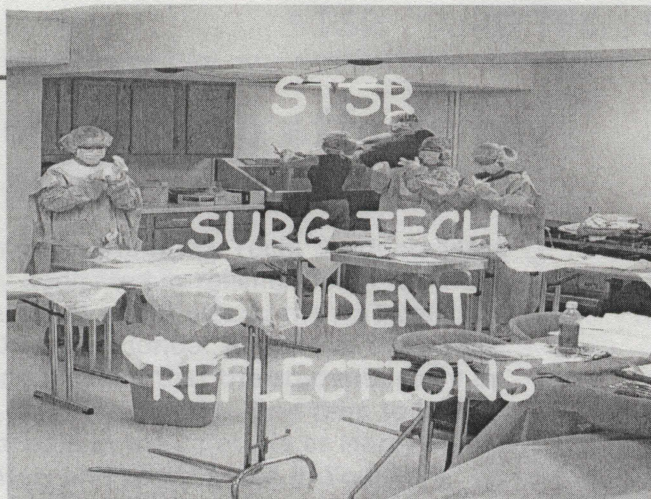




Mercy College of Health  
Sciences  
Des Moines, IA

July 2005  
Volume 2, Issue 1



## Year at a Glance

- Seventeen students complete Surg Tech program
- Employment opportunities
- Faculty and students attend the Surgical Technology State Assembly Meeting in Waterloo
- Fund-raising efforts allow students to attend AST convention in Orlando, FL
- Coordinator of Surg. Tech Program receives Excellence Award
- Galaxy of Stars recognition

Surgical Technology State Assembly Attendees



## Congratulations Grads!

We are very pleased to announce that seventeen students have completed the Surg. Tech. Program, and we are especially excited that three of those students will be graduating with an Associates Degree in Surgical Technology.

## Employment Opportunities

Ample job opportunities exist for the Surg. Techs just completing the program. Several students have already accepted positions in ambulatory surgery centers, podiatry offices and main ORs, while others are interviewing for positions in main ORs, organ retrieval, and sales reps. Good Luck to you all!

## State Assembly Meeting

On April 2, 2005, Nancy, Kathy, and thirteen students attended the AST State Assembly Meeting held at Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo. The students found the educational sessions very informative and were excited that we as surgical technologists have a legislative voice that can speak on behalf of the future of the surgical technologists.

We are hoping to hold the fall meeting at Mercy College here in Des Moines, but final arrangements are still in the making.

Hope to see you there!

## Fund-raising efforts pay off for students

This year, the Surg. Tech. Students were very dedicated in raising money so those interested might attend the AST convention in Orlando, Florida. In spite of the heavy academic load that the students carry in fall, they managed to find time to hold a bake sale in the cafeteria at Mercy Medical Center, and participated in Younkers Department Store Community Days. During the spring semester, the students sold soy candles, flower bulbs and parked cars at the state basketball tournaments, again, amidst the hectic schedule of balancing clinical and classroom. Through their efforts, the conference fees, flights, and motel costs were paid in full for the five students who chose to attend. Once there, the students thought the student track provided information that prepared them for work, and enjoyed meeting other students from other parts of the United States.

Nancy and Kathy pose with the students at the AST conference in Orlando



## Thank You!

Special thanks are due the following people:

**Deb Mills** for providing the students in Mason City an excellent learning environment. Your support and assistance with the Surg. Tech. Program over the last four years has been greatly appreciated.

**Dr. Matz and Dr. Steele** for your dedication to educational excellence.

## Awards Presented

Nancy Zylstra, Program Director and Instructor of the Surgical Technology Program at Mercy College of Health Sciences, was the recipient of the coveted 2004-2005 Faculty Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the Surgical Technology Program and Mercy College.

The instructors of the Surg. Tech Program received recognition in the Galaxy of Stars, an AST program that honors instructors who have 75% of their class join the Association of Surgical Technologists. The recognition was for the 2003-2004 school year.

Congratulations to all!

## Clinical Comments

Thank you to our Clinical Sites for allowing the Surg. Tech students to gain excellent clinical skills from the expertise the preceptors have provided. We couldn't have done it without you!

Here are comments from the students regarding their clinical experience:

- I feel that everyone who I worked with did an excellent job to satisfy my needs as a student.
- Everyone was so nice, I learned a lot!
- This is a very nice facility to do clinical at; they make you feel welcome from the beginning.
- Great place!
- Loved it here!
- Everyone got along and was very nice and very willing to teach so I learned a lot.