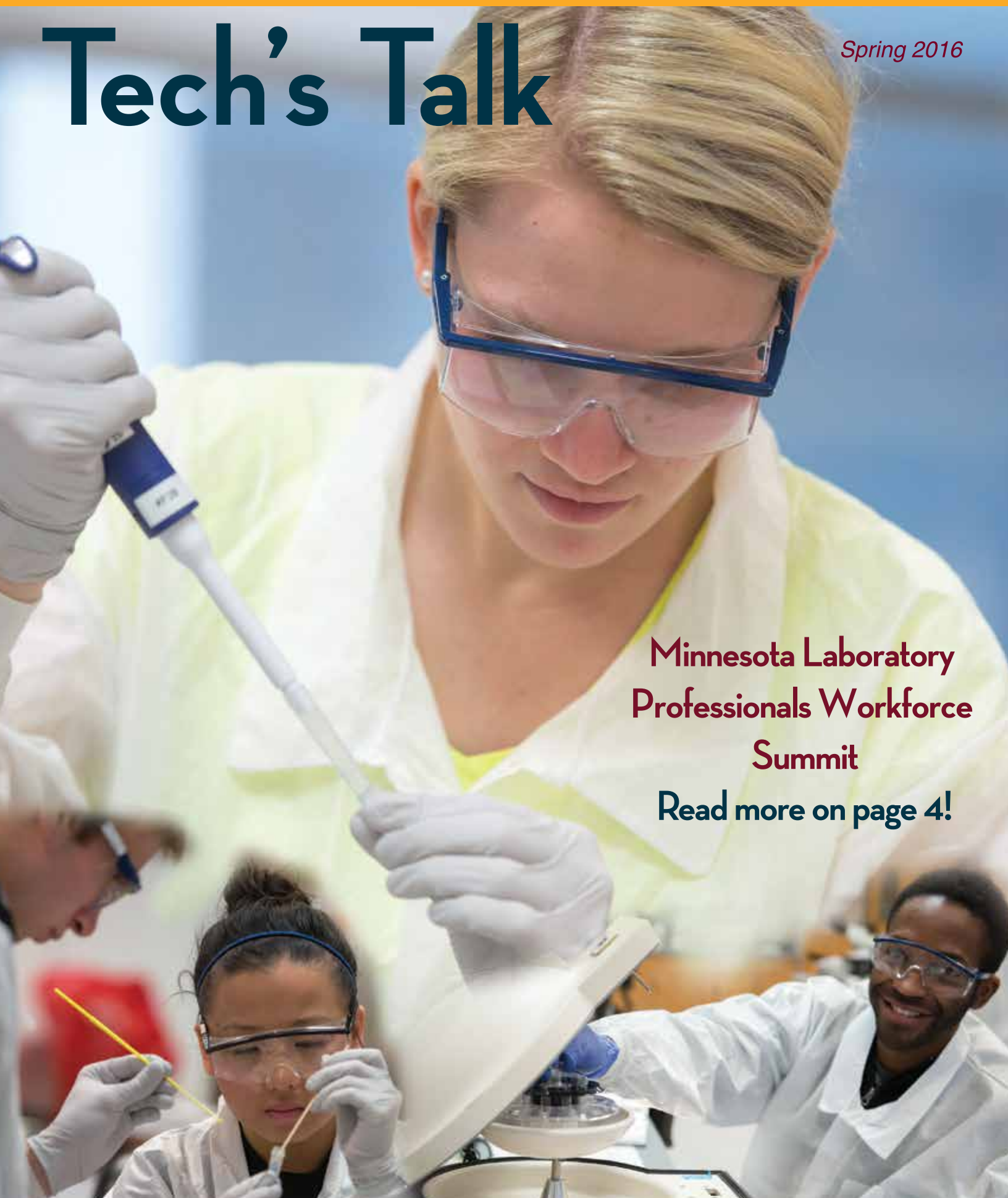


# Tech's Talk

*Spring 2016*

**Minnesota Laboratory  
Professionals Workforce  
Summit**

**Read more on page 4!**



# From the Director



Welcome to the 2016 edition of *Tech's Talk*.

The one thing that stays the same around here is constant change. But we're medical laboratory scientists so we're used to innovations in our field. So many

wonderful new things are happening in and around our program while at the same time we continue to hold our traditions close.

In December 2015 we graduated our first class under the new Medical Laboratory Sciences curriculum model at the newly remodeled Northrup Auditorium (page 13). Now that our new curriculum is in place, we're working on a cohesive recruitment plan with several colleges within the University. Our biggest project is with the College of Biological Sciences (CBS). Our plan includes allowing CBS students to take some of our lecture courses to satisfy their degree electives as well as a combined degree plan for a BS in Biology and a professional masters in MLS. In addition to CBS, we're also working on similar plans with the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Continuing Education. Through these new associations we're developing better visibility for the MLS Program while building strong connections to recruit high quality students into our program and into the field of laboratory medicine. These internal affiliations join our existing academic affiliations with Minnesota State University, Mankato (MSU), St. Cloud State University (SCSU), and University of Wisconsin, River Falls (UWRF) (page 4). We're also developing new recruiting activities for the Minnesota Science Teachers Association, Health Science advisors and high school students. We also participated in the U of M booth at the State Fair (page 5).

This year also marks the beginning of our accreditation renewal process. We submitted our Self-Study this past October (no citations!!) and our Site Visit is scheduled for March 28th & 29th. We're looking forward to a full 10 year accreditation award. Although we work with our clinical advisors on a regular basis, we restarted our Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee includes members from hospitals, clinics, healthcare systems, research, reference,

public health and environmental laboratories that serve as our clinical experience sites as well as representatives from graduate and professional programs that are popular with our students.

We also want to thank all of our alumni for their continuing financial support through donations for student scholarships. Every donation makes a difference for our students. This year we received a new endowed scholarship in memory of Ruth (nee Okney) Stavitsky from the class of 1942. The program gave her an excellent education enabling her to be a valuable research partner to her husband Abram (PhD class of 1943); best known for his discovery of the isotope shift in immune memory response. Ruth's lifelong interest in equal opportunity is reflected in this scholarship's preference for underrepresented students in our program.

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
- Another faculty retirement– we're going to really miss you Pat B
- New faculty members – Hannah Gartzke and Tami Alpaugh
- Former faculty losses – Carol Wells and Lorraine Gonyea-Stewart
- 2015 Alumni Banquet honoring the classes of 1940, 1965, and 1990.
- Upcoming Alumni Banquet in 2016 honoring the graduates of 1941, 1966, and 1991.
  - *If you are interested in reserving a table for you and your classmates contact Rhonda Layer at layer006@umn.edu or 612-625-8936.*

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, MT(ASCP)SM

# ASCLS Annual Meeting CLEC 2015 & 2016



The 83rd annual ASCLS National meeting was held in Atlanta, GA, July 28th – August 1st in conjunction with the Advanced Management Institute. The AMI began on Sunday, July 26th. For two days attendees were able to attend sessions involving management topics that affect all areas of the laboratory.

Tuesday was a full day of governance starting with the annual board meeting and continuing with national committee meetings throughout the day. The meeting officially began on Wednesday with the Industry Award Ceremony, where Roche Diagnostics Corporation was awarded the President's Award. There was a tie for the Crystal Award between Beckman Coulter, Inc. and Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics. The Honorable Mention Award was presented to Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc. The keynote was an interesting presentation on the lessons learned from the Ebola response from the perspective of laboratory safety. The rest of the week included many interesting and informative presentations from all of the laboratory disciplines.

Karen Larson, of the University of Minnesota Medical Center, is the new Vice-Chair of the New Professional and New Member Forum.

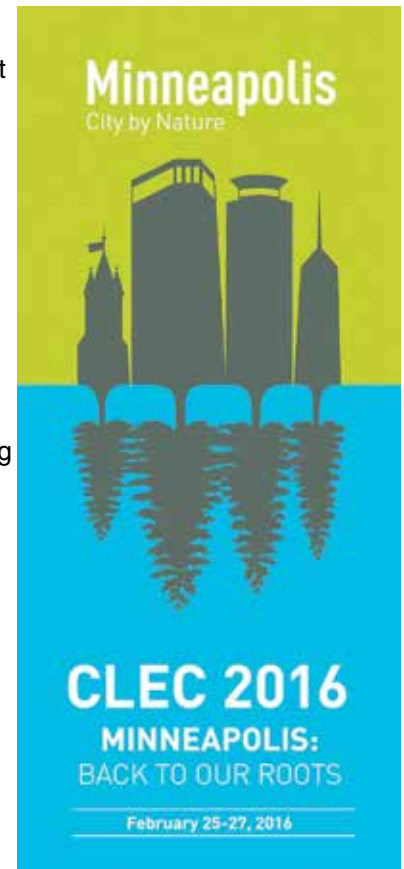
Minnesota came home with several of the awards that were given out at the National Meeting.

- Student Forum Leadership Award – Bridget Parsons
- Bio-Rad Scientific Assembly Professional Achievement Award – Deb Rodahl, Administration/QA/QC/Regulatory/ Industry/Consulting
- Keys to the Future Awards – Jenna Pruitt, Kelley Weber and Kristy Connors

The highlight of the national meeting for many was reconnecting 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. ■

The 2015 Clinical Laboratory Educators' Conference (CLEC) was held in Cincinnati, Ohio and although a snowstorm sent many people headed home early, there were still plenty of great sessions before the snow arrived. Dr. Conway-Klaassen presented a roundtable, *Challenges for MLS University Programs*. Other topics presented included using Pinterest to teach parasitology, teaching professionalism, legal issues associated with healthcare and education, laboratory simulations, talks for new faculty and for faculty looking to retire soon. Incorporating technology into the classroom, Interprofessional education, adding molecular diagnostics into the curriculum, writing in medical laboratory courses, and teaching patient safety were some of the topics that generated a great deal of interest. There will be more on these topics when CLEC comes to Minneapolis in February, 2016.

Drs. Janice Conway-Klaassen and Donna Spannaus-Martin, who are serving as Co-Chairs for CLEC 2016, extended an invitation to those in attendance to come to Minneapolis, where the first CLEC was held in 1985. Although they couldn't promise there wouldn't be a snowstorm during the Minnesota CLEC, attendees could at least be reassured that with Minneapolis skyways, visitors wouldn't need to venture outside very much. ■



# ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium

The ASCLS Region V 2015 Fall Symposium was held on October 1st and 2nd at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria, Minnesota. The Symposium is a collaborative effort between the ASCLS Societies of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The program offers multiple opportunities for continuing education, exploring over 30 exhibitor displays, and networking. Dr. Sharon Ehrmeyer,

Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health was the Friday morning keynote speaker. Sharon presented *The Individualized Quality Control Plan (IQCP): Where are we now? What needs to be done?*

Next year's Region V Fall Symposium will be held in Fargo, North Dakota on October 6th and 7th. We hope to see you there! ■

## 2015 Minnesota Laboratory Professionals Workforce Summit

The Minnesota Laboratory Workforce Summit brings educators and employers together every few years to look at the need for laboratory professionals. The goal is to encourage medical laboratory sites to take on more students and for education programs to increase their enrollment.

On September 25th, HealthForce Minnesota brought together laboratory professionals at the CentraCare Health Plaza Education Center in St. Cloud, Minnesota to discuss the critical needs of the laboratory. Approximately 90 professionals from clinical settings, laboratory education, as well as individuals from hospital administration and human resources gathered for this meeting. There were several wonderful presentations and discussions. Topics included current laboratory workforce needs, the use of simulation in laboratory training, and the challenges for clinical sites taking medical laboratory students for clinical education. It was clear from the discussions that the need for medical laboratory scientists will continue to increase for the next 7-10 years.

Every month in Minnesota, (between 2013 and 2015), there were 25 to 30 new MLS job postings and approximately 20 new MLT jobs posted, according to data from CareerBuilder Supply & Demand. Despite this high demand from 2013 to the present, Minnesota MLS programs have only graduated 110 students and MLT programs have graduated 90 students. Additionally, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates this demand to increase by 22% by the year 2022. ■

## Academic Affiliations Add Quality Graduates to the Workforce

As part of our mission to educate professional laboratory scientists for Minnesota and the surrounding area, the MLS Program has long-term formal academic agreements with Minnesota State University, Mankato and St. Cloud State University. This year we added University of Wisconsin, River Falls to our list of formal agreements with two prospective university relationships we hope will be active by Fall 2017. This Fall we admitted one student from St. Cloud, six students from Mankato and three students from River Falls. Students at these colleges complete their prerequisite courses at their home university and then apply for admission to year 4 at the U of M MLS Program. The external academic affiliate students transfer the MLS Program courses back to their home institution for completion of their degree. They also receive a certificate of completion from the MLS Program which appears on their U of M transcript. Like all of our graduates they are then eligible for the ASCP Board of Certification exam. We are also developing formal advising plans for students in the College of Biological Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and the College of Continuing Education here at the U of M. By developing formal agreements and advising plans we hope to increase our visibility and draw the best and the brightest to our program. ■



# Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Meeting – April 2015

*Unique Collaboration of Organizations Provides Quality Opportunities*



The annual Clinical Laboratory Collaborative meeting was in Rochester this year, April 29th – May 1st at the Mayo Civic Auditorium. The meeting is a collaboration of the laboratory professional groups in Minnesota including ASCLS, AACC, AMT, AGT, ACSP, MIMA, and CLMA.

When we speak to other colleagues around the country, it's apparent that we have a unique situation in Minnesota with the collaboration of all of our laboratory professional organizations. Pooling our resources gives us the opportunity to bring in national speakers and a large number of vendors, enabling us to offer high caliber CE opportunities to the technologists in our state.

The meeting included three days of education presentations, a vendor exhibit hall and several social activities for networking and fun. There were three outstanding keynote speakers and 44 breakout sessions for attendees to choose from.

There were tours of the Mayo laboratories for both students and interested technologists. The weather was perfect for walking around Rochester and seeing the changes connected with the Destination Medical Center being developed with the Mayo Clinic.

The Thursday evening social event was an interactive pub-style trivia game put on by Sporcle Live! Attendees broke up into groups



and competed for bragging rights and gift cards. The competition was fierce!

The exhibit socials featured great food and lots of networking both with vendors and colleagues. The always popular Silent Auction raised funds for student scholarships. The coveted item this year was the martini basket. It was another successful meeting and we should be proud to have such a great meeting in our state. ■

**Save the Date!!! CLC 2016 is April 25 – 27, at the Earle Brown Center in Brooklyn Center, MN.**

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

The Center for Allied Health Programs was invited to have an exhibit at the state fair this year and both the Medical Laboratory Sciences and Occupational Therapy programs participated. Faculty from the MLS Program wanted to educate fairgoers about the profession and the importance of medical laboratory scientists in the healthcare field. There was an interactive display for fairgoers to see if they could match chromosomes into a complete karyotype. Numerous fairgoers, MLS practitioners, and interested students stopped to talk with the MLS faculty to learn about our profession. It was a busy day at the fair for the MLS instructors but it was fun and we hope to return next year! ■



# Minnesota Science Educator Outreach



To promote the University of Minnesota MLS Program and to educate others about the profession, five MLS faculty attended the Minnesota Science Teachers Association Conference on Science Education on February 21, 2015. The purpose of the conference was to provide high school science educators a chance to network and share new ideas to use in their classroom. Charlotte Romain and

Steve Wiesner presented an interactive session called *Bringing Medical Laboratory Sciences into Your Classroom* to approximately 30 high

school educators. This session provided hands-on guidance for performing laboratory testing related to the MLS curriculum using easy to find, non-infectious materials and recipes to simulate laboratory testing such as a urinalysis, blood typing, and infectious disease testing. Nicole Zahnle, Christine Maleck, and Lorna Ruskin assisted in the hands-on demonstration and a booth exhibit which provided information regarding the profession and the MLS program. Many educators requested more information about the program and the profession. The experience generated new ideas for recruitment and outreach opportunities. ■

## What's New at the U! Follow the Crowd

by Amy Sitze

When Warren Bischoff faced a bone marrow transplant to treat his non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 2008, he was realistic about his chances of survival. "There was a very good chance I was going to die," he says.



The senior managing director at RBC Wealth Management in Washington, D.C., decided to do his part to help researchers work toward a cure for his disease. Along with his family and friends, he raised \$83,000 for lymphoma research through a fundraising bike ride. "Taking action helped me deal with my cancer," says Bischoff, who is cancer-free today, "and it helped other people take action on my behalf." So when his friend and fellow RBC executive Kevin (whose last name is omitted to protect his privacy) began treatment at the University of Minnesota for pancreatic cancer this year, Bischoff once again took action. He used the U of M's new crowdfunding tool to launch a fundraising campaign called Breaking Bald, in which 12 RBC colleagues across the nation shaved their heads in Kevin's honor.

The campaign exceeded its ambitious \$50,000 goal, with funds earmarked for the U's Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund. Whether it's a bike ride like Bischoff's or a campaign to fund a student-run literary magazine, group fundraising efforts can have

powerful results. The U of M's new crowdfunding website, launched in November 2014, allows anyone to create a page, set a goal, and begin raising funds for meaningful causes at the U. Unlike commercial tools, the site doesn't charge an administrative fee, which means 100 percent of each donation goes to the designated cause.

There are two main ways to raise funds: a team page or an individual page. On an individual page, multiple donors use one page to give to a cause. On team pages like Bischoff's, multiple users create pages that raise money for the same cause and goal. For example, many participants in the popular Goldy's Run, which raises money for U of M Masonic Children's Hospital, choose to create team pages in which groups of people band together to encourage friends and families to donate—often in honor or memory of a loved one. This past year, individuals and teams participating in Goldy's Run brought in \$21,536 through the crowdfunding tool.

For Bischoff, crowdfunding has been more than just a fundraiser—it's an opportunity to do something positive in the face of a horrible disease. "We often feel helpless when it comes to helping our friends who are facing cancer," he says. "This gives us a chance to fight back, show we care, and have an impact." ■

# For the Zachs and the Karens *By Nicole Endres*

(Photos: J. Dunn Photography and courtesy Wyckoff family)

The families of Zach Sobiech and Karen Wyckoff are supporting promising new osteosarcoma research at the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota.

For Masonic Cancer Center scientists Branden Moriarity and David Largaespada, it's about the Wyckoffs, the Sobiechs, and thousands of other families who are all too familiar with osteosarcoma and its devastating effects. These families fuel the researchers' passion to cure this often deadly form of bone cancer. And they recently got a little closer to that goal.

A new mouse model developed at the Masonic Cancer Center has revealed the genes and pathways that, when altered, can cause osteosarcoma. The information could be used to improve treatments for future patients. Their discoveries were published in the respected journal *Nature Genetics* in May.

"Human osteosarcoma tumors are so genetically disordered that it's nearly impossible to utilize the usual methods to identify the genes associated with them," says Moriarity, an assistant professor in the University of Minnesota Medical School's Department of Pediatrics. "This model offers the first opportunity to identify and understand the genetic drivers of osteosarcoma on a broad scale."

The research was funded by the Karen Wyckoff Rein in Sarcoma Foundation and the Zach Sobiech Osteosarcoma Fund of the Children's Cancer Research Fund, as well as the National Cancer Institute and American Cancer Society.

"Philanthropy played a major role in helping us to establish the mouse model we used," says Largaespada, a professor in the departments of Pediatrics and Genetics, Cell Biology, and Development. "Moreover, we used philanthropy to study specific osteosarcoma genes further. Without these funds, we could not have gone as fast or as far in this work, perhaps delaying delivery of new cures to patients."

The scientists' genomic analysis uncovered several osteosarcoma genes that make proteins that could be targets for therapies in the future. They found that the genes SEMA4D and SEMA6D were expressed at high levels in more than half of all human osteosarcomas.

"SEMA4D seems to cause many human osteosarcomas to grow out of control," says Largaespada. Inhibiting the expression of that gene could help stop the growth of osteosarcoma.

The U of M team's progress brings hope to many who have seen this "horrible, ugly disease" firsthand, says Laura Sobiech, whose son Zach died of osteosarcoma in 2013.

"They are the superstars that nobody knows," she says of the researchers. "They are in this for reasons that go so far beyond just recognition. They truly care about these kids. I have hope now, and it's because of that team."



Pete Wyckoff, whose daughter, Karen, died of sarcoma in 2001, agrees that it's easy to support this team of "bright, committed researchers" who have their hearts in the right place.

"We're very proud that we were in on the ground floor to help make this idea happen," he says. ■

## Introducing Gold Mind

There are a million websites where you can get information on everyday problems and insight into today's pressing issues. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association has made Gold Mind available to you as a source you can trust! Gold Mind is a collection of online videos on topics presented by University experts on health, career, arts and culture, publishing and traveling. UMAA also presents an Alumni Webinar Series where you can ask the speakers questions to get exactly the advice you need. Here's where you can find Gold Mind: <http://z.umn.edu/goldmindot>. ■



# The Power of Giving



**A**lumni 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 2015 and continue to ask for your help in 2016 – no matter what the size of the donation. ***Below is a listing of the students you have helped through your scholarship donations in 2015.*** ■

## ***Alumni Fund Scholarships***

- Clustelle Charles
- Courtney Truax
- Haley Vaith
- Molly Weavers
- Molly West
- David Wildeman
- Brook Wilson

## ***Yvonne Chenoweth Cooke Scholarship Fund***

- Monica Halbur
- Elizabeth Wehlander

## ***Gonyea-Stewart Scholarship Fund***

- Molly Weavers
- Brooke Wilson

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

- Fahima Abdi
- Clustelle Charles
- Sarah Haerle
- Christopher Junko

## ***Audrey Dorsen Lapeyrouse Scholarship***

- Elizabeth Wehlander

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

- Yuqing Chen
- Turri Geleto
- Davika Richter
- Hannah Schultz
- Jonathon Thronson
- Huy Tran

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

- Madeleine Otis

## ***Abner M. Neeley Scholarship***

- Abdikani Ali
- Malake Araya
- Siyad Ayub
- Daniel Christensen
- Bereket Demissei
- Eric Freeman

## ***Abner M. Neeley Scholarship (cont.)***

- Erin Fredell
- Monica Halbur
- Elizabeth Hilfens
- Lindsey Hoffman
- Kenneth Jombwe
- Ashley Kirberger
- Rachel Lee
- Joseph Leprince
- Aliaksandra Liapich
- Lan Liu
- Helen Maddix
- Caitlin Mein
- Danelle Murray
- Ngan Ngo
- Miranda Nibbe
- Samantha Quandahl
- Jacqueline Salden
- Adam Snow
- Joshua Stoner
- Harumi Tanikawa
- Ka Thao
- Haley Vaith

## ASCLS-MN Scholarship Winner

**E**very year ASCLS-MN awards four scholarships to students enrolled in a Minnesota based Medical Laboratory Sciences program. This year Christopher Junko, a University of Minnesota Rochester student, received a \$1500 scholarship funded by United Hospital Foundation - Claussen Fund. Chris is a nontraditional student who decided to go back to school in 2012. With the support of his wife, he graduated from Inver Hills Community College (IHCC) and transferred to University of

Wisconsin-River Falls which is an affiliate of the University's MLS program. Besides beginning an exciting career in healthcare upon graduation, Chris intends to volunteer at elementary schools to promote the importance of math and science careers. Congratulations, Chris, on your scholarship award! ■





# Thank You for Your Generous Contributions to the Medical Laboratory Science Program in 2015

## **\$1001 to \$2000**

- Stella S. & Marvin D. Cook
- Karin J. Libby/Living Trust

## **\$500 to \$1000**

- Joanne S. & Lee W. Arvid
- Kathleen A. & David R. Carlsen
- Clareyse Nelson Fund-Mpls Fdn
- David E. Ellis
- Stephen J. & Susan K. Fautsch
- Marcine J. Forrette
- General Mills Fdn
- Todd C. & Mary E. Jacobson
- Billie Anne Juni
- Barbara J. Moser
- Clareyse E. Nelson
- Marilyn D. Olson
- Sandra R. Rutzick
- Verne E. & Phyllis J. Weiss
- Andrew R. Yue

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

- Anonymous Donor
- Marilyn T. Budge
- Kimberly A. & David W. Butler
- Annie O. Chow
- Robert A. Dahl
- Sharon M. Deml
- Robin L. Donner
- Mary J. Eaves-Raich & John J. Raich
- Grace M. Ederer
- Claudine E. Fasching
- Catherine L. & John W. Foster
- Linda L. Fredrickson
- Reggie L. Gausman
- Mardie G. Geiser
- Kathryn H. Glen
- Carol M. Gonzales
- Marilyn J. Halonen
- Carol L. Harris
- Ruth M. Hartman
- Jacquelin A. Heggernes
- Karen K. Huff
- Phyllis M. Jacobs
- Rita M. Jacobson
- Stephen J. & Lisa J. Jarvis
- Shirley E. & Robert S. Kenning
- Sridhar & Usha R. Kota
- Patricia J. Kriesel

- George Kuprian
- Vickie L. Larson
- Linda A. Lewis
- Jean J. Linne
- Connie J. Luebke
- Marilyn J. Lueck
- Betty L. McMartin
- Arlene M. Meadows
- Lois G. Meiners
- Barbara G. Melamed
- Brian J. Meline
- Diane M. Michalik
- Donald M. & Kathleen W. Nadreau
- Beverly R. Ness
- DeVonne J. & Dennis E. Nilsson
- Patricia L. Norgren
- Joseph D. & Joan L. Novak
- Jeanne C. Olsen
- James R. & Sheryl F. Olson
- David J. & Mary Jo Pennington
- John J. & Donna J. Plunkett
- James H. & Elberta L. Prestegard
- Thelma J. Purcelli
- Kathryn L. Rantala
- Kathleen K. Reimers
- Karen L. Ringsrud
- John L. Roesler
- Betty D. Roskos
- Dale W. & Cheryl M. Rozeboom
- Laura G. Rude
- James G. Ruggles\*
- Norynne M. Schiminsky
- Michael R. & Kathleen P. Tekautz
- Katherine A. & Wayne J. Vagts
- Aija K. Vikmanis
- Kent D. & Marcia K. Wall
- Nettie M. Warwood
- Donna J. Wieb
- Xcel Energy Fdn
- Michael E. & Carolyn A. Young

## **Up to \$100**

- Susan A. Adlis
- Umalkair Y. Amare
- Eleanore A. Bredvold
- Mary E. Clay
- Joanne G. Deden
- Barbara M. Deisting
- Donna E. Dzubay
- Lorilee B. Echernach
- Alexander S. Eдорh

- Pamela R. Elliott
- Arthur T. & Kay E. Emmons
- Leanna L. Erickson
- Carol I. Evans
- David J. & Julie M. Fanger
- Richard J. & Susan K. Feist
- Harriet D. Fritts
- Barbara A. Getchell
- Barbara J. Gilbert
- Sandra L. Gould
- Carol K. Johnson
- Mary E. & George A. Kuhlmann
- Brian L. Lauber
- Janice C. Lohman
- Patricia H. Long
- Melissa L. Love
- Leslie A. MacKichan
- Marvin L. & Cynthia A. Menken
- Mary Lou G. Mohn
- Judith A. Nelson
- Lucille K. Norman
- Anita A. Oakman
- Kristin L. Odom
- Wendy L. Oien
- Ferdinanda L. Otness
- Sandra V. Pearson
- Jean E. Peterson\*
- Alice E. Pierce
- Mary Lou Pogue
- Barbara J. Reinhardt
- Marilyn J. & Gregory P. Rynders
- Sandra L. Sauer
- Clarice M. Seim
- Kathleen Skradski
- Kathryn L. Smith
- Lois J. & Peter M. Smith
- Pamela D. Swanson
- Mary A. Thornquist
- Joy A. Tkachuck
- Constance C. Verre
- Judith A. Winter
- Becky L. Wong
- Sharon E. Wurst
- Howard Collins Pierce in memoriam and Mrs. Howard Pierce
- A \$100 anonymous donation was made in memory of Carol Van Halle, Class of 1965

\* Deceased

If you wish to make a contribution, please visit:

[cahp.umn.edu/give-to-cahp-programs](http://cahp.umn.edu/give-to-cahp-programs) or call: U of M Foundation at 800-775-2187

# Student Spotlight

## HARUMI TANAKAWA – Year 4



Harumi came to the United States in 2010 from Ishkari, Japan, leaving her entire family, to

pursue her education. She attended community college in California majoring in pre-nursing. After taking a microbiology course and volunteering in a hospital patient care unit, she decided MLS was for her. That decision led her to Mankato, Minnesota to complete her prerequisites for MLS, and she is now earning her first degree at U of M Rochester. After graduation, she would like to gain experience in both urban and rural hospitals. Her interests also include working in healthcare facilities in developing countries. She likes helping people, hanging out with her friends, reading and watching television shows from different countries. Harumi also enjoys cooking with friends and eating too much of their tasty creations. ■

## TURRI GELETO – Year 4



Turri Geleto was born in Ethiopia and moved to the United States in 2005 at the age of 14. He has completed

the credits for a physiology degree here at the University and will be graduating with a BA in physiology along with a BS in Medical Laboratory Sciences. The MLS Program was recommended to Turri by other students when he was a sophomore. He chose this program because he enjoys working in a laboratory setting, utilizing technologically advanced instruments, and performing tests. He also sees this career as an opportunity to contribute to quality care for patients. Turri hopes to work in the chemistry department in a hospital laboratory here in Minnesota. Turri is an avid sports fan. He loves playing soccer in his spare time and also enjoys cheering on his favorite teams: the Minnesota Vikings and the Minnesota Timberwolves. ■

## SAMANTHA SCHUTZ – Year 3



Samantha considers herself a bit of a nomad who has lived in five states and another country. She has a large family spread out

across the country, but Rochester is home for now so she can be nearer to her grandparents. Samantha decided to pursue an MLS degree when she heard about it from an organic chemistry classmate. Upon finding out more about a career in MLS, she decided that the opportunities were just the ticket for her. She's especially excited about the challenges, the variety of specialties, and flexibility of MLS. Her plans after graduation include putting her knowledge to work and eventually going to graduate school. However, she's looking forward to having an MLS degree that she can use throughout her lifetime. Samantha's hobbies include her love of animals, especially horses. She also likes to bead and enjoys outdoor activities. Samantha previously worked as a certified nursing assistant and is also a licensed massage therapist in Hawaii! ■

## JACQUELINE SALDEN OTTO – Year 4



Jacqueline Salden Otto was born and raised in Waconia, Minnesota. She has been married to her wonderful husband Ben for three years and together they have two "kids," a pair of Boston Terriers named Zoe and Ruby. Throughout

her biochemistry course work she found that her most memorable classes were spent in the laboratory setting and she made plans to continue her education in a medical program. These plans were delayed due to family financial challenges. In order to help her family Jackie put her career goals on hold. Jackie has now shifted gears to pursue her dream of working in the healthcare field after being accepted into the University of Minnesota MLS Program. After graduation Jackie hopes to work in microbiology in a hospital laboratory setting. During free time Jackie enjoys baking and softball, and has recently taken up the game of golf with her husband. ■

## JACOB TIEGS – Year 3



Jacob Tiegs comes from the small town of Henderson, Minnesota. He spent most of his childhood on his grandparents' farm. Jacob learned about the MLS program in microbiology class. His instructor made it sound like the coolest career ever. Jacob

found an article that compared an MLS career to being the detectives of the medical field. Jacob also appreciates that the field will continue to evolve with advancements in technology and the biological sciences. An avid climber, he spends his free time at the climbing gym and, whenever possible, at the local crags. When he is not climbing, he enjoys watercolor and drawing. After graduation Jacob would like to move out west for the opportunities in big wall climbing, and eventually to further his education in the field of molecular biology. ■

# Students in Action

## MLS Student Bake Sale

The MLS Class of 2015 held their first bake sale in the Phillips Wangensteen Building on April 10, 2015. What a success! The students, under the guidance of MLS Program Laboratory Manager Christine Maleck, raised \$200 which was used to supplement the students' attendance at the 2015 Alumni Banquet. Students and faculty contributed the baked goods. Not only did the students earn money for the Alumni dinner but they were also great ambassadors for the program as they wore their new MLS t-shirts and enlightened customers about the role laboratory professionals play in patient care. "People were very generous! It was great to see the support for the program and the MLS community." *Hannah Schultz, Class of 2015* ■



## ASCLS Student Forum Chair

Amy Blumke is this year's ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair. One of her first actions as the Student Forum Chair was to attend the Annual Meeting in Atlanta. Amy reported that it showed the importance of her role as a representative of the next generation of medical laboratory professionals. She was involved in planning the Annual Student Night on November 4th at which a career panel spoke to students about the various career paths one can take with an MLS or MLT degree. There were also presentations about interviewing techniques, scholarship opportunities, and the BOC exam. Amy is also currently in the process of forming a committee of students who will help raise awareness of ASCLS and in planning future fundraisers and other events. ■



## Student Scrubs

The class of 2016 is the first cohort required to wear scrubs for lab days and clinical rotations.



The logo was designed and the first sets of scrubs were ordered last spring by students in the class of 2015. The scrubs look professional and quickly identify our students as University of Minnesota MLS Program students. The response from students and the clinical sites has been positive. ■



## Lab Week Celebration! April 19 – 25, 2015

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (MLPW) is a time to promote and celebrate the laboratory profession. Students, faculty, and staff celebrated with a pizza potluck and bowling on Monday. We also had a recruitment table in Phillips Wangensteen Building on Tuesday and a baby picture contest on Thursday. It was a great week to share our pride in the Medical Laboratory Profession and to wear our new MLS t-shirts! Thanks to all who participated in making this year's MLPW celebration a success! ■



# Focus on Faculty

## New Faculty!



**HANNAH GARTZKE**, Teaching Specialist, joined the MLS Program in the summer of 2015 where she is assisting course directors during student labs. Hannah graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with Bachelor of Science degrees in Clinical Laboratory Science and Biology. Hannah came to us from Fairview's MLS Program where she

was an education coordinator and program supervisor. Hannah is taking graduate CLS classes at Rutgers University. When she's not at work, Hannah is busy chasing her 1 year old daughter chase their dog around.



**TAMI ALPAUGH**, Director of Clinical Education, joined the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in August of 2015 where she coordinates the clinical experience for year 4 students. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences from North Dakota State University in 2009 and her Masters of Science in Management from

Walden University in 2015. Tami previously worked at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in several different roles including technical lead and supervisor. Tami loves spending time with her family and travelling.

## Charlotte Romain Named ASCLS-MN Member of the Year

**CHARLOTTE ROMAIN** was named the ASCLS-MN 2015 Member of the Year which recognizes a member who has contributed significantly to the field of clinical laboratory science in the past 5-10 years and who has, by outstanding example, inspired others as an active member in the organization. Charlotte has been a member of ASCLS for over 20 years. In 2009, she participated in the ASCLS National Leadership Academy and has been a strong leader in the profession ever since! This year, she has also been instrumental in getting the word out about the University of Minnesota Medical Laboratory Sciences Program by having a booth at the annual Minnesota Science Teachers' Convention and recruiting at local high schools. ■



## Goodbye to Former Faculty & Friends

**LORRAINE GONYEA STEWART**, age 92 of St. Paul, died on October 17, 2015. She attended St. Scholastica College for two years, and



graduated with a BS in Medical Technology from the University of Minnesota in 1944. She obtained a masters degree in anatomy and pathology and taught a generation of medical

technologists and medical students at the University. She was a Fulbright Scholar to Norway in 1955 where she conducted research on blood coagulation leading to the discovery and production of ferritin. She contributed most of the proceeds to the MLS Program scholarship fund in her name. She was Senior Editor of the Clinical Chemistry Section of the American Journal of Medical Technology. After retirement in 1984, she was a volunteer at the Minnesota History Center, a benefactor of the Minnesota Historical Society, and remained active in the Minnesota Symphony, Walker Art Center and Guthrie Theater. ■



With sadness, we report that **CAROL L. WELLS** passed-away following a long battle with breast cancer. Over the course of her career, Carol selflessly shared her expertise with Medical Laboratory Sciences students, teaching pathogenic microbiology for

over 25 years. Her dedication to the Program was unparalleled and she cherished the relationships she forged with others within the program after she stopped teaching. She twice served as the Program Director and successfully led the program during a difficult transition to incorporate online, digital education models. In all of her endeavors at the University, she constantly defended the rights of faculty to academic freedom and fair and equal treatment. She mentored undergraduate and graduate students alike and changed the lives of countless students for the better. Carol was an enthusiastic scientist, consistently funded by the NIH as well as the author of innumerable publications (well over 100). In spite of her scientific accomplishments, she was forever proud of her undergraduate degree in medical technology and of the profession. Carol's wit and wisdom will surely be missed by all who knew her. ■

# Commencement for the Class of 2015

The Center for Allied Health Programs held its annual graduation ceremony for the Medical Laboratory Sciences and Occupational Therapy students on December 18, 2015, at Northrup Memorial Auditorium. Dr. Stephen Wiesner led the procession, carrying the ceremonial mace of the University of Minnesota, followed by faculty, distinguished guests, and graduates.

Dr. Charles Christiansen, the former Director of the Center of Allied Health Programs, delivered the commencement address. Dr. Christiansen urged students to seize the day and to follow the 4 "L's" of life: live, love, learn and leave a legacy as healthcare professionals.



The student address was given by Hannah Schultz. Hannah stressed that, "a successful medical laboratory scientist must have a love for science, compassion for others, an ability to

adapt quickly in stressful situations, and most importantly, you must be a team player." She encouraged students to be an advocate for the profession by being a voice on the medical team and in the community.

Each student was presented their diploma as they walked across the stage and received congratulatory handshakes from the Honorable Laura Brod, University of Minnesota Regent; Dr. Allen Levine, Vice Provost, Faculty and Academic Affairs; Dr. Barbara F. Brandt, Associate Vice President for Education in the Academic Health Center, and Dr. Janice Conway-Klaassen, Program Director of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program.



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

**Congratulations graduates!**

Fahima M. Abdi  
Melake W. Araya  
Siyad A. Ayub  
Caitlyn L. Beck  
Clustelle Nielle Charles  
Daniel J. Christensen  
Erin E. Fredell  
Allison E. Germ  
Bereket A. Getachew  
Dylan T. Gilbertson  
Laurie M. Haas

Gutama Azhar Hamza  
Mustafa R. Hassan  
Elizabeth C. Hilfers  
Breanna R. Jaycox  
Ashley S. Kirberger  
Aliaksandra A. Liapich  
Ayub H. Limat  
Lan Hy Liu  
Kajsa L. Mader  
Caitlin M. Mein  
Jessica M. Melnichuk

Emily J. Meyer  
Danelle H. Murray  
Nicole M. Nelsestuen\*  
Ngan Vo Ngo  
Vitaliy V. Perepelitsa  
Melinda Thanh Tuyen Pham  
Samantha R. Quandahl  
Davika S. Richter  
Hannah B. Schultz  
Hiruy Tessema  
Jonathon L. Thronson

Huy Huu Tran  
Courtney L. Truax  
Elizabeth J. Wehlander  
Molly E. West  
David B. Wildeman,  
Chee M. Xiong  
Maxamed Mahdi Yussuf  
Zahra Zhian

## Thank you to the 2015 Clinical Affiliates!

During the summer and fall semesters in 2015, 40 clinical affiliates took 43 senior students for their 12 week clinical experience in the areas of chemistry/UA, hematology/coag, transfusion medicine, or microbiology. We are thankful for their ongoing support of our MLS students and program.

*ACMC-Willmar*  
*Allina Health System*  
*Avera Marshall Regional Medical Ctr.*  
*CentraCare Health:*  
*Essentia Health:*  
*St. Joseph's Medical Center*  
*St. Mary's Medical Center*  
*Fairview Health System:*  
*FirstLight Health System*  
*HealthEast Care System:*

*HealthPartners:*  
*Hudson Physicians S.C.*  
*Mayo Clinic Health System:*  
*Minneapolis VA Health Care System*  
*Minnesota Department of Health*  
*Northfield Hospital*  
*North Memorial Medical Center*  
*Rice Memorial Hospital*  
*Ridgeview Medical Center:*  
*St. Luke's Hospital*

## 2015 Alumni Banquet

Alumni, students, and friends gathered at the University of Minnesota McNamara Alumni Center on Saturday April 25, 2015. The banquet began with an early social hour allowing guests to mingle with classmates, students, and faculty. Dr. Barbara Brandt presented welcoming remarks from the Academic Health Center. Program Director Janice Conway-Klaassen



followed with MLS Program updates. We had eleven alumni from the 50th Anniversary Class (1965) including: Marilyn (Scovil) Cavanaugh, Helen Hallgren, Mary Koenke, Linda Lewis, Jane (Fisher) Mayer, Patricia (Mortenson) Norgren, Marilyn (Lauring) Olson, Sandra Rutzik, Carol VanHale, and James and Marlene Voita. Alumni shared stories of their days as students and James and Marlene Voita also shared a video of their class from 1965 filmed here at the University of Minnesota. ■

## Alumni of the Year award recipient Karin Libby

Karin Libby was presented the Alumni of the Year Award at the 2015 MLS Alumni Banquet. She decided at an early age that she wanted to be a scientist and graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical Technology Program in the spring of 1969. Karin began work in the microbiology lab at the University of Minnesota Hospital and then moved into administration and became the laboratory manager. In 1997 Fairview Health System purchased the U of M Hospital and Clinics and they quickly became



part of a very large health system. At this point she was managing Microbiology, Virology, Histocompatibility, Apheresis Blood Donor Center, and the Cell Therapy Lab. In the early 2000's Karin earned her masters certificate in Organizational Leadership from St. Catherine University; and in 2010 she accepted the position of Laboratory Director for the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview. Over the years Karin has been active in MIMA (Minnesota Interlaboratory Microbiology Association), CLMA (Clinical Laboratory Manager Association), and the U of M Medical Technology Alumni Board. She was active in education, giving lectures for many years to the Fairview and U of M MLS programs on the use of cost accounting, ordering of supplies and equipment, and financial management.

Karin retired in January of 2013 to spend more time with her children and grandchildren. When she is not with them she has a large, extended family in Minnesota with whom she spends time. Karin is an avid reader, likes to walk, does intricate beadwork projects, and has lunch with many friends. She is busy, happy, and very much enjoying retirement! ■

## Retirement: Time to Enjoy!

After years of excellent service as manager of the student teaching laboratories and Clinical Coordinator for the MLS (CLS) programs, Patricia Brennecke has decided to retire and enjoy life poolside!

Patricia was a student in one of the last Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA) classes at the University of Minnesota and after completing the program, she worked fulltime at Mounds Park Hospital in St. Paul. She found she enjoyed her work as an MLA and decided to continue her education at the University of Minnesota, enrolling in the Medical Technology Program in 1973. She interrupted her career for a few years to raise her family before returning to work as a Search Coordinator for NMDP. She also worked at MN Oncology for a number of years. In 2008, Pat accepted the position as the Clinical Coordinator of the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program at the University of Minnesota.



Now that she is retired, Pat finally has time to devote to one of her interests, photography. She also continues to be an avid reader, belongs to a book club, researching genealogy, traveling and gardening.

We wish her all the best! Enjoy, Pat! ■

## Note to the Class of 1966!

Your classmates are organizing a short walking tour of campus on the morning of April 23rd, followed by lunch at Stub and Herbs; to reconvene for happy hour at the annual MLS Alumni Banquet at McNamara Alumni center at 5:00 p.m.. Please watch your email for more information and pass this along to anyone you think may have lost contact with classmates.

For more information contact Rhonda Layer, CAHP Projects Coordinator, at 612-625-8936 or [layer006@umn.edu](mailto:layer006@umn.edu) ■

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE 2016 MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES ALUMNI BANQUET!

The annual Alumni Banquet will be held at the McNamara Alumni Center on the University of Minnesota East Bank Campus, Saturday, April 23rd. Cocktail hour (cash bar) will begin at 5:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:00 p.m., and a brief program to follow. There will be a special recognition of the Classes of 1941, 1966 and 1991. We encourage all alumni to attend!

### 75th Anniversary Class of 1941

Dorothy C Anderson*	Mary R Gilman*	Annabelle Lee	Mary C Randall*	Merle T Stoa
Marjorie A Brownfield	Dorothy Haselby	June Lewis*	Helen M Ratermann*	Vivian Turnbolt
L. Jane Carr	Lucy B Irvin*	Marcella S Lilygren*	Franziska Sandler*	Janet Walliser*
Marilyn J Coulter*	Ann Isle*	Dorothy W Lytle	Dorothy M Sanford*	Louise White
Lorayne A Cummings*	Imogene Jenson	Nancy E Malmquist*	Elizabeth M Shimp*	Marion Wiedl
Mary A Daleiden*	Catherine Johnson	Doris McNairy	Mary Shoemaker*	Jerry Young
Phyllis M Davis*	Millicent A Johnson	Evelyn Miller*	Mary Slattery*	Ruth Zaun*
Mrs Jeanne E Dinesen*	Phyllis V Jones*	Janet Moe	E M Smith*	Mildred O Zumwalt*
Joyce Ervin*	Evelyn J Karsh*	Mary Murphy	Dorothy Smith*	
Dorothy Fleming	Bette L Keyes*	John F Neander*	Beverly Snyder*	*Deceased
Elizabeth J Fruechte*	Margie Kring*	Sylvia Punkari	Carole Stinger	

### 50th Anniversary Class of 1966

Marilyn D Anderson	Dianne M Fallstrom	Lynette S Lorenzen	Janet D Peller	Susan W Smith
Jo Anne Biros	Susan A Forsberg	Karin B McCall	Elizabeth H Perry	Susan C Smith
Kathleen Bohrer	Mary C Fowler	Patricia A Montain	Karyl L Petersen	Kathleen B Standing
Laura L Budde	Judith A Grout	David E Nevalainen*	Ruth S Peterson	Kay S Townsend
Margaret A Burscu	Eric A Hesse*	Judith A Nyagiro	Elberta L Prestegard	Patricia A Wells
Joan Davis	Patricia E Johnson	Raija Oscarson	Lynn R Quam	
Mary E Drawbert	Carol Kernes	Mrs Mary Anne J Palcich	Betty D Roskos	*Deceased
Georgette K Ehnstrom	Alice J Larson*	Mr James D Parkin	Patricia C Schmid	
Carol I Evans	Howard S Lee Jr	Joan Patten	Mary S Sielaff	

### 25th Anniversary Class of 1991

Kathleen H Coffin	Daniel J Kim	Ghaleb M Mohammed-Ibrahim	Cynthia A Saint	Catherine A Williamson
Jay B Connors	Christine A Kulas*	Joan D Olson	Laura J Schluter	Tamara J Winden
Sharon M Deml	Denise N Leja	Jennifer M Peters	Ann L Shimek	Amira M Youssef
Debra L Dietrich	Lynn M Lidstone	James L Petersen	Joel S Sturm	Andrew R Yue
Dale S Grunnes	Toni J Lyrenmann		Monica L Wallace	
Maryjane M Hommes				*Deceased

- **To register online, go to <http://cahp.umn.edu/mls-alumni-banquet-2016>.**
- **To register by mail, please mail this form and your check payable to Regents of the University of Minnesota to: Medical Laboratory Sciences Program, University of Minnesota, MMC 711, 420 Delaware St SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (Attention R. Layer)**  
Please contact Rhonda Layer, CAHP Projects Coordinator with questions at 612-625-8936 or layer006@umn.edu.

## Yes! I will attend the 2015 MLS Alumni Banquet!

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

- Cracker Crusted Walleye with Lemon Butter Sauce..... \$45.00
- Grilled Chicken Breast with Sage-Peppercorn Sauce..... \$38.00
- Three Cheese Lasagne..... \$38.00

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

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

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

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

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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)  
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