Hello,

I attended the National Convention in Washington, DC this past July and learned tons of things. One major accomplishment was the repeal of competitive bidding. However, the bill is not gone – ASCLS needs to work on it and propose a new bill. LSCLS had our fall board meeting on August 23, 2008. At this meeting several items such as student forum activities, Leadership Academy recruitment tools, website additions and area representative duties were discussed. The minutes for this meeting and several previous meetings are posted on the website.

Currently, I am working on the spring LSCLS/MS-ASCLS meeting. It will be April 27-30, 2009 in Alexandria, LA. The convention committee is currently working on getting speakers and vendors. If anyone is interested please contact me.

If there is anything else that I can do for you as the President of LSCLS, please let me know.

Thank you,
Jessica Lasiter

Well by the time this column is out, I am betting we will have survived the holidays and be venturing into the new year. Each of us knows there will be challenges and opportunities in both our personal and professional lives.

When Cathy asked me to put together a column I wondered what I might say about ASCLS that would inspire those of you who are involved to stay involved, and encourage those of you who are considering becoming involved to do so. I also thought that just maybe - with a bit of luck - I could convince someone who is not a member to realize how important it is to belong to ASCLS and LSCLS. I first drew a blank but then I remembered that another Regional Director had been asked a question about membership benefits and had given an eloquent testimonial to the importance of ASCLS membership. I know her comments mirror how I feel and why I believe that joining ASCLS and becoming an active member was one of the best professional decisions I made. So with Lezlee Koch's approval, I am including this for each of you to read and reflect upon.

words From Region VII
Linda Smith, PhD., CLS (NCA), Director

President’s Message
Jessica Lasiter, NCA (CLS), (ASCP), MHIM

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Region VII Director’s Words: continued from page 1:

I look forward to seeing some of my ‘old friends’ at the joint LA-MS meeting in the Spring and am excited about meeting some of you whom I don’t yet know.

I wish for each of you a very healthy, happy, and rewarding 2009.

Linda

_________________________________

ASCLS Membership - What's In It For Me?
By: Lezlee Koch, Region V Director & A Proud ASCLS Professional Member Since 1974!

**JOB SATISFACTION COMES FROM WORKING ALONGSIDE PEOPLE I RESPECT AND ENJOY. BUT CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE. PERSONNEL COME AND GO. THE PROFESSIONAL CHEMISTRY THAT WORKED SO WELL ONE YEAR MAY NOT BE THERE THE NEXT.**

**THERE IS, HOWEVER, ONE SURE WAY TO GUARANTEE I’LL ALWAYS BE SURROUNDED BY COLLEAGUES WHO ARE STIMULATING, POSITIVE PROFESSIONALS AND THAT IS TO RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE (ASCLS). TO BE A TRUE PROFESSIONAL I KNOW I MUST BE A PROFESSIONAL MEMBER IN AN ORGANIZATION THAT PROMOTES AND ADVOCATES FOR MY PROFESSION. JUST BY BEING AN ACTIVE MEMBER IN ASCLS IS AN ATTESTATION THAT I AM A TRUE PROFESSIONAL, NOT JUST A LABORATORY WORKER AND MY MEMBERSHIP INSTANTLY WIDENS MY CIRCLE OF PROFESSIONAL CONTACTS AND FRIENDS TO A FAMILY OF 10,000!**

ASCLS MEMBERSHIP DISSOLVES THE BARRIERS THAT CUT ME OFF FROM PEERS ACROSS TOWN AND ACROSS THE NATION. IT OPENS THE DOORS TO MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCING MY CAREER.

AMONG ALL THE Associations SERVING THE MANY SPECIALTIES WITHIN CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE, ASCLS IS UNIQUE. ASCLS IS LED BY CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS JUST LIKE ME - PROFESSIONALS WHO UNDERSTAND THE DEMANDS I FACE AND MY DESIRE FOR PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION - AND NOT PHYSICIANS OR OTHER HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS.

ASCLS BRINGS TOGETHER THE CONCERNS OF ALL CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE PROFESSIONALS. ASCLS, THROUGH ITS MEMBERS, SPEAKS FOR THE WHOLE PROFESSION IN A VOICE STRONG ENOUGH TO GAIN RESPECT AND RECOGNITION FOR MY CONTRIBUTION TO HEALTH CARE. IN OTHER WORDS... AS AN ASCLS MEMBER, INSTEAD OF SPEAKING AS A SINGLE PRACTITIONER, MY VOICE, MY VALUE AND MY VISION RINGS OUT WITH THE STRENGTH OF 10,000 VOICES. I KNOW I AM HEARD AND THAT WHAT I DO BRINGS TRUE VALUE TO HEALTH CARE.

**THE TOP BENEFITS I RECEIVE EVERYDAY FROM MY ASCLS MEMBERSHIP AND THAT I DON'T RECEIVE JUST WORKING IN THE PROFESSION INCLUDES:**

- I HAVE MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN AND BE AN ADVOCATE FOR REGULATORY, LEGISLATIVE, EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES RELATED TO AND IMPACTING MY CHOSEN PROFESSION.
- I HAVE ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL COST-SAVING MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO ME THROUGH MY EMPLOYER; PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS, INSURANCE PROGRAMS, CREDIT CARDS, TRAVEL, HOTEL ROOMS, CAR RENTALS, ETC.
- I HAVE A VERY LARGE VOICE THAT PROMOTES ONLY THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.
- I CONTINUOUSLY RECEIVE CURRENT INFORMATION ON LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY, AND PROFESSIONAL ISSUES THROUGH PUBLICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC INFORMATION SHARING. THIS ASCLS MEMBERSHIP: CONTINUED ON PAGE 4:

"Support Bacteria- That's the only culture some people have" -Larry the Cable Guy
Coordinating Council for the Clinical Laboratory Workforce (CCCLW)
By: Cheryl Caskey

The council is now meeting quarterly; four workgroups were established following the strategic planning done earlier this past year.

Driving the Business Case Internally and Externally
A CCCLW website is under development. Different business cases regarding the importance of the clinical laboratory will be needed for different groups. The workgroup is developing questions to use to make each case. The priority target will be universities and colleges and this group will be addressed first. Questions being considered for this priority target include: How do successful programs stay open? What information can be shared to help other programs? What is the process for getting a new program approved and opened? This information will be gathered to make the case.

Improving the Professional Profile
An education survey was completed to find out advocacy (for the profession, not legislative advocacy) and leadership skills being taught in current programs. The information has been compiled and will be shared in a publication at a future date. The group has just completed an expanded practice survey and is field testing it prior to distribution.

Levels of Practice/Credentials
The group has gathered information about the four certification agency candidate requirements vs. CLIA personnel standards. The nursing Magnet model will be studied to see if it is applicable to Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS). Unification of the profession is of interest to all and unification of the certification agencies is of specific interest. There is a need for Human Resources professionals to understand Clinical Laboratory Science credentials and the education required.

Creating Effective Recruitment and Retention
A traveling exhibit is needed to take to targeted group meetings. Science teachers have shown to have the most interest in Clinical Laboratory Science and this is one of the groups targeted for recruitment activities.

The council is in the process of formalizing its structure. Organizations have been invited to officially join the council and identify representatives.

The CCCLW website url has been secured (CCCLW.org). Work is ongoing to draft specifications for the site. The site will be a repository for facts, documents, presentations, and links to sites about workforce issues. The target audience for the website is any person interested in Clinical Laboratory Science workforce issues.
ASCLS Membership continued from page 2:

- Knowledge allows me to grow and become more valuable in what I do every day.
- I have opportunities for professional development, affordable continuing education offerings & career enhancement that is not available through other means.
- I have access to thousands of leaders in the profession who can assist me in my career.

Bottom line... It’s my life, it’s my choice, I am the captain of my own ship and I choose ASCLS membership as it provides me a professional path to an awesome professional journey, happiness and success. My ASCLS professional membership allows me “to serve, to care, to give back to my profession and to make a difference... is there anything greater or more beautiful in this world?” I think not!

Welcome to the Aureus Advisor, your source for the latest news from Aureus Medical Group.

While you're traveling the country, we're right where we've always been - with you every step of the way from one assignment to the next. Our newsletter helps us stay connected while you're on assignment and provides you with important news, helpful tips, inspiration, and more! Also included is a listing of Hot Jobs currently available with Aureus. If you don't find what you're looking for, contact your Account Manager. There are hundreds more available!

Norma Bivona, Medical Technologist

Norma has been awarded the honor of Employee of the Quarter for the Medical Laboratory Division of Aureus Medical Group. Norma has worked for Aureus since January 2007. During this time she has gone above and beyond the call of duty in all aspects of her job. She has referred employees interested in traveling and has also spoken to potential clients, helping us get our foot in the door. Whenever someone asks Norma to work late or pick up extra shifts her response is always, "No problem! That is what I am here for." She has been able to adapt to all challenges presented to her, while improving the attitudes of permanent employees around her by leading by example. Her Account Manager says that it is a pleasure to work with someone that is passionate about healthcare and truly cares about the patients she is helping. We are fortunate to work with Norma!

Congratulations, Norma!
CLT Students Mentor Leaders of Tomorrow

Within the past two weeks the clinical lab tech students of LSUA Allied Health have been influencing the life/career choices of the younger generation of Rapides parish and surrounding areas. On November 19, we had the pleasure of teaching what we were learning in Immunohematology to high school students at Peabody Medical Magnet Program. The high school students rotated through five different activities, all taught by LSUA students! After learning inheritance patterns via an interactive computer game, each student had their own blood typed. Additionally, students toured our new student lab building, built their own RBCs complete with blood group antigens and antibodies. We answered questions about college and the application process and learned the importance and value of this information for both ourselves and the high school students.

On November 25, the CLT and phlebotomy students joined in an open house hosted by LSUA. Students from surrounding areas came to become better informed about the goals that they have set for their future. We set up a class with several different stations allowing the students to go from station to station to see what the jobs of a lab tech and a phlebotomist consist of. The day with both groups was a success and every student walked away feeling good about what was learned and shared.

By: Shaunt’e Spears, LSUA Senior CLT Student

Student Forum News

Student Forum Chair- Maegan Guccione: Cell# 504-812-6492: Email: guccionemmm@rocketmail.com

Student Forum Vice Chair- Jessi Baker

Student Forum Secretary- Clyde “Quad” Smalley

Mission Statement:
The Student Forum Mission is to promote all aspects of the Clinical Laboratory Science Profession and to educate students on the importance of having a valued voice in such a vital professional organization.

Vision Statement:
The Student Forum Vision is to have an increase in the awareness of the profession to the younger generations and to boost and maintain memberships among those already in the profession.

Student Forum Goals:
Our goals are to get more students involved, retain our students as first year professionals and beyond, and to have fun and make friendships while doing it!

Students now have a direct Email link to all student LSCLS members and clinical sites/university-based programs as well as the Student Forum Officers.
The Email address is: lsclsstudents@gmail.com
Check out our LSCLS website for all news and events @: www.lscls.org
The ASCLS Leadership Academy is designed to prepare ASCLS members for current and future leadership roles in the organization by providing a structured program of study of critical leadership topics. I had the distinct privilege to be selected for the first class. I was joined by 9 other ASCLS members from across the country. The 2007-2008 Leadership Academy class also included Sharon Bo-bryk of Michigan, Shawn Clary of Illinois, Chris Einspahr of Texas, Michele E. Lachance of Pennsylvania, Susan Lopez of South Dakota, Stephanie Mihane of Colorado, Rebecca Rogers of Ten- nessee, Barbara L. Russell of Georgia and Angela Wallace of Tennessee.

The curriculum for our year included conference calls, reading & written assignments and three meetings at the 2007 & 2007 ASCLS Annual Meetings and 2008 Legislative Symposium. We covered the following topics: ASCLS 101, History of the Profession, Introduction to Leadership, Leadership Styles, Communication Skills/Styles, Organization Skills, Time Management, Public Speaking/Presentation skills, Mentoring/Coaching, Networking, Team Building and Motivating People. Leadership Academy participants were also invited to sit-in on ASCLS's Board Meetings and interact with our professional society's top officials.

Our year ended with the presentation of our project, which we completed along with our curriculum. Our project was a new ASCLS Recruitment Toolkit which included a new video, power point presentations, brochures and a story booklet for all members to use in their recruitment efforts. All of these materials are available through www.lscls.org under Recruitment.

ASCLS needs all professionals to be involved and needs new leaders to emerge. ASCLS has taken a proactive role in developing new leaders with the beginning of the Leadership Academy. Members from throughout the organization were readily available for us and provided us with a wealth of information, knowledge and experience that will shape the leaders we will become. My experience in Leadership Academy has provided me with the tools and resources to become a better leader for the profession and our society. I would encourage anyone considering a future leadership role to apply for the 2010 class. The application deadline is March 31, 2009. The application packet can be found under Leadership Academy on www.ascls.org.
LSCLS Needs You!

LSCLS
2008-2009 Nomination Form
Nominations are needed for the following positions:

President-Elect (4-year commitment)

Secretary (1 year commitment)

Treasurer (1 year commitment)

Nominations Committee

Area Representatives
Area I (3 year commitment)

Area II (3 year commitment)

Area IV (3 year commitment)

Please email or send the completed form by January 31, 2009 to:

Liz Williams, Nomination Chair
5 Sabine Court
Kenner, LA 70065
ewilli4@lsuhsc.edu

Please consider nominating someone or yourself to serve the organization that represents you!!!!
Celebrating a Special Spirit
Beverly Allain Farrell
(October 9, 1944 – September 9, 2008).

Honorable, conscientious, caring, empathetic, kind-ness, wisdom, compassionate, congenial, dedi-cated, helpful, mentor, good-spirited, committed, persistent, generous sensitive, objective, fair, cool, and calm..........these are just a few of the words used by friends and co-workers to describe the very special and unique character of Beverly Farrell.

Beverly Allain Farrell was a wife of 38 years, a mother of 5, a grandmother of 4, and a friend/co-worker of many. During her career she was an educator, an administrator, and a medical technologist.

She had an inspirational impact on the field of medical technology in Louisiana. In her own unique and kind way, she touched the lives of hundreds of students during the more than 35 years she served as an educator in the field of medical technology and the health sciences. From 1986-1996, she served as the program director for the hospital-based Medical Technology Program at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She instituted both an Associate Degree and Bachelor Degree program in Clinical Laboratory Sciences at Our Lady of the Lake College and served as program director for both programs from 1996-2002. In 2001, she earned her PhD in Vocational Education at LSU while serving as a successful CLS program director.

Beverly Farrell was one of the strongest women I have ever known. She was a great personal inspiration and role model for me. She always seemed to maintain the perfect balance between family and career. I felt that the best way to honor her memory would be to reminisce in her very special character. She has been described by friends and colleagues in each of the following memorable ways:

"Dr. Farrell worked as the chief academic officer when the College was undergoing a period of tremendous growth. Her personal communication style calmed the waters in the Division of Academic Affairs and her diligent work ethic guided the academic program as it attained graduate level status from SACS. She was one of the driving forces in establishing the graduate programs and several new baccalaureate programs at the College. Perhaps more than these measurable accomplishments, Beverly will be remembered as a truly caring individual. Whenever she had to get tough with anyone,

Continued on page 10
ACROSS
4 Resistant to acid elution (two parts)
5 Mother exposed to foreign antigen through transfusion or ________
6 Test used as qualitative screen for FMH
7 Biggest problem before birth
9 Bilirubin deposited in the brain
12 NRBCs in peripheral circulation (two words)
14 Severe jaundice (two words)
17 Used to quantify FMH
18 Infant inherits antigen from which parent
20 Testing the fluid in the amniotic sac
21 D type if a candidate for RhIg
22 Delta CD is read at _______ um (two words)
23 Worse case scenario seen with enlarged liver and spleen and generalized edema (two words)

DOWN
1 Transfusion while fetus still in utero
2 Newborn organ too immature to process bilirubin immediately after birth
3 Most severe HDFN cause by which antibody (2 parts)
4 Biggest problem after birth
8 Damaged cells seen more often in ABO HDFN
10 IgG is actively transported across the ________
11 Number of mLs used to calculate the amount of RhIg to give if transfused with PRBCs.
13 One vial of RhIg will counteract _______ mLs of a fetal bleed
15 Transfusion to remove antigen coated cells for antigen negative cells after birth
16 Most common form of HDFN
19 Hemolytic Disease of ________ and Newborn
Beverly Farrell, cont.

she agonized over it. Beverly tried to make sure that she always was thinking about the person with whom she was interacting whenever she made a decision.

“The first time I met Dr. Farrell I was touched by her kindness and sincerity. She appreciated and respected the knowledge that each of us have. Her soothing and caring voice was a source of strength, calmness and integrity at all times. A messenger of peace and hope she was, who touched my life.”

“As a person, I remember her as being kind, and as an administrator, as being very approachable. She was a very precious person.”

“Serious and compassionate about her responsibility as Vice President of Academic Affairs. Non tiring…..always completed her task ahead of everyone else.”

“Having been in academia for over 10 years, she was one of a few executive-level leaders that I felt comfortable with.”

“I will always remember her great courage.”

“I think of Beverly as a mentor and one of the bravest persons I know. She was always available to talk to and would add a voice of reason and logic to every problem. She inspired me to go back to graduate school for my PhD. I don’t think I would have applied if she had not just finished hers. I loved her and I miss her.”

“I know it doesn’t sound like much, but I will always remember her sweet laugh.”

“What you see is what you get!:
Student-centered, Loves her family, Diligent worker
An educator, A friend

“Beverly was a life-saver for us when we were Katrina refugees. She made us feel welcome on the OLOL campus and let us use the facilities. We could not have continued our program after the hurricane without this assistance. Even though we have competing programs, that did not seem to matter to her. It was very refreshing and very generous and we (and our students) will be forever grateful.”

“She had so many creative ways to help her students learn; she was never at a loss for words when thinking about a new and fresh approach to introduce difficult concepts. Her zest for life and her constant concern for students will forever be with me. She loved to laugh, and she loved to relate student stories that would make you smile. She was an incredible teacher and administrator, and we will forever be blessed by having known her.”

The final words are those chosen by the Farrell family. I leave you with these words in loving memory of Beverly Farrell. Remember her and her family during this very special holiday season.

“Don’t grieve for me, for now I’m free. I’m following the path God laid for me. I took His hand when I heard Him call. I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day to laugh, to love, to work or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way. I found that place at the close of day. If my passing has left a void then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss. Ah yes, these things, I too, will miss. Be not burdened with times of sorrow. I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow. My life’s been full, I savored much good friends, good times, a loved one’s touch. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief; don’t lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me God wanted me now, He set me free.” – Author unknown.

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**Answers to Crossword Puzzle.**

**HDFN**

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Editor’s Note: The Bayou Tech is only sent out via email. Please send any email changes so you don’t miss an issue. Thanks to everyone who submitted articles, information and/or pictures for this edition of the Bayou Tech. If you have any ideas for articles or would like to share some information, pictures, or any noteworthy events from your area or laboratory, please email me at crobinson@lsua.edu. This is your newsletter so please let me hear from you! Cathy Robinson

Lab Managers
Please post the link to this publication in your laboratory