

TECH'S TALK

No. 21

Editor: Verna Rausch

March 1967

It is time again for your annual progress report from your Alma Mater. We do not have charts or spirals to present but can report progress in various areas in a narrative form.

Progress on the annual Medical Technology Council Banquet
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 1967
Time: 6:15 p.m.
Place: Main Ballroom, Coffman Memorial Union on the Campus
Price: \$3.25
Speaker: Dr. Aldo R. Castaneda, Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Minnesota
Topic: Recent Advances in Cardio-vascular Surgery

A card is enclosed for you to indicate the latest pertinent data on yourself plus your plan to attend the banquet. Yes, we know; through a slight error some of you received "TECH'S TALK" last year without the enclosed card. With luck, we shall manage to omit the card for the same group this year! At least that little maneuver led to some unexpected mail. We do hope that you will be able to attend. I'll be there!

While you are on campus for the banquet, you will be able to see the progress in expansion of the physical facilities of the laboratories. Two years ago we told you of the plans to expand into the southwest court of the hospital complex. At this writing part of the expansion and move have been accomplished. The Chemistry unit is utilizing part of the space, the dish-washing facility is in operation, and Medical Genetics occupies part of the area. By the time of the banquet it is hoped that Diagnostic Bacteriology, Immunology, Coagulation and an outpatient EKG unit will be in operation. As with all construction, there have been delays but the end is in sight. With this new space, the laboratories will be able to function more efficiently and continue to progress as a leading example of laboratory medicine in the country.

Progress has been made in the recognition of Medical Technology as a separate profession. The last Congress passed an Allied Health Professions Personnel Training Act which specifically mentioned Medical Technology. The appropriations for the Act were decreased from the original proposal but it is hoped that ultimately the full provisions will be restored. The Act provides funds for the support of faculty, equipment, physical facilities, traineeships for graduate students, and the development of new types of educational programs in the health fields. Not all of these advances are possible with the present appropriations but at least Congress is aware of us and some of our problems. There is also some activity to obtain broader scholarship support for students in Medical Technology. Several of you have youngsters in college and well appreciate the cost of higher education. A

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recent survey of our students revealed that about 50% of freshmen students, 75% of sophomore students, and 90% of junior and senior students were working part time to support their education. The curriculum is not any easier than in your day and time spent working is time spent away from studies and university life.

Speaking of scholarships, the William A. O'Brien Scholarship Fund makes a little progress each year but more support is needed. Those of you who would like to contribute may send your contributions to:

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

Progress is always measured against a scale of the past. As is our custom, we would like to pay particular honor to the class of 25 years ago.

The year 1942 saw many changes on the campus. ASTP units were housed on campus and as the boys marched to classes delightful old folk songs such as the uncensored version of "Bell-bottomed Trousers" wafted through the windows. Education was a little more liberal than the University intended. Civilian males became fewer and fewer and the whole atmosphere was one of wartime. Supplies in the laboratories were scarce and it was the real up-man who could hoard enough pipettes to complete a whole batch without re-washing. In June 1942, the following stalwarts attended commencement in Medical Technology.

Amiy Aaanes Parrish	Lois Hokanson Selin
Harriet Allen Aaker	*Betty Jackson Eberle
*Fern Anderson	*Eleanor Jestrab Polski
*Wilma Anderson	*Delores Johnson
Vera Armstrong Nelson	*Janet Johnson
*Betty Banen Milner	Joyce Johnson Swanson
*Ethel Benesovitz Norwich	Phyllis Johnson Krigbaum
Norma Benham Lick	*Ann Juntunen
Evelyn Bergh	M. Jeanne Kahnke
*Margaret Blasing Akesson	*Geraldine Kellogg Goss
*Aileen Blomquist	*Los Klein Knoche
Natalie Bussey Jones	Virginia Krichel Jenkins
*Shirley Clay Best	*Lois Latts Eil
*Laura Diessner Newman	Helen Lund Merriman
*Dorothy Egevist Marshall	*Helene Matthies MacDonald
Marjorie Ellison Papermaster	*Mary Jean May
*Janet Englund	*Margaret McCabe
Arlene Faulds Adolphson	*Clarice Nordlum
*June Felsing Ney	*Frances Nordstrom Sampson
*Elinor Foster Elam	LaVerne Odencrans Young
*Marjorie Freeman Niemi	*Ruth Okney
*Margaret Gnadinger Peebles	*Elizabeth O'Leary
Dilys Green Wagner	Ruth Potter
*Ann Greene	Jane Rietz
Lorraine Hessberug Breitenbucher	*Janet Robbins
*Aeme Higashi	*Helen Sanders

*Margie Schmitz
Ethel Schneider
*Muriel Simstad McCarthy
Allie Smith Skoro
Babette Springer Rosen
*Elenora Stahn

*Marion Tideman Eger
Mary Elizabeth Townsend Donato
*Anna Turunen Monninger
Betty Weisel
Alice Wendell Bush
*Barbara Whitney

*indicates that we have lost contact with these fine people. We shall be happy to receive addresses or other pertinent information.

Speaking of liberal education, certain strides have been taken in this area. It has long been a concern of the administration of the program in Medical Technology that the curriculum was so heavily laden with science prerequisite courses. We had comforted ourselves with the philosophy that general education courses could be obtained by the individual by self-study or by adult education programs. The All-University Council on Liberal Education spent much time and thought on the problem of general education for all students who leave the University with a baccalaureate degrees. In June 1965, the Faculty Senate adopted a policy prepared by the Council which established a "floor requirement" in liberal studies for all programs leading to the Bachelor's degree at the University of Minnesota. The policy adopted by the Division of Medical Technology incorporates the policy of the Council on Liberal Education and is as follows:

"The University of Minnesota believes that all of its students, whatever their area of specialization or their vocational goals, should hold in common the search for a liberal education. In the broadest sense a liberal education is one which frees us from the limitations placed by ignorance on our powers of judgment and choice. More specifically, a liberal education asks of us that we seek control over the general intellectual instruments for acquiring and communicating knowledge, primarily the instruments of language and number; that we seek understanding of the ways in which scientists contribute to man's knowledge of himself and his environment; that we seek historical and philosophic perspective on the nature of our own lives and the world in which we live; and that we seek appreciation of the creative insights into life and nature provided by literature and the arts. To help students achieve the goals of liberal education, the Division of Medical Technology expects each student to distribute some part of his course work in areas of study other than those most closely linked to his specialized or vocational interests."

Committees within the Division have been working on revision of the curriculum for some time. The all-university policy will affect those students who were freshmen in the fall of 1966. Our present plans are to retain the present freshman and sophomore sequences with minor changes and to provide coordinated units during the junior and senior years. For example, students will enroll concurrently in Anatomy 165 (Hematology), Zoology 65 (Histology) and Clinical Hematology. Students will no longer spend a full year in the clinical laboratories but will receive most of their instruction in student laboratories. General education electives will continue throughout the four years. A time is scheduled for experience in the clinical service laboratories but this will be greatly shortened in length. Students throughout the four years will observe the regular university quarter schedule. During the next year and one-half, various

phases of the new program will be introduced and evaluated. We view these changes as a dramatic step toward enhancing the collegiate status of Medical Technology and are confident that the product, though initially not as technically proficient, will in the long run prove to be a better scientist and citizen.

The above mentioned progress has necessitated a decision by University administration to "phase out" the one year program for Medical Laboratory Assistants at the University of Minnesota effective June 1967. The one year program was started in 1955 in answer to a request from the physicians of the state for a person well trained in limited laboratory procedures. The College of Medical Sciences agreed to offer such a program as an experiment. The experiment has been successful and similar courses are operating at Alexandria Vocational Technical Institute, Hibbing Area Vocational Institute and Duluth Area Technical Institute. St. Mary's Junior College in Minneapolis also offers an assistant program leading to an Associate of Arts degree. With the increasing demands for well-educated graduate medical technologists and with the increase in numbers of junior colleges and technical institutes, it was the opinion of the University that other public education institutions are in a better position to provide this level of training and that the University should devote its energies to professional and graduate education.

We are happy to report progress in the number of graduate students enrolled in the program leading to a Master's degree as well. Each of these has a faculty advisor for their project in an area of laboratory medicine so progress is evident in the development of our scientific specialty and in medical technology education.

That age old bug-a-boo of appropriate compensation for technologists also shows some progress. Discussions are now underway for improving the initial salary and the merit increase scale in the hospitals throughout the state. Since final salaries have not been settled at this writing, we are unable to report actual figures except to say that there will be an increase. Watch the "Help Wanted" columns for further information.

The final progress report is that every year there are more of you to send this little communique so we must be doing something right.