran worked in the VA Hospital Microbiology Lab and then the Ob-Gyn Lab in Powell Hall and Phillips-Wangensteen Building with Dr. Doris Brooker. In 1979, she left the laboratory to explore career opportunities in food and business. She worked managing a friends cooking store in hopes of starting her own cooking school and kitchen shop. This experience steered her to masters classes in the College of Food Science and Nutrition and eventually to starting her own business, Cuisine de Francene, catering desserts and teaching cooking and dessert classes.

Fran's return to her roots in Medical Technology occurred through a chance meeting with a past co-worker Salli Clysdale. Fran went on to work as a teaching specialist in Clinical Chemistry and in Lab Medicine and Pathology courses. From 1987 to 2006 she worked at the VA Medical Center in Clinical Chemistry, Microbiology, and as a Clinical Research Coordinator in Infectious Disease and Pulmonary Medicine. From 2006 until she retired from full time work in 2015, Fran worked as the Lab Medicine and Pathology

(LMP) Education Coordinator with Mary Ramey. She continues to contribute to the profession as a teaching specialist for LMP.

Fran and her husband Lonny have been married for 27 years. In retirement, they enjoy spending time with their two teenage granddaughters and long driving vacations to visit friends and family. Fran has been a member of the Med Tech Alumni Board since 1990 and in 1993, she published *Laboratory Tested Recipes*, a cookbook of recipes contributed by Medical Technologists from all over the Twin Cities. Fran still enjoys making sweets and desserts and in true med tech fashion, sharing them. Congratulations Fran! ■

## Note to the Class of 1968!

Your classmates are organizing a 50th anniversary class reunion prior to the Alumni Banquet on April 21st. The reunion will include lunch at Stub and Herbs followed by a short walking tour of campus as well as a tour of the acute care lab. The group will then head to the Weisman Art Museum at 4:00 p.m. to view the galleries prior to the happy hour at 5:00. Please watch your email for more information and pass this along to anyone you think may have lost contact with classmates.

For more information on the 50th reunion, contact Kay Young, class of 1968 50th anniversary reunion coordinator at 952-831-4589 or [bobkayyoung@centurylink.net](mailto:bobkayyoung@centurylink.net) or Linda Maleitzke, CAHP Projects Coordinator, at 612-625-8936 or [maleitz@umn.edu](mailto:maleitz@umn.edu).



## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2018 MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES ALUMNI BANQUET!

The annual Alumni Banquet will be held at the Weisman Art Museum on the University of Minnesota East Bank Campus, Saturday, April 21st. 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 1943, 1968 and 1993. We encourage all alumni to attend!

### 75th Anniversary Class of 1943

Rosemary (Gunthorpe) Aas*	Elaine M. (Smythe) Cressey*	Joan (Hayden) Heisler	Virginia M. (Dunn) Neuenschwander*
Marguerite (Donovan) Ahlstrom	Harriet (Lamberg) Daly*	Jeannette (Woodward) Horn	Gloria L. (Getchell) Oberg*
Genevieve A. Arneson*	Dorice (Anderson) Des Chene*	Mary M. (Pottner) Hutchings*	Margaret (Sturley) Patchet
Helen E. Ashenbrucker*	Elizabeth J. (Bertie) Erickson	Mary (Reed) Johnson*	Ardis I. (Wright) Phillips
Dorothy J. (O'Donnell) Blamey*	Vivian (Martin) Fisher	Sophie G. (Melzer) Kaplan	Gwenyth (Owen) Richardson*
Geraldine Blotcky	Viola (Ferris) Furomoto	Anne M. (Starjash) Kilbane	Phyllis E. Rosander*
Elizabeth (Jennings) Bradley*	Mary L. Gouze	Audrey D. (Hicks) Lapeyrouse*	Elsa M. (Janda) Rose
Ruth M. (Maid) Burkstrand*	Ruth M. (Marck) Greenberg	Lorraine L. (Levine) Lilygren*	Dorothy M. (Mickey) Sellers
Carol E. Carlson*	Nancy F. (Millard) Gullings*	Florence N. (Novak) Maenpaa*	Betty (Tatting) Simonton*
Carolyn E. (Burwell) Carnot*	Marjorie M. (McClanahan) Hager*	Lois (Johnston) Matheson	Sylvia Steel
Meriam M. (Moorvitch) Charney*	Mary B. (Boone) Hasenfus*	Eva E. (Thompson) McKenzie	Violet E. (Hawkinson) Swenson*
Audrey L. (Erickson) Christenson*	Gloria (Artimese) Hatfield	Clarice L. (Kochevar) McWheter	Susan E. Tricker*
Elise A. (Andreassen) Church*	Marjorie (Copenharve) Hawkinson*	Katherine (Hessian) Meehan*	Catherine M. (Hessburg) Twomey*
Kathryn (Stokes) Conkle	Dorothy M. (Peterson) Heald*	Betty A. (Anderson) Mitchell*	Jean (McConnell) Vaughn
		Marilyn Nelson-Gerhig	Elizabeth (Buchan) Whitley*      *Deceased

### 50th Anniversary Class of 1968

Mary E. (Schenck) Anderson	Susan M. (Flor) Gans	Mary (Hollenhorst) Lazarus	Rodney J. Sandberg
Jeanne G. (Graves) Burke	Joyce A. (Englund) Gunderson	Pauline C. (Rude) Lileng	Nancy L. (Tofte) Schmidt
Ann D. Claesgens	Gail R. (Litowsky) Held	Phyllis E. (Nelson) Maercklein	Linda J. (Larsen) Schwarze
Sarah B. (Hastings) Clysdale	Mary M. (Kalaher) Herrmann	Paulette C. (Smutka) Martinson	Patricia L. (Forster) Seguin
Katherine M. (Charlton) Cooper	Cheryl I. Hultman	Linda A. (Smith) Mikyska	Joanne S. Sinaiko
Ellen R. Dorshow-Gordon	Mary E. (Lunzer) Jacobson	Marina R. (Pavuls) Nelson	Michael D. Sinclair
Mary J. Eaves-Raich	Carol (Kelly) Johnson	Toni D. Okada	Sharon K. (Miller) Snyder
Joan (Wilcox) Ellery	Lynn N. (Nimmo) Kelsey	Jeanne C. Olsen	Nancy A. (Chellew) Stanaway
Mary K. (Fredricks) Engelbrecht	Marilyn M. Klein*	Patricia M. (Hess) Park	Mary E. Stern
Leanna L. (Gustafson) Erickson	George Kuprian	Bonita M. (Ferrian) Parkman	Kathryn M. (Hollanit) Tarrati
Pamela F. Fabian*	Kathryn R. (Jensen) Lambert	Kathryn M. (Hollanitsch) Parranto	Marcia K. (Howser) Wall
Miriam L. (Smith) Feshali*	Jackie (Gentile) Landucci	Virginia D. (Vowles) Pauling	Kay H. Wolfe
		Nancy J. (Sahr) Peterson	Kathryn I. (Rolfé) Young      *Deceased

### 25th Anniversary Class of 1993

Patricia (Anderson) Leyk	Kim Douglas	Radhiya Mehdi	Teresa Tangen-Hedlund
Maria Bausero	Mara Elofson	Lorie (Nelsen) Siemon	Mary Thalhuber
Sarah Syraphay Brown	Eric Grahek	Christine (Passeri) Maleck	
John Burton	Christie (Haver) Gordon	Jenny (Pinnamonti) Sardeson	
Pepin (Devroy) Steckler	Jin Jizhong	Kathy (Shaw) Smith	

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

## Yes! I will attend the 2018 MLS Alumni Banquet!

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

- Chicken with Lemon Veloute ..... \$40.00
- Braised Walleye with Almonds & Fine Herbs ..... \$45.00
- Parmesan Risotto with Spring Vegetable Ratatouille ..... \$40.00

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

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

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

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

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

Medical Laboratory Sciences Program  
Center for Allied Health Programs  
University of Minnesota  
MMC 711, 420 Delaware St SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Twin Cities, MN  
Permit No. 90155



Medical Laboratory Sciences Program  
Center for Allied Health Programs  
University of Minnesota  
MMC 711, 420 Delaware St SE  
Minneapolis, MN 55455

The Office: Phillips-Wangensteen Building Room 15-194  
Tel: 1-877-334-2659  
Fax: 612-626-8127  
Email: [cahpinfo@umn.edu](mailto:cahpinfo@umn.edu)  
Web: [www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/medical-laboratory-sciences](http://www.alliedhealth.umn.edu/medical-laboratory-sciences)

The University of Minnesota shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Inquiries regarding compliance may be directed to the Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, University of Minnesota, 274 McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak Street S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55455, (612) 624-9547, [eoaa@umn.edu](mailto:eoaa@umn.edu). Website at [www.eoaa.umn.edu](http://www.eoaa.umn.edu).

This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Center for Allied Health Programs at 1-877-334-2659 or send an email to [cahpinfo@umn.edu](mailto:cahpinfo@umn.edu).

© 2018 Regents of the University of Minnesota. All rights reserved.



**Center for Allied Health Programs**

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**