

# Medical Laboratory Sciences SUMMER 2015

N E W S L E T T E R



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MLS Club  
Officers

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# Andrews University MLS



## Club Officers 2014-15



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**Melody Collins**  
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**Tasha Simpson**  
CLUB ADVISOR



## What is Medical Laboratory Science?

### Our Mission Statement:

The mission of the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, in harmony with Andrews University and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is to prepare students for Christian service as Medical Laboratory Scientists. The MLS department encourages faculty in professional, educational, and spiritual growth. The MLS faculty educates students to develop excellence in the skills necessary for a life work of service in improving the human condition. The MLS graduates will minister to the needs of others by practicing and promoting standards of excellence as medical laboratory science professionals.

## In This Issue....

*Dear Reader,*

*We are delighted to present to you our second annual newsletter. This year has been an exciting year, with many new changes—including new laboratories, new faculty, and new accomplishments. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.*

*Sincerely,  
The Medical Laboratory Science Club,  
2014-2015*

# MLS at MASAL

**This year, we are proud to announce** that three of our MLS research projects were presented at the MASAL (Michigan Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters). This regional professional organization of scholars met on the campus of Andrews University for its annual meeting on March 13, 2015.

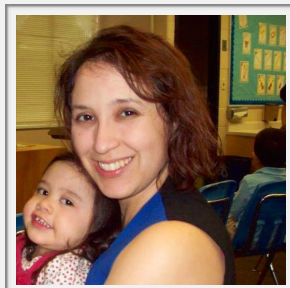
Trevor Zimmerman, an MLS senior, gave an oral presentation entitled “Reflection of cellular debris with magnetically charged coffee grounds for identification of *Mycobacterium spp.* with Acridine orange stain” on behalf of his group which included Tiffany Turner and Allison Ward. John Robertson, also an MLS senior, gave a poster presentation on the “Identification of biomarkers and analytical methods for early detection of preeclampsia: a meta-analysis of relevant studies” on behalf of his group including Fairlyn Ditta and Timothy Tampubolon. All undergraduate research was done under the expert direction of Assistant Professor Daniel Gonzalez. Alya Almatrafi, an MLS graduate student, gave a poster presentation on the (continued on page 4)



(left to right) Trevor Zimmerman, Assistant Professor Daniel Gonzalez, Alya Almatrafi, and John Robertson at MASAL. Photo courtesy of Associate Professor Timothy Newkirk

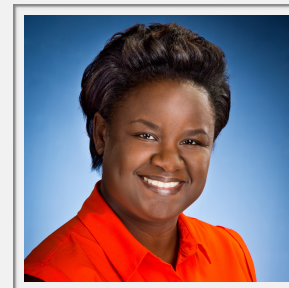
## Welcoming Our New Faculty


### Melissa Poua



**C**urrently a medical laboratory scientist generalist at Elkhart General Hospital, Melissa Poua became interested in becoming a professor at her alma mater when she discovered a position was available. When she is not teaching microbiology, Poua continues working as a generalist and raising her four children. At home, she enjoys baking, reading, and spending time with her family. While Poua does not plan on retiring anytime soon, she hopes to spend time in Samoa with her husband when she does. Since MLS is a challenging profession, she advises incoming students to manage their time wisely, stay current on assignments, and to not be afraid to ask their teachers for help.

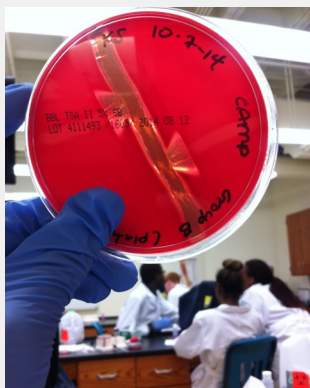
### Tasha Simpson



**B**orn and raised in the country of Jamaica, Tasha Simpson earned her degree in Medical Laboratory Science and her Master's degree in Biology from Northern Caribbean University, Jamaica. Besides working as a blood banker and generalist in a number of hospital settings, Simpson has had experience working as a tutor, guest lecturer, and lab instructor. When she discovered how much she enjoyed working with students coming in for clinicals, she decided it was time for a challenge—why not become a professor? She did categorical training through Andrews University. Currently, she serves in the MLS department as the immunohematology instructor, and also teaches the Intro to MLS class and the clinical year management course. Outside of teaching, Simpson enjoys reading literature and is an avid Scrabble player. Simpson recommends that MLS students keep motivated. “We are a crucial part of healthcare”, says Simpson, “as MLS we have to always remember how essential our work is to providing a diagnosis”. 

# Graduate Program: MSMLS

The Andrews University Medical Laboratory Science Graduate program (MSMLS) has been expanding in these past few years. Today, there are three students enrolled and one student to be graduating this year. As of the spring semester, there were four graduate students enrolled. One of the four students graduated in May and a new student has been accepted for summer 2015.



*Congratulations to our Class of 2015!*

*...continued from page 3, "MLS at MASAL"*


"Antimicrobial activity of thymoquinone" under the direction of Associate Professor Karen Reiner. All three groups were invited to turn in their manuscripts for possible publication. Andrews University was the only MLS program represented at MASAL.



**Admission Requirements** to enter the program include: 3.0 GPA, official transcripts, recommendations, resume, statement of purpose, ASCP certification and a bachelor's degree.

There are 4 **emphases** to choose from, namely:

- Education
- Laboratory sciences
- Laboratory mission development
- Laboratory leadership administration


Once individuals have completed their core requirements, they can continue to branch out into their preferred emphases. The MSMLS program is definitely beneficial for those looking to serve in management or administration, or to become researchers, educators or laboratory information system directors. Timothy Newkirk serves as the current Graduate Program Coordinator. 

## MLS Christmas Party

*Reaching Out to the Community*

The MLS Club held their second annual holiday outreach dinner on November 23, 2015. Ten community children were invited to a pizza supper along with their families in the upper rooms of the campus cafeteria. After eating their fill of pizza and other



goodies, the children watched ice cream being made with nitrogen by Dr. Randall, a chemistry professor at AU. The night was filled with games and cookie decorating. At the end of the night, each child received a gift sponsored by the club members and other MLS students. 



## Microbiology & Hematology Lab

### New Lab Features:

- ✱ Addition of **technology** to facilitate learning: each lab was equipped with **monitors** and **HD cameras**
- ✱ Microbiology/hematology lab: Four **new biohazard hoods**
- ✱ Separate **facility for research**
- ✱ **Graduate student space**
- ✱ **Lab prep room**
- ✱ Personalized, **enlarged student space**



## Clinical Chemistry, Immunohematology & Immunology/Molecular Diagnostics Lab

# How Are Our *Seniors* Doing?



**Larry Ong:**  
*Memorial Medical Hospital, Daytona Beach, FL*  
(NEW SITE!)

Amidst the overwhelming feelings of uncertainty prior to my departure...I had an initial mindset of approaching my clinical experience as an opportunity; an opportunity to learn, adventure, and know myself better. My clinical experience has been inevitably rewarding thus far. Each of my clinical instructors and supervisors are books of knowledge and I continue to learn from them each day, working on real patient specimens and state-of-the-art instruments....The feeling of being able to apply the knowledge I've learned from each of the MLS disciplines...has been gratifying to me. Since the time I've been here, my appreciation to field has grown a great deal.



**Alexis Chang:**  
*Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, Hinsdale, IL*

I am currently at the Adventist Hinsdale Hospital in the blood banking department, my favorite department, and it is nothing like I expected. Clinicals are pretty much 8-hour labs with a 30 minutes lunch break. However, I like it this way. There's no way you can fall asleep during clinicals because there's always something to do and someone is always making sure you're doing the procedures correctly. Then again, I might be saying something different when I start the 5am shift in phlebotomy.



**Trevor Zimmerman:**  
*South Bend Medical Foundation, South Bend, IN*

To me, clinicals are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn everything you can before you face the pressures of work life. A humble spirit, good night of sleep, optimism, and willingness to do any procedure are things that have helped me maximize my learning. Humility is gold during rotations. It is always better to ask, even if you think you know it. God has blessed me with being able to learn from the best at Andrews and do rotations locally. I cannot wait to see what He has planned for the next phase of my life.

## Help us help others.

As you can see, our program is rapidly progressing as we seek knowledge, affirm faith, and change the world through our MLS program at Andrews University. You can be a part of these changes! All contributions are greatly appreciated. Funds can be given for general departmental improvements or for deserving students pursuing a degree in Medical Laboratory Science.

go to: [www.andrews.edu/go/give](http://www.andrews.edu/go/give)

### give to:

- Alpine Siregar Tambunan and Eva Pinaroc Munar Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences
- Jack Blume Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Joanne Cross-Coon Foundation Endowed Scholarship Fund



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