

From the Office of the President

Dear Laboratory Professional Friends:

The National ASCLS Conference in Anaheim in July was as great as any conference I have had an opportunity to attend. This year was special: I attended the meeting as an incoming President of ASCLS-IL! What an honor!

Illinois was well represented at the National Meeting with seven Delegates (Toula Castillo, Maribeth Flaws, Paula Garrott, Herb Miller, Sherry Miner, Nick Moore, and Anh Strow) and should be proud of its members' accomplishment! Please join me in congratulating the following members who were recognized at the National Meeting in Anaheim:

- Gilma Goncancio-Weemer was elected as the ASCLS Secretary/Treasurer.
- Toula Castillo was enrolled in the 4th class of The Leadership Academy.
- Wendy Miller was among the 17 individuals nominated for ASCLS Member of the Year Award.
- Nick Moore was among 7 individuals nominated for New Professional Member of the Year Award.
- Toula Castillo and Nick Moore won second place for the Web-Version of the Constituent Society Publication Awards.
- And many more members serve on various National Committees.

As we enter a new fiscal year, I ponder the opportunities to market our profession by letting people know what an important role we play in the care of the public. The Vietnamese proverb that I learned as a child comes back strongly: "One tree does not make a hill while three trees together build a mountain." I can feel the synergism running in my blood... Our individual effort may not go anywhere but if many of us join together, we can spread our voice as far as we can possibly reach!

With that aspiration, I would like to invite you to do something you have not done previously with ASCLS, either with your local branch or State, or at the National level. If you are unsure what you could or should do, please contact me or any members of the Board of Directors, or just any veteran ASCLS member, we will be happy to assist you. As laboratory professionals, we excel in many areas. We need to make our quality visible. Consider going out of the laboratory and talk to people, at local schools, at church, or any chance at a social gathering. Make a video and post it on YouTube... Anything you do to market the clinical laboratory science field is important to our profession viability. Please remember, no effort or contribution is too small!

Speaking about video, if you have not seen the ones put out by ASCLS, please follow these links and forward those to people you know. They are great recruiting tools.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q2c4D1ZIXoI>

<http://www.ascls.org/leadership/ppc/lifesavedvideo.asp>

To practice the ASCLS Voice, Value and Vision, I intend to do the following during my year serving you as ASCLS-IL President:

- Promote the profession visibility via recruiting, public speaking – let me know if you would like me to speak at different functions
- Keep members informed with updates as what ASCLS are doing to promote our profession as well as assure the excellent service for the high quality care to the public
- Promote leadership development

It is a harvesting season. May we together harvest a very productive year in the profession marketing arena!



Happy Fall!

President Anh Strow

Discussion of the interdisciplinary relationships: Nursing and Clinical Laboratory Personnel

“Walk a mile in my shoes” by: Kirsten Bishop, 2nd year MS student, Rush University, MLS program

The patient. That is why all we all got into healthcare in the first place, right? So we can help, heal, and fix someone by using our education and our expertise. We learn at an early age how to play and work together so how can highly educated and trained medical personnel not remember and use this basic concept?

I began my rotations through the clinical laboratory at a renowned academic medical center this past summer. While working day to day with the technologists I could see the eye rolls or shoulder shrugs when they were talking about nurses. In my opinion it seemed they felt nurses haven't given them the respect they felt they earned. Their attitude made me stop and wonder: I want to work as part of a team to help that sick baby or heart attack patient, but can I really be part of the team when it seems that my profession is a pivotal but sometimes 'forgotten' member? Laboratory professionals are behind the scenes, we are in the basements or in a corner laboratory unseen or unheard by the patients. Even our interaction with the doctors and nurses have been transformed into a magical pneumatic tube system that takes away a patient specimen for testing and a computer system that reports the results back. We do not see each other so how can we have an understanding of what each other

does on a daily basis?

Employee shortages and daily responsibilities have caused both nurses and lab staff to be extremely busy.

We all have a job to do and often times more things to accomplish than hours available. Is this something that can be fixed by stepping back and talking to both sides to understanding the frustrations each side feels? Maybe the nurse is upset because her STAT test result hasn't come back but the lab tech can't release the results because of a QC failure and needs to repeat the test to ensure validity. Lab personnel do not know what goes on before the blood vial is put into that magical tube system, just as nurses do not understand what goes on during the time between sending the vial and getting the results from the computer.

How do we fix this? Is this something that needs to begin in school? While in a mixed disciplinary classroom, I actually had a med student tell me that the labs were staffed by a lot of immigrants and didn't need a lot of training. I was floored and didn't know what to say. I feel like I am highly educated, I need to understand the diseases and patient symptoms, specimen collections, testing meth-



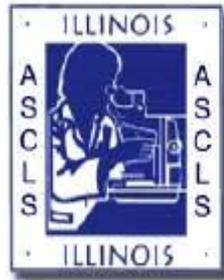
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ods, analyzer mechanisms and troubleshooting, and the diagnostic meaning of the results. I take the same core classes they do but when they go onto learn about patient care and diagnostics, I learn about testing methods from the basic bacterial agar to the complexity of the mass spectrophotometer.

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Maybe this is the laboratory's fault and should have a bigger voice. Maybe the nurses need to be bigger advocates for the laboratory and vice versa. I don't know the answer, but I do know this is something I would like to try and change. After all, we are all here for the same reason. The patient.

Save The Date: 2011 ASCLS-IL Annual Meeting



ASCLS-IL Annual Spring Conference
2011

Laboratory Professionals:
Our Successes Are Their Miracles

Date:
4/14/2011—4/15/2011

Location:
Holiday Inn City Center
Peoria, Illinois

Contact Information:
Shawn Berberich
309-243-3410
sberberich@illinoiscancer.com

or
Anh Strow
309-999-4661
astrow@icc.edu

Congratulations to our award recipients!

ASCP \$1000 scholarships:

- MT Brandy Lee ISU Normal, IL
- MT Susan Powers OSF Saint Francis Medical Center School of CLS Peoria, IL

ASCP \$500 scholarships:

- PBT Kathleen Simon South Suburban College South Holland, IL
- PBT Sherri Witvilet South Suburban College South Holland, IL

Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics Student Scholarships - \$1000:

- MLT Diane J. Soderborg Kankakee Community College Kankakee, IL
- MT Tawnya Anderson St. John's Hospital School of CLS Springfield, IL
- MT Ashton Ballinger University of Illinois-Springfield Springfield, IL



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NOMINATION FORM

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE - ILLINOIS

Name _____

ASCLS Membership # _____

ASCLS - Illinois Office _____

Nominated by _____

Years of membership in ASCLS/ASCLS - Illinois _____

Educational Background and Years:

Work Background and Years:

Statement of Philosophy:

ASCLS/ASCLS - Illinois Activities and Years of Service:

ASCLS/ASCLS - Illinois Awards:

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences

Nomination Form

2011-2012 Elections

President-elect: The role of the President-elect is to Chair Planning and Scope, assist the President, plan the appointment of committee chairs and representatives to affiliated organizations, who will serve during your presidential year. Contact and confirm appointments and finalize in July. Review the current edition of the Handbook for the Board of Directors in preparation for the next year's Board orientation, revising as needed. Attend ASCLS-IL BOD, HOD, Region VI, Legislative Symposium, and ASCLS (national) with the president. The President-elect will serve as a voting member of the ASCLS Presidents Council, ASCLS Region VI Council, ASCLS-IL Board of Directors and House of Delegates. The office is a 1 year term with subsequent placement as President of ASCLS-IL the following term.

_____ (write-in candidate)

Treasurer: The role of the treasurer is to conduct all financial activities within the organization. The treasurer will serve as a voting member of the ASCLS-IL Board of Directors and House of Delegates, and financial committee member. The treasurer is elected to a 2 year term and may not serve more than 4 years.

(Term 2011-2013)

_____ (write-in candidate)

Board Member at Large: The role of the Board Member at Large is to assist society and the president, be knowledgeable of the affairs of the state association and issues from the regional and national levels. The board members are elected to a 2 year term and may not serve for more than 4 years. Board Members at Large are voting members of ASCLS-IL Board of Directors and House of Delegates.

(Term 2011-2013)

_____ (write-in candidate)

Nominations and Elections Committee Members: The role of Nominations and Elections Committee Members is to notify the branch president and Board of Directors of all vacancies to be filled by election at the fall BOD meeting along with distribution of nomination forms. They prepare call for nominations and verify qualifications of nominations who have agreed to candidacy. Mail prepared ballot at least 1 month prior to Spring Meeting and announce election results at House of Delegates. This is a 1 year non voting member term.

(Term 2011-2012)

_____ (write-in candidate)

_____ (write-in candidate)

Return nomination form to Nominations and Chair Committee (Elaine Nicholas) no later than **December 1st 2010**.

Attention: Elaine Nicholas, Nominations and Elections Committee Chair, ernichlas@aol.com

DO YOU WANT TO
CONTINUE RECEIVING THE
QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER
ASCLS-IL INSIGHTS?

CONTACT THE EDITOR AT
DEMETRA.CASTILLO@GMAIL.COM
WITH YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS

*DON'T HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?
THAT'S OK!*

*SIMPLY FILL OUT THE FORM TO ON PAGE 7 WITH
YOUR CURRENT MAILING ADDRESS AND WE WILL
MAIL YOU A COPY!*

THE NEWSLETTER CAN ALWAYS BE ACCESSED ON THE
ASCLS-IL WEBSITE ([HTTP://WWW.ASCLS-IL.ORG](http://www.ascls-il.org)) UNDER
INSIGHTS!

LOOK FOR THE FALL EDITION TODAY!

WANT A PAPER COPY OF ASCLS-IL INSIGHTS? SIMPLY FILL OUT THIS FORM
AND MAIL IT TO:

DEMETRA CASTILLO
123 S WE GO TRL
MOUNT PROSPECT, IL 60056

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CITY: _____

STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____

ASCLS MEMBER NUMBER: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL
LABORATORY SCIENCE--ILLINOIS**



ASCLS-IL is an affiliate society of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and one of five states in ASCLS Region VI, which also includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

ASCLS serves as the voice of all clinical laboratory professionals, creating a vision for the advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field, and advocating the value and the role of the profession ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered health care.

- Promoting the value of the profession to healthcare and the public
- Uniting the profession to speak with one voice
- Advocating on behalf of the profession
- Promoting professional independence
- Enhancing quality standards and patient safety
- Ensuring workplace safety
- Providing professional development opportunities
- Promoting expanded roles and contributions of clinical laboratory professionals to the healthcare team
- Increasing the diversity in the profession and expanding the voice and role of under-

We're on the web!
www.ascls-il.org



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