From the Program Director...

Before I say hello to everyone, I want to recognize all of the hard work that the Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics Alumni Association (BLDAA) is doing. Over the past year, they've updated bylaws, held a cycle of nominations and elections, sponsored several alumni events and—best of all—presented the BLDAA Outstanding Senior Awards at the commencement receptions. Thank you on behalf of all of us in BLD. Please check out page 7 of the newsletter to get better acquainted with this year's hardworking executive board members.

That said, your BLD Program wishes you a great 2014! It started with the wonderful Rose Bowl Game on Jan. 1 with a 24-20 Spartan victory over Stanford, and continued with the welcoming of several new faculty and staff members on Jan. 2 (see their profiles on page 4). As you will see in the articles throughout this newsletter, BLD has expanded in a number of areas and has added some great individuals to its ranks.

The academic year started out a little oddly. The first two days of classes were canceled as we dealt with the aftermath of Ice Storm 2013, which coated everything with ice, brought bitter cold temperatures and caused widespread power outages as trees toppled and knocked down power lines. In all my years at MSU, I have never seen a two-day furlough. But the semester is now well under way, and we have nearly 400 smiling faces filling our halls, classrooms and laboratories. It's great to be back to normal. You can read about some of the activities our undergraduate and graduate students have been involved in on page 6.

This has been the year for program reviews. We are in the middle of our National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences reaccreditation cycle for the Clinical Laboratory Sciences degree program. It is also the year for the academic program review process, which involves the entire university. In addition, we are poring over all of our course prerequisites to ensure their applicability for another university-wide effort. In all, it feels like a quality assessment exercise; quite comfortable for a group of laboratorians (big smile).

As usual, our alumni have been very supportive. We’ve received numerous donations to several of our endowments and some very sizable gifts, including one very large donation near the end of 2013 that will allow us to expand our laboratory offerings in the near future.

I also encourage you to stay in touch with the latest program happenings by visiting us at www.bld.msu.edu.

I hope that you find this year's newsletter informative and enjoyable. And thank you, as always, for your continued support of our programs and students. Go Green! ☺

As usual, our alumni have been very supportive.

“I really owe so much to the people at MSU, to the programs I’ve been involved with, all the departments I’ve worked in, because it’s been my life,” Schoepke said. (Read the full story on page 5.)

BLD is extremely thankful for the amazing alumni and friends who have been central in making a difference by virtue of the generous gifts and donations made to our program over the past year. Now, more than ever, it is our friends and colleagues who will keep the BLD Program moving forward. Thank you all!

As you can imagine, there are a great many reasons to stop by and visit campus. When you do, please try to make time to visit the BLD Program. The faculty members truly enjoy catching up with former students and always relish a chance to show off how the program has improved.

After earning two MSU degrees and spending 11 years employed in various positions in several MSU departments and programs, Betty Schoepke wanted to give back to the university to support the BLD Program.

“After hearing about the BLD Program, my first thought was to contribute a little something,” Schoepke said. “I knew that I could provide a sum of money over a period of time and it would be used for scholarships, which would be beneficial to all students.” (Read the full story on page 5.)

As usual, our alumni have been very supportive. We’ve received numerous donations to several of our endowments and some very sizable gifts, including one very large donation near the end of 2013 that will allow us to expand our laboratory offerings in the near future.

After earning two MSU degrees and spending 11 years employed in various positions in several MSU departments and programs, Betty Schoepke wanted to give back to the university to support the BLD Program.

“I really owe so much to the people at MSU, to the programs I’ve been involved with, all the departments I’ve worked in, because it’s been my life,” Schoepke said. (Read the full story on page 5.)

BLD is extremely thankful for the amazing alumni and friends who have been central in making a difference by virtue of the generous gifts and donations made to our program over the past year. Now, more than ever, it is our friends and colleagues who will keep the BLD Program moving forward. Thank you all!

As you can imagine, there are a great many reasons to stop by and visit campus. When you do, please try to make time to visit the BLD Program. The faculty members truly enjoy catching up with former students and always relish a chance to show off how the program has improved.

I also encourage you to stay in touch with the latest program happenings by visiting us at www.bld.msu.edu.

I hope that you find this year's newsletter informative and enjoyable. And thank you, as always, for your continued support of our programs and students. Go Green!”

John Gerlach ('76, '84, '89)
Director,
Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics Program

WWW.BLD.MSU.EDU
Fred Barnard, medical technology, ’66, retired in 2006 after 33 years with Quest Diagnostics. He also served as a volunteer firefighter for the City of Troy, retiring in 1996 after 30 years. Barnard has written a book on the history of the Troy fire department and is currently writing a book on the house where he grew up. He is a volunteer at the Troy Historic Village and a reserve deputy sheriff in Macomb County, Mich.

Andre Lee, medical technology, ’66, retired after many years as a hospital administrator and health professor. Last year, he began work on a personal capstone project called “Black Health Legends,” which includes two exhibits—a mobile unit called “Who is First,” which launched in January at the Kentucky Museum of African American Heritage in Louisville; and a more robust, larger exhibit that includes photos, artifacts and a documentary film, scheduled to launch in June at the same museum.

Donna Duberg, medical technology, ’71; M.A., educational systems development, ’85; M.S. clinical laboratory sciences, ’86, was the recipient of the 2013 ASCP Regional Member Award for the South Central Region.

Michael Weiss, medical technology, ’74; D.O., osteopathic medicine, ’78, was elected as president of the Michigan Osteopathic Association.

Troy Devlin, medical technology, ’01, was recently promoted to director of integrated delivery networks for PCLS (Physician’s Choice Laboratory Services) Molecular Toxicology, Genetics & Cytology reference laboratory.

Kenetta Ruffin, medical technology, ’02, completed her Ph.D. in public health epidemiology at Walden University, Minneapolis, Minn., in Oct. 2013, and currently works as an infection prevention specialist II at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital, Wyandotte, Mich. She also has been teaching in the Health Science Department at Baker College of Allen Park since 2007.

Munira Mulani, medical technology, ’06, works at Feinstein Institute for Medical Research (part of North Shore LIJ Health System) in New York. While working, she completed a master’s in public administration, with a specialization in health care through Long Island University in Dec. 2013.

Allyson Chirio, medical technology, ’08, is pursuing her doctorate in health sciences, with the goal of teaching medical career students.

Andrea Horvath, medical technology, ’08, recently started at Bronson Methodist Hospital in Kalamazoo, Mich., as a medical technician. She works a second shift rotation in microbiology and hematology/coag/urinalysis.

Michelle Hopkins, medical technology, ’10, graduated in 2011 from the Anisa I. Kanbour School of Cytotechnology, Pittsburgh, Pa., and then worked for the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for two years. She recently moved to Oklahoma City and is working for the University of Oklahoma Medical Center there.

Krystyna McCollum, biomedical laboratory science, ’13, recently began an internship at St. Vincent’s Medical Center in Jacksonville, Fla. Her first rotation is in hematology/phlebotomy. She’s the only out-of-state intern there; her colleagues call her “Michigan.”

---

**Call for Nominations**

**Become a member of the BLDAA Executive Board**

By Kayla Kerr, BLDAA Nominating Committee Chair

We are looking for three new members to join our executive board, beginning July 1, 2014. This is a great opportunity and a fun way to stay involved with your alma mater while you help the BLD Program grow.

Elected members will serve a three-year term and are eligible to run for an officer position. The main objectives of the executive board are to plan major events, brainstorm new ways to reach out to other alumni and to guide the BLD Program toward continued excellence, with the benefit of the board’s collective passion and diverse backgrounds and experiences.

We have exciting plans for the future but we need driven, creative and dedicated Spartans to help make them a reality! All meetings are phone conferences, so board members can be anywhere in the world and still make a big impact in East Lansing, Mich.

If this sounds perfect for you or someone you know, send a nomination request or inquiry to BLDAA@msu.edu. Please include a short biography and contact information. All nominations must be received by March 28, 2014. Voting will take place electronically the first two weeks of May.
The MSU Spartans beat Stanford 24-20 to win the 100th Rose Bowl Game and I was there to see it!

By Deborah Loniewski, BLDAA Board Member

I’m not just bragging about attending this amazing event. The opportunity came after I volunteered at the December MSU graduation ceremony to help present awards to some of the outstanding graduates. How do you make opportunities come your way? I know through experience that it takes hard work, dedication and perseverance to be successful and make opportunities happen. I joined the MSU BLDAA board this past summer for a number of reasons: to help my alma mater, network with fellow alumni, strengthen our profession, and create new personal and professional development opportunities.

Continuing with my story, commencements followed the Big Ten Football Tournament and, after watching MSU beat Ohio State, I was full of Spartan pride. John Gerlach thanked us for helping at the event and asked if we might assist at future student events. My flippant response was, “For tickets to the Rose Bowl, I will help.” I got a call later asking, “Are you serious?” I said, “absolutely,” and on Dec. 30, 2013, with tickets in hand, I was off to Pasadena! To be in sunny Pasadena, California, and witness the MSU football team win the 100th Rose Bowl Game on Jan. 1, 2014, was truly an amazing experience.

So, in addition to, perhaps, lucking into Bowl tickets, why should you join the MSU BLDAA? There are several reasons. Our alumni group plans a lot of activities to provide networking and socializing opportunities such as the annual homecoming tailgate event, basketball game watch and a wine tasting to name a few. Other important activities planned will benefit the BLD program for future students. And, you can learn what new things the MSU BLD Program is offering students today.

You can help our profession. The biomedical laboratory field is a unique and complex area of healthcare that is rapidly changing. Networking with alumni is ideal for sharing experiences and learning from others. By organizing and making connections within our profession, laboratory scientists can play a lead role to guide changes and decisions being made by the government to improve healthcare.

Alumni activities also provide avenues to help your professional development. For example, sharpen your public speaking skills by volunteering to speak to high school students about our profession. Or help plan events or write an article for the alumni newsletter. Being a member is also a good way to hear about new jobs or career opportunities.

It’s easy to join the MSU BLD alumni group. Sign up now by visiting www.bld.msu.edu/Alumni and clicking on the Sparty box on the right side of the page. Follow the prompts on the registration page. Membership costs only $45 a year and the benefits are great. If you are a new graduate, you receive your first two years of membership free of charge.

Getting involved and networking with your alumni group will not only help the MSU BLD Program and our profession; it can benefit you personally by making the right contacts at the right time. Join now and see what new opportunities come to you.

Deborah Loniewski (B.S., medical technology, ’93) and Debra Parker (B.S., medical technology, ’79) strike a pose at Rose Bowl 2014.

2014 BLDAA Calendar of Events

Come join us and reconnect with fellow alumni at any of our upcoming events. Members and non-members are always welcome and encouraged to bring friends and family. Please keep an updated e-mail on file with BLD in order to get the event invites. Detailed event information will be e-mailed prior to each event.

Wine Tasting Night Out
Sat., July 26, 2014
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Burgdorf’s Winery, Haslett, MI

Annual Homecoming Tailgate
Sept. 27, 2014
Lunch and beverages provided.
MSU campus, behind Kedzie Hall

To update your e-mail address, please e-mail your full name (maiden if applicable) to bld@msu.edu. Hope to see you soon. Go Green!
New faces at BLD

The Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics Program welcomed several new staff members and one new faculty member since its last newsletter. If you have the opportunity to stop by and visit, please help us welcome them to the BLD family.

**Jenifer Bourcier** joined BLD as its instructional lab coordinator in Nov. 2013, and is responsible for managing the program’s teaching lab operations and safety regulations. Before coming to MSU, Bourcier conducted research with the National Institutes of Health’s Human Microbiome Project and spent two years at U of M-Flint managing the undergraduate general and organic chemistry labs, and teaching a molecular biology of eukaryotes lab. She received her bachelor’s degree at U of M-Flint and her doctorate in microbiology and molecular genetics at MSU. Bourcier lives in Lansing with her husband and three Australian cattle dogs. She likes to home brew and crochet.

**Allan McDaniel** joined BLD as its new instructional media coordinator in Jan. 2014. McDaniel came back to MSU several months prior to joining BLD to film and develop a weekly live streaming podcast for the African Studies Department entitled, “Eye on Africa.” McDaniel received his B.A. in media arts and technology in 2012. During this time, he was chosen to design the logo and graphics for the Walk of Fame campaign in the City of Detroit. McDaniel was born and raised in Detroit, Mich. In his spare time, he enjoys freelance projects, video games and filming skits.

**Rachel Morris** joined BLD as a teaching specialist in Jan. 2014. Before joining BLD, Morris was a research fellow at the University of Michigan Medical School from Feb. to Dec. 2013, and a research associate at MSU from 2011-2013. She received her A.S. in medical laboratory science and her B.A. in biology from the University of Maine at Augusta in 1992 and 2007, respectively, and her Ph.D. in biological sciences from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisc., in 2011. Morris lives in East Lansing with her husband, two sons and an awesome Australian cattle dog mix named Zora. In her spare time, she enjoys knitting, reading and anything that takes her outdoors.

**Aimee Stewart** joined BLD as a curriculum assistant in Jan. 2014. Prior to joining the program, Stewart took BLD’s Immunodiagnostics and Flow Cytometry Certificate courses, which led her to apply for the curriculum assistant position. She received her bachelor’s degree in human biology from MSU in 2002. After graduation, she worked as a veterinary assistant at Miller Animal Clinic in Lansing, Mich. Her love of animals prompted her to return to MSU in 2005 to pursue a career as a veterinary technician. After passing the state and federal veterinary technician board exams, she became a licensed veterinary technician and is still practicing. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and pets.

---

**Faculty Honors**

The BLD Program had the honor of two faculty members receiving 2013 College of Natural Science (CNS) Awards during the college’s annual faculty meeting and awards ceremony last November.

**BLD professor Kathy Doig** was awarded the 2013 Faculty Teaching Prize in recognition of her significant contributions to student education by her exceptional teaching performance. Congratulations Dr. Doig!

**BLD student advisor Sue McQuiston** was nominated by BLD student Jaya Gupta for the CNS Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor Award. The Advisory Council was impressed with Gupta’s presentation of McQuiston’s commitment to undergraduate education.
Devoted Spartan gives back

Betty L. Schoepke (B.S., medical technology, ’63, M.S., clinical laboratory sciences, ‘75), a lifetime member of the Michigan State University Alumni Association (MSUAA) along with her husband, John, heartily agrees that MSUAA is a “. . . Personal Network for Life.”

“MSU has ‘been my lifeline’ several times, just when I needed it,” she said. Conversely, Schoepke has been there for MSU when the university needed her.

After earning two MSU degrees and spending 11 years working in several MSU departments and programs, Schoepke and her husband recently decided to give back to the university to support a program that is near and dear to her heart—the Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics (BLD) Program.

Schoepke and Michigan State have shared a truly symbiotic relationship.

The relationship began when she was one of a handful of Grand Haven High School students selected to visit campus, courtesy of one of the town’s civic groups. In fall 1956, her first MSU lifeline was acceptance in the pre-veterinary program and a job in the Veterinary Diagnostic Microbiology Laboratory. She later transferred to the Medical Technology (MT) Program in the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM).

While working on her degree, Schoepke would get married, begin raising two children and move to Grand Rapids—where she completed her required internship at St. Mary’s Hospital and earned her bachelor’s degree. She then worked at the hospital for another two years.

“But soon, I felt a ‘dire need’ to return to MSU,” Schoepke said.

In 1965, she began working in the Department of Animal Husbandry’s Nutrition Laboratory (now Animal Science), where she completed her required internship at St. Mary’s Hospital and earned her bachelor’s degree. She then worked at the hospital for another two years.

Desiring an advanced degree, Schoepke began the master’s program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLS) in 1970 and worked in the lab of John (Jack) F. Holland.

Schoepke received her CLS degree in 1975 and, soon after, landed a job in the newly established toxicology service laboratory in CVM. She later worked in the Department of Chemistry, and then in the Department of Biochemistry.

In 1978, she applied for a position and was hired by the Michigan Department of Public Health (MDPH) Bureau of Laboratories—now known as the Michigan Department of Community Health—to develop a clinical laboratory training program for technologists working in smaller hospital laboratories throughout the state.

Barbara Barnes, a quality control supervisor at the University of Michigan blood bank laboratory, along with the Michigan Association of Blood Banks, helped launch the workshop series.

“Barbara really helped kick off my job at MDPH,” Schoepke said. “We did things that really made a difference; people learned new techniques and were able to apply them in their hospital laboratories.

“Barbara really helped kick off my job at MDPH,” Schoepke said. “We did things that really made a difference; people learned new techniques and were able to apply them in their hospital laboratories.

The program was successful due to the generous, voluntary contribution of several MSU faculty members, including Kathy Doig, a previous student of mine and past BLD director, and John Gerlach, current BLD director,” she added.

After 13 years with the MDPH, Schoepke decided to retire, primarily to work from home with her husband on a business he had started in 1985 to manufacture and sell zippered storage bags for cars and motorcycles.

“But something about retirement wasn’t satisfying for me,” Schoepke said. “I was really yearning for structure, and for contact with those whose ‘language’ I understood.”

She contacted Gerlach for another MSU lifeline. He hired her to assist in the program’s beginning laboratory classes for three semesters.

“Barbara really helped kick off my job at MDPH,” Schoepke said. “We did things that really made a difference; people learned new techniques and were able to apply them in their hospital laboratories.

“Barbara really helped kick off my job at MDPH,” Schoepke said. “We did things that really made a difference; people learned new techniques and were able to apply them in their hospital laboratories.

The program was successful due to the generous, voluntary contribution of several MSU faculty members, including Kathy Doig, a previous student of mine and past BLD director, and John Gerlach, current BLD director,” she added.

Schoepke received notice that her good friend Barbara Barnes had passed away. She was stunned to learn that Barnes had left a TIAA/CREF retirement fund in her name.

It didn’t take long for Betty and her husband to decide what to do with the money; they would donate most of the fund to the BLD Program, with an emphasis on developing a doctorate in clinical laboratory sciences.

“I feel very sentimental about this gift and my affiliation with every director of the BLD Program,” she said. “I really owe my successes to those at MSU.”
BLD Student Association update
By Luke Schanz, BLDSA Professions Coordinator

The BLD Student Association (BLDSA) provides its members with the opportunity to become involved with the BLD Program and laboratory profession. The BLDSA executive board collaborates with faculty advisor Sue McQuiston to host events throughout the year.

The BLDSA had a great kickoff last fall semester with a potluck picnic, where underclassmen who were new to the program had the chance to network and socialize with fellow students and faculty members. There were also a number of presentations given during the fall by BLD faculty advisors Sue McQuiston and Mariane Wolfe, and BLD professor Kathy Doig on the topics of BLD career paths, student advising and test-taking skills, respectively. The BLDSA was lucky enough to work with BLD alumnus, Brandon Hanney, who graciously visited campus and gave a presentation about his automation informatics position at Siemens.

November was an active month for the BLDSA. Working with the American Red Cross, the group helped collect 65 units of blood, with the potential to save up to 195 lives. Later in the month, the BLDSA hosted fundraising events that included BLDSA T-shirt sales and a student/faculty euchre tournament. The proceeds were sent to help relief efforts for Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines.

BLD, once again, participated in the Gift of Life race, an annual competition between Michigan universities to see which school can sign up the most organ donors in a six-week period from Jan. 16 to Feb. 27, while also educating the public on the importance of organ donations. This year's competition ended with Michigan State successfully signing up more than 100 organ donors and finishing second among Michigan universities, falling short only to Wayne State University.

With spring semester in full swing, the BLDSA continues to plan and host events. Students gathered for a Q&A session with Wayne State University.

Update on BLD graduate programs
By Mariane Wolfe, BLD Advisor

The graduate program in BLD has 27 students in its three master’s degree programs. The three degrees offered are a master of science in clinical laboratory sciences (CLS), a master of science in biomedical laboratory operations (BMLO) and a master of arts in biomedical laboratory sciences (BLS). All of the degree programs are available online and on campus. The majority of our graduate students are enrolled in the online programs. We currently have 7 master’s candidates in BMLO, 3 candidates in the master of arts program in BLS and 17 students earning master of science degree in CLS.

The graduate program continues to grow, admitting approximately 7 graduate students annually. Three students graduated from the program this past year. As students finish their course work, they complete their degrees by presenting an oral defense of their thesis or project. These presentations are available online at the time they are given. If you are interested in being a part of such presentations, or have any questions about graduate studies, contact Mariane Wolfe at setyabu1@cns.msu.edu or by phone at (517) 432-3805.

What do our students do once they have attained their master's degrees? Some of our graduates are currently working in international laboratories and their role in global health. Attendees were invited to make bracelets, with all donations going to help purchase mosquito nets to help fight malaria. Additionally, BLD advisors Sue McQuiston and Mariane Wolfe are scheduled to give a presentation on advising and career development, and BLD professor Kathy Doig will give an intriguing presentation on the neuroscience of how to study.

The BLDSA is pleased to have the opportunity to make meaningful connections with fellow students, faculty and alumni. If you would like to make a presentation in the future, please contact us at bld@msu.edu.

Contact us: bld@msu.edu
Meet your BLDAA Executive Board
By Melissa Klimes, President, BLD Alumni Association

The Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics Alumni Association Executive Board (BLDAA E-Board) is a group of elected alumni who are members of the MSU Alumni Association, and are constantly thinking of ways to keep alumni connected to their alma mater. This year’s executive board members are:

President: Melissa Klimes (nee, Czostkowski), MLS (ASCP)CM
Technologist II, Blood Center of Wisconsin’s Molecular Diagnostics Lab, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Klimes previously worked at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Mich., in the serology/molecular microbiology laboratory. She received her B.S. in clinical laboratory sciences (CLS) from MSU in 2006. She and her husband, Kris, enjoy cooking, traveling and cheering on anything Spartan-related.

President-Elect: Kayla Kerr, MLS (ASCP)CM
Immunohematology reference laboratory technologist, American Red Cross, Detroit, Michigan
Previously, Kerr worked for the St. John Providence Health System Blood Bank in southeastern Michigan. She received her B.S. in medical technology from MSU in 2009. In her spare time, Kerr enjoys reading, attempting Pinterest projects, traveling and recruiting others to the MSU BLD Program.

Immediate Past President: Donna Duberg, MS, MT(ASCP)SM
Vice chair and assistant professor of clinical laboratory science, St. Louis University, Missouri
Duberg was previously the director for the CLS program at Jewish Hospital College of Nursing and Allied Health, St. Louis, Mo. In 2013, she received the ASCP Regional Member Award for the South Central Region. Duberg received her B.S. in medical technology (1971), M.S. in educational psychology (1985) and M.S. in CLS (1986) from MSU. In addition to celebrating her alma mater, she is a consultant for an international cleaning and hygiene products corporation.

Jim Wisniewski
Guest instructor, Eastern Michigan University; 8th-grade general science teacher, Connecticut
Most recently, Wisniewski worked in the microbiology lab at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Ypsilanti, Mich., and was a supervisor for flu vaccine production and sterile filling at King Pharmaceuticals. Wisniewski received a B.S. in medical technology from MSU in 1997, and a B.S. in general science from EMU. He and his wife, also a BLD graduate, have two children and two dogs. Wisniewski enjoys the outdoors, sports, coffee, astronomy, reading science fiction and, most of all, time with his family.

Sarah Siemiontkowski MB (ASCP)CM
Antibody testing and tissue typing organ transplant recipients and donors, MSU immunohematology and serology laboratory
Siemiontkowski received her B.S. in diagnostic molecular science from MSU in 2012, and has ambitions to continue her education and obtain her Ph.D. She is looking forward to helping the BLDAA with recruitment and growth.

Luke Schanz, BLDAA Student Representative (non-voting member)
MSU senior; plans to graduate in May 2014 with a B.S. in biomedical laboratory science
Schanz is an active member of the BLDSA and is excited to have this opportunity to make some lasting connections between current students and dedicated alumni. Upon graduation, he plans to pursue medical school with hopes of becoming a pathologist.

In 2012, Copeland decided to pursue an M.S. in health science administration. She is also an active member of ASCLS. She received her B.S. in CLS from MSU in 2010. One of her roles on the board is to serve as the “young alum” liaison. Copeland loves cheering on Spartan athletics with her husband, Ben.

Linda M. Haglund-Hazy CHS (ABHI), MB (ASCP)CM
Supervisor, HLA Laboratory, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, Florida
Haglund-Hazy’s career began in Columbus, Ohio, as supervisor of the HLA lab at the American Red Cross. She has also worked in HLA labs at Ohio State University and at LifeLink Transplant Immunology. She began her affiliation with MSU in 1976 as a freshman and work-study student in the immunohematology and serology laboratory. She graciously gives her time to the BLDAA.

Deb Loniewski, BS, MT (ASCP)
Outreach sales and marketing representative, Sparrow Hospital Laboratories, Lansing, Michigan
Loniewski has 20 years of experience in the clinical laboratory industry, is a member of the Lansing Chamber of Commerce and is an active member in, and presenter for, ASCLS and MSCLS. She received her B.S. in medical technology from MSU in 1993. She is, and always will be, full of green and white pride.

Rex Fernandez Faminatango, MSc, MLS(ASCP)CM, QLC, MT(AMT), AHI, CLC(AMT)
Laboratory administrative director, Morrill Community Hospital, Bridgeport, Nebraska
Faminatango is also the phlebotomy technician and medical laboratory assistant program director and instructor at Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff, Neb. He received his M.S. in CLS from MSU and his B.S. from Trinity University of Asia, Quezon City, Philippines. He is very active with ASCP, and offers the BLDAA much experience in the areas of quality, growth and teamwork.

Jacqueline R. Copeland (nee Jabczenski), MLS (ASCP)CM
Quality improvement specialist, Henry Ford Health Systems, Detroit, Michigan
In 2012, Copeland decided to pursue an M.S. in health science administration. She is also an active member of ASCLS. She received her B.S. in CLS from MSU in 2010. One of her roles on the board is to serve as the “young alum” liaison. Copeland loves cheering on Spartan athletics with her husband, Ben.

The Biomedical Laboratory Diagnostics Program newsletter is published annually for alumni and friends by the College of Natural Science. Copyright 2014 Michigan State University. MSU is an affirmative-action, equal-opportunity employer. Send correspondence to:

MSU College of Natural Science Advancement Office
288 Farm Lane, Room 5
East Lansing, MI 48824
(517) 432-4561 | natsci4you@msu.edu

Contributing writers: John Gerlach, Kayla Kerr, Melissa Klimes, Deborah Loniewski, Val Osowski, Laura Seeley and Mariane Wolfe.
Photography: Allan McDaniel, MSU Office of Communications and Brand Strategy, and Harley Seeley.

Michigan State University
Mendoza lab offers undergraduate research opportunity

For the past five years, BLD associate professor Leonel Mendoza has been investigating a novel group of mammalian pathogenic oomycetes in the genus *Lagenidium* that cause lagenidiosis, an acute fungal disease primarily found in the southeastern United States; it causes progressive skin and subcutaneous (beneath the skin) lesions in the legs, groin, trunk and other areas. Mendoza's studies reveal the presence of several species within this genus isolated with increased frequency from cases of cutaneous and systemic infection in cats, dogs, horses and humans.

To help him conduct research on the strain of *Lagenidium* sp isolated from humans (MTLA-13), Mendoza put out a research proposal to four BLD undergraduate students and one biochemistry and molecular biology (BMB) student (see photo on right).

During the 2013 fall semester, the students amplified, cloned and sequenced the Internal Transcriber Spacers (rDNA ITS) of the MTLA-13 strain and did phylogenetic analysis. Their data showed that this particular strain was placed alone in its own branch with strong bootstrap support. This semester, they will subculture MTLA-13 onto different media to evaluate its morphological (external) features. Mendoza said that these results can be used in the future to identify similar strains isolated from putative cases of lagenidiosis.

“From this investigation, we envision the production of molecular probes that can be used in the identification of this pathogen from clinical samples, and hope to generate enough morphological data to alert laboratory clinical personnel on the taxonomic features of similar strains recovered from suspected clinical samples,” he said. “It's also a great way to involve undergraduate students in real-world research.”