

DIVISION OF

Clinical Laboratory Science



UNC
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

From the Director



It has been twelve years since I first started writing a newsletter to the CLS alumni! Thanks to the AHS Development Office, the newsletter has improved tremendously since my first attempt. The rationale for the newsletter has not changed, however. We wanted to keep in touch with the graduates of the CLS/MT program and help alumni keep in touch with one another. Through the years, the combination of knowledge, skills, and attitudes that students acquire in the CLS/MT program have enabled them to do great things

in their careers and in their lives. As faculty we are inspired and encouraged by the success and support of our graduates and we love to hear from you.

One way we have tried to keep in touch has been through CLS/MT alumni gatherings in the Triangle area. On October 21, approximately 50 graduates, representing classes from 1954 to 2009, gathered at a local restaurant, the Carolina Ale House. We enjoyed appetizers and a drink in an informal atmosphere. The highlight of the event was seeing old friends, former students, and former teachers. We hope to repeat this alumni event in the Triangle area and in other parts of the state or country. If you think that there would be interest in a similar gathering in your

area, please let me know (sbeck@med.unc.edu). We would be happy to work with you to plan another event.

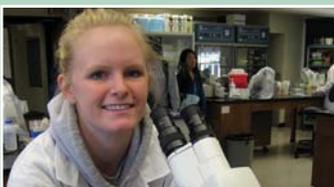
This year, we sent out a request for alumni updates via e-mail and we had great response. We appreciate everyone who sent an update—and here is some news of our own. Dr. Tony Hilger has announced his plans to retire in August 2010. This will be a major change for the CLS program because Dr. Hilger has been teaching microbiology to CLS/MT students for 30 years. He has also been a leader in the CLS recruitment activities—many students found out about the CLS program because of Dr. Hilger’s efforts. The Division will be working on plans to honor Dr. Hilger for all his contributions, and we will be making plans to hire a new faculty member. If you know of someone who would make a good addition to the UNC CLS faculty, please let me know.

The CLS faculty and staff send our best wishes to all our alumni and friends. With your support we will continue the tradition of excellence in clinical laboratory education that you experienced and expect at UNC.

Susan J. Beck
Director, Division of Clinical Laboratory Science

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From left, Vicky Legrys, Lucy Milks ('78), Steve Taylor, Susan Lanning-Taylor ('85), and Susan Orton enjoy the CLS/MT alumni gathering at the Carolina Ale House. See more photos on page 7.

Unification Results in Changes to Clinical Laboratory Certification

The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Registry (ASCP BOR) and the National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) have formed a unified certification agency. To understand the significance of this merger, it helps to recall the history of the ASCP BOR and the NCA.

In the 1920s the ASCP established the Board of Schools and the Board of Registry to standardize education and assess the competence of new graduates. In the 1970s laboratory practitioners began to discuss the need to have a separate accreditation and certification agency that would be governed primarily by laboratory practitioners rather than physicians. This resulted in the establishment of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) as an independent accrediting agency with representatives from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), ASCP, and other professional organizations. An attempt to establish a certification agency similar to the NAACLS model failed, so the leadership of ASCLS and the Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT) founded the NCA as a free-standing certification organization, based on the principles of peer certification. This meant that the people who wrote the exams and made decisions about eligibility were members of the laboratory profession. NCA was the first certification agency to base exams on practice analysis and to require recertification to demonstrate continued competency.

After thirty years of competition, the NCA and the ASCP BOR began to recognize that the differences that created the separation had all but disappeared. Educators, students, and employers pushed for a single certification agency to eliminate the confusion and complexities in their careers and in the profession. Leaders in NCA, ASCLS, ASCP and the ASCP BOR spent the past four years discussing the possibility of a merger. The process involved many hours of negotiation, consideration of many different models, careful deliberation, due diligence, and a determination to make this work for the profession. On July 21, 2009, a Combination Agreement was signed to merge all of the certification activities and operations of the NCA and the BOR into a single organization, to be known as the ASCP Board of Certification (BOC). The new organization is a modification of the previous BOR structure. Certification activities will operate with complete autonomy from the three sponsoring organizations of the Board of Certification (ASCP, ASCLS, and AGT). Key features of the agreement include the change in the name of the credential for baccalaureate level practitioners from medical technologists to medical laboratory scientists: MLS (ASCP). The BOC has also made a commitment to develop a certification for the Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Science.

The BOC Board of Governors is composed of five ASCP Fellows (pathologists), five ASCP laboratory professionals, four representatives of ASCLS, two representatives of AGT, eight representatives from the eight participating societies, and one public representative. Dr. Susan Beck was appointed as one of the four representatives from ASCLS.

What does this mean for you?

If you were certified by the ASCP BOR prior to 2004, your certification has not changed. Before 2004, the ASCP BOR conferred a lifetime credential and your MT (ASCP) credential is still in effect. If you would like to get the new credential, you can participate in the certification maintenance program and receive the Medical Laboratory Scientist credential.

If you were certified by the ASCP BOR in 2004 or later and have a **current credential**, you now have a new credential:

Medical Technologist, MT (ASCP)^{CM} ⇨ Medical Laboratory Scientist, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}

Molecular Pathology, MP (ASCP)^{CM} ⇨ Molecular Biology, MB (ASCP)^{CM}

Note: You must have been current with ASCP BOR through the certification maintenance program; your credential could not have lapsed.

If you held a **current NCA credential** prior to October 23, 2009, you now have a new credential.

Clinical Laboratory Scientist, CLS (NCA) ⇨ Medical Laboratory Scientist, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}

Molecular Biology CLSp (MB) ⇨ Molecular Biology, MB (ASCP)^{CM}

Note: You must have been current with NCA through recertification; your credential could not have lapsed.

If you were certified **only by NCA**, but let your certification lapse, you will need to obtain a current credential from the ASCP Board of Certification through the certification maintenance program.

More information and answers to frequently asked questions about the ASCP Board of Certification can be found at <http://www.ascp.org/FunctionalNavigation/certification/BOR-NCA-FAQs.aspx> and on the ASCLS website: http://www.ascls.org/FAQs%20BOR_NCA%20Unification.pdf

What does this mean for the profession?

Standardizing credential designations and the new descriptive generalist credential will decrease confusion, enhancing our credibility and respect from other healthcare professionals and the public. It also simplifies employers' tasks when setting entry-level standards for job descriptions and recruitment. Students will no longer have to choose between competing exams, or incur the expense and stress of taking two exams. Within the profession, we will now speak from consensus on entry-level standards. There will be additional issues to be resolved, and that will be part of the ongoing work of the BOC. Dr. Beck will be presenting a session on all these changes at the Spring Carolinas Clinical Connection meeting in Asheville on April 23, 2010.

MDS Corporate Partner Program

We are grateful to our MDS Corporate Partners for their support of the Master's Degree in Molecular Diagnostic Science (MMDS). Thanks to the MDS Corporate Partners we were able to offer scholarships to students, purchase reagents and equipment for laboratory courses, and fund MDS course development. We look forward to recognizing our Corporate Partners at the graduation ceremony for the first class of MMDS students in December 2010.

Founding Gold Level MDS Corporate Partners:

Abbott Molecular, Mike J. Palm,
Global Marketing Manager



Applied Biosystems, Sallie Davis Kerr,
Senior Account Manager



BD Molecular Diagnostics, Bill Hastings,
MT(ASCP), *Director of Sales*



Gen-Probe, Inc., Brian Hansen,
Vice President of North American Sales



McKesson Corporation, Dr. Andrew Mellin,
VP of Advanced Clinical Technologies



Quest Diagnostics, Dr. Thomas Huard,
Scientific Director of Molecular Diagnostics



Roche Diagnostics Corporation, Michael V. Nigro,
VP Corporate Accounts



ZeptoMetrix Corporation, Dr. James Hengst,
President and CEO



Bronze Level MDS Corporate Partner:

Qiagen, Mr. David Goco., *Molecular Diagnostic Specialist*

Blackwell Assumes CFO Duties at Chatham Hospital

Bob Blackwell ('81), who has served as UNC Health Care's vice president for hospital managed care and payor contracting since December 2008, has agreed to serve as chief financial officer for Chatham Hospital in Siler City.

In an agreement with Chatham Hospital, Blackwell will remain in his vice president's position at UNC Health Care for 25 percent of his time with the remaining 75 percent dedicated to Chatham Hospital.

After graduating from the medical technology program in 1981, Bob started his career in the clinical laboratory at UNC Hospitals. Within the McLendon Laboratories, he

worked as a medical technologist in Clinical Chemistry before he was promoted to supervisory and administrative roles. While working full time, Bob earned a master's degree in business administration from UNC-Greensboro and obtained credentials as a certified public accountant.

Over the years, Bob has given generously of his time to the CLS program. He regularly meets with the senior students in their management course, explaining the complexities of health care financing. The Division of CLS is very grateful for all of Bob's contributions, and we congratulate him on his latest promotion.

Students and Donors Recognized at Scholarships and Awards Reception



RPLA / WakeMed Scholarship winner Lacy Reynolds, Roberta DeLuca, and RPLA / WakeMed Scholarship winner Justine Moore.

The third annual awards ceremony for scholarship recipients in the Department of Allied Health Sciences (AHS) was held on November 4, 2009, at the Rizzo Center in Chapel Hill. At this event, each division recognized the accomplishments of scholarship winners and thanked the generous scholarship donors. The Division of Clinical Laboratory Science was proud to recognize 14 scholarships winners.

Louise M. Ward Scholarships

A generous bequest from the estate of Louise M. Ward, a former director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Division of Clinical Laboratory Science (then Medical Technology), enabled the Division of CLS to award scholarships to three students. Students were chosen based on their potential for contributing to the CLS profession, academic excellence, and personal characteristics. The scholarship winners for 2009-10 were:

Meka Asbury, Winston-Salem, NC
Julie Rose Ivey, Mount Olive, NC
Erin Michelle Thompson, Concord, NC

Raleigh Pathology Laboratory Associates (RPLA) / WakeMed Scholarships

The Raleigh Pathology Laboratory Associates/ WakeMed Scholarships were established to support the education of future laboratory professionals. By helping current CLS students with the financial burden of higher education, the RPLA/WakeMed Scholarships seek to increase the number of highly qualified laboratory practitioners in the future. In 2009, RPLA/Wake Med Scholarships were awarded to:

Justine Nicole Moore, Manassas, VA
Lacy Victoria Reynolds, Conyers, GA



Jesse Straus of Abbott Molecular, MDS Corporate Partner Scholarship winner Sopheak Son, and Thomas Huard of Quest Diagnostics.

Molecular Diagnostic Science Corporate Partner Program Scholarships

Two new Molecular Diagnostic Science (MDS) Corporate Partner Program Scholarships were awarded in the 2009-10 academic year thanks to the generosity of our founding Gold partners in the MDS Corporate Partners Program: Abbott Molecular, Applied Biosystems, BD Molecular Diagnostics, Gen-Probe, McKesson Corporation, Quest Diagnostics, Roche Diagnostics Corporation, and ZeptoMetrix Corporation. In addition, Qiagen is participating in the program at the Bronze level. Scholarships were awarded to:

Sopheak Son, Chapel Hill, NC
Lisa Marie Anderson, Durham, NC



Roberta DeLuca, Joanne Thomas, Class of 1978 Scholarship winner Shelby Currier, CLS Division Director Susan Beck, Lucy Milks, and Becky Bullock.

McLendon Labs Scholarships

In 2006, the McLendon Laboratories of UNC Hospitals began offering full-tuition scholarships (plus assistance with books) for UNC CLS students who would agree to work in the McLendon Labs for two years post-graduation. All incoming CLS students are eligible to apply for these scholarships and the winners are chosen by the Director and Administrative Director of the McLendon Laboratories. The 2009-10 McLendon scholars were:

Jordan Rapp, Waxhaw, NC
Myra Fisher, Raleigh, NC
Annadele Elizabeth Herman, Poconos, PA
Heather Pierce, Taylorsville, NC



McLendon Scholars Heather Pierce, Myra Cash, and Jordan Rapp.



Louise Ward Scholarship winners Meka Asbury, Erin Thompson, and Julie Ivey.

June Allcott Fellowship

This year, a MMDS student was the recipient of a June Allcott Fellowship, which is awarded to students who demonstrate exemplary, ongoing, and new community service. **Jasmine Michelle Miller-Kleinhenz** from Cary, NC, was recognized for her service as a program coordinator for the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program in the Triangle area.



Jasmine Miller-Kleinhenz

Lanning-Taylor Scholarship

A gift from **Susan Lanning-Taylor** ('85) and **Steve Taylor** provides funding to assist and reward a second-year CLS student. The CLS faculty chose the 2009-10 Lanning-Taylor scholar based on potential for contributing to the CLS profession, academic excellence, personal characteristics, and financial need. The Lanning-Taylor scholarship winner was:

Mallory Elaine Bennett, Charlotte, NC



Susan Lanning-Taylor ('85), Lanning-Taylor Scholarship winner Mallory Bennett, and Steve Taylor.

Class of 1978 Scholarship

In recognition of their 30th anniversary, the Medical Technology Class of 1978 established a scholarship for a current Clinical Laboratory Science student. The members of the Class of 1978 are supporting a student who will follow in their footsteps and make important contributions to the profession of clinical laboratory science. The Class of 1978 Scholar was:

Shelby Currier, Clemmons, NC.

Each of these students is profoundly grateful to the scholarship donors for supporting their education and each one prepared a personal statement that was shared with the donors at the reception. Statements from two students illustrate the importance of this scholarship support for our students:

“After two years of study in the Nutrition major, I made a heartfelt decision to apply for the CLS curriculum two weeks before school started. I still believe that choice to be the best of my college career. The junior year was very academically challenging, but it taught me how worthwhile hard work and effort are in the long run. The Louise M. Ward scholarship has given me a sense of accomplishment and confidence for the efforts of junior year. Knowing your hard work has been recognized is a wonderful feeling, and I am very fortunate to be

given that reassurance. This award helped me focus on senior year in hopes of maintaining a good academic and professional performance, and has instilled in me a continued fervor for knowledge. I am very excited to graduate and work as a CLS in the Triangle area, putting my education towards patient care.”

Erin Thompson, CLS Senior

“My husband’s biological father died at age 36 from presumed complications of Hemachromatosis, a hereditary iron storage disease. Thanks to the advances in molecular diagnostics, my husband has been diagnosed at an early age with Hemachromatosis and has learned how to manage his disease to help ensure that we have a long life together. Individuals with a family history of disease are not the only ones benefiting from the implementation of molecular testing in the clinical laboratory. Patients with viral infections, drug resistances, and cancers are all receiving better care because of molecular testing. The goal of my career is to provide valuable laboratory data to aid in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. This master’s is the natural progression of my education and interests. I appreciate the opportunity to study full-time that this scholarship has assisted in and hope that with this degree, I will be given a chance to make a difference in another’s life.

Lisa Anderson, MMDS student.

Many thanks to the donors who made these scholarships possible!

Alumni Updates

Jeri McConkey ('59) is retired but used his medical knowledge working in wildlife rehab at the Outer Banks Wildlife shelter in Morehead City, N.C. "It was very rewarding being able to bring some of these animals back from the brink of death," writes Jeri. "I encourage others to go into this field. We are so desperately needed there."

Marcia Hanks ('64) formally retired from her job with Raleigh Pediatrics in 2007 after 23 years with the practice. "I leave many fond memories of assisting in the aid of many children and the joy that they bring on a daily basis and the fun that is part of working in a pediatric office," writes Marcia. "It was a busy lab, with quite a bit of in-house lab testing."

Frances Best Watson ('65) retired in 2008 from Washington County Hospital in Plymouth, N.C., after working for 44 years.

Annie Scott Rogers ('66) (graduated as Annette Rogers) is an actor in independent films and a Point of Care Coordinator who interned under Louise Ward. She is due to retire this year—a year later than Social Security said she could. "I highly recommend Point of Care as a division of Clinical Laboratory Science that keeps you on your toes and won't allow you to get bored (crisis management rarely leads to boredom)," writes Annie Scott.

Gloria Shepherd McCoy ('68) retired in 2003 after a career that included working in Special Hematology at Massachusetts General in Boston and serving as Laboratory Director at Spokane Valley Hospital, in Spokane, Wash. She was involved with the 1980 startup of Hybritech, the first biotech in San Diego, which was acquired by Eli Lilly in 1987. She was also involved in the design and startup of the Pyxis medication dispensing system. She has two daughters and two grandchildren and her passions include family, traveling (she has visited 145 countries), marathons (she has completed 105 marathons and numerous half marathons), and a startup of a La Jolla Presbyterian satellite in the inner city. She offers this advice from her experience: "Determine what you want in a career. It is not always a job description. Study companies of interest, find a need you can fill and present yourself to the appropriate personnel sharing with them your ideas of what is needed in the com-

pany based on your research. Then share how you can meet that need. Never be disillusioned with acquisitions or mergers. Accept the new environment or determine to move on to the environment you enjoy. Remember, if a door closes, open the next one. It was always a wonderful surprise and successful for me to look behind the next door and not look back. Be creative and flexible! Manage your own life!"

Gail Harris Short ('69) has worked in labs since graduating from the Medical Technology program and is currently employed by Johnson and Johnson—Ortho Clinical Diagnostics, having been with the company for 18 years.

Janine J. Wilson ('69) and husband Dean Wilson (BS '69, MD '72) have been married for 44 years as of April 2010, and have lived in Johnson City, Tenn., (Tri-Cities) for 32 years. Janine founded a private school, Ashley Academy, in the Tri-Cities area 31 years ago, initiated the Hands On! Children's Museum in downtown Johnson City 24 years ago, and opened northeast Tennessee's only Exclusive Buyer Agency 15 years ago. She and Dean, who retired as the founding neurologist of Johnson City's first neurology practice/clinic in 2006, along with their son, Ashley Dean Wilson, who was born at UNC Hospital, are currently assisting individuals and families relocating to the Tri-Cities area. "I always look fondly on my years at UNC and the 'internship year' for my BS in med technology," writes Janine. "I will not forget the undergrad years that I supervised and worked nights in the Hematology/Urinalysis lab at UNC Memorial Hospital, while Dean was in Med School and I was in school during the days. There are many other great memories, too many to share, but I appreciate the important part Carolina played in my life and that of my husband."

Peggy Rogers Martin ('71) lives in Bismarck, N.D., with her husband Kent Martin, who is an infectious disease physician at Med Center One in Bismarck. Peggy is teaching part-time in the clinical lab science program at the University of Mary. She and Kent have a 20-year-old daughter who will graduate from Bethel University in Minneapolis in May and plans to begin law school in the fall.

Carolyn Glasgow (BA '71, MT '72), who completed her training while Louise Ward was head of the Medical Technology program, works part time in the Physician Laboratory Services Stat Lab of Rowan Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, N.C. She sees **John Barnhardt (MT '72)** regularly.

Lucy Davis Milks ('78) retired two years ago from the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, where she worked as a forensic chemist. She is currently working at the bureau part-time in the drug chemistry section.

Beverly Miles Hockenberger ('80) is a Physician Assistant at Capitol Pediatrics in Raleigh, N.C.

Karen Campbell McKeel ('84) has been married to her husband, Richard McKeel, for almost 24 years. They live in Okotoks, Alberta, Canada, near Calgary, and have four children, ages 5, 15, 18, and 21. After graduation, she worked at the Duke Medical Center and then for a company in Houston, traveling all over the country training technicians to set up information systems for their labs' needs. After moving to Canada nine years ago, she became a teaching assistant at the Catholic High School that her children attended. Drawing from her med tech background, she tutors grade 10 science, grade 11 chemistry, and grade 12 physics. The knowledge she gained from case studies and lab work has also helped tremendously when her children have been sick or other health issues have arisen, allowing her to understand the doctors' explanations and lab results, so she could be proactive in getting treatment for her family and herself. Karen encourages current students to "take FULL advantage of all the people around you. Get to know them. Draw knowledge from them. Ask advice. Share ideas. Your experiences now will do a lot to shape your future. Live fully. Invest fully. The returns will be 'rich.'"

Caroline Caudill Immel ('93) is currently the Supervisor of the Transfusion Medicine Service at UNC Hospitals and acting Interim Assistant Administrative Director of Transfusion Medicine and Transplant Lab Services. Her youngest son, Shane Alexander, was born October

11, 2008, and her middle son, Drake Nathaniel, was born May 3, 2004. Her oldest son, Hunter Thomas, was born on June 8, 2001, and passed away on December 14, 2001. Caroline is active in AABB, serving as an assessor for six years, and is still a true, blue Tar Heel sports fanatic.

Shahnaz Khan (MT '94, MPH '99) is Senior Director of Regulatory and Health Outcomes Strategy at RTI Health Solutions. She lives in Cary, N.C., with her husband and three children.

Melissa Wilson Geiger ('98) has been with the Florida Department of Health's chemical terrorism department since June of 2007 and recently embarked on a new career path, branching out of the lab and into the education realm. She is traveling in the Northeast region of Florida educating county health departments and hospital personnel on the services her department can offer their patients. It is also a chance to stress the need for collection in the event of a Chemical Exposure Incident. "I am looking forward to where this may lead," writes Melissa. "You never know where you'll end up with this degree under your belt. My future plans include a master's degree in Public Health."

Jennifer Warren Miller ('98) has been a part-time employee in the Transfusion Services department at Rex Healthcare in Raleigh for nine years. She has an 11-year-old (Kieran), 6-year-old (Aidan), and an 18-month-old (Mallory). She and her husband, Dylan, have been married for 10 years.

Melanie Breedlove Navarro ('00) is currently a Clinical Trial Scientist with Quintiles in Marietta, Ga. She lives in Smyrna, Ga., with husband, Alberto, and son, Alec.

Amanda Fox Overman ('01) is still enjoying working for the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. "My year was very exciting due to my wedding in October 2009," Amanda writes. "I not only gained a husband but also a 9-year-old daughter."

Dawn Lain Butler ('02) is in her third year of medical school. In July of 2009, she transferred from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond to the

University of Florida in Gainesville. She is considering several residency options, but right now is leaning towards emergency medicine. She recently celebrated her 30th birthday. She and her husband, Joshua Butler ('02), send greetings to all their former classmates and instructors.

Joshua Butler ('02) graduated from the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University in May 2009 with a degree in medicine and started his intern year in internal medicine at the

Mayo Clinic Florida in Jacksonville. He will begin his residency in dermatology in June 2010. He and his wife, Dawn Lain Butler ('02), will be celebrating their fourth anniversary in May of this year.

Denise N. Edwards ('02) is working in Microbiology at Georgetown University Hospital and sends her greetings to all the Class of 2002 alums. She has been living and working in Washington, D.C., for a little over a year.

Continued on page 10

Fall Alumni Gathering



Above, **Joanne Thomas ('78)**, **Tony Hilger**, and **Andrew Lukonis ('99)** enjoy the alumni gathering in October at the Carolina Ale House. About 50 alumni attended the event. At right, **Genevieve Lowry Cole ('54)** and **Patricia Hayam Lowry ('65)**. Additional photo on page 1.



Focus on Alumni

Michael Stirewalt Class of 1985

By Dick Broom
Freelance Writer

Michael Stirewalt had been told he could go far with a degree in medical technology, but he had no idea how far that would be.

In just the last couple of years, he has been to Beijing, China; Kampala, Uganda; Sao Paulo, Brazil; and several other exotic places in his job as a laboratory auditor with PPD, a global contract research organization (CRO) based in Wilmington.

PPD's clients conduct or sponsor clinical trials. Some of the clients are government agencies that contract with laboratories around the world to collect research data. Stirewalt's job is to make sure those laboratories follow the proper procedures.

"If laboratories are receiving U.S. funds, then they could be subject to FDA (Food and Drug Administration) inspection," he said. "We help them become compliant with FDA regulations so they will be adequately prepared."

He typically spends three days at a laboratory, going through an extensive checklist. He said he reviews the lab's

*, policies, operations, and facilities, as well as "all the supporting evidence they have to show that they are complying with U.S. guidelines that surround clinical research."

He then writes a comprehensive report on his findings, which he sends to the PPD client that has the contract with the lab.

"Our clients use our reports to make sure these laboratories get whatever additional tools or information they might need to go to the next step toward complete compliance," he said.

Since joining PPD in December 2005, Stirewalt has performed dozens of audits in a number of different countries. He also has conducted workshops for laboratory personnel at various sites around the world.

* "These workshops are offered through our clients to the laboratories they are involved with," he explained. "It's all part of the effort to ensure that the laboratories are continually improving their operations."

He said the two parts of his job – the audits and the training – are good complements to each other.

"While going through the audit checklist with a lab, I learn things that I can take to a workshop group and say: 'These are the things I've seen. Now tell me how you handle them in your laboratory.'"

Stirewalt grew up in China Grove, N.C., and in 1985 received his B.S. degree in medical technology at UNC. He worked as a medical technologist in the clinical laboratory at Cape Fear Hospital in Wilmington for 10 years, then joined the staff of Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville as clinical systems analyst.

From 1999 to 2005, he was manager of the Core Laboratory at New Hanover Medical Center in Wilmington. His responsibilities included planning, staffing, budgeting, and assuring the quality of all laboratory testing.

* A majority of the laboratories he has audited for PPD clients have been in South America. But his work also has taken him to China, India, Thailand, Tanzania, and Uganda. Although getting to these places – navigating airports and enduring long flights – isn't always fun, he said the experiences awaiting him at the other end are well worth it.

Alumni Share Their Knowledge

In the fall of 2009, five graduates of the CLS program spent a Friday afternoon with the current senior class. **Michael Stirewalt ('85)**, **Shannon Lancaster Woodhouse ('95)**, **Jesse Frank ('04)**, **Misty Goodman ('05)** and **Jennifer Dietz ('07)** shared their career paths and gave the senior students great advice for getting started in the profession. The students appreciated the real life examples of all the possibilities that await them with their degree in Clinical Laboratory Science.



Shannon Lancaster Woodhouse, Jennifer Dietz, Michael Stirewalt, Jesse Frank, and Misty Goodman



“Once I get to where I’m going to work, every bit of the drudgery of travel kind of fades away,” he said. “The job is incredibly rewarding because the vast majority of people I’m working with at these labs are doing what they’re doing for all the right reasons.”

Since he doesn’t speak the native language in most of the places he visits, and the people in the labs aren’t always fluent in English, he said communication is sometimes a challenge. “But the beauty of what we do is that the laboratory itself is somewhat of a common language, and that helps pave the way for a lot of communication.”

When Stirewalt is in Beijing or Bangkok or any of the other places his work takes him, he makes an effort to get out and see the sights, mingle with the people, and soak up some of the culture.

“That has made me much more aware that there is an incredible world outside our borders,” he said. “Just being outside and jogging behind the Forbidden City in Beijing is one of those experiences I’ll remember for the rest of my life.”



Michael Stirewalt during a visit to Thailand.



Top left and above, photos from one of Stirewalt’s trips to Kampala, Uganda. Right, a lion park just outside of Johannesburg, South Africa.



2009 CLS Graduates Honored at Reception and Ceremony



On May 10, fifteen CLS students gathered with their family and friends in the Wilson Library for a graduation reception and ceremony. Dr. Susan Beck and Dr. Lee McLean congratulated the graduates and expressed gratitude to all the people who supported and encouraged the students while they were in the CLS program. Graduates received a certificate from the Division of CLS and Department of Allied Health Sciences. The CLS faculty also gave each graduate a copy of the CLS Review CD to help them prepare for certification exams.

Each year, at our CLS graduation ceremony, we present the award for the “Outstanding CLS Senior Student.” This award is based on nominations from CLS faculty and clinical faculty using criteria such as dedication, willingness to help,

quality of work, knowledge, technical skills, and interpersonal skills. There are many outstanding students in the CLS program, and it is always hard for the faculty and clinical instructors to pick just one student for this award. In fact, almost every student is nominated by at least one clinical instructor or faculty member.

The 2009 Outstanding Student, **David Pinelli**, was recognized for his positive attitude, initiative, ability to learn quickly, preparation, and diligence.

Four CLS students completed the accelerated program and graduated in December of 2009. The students were presented with a certificate and a Review CD at a dinner hosted by Dr. Beck and the CLS faculty.

Alumni Updates

Anna Fansler Raymer ('03), following her graduation from UNC., worked in the Clinical Virology & Molecular Infectious Disease Labs at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn. She married Marvis Raymer in May of 2006 and they have a son, David Winslow, who turned two on February 27, 2010. They recently moved to Auburn, Ala., and Anna now works as a generalist at St. Francis Hospital in Columbus, Ga. "It has been so great to be able to tap back into most of my skills as a medical technologist; currently I am training in the blood bank and loving it!" Anna writes. "I have also decided to take an anatomy and physiology course to fulfill prerequisites for nursing. I am applying to nursing school at Columbus State University for the fall of 2010."

Laura DeMaster ('05) headed out to Seattle after graduation to explore life on the West Coast. She worked in a clinical chemistry and hematology lab at the Swedish Medical Center and then started a PhD program in Pathobiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health in 2006. "I study Kaposi's Sarcoma associated herpesvirus (KSHV), a virus that is associated with malignancies in immunocompromised patients," Laura writes. "Though I am still a few years from finishing, I am very much enjoying the journey."

Stephanie Kurtz ('06) lives in Arlington, Va., and works as a Medical Technologist in the Blood Bank and HPC/Stem Cell Laboratory at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Va. In the fall of 2010, she will be enrolling in Emory University's Physician Assistant program, Class of 2012, in Atlanta, Ga.

Jennie Newcomb ('06) lives in Baltimore, Md., and is working on her MHA at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Christopher Arce ('07) is working full-time at WakeMed North Healthplex and almost full-time (four days per week) in the Core Lab at Rex Healthcare. He became a new homeowner in November 2008 and he and his wife will celebrate their third anniversary on April 14, 2010.

Sarah Morrison Guthrie ('05) took the position of Tissue Bank Coordinator with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta in February. She is responsible for the tissue banks of two separate hospitals including an inventory of donated bone, tendons, heart valves, and skin. This includes everything from routine monitoring to ensuring full compliance with regulatory agencies. She is also part of the leadership team within the blood bank which is comprised

of herself, two operation supervisors, a quality coordinator, and the manager. "Personally I am excited to announce I got married on May 2," writes Sarah. "My husband's employment brought us to Atlanta, but we are really enjoying it so far."

Crystal Redfern ('08) lives in Rochester, N.Y. She is conducting research related to tuberculosis at the University of Rochester and is in the process of applying to PhD graduate school programs. "My advice to the new students is to keep up, not fall behind, and enjoy their work," writes Crystal. "Keep sight of the finish line and take advantage of all the opportunities provided by UNC-Chapel Hill and the CLS program."

Aaron Sermons ('09) lives in Washington, D.C., and works in the chemistry and hematology departments at Inova Fairfax Hospital, a community hospital in Fairfax, Va.

Megan Chadwick Trull ('09) lives in Chapel Hill and works at the Duke University Medical Center as a Medical Technologist II.

Ryan Van ('09) and his wife, Shannon, are proud to announce birth of their son, Bryson Tyler Vann, on August 11, 2009.

Alumni: We Want to Hear from You!

I know that for many of our readers, the best part of the newsletter is the news from other CLS / MT graduates. The alumni updates on our Web site have also helped us recruit new students. A recent applicant told me that she decided to apply to the CLS program after reading all the interesting things that our alumni were doing. So please send us your information—you are keeping your classmates informed and helping the CLS recruitment efforts.

You can send us your updates by

Regular mail:

Complete and mail the form on page 11, even if you are not sending a donation at this time. The Development Officer will be sure to get that information to the Division of CLS.

E-mail: Send an e-mail message to: sbeck@med.unc.edu

Web site: Visit the CLS Web site (www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clinical/), go to the alumni section, and you will find a form that you can use to submit information.

Please include your year of graduation and where you are living. If you are working, tell us what you are doing and, if you have any advice for current CLS students, please share that with them. THANKS!

Remember that you can keep your contact information up-to-date on the CLS Web site. Carolina's General Alumni Association has created a UNC-Chapel Hill Clinical Laboratory Science Alumni online database that is available to all CLS / MT alumni. You can use this service for FREE through our website at: www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clinical/. You can also find the contact information for your classmates.

Several graduates of the program have asked whether or not they could update their alumni information but not get all the mailings from the GAA. Please contact Kyle Gray (Kyle_Gray@med.unc.edu or 919.966.3352) if you would no longer like to receive mailings from the GAA.

Thank you for keeping your information current.

New Microscopes Have Arrived

Last fall we purchased 22 new Leica microscopes for the CLS student laboratory. The CLS class of 2011 started the semester with our old scopes and they were the first class to use the new microscopes. The students and faculty are amazed by the difference. We are still raising funds to pay for these scopes, but we are making good progress thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends. Several people have donated funds to purchase and name one of the new scopes.

Microscopes will be named for:

**Dr. Donna Conrad Hollowell,
Dr. Margaret Gould Johnson,
and Dr. Deborah Lynn Radisch**

Nancy and Carl Justus
(parents of Scott Justus)

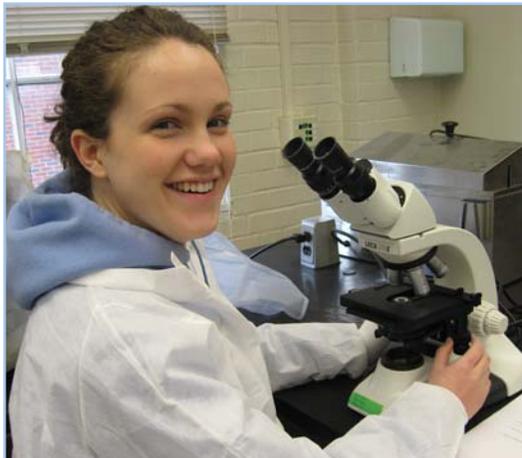
Dr. Jane Lysko Isbey

Dr. Priscilla Blakeney Wyrick

Bob and Vangi Clark

Helen Roberson Williams

We are grateful to these donors and to everyone who has made a contribution toward new microscopes.



First-year CLS students Curtis Dunn (above) and Shelby Currier use the new microscopes.

UNC-Chapel Hill Division of Clinical Laboratory Science Gift & Pledge Form

I would like to support the Division of Clinical Laboratory Science with a gift to the CLS Advancement Fund (Designation #8801).

Enclosed is my gift of: \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$750 \$1,000 \$2,500 to name a microscope Other _____

Check: Make check payable to Medical Foundation of N.C., Inc. (indicate designation number 8801 on the memo line.)

Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express

Credit Card Number _____ Security Code _____ Expiration Date _____

Pledge: I pledge \$ _____ per year for 1 year 2 years 3 years

Matching Gift: My employer (or my spouse's employer), _____, will match this gift.
I have enclosed the company's matching gift form.

Gift in Honor / Memoriam / Celebration of: _____

THANK YOU!

Alumni Updates: (We would like to hear from everyone! Please send us an update even if you are not making a donation at this time.)

Name: _____ Class: _____ Employer: _____

Address: _____ Current Job Title / Position: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Please add any information that you would like to share in a future issue of the newsletter: _____

Mail To: Kyle Gray, Director of Development, Clinical Laboratory Science, Department of Allied Health Sciences, Bondurant Hall, CB #7120, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7120. Questions: Contact Kyle at (919)966-3352 or kyle_gray@med.unc.edu.



Thank You, Donors

WWW.MED.UNC.EDU/AHS/CLINICAL

We would like to thank the following individuals and corporations for contributions to the CLS Program from January 1, 2009 to March 9, 2010. The generosity of our donors helps us provide the educational resources we need to maintain the excellence of our program.

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Jane Martin Allaman
Mary Toni Germani Bachman
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**In memory of Mrs. Marion
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David and Dee Yoder

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