

# The Pipette Line

A Publication of the Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Catherine G. Weaver, MS, CLS (NCA), MT(ASCP)**

Are visions of plum jobs or plum med techs dancing in your head? The New Year brings personal resolutions yet that plum job or plum med tech begins growing where planted. A plum job meets an individual's personal goals to demonstrate strengths, to develop new skills, to be part of a successful new development, to receive recognition for accomplishments, to receive a just compensation and a work schedule compatible with personal lifestyle. A plum clinical laboratory scientist creates the plum job by taking responsibility for

action: recognizing the requirements for success in that ideal plum position and changing behavior to obtain it. The hard questions include these:

**“Do I have the knowledge I need?”** Seek informal or formal education resources. Take online courses at [ascls.org](http://ascls.org) or register for a live or online degree program. Review your employer's education assistance policy. Volunteer to learn a new skill in a GSCLS or ASCLS activity.

**“Are my current skills or training adequate?”** Confirm your skill level by taking an additional certification examination like an NCA exam. Cross train or volunteer to be a key operator. Network with other GSCLS and ASCLS members currently performing at advanced levels.

**“Who can I meet with?”** Approach others who have information on your interests. Network with other GSCLS or ASCLS members online in a Scientific Assembly, state regional or national meetings. Consult the ASCLS Membership Directory, which is organized according to specialties, e.g. Infection Control, Risk Management, etc. Many resources are just a click away!

**“What do I need to do different?”** Honestly appraise your actions or ask a mentor. Discuss your ideas with non-traditional resources outside your immediate laboratory, e.g. the information systems staff, coding administrators, visiting technical specialists.

Future clinical laboratory scientists are currently working in non-analytical healthcare positions and seek the same ideal plum job. Some laboratory assistants and phlebotomists are future clinical laboratory scientists needing encouragement from professional lab staff. Current BS degree graduates with an interests in life sciences are seeking CLS as a rewarding profession or an adjunct degree to their current medical research or medical marketing professions. The waiting list is growing for technical college clinical laboratory technician programs. These applicants are self-motivated to create their plum jobs by arming themselves with the required knowledge and skills. (continued, page 2)

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## Officers and Directors

- President, Cathy Weaver H(770)434-8889  
W(770)793-5445
- Past President, Lester Hardegee  
H(912)764-3454  
W(912)921-7442
- President Elect.
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W(478)633-2507
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- District I, Elizabeth Kenimer H(706)453-4134  
W(706)721-3046
- District II, Wendy Price H(912)449-9769  
W(912)287-2586
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W(229)228-2939
- District IV, E. Darecell Thaxton  
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W(678)442-4503
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W(404)535-3553
- District IX, Anne Ranne H(770)513-0638  
W(404)686-2654
- Student Forum Chair, Ronnie T. Macy  
H(912)383-0153
- Student Forum Advisor Sarah Duvall  
H(706)733-5993

### Region III Director Lynn Ingram

2610 Lanrich Cove  
Memphis, TN  
Ingram@utm.edu

### ASCLS President Barbra Brown

barbarabrowncls@adelphia.net

### National Student Representative Robbe Peetz

turby10cj@yahoo.com

Other email address may be found at GSCLS website <http://www.ga.ascls.org>

# Medical Technologist Celebrates 84th!!

The Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital Laboratory Special Chemistry Department is special not so much for the types of tests it offers as the technologist that performs them. **Helen Browning**, Medical Technologist, has been working in Phoebe's lab since 1957.

Helen celebrated her 84<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 23. We asked her to reminisce about the old days in the laboratory. Her career started in Milledgeville at the encouragement of a friend. She decided that it "beat washing and ironing" and decided to give it a try.

Helen worked in the laboratory when it really was a zoo. She injected rabbits for pregnancy tests and chased frogs down the hall that had been left out of their refrigerated hibernating state too long! When she wasn't acting as zookeeper, she was probably washing supplies because everything was reusable. Syringes had to be cleaned, needles unclogged with stylets, and then everything autoclaved. All this had to be done in between cooking those sugars and separate tests run for everything else. No chemistry "panels" in those days. Helen remembers donor blood in glass bottles and giving donors a carton of cigarettes for donating blood!

When Helen is not in the laboratory, she enjoys traveling. In the last few years, she has toured Hawaii, Paris, Rome and most recently Las Vegas. She is already planning a return trip to Vegas! The joy of her life is her family. She has 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren and with that ever-present gleam in her eye she reports she "doesn't know how many might be on the way!"

## The Pipette Line

Editor: *Bonnie Gum*

The Pipette Line is a quarterly Publication of the **Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science** for its members.

Note: Copies of complete board minutes and committee reports are available to members on request from Patricia Linkous, GSCLS secretary. Address all correspondence to

Pipette Line Editor  
135 Huntington Drive  
LaGrange, GA 30240

### **Presidents report** (continued from page 1)

Drawing on new tests, automation and the varied backgrounds of this new wave of clinical laboratory scientists, the nature of clinical laboratory work will change. While work changes the techs, techs will change the work. Research, marketing, analytical skills of well-matched teams will create the collective plum job of the future and further the body of knowledge of clinical laboratory science. Reward yourself as a plum professional in 2004.

### **Special People are around us everyday.**

**Take time out, right now, and let us know about them. Perhaps something outstanding has happened in your community. Please share with the Pipette Line editor at the address above or email**

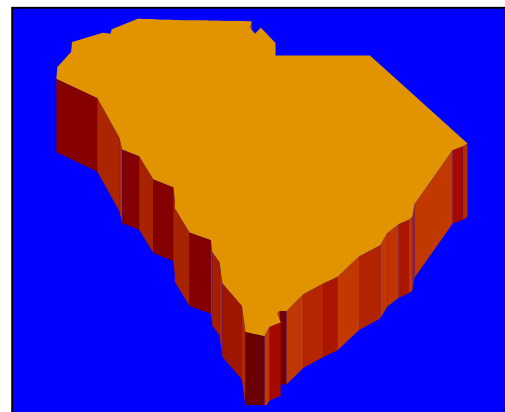
**nagum@charter/net.**

**Pictures from your laboratory are most welcome!!**



REPORT OF THE ASCLS REGION III COUNCIL MEETING  
AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA  
NOVEMBER 14-16, 2003

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Region III Director Lynn Ingram conducted a three day leadership development and business meeting for the ASCLS constituent state societies: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and Tennessee. Paula Garrott, former president of ASCLS was guest of honor. She spoke on the effect of emotional intelligence on leadership skills. Paula advised that volunteers commit personal time to causes supported by their passions. Each member decides which organizations merit financial input and personal time.



Lynn Ingram presented “ASCLS: What Roles Do We Play” to identify the resources available to ASCLS active members in their various tasks: other members, observation, ASCLS documents, seminars, the ASCLS annual meeting leadership development seminars. She noted that what we really need is written documentation of job descriptions, a network list of contacts and a timely response to questions. She distributed an updated calendar of ASCLS activities and deadlines.

Attendees approved the Finance Report. Treasurer Tim Wallace will notify states of correct membership assessments.

Alabama has no state president at this time. UAM faculty volunteers to present a meeting. University of South Alabama is searching for a clinical chemistry professor.

Florida has a coalition of 13 clinical laboratory associations, which support a lobbyist and an annual meeting.

Georgia joins with SES-AACC in an annual meeting February 24-25, 2004 in Atlanta.

Mississippi and Louisiana meet April 27- 30 at Grand Casino Gulfport, Gulfport, MS. The LA-MS room rate is \$109/night. Speakers are welcome.

North Carolina offices are filled. AMT will partner with NC for an annual meeting in Wilmington, NC March 2-5, 2004.

South Carolina hosts a malaria update on Saturday December 27, 2003 at Greenville Memorial Hospital.

Tennessee is lobbying for mandatory continuing education for all clinical laboratory staff.

ASCLS updates highlighted the 95% membership retention rate. New education materials online at [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) include “DNA 101.” Access Excellence is available via the National Health Museum.

An Explorer Scout meeting in 2005 focuses on clinical laboratory science. Members should read and comment online regarding the Masters entry-level issues. ASCLS answers all questions on [www.labtestsonline.com](http://www.labtestsonline.com). Volunteers are welcome to help answer questions. CAP does not report a lab staffing shortage. ASCLS members are urged to ask their pathologists to inform CAP administration about the shortage of clinical laboratory personnel.

Political Action Committee (PAC) recommends assigning the state legislative chairs as state PAC representatives. PAC information should be included on state websites and publications. An ASCLS Region III-State shirt sale is available as a state PAC fundraiser. States can add to the basic \$19 cost.

### **Region III Report (continued from page 3)**

Region III Student Forum Chair LaVonda Benbow needs contact information for every state student forum chair and a list of CLS and CLT program directors in each state.

Legislative Affairs was successful in lobbying against the 20% co-pay for Medicare reimbursement.

Membership Development achieved a 95% retention rate this year. ASCLS strives to maintain or exceed this rate. States should make phone calls to remind lapsed members to pay before the December. Any new memberships received by ASCLS after March 1, 2004 will be credited to the submitting state for 15 months. The expiration date for memberships mailed before March 1, 2004 is July 31, 2005. For example, any new memberships at a February 2004 State meeting should be mailed to ASCLS after March 1, 2004 for a 15 months membership. Otherwise, the new membership expires July 31, 2004. The state MDC can download "Start a Membership Epidemic" and customized for the state membership campaign. There is also a template for a posterboard, an instruction manual and a one-page flyer, which can be customized with local contact information. A discussion on student retention included two proposals. Students could be mentored 3:1 through their first year professional status. A special Voice Value Vision graduation card could include the ASCLS renewal application with a FYP membership gifted by the three mentors.

Communications enhancements among members include a free mail groups and storage sites (but no attachments) available on yahoo.com. Minnesota offered to create a membership-mailing group. Robbie Robison of Tennessee will build a Region III webpage to facilitate communications in the Southeast.

The ASLCS Region III Triennial Meeting at the Vanderbilt Marriott, September 23-26, 2004 in Nashville, TN. The ASCLS Region III room mate is \$95/night. Members should send industry sponsor contact information to Sue Ann Allen or Cathy Weaver. Lynn Ingram requested state mailing lists beyond our membership. States should recommend speakers and desired topics to Lynn Ingram. At this event, ASCLS Region III traditionally awards the Rebel Yell Award in memory of Gloria Mike Gilbert of Georgia, a former Region III Director.

The proceeds from a triennial meeting are allocated as follows:

40% Region III

25% sponsoring state (TN)

5% each state (Slightly higher for GSCLS as industry partner chair).

The next ASCLS Region III Council Meeting is scheduled in Gulfport, MS April 30 - May 2, 2004.

## **New At ASCLS**

**For more details go to  
[www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org)**

- Purchase a POCT journal at reduced rate for members! for more details
- Student Bowl Games – a fun way to review!
- A new education course, "DNA 101" about the basics of DNA technology is available.
- Are you interested in Leadership Development? Visit the LDC webpage for useful info.
- Laboratory Testing In The News! Check out about laboratory testing and the web site Lab Tests Online.
- The CDC has released a plan to handle an increase in smallpox infections.
- Earn Your P.A.C.E.® Credits Online with ADVANCE Learning Scope Online.
- Online Career Center and Employment Board. Find a new job or post your open positions!

# GSCLS/AACC CONFERENCE

**2004 Annual Meeting**

**February 24 & 25, 2004**

**Atlanta Marriott Century Center**



## PROPOSAL FOR NAME CHANGE

This proposal has three objectives for the profession of clinical laboratory science in Georgia:

- (1) To establish solidarity with the national organization, American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
- (2) To associate Georgia clinical laboratory scientists with national positions on professional issues
- (3) To increase visibility of the clinical laboratory profession.

I hereby submit to the current membership of Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, this amendment to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of the Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. Electronic mail and postal mail shall distribute this proposal within 30 days prior to the GSCLS 2004 Annual Business Meeting. The proposal is open to discussion and simple majority vote at the February 25, 2004 **4:30 PM GSCLS Annual Business Meeting, Marriott Century Center Hotel, Century Center Boulevard, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Within two weeks of approval of these amendments by simple majority vote of the GSCLS Board of Directors and general membership present, the Society shall submit the amendments to the ASCLS Bylaws committee for approval prior to enactment. Within sixty (60) days of approval by GSCLS BOD and membership, the Society shall publish the revised Bylaws to the general membership.

**Amendment 1.** The name of this corporation, Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, shall be changed to American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Georgia.

Respectively submitted,  
Catherine G. Weaver, MS, CLS (NCA), MT (ASCP)  
ASCLS Member Number 194722  
President,  
Georgia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
January 25, 2004



## CORRECTION

The Pipette Line, Volume 33, October 2003, page 3:

NCCLS was erroneously used in place of NAACLS. NCCLS is the National Committee for Clinical Laboratory Standards which sets standards for testing and quality. The group is currently entertaining a name change.

NAACLS is the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science. NAACLS sets standards for educational programs and accredits them.

<b>March 3-5, 2004</b>	<b>North Carolina meeting, Wilmington, NC</b>
<b>March 15, 2004</b>	<b>ASCLS BOD</b>
<b>March 22-23, 2004</b>	<b>ASCLS Legislative Forum, Washington, DC.</b>
<b>April 18-24, 2004</b>	<b>National Medical Laboratory Week</b>
<b>April 27-30, 2004</b>	<b>LA-MS Annual Meeting, Grand Casino Gulfport, Gulfport, MS</b>
<b>April 30-May 2, 2004</b>	<b>ASCLS Region III Council Meeting, Grand Casino Gulfport, Gulfport, MS</b>
<b>June 27-31, 2004</b>	<b>ASCLS Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA</b>
<b>September 23-26, 2004</b>	<b>ASCLS Region III Triennial Meeting, Vanderbilt Marriott, Nashville, TN.</b>
<b>July 26-30, 2005</b>	<b>ASCLS Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL</b>
<b>TBA 2005</b>	<b>Expo for Health Careers, ASCLS Learning for Life Explorers Committee</b>



website <http://www.ga.ascls.org>

**GSCLS**

**135 Huntington Drive  
LaGrange, GA 30240**