

Bayou Tech

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



Fall

2013

Edited By: Evan Ashley & Mallory McCarty

A Word from the President: Stephanie Blackburn MHS, MLS (ASCP)^{cm}

Hello LSCLS members!

I am Stephanie Blackburn and I am honored to be sending out this message as your new 2013-2015 LSCLS president. LSCLS is such a wonderful organization because of its members, and it exists for its members. We have a busy year ahead of us and I look forward to working closely with our LSCLS members and board members to meet our goals for the upcoming year.

One of my goals for this year is to increase our LSCLS membership. Our members are our number one priority and we need to include as many laboratorians as possible in our organization. To help achieve this goal, letters were sent via email to all lapsed members encouraging their continued membership in their professional organization. We also need help from the educators with keeping in touch with our student members upon graduation. The students are the future of our profession and we need to do what we can to keep them involved and continue their membership in LSCLS as a First Year Professional. This leads to my other goal which is to continue with mentoring the young professionals, first started by LSCLS past-president, Cathy Robinson. We have some fantastic young professionals in our state that have a great future ahead of them thanks to the leadership and mentoring of president-elect, Michele Werner. I would love to see other leaders follow her example.



*"It is up to us to serve
as the VOICE for all
clinical laboratory
professionals."*

- Stephanie Blackburn

We had an incredible delegation from Louisiana for the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Houston, Texas in July. There were a few first-timers as well as several "old pros". Everyone had a great time at the meeting visiting with friends and colleagues from all over the United States, enjoying great food, as well as learning from some intriguing speakers. If you have never been to an annual meeting, I highly recommend going! It is such a great experience and some of your costs can be covered if you attend as a delegate for LSCLS.

At the end of August, LSCLS held its first conference call board meeting. The meeting was well attended and everything went smoothly. Thank you to everyone that called in. We had 17 members participate in the meeting, including board members, committee chairs, members, and our Region VII director, Karen Chandler. Meeting minutes can be found on the LSCLS website.

Congratulations to Gretchen Brocksmit! She is currently the LSCLS Student Forum chair and student at Our Lady of the Lake. She attended the ASCLS Annual Meeting as the student delegate from LSCLS and has been appointed by Karen Chandler to be the Region VII student regional representative. I am confident that she will do a great job in this role and look forward to her future in LSCLS. I also want to send out a huge thank you to Michele Werner, LSCLS President-elect. As Area II representative she has done a phenomenal job at getting her area active. She has held a few local meetings that were well-attended and has been a great leader as she mentored Evan Ashley and Rosalie Baylock.

Start making plans now to attend the Annual Bi-state LSCLS/ASCLS-MS Meeting in Biloxi, MS. The meeting will be held April 28 – May 1, 2014 at the Imperial Palace. The meeting will include opportunities for continuing education at various scientific sessions, MLS and MLT Student Bowl competition, exhibitors, and the LSCLS spring board meeting. Please contact me if you are interested in speaking at the spring meeting.

As members of LSCLS, it is up to us to serve as the VOICE of all clinical laboratory professionals, create a VISION for the advancement of our profession, and advocate the VALUE of the future of our profession! I invite all members to join us in achieving our goals. Please consider attending our bi-state meeting in April and joining us in future board meetings. As your LSCLS President, I look forward to serving you. I would love to meet you and discuss ways YOU can be involved. Please don't hesitate to contact me with comments, questions, or concerns. This is a great time to be a laboratory professional, so let's get out there and promote our profession!

Stephanie Blackburn

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Nominations 2014 LSCLS Officers

WE WANT YOU



LSCLS needs your active participation. A great way to get involved is to run for one of the board of director offices.

Please consider nominating yourself or a peer for one of the following offices:

1. Secretary (1 year term)
2. Area III Representative (Alexandria area) (3 year term)
3. Area IV Representative (Lake Charles area) (3 year term)
4. Area V Representative (Lafayette area) (3 year term)
5. Area II Representative (Monroe area) (1 year term)

You may e-mail nominations to Mary Muslow at muslow@att.net before March 1, 2014. Any current ASCLS member is eligible, only a name is needed. I will contact the nominee to be sure that they are willing to run for office.

Scholarship Info

LSCLS awards three scholarships annually to MLS and MLT students and professionals. The scholarships are the Anna Harnan Scholarship for Continuing Education, the Joy Holm Memorial Scholarship, and the Betty Lynne Theriot Memorial Scholarship. Updated applications and general information will be available on the LSCLS website by January 1, 2014.

The Anna Harnan Scholarship is available to active LSCLS members for continuing education sponsored by approved organizations outlined in the "General Information for Applicants". The deadline for application is March 1, 2014.

The Joy Holm Memorial Scholarship and the Betty Lynne Theriot Scholarship are available to MLS and MLT students entering their senior/clinical year of the medical laboratory science curriculum. The applicant must have a minimum cumulative and science GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and be a member of LSCLS. Eligibility requirements are outlined in the "General Information for Applicants". The deadline for application is March 1, 2014.

For more information, please contact Debbie Wisenor, Chair, LSCLS Education and Scholarship Committee at wisenor@ulm.edu.

Clinical Laboratory Personnel Committee

Hello fellow clinical laboratory practitioners. My name is Dana Grant. I live in Alexandria and work at Rapides Regional Medical Center. I have been a clinical laboratory scientist for 24 years. I am a current member of the Clinical Laboratory Personnel Committee or CLPC. When asked to write an update for the newsletter, I was troubled as to what to update the LSCLS members on. As I pondered, it occurred to first let you know what the CLPC is all about.

The CLPC originated when Louisiana initiated licensure for those of us who work in the laboratory world. The CLPC is an advisory committee to the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners or LSBME. The LSBME is our licensing board. The CLPC committee consists of licensed, practicing professionals that make up the wonderful field of clinical laboratory medicine. This includes, two physicians - one being a rural practitioner and the other a pathologist, two administrators - one Hospital and the other Laboratory, an educator, a specialist, a cytotechnologist, a generalist - supervisor, a generalist - baccalaureate degree, a generalist - technician, a lab assistant, and a non-voting liaison between the CLPC and the LSBME. Eight members are appointed by the governor with the other four appointed by the LSBME. Each nominee is confirmed by the Louisiana legislature. Terms for each voting member are three years. No member may serve more than two consecutive three year terms. The committee is required to meet at least twice a year but may meet more as necessitated by the LSBME or the CLPC Chair. All meetings are open meetings and require half of the voting membership be present to have a quorum. The general duties are to advise the LSBME on any matter that they deem the CLPC has expertise in. The board may or may not act on the advice the CLPC gives. It is, of course, their prerogative.

I am now beginning my second term. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve as a member this esteemed committee. So, when your opportunity arises, go ahead and accept the nomination. It is not a demanding commitment, but I'd bet you would enjoy the opportunity to serve your profession in this very important role.

Molecular/Genetics Scientific Assembly Meeting

Several topics were discussed during the Molecular/Genetics SA meeting. First, after disbanding the Molecular/Genetics SA earlier in 2013, the group was reinstated at the ASCLS Board Meeting. With this reinstatement came the push for a new name for the assembly which garnered much discussion and several suggestions. It was decided that all suggestions would be compiled by the SA Chair, Charlotte Romain, and sent to the group for a vote at a later date. There was also a call for submission of meeting abstracts, articles for the ASCLS newsletter and journal, as well as a list of names for speakers for the 2014 annual meeting. Evaluation of the Body of Knowledge was discussed. The document was to be emailed to attendees for review and edit. Finally, it was briefly discussed that the SA should work together to develop a set of study questions for use in preparation for the MB(ASCP) exam. Discussions about this topic were to continue at a later date.

Lee Ellen Brunson

National Meeting Summary

After attending my first ASCLS National Meeting in Houston, I was enlightened on many hot topics in the CLS community. The main topic discussed was awareness in recruiting new members in to the organization. All students are essentially required to join; however only 20% renew their membership and become first year professionals after their student card is expired. Getting more people involved can increase the chances of the organization being heard. It is our job to get the message out to new recruits to join and renew their membership yearly. I also enjoyed the Expo and gained insight on future instruments that will hit the market in the upcoming years. I also obtained an obtuse amount of pens from vendors which made my day. The experience was very informative and quite enjoyable.

Bray Williams

Student Forum Co-Chair

Our Lady of the Lake College



MLS/MLT opening

Day shift generalist

6am – 6pm, three shifts per week

Shift differentials, Benefit time, Retirement

Homer Memorial Hospital is a 60 bed facility near Lake Claiborne in Homer, LA 71040

Apply on-line at www.homerhospital.com

Direct questions to gbrunson@homerhospital.com

2013



ASCLS

Meeting



Pictures



Student Forum Update

I am Gretchen Brocksmith, Student Forum Chair. I attend Our Lady of the Lake College in Baton Rouge, where I serve as President of CLS Class of 2013. I am currently doing my clinicals at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge. I am serving as the Region 7 Representative which includes Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. I am here to explain a little about LSCLS and ASCLS to you and help you along the way to become active student members in the society.

The Annual LSCLS Bi-State Meeting will be held next year at the end of April in Biloxi, MS. This meeting is very beneficial for students. There is a student bowl where CLS students compete with each other to test their knowledge. There are also educational sessions that help students prepare for the upcoming board exam. A session is available to students where they could give an educational presentation to other students at the meeting. This meeting is where voting for new Student Forum Officers is held. If you are interested in running let me know, and I can give you more information. Being an officer is a great opportunity and a very educational experience. The meeting is also a great place to make friends and educators in the profession. Fundraisers are the best way to send your class to the meeting. If you need or want any ideas for fundraising please let me know.

Being elected Student Forum Chair I was able to attend the ASCLS National Meeting in Houston. This meeting opened my eyes to the wonderful world of the clinical laboratory profession. I met students, first year professionals, educators, and medical technologists who all shared the same passion I did for the clinical lab. The Clinical Laboratory Expo was also being held. There were over 800 companies displaying booths ranging from updated technologies in clinical chemistry to new methods in the diagnoses of patients which will soon be introduced into our labs.

The American Society for Clinical Laboratory is our national professional association representing over 8000 lab personnel with over 2500 being students. It serves educational, legislative, economic, and social needs of its members. As a student member, you have the opportunity to attend educational and scientific workshops at a reduced rate which also includes the national meeting. Next year the meeting will be held in Chicago. Being a student member provides you the chance to meet other students, educators, and employees.

As Student Forum Chair, I have a few goals I would like to achieve with the help of my fellow officers, students, educators, and professionals.

- This year our membership dropped from greater than ten thousand to a little more than 8000. Membership was one of the key topics at the meeting and how we could boost membership
 - It begins with us, the students, and continues on with the first year professionals.
- The last week in April is Medical Lab Professionals Week. This week is to increase the public's knowledge of us, the clinical lab techs.
 - I would like to acknowledge who we are and what we do around our schools, cities, and hospitals (if possible)
- Plan a student night for all current CLS students and FYP. I have been talking with a fellow student from Minnesota and her school puts together a student night.
 - Students gather and discuss topics such as the board exam, scholarships, jobs/careers, interview skills
 - They also have some fun with lab skills
 - Available for students who may not be able to attend the state meeting or just want network and catch up with friends

If you would like more information please visit the websites or feel free to email. There is also a Facebook group for both the LSCLS and ASCLS. Both are very informative and a great way to stay connected. If you would like to join, please let me know.

www.lscls.org

www.ascls.org

Gretchen Brocksmith

Student Forum Chair

Region VII Student Representative

gsmith2103@hotmail.com

(225)-773-0826

Awards Nominations 2014



Awards that are available for nomination are: Member of the Year, Student of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Student and Member Papers. All applications can be found online at www.lscls.org. All applications are due by March 15, 2014. If anyone has any questions contact Maegan Fryday at guccionemm@rocketmail.com.

ULM MLS Program Closure

As many of you have probably heard, the faculty at University of Louisiana Monroe were given the devastating news that their MLS program would be shut down. This program has worked so hard over the years to make it what it is. They are accredited by NAACLS and have a phenomenal group of faculty that are truly devoted to our profession. They have taught many students that graduated and went on to become incredible Medical Laboratory Scientists. Our profession is continually growing and there is an increasing need for Medical Laboratory Scientists throughout the state and nation. As members of LSCLS, we need to work together to do what we can to show the administrators at ULM, as well as our government officials, how vital the MLS department is at ULM.

I am asking that you please contact Dr. Pani (Vice-President of Academic Affairs at ULM), Dr. Bruno (President at ULM), and your local legislators and let them know why this program needs to remain open.

Thank you,

Stephanie Blackburn

LSCLS President

Contact	Phone	Address	Email
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Governor Bobby Jindal	225-342-7015		

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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}

St. Francis Medical Center, Monroe LA