

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: Michele Werner, MT (ASCP)

Hello LSCLS,

I am extremely excited about getting this year started. After being in Atlanta at the ASCLS annual meeting and listening to all the chatter about needing to promote our profession and support our schools, I have come back to Louisiana with a mission to do just that.



Ways to Promote our Profession:

1. Facebook: we now have a Facebook page where important information will be posted. If you are facebook friends with any MLS/MLT/LA in the state please invite them to like our page. Anyone is allowed to post to this page, however we ask that it be kept professional
2. Our LSCLS webpage has very usual information about our Society and Leadership. If you need anything added to this page please contact me.
3. Bayou Tech, our newsletter is published at least 3 times a year with information from around the state. If you wish to have anything posted to Bayou Tech please contact Evan Ashley or Jessica Lassiter.

4. Going out into the community and being willing to talk about our profession to students and fellow colleagues. If you are asked to speak at career day...GO it can be very exciting.

Ways to Support of Schools:

As a non academia, I do not understand all the ins and outs of the higher education system in the State of Louisiana, however I do understand that if we do not have MLS/MLT schools we will not have workers in the future. It is important that we support these schools anyway we can. If there is a need lets meet it. As professors and teachers....ask for the help. We don't know if you don't ask.

Remember if you have not renewed your membership IT IS TIME!!! Visit the ASCLS website, www.ascls.org, to renew your membership

Michele Werner MT(ASCP)

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have MLS/MLT schools we will not
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-Michele Werner

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DCLS – A New Opportunity for the Laboratory

First, as I have not yet met many of you, my name is Brandy Gunsolus. I am a relatively new member to ASCLS and LSCLS having joined in 2013, but I have been a practicing MLS for 13 years. I am currently a laboratory manager for a large physician office lab in Shreveport, Louisiana. I am also the first DCLS student in the country currently in my 3rd year of the program through Rutgers University. This is an exciting time for this profession and I would like to share my experience thus far as we make the leap to serving healthcare beyond the confines of the laboratory walls.

Though the coursework thus far has been through distance learning, it is quite rigorous. I have performed so many OVID and Pubmed searches searching and compiling evidence on a large variety of topics, as well as written more papers than I could count with many more to go. Courses I have completed thus far include advanced studies in Hematology, Clinical Chemistry, Immunology, Immunohematology & Transplantation, Microbiology, Molecular Diagnostics, Infectious Disease, Epidemiology, Pathophysiology and Pharmacology, Evidence-Based Medicine, Statistics and Data Analysis, and more. I still have four more semesters of courses to take prior to completing a full-time, one year residency as well as a thesis research project. Following graduation I will be the first to take the DCLS board exam that is currently in the early stages of development.

The DCLS will fill a void that currently exists in our healthcare patient-centered teams: the representation of the laboratory. Similar to the function of a clinical PharmD in relation to the pharmacy, the DCLS will round as part of the patient healthcare teams ensuring appropriate test utilization, test interpretation, and appropriate action on critical and other abnormal laboratory values. The DCLS will be a resource to educate both clinicians and patients about laboratory testing and laboratory data. The DCLS will perform translational research to improve both the laboratory services provided and how the laboratory data generated is utilized.

In my current position as laboratory manager at a large physician office laboratory I have been blessed in working for a group of physicians that already allow me to serve in the capacity as a DCLS. They routinely ask for assistance in test selection, ask for assistance in test interpretation, and accept the majority of my suggestions to change test orders to those that are more appropriate. The physicians have also asked me to consult on patients in which obtaining a diagnosis is difficult and provide them with suggestions in laboratory studies that would assist them in obtaining a diagnosis. I educate patients on how to perform both home glucose and home INR testing. If the nurses are not comfortable, due to lack of familiarity, with explaining certain test results to patients then I educate both the nurse and patient about the test and the results. I have also performed both research and a clinical trial in the laboratory.

We, the laboratorians, have a knowledge base unlike any other in healthcare and we must share this knowledge for the good of the profession, but more importantly, for the safety and well-being of the patients we serve.

Brandy D. Gunsolus, MSMLS(ASCP)^{CM}

ASCLS Delegate Reports

I was able to attend my first ASCLS national meeting, the 2015 ASCLS National Meeting in Atlanta Georgia this year as not only a Leadership Academy participant, but also to represent LSCLS as a voting delegate in the House of Delegates this year. As a delegate, I was able to see how the leadership of ASCLS is chosen and how important issues are discussed and decided on. This year we voted for ASCLS leadership roles in our regional caucuses, and we came together as an organization to approve the Diversity Task Force's definition of diversity and to approve a position paper on ASCLS stand on Patient Safety, two very important issues facing us today. It was an honor to serve as an LSCLS delegate to the national meeting.

Karen Williams

It is a great honor to be chosen once again as a delegate to represent the state of Louisiana at the National ASCLS Convention. This was my 3rd convention and each time I attend I learn more and understand the importance of being part of a national society. Coming to the convention as a delegate means more than just a "free ride" to travel. You hold an extremely important role to the Society.

As a delegate, you have the power to vote for the officers and members of the Board of Directors and of elective committees. Your state chose you to choose the next leaders that will run our national society. You have a chance to "Meet the Candidates" at the ASCLS Booth and at the President's Reception so you can have a better understanding of who to vote for and where he/she will lead ASCLS.

The most important session, I feel, is the House of Delegates, which you get to attend. This is where the adoption and amendment of the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation according to the laws of the state of incorporation, and approval of professional practice standards, position papers and the scope and direction for the Society and the profession happens.

I have been lucky enough to see a few changes happen within our society already. Last year, the New Professional Committee brought forth to the Board a name change. It was approved to change the name to New Professional and New Member Forum to be more inclusive. This year, I had the privilege to be on the Diversity Task Force Committee. The name from Minorities Forum was changed to Diversity Advocacy Council, and as a group, brought to the Board the definition of what diversity meant to us within ASCLS. A position paper was also introduced on patient safety. It discussed the role of Medical Laboratory Scientists and Technicians have on promoting patient safety and patient care.

Each idea and topic that is discussed is voted on by the delegates. Being a delegate you the chance to voice your opinion and let all members know what you think on a certain topic. It is a big a responsibility and not to be taken lightly. Being a delegate not only gives you many opportunities to learn, network, exchange ideas and interact with your peers or explore the exhibits to view the latest technology, but it gives you a chance to make a difference in the Society and in the profession.

Gretchen Brocksmith, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

New Professional and New Member Forum Chair

To serve as a Delegate to the ASCLS Annual Meeting was a great honor. This was only my second time to attend this meeting and I highly recommend going to everyone. With networking opportunities, educational sessions, the clinical lab expo, or governance meetings there is something for everyone no matter if you are an educator, professional, or student. This year at the House of Delegates we were able to approve work done by the Diversity Taskforce. I cannot thank the work that the taskforce has done throughout the past year enough. I hope that I will see more new faces at the upcoming meetings in the coming year.

James Gardner, MLS (ASCP)^{CM}

I had not realized what it truly meant to be a member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) until this summer.

As a student in the Medical Laboratory Science program at the University of Louisiana at Monroe I was required to join this national organization. I learned more about the society after joining and realized it was something I wanted to be a major part of. I was elected in April as student forum chair of the Louisiana Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and was excited about the prospect of representing my fellow Louisiana students as a delegate at the national ASCLS conference in Atlanta.

I have to say from the moment I arrived in Atlanta I realized the conference would be more than just a business trip. The first event I attended was the “First Timers and New Students” reception. While mingling with other students, professionals and longtime members of ASCLS — such as Barbara Snyderman — I got the feeling that this was more than just a professional organization; it was a community and a family.

I became a member of that family. I participated in the student forum orientation, president’s reception, awards ceremony, Region VII caucus meeting and attended the House of Delegates meeting. I spent hours walking through the clinical lab expo, eyeing all the shiny new technology and enjoying the free pens and t-shirts many companies had to offer. I made connections with the other students there and was updated on the issues ASCLS faces nationally as an organization and as a profession. It was particularly eye-opening to hear about the changes in healthcare that will affect labs across this country and the steps being taken to adjust to these changes.

I sat on a bench in downtown Atlanta’s Centinneal Park, waiting until it was time to go to the airport, and reflected on my trip to the tune of live music nearby. It was a very enjoyable week filled with good times and good friends. I was able to network with other professionals and students involved in ASCLS at the national level and look forward to staying in touch with them throughout my career. Overall, the ASCLS national conference and clinical lab expo was a fantastic experience and I encourage any student with the opportunity to attend to make the trip next year to Philadelphia.

I would like to thank LSCLS for making it possible for me to participate, and all my professors, friends and family who encouraged me to become more involved as a leader. Without them I wouldn’t have found my place in the ASCLS community.

Anna Cavalier

LSCLS Student Forum Chair

It was my pleasure to represent Louisiana at the ASCLS annual meeting in Atlanta, GA. Louisiana has many members who are extremely active nationally in ASCLS. Gretchen Brocksmitth was elected as the New Professional/New Member chair and James Gardner will represent Region VII on the New Professional/New Member Committee. Karen Williams, the Louisiana President-Elect, was introduced as a member of the upcoming Leadership Academy. During the Healthcare Forum session, Elissa Passiment explained that laboratory services is less than 2% of Medicare spending and the laboratory continues to get their funding cut. A proposed plan is in place for 2016 to determine a median range of cost for laboratory services. Each time I get to attend the ASCLS annual meeting, the lab expo always impresses me. I obtained new information from several of the excellent education sessions. The House of Delegates had two topics: definition of diversity and a position paper on patient safety. Each of this was approved by the House of Delegates. Barbara Snyderman is the 2015-2016 ASCLS President, and Suzanne Campbell was elected by delegates from each state as the President-Elect. In the near future, a new app from ASCLS will highlight new technology and news from the medical laboratory science field. I enjoyed spending time with all members of ASCLS but most of all I was impressed with the younger generation. So many of the younger generation want to have a voice in their profession and this warms my heart. Thank you for allowing me to serve as a delegate for LSCLS.

Jessica Lasiter, MHIM, MLS(ASCP)^{cm}
Clinical Coordinator & Assistant Professor
University of Louisiana Monroe

Leadership Academy

The 2015-2016 ASCLS Leadership Academy met for the first time at the ASCLS Annual meeting in Atlanta this summer. This year's Leadership Academy is made up of five very talented women from all over the US. LSCLS is proud to have two of its members selected this year, Gretchen Brocksmitth from Ochsner's in New Orleans and Karen Williams from University Health Conway in Monroe. During the meeting we learned of many different leadership and communication styles. We even determined our own personal style. Many ideas were discussed for this year's Leadership Academy project. Stay tuned; it should be an interesting exciting project.

Karen Williams & Gretchen Brocksmitth

Awards



Jessica Lasiter receiving 2nd Place Award for the Bayou Tech for Web-Based Newsletter



Gretchen Brocksmith nominee for New Professional/New Member of the Year Award



Beth Hughes (ULM Student) received Beckman Coulter Travel Grant to attend ASCLS National Meeting



Stephanie Blackburn receiving 3rd place in overall retention of ASCLS members for Louisiana

Other Awards:

Beth Hughes- \$500 for Education Scientific Assembly for case study titled "Kallamann's Syndrome: The Uncommon Hormone Deficiency in Women"

Lacy Falke- Beckman Coulter travel grant to attend ASCLS National Meeting

Cheryl Caskey- Board of Directors Service Award for chairing the Diversity Task Force

AREA II LSCLS MEETING

October 15th at 5:30 pm

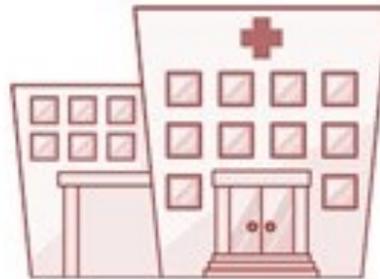
**ULM- Kitty Degree Hall (Former Nursing Building)
Room 322**

(Parking in back of building)

GUEST SPEAKER:

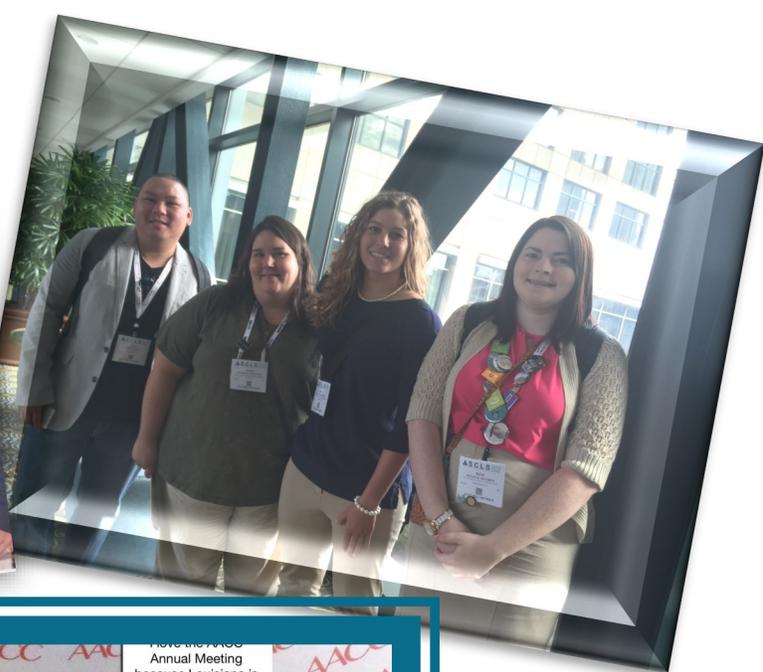
**RICKY BACLE, CAPTAIN
TRAINING COORDINATOR
OUACHITA PARISH SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

**PRESENTING:
BUSINESS RESPONSE FOR ACTIVE SHOOTER**



Refreshments and snacks provided

Door Prize Raffle



Student Forum Update

As the elected student forum chair for LSCLS I am privileged to serve as a representative for Medical Laboratory Science students throughout Louisiana. I am a student myself at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and will be finishing my undergraduate degree in May of 2016. Though I've spent the last few years of my education in North Louisiana, I am from New Iberia and I plan on moving back to live and work in the Lafayette area upon graduating.

Diagnostics and medicine are certainly one of my interests, and the reason I'm pursuing a career in the clinical lab, but ask anyone who knows me and they'll tell you that my analytical and scientific characteristics make up only a part of my personality. I'm also a very creative, artistic person with a passion for being involved in my community and university. I have previously been involved in clubs and organizations that are built on community service such as volunteering at the Boys and Girls club, organizing fun days for children in after-school care, and running an annual can food drive to stock local food pantries. For several years I worked as a swimming instructor and lifeguard at our community pool and for the past three years I successfully ran my own summer business, Swimming with Anna. The opportunity to teach kids and even adults a life-saving skill has been a blessing. It's also been an incredible opportunity for me to act as a positive role-model to the kids I work with and to build lasting friendships with the families in my community. I am an athlete, and I carry all of the discipline and skills I've learned from athletics into my everyday life. I played several sports while growing up and went on to compete at the collegiate level for ULM on their track and field team. Now that I'm done with college track I compete independently in sprint triathlons and most weekends you can find me swimming, running or out on my bike.

My past experiences as a student, athlete, entrepreneur, and community servant have given me the qualities to be a leader and I am honored to serve the students of Louisiana. This year I would like to reach out to students in our high schools and spread awareness about our profession and the excellent MLS programs across our state. As a high school student I was interested in a career in healthcare and particularly diagnostics, but I had no idea that medical laboratory science was even an option. After attending the national ASCLS meeting in Atlanta this summer I was able to meet other students from across the nation and heard a similar story. Our healthcare system depends on educated laboratory professionals, and our state programs depend on us students. We as a young and collective group owe it to our state programs to continue advertising our profession and recruiting new members. Making an impact is as simple as talking to other students at your university about your program, or visiting your local high school's career fair. We can make a huge difference one person at a time.

Anna Cavalier

LSCLS Student Forum Chair

My name is Gretchen Brocksmith and I am the New Professional and New Member Forum Chair for the year 2015-2016. The purpose of the Forum is to engage and inform individuals new to the profession and ASCLS about the various opportunities that membership affords. Each year we strive to address the needs of new professionals and new members. We would like to establish a key network of those members interested in participating in efforts of the new group and communicate with them on a monthly basis. We do this by choosing Regional Communication Coordinators. James Gardner, from Louisiana, is our Region VII Communication Coordinator. His job is to attend our monthly conference calls and report back any important information back to state new professional/new members/FYPs. He also has the responsibility to take the needs of the states and report that to the Chair of the Forum so the Forum can focus on the needs at the state level as well.

As a Forum we educate members of the group on ASCLS so all involved will gain a better understanding of the inner working of ASCLS. We also identify the needs of those new to the profession and/or ASCLS to determine how ASCLS can help meet those needs as an organization. As Chair, it is my duty, along with the help of the officers and regional communication coordinators, to focus on these issues and build a strategic plan to reach our goals. Currently, we are spotlighting a new professional or new member in each of the ASCLS Today Newsletter. This will help bring awareness of the New Professional and New Member Forum to all ASCLS members.

We have many great ideas to discuss and plan. I cannot wait to see what this year will bring! If anyone is interested and would like to know more please do not hesitate to contact me. gkbrocksmith@gmail.com

Gretchen Brocksmith, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

New Professional and New Member Forum Chair

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 or 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)^{cm}