



The Pipette Line

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A Publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Georgia

ASCLS Leadership Academy

by Barbara Russell, Ed.D., MT, SH

The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) has developed a program designed to foster leadership skills and commitment to ASCLS in its members. The ASCLS Leadership Academy's purpose is to prepare members for current and future leadership roles in the organization by providing a structured program of study of critical leadership topics.

The goals are to:

1. Identify members with potential to become leaders in ASCLS and invest in their growth and development.
2. Provide these high-potential leaders with skills required to step into leadership positions within ASCLS.
3. Energize and grow ASCLS through strong leadership at all levels of the organization.
4. Increase the future leaders' knowledge of ASCLS.

The benefits to the leadership academy participants are numerous. The participants will develop skills that can be transferred to their work setting and to their life in general. They will be provided with opportunities to learn and interact with the current ASCLS leaders and will have the opportunity to be mentored by ASCLS leaders. The benefits for ASCLS are also great, because the leadership academy will provide an opportunity to grow leaders and shape the future of the society. In addition, it will provide opportunities to increase the passion for ASCLS locally, regionally, and nationally. Also, the participants can work on important identified initiatives for the organization.

The Leadership Academy is a one-year program with a curriculum that covers several topics in ASCLS and leadership. Some of the subjects that will be covered in the program are the History of the Profession, Leadership Styles, Communication Skills, Organizational Skills, Public Speaking/Presentation Skills, Strategic Planning/Goal Setting, Time Management, and Motivating People.

Admission to the ASCLS Leadership Academy is through a competitive application process. Candidates must agree to a 12 month commitment of personal time and effort in addition to a financial commitment for travel expenses to workshops and activities. The first-year applications were accepted in May and the first class of the ASCLS Leadership Academy was chosen. (Continued page 5)

Contents	
Leadership Academy	1
Student News	2
Awards	3
Letter to the Editor	4
Legislative day in DC	5
District 6 News	6
What's Cooking in the Lab?	7
Coming Events	8

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**Application for Membership
webpage**

[http://www.ascls.org/
membership/index.asp](http://www.ascls.org/membership/index.asp)

The Pipette Line

Editor: *Bonnie Gum*

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

Note: Copies of complete board minutes and committee reports are available to members on request from Bonnie Gum, ASCLS-GA secretary. Address all correspondence to

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Student Officers

Newly Elected officers for 2007-2008

President:

Amber Melton
Armstrong Atlantic State University

Vice-President:

Canditra (Candi) McLemore
Medical College of Georgia

Secretary:

Kristin Inot - Dekalb Technical College

Additional board member:

Roxanne Salter
Southwest Georgia Technical College

A few of the students who attended the Annual meeting pictured at right: Katie Weaver, Amber Melton, and Aaron Gustafason

Student Corner

Note from Barbara Kraj, Student Forum Advisor

We are experiencing great changes within the student organization: We are very happy to finally have an MLT student holding an office. Also, Candi is a distance learning student - we've never had a distant learning student involved in Student Forum activities. Additionally we have 2 other students who will be serving on Student Forum Board along with the new officers: Amily Burchfield from Thomas University and Jeff Mosser from West Central Technical College. I hope the new Board will also recruit more representatives from other MT/MLT schools in Georgia.

The election speeches presented at the meeting were all very impressive - all three officers, I understand, have fund-raising experience which should come in handy when planning to attend the San Diego meeting.

Nikki McGee has received the best ASCLS student case study award and will be receiving a \$500 check at the National meeting. The case study title is "Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus Infection in an AIDS Patient". The patient was initially suspected of having TB. She was working on this case during her Library Research and Case Studies Presentations Course which we offer during the students junior year at Medical College of Georgia.



AWARDS

**SPONSORED BY American Society Clinical Laboratory Science-Georgia
Presented at the Annual Conference**

**CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENTIST
OF THE YEAR**

Hassan Aziz



GLORIA F. GILBERT AWARD

Barbara Kraj

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE
PROFESSION**

Elizabeth Leibach

Lester Pretlow

Michelle Butina

Bonnie Gum

OMICRON Sigma

Michelle Butina

Jill Dennis

Bonnie Gum

Barbara Kraj

Barbara Russell

Mi Hui Scales

KEYS TO THE FUTURE

Jennifer O'Kelley

Darcell Thaxton

Mi Hui Scales

Catherine Weaver

Letter to the Editor

From Michael D. Todd, M.S., M.T. (ASCP), Ambulatory Care Network Diagnostics Manager, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta to Barbara Kraj, Student forum Advisor

I graduated from Troy University in Montgomery, AL with a Master of Science degree in Management in December of 2005 but since I never came out of school, I never changed my membership designation. I am currently pursuing a Doctor of Health Science degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. I am half way through my second year in the program and the light is slowly creeping up on me and I can see a little speckle of light at the end of the tunnel (approx. 1.5 to 2 years left depending on my ability to juggle the workload and my full time position at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. I actually graduated with my BS degree in March of 1995 from Auburn University (Montgomery Campus) and began my career on the bench as most everyone does. After working in several hospitals, a major reference laboratory (where I was also an Instructor in their Med Tech program) and one of the largest federally qualified health care systems in central Alabama, I finally made it to the level of Director of Laboratory and Radiology Services in 2001 after only 6 years in the field and with only the B.S. degree. I remained in that position until about a year after I completed my Master of Science degree in Management from Troy University, a decision I made to better understand and be able to efficiently manage the day to day operations of the lab and radiology departments from a technical, financial, strategic, and HR perspective. I relocated to Atlanta, GA in September of 2006 to assume the role of the new Diagnostics Manager (again, laboratory and radiology services) for the Ambulatory Care Network which spans a large geographic area in and around Metro Atlanta.

My ultimate goal is to get back into teaching and research and come out of the clinical side of direct patient care and oversight of healthcare from a management perspective. This is the reason for remaining in school and pursuing the doctoral degree. From the management side of any healthcare organization, you tend to lose sight of the fact that healthcare is about the patient and the quality of care you can ultimately provide to them... the focus quickly shifts to profit and loss margins, budget constraints, supply management, etc... the true nature of healthcare is lost in the overall grand scheme of things.

I can truly say that the ultimate satisfaction for this career field was when I was on the bench making a contribution to healthcare that is like none other. The technical and diagnostics aspect was intriguing (and still is as I get on the bench as much as I can now)... I am sure that the students have heard stories of low pay and very little appreciation for their contribution to direct patient care and diagnosis. I can honestly say that going into this career field was the best decision I could have ever made. I had wanted to work in a laboratory since I was 6 years old. It is all I have ever wanted to do as a career and I decided that I would make the absolute best use of my time, skills, resources, and abilities after I made it. The laboratory field can be very lucrative and financially rewarding so please tell the students to have no worries.

The best advice I would like to offer them is to go into this field with a true passion for laboratory science and laboratory medicine. Opportunities for advancement abound !!! Every new, challenging, and progressively more responsible position is just around the corner. Please tell them to take advantage of each and every door that opens itself as an opportunity to them. Tell them to have no fears in their ability to accurately produce reliable laboratory results. Be confident in their conviction and dedication to this profession and the profession will, in turn, be very good to them in the end.

These participants are:

Sharon Bobryk: Michigan
Shawn Clary: Illinois
Chris Einspahr: Texas
Vanessa Johnson: Louisiana
Michele Lachance: Pennsylvania
Susan Lopez: South Dakota
Stephanie Mihane: Colorado
Rebecca Rogers: Tennessee
Angela Wallace: Tennessee
Barbara Russell: Georgia

I am thrilled to be chosen as one of the first participants of the ASCLS Leadership Academy. It also gives me great pleasure to represent ASCLS-Georgia in the Academy at the national level. I will keep everyone informed of my progress throughout the year, and hopefully we will have more ASCLS-Georgia members who are excited and ready to apply and be accepted into the ASCLS Leadership Academy next year.



Glen McDaniel, long time ASCLS-GA member, spoke at the recent annual meeting

My First Legislative Day

By Michelle Butina

Recently I traveled to Washington DC for my first Legislative Day. Legislative Day began in 1989 and is supported by ASCLS, CLMA and ASCP. Legislative Day is an opportunity for laboratory professionals to visit with their Senators and/or Representatives to discuss pertinent laboratory issues.

Attendees of Legislative Day are trained on the most important issues facing laboratory professionals. For Legislative Day 2007 two issues were discussed. The first issue was the personnel shortage and the key facts included:

- Clinical lab science will experience a 17% growth rate in the next 10 years
- 12,000 new practitioner are needed every year, but we are educating less than 5000 per year
- The shortage is growing by 10,000 practitioners per year
- The average age of clinical laboratorian is 48

A bill, known as the Allied Health Professions Reinvestment Act, has been drafted to help alleviate the shortage by providing funds for grants and scholarships.

The second issue discussed was laboratory competitive bidding. Competitive bidding calls for hospitals to bid for clinical laboratory services of Medicare (Part B) patients. Currently CMS (Centers for Medical & Medicaid Services) is planning a competitive bidding demonstration project for Part B laboratory services. ASCLS, ASCP and CLMA oppose competitive bidding for clinical laboratory services because it is anti-competitive, it will restrict physician choice and it will impact patient care.

On Legislative Day, Tuesday March 20th, I met with the Legislative Correspondent for Senator Isakson, the Legislative Correspondent for Senator Chambliss and the Legislative Assistant for Representative Jack Kingston. During these meetings I discussed competitive bidding and the personnel shortage. Two of the three people I met were not familiar with clinical laboratory professionals or the personnel shortage. For this reason, we need to ensure that Senators and Representatives from Georgia are familiar with the clinical laboratory and current issues. One way to ensure our awareness is to support Legislative Day and send as many ASCLS-GA members as possible to Washington DC. (To learn more about the current issues impacting our profession visit the ASCLS webpage: <http://www.ascls.org/currentevents/index.asp>).

National Meeting update

The following are delegates representing Georgia at the National meeting to be held in San Diego:

Lisa Anderson
Jill Dennis
BreAnna Irvin
Barbara Russell
Amber Melson

Soliant Health CLT Student Award Winner

Soliant Health is a respected provider of medical staffing in facilities across the country. This year, for the first time, Soliant Health has given an award for an outstanding CLT student. To qualify for this award a student must display excellence in work ethics throughout their program of study, maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA while attending school full time and working part or full time. The winner receives \$100.00 and a certificate of excellence. The 2007 Soliant Health CLT award winner is Flavia Hoang from DeKalb Technical College in Clarkston, Georgia.

New MT Program to begin in Atlanta

Emory Healthcare will be opening a School of Medical Technology in Atlanta beginning in the fall of 2008. This program will be a 4 + 1 program for students who already have a 4-yr degree and would like to transition into the clinical laboratory field. The MT program will help to increase the pool of technologists in the Atlanta area. For more information, contact Stacy Steward, Education Coordinator, Emory Hospitals at stacy.steward@emoryhealthcare.org

Free CE Credits: Parasitology Review

Earn free CE Credits when you attend a *Parasitology Review* lecture with Dr. Ray Kaplan. Dr. Kaplan is the Clinical Scientist and Technical Manager of Microbiology and Infectious Disease Serology at Quest Diagnostics in Tucker, Georgia. The lecture will be presented on Monday August 20 from 9:00am – 12:00pm at DeKalb Technical College in Clarkston, Georgia. Virginia Roberts and Robin Aiken, District IX and VI Georgia ASCLS Directors are sponsoring the event. For more information, please contact Robin Aiken at aikenr@dekalbtech.edu.

2007 Rick Perkins Teacher of the Year Award

ASCLS District IX Director, Virginia Roberts has won the 2007 Rick Perkins Teacher of the Year award from DeKalb Technical College. The *Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction* honors technical education's most outstanding instructors. Mrs. Roberts will move on to a competition with other instructors at the

consortia level, and then at the state-level. The Rick Perkins State Award winner serves as an ambassador for technical education in Georgia. He or she will make many public appearances throughout the year including addresses to the Georgia General Assembly, the Governor, and the Georgia Technical College System Leadership Conference to name a few.

WANTED: Your news. If you have a member you would like to recognize or an activity to talk about send it to the editor. Contact information on page 2.



Enjoying some down time at the state convention Lisa Anderson, Lester Pretolow, Hassan Aziz, Jill Dennis and Michelle Butina

What's Cooking in the Lab?

Polish Poppy Seed Roll - serves 12 (or 3 in the Kraj household)

Barbara Kraj, M.S., CLS District I
Medical College of Georgia

Ingredients for the dough:

4 cups flour, NOT enriched (no bleach in my kitchen either)
pinch of salt
2 tablespoons of sugar
2 tablespoons of active dry yeast (back at home I'd use 1 teaspoon of live yeast)
¾ cup lukewarm milk
¼ cup butter (sweet, unsalted)

Ingredients for the filling:

1 can of poppy seed filling (2 cans for my husband), found in Kroger, Publix or Fresh Market
(back at home I'd use dry poppy seeds cooked in milk and honey, triple ground – who has the time?)
¼ cup sweet, unsalted butter
½ cup your favorite brand applesauce (or finely grated apples)
½ cup raisins
½ cup chopped almonds
½ cup chopped walnuts (OK, pecans will work too)
¼ cup candied orange peel (found easily in BI-LO)
All above may be doubled for my husband but you're running into risk of overfilling – he does not care about the looks)
1 egg yolk

Ingredients for the glaze (optional):

2 tablespoons of milk
1 teaspoon of dry poppy seeds (found in the spice section)
¼ cup apricot jam
1 tablespoon of lemon juice
1 tablespoon of rum or brandy (remember, no bleach in my kitchen but alcohol is fine)
sliced almonds

First make the dough – use bread machine, pizza dough function:

1. Mix sugar and milk in a cup and add yeast. Cover and let stand for 5 minutes – make sure there is some extra room in the cup for the yeast to grow)
2. Melt the butter, let cool.
3. Pour the yeast over flour mixed with salt. Start the machine.
4. Add butter when cool.
5. Let the dough double in size inside the machine

Meanwhile, warm up the poppy seeds in a microwave, add butter and other ingredients, mix in the yolk. Save the white. Roll out the dough in a lightly floured surface into a 12x14 inch rectangle. Brush with egg white avoiding edges. Spread the filling to within 1 inch of the edges. Roll the ends towards the center. Place in a buttered and floured, narrow baking pan that is slightly longer than the roll so there is some room for growth. Cover and let grow in a warm place for about 20 minutes. Preheat your oven to 375F. Brush with milk on top and sprinkle with dry poppy seeds. Bake uncovered for about 30 minutes, until golden brown. Do not open the oven out of curiosity as cool air may cause the dough to collapse. After 30 minutes open the oven and turn off. Leave the roll in for about 5 more minutes.

Heat lemon juice, jam and brandy, and spread on top of the roll. Sprinkle with almonds and let cool completely before attempting to cut the slices (hide from my husband!).

This is a new section for our publication. Share your profession as you share your favorite recipes. Went somewhere really interesting? We want to hear about it! Send your news to the editor. Contact information can be found on page 2.

July 17-21, 2007

Annual ASCLS Meeting

SanDiego, CA

September 26-28, 2007

ASCLS Region III Triennial Meeting

Myrtle Beach, SC

February 21-23, 2008

Clinical Laboratory Educators Convention

Savannah, GA



website <http://www.asclsgeorgia.org>

ASCLS - GA

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