

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE
YEAR END REPORT: 2005-2006
June 1, 2006

1. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CLS DEPARTMENT AWARDED CONTINUED ACCREDITATION FOR SEVEN YEARS

The Department of Clinical Laboratory Science was awarded the maximum of seven years (until April 30, 2013) for its continuing accreditation by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), an international agency for accreditation and approval of educational programs in the clinical laboratory sciences and related health professions. This process demands long hours of dedicated time from administrators, faculty, and staff and involves a detailed self-study, comprehensive review, and on-site visit.

ADDING HEALTH SCIENCES MAJOR

UWSP has proposed a new major in Health Science. The program has been designed initially with four options, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Occupational Therapy, Health Care Administration, and Health Care Informatics. In addition to preparing students for entry into graduate programs, this major will prepare graduates for career advancement in health care-related industries such as sales, administration, and insurance, and placement in entry-level positions in settings as diverse as acute care, ambulatory, and long-term care. The Health Science major will be offered on campus, however, courses will be designed with the intent to offer them, as the demand is demonstrated, at off-campus sites in the UWSP service area or as web-based courses. The courses within this interdisciplinary major will be taught by faculty from numerous departments within the university. Coursework will be divided between core and professional groupings and will feature integrative courses at the end of the program.

DEPARTMENT NAME CHANGE

A name change was approved through faculty governance this past spring. As of Fall 2006, the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science will become the Department of Health Sciences. Majors will be offered in Clinical Laboratory Science and Health Science. Both majors have several professional options for students.

DAVID CHITHARANJAN RETIREMENT

Dr. David Chitharanjan was honored at the 2006 Awards Banquet. Dr. Chitharanjan retired at the end of the 2005-06 academic year. The vision and excitement he generated will be sorely missed. As the first Chair of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science (Medical Technology) at UWSP, he served in that capacity from 1976-1990. For 38 years he dedicated himself to his students and strived for excellence in education and teaching. He ventured into the realms of Administration, serving as Associate Vice Chancellor, but he missed the student contact and his first love, teaching, so returned to the classroom. He has, through all these years, held joint appointments in the Department of CLS and Chemistry. Before his retirement, the David and Julie Chitharanjan CLS Scholarship Fund was established through generous contributions received from David and Julie, faculty, staff, and Clinical Laboratory Science alumni.

FRIEND OF CLS DEPARTMENT

At the annual Awards Banquet, the “**Friend of UWSP Department of Clinical Laboratory Science Award**” was presented to **Mr. Mike Lawton**, Laboratory Manager and Program Director, Langlade Memorial Hospital in Antigo. Mike received his bachelor’s degree with a major in Wildlife Management from UW-Stevens Point in December of 1977. After a brief stint with the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, he returned to school at UWSP in 1979, enrolling in the Medical Technology Program. He completed his 12 month internship at Madison General Hospital, graduating with a second major in Medical Technology in August of 1982. He immediately began his career as a medical technologist at Langlade Memorial Hospital in Antigo, WI and became Manager of Laboratory Services in 1987. He has served in that capacity until the present time. Through the years Mike has been an ardent supporter of UWSP and its CLS program, and under his direction, a CLS program for clinical students was initiated. He has shared his wisdom, understanding, guidance and infinite patience with students. An active member of many professional organizations, Mike is notably a past-president of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Clinical Laboratory Management Association.

STUDENTS ATTEND STATE CONVENTION

Junior, senior, and clinical students attended the Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (WISCLS) State Convention held in Eau Claire on April 26-27. Two Student Bowl teams competed with eighteen other teams from around the state, and they won first and second place! In addition, the clinical students submitted and presented

their research and case study posters at this event. With over 400 attendees over the two days, the students 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!"

CLS DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS KEEP INCREASING IN POPULARITY

The number of students in UWSP CLS programs has continued to increase each year.. A growing demand for health care professionals appears to have sparked student interest. In 2005-2006 twenty-two students completed their major in CLS, twenty in Medical Technology, one in Cytotechnology, and one in Histotechnology. Job placement remains excellent with many students receiving offers of employment well ahead of their graduation date.

The interest in pre-Nursing, pre-PT, and pre-OT also remains high. Currently the CLS Department advises over 240 health care professional students each semester.

2. PARTNERSHIPS

An Articulation Agreement has been developed and will be effective Fall 2006 between UWSP, College of Professional Studies, Department of Health Sciences and North Central Technical College (NTC), Clinical Laboratory Technician Program. This articulation agreement provides the opportunity for NTC students who have earned the Associate Degree for the Clinical Laboratory Technician major to seamlessly advance to earn the Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Clinical Laboratory Science, Medical Technology option. Modular courses were developed in CLS to facilitate this process.

3. STUDENT-CENTERED EXCELLENCE

TWO UWSP TEAMS COMPETE IN STATE STUDENT BOWL COMPETITION

On Tuesday, April 25th, Clinical Laboratory Science students participated in the 2006 WISCLS State Convention Student Bowl in Eau Claire. Eighteen teams from around the state competed, and the two UWSP teams took first and second place, a feat never accomplished before!! These UWSP graduates represented the university in stellar fashion!

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

UWSP CLS students are very competitive nation-wide!

Students demonstrated their excellence by receiving a total of seven national scholarships. Ten ASCLS (American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science) Scholarships were awarded nationally, and three UWSP CLS students received this scholarship. Another UWSP student received one of forty-seven scholarships awarded through the American Society for Clinical Pathology Association. Yet another UWSP CLS student was honored as the recipient of one of thirty-four Dade Behring-Emil von Behring Scholarships. In addition, one of ten Roche Diagnostics Scholarships was received by a UWSP CLS students. A CLS-CT student was the recipient of the Ida and May Reilly Scholarship through the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. This was one of two such awards at the national level.

Seven CLS-MT students received the American Society for Clinical Pathology National Honor Award. This award recognizes those students in the laboratory profession who demonstrate both academic excellence and a commitment to community service and leadership activities.

STATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

CLS students were also successful in being awarded state and community scholarships. One of the two WISCLS (Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science) Clinical Scholarships was received by a UWSP student. One CLS-MT student and one CLS-CT student were the recipients of the Partners with St. Joseph Hospital Scholarship. The Iber Health Education Scholarship through the Community Foundation of Portage County and the Thomas Meiers scholarship, awarded to a senior classmen who is a veteran of the military service and shows financial need and academic achievement, was received by CLS students.

A CLS-MT student submitted an article that was published in *Soundings*, a newsletter at Mayo Clinic, School of Health Sciences, for students and faculty to share information of common interest, recognize accomplishments, and provide educational tools.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

An awards reception was held on Monday, April 3, in the Alumni Room, UWSP. Department scholarships in an amount totaling \$1900.00 were distributed to students who will begin their Clinical Practicum experience this fall. Five students received the CPS Dean's Awards. The John D. Iversen Memorial Scholarship, through the UWSP Foundation, was distributed this year to one CLS student in the amount of \$450.00.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS

The 2005 CLS graduates maintained the tradition of outstanding performance on national certification examinations. Over the last ten years, the pass-rate for UWSP students has been greater than 95%, while the national average is 65%. The 2006 graduates will be completing their certification examinations this summer.

4. STUDENT RESEARCH

SEVENTH ANNUAL PRESENTATION DAY

The seventh annual Student Presentation Day was held Monday, April 3, 2006. Posters were displayed throughout the day in the forum of the Science Building. As part of the requirement for their capstone course, twenty-two 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 promotes professional growth, personal development, and presentations at professional meetings.

STUDENT POSTER SESSIONS AT STATE CONVENTION

At the Wisconsin Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Convention, UWSP was represented by the entry of twenty-two student posters. Seventy-five posters were on display providing an opportunity for students to present new and interesting scientific information. Two UWSP students were awarded ribbons for their posters. One received a second place ribbon and one received a third place ribbon.

5. DIVERSITY

The Department of CLS continues to strive for greater diversity. Faculty and staff have been actively involved in this process. In review of student employees, three Southeastern Asian and two Caucasian students were employed this past year.

An emphasis was placed on incorporating diversity topics and objectives into courses:

- a. CLS 105 (Evolution of Health Care Professions) focused on cultural influences on health care systems and professions.
- b. CLS 395 (Environment, Health, and Technology) directed studies to specifically include varying perspectives among various ethnic groups and socio-economic populations in the United States and world-wide as they related to environment and health issues.
- c. CLS 405 (Clinical Chemistry), 414 (Hemostasis), 415 (Hematology), 425 (Diagnostic Microbiology), 435 (Immunology), 445 (Immunoematology) emphasize diversity as influenced by genetics and disease, social and economic status, and lifestyle influences.

In advising students, retention of minorities remains a focus. Also, a new plan is being developed to address increasing the dissemination of recruitment literature for majors from areas of Wisconsin with higher populations of minority high school students.

6. COMMUNITY SERVICE

BLOOD DRIVES

The CLS Department and Sigma Mu Tau have again sponsored two Blood Center donation drives. CLS students also serve as volunteers for the two Red Cross Blood Drives. These four blood drives provide a service to the community and invaluable experience for CLS students.

UPPER CLASSMEN

Junior and senior level students, not yet in their final year of clinicals, assisted faculty with the “Women in Science” demonstrations and conducted demonstrations (hands-on experiences) for the UWSP Open House.

SIGMA MU TAU STUDENT ORGANIZATION

Sigma Mu Tau focuses on leadership development of its members, making a difference in the community through service, and education as the number one means of self-improvement. This year’s accomplishments included:

- planning a family carnival as a fund-raising event.
- conducting a bake sale for the Tammy Feltz Memorial Scholarship.
- initiation of a senior-underclassmen mentoring program.
- participated in the Cultural Fair.
- participated in the Involvement Fair.
- served as “Books from the Heart” contributors.
- collected donations for Casa Hogar, an orphanage in Peru.

7. IMPROVING OUR WORK/LIVING/STUDY ENVIRONMENT

An interactive workshop, under the direction of our illustrious Dean, Joan North, was conducted with CLS faculty and staff. The over-whelming need identified was additional space to house increased number of students and expanding programs. With expanding numbers, more funding is also needed for services and supplies.

8. MED TECH STAFF NEWS

Susan Raab

- Prepared self-study for NAACLS CLS re-accreditation.
- Delivered three hybrid Web-based CLS courses, CLS 415: Hematology, CLS 405: Clinical Chemistry, and CLS 375: Quality Systems.
- Coordinated online clinical practicum courses.
- Revised two week National Certification Review sessions.
- Developed articulation agreement between North Central Technical College and UWSP for the CLT-CLS programs.
- Collaborated in the development of the Health Sciences major.
- Actively pursued development of additional clinical sites.

Joyce Bulgrin

- Participated in initial collaboration in an effort for Freshman Assessment project.
- Assisted in re-accreditation effort.
- Offered PDN courses for CLS 425, 427, 428, 435.
- Served as CLS representative for Campus Preview sessions.
- Participated in UWSP Open House.
- Completed certification training for Writing Emphasis.
- Participated in Women in Science.
- Served as judge for state poster competition.
- Attended Generational Workshop at Wisconsin Learning Center.
- Advised over 80 students during each of the two semesters.
- Served as guest speaker for AT.
- Coordinated summer blood drive.

Michelle Shulfer

- Advised student organization, Sigma Mu Tau.
- Assisted in re-accreditation effort.
- Served as member of 2% Technology Fee Committee.
- Completed certification training for Writing Emphasis.
- Coordinated UWSP Open House.
- Coordinated National Lab Week decorations and activities.
- Coordinated students for Portage County Cultural Festival activities.
- Served as guest speaker for AT.
- Advised over 80 students during each of the two semesters.

Nancy Habermann, Academic Department Associate

- Assisted in advising CLS and Pre-Nursing students.
- Assisted in re-accreditation effort.
- Kept the CLS Department afloat!