

# 'TECH'S

# 'TALK

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No. 13

Editor: Verna Rausch

April, 1959

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## Annual Medical Technology Dinner

Thursday, April 30, 1959

Coffman Memorial Union

To all alumni:

You are cordially invited to the annual Medical Technology dinner on Thursday, April 30, at 6:15 p.m. in the main ballroom of the Coffman Memorial Union on the campus.

This year the program will include Dr. John Wolf, professor of history at the university, speaking on "The Dynamics of Civilization Conflict", as well as entertainment (a skit, no less) by the students and awarding of honors.

As you know, by your attendance you help support the William A. O'Brien Scholarship Fund for students in Medical Technology. Tickets are \$2.50 per person and may be purchased at the Medical Technology office or at the Union before the dinner. Please return the enclosed card immediately so that reservations can be made and your address verified for the files.

If you are unable to attend the dinner and want to contribute to the scholarship fund, make checks payable to Jean Hyslop, Treasurer, and send to the Medical Technology office, C205 Mayo, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 14, Minnesota.

Keep the date open and make plans to join us on April 30th.

RETURN THE POST CARD

SUPPORT THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Graduate Program in Medical Technology

The big news this year is that the Graduate School announces a new program leading to a Master's degree with a major in Medical Technology. Inquiries from various parts of the country and contacts and discussions with members of the National Committee for Careers in Medical Technology (a joint committee of medical technologists and clinical pathologists) confirmed the impression of the graduate school and the faculty in medical technology that a master's level program in medical technology was needed. The purpose of the program is to provide the opportunity for advanced study to prepare Medical Technologists for positions in educational programs in Medical Technology and supervisory positions in clinical laboratories. The course is organized with emphasis on advanced study in one or more of the basic sciences pertinent to the practice of medical technology together with development of skills in guidance of learning and administrative practices.

Admission requirements for this program include certification as M.T.(ASCP) or eligibility for such certification and a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution with sufficient scholarly attainment in chemistry and biological sciences to justify graduate work in these areas. Previous experience in a clinical laboratory is desirable.

The first student in this program has registered for spring quarter 1959. If you are interested in further details, write to the Medical Technology office, C205 Mayo.

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Medical Laboratory Assistant Program

The course for Medical Laboratory Assistants continues to progress successfully with Miss Margaret Ohlen as instructor and coordinator. Since the first class in 1953, 87 students have completed the course. There are 24 hospitals in the state affiliated with the university in providing clinical experience for these students. This course, designed to provide good training in limited areas of laboratory work with special emphasis on those procedures most commonly used in a physician's office or routinely requested in hospital laboratory work, appears to answer an area of critical shortage.

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Silver Anniversary--Class of 1934

Apparently some of our alumni do not want to be identified by class year. We indeed regret any discomfort that has inadvertently occurred by naming individuals in anniversary classes. So this year suffice it to send sincere congratulations and best wishes to the class of '34. Incidentally, Dr. Helen Knudsen (dare we name her?) will represent your class on the program.

Not that any of the gay young things from the class of '34 need it, but this seems the appropriate place to remind the alumni of the opportunity to enter refresher training. It seems the use of laboratory procedures is ever expanding and the supply nowhere meets the demand. So come back to school, pause, refresh, obtain a well-paying job (we're not kidding) and buy that second Cadillac or send the kids to camp! For further information write (guess where?) the Medical Technology office, (all together now) C205 Mayo or call FE 9-7311, ext. 2601 and ask for Max (Wintrobe that is).

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DID YOU KNOW?

1. That the minimum requirements for certification by the Registry of Medical Technology will be 3 years of college and one year of training in an AIA approved hospital effective January, 1962? Your professional society, The American Society of Medical Technologists, has been working for this for, lo, these many years and finally, success! "Everything comes to him who waits".  
Seriously, this is a big advance for our profession. It signals recognition of the need for further training in the basic sciences. This step alone gave further impetus to the establishment of a graduate program; there will be an increasing need for qualified persons to administer and guide college level programs.
2. That automation has invaded the laboratory? Our laboratory service has machines which do white counts, red counts, blood sugars, ureas, chlorides, and alkaline phosphatases. However, being mere mechanical gadgets, these monsters do not think. So there sit the technologists, thinking, thinking, thinking. If you don't believe this come see for yourselves---absolutely free. Distilled water is no longer transported in carboys but comes direct from deionizer to a spigot in the laboratory. A dishwashing machine relieves the techs from much (but not all) of this labor.
3. That there are now 93 people on the laboratory staff? (I'll bet the class of '34 remembers when there weren't that many). The breakdown of this horde is 7 physicians, 7 fellows in clinical pathology, 1 associate professor of medical technology, 2 assistant professors, 6 instructors, 51 student technologists supervisors, 1 assistant scientist, 2 junior scientists, 2 administrative laboratory technologists, 13 secretaries and laboratory attendents, and 1 nurse (how did she get in?) What we really need is space in which to put these people.
4. That we need your assistance in recruitment? Although the percentage of entering SIA freshman who indicate medical technology as their vocational choice has remained relatively constant and although college enrollment has increased, there is still a need for more students in the field. High school groups, church groups, PTA, YM, YW, Scout groups,--all of these are potential recruitment fields. We will be happy to furnish material, an excellent film, and reasonable personal assistance for any efforts you can make in this area.
5. That the junior year students take technique courses in chemistry and blood banking in addition to hematology and urinalysis? These modifications permit better use of the laboratory time during the senior year and permit time for instruction in newer techniques, such as automation and preparation of blood for open heart surgery.
6. That tired night techs can't take a nap in the BMR beds anymore? We moved them.
7. That you need a map to find your way around the chem lab?
8. That Ella Spanjers finally joined ASMT?
9. That milliequivalents are here to stay?