She would turn a question mark in the student's head into a light bulb!

LINDA A. SMITH

On August 5, 2013, Dr. Michelle S. Kanuth, a long time educator and active member of ASCLS died after a several year battle with cancer. Michelle was a *professor emerita* in the Dept. of Clinical Laboratory Sciences at the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), Galveston, TX.

The headline comment from one of her students is a great legacy for an educator. It certainly sums up Michelle's passion for teaching. She loved interacting with students. She could always be found giving extra help or explanations to those who needed her. She believed that as an educator she had to be a role model of fairness, openness, accessibility, and professional demeanor. Comments from her students show that she indeed modeled well. Dr. Kanuth "… is an amazing professor & mentor", "…goes out of her way to make sure we are learning", "…is a tough teacher but cared about each and every student", "…encouraged excellence", "…an awesome professor", "…was a privilege and an honor to have you as my professor". She was proud to have been elected to the UTMB Academy lf Master Teachers and subsequently awarded the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor.

Michelle earned her PhD in Microbiology with a specialty in Immunology from the University of Kentucky and her MS in Immunohematology from the University of Cincinnati. Michelle spent time at the bench before venturing into education. She worked as a MLS at several hospitals including the Ohio State University Hospital, Paul I. Hoxworth Blood Center, and Massachusetts General Hospital. During her academic career she played a variety of roles from education coordinator to instructor to director of graduate studies. She taught pathogenic microbiology, immunology, and blood bank. Michelle was a scholar who published chapters in textbooks and wrote articles for the *Clinical Laboratory Science* journal. She was the recipient of the Joseph J. Kleiner Award for outstanding article contributed to *Clinical Laboratory Science*. Her numerous presentations included both scientific and educational topics. Her in-depth and extensive knowledge and expertise was evident no matter what she did. When she presented, however, her extemporaneous style and sense of humor showed through. I could not have asked for anyone better as a collaborator for both writing and presenting.

Michelle served ASCLS and several state societies in many ways. She served as treasurer and as president of the Kentucky Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. She was state meeting chair seven times in Kentucky and twice in Rhode Island. She and Linda Gorman planned the Region IV meetings. In texas she served as Program Chair for the state meeting. She became involved nationally after she, Linda, and Pat Collins took some 'road trips' to attend ASCLS meetings. In ASCLS she chaired the Abstract Review Committee for CLEC, the Immunohematology/Immunology Scientific Assembly, and the ESA Committee on Educational Programs and Initiatives. She was a member of many other committees including the Kendall Awards, Leadership Development, and Nominations. In recognition of her contributions to the profession she was elected to membership in Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity in 1990 and, in turn, served as a board member.

She was active in NCA and served as the Chair of the Job Analysis Committee in Immunohematology and Immunology and as Chair of the Immunohematology/ Immunology Exam Committee. Michelle's sense of humor would always assert itself – no matter what the circumstances! To those on the Exam Council, she was known for her inventive and creative and sometimes outrageous ways to 'honor' Dr. Kathy Doig who was Chair of the Exam Council. Michelle was one of the early members of the ASCLS Consumer Information Response Team. She often said it was one of the best professional experiences of her life. I am on it because she said I should be!

Michelle served as the Chair of the Board of Trustees, Education & Research Fund and was honored with the Robin H. Mendelson Award for her service. At the time of her death she was serving as a member of the E&R Board for the second time. Her interest in the ASCLS E&R Fund began early when she and a colleague were recipients of one of the E&R Grants to investigate an ELISA kit for tumor markers. Michelle understood the importance of that funding to people undertaking even small research projects. She believed strongly that any financial help provided to current, and especially to future laboratory professionals, was a worthy endeavor.

In recognition of her service to ASCLS and to the E&R Fund, Michelle's husband Jim has established an endowed scholarship in her name with E&R. If you wish to send a

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contribution to the E&R Scholarship in memory of Michelle you can go to the ASCLS website www.ascls.org and click on the DONATE button. Alternately, mail your check to the office, c/o Elissa Passiment, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, 1861 International Drive, Suite 200, McLean, VA 22102. Please add a note that your contribution is to go to the Michelle S. Kanuth Endowed Scholarship. Your contributions to her endowed scholarship will keep turning on those light bulbs for students!

Michelle contributed much to her profession yet had so much more to contribute. All of us who knew her well – students, graduates, colleagues, and friends – will miss her wit, intelligence and caring.

Linda A. Smith, PhD
ASCLS Past-President, 2013-14

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