



The Connection

ASCLS-ND

The Connection
January 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dawn Michelson
ASCLS-ND President

Greetings! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. As I'm looking at the huge piles of snow on my patio and contemplating the job of putting all of my Christmas decorations away I realize it is so easy to get overwhelmed. The flurry of the holidays is over and it's time to get back to reality. Resolutions have been made (and some already broken!). It's so easy to become discouraged, especially when trying to do things on our own and not asking for help from family and friends.

Now you ask-how in the world does this relate to ASCLS??? I will try to explain and hopefully not sound too preachy! I have met some wonderful people throughout my 9 years in ASCLS. I can't tell you how many times I have re-

ceived great advice from those who have been my mentors. That is one of the biggest benefits of being a member of ASCLS. With help from a huge network of colleagues there is nothing we cannot achieve. The ASCLS Leadership Academy has done a wonderful job of developing a mentoring program and ASCLS-ND is in the beginning process of doing the same thing at the state level. At the risk of sounding redundant, new members are reluctant to volunteer in ASCLS-ND because they are unsure of what is expected of them. Please, don't let that stop you! The answer to any question or concern you may have is just an e-mail or phone call away. You will have an excellent state, regional and national support system. I promise that

you will get an en-

hanced look at what ASCLS does for its members. A resolution you **CAN** keep this year is to use your talents and serve in ASCLS-ND.

On another note, I am very excited about our ASCLS-ND Spring Meeting in Grand Forks. It is April 22-24 at the Clarion Inn (formerly Holiday Inn). The theme is "Rolling Out the Red Carpet for Laboratory Professionals". The Co-Chairs are an imaginative and hard-working group so it should be a time for great fun, learning and networking. I sincerely hope to see you there. In the meantime stay warm!

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See inside this edition of *The Connection* for details on this years spring meeting



Rolling Out The Red Carpet For Laboratory Professionals



Annual Spring Meeting
April 22-24th, 2009
Holiday Inn





“Reach For the Stars” to Professionally Shine in 2009!

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director

The “first step” is just waiting to happen. Sometimes we forget how important the “first step” is when we are caught up in every thing that goes on in our lives daily. The “first step” may be unrecognizable or it may seem too big and overwhelming. At any moment in time, it can certainly seem easier to just keep plugging along the way we have always done simply because it’s familiar and it’s easy. But then again, if we fall into that trap, it doesn’t really get us to a new place in life. It keeps us stuck in the same old routine and patterns; the same old rut. With the new year before us, there’s no better time to start “reaching for the stars to professionally shine in 2009”.

“Take the first step in faith. You don’t have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.



Professional self-motivation. Self-motivation is an inner drive that compels behavior. The key word being “inner”. What works for one clinical laboratory professional may not work for another. Professional self-motivation is being able to recognize and create those “a-ha moments” every day. “A-ha moments” happen during good times and bad but may be impossible to recognize or create without focus

on “gratitude & attitude”. Attitude is that positive approach to life that allows you to feel energy, excitement and enthusiasm in every thing you do. This same energy, excitement and enthusiasm is felt by all others around you. Keeping a positive attitude is difficult if we focus on what’s wrong with our professional life instead of what is right. An essential key to attitude is finding gratitude in our every day professional lives. The heart of it is summed up in a wonderful quote from Melody Beattie....

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes a sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

Serve your profession. Great service comes from the heart! It is through serving others over self that gives our life purpose. The moment you made the choice to make a difference in others lives by becoming a clinical laboratory professional, you began an awesome journey in professional service. The moment you made the choice to become a true clinical laboratory professional by becoming an ASCLS member or you choose to renew your membership, you are serving your profession and you are making a professional statement about who you are. Your professional identity today is based

on the fantastic choices you have made so far and the professional passion that burns within you. Pursue your dreams, share your talents, rekindle your passion, make the choice to develop the professional leader in you and serve your profession by being engaged and involved in ASCLS at the local, state, regional or national levels.

“Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass... it’s about learning how to dance in the rain.” Live a purposeful life through service... to your profession and ASCLS.



Believe in you... to shine in 2009. Shining mentor... shining role model...shining clinical resource... shining healthcare professional... shining leader...shining teacher...shining new professional...shining tenured professional...shining student... shining team member. You have untapped potential, gifts and talents. You bring value to health-care. You have the ability to turn ordinary tasks into extraordinary outcomes for the patients and customers you serve. You are the heart and soul of clinical laboratory science!

“Behind you is infinite power. Before you is endless possibility. Around you is boundless opportunity.” Make it count....You are the voice, the value, and the vision for our profession and ASCLS.



An ASCLS Network Story: Greatest Membership Benefit

By: Mary Belanus

What does networking have to do with ASCLS? What does networking mean? According to an online business dictionary, two definitions for the word "network" as it relates to computers and communications are:

"Computers: Group of interconnected (via cable and/or wireless) computers and peripherals that is capable of sharing software and hardware resources between many users."

"Communications: Local and long-distance telephone system that connects a caller with the intended receiver via cable and/or wireless through call routing devices called switches."

Now, I want to reword these definitions substituting ASCLS.

"ASCLS: Group of interconnected (via email, telephone, Facebook or snail mail) people that are capable of sharing technical and personal resources between many members."

"ASCLS: Local and long-distance relationships that connect a member with the intended receiver via many mediums for the purpose of communication called network.

These reworded definitions are what ASCLS is all about.

I recently had an opportunity to put my ASCLS network to work for me in my job. As many of you know, I started working for Clinical Laboratory and Standards Institute (CLSI) and my job takes me to Africa. I work with a laboratory in Mali to help prepare them for CAP accreditation and improve their laboratory procedures to provide accurate test results. These results help to support the clinical trials that are being conducted for a malaria vaccine.

The laboratory supervisor, Ag-

niece Guindo was traveling to the United States in December to attend a professional meeting on Infectious Diseases in New Orleans. I started to think: "wouldn't this be a great opportunity for Agniece to see a laboratory in the US." I unfortunately couldn't make it to New Orleans to accompany Agniece on this venture. How was I going to accomplish this task? How was I going to provide Agniece with the experience of a laboratory in the US? I thought of my ASCLS network. I logged on to the ASCLS website and started looking at the leadership roster for the state of Louisiana for a member that may live in New Orleans.

I was instantly connected through the ASCLS network. I called Patsy Jarreau from Louisiana State Health Science Center in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science. I explained to Patsy that I was an ASCLS member and I pulled her contact information from our website. I explained my position to Patsy and what I wanted to achieve with Agniece's visit to the US. Patsy and I have never met in person. We talked about other ASCLS members that we may know; we talked about the meetings we have attended in the past; we had an instant connection in ASCLS.

Patsy didn't hesitate and she contacted one of her clinical sites to set up the laboratory tour. All of this happened in less than 4 hours of my initial contact with Patsy. I emailed Patsy specific items that I wanted Agniece to see during the tour. Patsy picked Agniece up at her hotel; escorted her to the hospital laboratory; spent two hours with her at the laboratory and then returned Agniece back to her hotel. I called Agniece after the tour and she was so excited. She talked non-stop about what she had experienced and had ideas about implementing changes in her lab back in Mali.

Also, accompanying Agniece was the Principal Investigator from National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Ruth Ellis. When Dr. Ellis found out about the tour, she wanted to tag along. I later received an email from Dr. Ellis, expressing her gratitude for this wonderful opportunity for both her and Agniece.

What a wonderful example of sharing technical and personal resources between members. What a wonderful display of long-distance relationships. What a great way to use the various means of communication available in our network. I tapped into my network to help me accomplish my job.

Patsy provided Agniece with something I couldn't and she didn't hesitate to help another ASCLS member. What I learned from this encounter is that we have a fabulous network in ASCLS. Let's USE our network and PROMOTE our network to others in our profession. I challenge everyone to TALK to their colleagues at work and let them know about our wonderful ASCLS network.

Update your contact information

Please take a few minutes to update your contact information for ASCLS. Only you can make the correction. ASCLS relies on its members to update your profile. Follow these simple steps: Go to ASCLS website (Members Center / Existing members)

<http://www.ascls.org/members/login.asp>

Login (register for a login if you don't already have one) then modify your Membership Profile. **Urgent request:** Please update your email as this is our main communication tool to keep you informed.

Membership Details: Active Members

ASCLS-ND	Total	COL	COM	EMI	EM2	FYP	HON	PF1	PF2	STU
1/11/2009	95	1		1	1	4		46	33	9
1/11/2008	97	1		1		5		43	38	9
Lapsed 2007	16	1				2		4	4	5
Lapsed 2008	20					1		4	8	7
Total ASCLS										
1/11/09	8971	324	1	208	143	566	22	3699	2427	1581
1/13/09	9061	322	1	222	137	378	24	3703	2526	1748

Area contacts and I did a phone calling campaign to get our lapsed members to renew. We found students that have moved out of the state or are continuing their education in the medical field; we found members that said they would renew and have not renewed to date; we found comments stated that there was a lack of benefits for the cost of membership. Please help me reach out to those that have not renewed and other professionals understand the value of ASCLS and our network. It is all of our responsibilities to promote ASCLS. Thank you to the Area contacts of ASCLS-ND in helping with the phone calling cam-

NEW MEMBER BIOS

Amanda Bauer, CLT student, Rasmussen College, Moorhead

I am 22 years old and am studying in the MLT program at Rasmussen College in Moorhead, MN. A former English literature major, I changed my field of study following a serious illness. My program coordinator, Susan Finneman, encouraged me to join. I see it as a chance to rub elbows with people I really look up to professionally, and through Susan's mentorship, I hope to develop into a valuable member of ASCLS. I find most disciplines within the clinical laboratory to be absolutely fascinating and have no idea where I would most like to end up as far as a specialty. My goal is to work at a local hospital in Fargo upon graduation from my program, and continue on to earn a MT. Long-term; my goal is to use laboratory knowledge as part of a medical mission's trip. In my spare time, I enjoy playing music, calligraphy, and cooking.

Bios have not been received at the time of publication however ASCLS-ND would like to welcome you to the wonderful "network" of ASCLS:

James Breen, CLS student, Fargo

LaVon Slind, Minot

Kayla Friedt, CLS student, UND, Grand Forks

Cristin Miller (Dyann), CLS student, Meritcare

Tim Millner, CLT student, Rasmussen College, Moorhead

Our Value, Our Voice, Our Vision



***New Administration –
How Does That Affect Me, A Clinical Laboratory Scientist?***

By Elaine Ramstad, Government Affairs Chair

“They” are all saying change is in the air. President Obama was elected on a platform of change. Will anything change for the lab? I suspect plenty will change for all of the U.S. Health Care system.

Looming high on my personal list of injustices in health care, is the disproportionate Medicare reimbursement policy. Why should North Dakota receive lower reimbursement than New York? I’ve been grouching about that for years! I’ve hoped that our North Dakota senior senators could make some changes. Gov. Hoeven has some improved changes in his upcoming budget for the next biennium.

Interestingly, former South Dakota senator and senate majority leader, Tom Daschle, will be the new secretary of Health and Human Services in the Obama cabinet. Here’s a man who should understand the plight and expense of rural health care. What are his thoughts?

I just ordered my “used -- like new” copy of his book from Amazon.com. [Love that place! Paid for my plane trip to Europe by selling my used books, but that’s another story that has nothing to do with health care.] Its title is *Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis*.

I haven’t read the book yet. I don’t know if I will agree or disagree with the former senator. I feel a need to read this book so I can process the upcoming plans for my profession.

Do you think Tom Daschle even knows about clinical laboratory scientists? In October 2001, while he was the Senate Majority Leader, Daschle’s office received a letter containing anthrax, becoming a target of the 2001 anthrax attacks. Many of his staffers were confirmed to have been exposed. I cannot imagine that episode left him without great respect for laboratorians.

ASCLS, along with several other professional health care groups, sent a letter to the House and Senate Leadership, asking for some of the bailout package money to go toward health professional training programs. I think this is a great idea. If the nation’s infrastructure of roads and bridges is going to get help, I think the nation’s infrastructure of health care should also benefit.

I think now is the time for health care professionals to educate themselves on what’s going on in Washington. I know that even though I’ve attended Legislative Days and read the ASCLS updates, I don’t feel I have all the answers. But with this new administration and all the change that appears to be in the air, I’m taking this opportunity to learn more. It’s a new administration with new plans. While I won’t be starting on ground floor, I may be starting out on the mezzanine!

I challenge you to do the same!

Publication Submission Deadline

The publication submission deadline for articles for the next issue of The Connection is Monday May 18th, 2009. Submit any articles to:

Shannon Jongeward
shannon@gra.midco.net

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week



Upcoming Events

ASCLS-ND Annual Meeting

Rolling Out The Red Carpet For Laboratory Professionals

April 22nd-24th, 2009

Clarion Inn (Formerly Holiday INN)

Grand Forks

Legislative Symposium

March 23rd and 24th, 2009

Washington, D.C.

Annual ASCLS Meeting

July 21st-25th, 2009

Chicago, IL

STUDENT'S CORNER

ASCLS-ND STUDENT REP REPORT

BY: NIKKI DILLMANN

My name is Nikki Dillmann and I am the student representative for ASCLS-ND. I am from Bismarck and just graduated from the University of Mary in May. I am employed with Northern Plains Laboratory in Bismarck, which is where I also completed my clinical rotation while I was a student.

There are going to be some exciting things happening in the world of CLT/CLS students. There are plans to have a student meeting for the students in the Fargo area some time in February. I am also working on getting something similar going for the students in the Bismarck area. This would include the University of Mary CLS students along with the BSC and Rasmussen CLT students. Right now, I am just trying contact instructors to generate interest and get emails of their students so they can contact me with any questions they may

have. Hopefully in the fall, we can arrange classroom visits to the three colleges or a more formal meeting in Bismarck, so any new students can come and find out more about ASCLS.

With the ASCLS-ND scholarship and student representative application deadlines approaching, I am busy touching base with students to make sure they are aware of these opportunities and the upcoming deadlines. Deadline for the ASCLS-ND scholarship is March 1st and the deadline for the student representative application is March 31.

One of my goals this year is to get more students to Grand Forks for the state convention. This is an excellent opportunity for students to meet other professionals, to find out more about ASCLS, and to see us in action. I

had such a fun and memorable time at the state meeting when I was a student, and I want others to have the same positive experiences that I did. A student forum at the state meeting would be a great way to connect with students and present to them more information about the ASCLS. Also, a student mixer of some sort would be a fun event that would bring the students out of their shells and get them interested. Ideas are being tossed around on both of these activities.

I hope that these future events will encourage students to join ASCLS. I also hope that they will have as great of time as I do participating in this organization and keep coming back each year. I am going to try my best to help this happen. Here's to the students and an exciting new year!



FALL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 21, 2008

Members present: Elaine R, Dawn M, Alice H, Stacy A, Leola O, Nikki D, Victoria (Tori) R, Mary B by computer access.

Item 1- Payment of Board meeting meals, lodging and mileage –

Discussion took place and it was determined that this would be a viable expense because of the distances having to be traveled. Motion to include this as a payable expense was made by Elaine R. and seconded by Tori R. All present approved the motion.

Item 2 – Region V Restructuring Task Force / Region V Meeting

Kathy Jones joined the meeting to discuss the proposal from the Region V Restructuring Task Force to hold a Region V educational meeting every year. The meeting would rotate between Fargo, ND (starting in 2011) or Rochester, MN (starting in 2010) and would be started on a 6 year trial basis. This would be 1 ½ day meeting to begin on Thursday with a 5pm keynote speaker and concluding on Friday for a total of ~9 speakers per meeting. The meeting committee would be on a rotating basis so it is possible that even though the meeting was in Fargo, it might be planned, for example, by personnel from South Dakota and Wisconsin.

Kathy stated that they are looking for another ND volunteer – Alice H volunteered.

Region V is looking to develop a logo and key phrase for better signage and visual recognition.

Board Meeting Minutes continued from page 6...

Discussion ensued in regards to the following:

- 1 Would attendees and/or exhibitors come to two meetings in the same state in the same year
- 2 Would all monies go back to the Region V and if so, how would we recoup the money for legislative days, Nat'l meetings, etc

Kathy will get more info and let us know. Next conference call will be in January.

Item 3 – Secretary's report (Alice H / Sue H)

Secretary's report from the April Board Meeting was approved by all present– this was posted in the state newsletter for review

Item 4 – Treasurer's report (Alice H / Sue H)

The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved by all present. A new reimbursement form was presented to better track expenses and to ensure that all receipts are received. Motion to accept the form with the addition of the treasurer's address was made by Stacy A and seconded by Nikki D. All present approved. Form will be made available on the ASCLS-ND web site.

Item 5 – Membership (Mary B)

We are currently at ~90 members. A new source of members might be the new students and faculty of the Rasmussen CLT programs. We also need to look at member retention – Bismarck and Grand Forks areas are doing well, but the Fargo and Minot areas are questionable. With 23 lapsed members in one year, we all need to get on board for this process. Especially worrisome are the members that have lapsed after being very active.

Mary B suggested doing a student meeting in the Fargo area for CLS/CLT students. She will set up a conference call to develop that idea. The Minot and Bismarck areas are interested in participating as well.

Also looking for the existing membership to brain-storm ideas for membership and retention – how do we show the benefit of membership? Send any ideas to the member of the board.

Item 6 – Leadership Development (Stacy A)

Long Term –

- 1 We should be using our existing members to mentor new members – possibly an initial letter from an existing member to welcome the new member, with a follow-up at 1,6 and 12 months – we will need to pursue this at the state meeting.
- 2 Sharing info about members – Elaine and Tori will look at this possibility through the website, however, discussion was held about secure access and confidentiality – maybe there could be a more secure access section on the website that was accessible only to members

Short Term –

- 3 Looking for individuals who are interested in holding offices – Leola will be working on this
- 4 Add job descriptions to the website
- 5 Possibility of adding a “new member's forum” at the State meeting

Also looking at better signage and ASCLS-ND recognition with the development of a new logo – with it possibly being unveiled during the April State Meeting or being voted on during the meeting – possibly in conjunction with a “logo contest”

Item 7 – Student Representative (Nikki D)

Nikki was able to present at a career fair at Univ of Mary and various high school and college sites

Student Rep and scholarship forms for 2009 have been sent out to the area Program Directors/Education Coordinators

Item 8 – New Professionals (Tori R)

Tori said that as the Nat'l level they are beginning “e” mentoring but the question is still how do we get students to stay in the organization post graduation. CEU's are not a draw anymore because of the available free on-line CEU's. Suggestion was made to look at the Wisconsin model or to use Face Book to our advantage - possibly developing a Face Book brochure that could be sent or handed out to first year professionals. Will look at developing something to put into the next newsletter article.

Item 9 – Government Affairs (Elaine R)

How do we get gov't affairs to the grass roots level?

Could the National Office feed us what is coming down the road?

Could we develop some sort of coffee break sessions at the large ND institutions that would address gov't impact on labs?

Board Meeting Minutes continued from page 7...

Could we utilize a newsletter about gov't affairs and send it to all lab personnel in ND by purchasing the ND Board of CLP addresses? (This might possibly already have been purchased by the Grand Forks planning committee for the upcoming meeting. Alice will contact them.)

Could we add a "What's New in Government" to the web-site?

Elaine will pursue her contacts to get updated GAC info on a routine basis.

Item 10 – Nominations (Leola O)

Region V has openings for the following:

- 1 President Elect
- 2 Board Member at Large
- 3 Delegate
- 4 Region V Nominations Chair

Deadline sometime in February?? Will contact Toscha L to get latest info.

Item 11 – Scientific Round Tables

It was suggested that we pursue this for the 2009 State Meeting

Item 12 – Website Update (Elaine R and Tori W)

Possibility of making it less wordy. Currently working on a student page with lots of links (ie: academic links) and adding more links in general. Also looking for more updated pictures.

Item 13 – Newsletter (Shannon J)

Shannon was not present, but with an award winning publication, why change?!

Item 14 – Board Member Hand-Book

It was decided that this would be a good project for the web-site. Therefore anyone would be able to reference the duties and it could be updated as necessary.

Item 15 – ASCLS-ND Logo (Jessica I)

Jessica was not present but was contacted about doing this as a contest and she gave it a "go". Will open it up in the next newsletter as a contest to be decided at the next State Meeting with attendees voting

Item 16 – By Laws changed (Leola O)

Possible by-law changes –

- 1 Will be published in newsletter
- 2 Will be voted on – absentee ballot will be made available
- 3 Link will be on website with changes high-lighted

Item 17 – Leadership Academy (Shannon J)

No Shannon – hopefully she will update us in the next newsletter

Item 18 – Spring Meeting

2009 ASCLS-ND Meeting will be held in Grand Forks – "Rolling out the Red Carpet" – info to follow in next newsletter

New Business –

Item 19 – Technology

Need to think about going "technology only" for meetings to cut down on printing – State meetings and business meetings

Will ask Shannon to send out something in the next newsletter as some participants might not have internet access, etc. Also might be an issue about getting speakers hand-outs in time for meetings.

Web manager compensation – Elaine and Tori have put in a lot of work and we would be paying a web manager fees for what they are accomplishing. Motion was made by Alice to give them free registration for the State meeting and seconded by Stacy A

Item 20 – State Meeting Rotation

Grand Forks, 2009 – Fargo, 2010 – Minot, 2011 – Bismarck, 2012

Respectfully submitted – Alice Hawley, Secretary, ASCLS-ND

TREASURER'S REPORT
MAY 1, 2008—DECEMBER 21, 2008

Checking Account

Beginning Balance: 3592.83

Ending Balance: 2925.37

Credits/Deposits: 8782.31

Interest: 16.75TOTAL: 8799.06

Debits:

ND State Meeting (2009) 500.00

Student Scholarships 1500.00

Spring Meeting 822.72

National Meeting 5316.51

Website Maintenance 100.00

Region V 08-09 Dues 163.50

ASCLS National Mtg. Registration 750.00

Postmaster postage 9.40

Newsletter 23.40

Sue Nelson (silent auction quilt) 150.00

American Red Cross 20.00

Gate City Bank 15.99

Fall Board Meeting 95.00TOTAL: 9466.52Money Market

Beginning Balance: 7667.06

Interest: 57.68

Ending Balance 7724.74

CD's

CD (term 5/16/09) 5159.13

CD (term 12/7/09) 8681.94

BYLAWS
American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-North Dakota
Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Current Bylaw	Proposed Amendment	Rationale
<p>ARTICLE III Membership</p> <p>A. Membership in this Society is open to all persons who are members in good standing of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science who are residing in or employed in the state of North Dakota, and shall consist of the membership classes as defined by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Bylaws.</p>	<p>ARTICLE III Membership</p> <p>A. Membership in this Society is open to all persons who are members in good standing of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science who are residing in or employed in the state of North Dakota, and shall consist of the membership classes as defined by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Bylaws.</p>	<p>Delete residency statement to open membership to ASCLS-ND. There is no ASCLS requirement that restricts membership to any chapter based on residency.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VII Board of Directors</p> <p>A. The Board of Directors shall represent the Society when not in business session. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary Treasurer, immediate Past-President, two Board members-at-large, the Nominations Chairperson, First Year Professional, and one student representative to be appointed by the President from the students of the host city of the Annual Meeting. New Professional and one student representative who is in their final year of an accredited CLS or CLT program to be appointed by the ASCLS-ND Board of Directors.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VII Board of Directors</p> <p>A. The Board of Directors shall represent the Society when not in business session. The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Secretary Treasurer, immediate Past-President, two Board members-at-large, the Nominations Chairperson, First Year Professional, and one student representative to be appointed by the President from the students of the host city of the Annual Meeting. New Professional and one student representative who is in their final year of an accredited CLS or CLT program to be appointed by the ASCLS-ND Board of Directors.</p>	<p>The correct terminology for First Year Professional has been changed to New Professional.</p> <p>Removes geographical restrictions on the ASCLS-ND Board of Directors to choose a student representative.</p>
<p>ARTICLE VIII Committees</p> <p>There shall be the following standing committees: Bylaws, Education, Government Liaison, Membership Development, Professional and Public Relations, Awards, Nominations.</p>	<p>ARTICLE VIII Committees</p> <p>There shall be the following standing committees: Bylaws, Education, Government Liaison, Membership Development, Professional and Public Relations, Awards, Nominations, and New Professional.</p>	<p>There is not an Education standing committee. There is an Education Scientific Assembly.</p> <p>New Professional Committee added to Standing committees</p>

2009 ASCLS-ND Nominations

The following ASCLS-ND positions are up for election for 2009-2010!

President-elect: 1 year term. Examples of responsibilities include:

- 1 Becomes familiar with presidential duties to transition into the position the following year.
- 2 Assists the President as needed and serves as CEO in absence of the President.
- 3 Develops knowledge of past and present Society activities
- 4 Chairs ASCLS-ND membership development committee, and serves as liaison to LEND advisory board
- 5 Co-chairs ASCLS-ND delegation at the annual meeting of the ASCLS House of Delegates
- 6 Prepares budget for the following year
- 7 Attends the Region V council meeting, business meetings, and ASCLS annual meeting

Delegate: 1 year term. Examples of responsibilities include:

- 1 Becomes familiar with issues presented to the House of Delegates
- 2 Attends all meetings of the House of Delegates and other meetings as requested by the chair of the ND delegation
- 3 Submits an article for publication in the fall issue of the ASCLS-ND newsletter

Board Member at Large: 2 year term. Examples of responsibilities include:

- 1 Serves as member of ASCLS-ND Board of Directors
- 2 Serves as committee chair and other leadership roles as requested by the President

Nominate a deserving member or feel free to nominate yourself if you would like an opportunity to become more involved in ASCLS-ND! Nominations will be accepted until March 13, 2009. Please include the name, email address, work phone number, and place of employment of the nominee. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at tolarson@altru.org or 701-780-1650.

Submit nominations preferably by email to: tolarson@altru.org.

or by regular mail to:

Toscha Larson

ASCLS-ND Nominations Chair

Microbiology Lab

Altru Health System

1200 S. Columbia Rd.

Grand Forks, ND 58206



Leadership Academy

By: Shannon Jongeward



We have reached the halfway mark of the 2008-2009 Leadership Academy and are in full force. We have had two conference calls thus far. The first being in early October on Time Management and Organizational Skills. The second was the first part of December on Mentoring. Our third conference call is scheduled for early March and the topic is Networking. Linda Comeaux from Colorado will be facilitating that call.

We are also very happy to announce our projects for the year. We have two projects that we are working on and are very excited about them. The first project is "Who's in Charge?" It will

be a handbook designed for each of the officers of constituent societies to detail their responsibilities. There will be sections that each state will have to produce on their own because obligations are different from state to state, but the duties and obligations to the regional and national levels would be standard. It will be more comprehensive than the ASCLS SOP's and President-Elect manuals. The second project is to develop and compile leadership development resources (including a leadership development presentation) to use at the state and regional levels to assist members in developing the skills needed to assume leadership posi-

tions. There will be more information to come next newsletter on the progress of these projects.

We are also getting ready for our second "meeting" as a class. We meet the Saturday before Legislative symposium. We will have more leadership topics to discuss as well as time to plan and work on our projects as a class. Sunday we will be attending the ASCLS BOD meeting. Monday and Tuesday we attend Legislative Symposium with our respective states.

I am very excited to be a part of this and I appreciate ASCLS-ND for giving me the opportunity to be a part of it!

ASCLS 2008 Annual Meeting P.A.C.E. Report from Cindy Koffman

After the normal round of routine sign up sheets, the ASCLS P.A.C.E. committee's main work for this year focuses on the implementation of the new system for awarding P.A.C.E. credits. If you haven't already done so, please check it out at www.ascls.org.

On the front page under the "quick links" you will find the CE Organizer. This service is offered FREE to all ASCLS members. With the organizer you can add all of your CE credits into it. Then whenever you need a transcript you are able to select the time period that you need the transcript to reflect, and it will print it for you.

In addition, at all national meetings and now gradually at the state meetings, you will find that the P.A.C.E. registration sheets will be missing. That is because at these meetings you will be given a unique code at the end of the session. You then go to the CE Organizer on the web site and enter this code. Once the code is entered, the session will automatically be entered onto your organizer and you will be allowed to print as many copies of your P.A.C.E. form as needed for yourself, employer, etc.

As with any new system there will always be a few bugs to work out along the way. I'm sure that while it will take you just a bit of time to get use to the system, you will greatly appreciate it once it is time to print your transcript for completion of your certification renewal. If you do run into problems, PLEASE let either ASCLS know or contact Cindy Koffman at koffman@kmoraine.com and we will look into trying to resolve the issue. The P.A.C.E. committee is always willing to work with you on trying to improve the system so that it best serves our members.

An added note:

ASCLS-ND hopes to try out the PACE CE organizer at the state meeting in Grand Forks, ND, April 22-24, 2009 at the Clarion Inn (formerly Holiday Inn). Mary Coleman, ASCLS-ND P.A.C.E. administrator.

JOIN US as we Roll Out the Red Carpet for Laboratory Professionals!

The ASCLS-ND Annual Spring meeting will be held April 22-24, 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Grand Forks.

Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday April 22:

- 1 10:00 AM: ASCLS-ND Board of Director's Meeting-tentative time
- 2 12:30 PM - 5:30 PM: Meeting Sessions
- 3 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM: Dinner
- 4 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM: Meeting Sessions

Thursday April 23:

- 1 7:30 AM - 12:00: Meeting Sessions
- 2 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Exhibits Open/Lunch
- 3 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM: Meeting Sessions
- 4 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM: Exhibits/Social

Friday April 24:

- 1 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Meeting Sessions



Confirmed speakers and topics include:

- 1 Keynote Speaker: Eric Bergeson
- 2 Keynote Speaker: Lezlee Koch: *Reaching for the Stars to Shine*
- 3 Dr. James Hargreaves: *What is Staph?*
- 4 Mary Coleman: *Human Parasitology Review*
- 5 Toscha Larson/Shannon Hansen: MRSA and VRE Surveillance
- 6 Brian Harcourt/Cynthia Hatcher: *The Emergence of Fluoroquinolone-Resistant Neisseria meningitidis in North America*
- 7 Tim Randolph: Molecular Biology of Polycythemia Vera
- 8 Tim Randolph: The Sickle Cell Story
- 9 Terri Hintz: Interactive Transfusion Medicine discussion
- 10 Eric Heib/Kay Rasmussen: Research Topics by UND's Masters Students

Tentative Topics include:

- 1 C. difficile toxin
- 2 Interactive Molecular Testing session
- 3 Starting a Molecular Lab
- 4 Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- 5 Diabetes Management
- 6 Diagnosis and Monitoring of Kidney Disease
- 7 Community Event: Ask the Lab
- 8 Plus...more to come!



For up to date speaker and registration information please visit www.asclsnd.org and click on Meetings and Events. We hope to see you there!



ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET
FOR LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS

ASCLS-ND Leadership & Key Contacts Roster 2008-2009

Position	Name	Preferred Email	Home Phone	Work/Cell Phone
President	Dawn Michelson	medtecdawn2@msn.com	701-237-9705	701-306-8037
President-Elect	Mary Belanus	mbelanus@hotmail.com	218-773-0281	218-773-4786
Past President	Stacy Askvig	saskvig@medicine.nodak.edu	701-839-1847	701-858-6789
Secretary/Treasurer	Alice Hawley	Alice.hawley@meritcare.com	701-282-2617	701-234-2482
Board Member	Jessica Irion	jirion@altru.org	218-791-8440	701-780-5645
Board Member	Elaine Ramstad	datsmar@msn.com	701-775-3426	701-780-5144
Nominations Chair	Toscha Larson	tolarson@altru.org	218-857-3303	701-780-1650
Student Forum Rep	Nikki Dillman	nikkijo_03@hotmail.com		
New Professional Rep	Victoria Welton	Victoria.welton@meritcare.com	406-581-5740	701-234-7795
State Committee Chair or Key Contacts				
Awards	Dawn Michelson	medtecdawn2@msn.com	701-237-9705	701-306-8037
Bylaws	Leola Olson	lolson@primecare.org	701-258-5835	701-530-5700
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PACE	Mary Coleman	mcoleman@medicine.nodak.edu	701-775-3664	701-777-2652
Political Action (PAC)	Mary Coleman			
Professional Affairs	Elaine Ramstad	datsmar@msn.com	701-775-3426	701-780-5144
Publication-Newsletter	Shannon Jongeward	shannon@gra.midco.net	701-775-9330	701-780-5144
Website	Victoria Welton/Elaine Ramstad			
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Industry				
Education	Alice Hawley			
POC/Phlebotomy				
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Reg Affairs/QM				
Area Leaders				
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Fargo	Heidi Brosius	Heidi.brosius@meritcare.com	701-280-7021	701-234-2115



**Rolling Out The Red Carpet
For Laboratory Professionals**

ASCLS-ND Logo Contest

Calling all creative laboratorians!! ASCLS-ND is in need of a new logo and we need your help. The Board of Directors will be awarding an exciting prize to the winner of the contest..not that the honor of having your design chosen is not enough, of course. Deadline for submission is March 15th. Entries must contain the acronym ASCLS-ND.

Please submit all entries and any questions regarding the contest to Jessica Irion jirion@altru.org 701-780-5645.

A picture is worth a thousand words....



This was what Mary Belanus found as she opened a drawer in a new lab in Bamako, Mali Africa. This gives new definition to the word "Lab Rat"!