CLS Alumni Chapter News

CLS Program Celebrates 75th Anniversary

In July of 2013, the UNMC Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology Program celebrated the exciting milestone of its 75th anniversary as part of the UNMC School of Allied Health Professions all-school reunion, Allies Assemble. The 75th anniversary was a resounding success, welcoming over 100 alumni, faculty, and students to help celebrate. The CLS Alumni Chapter served as the host and sponsor for the 75th anniversary celebration, and honored two distinguished alumni: Connie Ryan ‘74 and Judith Thompson Weeks ‘70. Other sponsors of the event included: Streck, Telcor, J.R. Newland, M.D., and Regional Pathology Services, UNMC Department of Pathology. For pictures from the 75th anniversary celebration, please visit the CLS Alumni Chapter Facebook page.

Thanks to everyone who joined in the festivities! A special thanks to 75th anniversary planning committee co-chairs, Karen Stiles ‘78, and Jan Tompkins, ‘72 and the entire planning committee.

CLS Students Earn Their Pins

At a professionalism ceremony on September 7, 2013, twelve CLS students earned their professional pins at UNMC campus. The ceremony is an important event to remind the current students of the importance of this profession, to honor their dedication and hard work thus far, and to encourage them as they continue towards graduation and certification. The event was attended by the students and their families and friends as the students received pins to commemorate this event and milestone in their life.

This year’s professionalism ceremony was hosted by Ashley Collins ‘12, with past program director Linda Fell serving as the keynote speaker.

Please visit our Facebook page for more pictures from the professionalism ceremony.
The Medical Technology Program at Nebraska Methodist Hospital was founded in 1968, with Phyllis Muellenberg as the Program Director. At its inception, the Methodist Program collaborated with the Medical Technology Programs at Bishop Clarkson Hospital and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Although each of the three programs maintained their separate accreditation and hospital sponsored program identity, they chose to collaborate and combine their resources to improve the overall curriculum options for all three programs.

As a hospital-based program, students complete their clinical education at the Methodist Hospital Pathology Center. The Pathology Center serves as a reference lab providing clinical and anatomic pathology services to medical facilities, physicians, and other health care providers throughout Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri. In 2011, The Pathology Center laboratory moved to a new, two-story building, The Schenken Pavilion, which is directly across from Methodist Hospital. The building was named in honor of two of our former pathologists – Drs. John and Jerry Schenken. Numerous MT/CLS students have benefitted from the John R. Schenken MD Scholarship, named in honor of one of The Pathology Center’s founding pathologists.

Today, Methodist Hospital continues to operate a fully accredited medical technology program with dedicated clinical faculty, lab administrators, and pathologists. As of May 2013, there have been 399 MT/CLS graduates from the program. The Methodist program accepts 6-10 students per year. In addition to the program director, there are seven clinical instructors who work with the students on a daily basis. Moving forward with the class starting in May 2014, the Methodist Program will be changing its name to the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Program. The students are the future of our profession. We are proud to have participated in their education for the past 45 years, and we look forward to teaching them in the years to come.

Submitted by: Julie Richards, Methodist Hospital Program Director, 1992-Present

Upcoming Events:
December 20, 2014—CLS Alumni sponsor cake for UNMC campus students
February 1, 2014—CLS Alumni Chapter Board Retreat
April 29, 2014—Showdown In O-Town, Nebraska at Creighton baseball game—gathering for alumni & friends

We Need Your News for Class Notes
Please consider submitting your news for class notes for the next issue of CONNECT. The next issue will be published in February of 2014, and we’d like to update your classmates with your personal and professional news. Interesting information such as a new job, award, professional achievement, marriage, wedding, birth, or any other good news!
Please submit your news by visiting our website and filling out this online form, or send your news via email to alumni@unmc.edu.

The CLS Alumni Chapter is a dues paying alumni organization under the umbrella of the UNMC Alumni Association, with a mission to enhance the engagement of CLS alumni in the life of UNMC, the CLS program, its faculty and students. For more information about the UNMC CLS Alumni Chapter, please visit our website at www.unmc.edu/alumni or call the UNMC Alumni Relations Office at 888.725.8664. You can also follow us on Facebook.