



*Mayo School of Health Sciences*

# Connections

A publication for alumni, students, faculty and friends of Mayo School of Health Sciences

WINTER | 2015



GRADUATION ISSUE

# Exemplify character, courage and confidence

**C**ongratulations, graduates! I have wonderful memories of my graduation day, my first day of physical therapy practice and my first patient. I'm certain, with your excellent preparation at Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS), you'll have similar great experiences as you launch your health care career. I expect that you will find, as I did, that being a medical professional is honorable, humbling and extremely rewarding.

You are entering health care at a tumultuous time. Delivery models are being reinvented. Health care reform is here, and we don't know how it will turn out. We do know that demand is growing. Quality and value will become the primary indicators for payment and more importantly, this information will help patients choose their health

care providers. Our patients have high expectations of us, as they should.

What can you do to meet these challenges? Exemplify character, courage and confidence.

## **Character**

Building character is a career-long and lifelong endeavor. It's built on the foundation of values and beliefs you first learned from your family. Layered on are the influences of your teachers and mentors, your work and personal experiences, as well as your spiritual beliefs.

I consider striving for excellence a critical part of character. That means you'll be seeking out ways to continue your growth. Character also is embodied in giving back, by being a role model, mentor or preceptor. Of course, character always means putting the patient first.

Finally, character encompasses keeping the fire of your purpose burning bright. When you care deeply about your patients, your colleagues and your profession, the passion for your work will sustain you through many opportunities, challenges and changes that will occur over your career. Passion plus knowledge gives you courage.

## **Courage**

Courageous professionals have the strength to make the right decisions and to stand by their ethics and knowledge. Courage means admitting to the mistakes that will occur as you learn and grow. It means knowing where your skills begin and end, and referring patients to a colleague when needed.

## **Confidence**

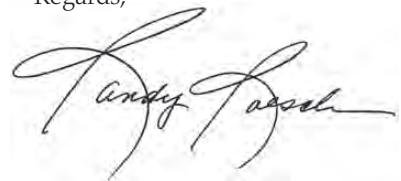
You'll gain confidence with each patient you see, each day you practice and in each opportunity you create for collaboration. However, you can begin your first day of practice with the confidence that you have been well educated and that you are well prepared.

Your career will be built upon the strength of your character, the courage in your heart and the confidence you bring to each experience.

I welcome you to the Mayo alumni network. Stay in touch with MSHS and our alumni association. Post your new job and your career advancements in the profile section of the association website. See where your classmates are working, and stay connected.

And, come back to see us at the Annual Meeting on April 15, 2016. I'll be eager to hear your stories about your first day on the job.

Regards,



Randy Roesch, PT, DPT, MBA  
President  
MSHS Alumni Association  
rroesch@gmail.com

## **On the cover**

Graduates from MSHS programs in Arizona include: Sharif Elguindi, Medical Physics Residency, Jacqueline Bibee, Audiology Externship, and Coralie Baumann, Physician Assistant Fellowship, Hospital Internal Medicine.





Mayo School of Health Sciences

# Connections

- <https://mshsalumni.mayo.edu>
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**20** Graduating classes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Audiology</li> <li>• Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist</li> <li>• Clinical Neurophysiology Technology</li> <li>• Clinical Pastoral Education</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cytotechnology</li> <li>• Dietetic Internship</li> <li>• Echocardiography</li> <li>• Histology Technician</li> <li>• Medical Laboratory Science</li> <li>• Medical Physics Residency</li> <li>• Molecular Genetics Technology</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nuclear Medicine Technology</li> <li>• Nurse Anesthesia</li> <li>• Nurse Practitioner</li> <li>• Nursing Practice Academic Support</li> <li>• Perioperative Nursing</li> <li>• Pharmacy</li> <li>• Phlebotomy Technician</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical Therapy</li> <li>• Physician Assistant</li> <li>• Radiation Therapy</li> <li>• Radiography</li> <li>• Respiratory Care</li> <li>• Sonography</li> <li>• Surgical First Assistant</li> </ul> |
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# 2015

A look back — and ahead —  
with MSHS Dean Michael Silber



*Connections* recently sat down with Michael Silber, MB, ChB, dean of Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS), to discuss the school's growth and direction for the future.



1 Lydia Coutts, PT, DPT, left, was the first resident in the Physical Therapy Geriatrics Residency. 2 Pam Lovett, DNP, CRNA, center, is program director for the new Doctorate of Nursing Practice Program. 3 Abba Zubair, MD, PhD, MSHS associate dean. 4 Preceptor Nicole Anderson, RN, CRNA, works with nurse anesthetist student Sarah LoBue, RN, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Austin, Minnesota.

## Developing new programs

As health care changes, so do the job requirements for health care professionals. MSHS is continually evaluating its programs to see where it needs to grow or change to meet these needs. In 2015, the school created several new programs designed to prepare the workforce of the future. Among the changes are:

### *New residency programs in physical therapy*

"Physical therapy is so complex that people are increasingly pursuing specialization," says Dr. Silber. "In Rochester, we offer a residency in orthopedics, and MSHS in Arizona offers a residency in geriatrics. And, we've recently approved two new residencies — in sports medicine and neurology — to be offered in Rochester."

### *More options at the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR)*

"We have a number of programs in partnership with UMR," says Dr. Silber. "Students earn a Bachelor of Science in Health Professions as well as a certificate from MSHS in one of four tracks. They complete coursework at UMR and come to Mayo for clinical rotations and additional coursework."

Available tracks include Echocardiography, Radiography,





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Respiratory Care and Sonography. In 2016, a Nuclear Medicine Technician track will be added.

#### *Nursing practice partnership*

On Mayo Clinic's Florida campus, students pursuing doctor of nursing practice degrees at select universities can complete their final projects at Mayo Clinic. "This partnership gives students hands-on experience and gives us a chance to observe the students at work," says Dr. Silber. That can serve as a sort of extended job interview, giving Mayo (and qualified student nurses) an advantage come hiring time.

#### **Integrating Mayo Clinic Health System programs**

Throughout Mayo Clinic Health System, there are a large number of allied health education programs that aren't affiliated with Mayo Clinic. Over the next two to three years, those programs will be integrated into MSHS. "The transition will be done gradually and collaboratively," says Dr. Silber.

#### **Faculty coming together**

MSHS faculty, staff and leaders from all campuses met in Rochester to learn about new teaching strategies and


classroom resources. Many already have incorporated the use of a classroom response system. Teachers can pose questions to the whole class, and students respond via their personal devices. It's an immediate way for instructors to see if students have mastered a topic.

#### **Supporting diversity**

One of MSHS's priorities in 2015 and beyond is enhancing diversity.

"We're interested in recruiting a diverse student body and in better supporting our diverse learners once they're enrolled in one of our programs," says Dr. Silber. A summer faculty retreat was devoted in part to diversity, and the school recently completed a diversity climate survey. Watch for updates in future editions of *Connections*.

#### **Recruiting great leaders**

"We now have our entire leadership team in place," says Dr. Silber. "I'm very grateful to all of the associate deans and administrators. Their passion and commitment to our students and the school are what make MSHS a great place to learn and work." 

# MSHS

2015 by the numbers

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Mayo School of Health Sciences offers a one-of-a-kind education. Our students and programs are fully integrated into Mayo Clinic, ranked No. 1 in more specialties than any other hospital in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*.

58

Programs, representing 58 professions

1,668

Enrollment

206

Program directors and faculty

3

Primary campuses: Rochester, Minnesota, Phoenix/Scottsdale, Arizona and Jacksonville, Florida

68

Clinical rotations

7

Bachelor-level programs

11

Percentage of diverse students

27

Bachelor of Science in Health Professions degrees awarded

219

Affiliated schools

2

Doctorate programs

111

Largest program (Nurse Practitioner students)

17,678

Alumni







# Let's talk

## About interdisciplinary health care education

### Past the wide, gray lines: Interdisciplinary health care education

By Thomas Mork

“Bob,” a cancer survivor, told a crowd on Mayo Clinic’s Rochester campus about how he brought forward multiple treatment options that his physician decided to try when standard care failed. Over a year later, Bob is cancer-free and advocating that people become active members of their health care team. His experience illustrated that we require contributions from everyone within the health care system — patient included — to provide the best care.


The same goes for interdisciplinary teamwork. If we are to fight for Bob’s life, we need collaboration, cohesiveness and cooperation among our respective fields. The lines dividing our professions are not black and thin, but gray and wide. We must complement the strengths and weaknesses of one another to unravel the complexities of the human body with each patient.

MSSH teaches us just where that gray line is and how to move beyond the line to enhance interdisciplinary teamwork. I learned this lesson in the Physical Therapy Program when paired with a Mayo Medical School student on a practice case study. Our patient was an older, obese adult who presented with severe abdominal pain and low back pain. I quickly realized that stepping back to listen to my partner’s knowledge would be the quickest path to an abdominal pain solution. For treatment of low back pain, I proposed physical therapy to strengthen, lengthen and re-educate muscles to achieve long-term relief. Our teamwork evolved into a comprehensive presentation that left our imaginary patient in a much better place.

Our program teaches interdisciplinary teamwork by continuously surrounding us with experts from various fields and students in areas we barely touch upon. We learn that we need our partners in health care to fill gaps in our knowledge.

I began my clinical education in my second year of physical therapy school and was once more in a melting pot of health care professionals.

What are you thinking about medical education, patient care and careers in allied health professions? *Connections* invites Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSSH) alumni, students and staff to share experiences and viewpoints through a new feature called “Let’s talk.” Submit your viewpoint, up to 500 words, to the *Connections* managing editor at [connectionsmanageditor@mayo.edu](mailto:connectionsmanageditor@mayo.edu).

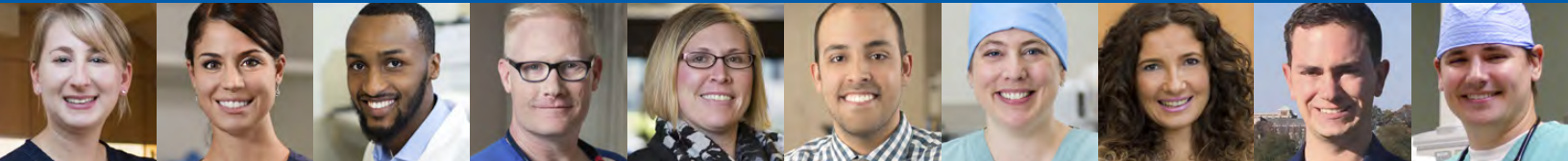
MSSH prepared us for this moment by immersing us in the resources and means to communicate with other clinicians in a team environment. This interdisciplinary learning environment expedites the process of working together for the good of the patient. I believe this is the best way to prepare students for the real world — a world in which we must rely on one another to care for others. 

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*Thomas Mork is in his third and final year of the MSSH Physical Therapy Program. From North Branch, Minnesota, he received a bachelor’s degree in biology from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.*

## GRADUATE PROFILES

# Meet the graduates of 2015



They practice in small towns, large medical centers and a prison. They are starting careers or changing paths for more opportunity. They have traveled from across the country and around the world for their education. They are sharing their new knowledge, making discoveries and most importantly, providing quality care to patients they serve.





## Kelsey O'Donnell / Radiation Therapy

# Her parents told her about “incredible” Mayo Clinic

**K**elsey O'Donnell first learned about Mayo Clinic from one of its VIP patients: her father.

“My dad was diagnosed with tonsil cancer when I was in college, and he came to Mayo for treatment,” says O'Donnell, who was studying radiography at the University of Missouri at the time. “He and my mom kept saying how incredible Mayo was and encouraged me to look into the Radiation Therapy Program. They even brought me a program brochure.”

Those conversations were persuasive, as was a 2012 visit to see Mayo firsthand.

“I came with my dad for one of his checkups,” says O'Donnell. While in Rochester, she met with Leila Bussman Yeakel, director of Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS) Radiation Therapy Program. “That solidified for me that I wanted to come to Mayo.”

She applied and was accepted to the program, moving to Rochester in fall 2014 for what she thought would be a year.

“I thought I'd move back to Missouri after graduation,” says O'Donnell. “But, I loved Mayo so much that I wanted to stay. I felt like I got the best education possible, and I wanted to continue learning and working at Mayo.”

She'll be doing just that. O'Donnell is among the first class of MSHS graduates to be hired to work in Mayo's Proton Beam Therapy Program, and says she feels “very, very happy” and “very, very lucky” to be working at Mayo Clinic.

“I'm looking forward to transitioning from being a student to being an employee,” she says. “It will be fun to really be part of the team. And, it's incredible to be working where my dad was treated.”

## School and her job worth the drive

**F**or two years, Abigail Schulte commuted 150 miles a day from her home in Caledonia, Minnesota, to Rochester to complete the coursework for Mayo School of Health Sciences Clinical Neurophysiology Technology (CNT) Program. Despite the unpredictable Midwestern weather, she never missed a day.

“I had to stay organized, leave very early in the morning and give myself plenty of time,” says Schulte. “It was hard some days, but I think I had the right mindset. I took school seriously and made it a priority to be here.”

Her dedication paid off with a job offer before she graduated. Today, Schulte is a clinical neurophysiology technologist in Mayo Clinic’s Division of Clinical Neurophysiology.

Previously, Schulte worked for Mayo Clinic Health System in coding operations. She liked working in health care, but wanted to try something different.

“Being at a desk eight hours a day wasn’t for me,” says Schulte. “Now, I am really glad I made the change. I love the patient contact. I also really enjoy being in Rochester and working with so many people from around the world.”

As a CNT technologist, Schulte assists physicians in the diagnosis of disorders of the brain, and peripheral and autonomic nervous systems. Her shift from student to employee has been seamless.

“The second year of the program was all clinical rotations, so I became well acquainted with the labs,” says Schulte. “Coming from those clinicals into the work environment made the transition very smooth. It has all been an awesome experience. It is an honor to work for Mayo Clinic. There’s no question in my mind that it’s the best in the world.”





Abdulrahman “Harbi” Abdulle  
Histology Technician

## Finding opportunity in the laboratory

**D**rawn to the medical field at a young age, Abdulrahman “Harbi” Abdulle worked as a pharmacy technician throughout high school. Squeamish around blood, he wasn’t interested in direct patient care.

“I knew the lab was right for me,” says Abdulle, who exudes enthusiasm and ambition.

While working toward an Associate’s Degree in Laboratory Science at Rochester Community and Technical College (RCTC), he learned about the Histology Technician Program at Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS). He was one of four students selected for the class starting in August 2014.

“I knew this was a good opportunity, and I took advantage of it,” Abdulle says. “I’m very thankful I got into the program.”

Abdulle learned the value of opportunity at a young age. When he was 8 years old, his family immigrated from Somalia and its civil war. They settled in Rochester to be near relatives. The middle child, Abdulle has five older siblings and five younger siblings.

Abdulle had been warned that the Histology Technician Program was challenging, and he appreciated being pushed, especially during the five months of intense clinical rotations throughout Mayo Clinic.

“Expectations were high,” he says. “Clinical instructors expected us to be knowledgeable. We had to meet quality and speed standards. Every day, we were expected to do better.”

Before graduating, Abdulle passed the American Society of Clinical Pathology certification exam and landed a job as a histology technician with Mayo Clinic. He started in June 2015.



“It’s very detail-oriented,” Abdulle says of preparing and mounting tissue samples on microscope slides. “I’m helping people get a diagnosis. I know I make an impact on patients. That makes me happy.”

Meanwhile, he continues to welcome opportunity. His future plans? “Ultimately, I’d like to be a pathologist.”

“I’m helping people get a diagnosis. I know I make an impact on patients.” – ABDULRAHMAN “HARBI” ABDULLE



Ed Fick / Respiratory Care

## Back to school for a third career

**E**d Fick knew he wasn't ready for college when he graduated from a high school north of Milwaukee. Then, life happened.

Twenty years later, in May 2015, Fick received a Bachelor of Science in Health Professions (BSHP) degree from the University of Minnesota Rochester (UMR).

"My goal was always to go back to school for something," Fick says. The gap in attendance qualified him as a nontraditional student.

"That means I'm old," Fick quips. "Most of my classmates are in their early 20s. I'm 38. This is my third career."

After moving to Rochester in 2001, when his wife, Felecia, joined Mayo Clinic as a physician assistant, he worked as a machinist fabricating plumbing fixtures and as a carpenter, primarily in commercial construction.

Enter the great recession. Construction slowed, so Fick enrolled at Rochester Community and Technical College

in 2009 and UMR in 2012. As part of the BSHP degree, he chose the Mayo School of Health Sciences Respiratory Care Program track. He was familiar with this field because his wife had worked as a respiratory therapist and a relative has a rare lung disease.

"This is where I saw my niche — helping people breathe better," Fick says.

Fick became a respiratory intern at Mayo Clinic in his junior year and a father in his senior year with the arrival of baby Stella. He graduated on a Friday and joined Mayo Clinic as a respiratory therapist in Cardiac Intensive Care on the following Monday.

"I really enjoy the patient contact and the hours together with the medical team," Fick says. "Here at Mayo, a physician will ask me, 'What do you think?' They value my opinion. That team dynamic is pretty awesome."



Kelli Tornstrom / Nurse Practitioner

## Breaking new ground in Neurology

**K**elli Tornstrom is the first nurse practitioner in the Department of Neurology at Mayo Clinic Health System – Franciscan Healthcare in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

A 2015 graduate of the Mayo School of Health Sciences Nurse Practitioner Clinical Rotation Program, she's new in this role, but not new to Mayo. She has worked as a nurse at Franciscan Healthcare for 15 years.

In addition to clinical rotations at Franciscan Healthcare and Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, Tornstrom completed 380 hours in Mayo Clinic in Rochester, rotating through Family Medicine, Preventive and Occupational Medicine, Neurosurgery, Neurocritical Care and Neurology.

Tornstrom was the first nurse practitioner student to rotate in Neurology at Mayo Clinic.

"I had to suggest what I could do during my training, since the Neurology team didn't know what my capabilities were," Tornstrom says. "The consultants treated me like one of the rotating medical residents. The medical residents appreciated my nursing background, because I picked up on certain things with patients due to my bedside experience, and I learned from the residents' vast knowledge in disease processes and research."

She appreciated the opportunity to learn from, and train with, world-renowned neurologists and neurosurgeons. And, she did some teaching, too. "I think my rotation through Neurology prompted the department to consider how they might use nurse practitioners to enhance continuity of care for patients."

Tornstrom says the strong support from her employer was essential to achieve her goal of advancing to nurse practitioner. "The benefits and the flexibility provided for employees to advance their education is phenomenal," she says.



“I think my rotation through Neurology prompted the department to consider how they might use nurse practitioners to enhance continuity of care for patients.”

– KELLI TORNSTROM

## Using data analysis to improve radiation therapy

**S**harif Elguindi saw medical physics as a rapidly evolving field and wanted to contribute to the increasingly precise and accurate use of radiation for treating cancer.

“Just 10 years ago, a lot of the technology we’re using now had barely been heard of,” says Elguindi, a 2015 graduate of the two-year Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS) Medical Physics Residency. “It’s a very exciting job.”

During a three-month research rotation on Mayo Clinic’s Arizona campus, Elguindi provided new insight into a standard practice in radiation oncology. His project focused on quality assurance of intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT), a technique designed to deliver more dose to the tumor, while avoiding nearby structures.

Elguindi used established equations and retrospective data for 800 patients to compute quality metrics for radiation therapy plans. Through data analysis, he identified two therapy plan features that strongly correlate with potential errors. This discovery can help physicists improve the quality of each patient’s therapy plan.

Elguindi presented his findings in July as a top-five abstract in therapy physics at the American Association of Physicists in Medicine national meeting.

“Database-driven analysis has yet to hit big in radiation oncology,” Elguindi says. “The data we collected will help physicists give physicians better information that can affect people’s lives.”

After high school in Yuma, Arizona, Elguindi received a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering Physics and a Master’s in Medical Physics from the University of Arizona. He was one of two students selected for the MSHS residency.

“The group of medical physicists at Mayo Clinic is so phenomenal,” says Elguindi. “I don’t think I would have gotten a better education anywhere.”

Elguindi landed a position in Tucson, Arizona, with Arizona Oncology.







Jennifer Luthi / Perioperative Nursing

## Her specialty: Helping surgery patients

**J**ennifer Luthi's path to the operating room is more like a long and winding road. It began in a pediatric oncology unit in a Denver hospital, where Luthi worked as a medical assistant.

"A lot of our patients had osteosarcoma, and, for them, surgery was a lifesaver," she says. "It was their only option, and it worked."

From Denver, Luthi moved to Alaska, Oregon, Switzerland and, finally, five years ago, to Arizona. Along the way, she earned her nursing degree and began a career as an oncology/hematology nurse. Over and over again, she marveled at the impact surgery had on her patients — from curing them to easing their pain.

"I want people to have the chance to live their best life the longest, and surgery is often a way to help with that," she says.

In 2014, she applied to Mayo School of Health Sciences Perioperative Nursing Fellowship and was selected from a pool of competitive applicants. A 2015 graduate, she's now working as a perioperative nurse in Gynecologic Surgery on Mayo Clinic's Arizona campus.

She says her new role gives her ample opportunity to use her bedside skills and those specific to the operating room. "I spend time with patients and make sure all of their questions are answered and that they are as comfortable as they can be before surgery," says Luthi. "I also let them know that I'll be there in the operating room with them, watching out for them. I give them every assurance that we're going to take care of them."

It's a promise she says she is comfortable making.

"Mayo truly cares for its patients," she says. "And, the things Mayo does in surgery are just amazing."





## Senka Runjaic / Pharmacy Residency

# New pharmacist and new U.S. citizen

**A**s she was finishing her Doctor of Pharmacy degree, Senka Runjaic knew just where she wanted to go for her residency.

“Mayo Clinic was my first choice,” says Runjaic. “Obviously, Mayo Clinic is a leader in research, academia and patient care. All those are priorities for me, and I knew the culture and values fit my personal values and goals.”

Runjaic was thrilled to learn that she matched with the PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency offered through Mayo School of Health Sciences in Jacksonville, Florida.

As she proceeded through her yearlong residency, Runjaic engaged in patient care in variety of clinical settings, participated in education and worked on research regarding neurocritical care — the findings of which she presented at Mayo Clinic’s Seventh-Annual Stroke and Cerebrovascular Conference.

“I cannot say enough about Mayo Clinic,” says Runjaic. “My favorite part of my time there was the professional interactions I had with multidisciplinary teams. I felt my pharmaceutical opinion was listened to and valued. It was teamwork at its best.”

As she drew closer to achieving many of her professional aspirations, Runjaic decided it was time to realize an important personal one, as well. Born and raised in Montenegro, Runjaic became a U.S. citizen during her residency.

“I felt I was maturing in so many other ways. It was time for me to become a citizen, as well,” she says. “It was a very good feeling to reach that goal.”

Now employed as a clinical pharmacist for Orange Park Medical Center in Jacksonville, Runjaic knows her Mayo Clinic residency will have a long-term impact on her career. “It was fantastic to to work in such a patient-centered, multicultural atmosphere. It was a great fit for me.”

## Providing care in a prison hospital

**W**hen he arrives at work, Kevin Healy, DPT, walks through two fences and a set of double doors that close behind him while he waits in a holding area. The next set of doors opens; he goes through a metal detector, receives his keys and radio and proceeds through another set of locked double doors.

Finally, he's inside the Federal Medical Center Lexington in Lexington, Kentucky.

Healy is one of four physical therapists in the rehabilitation department at the prison hospital, which provides long-term care and bone marrow transplantation, and well as orthopedic and wound care. He primarily sees patients with acute orthopedic injuries and preoperative and postoperative orthopedic cases. The physical therapists are assisted by three physical therapy aides who are inmates.

"Many of the inmates have never had a health care provider or anyone giving them the care and attention they need," says Healy. "A lot of them are pretty motivated to work hard and recover, because someone is giving them medical care for the first time."

Healy completed the doctorate of Physical Therapy Program at Mayo School of Health Sciences in 2015 and now serves as a doctor of physical therapy and lieutenant in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) — a uniformed service of the U.S. government that serves underserved and at-risk populations. To prepare for working as a commissioned officer in the USPHS, he attended officer training in Washington, D.C., and two weeks of training at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Security aside, Dr. Healy says there's another major difference between a typical physical therapy practice and his work environment. "When a patient needs something, we are able to provide a good service without going through a third-party payer."

And his patients? "Most of them are grateful and respectful," he says. "They see coming to the medical center and rehabilitation as a privilege."

"Working here is great experience."





## Think small for variety, independence

**M**atthew Earl joined the anesthesia practice at 99-bed St. Anthony's Hospital in Carroll, Iowa, after graduating from the Master of Nurse Anesthesia Program in 2015.

"The nice thing about a small-town hospital is that I can practice the full scope of my training," Earl explains. "It forces me to be on top of my game to take care of any patient who comes through the door."

Earl, a Phoenix native, earned an associate's degree in nursing and outlined his career plan at Eastern Arizona Community College, Thatcher, Arizona.

"From the very first day of observing, I knew I wanted to work in a small community hospital," Earl says. "I was supposed to observe the operating room nurse, but I was intrigued by what the nurse anesthetist was doing. That's when I decided to pursue this career."


Earl worked in an intensive care unit for five years and completed a bachelor's degree in nursing from Arizona State University before starting at MSHS in 2012.

"I was drawn to Mayo because so many of the clinical rotations are right there," he says. "I have a wife and kids,

so that made it possible to stay with them rather travel around the country."

The lone exception was an eight-week, off-campus rotation at a small rural hospital — St. Anthony's. "I had a great experience," Earl says. "When I was close to graduation, I contacted the hospital to ask for a reference. They offered me a job."

As one of six certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNA), Earl thrives on the variety and the independence of the all-CRNA practice. His faith in that model faced the ultimate test in May when his wife, Jennifer, underwent an emergency C-section for the birth of their fifth daughter.

"I was trusting my colleagues with the lives of my wife and baby," he says. "I have total trust in their abilities." 

“The nice thing about a small-town hospital is that I can practice the full scope of my training.”

— MATTHEW EARL





# In the news

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Be part of the MSHS Alumni Association Board of Directors

To volunteer for Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS) Alumni Association Board of Directors, here's what you need to know:

- Board members provide direction for MSHS Alumni Association programming and activities.
- Board terms are three years.
- Board members return to Mayo Clinic's Rochester campus each spring for an annual meeting.
- A nominating committee considers applications to ensure broad representation of MSHS programs.
- To apply, complete the nomination form on the Alumni Association web page (<https://mshsalumni.mayo.edu/about/board-of-directors/nominate/>) and submit a letter indicating your interest to MSHS Alumni Association at [mshsaa@mayo.edu](mailto:mshsaa@mayo.edu).
- Direct questions to the MSHS Alumni Association at 507-284-2317.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

### Nominations open for 2016 MSHS alumni award

The MSHS Alumni Association is seeking nominations for the 2016 Recognition of Outstanding Contributions award.

The Alumni Association will consider graduates who:

- Are dedicated to service of patients
- Promote the art and science of medicine through the education of students — in a clinical or academic setting
- Participate in or encourage research
- Are leaders in their field
- Are involved in community service
- Have made contributions to underserved populations or provide services in challenging situations
- Are involved with MSHS

Self-nominations are encouraged.  
Deadline is Jan. 31, 2016.

#### More information:

<https://mshsalumni.mayo.edu/people/awards/>  
MSHS Alumni Association, 507-284-2317



2014 WINNER  
*Sonya Irons*



2015 WINNER  
*Troy Stoneberg*



## SCHOOL NEWS

### Students, you already have a great job

Mayo School of Health Sciences convocation speaker Amit Sood, MD, Mayo Clinic Complementary and Integrative Medicine, told students that they already have one of the best jobs in the world — being students. And, he advised, make it a lifelong vocation. “Be open to learning from every single person you encounter and every experience you have,” he says.

Dr. Sood also challenged students to recognize what they don't know and thereby cultivate humility. “Recognition of ignorance makes you humble. Humility helps you ask meaningful questions, conduct valid experiments and accept the answers, even if the answers refute your earlier assumptions. Be humble, be curious, and seek the truth no matter where it takes you.”

The Oct. 19, 2015, event on the Rochester campus was broadcast live to campuses in Arizona and Florida and Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Congratulations to the Class of 2015! In this issue, you'll meet many of our graduates and learn where they are headed in their careers.

# GRADUATION ISSUE

**Mayo School of Health Sciences**





# Audiology Externship — Arizona

## PROGRAM UPDATE

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Two students completed clinical fellowships as part of their doctorate of audiology training. Clinical rotations focused on cochlear implants, vestibular testing, hearing aids and diagnostic testing. In addition, they participated in research projects that were presented at national audiology conferences.

## WITH DISTINCTION

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**Jamie Bogle**, PhD, received the 2015 *Journal of the American Academy of Audiology* Editors Award.

**Michael Cevette**, PhD, was promoted to professor of Audiology and to medical director of the Audiology Externship.

**Sarah Oakley Holbert**, AuD, was promoted to program director of the Audiology Externship.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

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**Jacqueline Bibee**  
Shohet Ear Associates  
Seal Beach, California

**Daniel Krass**  
Stanford Ear Institute  
Palo Alto, California



*Jacqueline Bibee, AuD, student; Sarah Oakley Holbert, AuD, CCC-A, program director; Daniel Krauss, AuD, student*

“Congratulations to all our graduates! We are so proud of your achievements and know you will serve your patients with skill and compassion. We wish you the very best for a successful, happy and meaningful career.” – MICHAEL SILBER, MB, CHB, DEAN, MSHS



# Audiology Externship — Rochester

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The Audiology Externship marked its 10th year. Clinical rotations included newborn hearing screening, pediatric and adult diagnostic audiology, vestibular/balance assessment, cochlear implant evaluations and programming, and hearing aid selections and fittings.

**Rachel Johnson** received her clinical doctorate in Audiology (AuD) from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Her capstone project was titled, “A Case Study of Bacterial Meningitis and Cochlear Implants.” She completed her externship at Mayo Clinic on May 29, 2015. At Mayo, she participated in a research project titled, “Binaural Hearing Abilities of Early and Late Cochlear Implanted Children.”

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Rachel Johnson** was invited to speak at Northern Voices, an oral education school in Roseville, Minnesota, to update staff on current hearing aid technology, hearing aid features, assistive listening devices and special considerations for pediatric hearing aid fittings. The school serves young children with hearing loss using a research-based intervention process, individualized intervention and supportive instruction.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Rachel Johnson**  
Health Partners  
St. Paul, Minnesota



*Neil Shepard, PhD, medical director; Rachel Johnson, AuD, student; Kathryn Kerst, MA, program director*

# Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist

## PROGRAM UPDATE

In 2015, the Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist (CVIS) Program marked its 10th graduating class.

The program welcomed **Jeff Blomquist**, RCIS, as a new faculty member.

In November 2014, the CIVS Program received its initial five-year accreditation from the Joint Commission on

Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). This recognition occurred after a thorough peer review by members of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology. The recognition from this accreditation is increasing interest in the program from qualified applicants.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Michelle Carvatt**  
Heart Rhythm Services  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Michael Burkel**  
Heart Rhythm Services  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Hannah Kerschen**  
Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory  
Electrophysiology Laboratory  
Mayo Clinic  
Scottsdale, Arizona

**Anu Gupta**  
Pursing additional education



*Michelle Carvatt, Michael Burkel, Hannah Kerschen, Anu Gupta*



# Clinical Neurophysiology Technology

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The Clinical Neurophysiology Technology Program Class of 2015 graduated on Aug. 13. The graduates received a certificate of completion from Mayo School of Health Sciences and an Associate in Applied Science degree from Rochester Community and Technical College.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Thomas Finstuen**, RPSGT, R EEG T, education specialist, Center for Sleep Medicine, Mayo Clinic, was presented with the Excellence in Teaching Award.

**Karen Bonifazi**, R EEG T, clinical neurophysiology technologist, EEG Laboratory, Mayo Clinic, was honored with the Outstanding Technical Mentor Award.

Student **Cloe Spaeth** received the Kathy Mears Education Scholarship.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

All graduates are employed as clinical neurophysiology technologists, Division of Clinical Neurophysiology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota.

**Jason Schroeder**

**Abigail Schulte**

**Cloe Spaeth**

**Alanna Wyffels**



**Front row:** James Watson, MD, medical director; Jan Buss, program director

**Back row:** Alanna Wyffels, Cloe Spaeth, Jason Schroeder, Abigail Schulte, students

# Clinical Pastoral Education

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Three residents graduated from the Clinical Pastoral Education Program on Aug. 6, 2015. Each resident rotated through different service lines, collaborating with a broad range of professionals at Mayo Clinic and ministering to patients and families receiving medical care at Mayo Clinic.

The residency program is an intensive program where clergy,

religious workers and seminary graduates come to learn the art of clinical interviewing and pastoral ministry in the hospital setting. The program helps residents develop their pastoral interviewing and pastoral assessment skills. It enables them to become a board-certified chaplain in the Association of Professional Chaplains.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Margaret Frelund**  
Pursuing chaplaincy

**Roger Graf**  
Staff chaplain  
Mayo Clinic Hospital  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Mark St. Aubin**  
Pursuing chaplaincy in Iowa



*The Rev. Roger Ring, program supervisor; Roger Graf, Mark St. Aubin, Margaret Frelund, residents*



# Cytotechnology

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Five students were awarded certificates from the Cytotechnology Program on June 19, 2015. The students completed a one-year internship at Mayo Clinic as part of a four-year degree program or postbaccalaureate work in cytotechnology. All five students successfully passed their board exams and received certification in cytotechnology from the American Society of Clinical Pathology. The program maintains a first-time national certification pass rate of 100 percent.

## WITH DISTINCTION

Student **Sarah Silber** was recognized with several awards:

- Minnesota Society of Cytology Carol Kanneberg Memorial Merit Scholarship
- American Society of Cytotechnology Bob Gay Student Scholarship
- American Society of Cytopathology Geraldine Colby Zeiler Award

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

### **Kaare Billings**

CellNetix Pathology and Laboratories  
Seattle, Washington

### **Kristen Gustafson**

Park Nicollet Methodist Hospital  
St. Louis Park, Minnesota

### **Nick Hustad**

LMC Pathology Services  
Las Vegas

### **Sarah Silber**

Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

### **Justin Zanish**

Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota



**Front row:** Kara Hansing, MS Ed, SCT(ASCP) CM, program director; Michael Henry, MD, medical director; Ashley McDonald, M Ed, SCT(ASCP) CM, faculty

**Back row:** Sarah Silber, Justin Zanish, Kaare Billings, Kristen Gustafson, Nick Hustad, students

# Dietetic Internship — Florida

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Three students graduated from the Dietetic Internship in 2015. They participated in electives including:

- Working with a dietitian from a corporate fast food chain
- Providing counseling to people with eating disorders
- Developing a wellness research project using calorie/activity monitors

The program's registration pass rate has been 100 percent over the past four years.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Anne Armstrong**  
Employed in North Carolina

**Elizabeth Bailey**  
Nutrition Department  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Doris Delgado**  
Attending graduate school  
Los Angeles, California



*Anne Armstrong*



*Elizabeth Bailey*



*Doris Delgado*



# Dietetic Internship — Rochester

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The Dietetic Internship Program was started by Sister Mary Victor Fromm in 1930, making it one of the oldest programs in the country. There have been five program directors in its 82-year history.

In 1933, it was the first 12-month program to be accredited by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. In November 2010, the program was granted continued accreditation for 10 years by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Asmita Batajoo**  
Seeking employment

**Abby Berberich**  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Christina Manian**  
Seeking employment

**Caroline McKinney**  
Enrolled in MS/PhD Nutritional  
Sciences Program  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa

**Kelsey McLimans**  
Enrolled in PhD Nutritional Sciences  
Program  
Iowa State University  
Ames, Iowa

**Courtney Meier**  
Hy-Vee Grocery Store  
Austin, Minnesota

**Michelle Natzke**  
Wild Rose Community Hospital  
(ThedaCare)  
Wild Rose, Wisconsin

**Brianna Wieser**  
Fairview Southdale Hospital  
Edina, Minnesota



*Abby Berberich, Courtney Meier, Caroline McKinney, Kelsey McLimans, Michelle Natzke, Christina Manian, Brianna Wieser, Asmita Batajoo*

# Echocardiography

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Ten students graduated from the Echocardiography Program. Two were based on the Arizona campus and eight were in Rochester. All graduates gained full-time employment as cardiac sonographers in fewer than 30 days after graduation.

## WITH DISTINCTION

The students presented **Farouk Mookadam**, MB BCh, Arizona campus, and **Fletcher Miller, Jr.**, MD, Rochester campus, with the Outstanding Physician Educator of the Year Awards.

Clinical Instructor Awards were presented to **Michael Martineau**, RDCS, Rochester campus, and **Timothy Fuller**, RDCS, Arizona campus.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

### Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

**Erika Cross**

**Anna Miller**

**Fairin Mosley**

**Jenna Mrozinski**

**Morgan Place**

**Kylie Thiemann**

### Other

**Merissa Gatti**

Employed in Nashville, Tennessee

**Lindsey Hess**

Employed in Nashville, Tennessee

**Aubrey Moder**

Employed in Duluth, Minnesota

**Jennifer Panahi**

Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida



## ROCHESTER

**Front row:** *Aubrey Moder, Merissa Gatti, Lindsey Hess, Jenna Mrozinski, students*

**Second row:** *Erika Cross, Anna Miller, Kylie Thiemann, Morgan Place, students*

**Back row:** *Sally Miller, RT(R), RDCS, program director; Joshua Finstuen, MA, RT(R), RDCS, former program director; Carrie Vanden Bussche, RDCS, clinical coordinator; Daniel Borgeson, MD, medical director*

## ARIZONA



*Fairin Mosley*



*Jennifer Panahi*



# Histology Technician

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Four students were awarded certificates at the May 22, 2015, graduation ceremony. Three students were awarded certificates at the graduation ceremony on Oct. 9, 2015.

All seven graduates did exceptionally well on the American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Certification exam with a 100 percent pass rate on their first attempt and an average score well above the national average.

Over the past five years, 94 percent of the program graduates have obtained employment on Mayo Clinic's Rochester campus or across Mayo Clinic Health System. This indicates a strong demand for histology technicians. To meet this need, the Histology Technician Program is growing from eight to 12 students per year.

Long-time faculty member **Amy Seegmiller Renner** moved to a new position in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. She was a great asset to the program and mentored many students to become highly successful histology technicians.

The program welcomes new faculty members **Blake Cappell** and **Kelly Klein**.

## WITH DISTINCTION

During the 2015 commencement ceremonies, three clinical instructors were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the learning experience:

- Clinical Instructor Award:  
**Kelly Klein**, HTL(ASCP) CM, and  
**Katie Krause**, HT(ASCP) CM
- Enrichment Clinical Instructor Award:  
**Denise Hopkins**, HT(ASCP) CM

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

### Histology Laboratory, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

**Abdulrahman  
Abdulle**

**Dane Mueller**

**Brett Sawall**

**Tong Mei**

**Nicole Steinle**

### Other

#### Grace Jensen

Renal Biopsy Laboratory  
Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

#### Anna Canfield

Seeking employment



### COHORT ONE

**Front row:** Michelle Nelsen, program director; Tien Tran, Amy Seegmiller Renner, faculty  
**Back row:** Loren Herrera Hernandez, MD, medical director; Grace Jensen, Abdulrahman Abdulle, Nicole Steinle, Tong Mei, students



### COHORT TWO

**Front row:** Tien Tran, faculty; Michelle Nelsen, program director; Amy Seegmiller Renner, Blake Cappell, faculty  
**Back row:** Dane Mueller, student; Loren Herrera Hernandez, MD, medical director; Brett Sawall, Anna Canfield, students

# Medical Laboratory Science

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

### Laboratories on Mayo Clinic's Rochester campus

**Faisa Ahmed**  
Hematopathology

**Meredith Baker**  
Infectious Disease Serology

**Andrew Banholzer**  
Immunohematology Reference

**Benjiman Deyo**  
Toxicology Drug

**Daniel Figdore**  
Hepatitis/HIV-Molecular

**Cally Hein**  
Hematopathology

**Brett Hirner**  
Immunology

**Jackie Johnson**  
Neuroimmunology

**Michael Kelly**  
Molecular Hematopathology

**Amanda Markelz**  
Toxicology Drug

**Cale McCallum**  
Hematopathology

**Emily Mell**  
Special Coagulation

**Stella Menuba**  
Hematopathology

**Abigail Neils**  
Transfusion Medicine

**Michael Nelson**  
Endocrine

**Brianna Popple**  
Clinical Microbiology

**Paxton Proft**  
Molecular Genetics

**Anthony Reyes-Kneen**  
Endocrine

**Amy Stein**  
Cytogenetics

**Amber Swaagman**  
Virology/Parasitology

**Lau-Michael Yang**  
Transfusion Medicine

### Other

**Shannon Dann**  
Fairview Southdale Hospital  
Edina, Minnesota

**Aimable Hakizimana**  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Tong Vang**  
University of Minnesota Medical Center  
Minneapolis

**Front row:** Amber Swaagman, Paxton Proft, Jackie Johnson, Cally Hein, Stella Menuba, Amy Stein, Emily Mell, Shannon Dann

**Second row:** Amanda Markelz, Abigail Neils, Daniel Figdore, Brett Hirner, Benjiman Deyo, Brianna Popple, Faisa Ahmed

**Third row:** Lau-Michael Yang, Cale McCallum, Michael Nelson, Meredith Baker

**Fourth row:** Michael Kelly, Andrew Banholzer, Anthony Reyes-Kneen, Tong Vang





# Medical Physics Residency

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Residents worked on diverse projects that were recognized at a national level with several poster presentations and three oral presentations. Research is an optional component of the residency, which makes the number and quality of completed projects even more impressive.

Some curriculum transitioned to both a SharePoint account and Blackboard. While the bulk of the resident training is still hands on, the online material helps with pre-experience and postexperience clarifications. A new online self-exam process also helps residents determine their progress independent of mandatory testing.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Edward Clouser**, program director, was added as a voting member to the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) Work Group on Coordination of Medical Physics Residency Programs.

**Sharif Elguindi**, resident, was awarded Best in Physics and Featured Oral Presentation at the AAPM Annual Meeting in Anaheim, California.

**Justin Gagneur**, assistant program director, published a manuscript in the October 2014 issue of the *Journal of Applied Clinical Medical Physics*.

**Daniel Harrington**, resident, presented at the AAPM Annual Meeting.

**Flona Younan**, resident, presented at the Particle Therapy Cooperative Oncology Group Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Sharif Elguindi**  
Arizona Oncology  
Tucson, Arizona

**Daniel Harrington**  
Mayo Clinic in Arizona



*Daniel Harrington, MS, resident; Edward Clouser, Jr., MS, TRP (ABR), program director; Sharif Elguindi, MS, resident*

# Molecular Genetics Technology Internship

Northern Michigan University, Diagnostic Genetics Baccalaureate Program

## PROGRAM UPDATE

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This internship is offered in partnership with Northern Michigan University Diagnostic Genetics Baccalaureate Program. The two sessions offered in 2015 marked the 19th and 20th times that students participated in the Molecular Genetics Technology Internship.

**Courtney Dehner** and **Carlene Mercier** participated in the internship from Jan. 5-June 19, 2015. Both were given development projects as part of their experience within the Molecular Genetics Laboratory.

**Dehner** was asked to develop the MSH2 Inversion PCR Assay. The MSH2 gene is just one of the genes linked to Lynch Syndrome. For this development project, she designed primers, optimized the

conditions for the assay, performed verification experiments and finalized the standard operating procedure for this new test.

**Mercier** was assigned to develop additional amplicons for introns 11 and 19 for the CFTR gene sequencing assay. The CFTR gene is associated with cystic fibrosis, and mutations located in introns 11 and 19 can cause cystic fibrosis. She designed universal sequencing primers for both introns, optimized the assay conditions, performed validation experiments and assembled the paperwork for the test change packet.

**Megan Pierre** completed the internship from July 7-Dec. 19, 2015. Her nine-week project focused on the C9orf72 hexanucleotide repeat expansion.

She worked on developing a Southern blot assay using non-radioactive methods and optimizing the extension time for the thermal cycling. In addition, she worked on development of a fragment analysis assay to detect the exact number of repeats in this expansion.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

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**Clinical technologists, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota**

**Courtney Dehner**

**Carlene Mercier**

**Megan Pierre**



*Carlene Mercier, Courtney Dehner*



*Megan Pierre*

# Molecular Genetics Technology Internship

## Texas Tech University Master of Science, Molecular Pathology

### PROGRAM UPDATE

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The 12th class of students from Texas Tech University participated in the Molecular Genetics Technology Internship program March 16-May 6, 2015. A pathology lecture series was added to the curriculum. Genetic topics ranged from inherited diseases to oncology.

### CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

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**Robert Brock**

Medical technologist  
MD Anderson Cancer Center  
Houston, Texas

**Trevor Burrow**

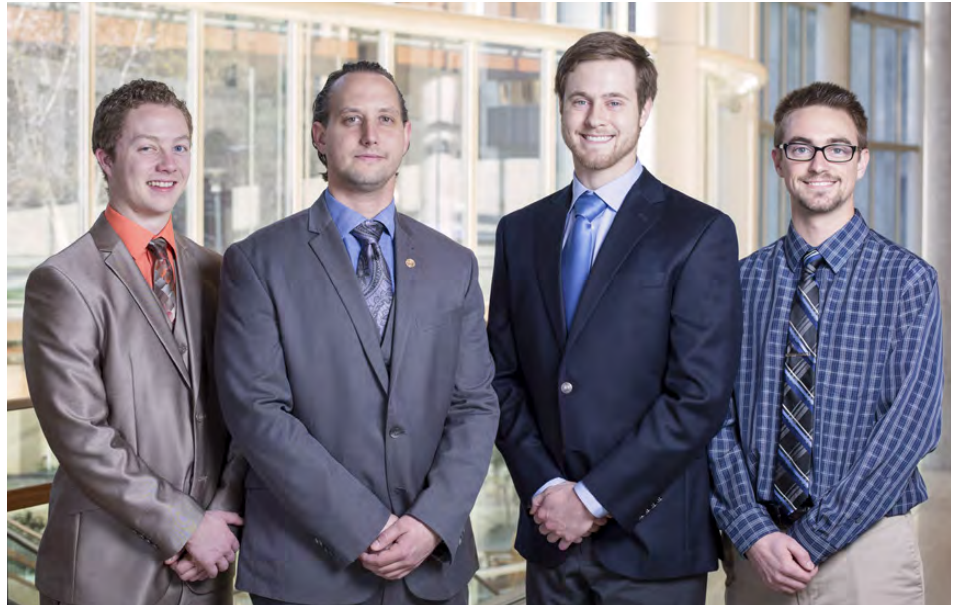
Continuing education

**Joseph Thompson**

Clinical technologist  
Molecular Genetics Laboratory  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Christopher Zysk**

Clinical technologist  
Molecular Genetics Laboratory  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota



*Trevor Burrow, Joseph Thompson, Robert Brock, Christopher Zysk, students*



# Nuclear Medicine Technology

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Students from the 39th Nuclear Medicine Technology Program class graduated Aug. 21, 2015. All students passed their Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification board on the first attempt.

All eight students submitted research abstracts to the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI) for presentation at the 2015 annual meeting. All abstracts were accepted, and the students presented their research on June 8, 2015, in Baltimore.

## CLASS NOTES

### Students

Taylor Antisdel

Alyssa Baumer

Courtney Glaser

Emily Groth

Daryn Keiley

Nicholas Schmit

Sara Severson

Morgan Yeske

**Front row:** *Emily Groth, Morgan Yeske, Sara Severson*

**Second row:** *Courtney Glaser, Alyssa Baumer, Nicholas Schmit*

**Back row:** *Daryn Keiley, Taylor Antisdel*

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Nick Schmit** received First Place Technologist Student Nuclear Oncology Paper Award for his work titled, "Bayesian Penalized-likelihood Iterative Reconstruction of PET/CT for Evaluation of Lung Nodules." This abstract was co-authored by **Alyssa Baumer, Brad Kemp, Dan McConnell, Kim Chandler** and **Geoffrey Johnson**.

**Taylor Antisdel** received First Place Technologist Student Oral Abstract Award for his research titled, "Critical Deficiencies of Radiopharmaceutical Reconstitution and Quality Control Instructions." This abstract was co-authored by **Courtney Glaser, Daryn Keiley** and **Joseph Hung**.

**Morgan Yeske** received Third Place Technologist Student Oral Abstract Award for her research titled, "A Comparison of Contemporary PET Myocardial Perfusion and Viability Results." This abstract was co-authored by **Emily Groth** and **Panithaya Chareonthaitawee**.

Travel awards were presented to students on behalf of the SNMMI Technologist Section. The financial assistance enabled students to present their research at the SNMMI Annual Meeting. Award recipients were **Taylor Antisdel, Alyssa Baumer, Emily Groth, Nicholas Schmit** and **Sara Severson**.



# Nurse Anesthesia

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The Master of Nurse Anesthesia Program graduation ceremony was March 14, 2015. Graduates are working as Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNA).

All students participated in poster presentations at one or more of these venues:

- Fall meeting of the Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- 39th Annual Mayo Clinic Seminar for Nurse Anesthetists
- 2014 American Association of Nurse Anesthetists National Congress in Orlando, Florida

Several graduate research project manuscripts have been accepted for publication or have been published in peer-reviewed journals.

**125th Anniversary of Nurse Anesthesia Education at Mayo Clinic:** This year, the program marked 125 years of educating nurse anesthetists at Mayo Clinic. Between October 2014 and October 2015, the program hosted several events including graduation of the Class of 2015, with more than 400 guests. On May 2, 2105, a day-long anniversary celebration drew more than 200 alumni and guests. The anniversary festivities culminated with final recognition of this milestone at the 41st Annual Mayo Clinic Seminar for Nurse Anesthetists Oct. 14-17, 2015.

**Alumni support:** Thank you to alumni who have supported the Mayo Nurse Anesthetists ' Alumni Association. The Alumni Awards presented at graduation and the Alumni Poster Awards presented at the Annual Mayo Clinic Seminar for Nurse Anesthetists encourage students to reach higher professional and research goals. Donations help purchase teaching tools used by students, faculty and CRNAs as they prepare to do mission trips or expand their practice.

**Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) Program:** In 2015, the second DNAP class (Class of 2019) started. Two CRNAs started the CRNA DNAP Post-graduate DNAP program.

**Program faculty:** **Sharon Brandt**, CRNA, DNP, clinic education coordinator for 17 plus years, is now practicing at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato. **Cory Groves**, CRNA, MNA, joined the program's core faculty.

**Off-campus rotations (OCR):** OCR sites provide students with an understanding of anesthesia practice outside a large academic center. After a several year break, Albert Lea, Minnesota, is once again hosting rotations. The Nurse Anesthesia Program welcomes additional opportunities for rotations. Please contact Mary Shirk Marienau, program director, (marienau.mary@mayo.edu, 507-284-8331), to discuss opportunities for students to practice anesthesia in smaller or rural practices.

## WITH DISTINCTION

### Faculty awards

Nurse Anesthetist Educator Award:  
• Saint Marys Campus: **Jay Bergner**, CRNA, MNA  
• Methodist Campus: **Lisa Dearborn**, CRNA, MNA

Physician Educator Award:  
**Hans Sviggum**, MD

Special Recognition Award:  
**Christopher Dietz**, CRNA, DNP

### Student awards

Robert R. Johnson Achievement Award:  
**Craig Ailts**

Gilles, Nelson, Torrance Alumni Award:  
**Tiffany Thornton**

Rebecca S. Finley Alumni Award:  
**Katherine Ojalvo**

Virginia B. Hartridge Achievement Award:  
**Karin Langford**

Robert A.E. Devloo Book Award:  
**Craig Ailts**

**CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT**

**Mayo Clinic,  
Rochester, Minnesota**

**Craig Ailts**

**Shejan Ansar**

**Andrea Berube**

**Sabrina Duda**

**Christina Hoeft**

**Lisa M. Johnson**

**Diana Koepp**

**Karin Langford**

**Sarah LoBue**

**Katherine Ojalvo**

**Bryce Ricter**

**Klinton Stephens**

**Tiffany Thornton**

**Sarah Voogd**

**Heather Wagner**

**Other**

**Heather Brandt**

Memorial Health University  
Medical Center  
Savannah, Georgia

**Jennifer Cooley**

North Iowa Anesthesia  
Associates  
Mason City, Iowa

**Lauren DeLuca**

Froedtert Hospital  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Jennifer Dickman**

University of Minnesota  
Masonic Children's Hospital  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Matthew Earl**

St. Anthony Regional  
Hospital  
Carroll, Iowa

**Natasha Hawkins**

St. Cloud Hospital  
St. Cloud, Minnesota

**Liana Madsen**

Delnor Hospital  
Geneva, Illinois

**Jacqueline Materi**

Undecided

**Alliene Olson**

Mayo Clinic  
Phoenix, Arizona

**Willow Rao**

Winona Health  
Winona, Minnesota



**Front row:** Shejan Ansar, Heather Wagner, Heather Brandt, Sarah Voogd, Sarah LoBue

**Second row:** Christina Hoeft, Willow Rao, Katherine Ojalvo, Liana Madsen

**Third row:** Lisa Johnson, Sabrina Duda, Natasha Hawkins, Jennifer Cooley, Andrea Berube

**Fourth row:** Matthew Earl, Diana Koepp, Alliene Olson, Jennifer Dickman, Klinton Stephens, Karin Langford

**Back row:** Bryce Ricter, Jacqueline Materi, Lauren DeLuca, Craig Ailts, Tiffany Thornton



# Nurse Practitioner

## PROGRAM UPDATE

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The Nurse Practitioner Clinical Residency awarded certificates to 36 students. Three students were based in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Many students completed rotations in Mayo Clinic Health System sites, which provided a comprehensive and diverse clinical experience. As a result, they sought job placements with Mayo Clinic Health System.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

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### Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

**Michael Ames**  
Family Medicine

**Catherine Bausano**  
Surgical/Trauma Intensive Care Unit

**Amanda Beinemann**  
Primary Care Internal Medicine

**Tanya Burks**  
Primary Care Internal Medicine  
Long-term Care

**Sarah Carpenter**  
Psychiatry and Psychology

**Jamie Coleman**  
Cardiovascular Surgery

**Cecilia Engler**  
Pediatric General Surgery

**Erin Glunz**  
Family Medicine

**Michelle Haag**  
General Surgery, hospitalist

**Miriam Hobbs**  
Hematology

**Leah Hurley**  
ENT Surgery

**Kimberly Langer**  
Blood and Marrow Transplant

**Tiffany Lohfink**  
Family Medicine

**Katie Luhmann**  
Family Medicine

**Sheri Merten**  
Orthopedic Oncology

**Gina Miller**  
Hospital Internal Medicine

**Sarel Myburgh**  
Gastroenterology and Hepatology

**Mary Nicklay**  
Family Medicine

**Anne Pahl**  
Primary Care Internal Medicine

**Angela Pierson**  
Neonatology

**Melissa Price**  
Family Medicine

**Malia Saker**  
Community Pediatrics and  
Adolescent Medicine

**Alec Williams**  
Trauma Critical Care and  
General Surgery

### Mayo Clinic Health System

**Jill Christensen**  
Urgent Care  
Albert Lea, Minnesota

**Jade Derocher**  
Express Care Clinic  
New Prague, Minnesota

**Renee Haugsdal**  
Family Medicine  
Albert Lea, Minnesota

**Johanna Smalley**  
Family Medicine  
Austin, Minnesota

**Kelli Tornstrom**  
Neurology  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

### Other

**Katie Antpack**  
Seeking employment

**Michael Litrenta**  
Neonatology  
St. Vincent Hospital  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

**Dezeray Matott**  
Family Medicine  
Marshfield Clinic  
Lake Hallie, Wisconsin

**Karlene Olson**  
Seeking employment

**Angela Peterson**  
Seeking employment

**Emily Rude**  
Seeking employment

**Heidi Wightman**  
Seeking employment

**Jessica Witt**  
Family Medicine  
Appleton, Wisconsin



**Front row:** Claudia Swanton, program director; Leah Hurley, Alec Williams, Sarel Myburgh, Gina Miller, Miriam Hobbs, Angela Peterson, students; Sally Heusinkvelt, associate program director

**Second row:** Sarah Strahm, associate program director – Eau Claire; Kimberly Langer, Sheri Merten, Erin Glunz, Melissa Price, Jill Christensen, Anne Pahl, Karlene Olson, Jamie Coleman, Tiffany Lohfink, students; Barbara Timm, assistant program director

**Third row:** Michelle Haag, Renee Haugsdal, Johanna Smalley, Tanya Burks, Katie Luhmann, Catherine Bausano, Mary Nicklay, students

**Back row:** Michael Ames, Malia Saker, Kelli Tornstrom, Jade Derocher, Cecilia Engler, Emily Rude, students

**Not pictured:** Katie Antpack, Amanda Beinemann, Sarah Carpenter, Michael Litrenta, Dezeray Matott, Angela Pierson, Heidi Wightman, Jessica Witt, students



# Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Fellowship

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The Cardiology Nurse Practitioner Fellowship (CNPf) earned accreditation as a Practice Transition Program by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

**Sarah Benak**, RN MS ANP, a 2014 CNPF graduate, has joined Arrhythmia Service on Mayo Clinic's Rochester campus. **Alexandrea Bartow**, RN MS ACNP, a 2013 CNPF graduate, joined the faculty at the newly developed Critical Care Cardiovascular Nurse Practitioner Fellowship at University of Washington, Seattle.

## WITH DISTINCTION

Fellows participated in Academic Excellence Day on Mayo Clinic's Arizona campus. **Rita Von Seggern**, MSN AGACNP-BC, presented on "Surgical Management of Takayasu Arteritis and Aortic Regurgitation," and **Cristina Joseph**, AGACNP-BC, presented a poster on "Congenital Heart Disease First Discovered in the Sixth Decade of Life."

**Michelle Brown**, RN MS FNP, 2014 graduate, presented a poster, "Ventricular Assist Devices for Primary Care Providers," at the Primary Care Advanced Nursing conference on Mayo Clinic's Rochester campus and gave an oral presentation at the American Association of Nurse Practitioners Annual Conference in New Orleans. She was named to the Heart Failure Society of America Early Career Committee.

Three program mentors have completed their Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees, **Tamara Redden**, RN DNP FNP, and **Lindsey Kriz**, RN DNP FNP, both at the University of Colorado, Denver, and **Nilufeur McKay**, RN DNP ANP, from Johns Hopkins University.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Cristina Joseph**  
Outpatient Cardiology  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Rita Von Seggern**  
Inpatient Heart Failure Service  
University of Virginia, Charlottesville



*Rita Von Seggern, MSN AGACNP-BC, student; Fadi Shamoun, MD, medical director; Marci Farquhar-Snow, RN MN CCRN CMC ACNP, program director; Cristina Joseph, MSN AGACNP-BC, student*

# Nursing Practice Academic Support

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Mayo School of Health Sciences introduced the Doctorate of Nursing Practice Academic Support Program (DNP-ASP) in January 2015. This program, which is open to nurses working on Mayo Clinic's Florida campus, was created to address the challenges related to obtaining resources and information for a smooth DNP educational and clinical experience.

In its inaugural year, five nurses graduated from affiliated Doctorate of Nursing Practice Programs and completed clinical and residency hours at Mayo Clinic. Each student was paired with a volunteer preceptor to guide the selection of clinical rotations and evidence-based practice projects.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

### Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, Florida

#### Lisa Arasi

General Surgery  
Graduated from University of South Alabama

#### Brittany Blake

Anesthesia  
Graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University

#### Linda Marks

Preoperative Clinic  
Graduated from University of South Alabama

#### Jessica McMillan

Hematology/Oncology  
Graduated from University of South Alabama

#### Nancy Pitruzzello

Preoperative Clinic  
Graduated from University of South Alabama



*Lisa Arasi, DNP ARNP,  
Jessica McMillan, DNP ARNP,  
Linda Marks, DNP ARNP,  
Nancy Pitruzzello, DNP ARNP,  
Brittany Blake, DNAP CRNA ARNP*



# Perioperative Nursing Fellowship

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The Perioperative Nursing Fellowship welcomed new instructor **Kim Hale**, RN MSN MBA. Hale brings not only nursing experience to the program, but also was a teacher before entering the nursing profession.

The Perioperative 101 curriculum from the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses has been updated.

Program faculty and students were saddened by the passing of instructor **Larry Regan**, RN BSN CNOR, a fellow in the Perioperative Nursing Fellowship Class of 2000.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

### Mayo Clinic Hospital, Phoenix, Arizona

#### Donna Gebhardt

Surgical Services, Ear, Nose and Throat

#### Jennifer Luthi

Gynecology

#### Jue Jue Pastore

Surgical Services, Cardiology



*Jue Jue Pastore,  
RN, student*



*Donna Gebhardt, RN BSN, student; Bradley Haase, MS BSN RN CNOR RN-BC,  
program director; Jennifer Luthi, RN BSN OCN, student.*

# Pharmacy Residency — Florida

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Class size increased from four to five residents. Each resident served a term as chief resident to develop skills in leadership and team-building. The administration rotation included monthly topic discussions with members of pharmacy leadership.

All five residents completed original, Institutional Review Board-approved research and presented results regionally. **Jamila Rousseau**, PharmD, was named program director for the Pharmacy PGY-1 residency. Rousseau is a graduate of the 2004 PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency class.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Rachel Van Rees**, PharmD, won the Mayo Clinic Pharmacy Research Excellence Award for original research on the project titled, “Prespecified Clinical Characteristics Associated With a Deleterious QTc Response in Patients Initiated on Dofetilide Therapy.”

**Daniel Jackson**, PharmD, a 2010 graduate of the PGY-2 Critical Care program on Mayo Clinic’s Florida campus, was recognized as Preceptor of the Year.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Melina Braly**  
PGY-2 residency, critical care  
Baptist Health  
Miami

**Jordan Burt**  
Clinical pharmacist  
VA Medical Center  
Birmingham, Alabama

**Senka Runjaic**  
Clinical pharmacist  
Orange Park Medical Center  
Orange Park, Florida

**Rachel Van Rees**  
Central pharmacy practitioner  
University of Florida Medical Center  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Carol Yacoub**  
PGY-2 residency, oncology  
University of California  
San Diego



*Melina Braly, Jordan Burt,  
Senka Runjaic, Carol Yacoub,  
Rachel Van Rees*



# Pharmacy Residency — Rochester

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Graduation was held on June 26, 2015, with a commencement address delivered by **Narith Ou**, PharmD, BCPS, Class of 1995.

Many residents presented at state or national professional meetings and served key leadership roles within and outside of the institution. In addition to obtaining a teaching certificate, the graduates completed medication use evaluations, presented continuing education sessions for the interdisciplinary staff, served on various committees, and further developed skills as clinical pharmacists.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Robert Hoel**, PharmD, was recognized as Preceptor of the Year for 2014-2015.

**Jonathan Leung**, PharmD, BCPS, BCPP, was recognized as New Preceptor of the Year for 2014-2015.

**Andrea Billings**, CPhT, was recognized with the Outstanding Service Award.

**Calvin Ice**, **Lauren Ice** and **Andrea New** obtained Board Certification in Pharmacotherapy Specialties (BCPS) during their PGY-2 residency.

**Calvin Ice** and **Kimberly Kaufman** were finalists for the 2015 Outstanding Resident Research Award for the Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists (MSHP).

**Alexis Kuhn** won the 2015 MSHP Outstanding Poster Award.

**Front row:** *Prasanna Narayanan, Kimberly Kaufman, Morgan Jones, Alexis Kuhn, Shannon Piche, Gabriel Golfus*

**Back row:** *Andrea New, Bryce Kayhart, Calvin Ice, Steven Elrod, Lauren Ice*

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

### **PGY-1 Pharmacy Residency at Mayo Clinic Hospital — Rochester**

**Kimberly Kaufman**  
Clinical pharmacist  
Minneapolis VA Health Care System

**Bryce Kayhart**  
PGY-2 Pharmacotherapy Residency  
Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester

**Shannon Piche**  
PGY-2 Critical Care Residency  
Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester

### **PGY-1 Ambulatory Care Residency at Mayo Clinic**

**Steven Elrod**  
PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency  
Providence St. Peter Family Medicine  
Olympia, Washington

**Morgan Jones**  
PGY-2 Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Residency  
University of Tennessee  
Memphis, Tennessee

### **PGY-1 Residency at Mayo Eugenio Litta Children's Hospital**

**Alexis Kuhn**  
PGY-2 Oncology Pharmacy Residency  
Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester

### **PGY-2 Critical Care Residency**

**Calvin Ice**  
Clinical specialist  
Spectrum Health  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Andrea New**  
Critical care clinical pharmacist  
Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester

### **PGY-2 Emergency Medicine Residency**

**Gabriel Golfus**  
Emergency medicine clinical pharmacist  
Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester

### **PGY-2 Oncology Residency**

**Lauren Ice**  
Clinical bone marrow transplant specialist  
Spectrum Health  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

### **PGY-2 Pharmacotherapy Residency**

**Prasanna Narayanan**  
Internal medicine clinical pharmacist  
Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester



# Phlebotomy Technician

## PROGRAM UPDATE

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Nearly all students received their phlebotomy certification from National Healthcareer Association (NHA), and nearly all are working at Mayo Clinic.

## CLASS NOTES

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### July–September 2014

#### Students and hometowns

**Wendy Badenhorst**  
Lanesboro, Minnesota

**Caleb Bear**  
La Crosse, Wisconsin

**Omar Dahir**  
Mogadishu, Somalia

**Chelsie DeBus**  
Byron, Minnesota

**Adam Hofschulte**  
Mazeppa, Minnesota

**Noel Knappe**  
Apple Valley, Minnesota

**Whitney Niemi**  
Winona, Minnesota

**Tyler Saro**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Briana Strohschein**  
Owatonna, Minnesota

**Gao-Ly Vang**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Ida Wipf**  
Cut Bank, Montana



**Front row:** Briana Strohschein, Adam Hofschulte, Chelsie DeBus, Omar Dahir

**Second row:** Noel Knappe, Wendy Badenhorst, Whitney Niemi, Gao-Ly Vang, Ida Wipf

**Back row:** Tyler Saro, Caleb Bear

## CLASS NOTES

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### September–December 2014

#### Students and hometowns

**Abdirizak Abdi**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Abdelwali Barre**  
Mogadishu, Somalia

**Ashleigh Calvert**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Debra Erven**  
Danville, Illinois

**Amber Frank**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Trista Nierman**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Megan Oxley**  
Rose Creek, Minnesota

**Luke Schulte**  
Forest Lake, Minnesota

**Kassi Wallin**  
Albert Lea, Minnesota



**Front row:** Trista Nierman, Amber Frank, Debra Erven, Megan Oxley, Luke Schulte

**Back row:** Ashleigh Calvert, Abdirizak Abdi, Abdelwali Barre, Kassi Wallin

# Phlebotomy Technician

## CLASS NOTES

December 2014–February 2015

### Students and hometowns

**Abdinoor Aden**

Rochester, Minnesota

**Marissa Andrews**

Hollandale, Minnesota

**Lori Corbin**

Anchorage, Alaska

**Angela Foster**

Rochester, Minnesota

**Toni Kittredge**

Ellsworth, Wisconsin

**Paige Rendler**

Kasson, Minnesota

**Jessica Stailey**

Preston, Minnesota

**Megan Taylor**

Spring Valley, Minnesota

**Mai Vong**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

**Sydney O’Neill**

Millville, Minnesota



**Front row:** Mai Vong, Toni Kittredge, Lori Corbin, Angela Foster, Marissa Andrews

**Back row:** Paige Rendler, Abdinoor Aden, Jessica Stailey, Megan Taylor

**Not pictured:** Sydney O’Neill

## CLASS NOTES

March–May 2015

### Students and hometowns

**Reem Alaso**

Rochester, Minnesota

**Noor Edward**

Rochester, Minnesota

**Marisol Green**

Rochester, Minnesota

**Mohamed Kassim**

Afgoi, Afgooye, Somalia

**Ellen Kroc**

Austin, Minnesota

**Karri Lockhart**

Rochester, Minnesota

**Sara Jo Manning**

Moyock, North Carolina

**Kadee Newkirk**

Estherville, Iowa

**Grant Simpson**

Rochester, Minnesota



**Front row:** Grant Simpson, Sara Jo Manning, Marisol Green, Reem Alaso, Kadee Newkirk,

**Back row:** Karri Lockhart, Mohamed Kassim, Ellen Kroc, Noor Edward



# Phlebotomy Technician

## CLASS NOTES

### May–July 2015

#### Students and hometowns

<b>Christopher Culek</b> Ames, Iowa	<b>Thomas Palmer</b> Windsor, New York
<b>Danielle Filkins</b> River Falls, Wisconsin	<b>Heidi Rieck</b> Rochester, Minnesota
<b>Laura Hegland</b> St. Charles, Minnesota	<b>Emily Roth</b> Coto de Caza, California
<b>Breannah Jensen</b> Cresco, Iowa	<b>Bhakta Sharma</b> Nepal, India
<b>Kaitlin Lewis</b> Lee's Summit, Missouri	<b>Angela Sletten</b> Byron, Minnesota
<b>Fatuma Omer</b> Mogadishu, Somalia	<b>Sashank Yarlagadda</b> New Berlin, Wisconsin



**Front row:** Heidi Rieck, Laura Hegland, Emily Roth, Danielle Filkins, Angela Sletten

**Middle row:** Breannah Jensen, Fatuma Omer, Kaitlin Lewis, Bhakta Sharma

**Back row:** Thomas Palmer, Sashank Yarlagadda, Christopher Culek

## CLASS NOTES

### July–September 2015

#### Students and hometowns

<b>Catherine Cushing</b> Sioux Falls, South Dakota	<b>Marian Osman</b> Rochester, Minnesota
<b>Indira Dzajic</b> Rochester, Minnesota	<b>Mohammed Sugulle</b> Hargeisa, Somali
<b>Tabitha Holst</b> Zumbrota, Minnesota	<b>Janet Titus</b> Rochester, Minnesota
<b>Abdinassir Mohammed</b> Jilib, Somalia	<b>Thor Wirth</b> Dodge Center, Minnesota



**Front row:** Abdinassir Mohammed, Janet Titus, Tabitha Holst, Indira Dzajic, Catherine Cushing

**Back row:** Thor Wirth, Mohammed Sugulle, Marian Osman

# Physical Therapy

## PROGRAM UPDATE

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The commencement ceremony for the Physical Therapy (PT) Class of 2015 was May 22. This marked the 78th graduating class for the program and the ninth year in which the graduates were awarded the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree.

**David Krause**, PT, DSc, OCS, associate professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, gave the keynote address. **Brooke Murphy** provided the student address. Twenty-eight students graduated. Since the first class in 1939, 2,526 students have graduated.

## WITH DISTINCTION

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**Brooke Murphy** received the Outstanding Clinician Award, which is selected by the clinical education faculty to recognize exceptional clinical performance by a graduating student.

**Andrew Bernstetter** received the Richard L. Beers Award, which honors the graduating student who wrote the most outstanding scholarly paper.

**Elizabeth Steiner** received the Gordon J. Branes Award, which honors the graduating student with outstanding academic achievement in the physical therapy curriculum.

**Ellissa Brandt** and **Jenna Ugorowski** were co-recipients of the Erik J. Aasen Award, which honors the graduating students who best embody the spirit of Erik Aasen. A member of the PT Class of 1995, Aasen was a dedicated student, compassionate humanitarian and selfless colleague who died in a 1994 Thanksgiving holiday traffic accident.

**Hilary Young** received the Outstanding Student Award, presented by the Minnesota Chapter of the American Physical Therapy Association,

which honors a graduating student who demonstrates strong academic performance, excellent clinical performance and professional leadership.

Several Physical Therapy Program faculty members earned recognitions and authored peer-reviewed publications in the 2014-2015 academic year:

**Nathan Hellyer**, PT, PhD, assistant professor of Physical Therapy, co-authored a publication in the *International Journal of Health, Wellness & Society*.

**John Hollman**, PT, PhD, program director and professor of Physical Therapy, authored or co-authored publications in *Sports Health*, the *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*, the *Journal of Physical Therapy Education*, *Current Sports Medicine Reports*, *Gait & Posture* and the *International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy*.

**Dave Krause**, PT, DSc, OCS, associate professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, completed his second term as a delegate of the Minnesota Physical Therapy Association to the American Physical Therapy Association's House of Delegates. He also authored or co-authored publications in the *Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine*, *Current Sports Medicine Reports*, the *International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy* and *Physiotherapy Theory & Practice*.

**Desiree Lanzino**, PT, PhD, assistant professor of Physical Therapy, co-authored a publication in the *Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy*.

**Aaron Rindflesch**, PT, PhD, NCS, assistant professor of Physical Therapy, was selected to participate in the Education Science Career Development program in 2015. The program, offered

through Mayo Clinic's Office of Applied Scholarship and Education Science (OASES), supports faculty development for those pursuing education research as a significant component of their careers.

**Jim Youdas**, PT, MS, associate professor of Physical Therapy, authored or co-authored publications in *Sports Health* and the *Journal of Back and Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation*.

## CLASS NOTES

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### Students and hometowns

**Nicholas Andreas**  
Lakeville, Minnesota

**Emily Asuncion**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Andrew Bernstetter**  
Holdingford, Minnesota

**Michael Boyd**  
Spring Valley, Minnesota

**Ellissa Brandt**  
Rocky River, Ohio

**Mallory Broderick**  
Decorah, Iowa

**Gerad Donahue**  
Omaha, Nebraska

**Deanna George**  
Anoka, Minnesota

**Allison Hager**  
Cotati, California

**James Hartman**  
Hartford, South Dakota

**Kevin Healy**  
Kansas City, Kansas

**Sarah Kemmerick**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Jessica Lane**  
Las Vegas





**Front row:** Ashley Rundle, Michael Boyd, Andrea O'Leary, Andrew Bernstetter, Allison Hager, Emily Asuncion  
**Second row:** Ray Lunasin, Sarah Kemmerick, Hilary Young, Kaitlyn Strassburg, Kevin Healy, Lindsay Olson, Michelle Pierson, Jessica Lane  
**Third row:** Jenna Ugorowski, Janelle Van Otterloo, Nicholas Andreas, Elizabeth Steiner, Ellissa Brandt, Kristi Simon  
**Back row:** Mallory Broderick, Gerad Donahue, Brooke Murphy, Anthony Thompson, Eric Smoyer, Sarah Sorensen, Deanna George

**Ray Lunasin**  
 Deptford, New Jersey

**Brooke Murphy**  
 Black River Falls, Wisconsin

**Andrea O'Leary**  
 La Crosse, Wisconsin

**Lindsay Olson**  
 Chicago

**Michelle Pierson**  
 Green Bay, Wisconsin

**Ashley Rundle**  
 Germantown, Wisconsin

**Kristi Simon**  
 Remus, Michigan

**Eric Smoyer**  
 Phillips, Nebraska

**Sarah Sorensen**  
 Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Elizabeth Steiner**  
 West Bend, Wisconsin

**Kaitlyn Strassburg**  
 Luverne, Minnesota

**Anthony Thompson**  
 Stewartville, Minnesota

**Jenna Ugorowski**  
 Davisburg, Michigan

**Janelle Van Otterloo**  
 Luverne, Minnesota

**Hilary Young**  
 Freeport, Illinois



# Physical Therapy Geriatrics Residency

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Program faculty continue to fine-tune the curriculum and administration for this new residency, including adding topics such as, “Cognitive issues in aging, and Managing diabetes in older adults,” to didactic content and adding more in-depth content on post-acute orthopedics and community reintegration.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Erin Davis**, resident, acquired the academic rank of instructor. She made poster presentations at regional and national conferences.

Alumni **Lydia Coutts Bucci**, PT DPT GCS, passed her board exam to certify her as a Geriatric Clinical Specialist (GCS) in Physical Therapy. Certification is from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists.

Several faculty members earned promotions in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and earned advanced degrees.

- **Kathryn Brewer**, PT DPT MEd GCS CEEAA, program director, was named Allied Health Educator of the Year at Mayo Clinic’s campus in Arizona. In addition, she earned her Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree and was promoted to assistant professor.
- **Melissa Eden**, PT DPT OCS, instructor, was promoted to assistant professor.
- **Cindy Ivy**, OT OTD CHT, instructor, earned her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy degree and was promoted to assistant professor.
- **Brandon Yancey**, OT OTD, and **Tina Sauber**, OT OTD BCPR, instructors, earned Doctorate of Occupational Therapy degrees.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Erin Davis**  
Mayo Clinic  
Phoenix



*Yvonne Harrison, PT DPT GCS, faculty;  
Erin Davis, PT DPT, student*

# Physician Assistant

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Physician Assistant Program students who graduated on May 19, 2015, passed the Physician Assistant national certifying exam.

This marks the 18th consecutive year that all of the graduating students passed the national exam. The 2015 graduates scored the highest average score compared to classes for the past six years. The average score was 572 out of a possible 800, with one student scoring 755.

## CLASS NOTES

### Students

**Amie Fonder**

**Danielle Goodrich**

**Amber Hesse**

**Kirtley Hitt**

**Melanie Jandrin**

**Elizabeth Krueger**

**Jacob Larkin**

**Tanya Larsen**

**Marissa Looney**

**Ellen McConnell**

**Amber Meyer**

**Kristie Miller**

**Tanya Mininni**

**Aasheeta Parikh**

**Natalie Pomranke**

**Cassidy Punt**

**Danielle Vlazny**

**Hannah Yancey**



**Front row:** Amber Meyer, Marissa Looney, Danielle Vlazny, students; Robert Adams, associate professor of Orthopedics, College of Medicine; Kirtley Hitt, Melanie Jandrin, Danielle Goodrich, students

**Middle row:** Natalie Pomranke, Tanya Larsen, Cassidy Punt, Kristie Miller, Jacob Larkin, Amber Hesse, Ellen McConnell, Aasheeta Parikh, students

**Back row:** Hannah Yancey, Elizabeth Krueger, Tanya Mininni, Amie Fonder, students

# Physician Assistant Fellowship

## Hospital Internal Medicine

### PROGRAM UPDATE

Two fellows graduated from the Physician Assistant Fellowship in Hospital Internal Medicine in 2015.

**Coralie Baumann**, PA-C, completed the Hematology/Oncology Track, and **Adrijana Krstic**, PA-C, completed the Critical Care Medicine Track.

Both fellows are graduates of the Midwestern University Physician Assistant Program, Glendale, Arizona. Both were recognized at Academic Excellence Day on the Arizona campus for poster presentations. In addition, both fellows presented posters at the American Academy of Physician Assistants meeting.

### WITH DISTINCTION

Work by **Kristen Will**, PA-C, former program director, and colleagues was accepted for publication: Will KK, Williams J, Hilton G, Wilson L, Geyer H. Efficacy and perceived utility of postgraduate physician assistant training programs. *Journal of the American Association of Physician Assistants*.

### CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

#### **Coralie Baumann**

Lung Transplant  
Mayo Clinic  
Phoenix

#### **Adrijana Krstic**

Hospital Internal Medicine, Critical Care  
Mayo Clinic  
Phoenix



*Coralie Baumann, student; Jennifer Williams, PA-C, associate program director; Adrijana Krstic, student*



# Physician Assistant Fellowship

## Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery

### PROGRAM UPDATE

In 2015, the postgraduate Otolaryngology/Head and Neck Surgery Physician Assistant Fellowship Program marked its 10th anniversary on Mayo Clinic's Arizona campus. Anthony Mendez, PA-C, was named program director, and Carlene Donald, PA-C, was named associate program director.

### CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

#### **Duane Fenn**

Trauma Surgery Department  
HonorHealth Scottsdale Osborn  
Medical Center  
Scottsdale, Arizona

#### **Timothy Smith**

Pursuing ENT opportunities in Colorado



*Duane Fenn, PA-C, student; Anthony Mendez, PA-C, program director; Carlene Donald, PA-C, associate program director; Timothy Smith, PA-C, MS, student*

# Radiation Therapy Program

## PROGRAM UPDATE

Members of the Radiation Therapy Class of 2015 received their Mayo School of Health Sciences certificates on Aug. 12. This was the 35th graduating class from the Radiation Therapy Program.

This cohort of students was the first class to complete the entire program in the new classroom in the Jacobson Building. The first proton therapy patients were treated on June 22, 2015. Students were able to participate in rotations observing proton therapy treatments.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Brittney Halverson** was recognized for graduating with a 4.0 GPA. **Emily Burnham, Sheena Collins, Marissa Morris, Kelsey O'Donnell** and **Ashley Thompson** were recognized for graduating with high distinction for achieving a GPA greater than 3.9. **Courtney Vinsand** graduated with distinction completing the program with a GPA greater than 3.75.

**Machele Michels**, radiation therapist and MSHS alumnus Radiation Therapy Class of 2012, received the Clinical Educator Award.

**Stephanie Wurgler**, medical dosimetrist, received the Didactic Faculty Award.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Emily Burnham**  
Seeking employment in Houston

**Sheena Collins**  
Mayo Clinic Radiation Oncology  
Northfield, Minnesota

**Brittney Halverson**  
Mayo Clinic Health System  
Mankato, Minnesota

**Marissa Morris**  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Kelsey O'Donnell**  
Proton Beam Therapy Program  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Ashley Thompson**  
Proton Beam Therapy Program  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Courtney Vinsand**  
Proton Beam Therapy Program  
Mayo Clinic  
Rochester, Minnesota



**Front row:** Courtney Vinsand, Kelsey O'Donnell, Brittney Halverson, Emily Burnham

**Back row:** Sheena Collins, Marissa Morris, Ashley Thompson

# Radiography Internship — Arizona

## PROGRAM UPDATE

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The Arizona Radiography Internship, Class of 2015, celebrated commencement on May 14 at the North Phoenix Baptist Church. The students also were honored at an awards banquet May 9 and at the Mayo School of Health Sciences graduation ceremony on June 3 in Waugh Auditorium.

The Radiography Internship, in affiliation with the Medical Radiography Program at Gateway Community College, Phoenix, is in its 13th year at Mayo Clinic's Arizona campus.

## WITH DISTINCTION

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**Anthony Rovai** graduated with honors from Gateway Community College.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

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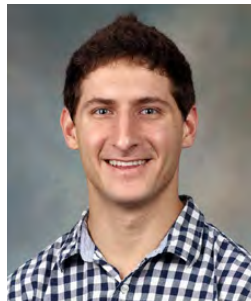
**Tracee Neely**  
Seeking employment

**Lauren Palmer**  
Mayo Clinic Hospital  
Phoenix

**Anthony Rovai**  
Mayo Clinic Hospital  
Phoenix



*Lauren Palmer, student; Teresa Dodd, BS, RT(R) (M), program director; Tracee Neely*



*Anthony Rovai, CPhT*



# Radiography — Florida

## PROGRAM UPDATE

**LaRissa Adams** is the new clinical coordinator for the Radiography Program. Clinical Coordinator **Sharon Jacoby** retired from the Radiography Program in December 2014.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Sarah Elizabeth McAuley** was presented the Student Excellence Award.

**Robert Wring** was honored with the Clinical Educator Award.

**Sharon Jacoby** was presented with the Program Director Award.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Chelsea Bergamo**  
Seeking employment

**Craig Blunk**  
Seeking employment

**Jessica Borges**  
Intern, Interventional Radiology  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Anna Downs**  
General Radiology  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Ciara Hord**  
CT  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Tanya Kasten**  
General Radiology  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Sarah McAuley**  
General Radiology  
Mayo Clinic  
Jacksonville, Florida

**Florencia Reyes**  
Sonography Program  
Mayo School of Health Sciences



**Front row:** Stan Olejniczak, program director; Hillary Garner, MD, medical advisor; LaRissa Adams, clinical coordinator

**Back row:** Chelsea Bergamo, Florencia Reyes, Anna Downs, Sarah McAuley, Craig Blunk, Ciara Hord, Tanya Kasten, Jessica Borges, students

# Radiography — Rochester

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The Radiology Program Class of 2015 is the second all-baccalaureate graduating class. Eleven students have accepted employment in the Department of Radiology at Mayo Clinic. Two students are continuing their education in nuclear medicine technology and two students are continuing their education in radiation therapy.

## WITH DISTINCTION

The commencement ceremony for the Radiography Program Class of 2015 was held on May 14. **Rita Oswald**, BS RT(R)(CV), who retired from the Radiography Program in 2014, gave the commencement address. **Jill Tryon**, MBA RT(R)(M)(CT), program director, moderated.

These awards were presented at commencement:

**Outstanding Clinical Educator**  
**Rosie Ayerhart**, RT(R) and  
**Bob Gilgenbach**, RT(R)

**Outstanding Academic Student**  
**Nicole Dorn**

**Outstanding Clinical Student**  
**Brent Simmer**

**Outstanding Student Achievement**  
**Viet Nguyen**

Student **Kally Marquardt** was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for promoting the profession. She was:

- Class president
- Minnesota Association of Radiology Students president
- Student delegate for the 2014 American Society of Radiologic Technologists Student Leadership Development Program
- First-place winner in the 2015 Knowledge Bowl, a statewide competition that typically includes 150 to 175 radiography students

## CLASS NOTES

### Students and hometowns

**Mustafa Adil Mohamed**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Cassandra Bailey**  
St. Charles, Minnesota

**Efrem Deres**  
St. Paul, Minnesota

**Alexandra Domeier**  
Clear Lake, Minnesota

**Nicole Dorn**  
Mankato, Minnesota

**Michael Feakes**  
Fessenden, North Dakota

**Kayla Kunkel**  
Byron, Minnesota

**Casey Gast**  
Bloomington, Minnesota

**Riki Holm**  
Savage, Minnesota

**Holly Lauth**  
Eyota, Minnesota

**Kally Marquardt**  
Rochester, Minnesota

**Karla Melver**  
Preston, Minnesota

**Jackie Moehring**  
Glencoe, Minnesota

**Viet Nguyen**  
Houston

**Kate Rivers**  
Richfield, Minnesota

**Brent Simmer**  
Hinckley, Minnesota

**Brooke Velde**  
Granite Falls, Minnesota

**Front row:** *Kate Rivers, Riki Holm, Karla Melver, Kally Marquardt, Alexandra Domeier, Holly Lauth, Jackie Moehring, Brent Simmer*

**Back row:** *Viet Nguyen, Nicole Dorn, Kayla Kunkel, Cassandra Bailey, Mustafa Adil Mohamed, Casey Gast, Brooke Velde, Michael Feakes, Efrem Deres*





# Respiratory Care

## PROGRAM UPDATE

On May 16, 2015, the graduates walked in the University of Minnesota Rochester commencement ceremony and were presented with their Bachelor of Science in Health Profession degrees.

The program welcomed **Anna Marie Spartz** to the role of clinical coordinator and **William LeTourneau II** as a full-time faculty member.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Laura Pomeroy** graduated with distinction, achieving a grade point average of 3.75 or higher.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

### Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota

**Megan Doody**

**Edward Fick**

**Lena Idris**

**Olga Kindruk**

**Rosemary Klindworth**

**Mazie McDade**

**Brittlyn Olson**

**Laura Pomeroy**

**Tatiana Zwart**

### Seeking employment

**Zakaria Ahmed**

**Najah Ali**

**Chelsea Kancsar**



**Front row:** Megan Doody, Laura Pomeroy, Rosemary Klindworth, Mazie McDade, Brittlyn Olson, Tatiana Zwart, students

**Second row:** Chelsea Kancsar, Lena Idris, Edward Fick, Zakaria Ahmed, Olga Kindruk, Najah Ali, students

**Back row:** James Findlay, MD, medical director; Michael McCullough, faculty; Anna Marie Spartz, clinical coordinator; Vanessa King, program director; William LeTourneau II, faculty



# Sonography

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The graduation ceremony for the Sonography Program, Class of 2015, was held on May 20 in Phillips Hall on Mayo Clinic's Rochester campus with live video connection to the Kinne Auditorium in Jacksonville, Florida. Family friends, mentors and colleagues shared in the celebration of success.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Megan Fleming** received the Outstanding Student Achievement Award.

Sonographers and vascular technologists recognized for outstanding clinical education were **Kate Knoll, Kate Praska, Tracy Heaser, Jeanie Otten** and **Dean Wille**.



### FLORIDA

*Francis St. George, clinical coordinator, Kasey Nelson, student*

## CLASS NOTES

### Students and hometowns

**Meagan Cole**  
Ostrander, Minnesota

**Megan Felker**  
Mosinee, Wisconsin

**Megan Fleming**  
Red Wing, Minnesota

**Linda Gallagher**  
Cannon Falls, Minnesota

**Kristin Lowery**  
Roberts, Wisconsin

**Kasey Nelson**  
Wapakoneta, Ohio

**Amanda Paynic**  
Lewiston, Idaho

**Nicole Terry**  
Owatonna, Minnesota

**Larissa Vosejka**  
Northfield, Minnesota



### ROCHESTER

*Front row: Linda Gallagher, Megan Fleming, Larissa Vosejka, Kristin Lowery, Amanda Paynic, students*

*Second row: Nicole Terry, student; Allan Neis, clinical coordinator; Rebecca Madery, academic coordinator; Diane Youngs, program director*

*Back row: Megan Felker, Meagan Cole, students*

# Surgical First Assistant

## PROGRAM UPDATE

The commencement ceremony for the third class of the Surgical First Assistant Program was held on Aug. 7, 2015. **Michael Silber**, MB, ChB, Mayo School of Health Sciences dean, gave the welcome address. The student address was presented by **Luke Bennett** and **William Lagrosa**.

All 11 students passed the national certification exam on the first attempt. Many received some of the highest scores in a national ranking. This exam is provided by the National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants. In addition, all graduates are employed.

A group of students completed a student-driven study on certified surgical assistant (CSA) burnout, which was published in the National Surgical Assistant Association journal, the *NSAA Node*.

## WITH DISTINCTION

**Nirusha Lachman**, PhD, received the 2015 Outstanding Physician Educator Award.

**Nick Gabrielson** was presented the 2015 Outstanding Preceptor Award, Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester, Methodist Campus.

**Sarah Rabe** was honored with the 2015 Outstanding Preceptor Award, Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester, Saint Marys Campus.

## CLASS NOTES AND EMPLOYMENT

**Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota**

**Luke Bennett**

**Kristin Davidson**

**Paige Dieleman**

**Michaela Holm**

**Jarred Inglett**

**William Lagrosa**

**Adam Lipchik**

**Ashley Petersen**

**Kristin Rose**

**Henok Sahle**

**Erica Soppe**



**Front row:** *Luke Bennett, Michaela Holm, Erica Soppe, Paige Dieleman*

**Second row:** *William Lagrosa, Jarred Inglett, Kristin Davidson, Ashley Petersen*

**Back row:** *Kristin Rose, Adam Lipchik, Henok Sahle*





## WE WELCOME ALUMNI AND STUDENT NEWS

Your comments, academic and career news, and story ideas are welcome. Send to: Editor, *Connections* / Mayo Clinic / Siebens 5 / 200 First St. S.W. / Rochester, MN 55905 / Email: [connectionsmaeditor@mayo.edu](mailto:connectionsmaeditor@mayo.edu)

### About *Connections* and MSHS

*Connections* is published three times a year and mailed free of charge to alumni, students and friends of Mayo School of Health Sciences (MSHS).

MSHS has a distinguished history of preparing students for successful careers in the health sciences. Mayo Clinic has been training allied health professionals for more than 100 years.

Nearly 1,700 students are enrolled in more than 128 MSHS programs and rotations representing more than 68 health sciences careers. Programs are available at Mayo Clinic campuses in Arizona, Florida and Rochester.

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alumni relations coordinator  
507-284-2317  
Email: [mshsaa@mayo.edu](mailto:mshsaa@mayo.edu)

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# Make your reservation for the MSHS Annual Alumni Association Meeting

## How we make decisions and inhibit scientific advances

Keynote speaker Greg Poland, MD, director of Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group, investigates novel vaccines important to public health. A highly regarded motivational speaker, Dr. Poland promises enlightening lessons on decision making and innovation that apply on and off the job.

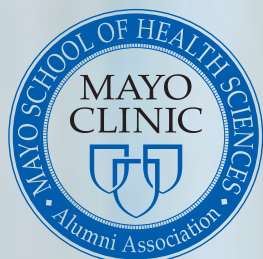
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### April 15, 2016

Double Tree Hotel	Reception — 5:30 p.m.
150 South Broadway	Program — 6:15 p.m.
Rochester, Minnesota	Dinner — 7:15 p.m.

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The evening is free for association members and a guest.  
Reserve your spot by April 8, 2016, at  
<http://mshsaadinner.eventbrite.com>.



Greg Poland, MD