

# Bayou Tech

Louisiana Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
An Affiliate of American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science



Edited By: Evan Ashley & Mallory McCarty

## A Word from the President: Stephanie Blackburn MHS, MLS (ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>

Hello LSCLS members!

I am so excited to start another year as your 2013-2015 LSCLS President. We have a busy year ahead of us as we continue to recruit new members for our organization and prepare for the state meeting in the spring.

Louisiana had a great delegation representing LSCLS at the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Chicago. I would like to send out a huge THANK YOU to our wonderful students and new professionals that made that trip to Chicago. I think they had a great time as they met some amazing colleagues from all over the United States and learned how important it is to be involved in ASCLS. I am so proud of them for taking the huge step of getting involved at a national level. Congratulations to Elizabeth Ezeb, ASCLS National Student Forum Chair, James Gardner, ASCLS Region VII Student Representative, and Gretchen Brocksmith, ASCLS Vice-Chair of the ASCLS New Professionals Committee. These are some amazing young professionals that I know will do great things in their career and in LSCLS.

My primary goal last year was recruitment and it is my same goal for the year ahead. I am excited to announce that LSCLS came in 3rd place in the nation for membership retention in our organization. My goal is to be in 1st place next year. I also want to see Louisiana in the top three for new members as well. But I can't do this by self. I am asking for your help! Get out there and talk to your colleagues. If they haven't renewed their membership, urge them to get that done. If they are not a member, encourage them to join. If you are an educator, remind your graduates to convert to First Year Professional. Let your colleagues know the benefits of becoming involved in their professional organization. I challenge every member of LSCLS to recruit ONE NEW MEMBER this year!

Mark your calendars for two upcoming events: Annual ASCLS Legislative Symposium in Washington, D.C. on March 16 – 17, 2015. This meeting provides attendees an opportunity to meet with their congressional representatives about concerns within our profession. It gives us an opportunity to be visible and have a voice. The other event is the LSCLS/ASCLS-MS Annual Bi-State Meeting in Shreveport, LA on April 13 – 16, 2015. Our meeting will be held in Downtown Shreveport at the Shreveport Convention Center. This meeting provides attendees with great speakers, fantastic food, and a great opportunity to meet vendors and socialize with colleagues. Students from MLS and MLT programs will compete in the Student Bowl Competition.

I look forward to working closely with our members in the upcoming year. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Stephanie Blackburn

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*I challenge every  
member of LSCLS  
to recruit ONE  
NEW MEMBER...*

*- Stephanie Blackburn*

## In This Issue

- Word from the President
- ASCLS Delegate Reports
- New Professional ASCLS Report
- Student ASCLS Report
- LSCLS Area II Meeting
- ASCLS Meeting Pictures
- Student Forum Update

# ASCLS Delegate Reports

Although I have attended the ASCLS National meeting a dozen times or more, it never fails to impress me. There are so many fantastic educational offerings that you can never attend everything that you really want to hear. But, there is more, the networking opportunities abound, and some of them are in social settings with excellent food. I promise you can learn without even realizing it is happening. If you missed it many of the sessions are available on DVDs from ASCLS.

Mary Mitchell

*I was honored to be able to serve as a delegate from LSCLS to the ASCLS House of Delegates at the 2014 Annual Meeting. I would like to encourage everyone to seek this opportunity in the future. ASCLS does so much for the growth of our profession. This year the big accomplishment was a vote for the adoption of the newest revision of our Body of Knowledge. Many of our members spent many hours revising our professional Body of Knowledge. I find this particularly important because in Louisiana we have licensure for laboratory professionals. Our Body of Knowledge helps to define our scope of practice. This is very helpful when other professions try to encroach on our scope of practice (e.g. pharmacists performing lab tests).*

*The education sessions at the meeting were excellent and as always, I learned new information and obtained those precious continuing education credits. I was truly impressed by our student members and their enthusiasm. I enjoyed getting to know our newest members from LSCLS and Region VII. I look forward to attending the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Atlanta next summer.*

*Mary Muslow*

It was an honor to serve as a delegate representing Louisiana at the ASCLS meeting in Chicago. The students and young professionals from Louisiana represented us very well. Elizabeth Ezeb was elected as the ASCLS student forum chair, and James Gardner was elected as the student representative for Region VII. The scientific sessions were excellent this year. I especially enjoyed the opening keynote address by Dr. Dzik, Co-Director of Blood Transfusion Service at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Dzik spoke passionately about the laboratory response at his institution following the Boston Marathon bombing in April 2013. Dr. Dzik reminded us of how vital the laboratory is to the healthcare team, and specifically, how the blood bank at Mass General was critical in providing life-saving services to the victims of the bombing. The lab expo was amazing as always. I was a "good sport" when my students earned a higher medal than me in the pipetting precision competition!!!! I am pleased to report that the updates to the ASCLS Body of Knowledge were approved by the House of Delegates. Susie Zanto was installed as the 2014-2015 ASCLS President, and Barbara Snyderman was elected by the delegates as the President-Elect. Thank you to the LSCLS Board for allowing me to represent Louisiana as a delegate for the ASCLS meeting.

Sincerely,

Debbie Wisenor, M.A., MLS (ASCP)CM  
Program Director  
Associate Professor  
Medical Laboratory Science

# New Professional ASCLS Report

Having been to the national meeting the previous year in Houston, I was very thrilled to be attending it again in Chicago. I was excited to see all my friends and colleagues again. I was eager to learn more about medical laboratory science as a first year professional and ready to share my knowledge with newcomers.

Previously, I was the student representative for the Government Affairs Committee (GAC). For this upcoming year, I have been appointed the New Professional. I am very excited to be the New Professional for the GAC. After attending the Legislative Symposium, I became very interested in the government's role in our profession. At our meeting in Chicago, I learned the Workforce Investment Act, which we presented to the Senate and the House had been passed. This act will aid states and communities in focusing necessary resources on job retraining and education in fields where demand exists. I felt very proud to know that we accomplished something in Washington, D.C. One issue we presented was cuts to lab services for Medicare and the modification of fee schedule. This act will help modernize the lab fee schedule so that tests are appropriately valued and reimbursed. I found out that Mary Landrigan was behind us, from a medical view, to not cut lab services and to modernize the fee schedule. Many other issues were discussed and I am still learning but am very proud that I can already see a difference from my one visit to D.C.

I also decided that I was going to run for New Professional and New Member Committee Vice-Chair. It was a close race but I was elected Vice-Chair of the Committee. I will be working alongside Lacey Campbell (Chair) and Aniztie Uko (Secretary). I would like to thank my peers for their vote and support. During our meeting, we came up with a few ideas to bring awareness to our profession. As many already know we have a Facebook page dedicated for students and first year professional. We felt as though new professionals and new members needed a page dedicated just to them and decided that we will create a page. I also learned that there are e-newsletters that new professionals write four times a year. I have looked through a couple of them and found them very informative.

This year in Chicago, I was able to focus my attention on learning and growing as medical laboratory scientists. Having a few months of work behind me, walking through the EXPO was completely different. I was able to compare our instruments in our lab with other instruments that may work better for us. I am learning more and more each day and I am very excited about this upcoming year and can't wait to see what it brings.

Gretchen Brocksmith, MLS (ASCP)  
GAC New Professional  
New Professional and New Member Committee Vice-Chair

# ASCLS Student Report

My experience at the ASCLS Annual Meeting is something I will never forget. In my opinion the Annual Meeting started when I was awarded the ASCLS Student Forum Travel Grant. Being awarded this prestigious award helped me in paying my way to the meeting. Once I arrived at the meeting I could tell that it would be the best meeting I would attend. Having the opportunity to meet fellow students and professionals from all over the world was amazing. I met so many new people and made a ton of new friends that I will stay in contact with forever.

Upon arriving to Chicago I started to get butterflies in my stomach about meeting all these people who had the same passion for the profession as me. Those butterflies soon turned to confidence at the First Timers' and Students' Reception as I wanted to meet everyone I could just to hear their story about how they got involved with ASCLS and how they heard about MLS. The one thing I enjoyed about the Travel Grant was having a set itinerary, because I probably wouldn't have been able to choose what events to attend. The first thing that caught my attention with this meeting is how the Industry Awards is right at the beginning of the conference. This was important to me, because it showed me that ASCLS wanted the companies who help sponsor and donate to put on the meeting are the most important people in the room. With all these companies out there our jobs would take so much longer to run the simplest tests. Our thanks goes out to them as we depend on them as they do us.

The opening keynote was an amazing professional who showed us a different side of the Boston Marathon Bombing that many hadn't thought about. Seeing how the area labs and hospitals handled that situation was amazing. That presentation definitely opened my eyes that our profession definitely has a hand in everything that happens in our world. After that the schedule for me was starting to really get going. I was looking forward to the Student Forum Orientation because I wanted to get involved one way or another with this awesome organization. Upon hearing about the Student Forum at the National level I decided to run for Student Forum Vice-Chair as my friend Elizabeth Ezeb was running for Student Forum Chair. However, at the Region Caucus meeting I was nominated for Region VII Student Representative which I was ecstatic about. To be involved as a student is so important now, because most people in our profession are getting ready to retire. After being selected as the Region VII Student Rep I decided to withdraw my candidacy for Student Forum Vice-Chair as I still have Clinicals to go through and didn't want to overload myself. On a side note a huge congratulations to Elizabeth Ezeb on becoming the National Student Forum Chair!

The opportunity to network was another reason I wanted to come to the ASCLS national meeting. As I was walking the floor at the Clinical Lab Expo I felt right at home. Although I haven't seen or used any of the instruments I saw it was interesting to see them and hear about how the companies created them. I was essentially a little kid on Christmas morning during the Expo. I had companies talk to me and get my information even though I was still a student and had a full year of clinicals left. To have companies that interested in the youth was shocking to me as I figured the industry portion of the profession would be filled with the younger generation. One opportunity that I had was to meet Shirlyn McKenzie. This was a phenomenal opportunity because she wrote the Hematology book that I use right now. I never thought I would meet anyone who wrote the textbooks I use. That is something you never forget and to be there when she was awarded the first ever Lifetime Membership award is just amazing. Seeing how active she is in this organization is inspiring. I have no excuse to not at least be member in this organization after seeing what she has accomplished throughout her illustrious career.

After attending this meeting I will be involved as much as possible. This amazing opportunity could not have happened without ASCLS and the Student Forum Travel Grant that I was awarded. I cannot thank you all enough for the this opportunity. I must also give thanks to the most amazing professors that I could ask for. They are the ones who push me to do the very best I can and have been there for me no matter what. If it weren't for them I probably wouldn't be involved in ASCLS, so all the credit has to go to them.

James Gardner  
ASCLS Region VII Student Representative

# AREA II LSCLS MEETING

**September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**

**ULM- Kitty Degree Hall (Former Nursing Building)  
Room 322**

**(Parking in back of building)**

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**MARY MITCHELL (MLS), (MHS-ED)**

**PRESENTING:**

**MLS/CLS- Does Your Mama Know What You Do?**



**\*Refreshments and snacks provided\***

**Door Prize Raffle**

# 2014 ASCLS Meeting Pictures

2014 ASCLS Meeting Pictures



# *Student Forum Update*

My name is Syrita Steib-Martin and I am the Student Forum Chair for LSCLS. My experience at the national ASCLS Conference in Chicago was amazing. The conference afforded me the opportunity to learn so many things as well as forge some new friendships. The wealth of knowledge regarding the Med Tech field the individuals attending this conference possess was exciting. Their enthusiasm and love of the profession encouraged me to become more actively involved in reintroducing our profession to the world. The sheer discovery of the limitless opportunities that are available to us as Medical Technologist was a gem in of itself. I never knew that our degree could take us in so many directions. Also, being able to see up close and personal the state of the art technology that is available in the field of Medical Technology was awesome even if the only time I will ever see it is at the conference. I encourage all Medical Technology students to please attend the National conference next year in Atlanta it will be an experience that you will never forget. I would like to thank LSCLS for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference and beginning this journey it was astounding. I cannot wait until next year.

Syrita Steib-Martin

LSCLS Student Forum President



Tanya Barrett's going away party. Good pic with several old timers from St Francis. 4 retired. Nearly 300 years of combined experience and service at SF in one photo. L to R: Ricky Hernandez, Tanya Barrett, Frank Rose, Sarah Smith, Jeanie Audirsch, Bill Wilson, Tom Hutson

## **Editor's Note**

I just wanted to say thanks to all of those who took time out of their schedules to submit articles and pictures. Help us pass this newsletter along by forwarding it to all of your coworkers or by posting it somewhere in your lab. This is just a reminder that we are now accepting ads to go into the newsletter. If anyone has any article that they would like to be put in the next edition of the Bayou Tech send the article to either [lasiter@ulm.edu](mailto:lasiter@ulm.edu) or [evan.c.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:evan.c.ashley@gmail.com) . Also any suggestions of things you would like seen in the newsletter can also be sent to the previous email addresses.

Thanks,

Evan Ashley, MLS (ASCP)<sup>cm</sup>