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"Your Professional Organization for over Sixty Years"

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President's Message



MAKE NEW FRIENDS BUT KEEP THE OLD

by Sandra Neiman
ASCLS-PA President 2006 - 2007

"Make new friends but keep the old. Some are silver and the others gold". (My apologies to the Girl Scouts of America.) No, I am not going off "the deep end". But I couldn't help remembering this old Girl Scout song as I watched all the laboratory professionals streaming into the Scanticon at our recent ASCLS-PA Spring Meeting

My history includes many years as the Director of the Medical Technology Program at Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, PA. From the 70's into the early 90's each class boasted 8 to 10 students. These students represented fifteen universities across the state. And as would be expected the students' interests were quite varied. As a result these graduates are now scattered across the state and beyond and are engaged in every facet of laboratory medicine. Attending the Spring Meeting from this group were two representatives from the FDA, several blood bankers from the Miller Blood Center and Geissinger Medical Center, Microbiology, Hematology and Chemistry specialists from various hospitals, university professors, laboratory administrators and a forensic investigator.

My second employer and the one that I recently retired from was Reading Area Community College. As the MLT program Director I had the advantage of working with colleagues from seven clinical affiliates. These were the circumstances that enabled me to meet new friends. I also worked closely with clinical laboratorian adjunct instructors who taught some of the MLT courses at RACC. It was nice to see representatives from both of these groups at the Spring

Meeting as well.

Another significant source of friends has been ASCLS-PA. Having been active in our professional organization for many years has enabled me to meet many wonderful people across the state. Some of them have become my closest friends.

My most recent acquaintances from ASCLS-PA have been Michele Lachance, a newly graduated professional who has chosen to become active in our organization and Lisa Bakken, a new Board Member who has recently relocated to PA.

I invite you all to come on board and become active with your professional friends.

"Make new friends but keep the old!"

News Hot Off the Press From ASCLS

During the past year the ASCLS Professional Doctorate Task force was engaged in the implementation of the terminal doctorate in CLS. During this same timeframe, the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science, (NAACLS) worked on a similar project. The NAACLS Graduate Task Force (GTF) was charged with determining the feasibility of an advanced practice doctoral degree in the field of clinical laboratory science. The GTF was also to consider whether or not NAACLS should develop standards for such an academic program. At this time the GTF have developed a draft document, "Standards of Accredited Educational Programs for the Clinical Doctorate in Clinical Laboratory Sciences." This document is available on the NAACLS website, <http://www.naacls.org/> under Announcements, Requests for Comments - CLS Doctorate. NAACLS invites comments, suggestions, questions or critique of the draft standards. This is an opportunity for you to have input into the future direction of the profession of Clinical Laboratory Science We encourage you to look at this document and send your comments and suggestions, to NAACLS by Sept 30. Please share this information with your members. Thank you.

Shirlyn B. McKenzie, Ph.D., CLS (NCA)

It Takes a Village.....

by Ruth
Negley
ASCLS-PA
Past-
President



When I sat down to write my first article as state past-president, I was thinking about calling it “the end of a year”, or something to that effect. After some thought, I realized that it is not the end of anything, but a continuation. My term as president ended at the ASCLS meeting in Chicago in July when Sandy took over, but my involvement in this organization did not. In fact, I have been thinking about starting my next project in earnest, which is chairing the committee to organize next year’s ASCLS-PA Annual Meeting.

Having never chaired or even served on this committee, it seems a daunting task to say the least. I think my coping mechanism will be to delegate. I am going to be searching for lots of helpers throughout this year.

The first task on hand will be to choose a location. This is the year to hold the meeting in Harrisburg. In the past, we have always held the meeting at a local hotel and convention center. Due to rising costs, this may no longer be possible. I am considering holding the next annual meeting at the conference center at HACC. In this case, we would have to use an off-site hotel, which would require travel.

My first request (or cry) for help is to hear your thoughts and suggestions regarding next year’s annual meeting. Please send your responses and comments for the following questions to me at rane-gley@hacc.edu

1. What topics would you be interested in hearing about?
 2. Do you know of any good speakers that we should contact?
 3. How can we get more people interested in coming?
 4. What do you like about past meetings?
 5. What didn’t you like about past meetings?
- Would you be willing to help? (provide contact info)

Even a few hours of your time can make a difference. We will need people to introduce speakers,

cover the registration tables, take tickets for lunch, make signs, and many other tasks.

Think about the benefits of helping out. You will learn something new (I guarantee it!), you will get a great addition for your resume, you will make a contribution to the laboratory profession and you will meet a lot of great new people! The ASCLS-PA Annual Meetings are such a benefit and a good source of continuing education, but can only continue with your support. It can’t be done by just one person, but really will take a village to make it happen.

All in all, it’s been a good year and a great learning experience for me.



Success for Review Participants!

The ASCLS-PA student review session was held on Saturday, June 3rd at the Harrisburg campus of HACC in Harrisburg, PA. Due to the generosity and enthusiasm of both the speakers and the registrants, the review was a huge success. Forty students from six different states participated in the review, which covered the major subjects of chemistry/urinalysis; hematology/coagulation; immunology/immunohematology; and microbiology.

The day began with two dynamic speakers from the University of Delaware. Through their presentations, participants received a taste of BOR question and answer formats. Both speakers encouraged students to contact them via email or to visit specific web site addresses to further their learning experiences. Then, after a fulfilling lunch sponsored by Quest Diagnostics, the afternoon began with a microbiology speaker from Hershey Medical Center and a laboratory inspector from the PA Department of Health. The review ended with a short session given by the ASCLS-PA president and a handy demonstration on how to apply and prepare for the exams. Participants were given PACE credits for each of the sessions attended, and not one person was seen leaving early. After the review students spent time interacting with speakers and commenting on what had just been experienced. It was truly an informative and educational day for all involved. Look for our 5th annual review next summer!!

Michele E. Lachance
Student Representative

My First Trip to a National Conference

Michele E. Lachance
BA, CLT (NCA), MLT ASCP)

As of August 1st, my role as your student representative has ended, as I am now a first year professional. I had a wonderful year serving you, and I only wish that I would have had more time to do more things for you.

My last role as your student representative was to attend the national meeting and conference of the ASCLS held in Chicago July 25th-29th. It was a bit daunting stepping off the train in downtown Chicago and then making my way the few blocks to the hotel, but I found it without a problem and was able to immediately pick up my registration paperwork. This first afternoon I spent at a huge convention/exhibit center containing hundreds of booths and companies displaying the latest equipment and products for the laboratory. I felt completely lost in such a magnificent place, but I happened to meet two educators from Texas who instantly became my friends. That evening I attended my first governance meeting: Student Forum orientation. It was great to be in a room full of students who are actively involved in their state societies and who found a way to make it to the national conference! There are a lot of enthused, energetic young people out there, and I have no doubt that the ASCLS will be in great hands for many more years to come.

The first day of the conference started off with a welcome address followed by a comedy group called the Galileo Players. They were a riot and really did their lab homework to be able to elaborate the joys and triumphs (as well as some of the hardships) of our profession. It was a great way to start off our day. After the keynotes, I attended the President's Council and First House. This was a "prologue" to the Board of Directors meeting still to come. We were introduced to all the members of the board as well as all the region directors. Then discussion ensued about upcoming elections and any new material for the board to review was presented. This was my first time seeing a national committee in action and it was pretty amazing how everything and everyone functioned so smoothly. That afternoon I was able to attend two scientific sessions before attending the "Issues Update". This was almost like an open forum, where everyone could attend and hear the issues and concerns which the ASCLS is presently working or facing, such as financial concerns; legislative issues; the issue of licensure for our profession and leadership goals. This was one of my favorite governance sessions to attend, because I felt I learned so much about the national concerns, goals,

and efforts of the ASCLS. That evening, there was a welcome mixer with food, dancing and a meeting of old friends and new.

Thursday was the day when I had the most time to attend scientific sessions, and I was able to fit in four of them along with another hour or so at the AACC exposition hall. After this I attended my last duty as PA student representative, and that was the student forum elections. The forum elected a bright young man from MA, whom I truly believe will be a wonderful student chair for all the students in CLT/CLS programs across the country. If you are not an ASCLS student member, this guy will make you believe! That evening was a night out with all the PA delegates along with some of our fellow Region II delegates. A good time was had by all at a traditional Chicago pizza restaurant.

Friday began bright and early with the Region II caucus meeting, where we discussed the events and concerns of our region. That was followed by two scientific sessions and then the ASCLS national board elections. I felt privileged to be able to represent our state in selecting qualified leaders to bring us into the next year. I took a quick three hours to go out on the city with some friends and found Chicago to be a friendly, clean, and fun city. I rushed back for my last scientific session of the conference and had barely enough time to prepare for the Alpha Mu Tae fraternity dinner to which I was a guest for the evening.

The last day of the conference was Saturday, and it began with a closing keynote speaker followed by the House of Delegates. I'm told that this was a very mild meeting of the House, but it was a grand event in which I thoroughly enjoyed being a participant. I was sad to leave my new friends, the learning opportunities, and the fun I had been having all week, but it was time to go.

I hope I served you well this past year, and I hope you learned a bit of what it would be like to attend a national meeting of this caliber. I urge all of you to attend if you get the opportunity. It's unlike anything you've ever experienced, and I'm already looking forward to next year. Hope to see you in San Diego!!





The Pennsylvania Newsletter
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Coming Events

2006 ASCLS-PA Board of Directors at RACC

November 11, 2006

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