From the Director:

The Division of Clinical Laboratory Science has had a busy and productive year. In this issue of the CLS Newsletter, we include information on the scholarship awards brunch, the CLS and MDS graduations, faculty honors, and program updates. We are especially pleased to present a story on Genevieve Cole, a 1954 graduate of the program who was the first female American Indian graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill. We are also featuring a story on a graduate from the CLS Class of 2017, Joseph Locklear, who is a member of the Lumbee tribe and a first generation college student.

Please note the names of the MDS Corporate Partners and the many individual donors who supported the Division of CLS in this past year. We are extremely grateful for this support that enables us to provide scholarships and other educational resources. We also want to thank the McLendon Clinical Laboratories at UNC Hospitals and Duke University Medical Center for their continued support. In addition to serving as excellent clinical sites, the administrators of these laboratories have provided generous annual donations to help support the CLS program. This funding has enabled us to maintain the excellence of the CLS program and it demonstrates the value of the program to the university and health care community. We are grateful to Dr. Herbert Whinna and Ms. Connie Bishop, Director of the McLendon Clinical Laboratories and Dr. Herbert Whinna, Medical Director of the McLendon Clinical Laboratories with the CLS Class of 2018.

Ms. Connie Bishop, Director of the McLendon Clinical Laboratories and Dr. Herbert Whinna, Medical Director of the McLendon Clinical Laboratories with the CLS Class of 2018.

Spreading the word about Clinical Laboratory Science at UNC-Chapel Hill by liking us on Facebook and also hitting the like button on individual posts. Visiting our Facebook page or following us on Twitter is an easy way to get all the latest news & to keep up with the accomplishments of our students, alumni and faculty. You can follow us on Twitter too!

Alumni: We want to hear from you!

You can send us your updates by regular mail, email (sbeck@med.unc.edu) or visit www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clinical and go to the alumni section.

https://www.facebook.com/CLSatUNC
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**Program Updates**

**NAACLS Award**

In October 2016, the CLS and MDS programs received notice of their continuing accreditation. Both programs were awarded the highest accreditation status.

**Laboratory Safety Award**

In the Fall of 2016, the UNC Environment, Health, and Safety Department awarded the Division of CLS with a Gold Medal following our annual safety inspection and safety plan review. The award was due to the excellent work of Lisa Cremeans who wrote the safety plan and completed a major overhaul of the equipment, reagents, and supplies in 404 MacNider.

**Shawn Luby (CLS ’06) taught Clinical Chemistry lecture and laboratory courses in the Spring of 2017. We asked Shawn for help when Dr. LeGrys’ work on several grants required a great deal of travel time. The CLS students have benefited greatly from Shawn’s experience in clinical chemistry and his passion for the profession.**

**New CLS Laboratory Manager**

In October of 2016, the Division of Clinical Laboratory Science hired Kristine Trippodo Barnette (CLS ’06) as the new CLS Laboratory Manager. The position involves preparing the reagents and supplies for the laboratory courses, managing the budget, maintaining the safety of the laboratory, purchasing equipment, and assisting with instruction. Kristine’s years of experience in the Core laboratory and her expertise in hematology made her a great fit for the position. In her first year as the Laboratory Manager, she has already made significant improvements in the CLS student laboratory.

**We’re Number 1 – for a few weeks**

In October 2016, ADVANCE magazine published a list of the top CLS programs in the country and UNC’s program was listed as #1. A few weeks later, the magazine changed the website and listed UNC-Chapel Hill as the number one university in the country with a CLS program. The second story made more sense since undergraduate professional programs are not usually ranked, but for a few weeks we celebrated being #1. Irrespective of this “fake news” story, the faculty, students and graduates of the UNC CLS program would all agree that we are the best program in the country.

**Keep your contact information up to date**

We use the General Alumni Association contact information for mailings and email communications and we want to make sure that we have your current information. Please go to the Alumni section of the CLS website to add or update your information. You do not have to join the GAA to update your information. Many people have “opted out” of emails from the GAA. The Division of CLS would like to know if you also want to opt out of CLS emails (program announcements, e-newsletters, etc.) If you do not want emails from the Division of CLS, please contact Susan Beck (sbeck@med.unc.edu).
Dr. Tara Moon was awarded the Frances K. Widmann Service Award at the fall meeting of the North Carolina Association of Blood Bankers (NCABB). Dr. Moon was commended for a decade of leadership in the NCABB including service as board member, workshop program chair, secretary, and as president. She continues to serve the organization as secretary. NCABB members praised Dr. Moon for her innovative ideas and for the many improvements she has made in the organization. She is respected by colleagues within NCABB and in the greater laboratory community for her advocacy and commitment to professional excellence.

Drs. LeGrys and Moon received a second grant from the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Foundation to extend their research into biological and analytical variation in sweat chloride concentration in July 2016. This latest grant entitled PTC-VISTA expands on the work performed in the initial VISTA grant (Variation in Sweat Testing Analysis), and examines sweat chloride variation in 110 placebo subjects enrolled in a clinical trial for an investigational drug, PTC, used to overcome premature stop codons in the CFTR gene.

Lisa Cremeans and Laine Stewart received Omicron Sigma awards at the Carolinas Clinical Connection meeting in March, 2017. These awards recognize service to the North Carolina Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (NCSCLS). Lisa Cremeans serves as the NCSCLS secretary and board member and Laine Stewart serves as the NSCLS scholarship chair.

Dr. Susan Beck was awarded the first Department of Allied Health Sciences (DAHS) Leadership award in December, 2016. The leadership award recognizes faculty members who have made significant contributions that advanced the mission of the DAHS in teaching, research, or service.
The tenth annual awards ceremony for scholarship recipients in the Department of Allied Health Sciences (DAHS) was held on November 5, 2016 at the Rizzo Center in Chapel Hill. At this event, each Division in the Department of AHS recognized the accomplishments of scholarship winners and thanked the generous scholarship donors. The Division of CLS was proud to recognize 11 scholarship winners and the donors who made the scholarships possible:

**Allene W. Alphin and Jesse C. Alphin Clinical Laboratory Scholarships**

Two scholarships were established by Kay Alphin Johnson ('68) and her husband Marvin in honor of Kay’s mother and father. The recipients of this scholarship are: Ellen Tuck (Greenville, NC) and John Agres (Waxhaw, NC)

![Marvin Johnson and Kay Johnson with Ellen Tuck and John (Jack) Agres (Waxhaw, NC)](image1)

**Louise M. Ward Scholarships**

With a generous bequest from the estate of Louise M. Ward, a former director of the UNC-Chapel Hill Division of CLS (then medical technology), the Division of CLS was able to award scholarships to three students. The Louise Ward scholars are: Matthew Lillis (New Bern, NC), Jessica Beynor (Barnstable, MA) and Jay Stringer (Helena, MT)

![Dr. William McLendon with Louise Ward Scholarship winners](image2)

**Raleigh Pathology Laboratory Associates Clinical Laboratory Science Annual Scholarship and WakeMed Health and Hospitals CLS Annual Scholarship**

The Raleigh Pathology Laboratory Associates/ WakeMed Health and Hospitals CLS Annual Scholarships were established to support the education of future laboratory professionals. The scholarships were awarded to: Toritseju Kpenosen (Durham, NC) and Phoebe Xu (Carrboro, NC)

![Robert DeLuca with Phoebe Xu and Toritseju Kpenosen](image3)

**Lanning-Taylor Scholarship**

A gift from Susan ('85) and Steve Taylor provides funds to assist and reward a second-year CLS student. The Lanning-Taylor scholarship was awarded to: Amanda Vergnetti (Waxhaw, NC)

![Susan and Steve Taylor with Amanda Vergnetti](image4)

**Molecular Diagnostic Science Corporate Partner Program Scholarships**

Two Molecular Diagnostic Science (MDS) Corporate Partner Program Scholarships were awarded in the 2016-17 academic year thanks to the generosity of our Platinum and Gold partners in the MDS Corporate Partners Program. Scholarships were awarded to: Lauren Frady (Columbia, MD) and Sean Rankin (Dallas, NC)

![MDS Corporate Partner Scholars](image5)

**UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association's Allied Health Sciences Fellowships**

The Allied Health Sciences Student Fellowships are supported through a generous gift from the UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association. In the Division of CLS, the scholarship was awarded to: Sean Rankin (Dallas, NC)

![UNC Hospitals Volunteer Association’s Allied Health Sciences Fellowships](image6)

**A few words from the students...**

The Division of CLS hosted a reception for the 2017 graduates of the CLS and MDS programs in Wilson Library on May 14th. The graduates were excited to announce their post–graduation plans including positions in the clinical laboratories at UNC, Duke, and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. 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 2017 pledged to contribute $3,300 to the CLS program over the next five years. Senior Class Campaign co-chairs, Amanda Vergnetti and Maddie Fletcher, inspired 100 percent of the Class of 2017 to contribute to the campaign. The co-chairs presented the CLS faculty with a check at the graduation ceremony.

The Outstanding Senior Student Award was presented to Jennifer Dorman. She was recognized as a student who displays great attitude, is an excellent team player, a pleasure to work with, and an overall excellent clinical laboratory scientist.
A few words from the students...

“I became interested in the Clinical Laboratory Science program at UNC-CH at an early age. As a child, I admired my parents for choosing the clinical laboratory science career path. It is a profession they are passionate about and also enables them to have an important role in a healthcare team. As my interest in laboratory work and the clinical field developed, I looked to pursue my education in a way that allowed me to help others as my parents had done. With this degree, I hope to follow in their footsteps and channel my interests to performing laboratory tests to aid physicians in the diagnosis of patients in North Carolina. This scholarship will enable me to become one of the clinical laboratory scientists that I have admired since childhood and hopefully inspire others to join the field.” - Ellen Tuck

“UNC-CH’s CLS program is preparing me incredibly well to enter into a full time laboratory position when I graduate. This is a role that I am very excited to fill as I know that it is much needed in the medical field. I am thankful for the contribution of the Lanning-Taylor Scholarship as it has played a part in allowing all of this to happen and has allowed me to pursue the career path that I became fascinated with nine years ago as a seventh grade lab tech.” - Amanda Vergnetti

Each of these students is profoundly grateful to the scholarship donors for supporting their education. Many thanks to the donors who made these scholarships possible!

Class of 2017

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Genevieve Lowry Cole was first female American Indian graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill and a 1954 graduate of the Clinical Laboratory Science program (then Medical Technology). Genevieve visited the CLS program in January 2017 to speak with the faculty and students about her experiences as a student and a laboratory professional.

Genevieve is a member of the Lumbee tribe and grew up in Pembroke, NC. After graduating at the top of her class in high school, she enrolled at Pfeiffer University and obtained an Associate’s Degree. Her goal was to enroll in the medical technology program at UNC-Chapel Hill but at the time, laws prevented American Indians from attending the University. In spite of this she applied. Cole said of the UNC-CH admissions officer at the time, “He knew that there would be no other reason other than I was an Indian to not be accepted, so he just ignored that fact and told me to apply, and I did.”

After graduating from UNC-CH in 1954, Cole spent 57 years working in the health care field including positions in the hematology laboratory at UNC Hospitals, the clinical laboratories at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco, and the microbiology laboratory at Duke University Medical Center. She retired in 2012 from Duke.

When asked what she would say to today’s students, Ms. Cole replied “They are so much smarter, they know so much, they are exposed to so much and the technology has changed. I am just awed at what they are learning compared to what I learned. They have a look into the future.” For more on the Genevieve Cole story, visit: http://www.med.unc.edu/ahs/clinical/news

Student Spotlight

Joseph Locklear, a CLS class of 2017 graduate and member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, is the first college graduate from his family. Joseph came to UNC-Chapel Hill as a first-year chemistry major, but when he researched switching majors, the clinical laboratory science curriculum, goals, and objectives appealed to him. “It’s practical and science oriented,” Locklear said. “It’s something you just know you enjoy.”

Joseph attended Project Uplift as a high school student and learned more about the American Indian Center and the Carolina Indian Circles; both programs helped him find a home outside of the lab.

Joseph said the American Indian Center appealed to him because of the familiarity of the community, especially while he lived on a college campus for the first time.

“You’re placed in an environment different from where you grew up on campus,” Joseph said. “But people are going through similar things. Taken all together, UNC was my calling,” Locklear said.

Joseph is now working at Duke University Hospital in Transfusion Services and hopes to mentor future students interested in pursuing science or health care to show underrepresented minorities what’s possible at UNC-CH. “I want to show other underrepresented minorities that even though science is hard and competitive, if you work hard at it, you can do it.”
On May 5, 2017, the MDS students presented their Capstone projects to the CLS faculty, MDS Corporate Partners, and clinical instructors. Dr. Ryan Evans (MDS ’14) spoke to the group about the MDS program and how it prepared him for his current position at Q² Solutions - EA Genomics. The MDS Corporate Partners spoke about the need for future graduates who have the education and experience that the MDS program provides.

The Corporate Partners who were able to attend the event included Scott E. Toman from Hologic, Frank Dalli from Abbott Molecular, Geraldine McDowell from Laboratory Corporation of America, Gregory Chiklis from ZeptoMetrix Corporation, and Mark Vitucci and Kellie Yarnell from Q² Solutions- EA Genomics.

The students in the MDS Class of 2016 and their projects were:

- Sean Rankin: Verification of the Abbott RealTime HIV-1 Viral Load Assay
- Lauren Frady: Validation of Apolipoprotein E Genotyping by PCR-RFLP
Division of Clinical Laboratory Science 2016-2017 Annual Donor List

The UNC Chapel Hill CLS program proudly recognizes our annual individual donors from July 1, 2016 to XX, 2017 by the giving levels below.

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