

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE
YEAR END REPORT: 2002-2003
June 1, 2003

CLINICAL SITES FOR CYTOTECHNOLOGY AND HISTOTECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED

This past year, the Department has developed clinical sites for Cytotechnology and Histotechnology. Affiliation Agreements have been completed for Cytotechnology at Marshfield Clinic Laboratories, the State Laboratory of Hygiene (Madison), and Mayo Clinic (Rochester, Minnesota). An affiliation was also established with St. Joseph's Hospital and Marshfield Clinics for Histotechnology. Students will be placed at these sites beginning in late summer.

STUDENT INTEREST IN CLS CAREERS INCREASES

With the number of professional positions in almost every health care field increasing, student interest in Medical Technology, Cytotechnology, and Histotechnology has increased. The average placement rate for clinical experiences has been ten to fifteen. This year the number of students placed is eighteen, and next year that number will grow to be between twenty and twenty-five. Graduates are fully prepared to practice within their respective professions.

Clinical Laboratory Science majors are in great demand. Among the increased retirements, additional new positions, and the overall economic environment, educational programs in the United States are not able to meet the demands of employers seeking these professionals. There is a national average of 10-20% unfilled positions. This shortage is projected to become even more severe over the next 20 years. In Wisconsin, the only public universities with active, accredited programs include UW Madison, UW Milwaukee, and UWSP. Marquette University is the only private university to have an accredited program.

There has also been a dramatic increase in the number of students interested in Nursing as a profession. This past spring, over 80 pre-nursing majors were advised. The CLS Department develops programs of study for these students who then transfer to a university offering the nursing major.

UWSP CLINICAL STUDENTS SECOND IN STATE STUDENT BOWL COMPETITION

UWSP students competed with 12 student teams from other universities and hospitals in what has been deemed a "rookie" season. Because UWSP students are placed in hospitals throughout the state, it is difficult to field a team in contrast to other universities and hospitals who have students at one site. However, with all the distance education technology and weekend practice, students decided they wanted to make the sacrifices to compete. And compete they did, losing only in the championship round to an excellent Marquette University team. The team members included Jennifer DeVerney, Florence (Lish) Neilitz, Gina (Schroeder) Taddy, and Melissa Wagner who served as "Captain." Betsy Bush was the alternate. They were outstanding representatives of UWSP!

A SWEEP IN THE STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

At the Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Convention, UWSP students were awarded first place, second place, and two in a tie for third place for their poster presentations. A monetary award accompanied the ribbons representing each of the places. There were more than sixty students who entered this competition.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

FOURTH ANNUAL PRESENTATION DAY

The fourth annual Student Presentation Day was held Wednesday, April 9, 2003. Posters were displayed throughout the day in the forum of the Science Building. As part of the requirement for their capstone course, eighteen students developed and presented their research projects and case studies to faculty, students, and guests. The topics were exceptional, and the presentations and posters were truly professional. This experience will promote future professional growth, personal development, and presentations at professional meetings.

BLOOD DRIVES

The CLS Department and Sigma Mu Tau have again sponsored two Blood Center donation drives. Students also served as volunteers for the Red Cross Blood Drives. In addition to providing a service to the community, the blood drives provide valuable experience to CLS students.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

The 2002 CLS graduates maintained the tradition of excellent performance on the national certification exams with 100% passing the exam. Over the last ten years, the pass-rate for UWSP students has been greater than 95%, while the national average is 65%. This year one of our students had the second highest score in the nation.

DEPARTMENT ADVISING UPDATE

Twenty-four students will be applying for Clinical Practicum positions this fall, and eighteen students will begin their Clinical Practicum rotations. Approximately 140 students were advised as Clinical Laboratory Science or Nursing majors in each of the past two semesters. Many Clinical Laboratory Science and Pre-Nursing majors continue to be non-traditional, second degree, and transfer students.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The “**Friends of UWSP Department of Clinical Laboratory Science Award**” was presented to **Ms. Carol Hebert**, UWSP Student Health Service. Ms. Hebert has been an active professional and Lab Manager since 1986. She has continually provided support for the CLS Department and employed CLS students as assistants in the laboratory. Her teaching skills have been proven through the success of students with whom she has worked.

The “**Outstanding Alumni**” Award was presented to **Mr. Rodney Hoeth**. Mr. Hoeth was a 1970 graduate of UWSP where he also earned his Master’s Degree in 1972. He has been employed at St. Michael’s Hospital, Stevens Point, since 1972. His professional titles have included Educational Coordinator, Microbiology Supervisor, Assistant Laboratory Manager, and Laboratory Manager. He has worked with more than 75 CLS students, providing excellent clinical experiences for these UWSP students.

MED TECH STAFF NEWS

Susan Raab

- Developed Cytotechnology affiliations for clinical practicum experiences at Marshfield Clinic, State Lab of Hygiene, and Mayo Clinic; developed Histotechnology affiliation with St. Joseph’s Hospital in Marshfield.
- Organized Student Bowl Team for state competition at WISCLS convention.
- Taught Immunohematology via Wondernet to UW La Crosse students in Summer 2002.
- Developing course management system for eleven clinical sites.

David Chitharanjan

- Collaborating with Susan Raab in revising the CLS 395: Environment Health, and Technology course.

Joyce Bulgrin

- Offered Web-based course, CLS 295: Medical Terminology course during the 2002 and 2003 Winterim session.
- Developing a Web-based course series in Clinical Correlations.
- Presented sessions for “Women in Science.”

Michelle Shulfer

- Developed Safety Tutorial for CLS students.
- Advised student organization, Sigma Mu Tau.
- Coordinated Blood Drive with the Blood Center.
- Assisted in the development of Web-based course series in Clinical Correlations.

- Assisted in presenting sessions for “Women in Science.”
- Received the WISCLS Graduate Education Scholarship.

Nancy Habermann, CLS Office Manager

- Coordinated student volunteers and call-in donors for the Blood Center donation drives.
- Served as member of the Classified Staff Advisory Committee.
- Served as CSAC’s representative to the Cabinet.
- Served as member of the campus American Heart Association Committee.
- Assisted in advising CLS and Pre-Nursing students.

STUDENTS AND ACTIVITIES

STUDENTS PRESENT AT STATE CONVENTION

Junior, senior, and clinical students attended the Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (WISCLS) state convention held in Oshkosh from April 30-May 1. The clinical students submitted and presented their posters of research and case studies at this event. With over 325 attendees over the two days, these graduates had the opportunity to share and discuss their case studies or research projects with laboratory professionals. They also learned about the advantages of professional "networking!"

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

UWSP students again demonstrated excellence by receiving three national scholarships through ASCLS (American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science). Timothy Vue received the Dorothy Morrison Scholarship award. There is only one scholarship of this kind awarded each year.

Jonathon Gierman and LeeAnn Heisler received Alpha Mu Tau Scholarship awards. Approximately fifteen of these national scholarships are awarded each year. We take great pride in the accomplishments of our students!

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY STUDENT AWARDS

An awards reception was held on Friday, April 5, in the Legacy Room, UWSP. Department scholarships in an amount totaling \$1675 were distributed to students who will begin their Clinical Practicum experience this fall. Five students received the CPS Dean’s Awards. Additional scholarships of nearly \$3000 were also distributed this spring by the Partners with St. Joseph’s Hospital of Marshfield and St. Michael’s Hospital Auxiliary.

SIGMA MU TAU STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Clinical Laboratory Science, Nursing, and other health professional majors constitute membership in this organization. Social and educational programs included:

- Co-sponsored with the Pre-Med Society - Presentations on “Cloning” and “Gaining Admission to Medical School,” by Dr. Lloyd Arnold, Pathologist at St. Michael’s Hospital and Medical Director of the CLS Program
- Two Blood Drives
- Two Bake Sales for Tammy Feltz Memorial Scholarship
- Fund-raising – brat sale
- Fund-raising – first aid kits
- Raised \$200 for medical relief program for an orphanage in Peru
- Halloween bowling party
- Christmas – pizza party and bowling