



Clinical Laboratory Science

Louise Ward Excellence in Teaching Award

Laine Stewart was named the first recipient of the Louise Ward Excellence in Teaching Award at the May 2011 graduation reception. The award is based on multiple years of service and represents a consistently high standard of teaching in the Division of CLS.

Stewart is the primary instructor in the microbiology and hematology laboratory courses. She does a masterful job of selecting, organizing, and presenting information in these classes so that each lesson builds on previous learning. She challenges students to think critically and allows students to make mistakes and learn from those decisions. One of her favorite things to do is to switch students' unknowns in the microbiology lab so that they have to finish another student's work—mimicking the way things happen in the clinical laboratory. Comments from the students in the Class of 2011 about Ms. Stewart's teaching include:

- Ms. Stewart always gave positive reinforcement, even when we thought we were performing poorly. She was always happy to answer questions and made lab a joy to attend.
- Ms. Stewart is definitely one of the best teachers I've ever had. She presented the material so effectively, and she was extremely helpful with any questions I had.
- Ms. Stewart is a wonderful instructor.

Stewart's clinical expertise and her dedication to professional excellence serve as a role model for the CLS students and she was most deserving of this award.



Laine Stewart works with CLS student Andrew Barnes.

CLS CLASS OF 2011

In December 2010 and May 2011, 20 students joined the ranks of the CLS alumni. The Division of CLS hosted a reception for the graduates in Wilson Library in May and presented the graduates with a certificate from the Division of CLS and a copy of the CLS Review CD to help them prepare for certification examinations. Since graduation, all the members of this class who have taken the certification exam have passed!

Often it is around the time of graduation that the CLS students begin to realize all that they have accomplished and how well they are prepared for their future as laboratory professionals. One 2011 CLS graduate recently reflected on her education in an e-mail message to the CLS faculty.

"The work that goes into making a successful educational program becomes more apparent to us as students after we have graduated. I really enjoyed the classes and labs and how hard you pushed us as students. I have heard everywhere that I go that we are some of the best prepared students. I often run into situations in interviews where I am over-informed about an issue that the interviewer didn't even know about. I appreciate all of the experience I have gotten from the faculty and all of the knowledge that you bestow upon us as students."



CLS Graduates at the Spring 2011 reception.

The CLS faculty believes that our proudest accomplishment is the work that we do to pass on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the clinical laboratory profession to new practitioners and we are very proud of this group of new laboratory professionals.

The CLS class of 2011 was the second class to conduct a Senior Class Campaign and they pledged to contribute \$2,900 to the CLS program over the next five years. The co-chairs of the campaign, James Ho and Bethany Slifko, presented the CLS faculty with a check for this amount at the graduation ceremony.



CLS/MT ALUMNI GIVE BACK: A TALE OF TWO DONORS

Roberta DeLuca '78

Roberta DeLuca graduated from UNC with a BS degree in Medical Technology in 1978. Her career has been varied and interesting from her start in pharmacology research at Duke, followed by her work in a federally funded clinic in Carrboro, and then her position at the Polyclinic Lab at UNC. After getting married in 1983, Roberta joined WakeMed as a supervisor in Chemistry and in 1984, she co-founded a company called Temporary Tech, a placement service for laboratory professionals throughout the Triangle. She worked both jobs for a while, but ultimately left WakeMed to be a full-time business owner.



After 15 successful years, she sold the business in 1998 to a national staffing company and thought that she would enjoy staying at home. Ultimately she decided that she missed the laboratory environment and returned to WakeMed in 1999 as the Administrative Director of Pathology, the position she holds today.

Roberta's class of '78 has stayed close over the years. Eight members live in the Triangle area and they meet once or twice a year to share their professional and personal lives. At one of these gatherings, Roberta presented the idea of funding a scholarship for a CLS student as a way to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the class. The class of 1978 agreed and they all contributed to a scholarship for two students. Roberta also worked with Raleigh Pathology Laboratory Associates (RPLA) and Wake Med to establish two more scholarships. As a laboratory administrator, Roberta sees first-hand the need for more laboratory professionals – particularly as many “Baby Boomers” start retiring. As a parent, Roberta knows the financial impact of tuition, and she also knows that tuition alone does not cover the cost of educating a CLS student.

“It has been true for quite some time that all schools depend on the generosity of the alumni for support,” said Roberta. “With the CLS program being so small in comparison to other departments, it is especially necessary to gain as many contributions as possible and to have those contributions designated for the CLS program.” Roberta has done amazing things with her BS degree in Medical Technology and her passion for the profession has inspired her to give back to the CLS program—ensuring that future laboratory professionals will have the education they need to follow their dreams.

Megan Trull '09

Megan Trull graduated from the CLS program in 2009. Like many CLS students, Megan was recruited for jobs as she went through her clinical rotations. She took a position in the Transfusion Service at Duke after graduation and loved the job and the experience. Megan had always wanted to live in the western part of the country where she could ski, so when an opportunity to work as a generalist at Yampa Valley Medical Center in Steamboat Springs, Colo., became available, she jumped at the chance.



In her new job, Megan reflects on all she learned in the CLS program. “I have to say I didn't enjoy how rigorous the CLS program was while I was in it, but now I am thankful for what I have learned. Everything the CLS program taught me has made my transition from blood bank to becoming a generalist much easier.”

Megan has been a generous contributor to the CLS program and explains her commitment in this way: “Considering our current economy, it makes me even more thankful that I went through the CLS program. It was a blessing to have a job straight out of school. With my CLS degree I can work anywhere in the country. The CLS program gave me the opportunity of a career and the ability to fulfill a lifelong dream to live in a ski town. If I had majored in biology, like I originally planned, I would have had a much more difficult time finding a job. It doesn't take much to give a little bit back to the program that gave me my start in life.”

How to Give Back to CLS

To ensure your generosity will directly benefit the UNC Chapel Hill CLS program, it's important to designate your gift to the CLS Advancement Fund (Designation #8801). You can designate your tax-deductible gift in the following ways:

- Make your gift online through this secure Web site <https://medicalfoundationofnc.org/givetounccls>.
- Use the enclosed gift slip and write “CLS Advancement Fund, Designation #8801,” on the memo line of your check.
- If you are using a general Carolina gift slip or envelope, choose the “Other” category and write in “CLS Advancement Fund, Designation #8801.” Repeat the designation on the memo line of your check.

If you have any questions please contact Director of Development Kyle Gray at 919-966-3352 or kyle_gray@med.unc.edu. Thanks!