

Tech's Talk

Spring 2015



From the Director



W elcome to the 2015 edition of *Tech's Talk*.

This has been another very busy year for the students and faculty of the MLS Program. One of the first things you will notice is a name change.

To synchronize our program with the new certification exam credential we voted to change the name to the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program and have a new degree and course designator of MLSP. The name change was accepted by the Board of Regents in Spring 2014 and became official beginning in Fall 2014.

Most of the faculty's work this year has been directed toward implementing the new curriculum format. Whenever possible we have separated the lecture and laboratory courses so that students must be successful in both areas to progress in the program. We also spread the suggested program of study out a bit, officially beginning the program in the junior year. However, we've still maintained the option

of a 4th year plan for students who want that route. We've also rearranged some of the basic laboratory techniques into a single course which is also open to non-majors. Content specific courses can then focus on perfecting techniques and skills learned in the basic class. Both students and faculty are also very engaged with the hybrid "flipped" classroom model where class time is used to discuss cases and work through problems together.

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the articles that you will find inside this edition of *Tech's Talk*.

- Dr. Donna Spannaus-Martin is coordinating the development of the second phase of the Writing Enriched Curriculum. Donna has been a strong advocate and supporter of the WEC program for students.
- Faculty continue to be a strong presence at local, regional and national professional conferences including the CLC, ASCLS-Region V Tristate, CLEC, ASCLS national,

“ Thank you to our alumni for your continued support of our program. ”

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and the Advanced Management Institute meetings.

- We've increased the enrollment of students from UMR into our program.
- We have another faculty retirement this year – we're going to really miss you Joanna.
- We have added more staff to our Center



Members of the Class of 1963 and friends at the 2013 Alumni Banquet

which really helps to support our program – Welcome Agnes, Jennifer, and Rhonda.

- Dr. Stephen Wiesner continues to shine in the development and implementation of learning innovations to support student learning in our program.

- We had another successful Alumni Banquet in April 2014 honoring the classes of 1939, 1964, and 1989.
- This next year we will honor the classes of 1940, 1965, and 1990. Be sure to look for the Alumni Banquet registration form in the back.
- We also want to thank all of our alumni for their continuing financial support through donations for student scholarships.

- Our program advising sessions – called First Steps – are now also available online <http://dol.ahc.umn.edu/htdocs/MLS/first-steps/story.html>.

In addition to the articles in this year's edition of *Tech's Talk* we have lots of program updates, articles, and information on our website. You can reach the MLS Program website through our main access point at <http://cahp.umn.edu/mls>. One area of our website is devoted to our fantastic alumni. This site includes access to all of our past editions of *Tech's Talk* as well as class photos. From this site you can also access photos from previous Alumni Banquets like the 90th Anniversary Celebration in 2013. Not only was it the 90th year of our program it was also the 50th anniversary for our Class of 1963 which includes our former Program Director Dr. Karen Karni and many other distinguished alumni. Please browse through our website for more information.

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

Warm Regards, *Jan*

Janice Conway-Klaassen PhD, MT(ASCP)SM

ASCLS Region V – 2014 Fall Symposium



The 2014 Region V Fall Symposium was held October 9th and 10th. This year's symposium included members of Clinical Laboratory Management Association – Minnesota as well as ASCLS-MN, ASCLS-SD and ASCLS-ND. This was the third year the meeting was held at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, MN

and our second year collaborating with CLMA-Minnesota. Two half days of talks included 13 sessions with 3 keynote speakers. The keynote speakers focused on Interprofessional Education, Organization and Time Management and Disaster Relief through the Heart-to-Heart Campaign. Session topics included Microbiology, Molecular Diagnostics, POCT, case studies, Chemistry and Hematology as well

as Management and Leadership. Our vendors were again very generous with their support in the exhibit area. There was plenty of great food and door prizes at the social event. The Arrowwood Resort has been a wonderful venue and several attendees brought their families for the weekend and made it a mini vacation. The 2015 Fall Symposium will be October 1st and 2nd at the Arrowwood



Resort. Mark your calendars now for a great fall event. Visit www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting for more information. Hope to see you there!! ■

ASCLS National Meeting – July 2014

Minnesota Wins Awards!



The ASCLS Annual Meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois, July 29th - August 2nd. National elections were held with the following results: President Elect – Barbara Snyderman (PA), Judicial Committee – Ginger

Weeden (CA), Nominations Committee – Kyle Riding and Bill Hunt, Director Region II – Nadine Fydryszewski (NJ), Director Region III – Evelyn Weaver (MS), Director Region IX – Shannon Billings (AK), Director Region X – Sally Pestana (HI), and Student Forum Chair – Elizabeth Ezeb (LA). Susie Zanto (MT) was sworn in as the new President of ASCLS at the House of Delegates. The primary issue discussed at the House of Delegates was the need for member retention.

Minnesota came home with many of the awards presented at the National Meeting:

- Recognition of 50 years of Membership – Kathy Hansen

- Promotion of the Profession Fundraising Activities – Second Place Minnesota
- Student Forum Leadership Award – Erin Weyers
- Constituent Society Publication Awards – Second Place Minnesota
- Website – Third Place Minnesota
- Keys to the Future Awards – Erin Weyers, Kayla Hansen and Robin Sarner



Erin Weyers accepting her Student Forum Leadership Award

As always there were many interesting and up-to-date presentations on a variety of topics as well as the opportunities to reconnect with friends and colleagues from all over the country. The networking and exchange of ideas is an invaluable resource for Medical Laboratory Scientists at any stage of their career. ■

ASCLS-Advanced Management Institute 2014

The first annual Advanced Management Institute (AMI) was held July 27th and 28th this past summer immediately preceding the opening of the ASCLS national meeting. The meeting was co-sponsored by Sysmex Corporation and Abbott Diagnostics. The AMI was established to give laboratory managers practical, real life examples of how peers are coping with the demands of the C-suites in ever-changing health care institutions. Speakers included Michael Laposata (Vanderbilt), Curt Hanson (Mayo) and Michael Astion (Univ of Washington) as well as Kathy Hansen of Fairview Hospital, Bobbi Kochevar (North Memorial), Mike Dalager and Jean Bauer from Allina Health Systems, and Janice Conway-Klaassen of the University of Minnesota MLS Program. We hope to continue the AMI in 2015 and beyond. ■

CLEC 2015 & 2016

Janice Conway-Klaassen and Donna Spannaus-Martin will be attending the Clinical Laboratory Educators Conference 2015 in Cincinnati this year. In addition to attending workshops they will be welcoming everyone to CLEC 2016 in Minneapolis! CLEC 2016 is scheduled for February 25-27, 2016 at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. Plans are already underway and we anticipate a fantastic meeting. We are excited to welcome our educator friends and colleagues to our winter wonderland and to show them just how WARM it can be in Minnesota in February. ■



Device vs. Ice

By Nicole Endres

U Surgeons Breathe New Life into the Practice of Lung Transplantation—with Implications for Heart Transplants, too



Photo by Phil Ladisa

At the University of Minnesota Medical Center today, the lung transplant waiting list is half the length it was six months ago, thanks in part to a new technology that's making more donated lungs worthy of transplantation.

"For some patients, that is the difference between life and death," says U assistant professor of surgery and cardiothoracic surgeon Gabriel Loor, M.D. The TransMedics Organ Care System is a device that keeps donated lungs warm and breathing during transportation instead of the standard practice of putting them on ice. The machine pumps blood and oxygen through the donated lungs to simulate what they'd be doing in a living human body. In a sense, the lungs are virtually alive until they reach their recipient.

The device also may be able to rescue marginal

lungs, meaning that doctors might be able to improve lungs that otherwise would have been turned away for being not quite-perfect enough to be transplanted. It gives the lungs time to be nursed in a sterile and protective environment and monitors their progress until they meet or exceed standard donor organ criteria.

TransMedics has a similar machine that's used to transport donated hearts for transplantation, and today a University team is gearing up to explore in the lab the technology's potential for improving the quality of donor hearts as well.

It's an important quest. Today about 80 percent of heart and lung donor organs aren't used in a transplant because there's no standard method

to monitor them and make sure they're good enough, Loor says. But the TransMedics Organ Care System helps surgeons evaluate the quality of those organs and may even be able to improve some that previously would have been considered marginal.

"It's revolutionizing the way that we look at transplants," Loor says of the technology. "Instead of bringing it over on ice, we're keeping the organ in its own native state. It's like bringing it over in a miniaturized ICU—transporting it from point A to point B without any downtime."



(Photo by Brady Willette)

Gabriel Loor, M.D., says the TransMedics Organ Care System helps doctors evaluate the quality of donated organs for transplantation and may even be able to improve those that are considered marginal.

Taking the next step

TransMedics is developing different versions of the technology to use for liver and kidney transplants, as well. Its technology for hearts is already in use at some transplant centers, and one clinical trial deemed it just as good as transporting the organ on ice. The amount of time the hearts spent on the device far exceeded the time they'd normally spend on ice but showed equal outcomes, Loor says.

At the University, Loor and colleagues Paul Iaizzo, Ph.D., Angela Panoskaltis-Mortari, Ph.D., Demetri Yannopoulos, M.D., and others are taking what they already know about hearts a step further.

With a generous grant from biotech company United Therapeutics, the University researchers purchased another TransMedics Organ Care System for lungs to be used only for laboratory investigations. They expect to purchase another machine for heart research, too, and answer a few important questions: When an organ is hooked up to the device, can the amount of time that a donated heart or lung is out of the body be extended beyond the four- to five-hour maximum now considered safe? Can the device help improve the quality of those organs? Can an infusion of a protective agent provide more stability to the organs? Could the technology even allow diseased hearts or hearts that failed time to regenerate if stem cells are introduced? "It's been an amazing collaboration that would only be possible at a place like this," Loor says.

Encouraging results

In November, a team of University surgeons performed the first "breathing lung" transplant in the Midwest using the TransMedics Organ Care

System. The recipient, a 51-year-old Minnesota man who had suffered from emphysema, left the hospital at a "record pace" and is still doing well today, Loor says.

The TransMedics Organ Care System for lungs is young; the first ever recipient of "breathing lungs" is less than a year out from the transplant. So its true long-term benefit is yet to be discovered. But Loor is encouraged by what he has seen so far.

“ Instead of bringing it over on ice, we’re keeping the organ in its own native state. It’s like bringing it over in a miniaturized ICU—transporting it from point A to point B without any downtime. ”

- Transplant surgeon Gabriel Loor, M.D.

"Preliminary results suggest that the amount of what they call primary graft dysfunction, how much injury the lung sustains, is significantly reduced—50 percent reduced—if the lungs are procured with the device versus ice," he says. "That's probably going to turn out to be a big deal. We already know that the amount of lung injury in the first one to three days [posttransplant] predicts how patients are going to do in the long term. Anything we can do now to make [the process] better is worth it. ■"

To learn more about exciting discoveries at the University of Minnesota, visit www.discover.umn.edu.

Update on the Student Clinical Experience

In 2009-2010 our CLS program changed from a traditional bench training internship to a clinical experience. The University-based curriculum provided extensive hands-on experience in our campus laboratories, but we obviously

lacked the ability to recreate the real work environment. Students no longer needed basic test by test training at the bench because they'd already learned that on campus. What they needed was to "experience" the clinical setting, multi-tasking, heavier workloads, and the integration of laboratory work. This new format for the internship

focuses students' learning on the general work flow of the laboratory, test volume management, quality assurance, preventative maintenance, and Interprofessional communications. Because we are not focused on test by test training at the

bench, we added a number of alternate locations for a clinical experience including commercial, reference, public health, outpatient clinics, and small rural hospital laboratories. Students are currently assigned to four 3 week rotations at a mixture of laboratory formats. This greatly increased the potential clinical sites for students and hopefully decreased the workload burden on all sites. It also prepares our graduates for the more diverse laboratory work environments they will encounter in the real world.

Student outcomes have continued to meet the program metrics including certification scores, employment rates and employer satisfaction. Although we expected students to be working independently by the end of each rotation, many students were working with minimal supervision by the end of the first week (74%). Common themes in student comments included increased confidence (82%), recognition of common procedures in different laboratory settings (68%), and a heightened awareness of the laboratory's integrated role in patient care (43%). With the support of the preceptors at the clinical site, students gain the professionalism and work skills to transition them from student to employee. We greatly appreciate the hard work and input from the preceptors at our clinical sites. ■



MLS Writing Enriched Curriculum

At the 2014 International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, MLS Program Director Janice Conway-Klaassen and Professor Donna Spannaus-Martin presented the results of the pilot study comparing the writing error patterns of native English and multilingual Medical Laboratory Science students. This pilot study was performed as part of the MLS Program's Writing Enriched Curriculum (WEC), which was implemented last

year. This research is intended to help faculty in the development of writing assignments that are targeted to help in the development of the writing skills students need in order to be successful in the profession. This past summer, the second edition of the MLS WEC writing plan was funded for an additional \$16,000 to continue with this research and to begin mapping the writing assignments in the new MLS curriculum. ■

Learning Innovations in the MLS Program

Dr. Stephen Wiesner continues to develop the Scenario Based Learning Environment. The system is flexible and dynamic. This online learning platform uses response dependent feedback along with randomized scenarios to engage students in the application of their knowledge. Preliminary data, which he presented at the Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference in February 2014, suggest that even brief exposure to the system enhances the critical thinking skills of the students. The system underwent significant enhancements during the summer of 2014, including a web interface, to allow the entire faculty to implement the use of this unique instructional system throughout the curriculum. The faculty are working together to build a variety of scenarios that focus on the integration of the sub-disciplines within laboratory science and the application of the knowledge students accumulate during the entire Medical Laboratory Sciences curriculum.

Working with the University Imaging Center, Dr. Wiesner was able to coordinate the acquisition of the digital slide imaging system PanOptic (ViewsIQ, Inc). This system will enable digital imaging of entire microscope slides at magnification and resolution that exceed the standards of practice in Medical Laboratory Science. This acquisition will enable the Program to enhance and expand the use of digital microscopy in laboratory education that is already implemented in hematology morphology. Expansion will include mycology, parasitology and microscopic examination of urine sediments. The system will allow students to access digital images of samples via the Internet and closely mimics the psychomotor skills required while using a standard microscope. ■

University of Minnesota Laboratory Scientists Make a Difference: Case Study

If you ever think that laboratory scientists are not involved in direct patient care or don't need to interpret laboratory results, let's give you an example – a critical example of why we play and must play a critical role in patient care. One of our 2012 grads (DW) was recently recognized by his hospital for his quick thinking, professionalism, and exceptional patient/customer service. He was working in the Core lab on the evening shift of a local hospital. A patient with a massive OB bleed was in the OR. He noticed immediately that the Coag results showed the patient was in DIC, but when he called the critical result, the physician did not believe them and wanted a retest before ordering any blood products. Knowing the life threatening nature of these results, DW started thawing 2 doses of cryoprecipitate while waiting for the new samples. The retest showed even worse results and they now wanted the cryo STAT. Thanks to DW they were already prepared. All of the physicians and staff who reviewed the case agreed that DW most likely saved this patient's life because she probably would not have survived the additional 30 minutes needed to thaw the cryo if they had waited. Thank you DW! Every day we make a difference in the quality of patient care. ■

Rochester Campus Update

We are currently teaching our 7th MLS class at the Rochester campus. As the MLS Program establishes its presence on the Rochester campus and in the Rochester community, we are seeing a significant representation of students from the surrounding community with more local students applying and enrolling. In the past, most of the MLS students graduating from the Rochester campus have been Twin Cities students relocating to Rochester for the 4th year of the program. This year, over half of the class is from Rochester and its surrounding communities. Most of the students are enrolling into MLS from UMR's Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences Program (BSHS) and from Rochester Community and Technical College. With the development of MLS 3rd year curriculum on the Rochester campus, we see this trend continuing with 6 students enrolled in the MLS 3rd year class. ■



Thank You!! Your Scholarship Donations Help Students Succeed

Each year we ask our alumni to help our current students through donations to our scholarship fund. As you all know, being a full-time student in our program is challenging enough without having to worry about finances. We would like to thank everyone who graciously supported us this past year and ask again for your help. Every donation – no matter the size – can make a world of difference in supporting student success. In 2014 we were able to give out \$93,500 in scholarships to our deserving students.



2014 Graduate & Scholarship Recipient Lilian Waturuocha

Some of your donations help provide temporary housing for students while they participate in a clinical rotation in rural Minnesota or pay for the textbooks needed for classroom success. Because our senior year and clinical semester are essentially full-time, students are not able to work outside of school to support themselves. Your donations help support them and their families during this critical portion of their education.

Please consider donating to our Alumni Fund to help support students who are single parents, those who are coming back to start a second career, and exemplary students who may be the first one in their families to receive a college degree. ■

Here is a list of scholarship recipients for 2014. Thank you so much for your continuing support.

Alumni Fund Scholarships

- Courtney Truax
- Haley Vaith
- Molly Weavers
- Hannah Weiger
- Molly West
- David Wildeman
- Brooke Wilson

Beckman Coulter Scholarship Fund

- Lilian Waturuocha

Yvonne Chenoweth Cooke Scholarship Fund

- Elizabeth Wehlander

Gonyea-Stewart Scholarship Fund

- Erin Everhard
- Hanha Melaku

Karen Karni Scholarship Fund

- Fahima Abdi
- Clustelle Charles
- Erin Everhard

William A. O'Brien Scholarship Fund

- Davika Richter
- Hannah Schultz
- Jonathon Thronson
- Huy Tran

Clarice J Olson

- Lilian Waturuocha

Abner Neeley Scholarship Fund

- Melake Araya
- Siyad Ayub
- Daniel Christensen
- Bereket Demissei
- Amina Farah
- Ismael Farah
- Erin Gilliland
- Monica Halbur
- Helen Hanson-Maddix
- Elizabeth Hilfers
- Lindsey Hoffman
- Jinxin Hu
- Brianna Johnson
- Kenneth Jombwe
- Ashley Kirberger
- Joseph Leprince
- Nicolle Leska
- Aliaksandra Liapich
- Lan Liu
- Caitlin Mein
- Danelle Murray
- Ngan Ngo
- Miranda Nibbe
- Rhiannon Peterson
- Emily Pham
- Samantha Quandahl
- Joshua Stoner

Thank You for Your Generous Contributions to the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in 2014

\$15,000 to \$100,000

- Ruth A. Cardinal*

\$1000 to \$15,000

- 3M Foundation, Inc.
- Stella S. & Marvin D. Cook
- Marcine J. Forrette
- Margaret A. & Thomas M. Gabrik
- Michael P. Halloran
- Walter* & Phyllis E.* Kelsch
- Karin J. Libby
- Barbara J. Moser
- Todd A. & Ann M. Ringgenberg

\$500 to \$1000

- Joanne S. & Lee W. Arvid
- Beckman Coulter Foundation
- Harriet I. Brown
- Clareyse Nelson Fund-Minneapolis Foundation
- David E. Ellis
- General Mills Foundation
- Jacquelin A. Heggernes
- Todd C. & Mary E. Jacobson
- Clareyse E. Nelson
- Frederick C. & Marilyn D. Olson
- Dr. Paul C. Schreckenberger
- Ella M. Spanjers
- Andrew R. Yue

\$100 to \$500

- Ruth A. Anderson
- Joyce A. Blomquist
- Marilyn T. Budge
- Kimberly A. & David W. Butler
- Michelle V. Wieland-Cain & James B. Cain
- Jacqueline A. Carlson
- Linda J. Carroll
- Virginia R. Coxe
- Robert A. Dahl
- Mary Jane Eaves-Raich & Dr. John J. Raich
- Grace Mary Ederer
- Catherine Leiendecker Foster & John W. Foster
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- Mardie G. Geiser
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- Kathryn L. Rantala
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- Joseph A. & Jean M. Rysavy
- Norynne M. Schiminsky
- Patricia L. Solum
- Cathleen Speer
- Kathleen B. Standing
- Patrick L. Sullivan & Dr. Kathleen M. Pflighaar
- Dr. Michael R. & Kathleen M. Tekautz
- Dr. Kent D. & Marcia K. Wall
- Nettie M. Warwood
- Donna J. Wieb
- Judith Winter, PhD
- Nancy A. Witstine
- Xcel Energy Foundation

Up to \$100

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- Wilma J. Balch
- Nathan P. Bell
- Mrs Lenore J. Bolfing
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- Gregory P. Rynders
- Sandra L. Sauer
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- Maija A. Stumbris
- Chris W. Swanstrom
- Beverly J. Tyler
- Constance C. Verre
- E. Jane Wicherski

* deceased

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<http://give.umn.edu/clsalumni> or call: U of M Foundation at 800-775-2187

Student Spotlight

Twin Cities



HANNAH SCHULTZ grew up in the very small town of Henderson, MN. She attended Le Sueur-Henderson High School with a graduating class of 105 students! Hannah earned a bachelor of arts degree in Biology, Society, and the

Environment from the University of Minnesota in 2013. She heard about the MLS Program from a very enthusiastic student who graduated last year and after some research she chose MLS because it is a great mix of science and healthcare. After graduation Hannah would like to gain MLS experience at a rural hospital and eventually work towards a masters degree in Forensic Science because she's interested in going on to a career in Forensic Pathology or Criminalistics. She describes her family as very supportive and, well, awesome! Hannah loves to drink coffee...lots and lots of coffee. She enjoys spending time with friends and family including her numerous cousins. Her tiny dog, LuLu, is full of energy and consumes much of Hannah's time.



BEREKET DEMISSEI was born and raised in Ethiopia and has been living in the United States for six years. Bereket has always had a passion for chemistry and biology, and he chose the MLS Program because it was fun, challenging, and

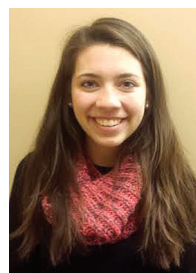
rewarding. He loves the science and the "hands on" work in the teaching lab. After graduation Bereket hopes to gain experience in a clinical laboratory while working to bring his family to the United States. Bereket has a nine year old son, Eyuel, who wants to become a doctor. Bereket's wife Meseret, currently lives in Ethiopia along with the rest of his family. Bereket's hobbies include music. He has a home music studio and still plays at an Ethiopian church in St Paul. He is also a big Arsenal fan and watches soccer whenever he can. Bereket has considered medical school as an option down the road, but it is much too early to think about that!

Rochester



MELAKE ARAYA is from the African nation of Eritrea. Melake moved to the United States with his wife in 2008 and they both became US citizens in 2013. Melake has a bachelor of science degree in applied mathematics from the University of Asmara,

Eritrea. He first heard about the MLS Program when attending Rochester Community and Technical College. Melake chose MLS because he wanted to be part of the healthcare field. After graduation Melake would like to work for a time and then go back to school to become a pathologist or specialize in Transfusion Medicine. Melake loves spending time with his wife and 3 children (one boy and two girls). He also enjoys playing soccer, volleyball, basketball, and any outdoor activity.



DANELLE MURRAY moved to Rochester, Minnesota with her family from Tennessee when she was 12 years old. She earned an associates degree in liberal arts and science and currently is in the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in

Rochester. She chose MLS because she wants to play an important role in the healthcare field. Danelle is looking forward to shifting from the classroom to a work environment and upon completion of her degree, she is considering moving out-of-state. She loves Minnesota, but says it would be really nice to live somewhere where her snowman will only last a month! When not studying, Danelle likes to hang out with her friends, play the piano, cook, and ski. She also likes to bike. Last summer she and her dad rode their bikes from Ohio to New York (360 miles!). Danelle is also active in the Navigators college ministry group.

Retirement: from the Classroom to the Lake

Joanna George is retiring after 24 years of excellent service as an educator in the MLS (MT/CLS) programs. Here is a little history on Joanna's career as a laboratory professional!

Joanna grew up in Dodge, ND. She attended the University of North Dakota (1970) and Minot State University (1973) earning her BS in Medical Technology in 1975. She began as a generalist at Trinity Hospital in Minot, ND. After marrying her husband Rick, Joanna moved to Norfolk, VA, where she worked as a blood banker and earned her SBB from Tidewater Red Cross, School of Blood Bank Technology. Joanna then served as the supervisor in blood bank/HLA/paternity testing at Norfolk General Hospital. A highlight of her career was living in the Netherlands as she followed Rick in his Air Force career.

She returned to Minnesota to work in the U of M Hospital blood bank in 1984 and in 1990, Joanna transitioned to the University of Minnesota's Medical Technology Program as a teaching lab manager and teaching specialist for the Blood

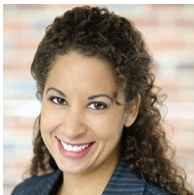
Bank and Microbiology courses. She became the Transfusion Medicine Course Director in 2004 and continued her education, earning a masters degree from the University of Minnesota.

Joanna now hopes to install her landscaping plan at her home, renovate her lake place, and become more involved with volunteer projects at church and the Master Gardener Program. Joanna also intends to spend more time with her grandsons, travel, possibly flip more houses, and potentially start a horticultural business.

Joanna has touched many of us at the University of Minnesota. She has been a mentor, leader, advisor, teacher, and friend. She has, however, agreed to continue to be the course director for Transfusion Medicine through spring of 2015. She will be greatly missed and we wish her well in her future adventures. We will see you at future events, Joanna! ■



Welcome to Our New CAHP Staff...



JENNIFER BINDNER joined the Center for Allied Health Programs (CAHP) at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities campus in August of 2014 as a Student Advising Coordinator. Before coming to CAHP, Jen worked in Student Support Services, TRIO Programs, at Metropolitan State University in Saint Paul. Jen graduated in 2004 from the Theatre & Dance Department at Minnesota State University, Mankato and worked in the campus Admissions office as an Admissions Recruiter immediately following graduation. During her time in Admissions, Jen completed her masters of science in Educational

Leadership and she now has over 10 years of experience working with current and prospective students in higher education. She is also planning her wedding this summer. Congratulations Jen!



AGNES CHAGANI joined the Center for Allied Health Programs at the end of February 2014 as Associate Director. She earned both her bachelor of science and master of science degrees from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has worked at the University of Minnesota as an academic advisor since 2005 (2005-2010 in the College of Liberal Arts; 2010-2014 in the School of Nursing). In her role, Agnes manages policy implementation, resources to support students and faculty, and "big picture" program events like recruitment, orientation, commencement and current student outreach events.



RHONDA LAYER came to the Center for Allied Health Programs in October of 2014 after working in the Office of Student Affairs at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry for nine years. As programs coordinator for CAHP, Rhonda works with faculty and staff on CAHP communications, major events such as Commencement and alumni relations. She has a bachelor of science degree in Family Social Science, a graduate certificate in Innovation Studies and a Master of Liberal Studies. Rhonda volunteers on the U of M Student Unions and Activities Grants Committee and is on the steering committee for University Professional Circles, a staff professional development program.

Commencement for the Class of 2014

The Center for Allied Health Programs held its annual graduation ceremony for Clinical/Medical Laboratory Sciences and Occupational Therapy students on Friday, December 12, 2014. The ceremony was held at the McNamara Alumni Center with over 500



Ms. Andrea L. Kjell

students, faculty, and guests in attendance. Dr. Patricia Schaber led the procession, carrying the ceremonial mace of the University of Minnesota, followed by faculty, distinguished guests, and graduates.

Dr. Barbara Brandt, Associate Vice President for Education in the Academic Health Center, was the guest speaker. Dr. Brandt spoke about the future of the profession with an emphasis on the graduates' role as members of the Interprofessionalism healthcare team. She encouraged students to be innovative in their practice and life-long learners.

The student address was given by Andrea Kjell. She stressed that the education students received from the CLS/MLS Program has provided them with the foundation for a successful future. She is proud to be a member of a profession that contributes greatly to healthcare in our community. Andrea included this piece of advice for her fellow

graduates: "look ahead; remember to keep striving for excellence in all that you do. Make sure to stay passionate about your career and continue to learn as much as you can."

Each student was presented their diploma as they walked across the stage and received congratulatory handshakes from the Honorable John R. Frobenius, University of Minnesota Regent; Dr. Stephen Lehmkuhle, Chancellor of the University of Minnesota Rochester; Dr. Barbara F. Brandt, Associate Vice President for Education in the Academic Health Center, and Dr. Janice Conway-Klaassen, Director of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program.

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



Dr. Patricia Schaber



Faculty of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program

Congratulations Graduates!!!



Alelign B. Abdissa
 Noelle H. Adler
 Umalkair Y. Amare
 Amber L. Anderson
 Matthew C. Anderson
 Kara L. Bakke
 Erin L. Boehm
 Bryan K. Brocksome
 McKenzie K. Chase
 Andrielle L. Cowl
 Kendra L. Dornfeld
 Galina Dronava
 Katherine R. Elfering
 Amina L. Farah
 Ismael D. Farah
 Allyson M. Foley
 Anna S. Fox
 Wondu Galata
 Elise M. Gallagher
 Asmerom N. Ghebre
 Molly A. Gibbs
 Hanad S. Guled
 Adam Hallet
 Leah D. Haskin
 Riley R. Hauschildt
 Angela K. Heitman
 Katie A. Herlache
 Jinxin Hu
 Chowdhury Imtiaz
 Hussain
 Hassan Jahad
 Tricia E. Jansick

Brianna B. Johnson
 Kent E. Johnson
 Alina M. Kindruk
 Andrea L. Kjell
 Tymofiy Komendant
 Luke T. Lambert
 Daniel R. Legan
 Rose Lemke
 Nicolle G. Leska
 Mai Thao Lor
 Hanna B. Melaku

Jama A. Mursal
 Nasro A. Nur
 Ka Eun Park
 Emily C. Paulus
 Rhiannon M. Peterson
 Erin T. Roach
 Andrew Rode
 Courtney L. Runyan
 Tihitina M. Salvatore
 Ryan J. Strand
 Sotheany Sun

Gebi J. Tahiro
 Jessica M. Thompson
 Dalika Tiev
 Jenna W. Turtle
 Jordan R. Vitse
 Lilian C. Waturuocha
 Hiruy R. Yesuf
 Hailu Zelelew
 Alexa E. Zerbe
 Hussain Zhian

Congratulations Aija Vikmanis - 2014 Honoree



The Alumni of the Year award is given to individuals who have furthered and supported the laboratory profession. Aija is a worthy recipient having worked in the clinical laboratory, laboratory management, teaching, as well as having served on the Medical Technology Alumni Board. After graduating from our program in 1960, Aija worked in the Chemistry Lab and then Laboratory Administration

at University Hospital. While her daughters were young she was a part-time teaching specialist for chemistry and urinalysis. When Aija returned to the Clinical Lab she moved into Laboratory Administration at Fairview University Hospital eventually retiring from that position. Aija enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and volunteering within the Latvian community. Aija has been a colleague, mentor, teacher and administrator; roles that she has filled with grace and professionalism. ■

2014 Alumni Banquet



Class of 1964 – (from left) Nancy Mueller Coley, Mary Parker Frigstad, Barb Hanson Broberg, Jeanne Kiley Krumpelmann, Mary Sanford Hegge, Donna Messerli Meyer, and Joy Carll Dean

The 2014 annual banquet was held Saturday, April 24, 2014 at the McNamara Alumni Center. Among the attendees were representatives of the 50 and 25 year anniversary classes; Class of 1964 and the Class of 1989 respectively. The social hour before the banquet allowed attendees to socialize with classmates, co-workers, students and faculty at McNamara or take a walking tour of campus. The anniversary class of 1964 arranged ahead of time to meet at a local bar to reminisce. One of the highlights of the evening was the anniversary classes and students sharing stories and experiences. With our long history as a program we know we have many distinguished alum that have made their mark on our laboratory profession. This year's honoree as alum of the year was Aija Vikmanis (see article on page 13). ■

Join us on Saturday, April 25, 2015 for the Annual Banquet!

75th Anniversary Class of 1940

Inga Aanstad*
Edna Abeln DeVos*
Dorothy (Erickson) Barker*
Lillian Bell*
Naida Brandborg
Mary Buckman*
Dorothy Burgoon
Elaine Casey*
Hedvig (Swanson) Cater
Kathleen Cunningham
Adele (Johnson) Davidson
Barbara Donehower*
Jean Dougherty
Geraldine Evans
Esther (Lyons) Falk*

Grace (Buckman) Fangmann*
Melvin Fossan*
Ruth (Rossman) Fulton*
Mary (Moriarity) Galvani*
Margaret (Flagstad) Guthrie*
Doris Hirsch
Mary Hoskins
Margaret Howe
Gertrude Kerr
Lucille Larson*
Dorothy Longfellow*
Barbara Merritt*
Erma Miller*
Dorothy Muirhead
Selma (Sandstrom) O'Brien*

Edna Parenteau*
Mary Potter*
Jeanette Powell*
Janet (Crone) Prevey*
Marion Redifer
Helen Richmond*
Suzanne (Agnew) Snively*
Allegra (Pedersen) Stehr*
Margaret Strane
Arva-Dorothy (Phelps) Taylor*
Cyril Taylor
Lenore Willard*
G. Williams
Irma (Gue) Zarrow*

* Deceased

50th Anniversary Class of 1965

Kathleen (Shoeman) Arco
Jean (Tomisak) Bucksa
Pamela (Schaaf) Buros
Elsa Bye
Mary Carlson
Marilyn (Scovil) Cavanaugh
Kathleen (Dolan) Daly
Lois (Ozwoeld) Dobrin
Barbara Drosman
Dorothy (Carlson) Duffell
Judith (Rodda) Evans
Susan Friedman
Linda (Vogt) Gallick
Janice (Rinkey) Godes
Helen (Nordine) Hallgren
Anne (Smith) Hanson
MaryAnn Hendrickson
Gordon Herbst
Marirose Hook
Carol Johnson
Karen (Broberg) Lamberg
Nancy Lancet
MaryAnn Larsen
Linda Lewis
Mane (Fisher) Mayer

Betty McMartin
Lois (Hamblin) Moeller
Linda (Livingston) Moskalik
Patricia (Mortenson) Norgren
Joanne Olson
Marilyn Olson
Virginia Postma
Karen Roeller
Sandra Rutzick
Janet (Schroeder) Saulsbury
Linda Schwalen
Ann (Holmberg) Sirota
Sally Stavn
Mary (Perlich) Sundeen
S. Takekawa
K. Tamberg
Susan (Totushek) Thomas
Julia Thompson
Karen Thrower
Carol (Riekkki) Van Hale
Jan Voelker
James Voita
Marlene (Peterson) Voita
Joan Woods
Susan (Miller) Zinschlag

25th Anniversary Class of 1990

Abye Bekele
Susan (Vesley) DeMeyer
Giang Do
David Ellis
Jean Goenner-Petersen
Phillip Korkowski
Jennifer (Subra) Krueth
Hannah Lee
Muhadditha Mehdi
Linda Mertens
Roseann Miller
Tawni Reller
Henry Russlie
Therese Schierman
Gene Ugro
Deborah Van Lentenn
Jane (Dunham) Wenning
Anita Wong
Timothy Woolard



2015 Medical Laboratory Sciences Annual Banquet

Please join us for the annual Alumni Banquet at McNamara Alumni Center on the University of Minnesota East Bank campus, Saturday, April 25, 2015. Anniversary classes to be honored with special recognition will be the Classes of 1940, 1965 and 1990. Contact your classmates and take this exciting opportunity to connect with friends and check out the campus! Doors will open at 4:00 p.m., social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. There will be a brief program to follow.

Hotel accommodations can be secured at the Commons Hotel located just steps away from McNamara Alumni Center. Make reservations by phone at 1-800-445-9068 or visit their website at: www.commonshotel.com. Parking is available at the University Avenue Parking Ramp directly across from McNamara Center.

TO REGISTER ONLINE:

1. Go to www.cahp.umn.edu and look under Upcoming Events.
2. Click on **MLS Alumni Banquet Registration**.
3. Click on **Register Now**.
4. Payments can be securely paid by credit card through this registration site.



Please contact Debra Markert at 612-626-2493 for assistance with online orders. To register by US mail, please use the form below.

To register by USPS, mail this form and make your check payable to **Regents of the University of Minnesota** and indicate **MLS Banquet** in the memo line.

Yes! I will attend the 2015 MLS Alumni Banquet!

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

- Sautéed Chicken Breast with Chive Cream Sauce on potato polenta puree \$35.00
- Grilled Salmon with Tangerine Cream Sauce and beet horseradish on parsnip potato puree \$45.00
- Grilled New York Strip Steak with Port Wine-Gorgonzola Sauce and buttered baby potatoes \$48.00
- Ratatouille Stuffed Yellow Pepper with herbed basmati rice and pumpkin seed oil \$35.00

Check enclosed \$ _____ for a total of _____ dinners

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Graduation year _____ Former last name _____

Make checks payable to **Regents of the University of Minnesota** and send to:

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