Alumni Newsletter

Department New Roles

New Program Director
Leslie Allshouse was named the MLS Program Director in 2014. A 1983 graduate of MLS, Leslie has been teaching at UD since 2004.

New Clinical Education Coordinator
Karen Brinker transitioned to her new role as the Clinical Education Coordinator in 2014. A 1985 graduate of MLS, Karen has been working in the department since 1992.

New Academic Advisor
Lori Mayhew is the new Academic Advisor, a new position for the department. Lori has worked at UD for 13 years and is excited to join the MLS team.

Medical Laboratory Sciences
New Majors

Our department recently began offering a new major Medical Diagnostics. MDD is designed for students who plan to attend medical or other health care related professional programs. There is a pre physician’s assistant track specifically for students who want to attend graduate school to become a physician’s assistant. Both tracks are proving to be very popular.

In addition, we have created two new minors in Medical Diagnostics and Forensic Science.

We like to keep in touch with you! Please send your updated contact information to mls-dept@udel.edu. We will be moving towards an online newsletter in the future.

Class of 2016 Seniors
The class consists of 33 MLS students and 3 MDD students.

Medical Laboratory Science class of 2016 and their professors. Photo taken at the 2015 Affiliate Meeting held on STAR Campus. The meeting was a great success with numerous alumni attending.

The search for a Department Chair continues. We had two wonderful finalists visit last month and we hope to announce the candidate soon.
We are so very proud of all of our alumni and their accomplishments. Here are just a few…

**send us yours so we can celebrate too!**

Congrats to the following students who earned PhD or MD degrees:

- Dara Missan, MLS ’06 PhD-Albany Medical College
- Keely Pierzchalski, MLS ’06 PhD-U of Maryland (below left)
- Alaa Mahoud, MLS ’10 MD -VA Commonwealth U (below right)

**Dr. Michelle A. Parent**

Dr. Michelle A. Parent, an Associate Professor in Medical Laboratory Sciences, joined UD in 2007. It was after Dr. Parent took a microbiology class in high school that she knew this topic would be her future. She majored in MLS at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and upon graduation began her career as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist in the Microbiology Lab at the Children’s Hospital in Boston. Dr. Parent began teaching MLS rotation and medical students as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist; enjoying it, she decided to become a professor. She began her graduate work at University of Rhode Island obtaining a M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science, with a specialty in Microbiology. Dr. Parent then obtained her doctorate degree in Microbiology/Immunology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 2002.

Her vision for the department is to continue to build upon the its core of Medical Laboratory Science, while working to embrace health care changes, giving the Department the opportunity to have an active role in the next generation of healthcare clinicians. She feels the new Medical Diagnostics major will allow for growth and potentially expand its research portfolio.

Dr. Parent currently teaches the senior level microbiology courses, as well as a course for non-science majors that involve her expertise of microbiology & infectious disease. She enjoys introducing these students to the world of microbiology! She mentions that students have reported back after visiting the doctor stating that they knew exactly what the doctor was discussing and they were thankful for what they had learned.

In her spare time Dr. Parent enjoys her time running with friends and her dogs!

**Alumni Updates**

We are so very proud of all of our alumni and their accomplishments. Here are just a few…

**send us yours so we can proclaim them from the rooftop!**

Congrats to the following students who earned PhD or MD degrees:

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- Keely Pierzchalski, MLS ’06 PhD-U of Maryland (below left)
- Alaa Mahoud, MLS ’10 MD -VA Commonwealth U (below right)

**Alice Wong Surles MLS ’03 welcomed son Luke in 2015.**

**Brenda Rabeno, (third from left) MLS ’00, receives the 2015 Alumni of the Year award.**

**Below is Sherman Binas MLS ’13, who won the ASCLS Key to the Future award.**

**Congrats to Angelica Montes MLS ’13, Michelle Francis MLS ’13 and Anna P. Ciulla for receiving the Distinguished Author Award from the ASCLS for their article titled “Improving the Delivery of Patient Clinical Laboratory Results to Physicians” (CLS 27:139-142, 2014).**

A search for a new faculty member can provide treasures in our own backyard! As the numbers of undergraduates have increased, we have opened up teaching opportunities both in lecture and in our student labs. We have been fortunate to bring back our own alumni to teach the next generation of lab professionals.

- Josh Savina MLS’11, Kristin Costa MLS ’12, and Earl Lacy MLS ’06
- Laura Smoker ’90 Beth Rinado

(Dead)’88

The following alumni have assisted with providing materials & laboratory specimens:

- Hiral Patel ’10 and Tracy Figurelle ’10, Christiana Care Health System
- Theresa Matarese ’00 and Kristin Frederick ’03 Blood Bank of Delaware

**Interested in teaching or have items to donate? Let us know!**
The very public side of UD-MLS

The staff and students of our Medical Laboratory Science program have always stepped forward to “provide the face” of what we do to the general public.

The MLS class of 2014 photo was used in a campaign to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Women’s College of Delaware.

Class of 2014 & 2015

What have YOU done to provide the face of the clinical lab to the general public? Send your list of activities to mls-dept@udel.edu.

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week 2015: Mary Ann McLane (left) and Kathy Gibney, MLS ’76 (2nd from right) receiving a DE Senate Proclamation

Participation at the national ASCLS conference brought UD ‘alums’ together (L to R): Keely Pierzhalski MLS ’06, Mary Beth Miele, past UD faculty, Mary Ann McLane, current UD faculty, Dara Missan, MLS ’06

2015 grads Alicia Wagner & Stefan Feliciano were featured in a recent Nurse Managed Health Center advertisement.

Faculty volunteer at the Delaware Food Bank

The MLS class of 2014 photo was used in a campaign to celebrate the 100th year anniversary of the Women’s College of Delaware.

Class of 2015 graduates (L to R): Blair Barnes, Amanda Espinal, DaSamone Bailey, Judea Rufino

MLS ’17 Senior Kevin Kelso leads the acapella group the MelUDees. Listen by clicking below or copy & paste the link:

http://bit.ly/1PFZD75
You received a great education that has been a central point for your career and even your personal life…

How can you now pay it forward? Here are some ideas:

- Think of our program at your clinical site when you are changing instrumentation or having a lot number of reagents or controls expire. Donations to our student lab efforts have saved the program hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years! We will bring the truck to pick up your donations.

- Influence the next generation of colleagues by contributing to the Medical Laboratory Science Scholarship Funds at www.udel.edu/makeagift-medlabsci.

- Be a voice of advocacy to initiate the discussion about taking some students for a rotation at your clinical site….and then volunteer to do some of that teaching!

- Belong to the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, ASCLS, the best grass roots organization for influencing the future of clinical laboratory education… www.ascls.org

DE Chapter of ASCLS Board Members: (from left) Karen Brinker, MLS ’85, Justine Watson, MLS ’13, Christina Asuncion, MLS ’97, Farogh Nazari, Siemens, Joanelle Lunger, MLS ’01, Kathy Gibney, MLS ’76, Mary Ann McLane, UD faculty

MLS/MDD Class of 2017