



e-Laborate

e-Laborate is the official quarterly electronic newsletter of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science-Minnesota

November 11, 2011



A Message from Your President

~ *Christine Hinz, ASCLS-MN President*

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2012 Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative – “A Sure Bet for Professional Development”

~ *Jean Bauer, ASCLS-MN Co-Chair, 2012 CLC*

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ASCLS-MN Mentorship Program

~ *Kirsten Kosloske, Mentor Program Liaison*

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Student Night – Oh What A Night!

~ *Heather Schmitz, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair*

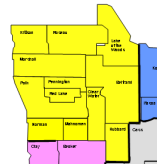
Hi, I am Heather Schmitz and the new Student Forum Chair for ASCLS-MN. After attending my first event as the Student Forum Chair, I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's... [More: page 5](#)



“Invite Your Legislators to Your Lab” – an Update on

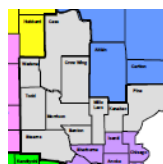
Government Affairs ~ *Sharon Pendergrass, ASCLS-MN Govt. Affairs Chair*

ASCLS Past-President, Mary Ann McLane, challenged everyone to “Provide the Face” of our profession. One way of doing this is to invite your legislators to tour your lab. There is a wealth.... [More: page 6](#)



Southeast Area Update ~ *Joan Converse, Southeast Area Sr. Director*

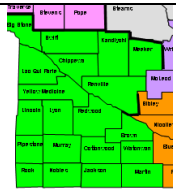
My name is Joan Converse, Senior Director for the Southeast Area. We are currently searching for a Junior Director, so please let me know if you are interested. I currently work as Program Director for [More: page 6](#)



Central Area Update

~ *Eric Grahek, Central Area Sr. Director*

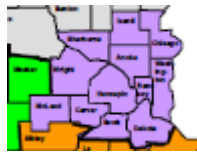
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~ Robin Spencer, SW Area Sr. Director

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Metro Area Update

~ Charlotte Romain, Metro Area Sr. Director

The metro area started off with a bang last week. We held our annual Student Night at Argosy University. We had close to 60 bright and eager MLT and CLS students in attendance. The night was a great success ... [More: page 8](#)



Northeast Area Update

Blake Thibodaux; NE Area Sr. Director and Linda Perry; NE Area Jr. Director

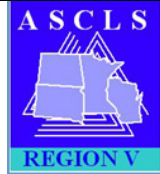
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MN Personnel Licensure Update – “Setting the Table”

~ Rick Panning, Co-Chair MN Laboratory Licensure

This period of time before the 2012 Legislative session kicks off on January 24 can be regarded as “setting the table”. The work is primarily behind the scenes and relates to making sure that the bill’s authors ... [More: page 9](#)



“The Value of Social Networking”

~Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director

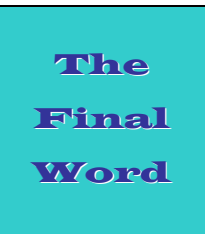
Local, State, Regional, and National laboratory meetings provide laboratory professionals many opportunities to learn from each other – **Social Networking** at its finest. Why network?? Too many times I am hearing.... [More: page 9](#)



First Year Professionals – Update from your representative

~ Yukiko Goto, ASCLS-MN First Year Professional Representative

Hi, my name is Yukiko and I am the First Year Professional (FYP) Representative. A little bit about myself, I currently work at St. Joseph’s Hospital. I recently got married earlier this year and anticipate the arrival of a... [More: page 11](#)



“A Career, Not a Job...” ~ Cassandra Gallati, ASCLS-MN Database Coordinator-Membership Services

My name is Cassandra Gallati and I am the Database Coordinator for Membership Services. At the beginning of every month I pull the complete Minnesota membership list from the national website... [More: page 11](#)



Christine Hinz



“A Message from Your President”

Submitted by: Christine Hinz, ASCLS-MN President

Have you ever had one of those days when a song gets stuck in your head and it just keeps going on and on? I had one of those days recently. I happily tapped my foot as I sat at my scope, reading bone marrows, and hummed Lady Gaga's "Born This Way." Catchy tune. "What has gotten into me?" I thought. Sleep, coffee?

The mantra of one of our past ASCLS presidents, Mary Ann McLane, sticks with me just like that song and puts an extra pep in my step. Mary Ann's mantra was to "Provide the Face" of the laboratory profession in everything that she did and she asked all of us as members to do the same. I took that to heart, so in this year as President, one of the things I am doing to provide the face of

"I look forward to this year as your President and I hope to find many more ways to provide the face of our profession and society for you."

CLC: April 25-27, 2012



"Never worked on a committee before? No problem. There are seasoned members to help guide you through the process."

ASCLS-MN is participating in our mentor program.

The membership committee has done an outstanding job of making this long held idea a reality. The mentor program pairs you up with a seasoned ASCLS-MN member allowing for a dialogue on all things ASCLS, topics affecting the profession, career development and encouragement. I have enjoyed being paired up with a student from St. Paul College. We've shared stories of how we got interested in the profession over lunch at Cosetta's, exchanged emails and texts on what's new in school, and talked about what to expect during clinical laboratory internship rotations. Both the mentor and mentee enjoy benefits from the relationship. For me, it has been encouraging to see such excitement in someone just entering the profession. The mentor program highlights a real value on a personal level for our members that I know you will not find with any other organization. If you are interested in "Providing the Face" by being a mentor or mentee, please contact Bobbi Kochevar, Membership Co-Chair, at Bobbi.Kochevar@childrensmn.org

I look forward to this year as your President and I hope to find many more ways to provide the face of our profession and society for you. I also hope each of you gets stuck on providing the face of the profession, big or small, at least once this year. As always, you can contact me at: christine.hinz@allina.com with any comments, questions, or encouragements.

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2012 Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative – "A Sure Bet for Professional Development"

Submitted by: Jean Bauer, ASCLS-MN Co-Chair, 2012 CLC

Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues at the Minnesota Clinical Laboratory Collaborative Meeting April 25 – 27, 2012. Our meeting location will be the Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel in Prior Lake. The three days will be filled with great opportunities for continuing education, investigating the exhibit hall, and networking with friends, speakers, and vendors. Also included in the three days will be the popular silent auction to bid on some great items and social events to enjoy some downtime from the learning activities of the day. New this year, we will be a food shelf collection as a way of giving back to our communities.



CLC – A SURE BET FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mystic Lake Convention Center
 Prior Lake, MN
 April 25-27, 2012



"...ASCLS-MN is starting a mentorship program!"

"Students - set yourself apart from the crowd and make friends with someone in the business."

Mentoring



Planning for our annual get together has begun, but there is still plenty of opportunity for you to volunteer for a committee. Never worked on a committee before? No problem. There are seasoned members to help guide you through the process. The time involved is as much or as little as you have to give. If interested, contact Jean Bauer at jean.bauer@allina.com.

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ASCLS-MN Mentorship Program

Submitted by: Kirsten Kosloske, Mentor Program Liaison

Hello fellow ASCLS members! The word is finally starting to spread- ASCLS-MN is starting a mentorship program! As a second year MLT student at Saint Paul College, I know that I love my classes and I want to learn as much about my career as possible, but what's the next step that I can take to get a behind-the-scenes look at life inside the lab? Having a friend "on the inside" always helps- and now ASCLS student members can get just that when they join the mentor program! With many pairs already matched up, we would love to have more students and seasoned professionals join in on this unique opportunity. New students have many questions they would like to ask a tenured worker, and the tenured workers may be interested to know about the ambition, skills and enthusiasm new workers are bringing to the field. As Melissa "Awesome Student" Daugherty says, "the mentorship program is a great way to learn more about the MLT industry, ASCLS, & what to expect in a clinical setting. I would recommend it to all Lab students!"

Students set yourself apart from the crowd and make friends with someone in the business. Professionals, help groom those new faces and show them how it's done right. It's up to the pairs to decide on the level of commitment- from casual lunches to regular emails, the program will be as fun as you make it! Want to know more? Please email kkosloske@hotmail.com. Hope to hear from you all soon!

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Board of Certification (BOC) News

Submitted by: Kathy Hansen, BOC Committee Member

- The standards for Certification Maintenance (recertification) have been changed to allow certificants who hold multiple certifications/qualifications to synchronize their expiration dates so that all certifications/qualifications may be renewed on the same date. The renewal period for qualifications (such as flow cytometry and immunohistochemistry) has been changed from 5 years to 3 years to allow synchronization. The same CE credits can be used to renew more than one credential. There are discounts for renewals after the first one. This change came, at least in part, as a response to questions raised at the BOC update at the ASCLS Annual Meeting.
<http://ascp.org/FunctionalNavigation/certification/CertificationMaintenanceProgramCMP.aspx>
- Changes were made in the point allocation for Certificate Maintenance:
 - Points for serving on an exam committee were increased from 2 to 3 per year.
 - Points for participation as an accreditation inspector/reviewer (CAP, NAACLS) were increased from 1 to 2 per year.
- The revised BOC web site went live in mid-October. It has already proved to be more easily navigated and has reduced phone calls to the BOC office.



A number of further refinements are still being made.

- The Examination Oversight Committee will explore the potential for developing certification exams for repository technicians and for doctoral level molecular biologists to complement existing exams in molecular genetics.
- The AGT motion that experience be required for Route 1 of the molecular biology exam did not pass. However, the Examination Oversight Committee was directed to explore whether there is a need for two levels of baccalaureate level molecular biology exams the existing entry level and a specialist level.
- The size of the Board has been reduced from 25 to 23. The AACC representative has always been required to be an ASCP member and the ASH (American Society for Hematology) representative has been required to be an ASCP fellow. These positions now replace two of the ASCP “at large” positions.
- Aid to rebuild medical laboratory science programs in Japan, provided by ASCP and ASCLS, was presented at the ASCP Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.
- The Executive Committee will discuss the role of the BOC Research and Development Committee in December. (The staff person that works with this group has resigned.) One ongoing project of interest is an attempt to measure the relationship of laboratory errors to certification status of personnel.

As always, feel free to contact me with questions.

Kathy Hansen, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

Khansen3@fairview.org

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Student Night – Oh What A Night!

Submitted by: Heather Schmitz, ASCLS-MN Student Forum Chair

Hi, I am Heather Schmitz and the new Student Forum Chair for ASCLS-MN. After attending my first event as the Student Forum Chair, I would like to say thank you to everyone who helped to make this year’s ASCLS-MN Student Night a success! It was a lot of fun and we had over 60 students attend. I would like to extend a special thanks to all the speakers: Sue Iddings, Carol McCoy, Mike McDonald, Janice Conway-Klaassen, Charlotte Romain, Chistine Hinz, Paula Snippes, Joan Converse, Tammy Hundley and Susan Redtke. They all provided us students with some interesting and useful information.

From a student’s perspective who attended Student Night, I would like to specifically note how nice it was to learn about all the opportunities there are for a MLS/MLT graduate. This was exemplified to me by the panel who spoke. Susan spoke about all the opportunities there are in marketing—something that had not even entered my mind before. Joan explained the importance of teaching. Charlotte talked about her experiences in clinical research with her degree. Paula discussed what it was like to work for the government in bioterrorism. Christine provided us with some details about working in a hematology lab and the benefits of membership in ASCLS.

It was also exciting to learn about the movement of Labs Are Vital that is sweeping across the nation. I went to the website LabsAreVital.com and explored. It is really great to see the importance of laboratory technicians being recognized. Thanks again to everyone who participated in Student Night! Here is my contact information if you would like to get a hold of me with any questions or ideas: schm2146@umn.edu [back to page 1](#)



Heather Schmitz



“Invite Your Legislators to Your Lab” – an Update on Government Affairs

~Sharon Pendergrass, ASCLS-MN Government Affairs Chair

ASCLS Past-President, Mary Ann McLane, challenged everyone to “Provide the Face” of our profession. One way of doing this is to invite your legislators to tour your lab. There is a wealth of information on the national ASCLS and state ASCLS-MN web sites to help plan their visit.

For starters, there is a sample letter at http://asclsmn.org/letter_to_your_legislator.html that you can use as an invitation. To kick off the visit, there is an excellent video on the national web site at <http://www.ascls.org/?promoteprofession>, titled “A Life Saved: Laboratory Professionals Make a Difference”, describing a young boy diagnosed with leukemia and the laboratory’s role in his diagnosis and treatment. Relating what we do and how it impacts a patient’s life can greatly influence a legislator’s support for our profession.

For more information on the current issues impacting our profession and what ASCLS is advocating on a national level, check out the Legislative Symposium web site and the position papers that have been posted at http://www.ascls.org/?page=Leg_Day. The current issues are 1) co-insurance payment for Medicare beneficiaries and Modernizing the Laboratory Fee Schedule, 2) growth of Waived Laboratory Testing, and 3) the FDA’S new proposed guidelines for Laboratory Developed Tests (LDTs). Most recently we were able to convince CMS to withdraw their proposal to require a physician’s signature on all laboratory requisition forms.

If your hospital or clinic supports our efforts for Licensure, you could discuss this with your legislators and explain why it is important to our profession. There are talking points on the state web site at http://www.asclsmn.org/uploads/hospital_admin_talking_points_feb_2010.pdf that will help you to emphasize what this means to our profession.

Lastly, as the legislators depart from the visit, you could hand them a copy of the position paper on the national web site at http://www.ascls.org/?page=Pos_Pap_4 describing why our profession is so important. This will give them a reminder after the day is over of just how important our profession is to the health care industry.

If you would like to become more involved in Government Affairs and attend the 2012 Legislative Symposium in Washington, D.C. in March, contact Sharon Pendergrass at jack.pendergrass@comcast.net

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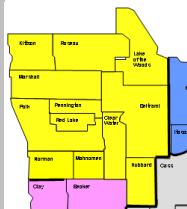
Southeast Area Update

Submitted by: Joan Converse, Southeast Area Sr. Director

My name is Joan Converse, Senior Director for the Southeast Area. We are currently searching for a Junior Director, so please let me know if you are interested. I currently work as Program Director for the Medical Laboratory Science and Medical Laboratory Technician programs at Argosy University. Fall has gone by too quickly and winter will be here sooner than I would like. One way to deal with our long winters is to work on continuing education activities and socializing with colleagues. We are planning on getting an education event together for our area sometime this winter or early spring. We will be having

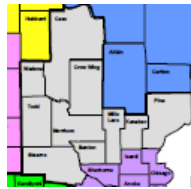


Sharon Pendergrass





Central Area

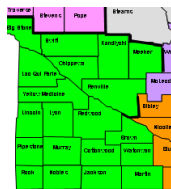


“Preparations are underway for the Spring CE program tentatively scheduled for March 6th, 2012.”

Southwest Area



Robin Spencer



some planning meetings in the near future. We would love to have any ideas for continuing education topics that you might be interested in or able to present for your meeting. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you may have. We would also like to know if your facility would be willing to sponsor this type of event. If you have any ideas or can offer some assistance as we work to organize this event, please send them to me

joanconverse@msn.com

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Central Area Update

Submitted by: Eric Grahek, Central Area Sr. Director

The Central Region held a Fall/Winter Continuing Education Event on Thursday evening October 27th, 2011. Forty-seven laboratorians joined us for dinner, networking, and two great presentations. Attendees were entered into drawings for several door prizes including Caribou Coffee gift cards and jewelry made by Central Area Junior Director Sheri Orr.

The first presentation was sponsored by Sysmex America and featured Barbara Connell, MS, MT (ASCP), SH. The title of her presentation was “Beyond the Routine CBC – The Empowered Laboratory”. In it, she discussed many of the advanced clinical parameters that are found on routine hematology analyzers and how they can be used to evaluate various aspects of hematopoiesis. The second presentation, “Autoantibody Testing in Systemic Rheumatic Diseases”, was sponsored by Bio-Rad Laboratories and given by John Sama. He discussed an overview of the diagnostic criteria for systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis and how the evolving classification criteria and new technologies require a greater level of partnership between the laboratorian and clinician.

Preparations are underway for the Spring CE program tentatively scheduled for March 6th, 2012. We look forward to providing two quality speakers and are open to suggestions if there is a specific topic of interest. We look forward to seeing you in St. Cloud!

Eric Grahek egrahek@epocal.com is the Senior Director position, and Sheri Meyer-Orr meyer-orr@centracare.com is the Jr. Director for the Region.

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Southwest Area Update – News From the SW Corner of MN!

Submitted by: Robin Spencer, SW Area Sr. Director

When a beautiful autumn gives way to the bleakness of winter- what do you do? Do you look for a project to immerse your creative side, a great book series to read, a new skill set to develop -anything to endure the doom of the next few months? It can be part of our Minnesota perseverance- we need to do *something* to get through winter.

There are many opportunities for taking computer based classes, quiet time to be alone, a cross country ski path to explore, but I do look forward to people-to-people learning situations. How about you?

We are starting to plan a joint event in our region for ASCLS and ASCP members, probable date in February 2012. I will send out a “Save the Date” and session information soon. Please watch the website. ASCLS is your organization. Let me know if there is a particular topic you would like to hear about, we try to use our resources to meet your requests.



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Metro Area

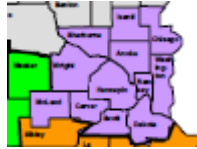


Charlotte Romain

“The next event for the Metro Area is our Kickoff, being held Tuesday November 15th at Midway Hospital in St. Paul. “

Northeast Area

“We have already started putting together a Fun Bus for the CLC meeting in April...”



Another event to mark on your calendar in April 2012 is the Clinical Laboratory Collaborative (CLC) at Mystic Lake. The committees are forming and the preparations are beginning. It is another great way to push away winter blahs and think of SPRING meeting! It always promises to be a great time for learning and socializing with our peers!

As we will begin to plan our next event, if I have not contacted you and you are in this region- make your voice heard. **ASCLS is your voice**- contact me and remember to check out the ASCLS website to get the latest information. Even if you are not in our SW region- you are welcome to make the trip to Willmar for our next ASCLS meeting!

rspencer.ascls@charter.net

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Metro Area Update

Submitted by: Charlotte Romain, Metro Area Sr. Director

The metro area started off with a bang last week. We held our annual Student Night at Argosy University. We had close to 60 bright and eager MLT and CLS students in attendance. The night was a great success with lots of learning and networking. The next event for the Metro Area is our Kickoff, being held Tuesday November 15th at Midway Hospital in St. Paul. We have speakers lined up to discuss Customer Service and the new pathogenic strain of Ehrlichia.

The annual Saturday workshop will be held January 28th at the Allina Commons. We have 3 speakers lined up for a morning of great learning opportunities. Our last event of the year will be held March 15th at the new stand-alone ER located in Chaska. This will be a great opportunity to see the new facility and hear about how things have been going from the lab perspective.

I have received emails from some members with ideas for upcoming events. Please keep them coming! We want to know what you want to learn about and see. I can be reached at charlotte@exosomedx.com. Anyone interested in getting more involved with ASCLS can contact me as well!!!

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Northeast Area Update

Submitted by: Blake Thibodaux; NE Area Sr. Director and Linda Perry; NE Area Jr. Director

Hello to everyone in the Northeast Area from Blake Thibodaux (Sr. Director, NE Area) and Linda Perry (Jr. Director, NE Area). We are both afternoon techs at Essentia Health in Duluth. We are very busy here in the north. We are in the early planning stages of getting an education event together for some time this winter. We have already started putting together a Fun Bus for the CLC meeting in April - we are hoping to fill it to the rafters!

I (Linda) have also recently become a student mentor and invited my student to come and spend some time with us by shadowing me at work. We filled the time talking about lab in general telling her the importance of supporting an organization that represents you and your wishes. It was a great experience and I highly recommend more people get involved.

If you have any innovative ideas for our area, or if you have any questions about the happenings within the area, you can contact us at:

Blake.Thibodaux@essentiahealth.org and Linda.Perry@essentiahealth.org

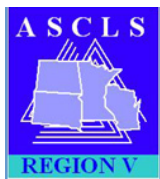
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“One of our biggest challenges is working to minimize any opposition from individual hospital or healthcare organizations. “

“CentraCare lab did an outstanding job of communicating the importance of the laboratory and what our professionals do.”

A Message from our Region V Director



MN Personnel Licensure Coalition Update – “Setting the Table” *Submitted by: Rick Panning, Licensure Coalition Co-Chair*

This period of time before the 2012 Legislative session kicks off on January 24 can be regarded as “setting the table”. The work is primarily behind the scenes and relates to making sure that the bill’s authors and sponsors are still engaged and it means connecting with committee chairs to make sure that things are in order for planned committee hearings.

Right now the work has been concentrating on reconnecting with our stakeholder organizations – i.e. the Minnesota Hospital Association, the Minnesota Society for Pathology, CAP, Mayo Clinic and others. One of our biggest challenges is working to minimize any opposition from individual hospital or healthcare organizations.

Kathy Hansen and our lobbyist, Vic Moore met with Senator David Hahn who is the chair of the Senate Health Committee (our first step in the Senate). Although he is traditionally opposed to licensure he was a good listener and is willing to provide a hearing, but cautioned us to **find a way to show the value of licensure and why it is needed.**

Earlier this fall our colleagues in St. Cloud, Cindy Johnson and Jeremy Angell, hosted Rep. Gottwalt who is the chair of the House Health committee. He is also willing to provide us with a hearing, but again, the common theme is that **we have to be able to communicate the value of licensure and the reasons to support the bill.** CentraCare lab did an outstanding job of communicating the importance of the laboratory and what our professionals do.

We are now concentrating on two things:

- Connecting with key hospital leaders
- Developing a database of members for the coalition organizations so that we can target advocacy requests by zip code and legislative district as we move through the various committees next year.

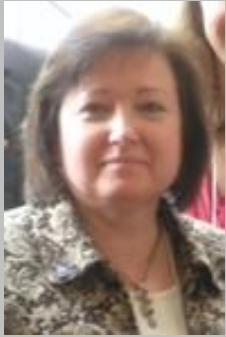
Our biggest challenge is developing the message that really sells the case for licensure. We take it for granted, but we need a message that resonates with the public and the legislators. [back to page 2](#)

“The Value of Social Networking”

Submitted by: Deb Rodahl, ASCLS Region V Director

Local, State, Regional, and National laboratory meetings provide laboratory professionals many opportunities to learn from each other – **Social Networking** at its finest. Why network?? Too many times I am hearing about our newer laboratory professionals who intend to get all of their mandated CEU’s via the internet. Certainly the internet offers a plethora of continuing education opportunities. The Internet also offers a variety of options for Social Networking with Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare, LinkedIn, etc. Gee – with all this available from the comfort of your home – why bother go to face-to-face meetings?

Social Networking was founded on the premise of keeping up with your friends and family – people you *already know*. The value of professional networking is getting to know people in your profession!! I find that I get to know people much better in person than I would via computer or telephone. How many



Deb Rodahl

“Attending ‘live’ continuing education opportunities will double your learning potential with the live interactions with the other attendees.”

times at work do you find that getting to know people outside of the lab makes problem solving much easier. When I was scouting out options to complete my MBA degree I considered online options as well as classroom options and some programs offered the combination of the two. I knew that for me, I would get more value out of the education if I could interact with my classmates and learn from them as much as I learn from the teachers. This proved to be very true. My MBA classmates were working professionals who shared their experiences as part of the class discussions. I know that I got as much (if not more) value in my “networking” in person as I did from the books we read or the lectures we listened to. Attending “live” continuing education opportunities will double your learning potential with the **live** interactions with the other attendees.



The 2011 Region V Symposium was held in Fargo, ND on October 14th and October 15th. The meeting was well attended with greater than 90 attendees each day. The program with 11 sessions was first class with Keynote sessions presented by ASCLS President Cathy Otto and ASCLS Executive Vice President, Elissa Passiment. Topics ranged from Patient Safety to Health Care Reform to technical topics on “Bad Bugs”, “A1C Testing”, or “Blood Management”. There were general sessions, technical sessions, and management sessions to cover the interests of all attendees. **Social Networking** opportunities were provided throughout the meeting, however Thursday evening we “networked” with the various vendors in the exhibit hall. With 25 exhibitors there were many opportunities to see what is new as well as to interact with vendors and peers over the appetizers or social beverage or your choice! Lots of door prizes made for a fun evening. The planning committee is to be congratulated for hosting a great meeting. Special Thanks go to the meeting chairs **Bernie Reddy** and **Tammy Svatos** from South Dakota.





"2012 Region V Symposium will be held in Alexandria, MN at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center."

The 2012 Region V Symposium will be held in Alexandria, MN at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center. This move will provide an opportunity to hold our meeting in a more resort-like setting. The Arrowwood offers a fantastic indoor water park, spa facilities, 18-hole golf course, mini-golf, horse-back riding, or opportunities to sit around a campfire or simply relax in their lounge. Come for the meeting, stay for the fun Social Networking!



It is truly an honor to be representing Region V in ASCLS. I enjoy hearing from our members (or non-members) and can be reached at drodahl@earthlink.net or 651-779-8906 [back to page 2](#)

FYP

First Year Professionals – Update from Your Representative *Submitted by: Yukiko Goto, ASCLS-MN First Year Professional Representative*

Hi, my name is Yukiko and I am the First Year Professional Representative. A little bit about myself, I currently work at St. Joseph's Hospital. I recently got married earlier this year and anticipate the arrival of a new member of our family in June 2012. I enjoy watching movies, playing board games, and trying out new restaurants.

I have been in contact with the FYP's through monthly emails regarding updates and events of ASCLS. I do hope to have an event soon between the FYP's and students so that we can get to know each other a little bit.

There are many volunteer opportunities that I am looking into as an event, but if there are any ideas of what you would like to do, please don't hesitate to contact me at goto0003@umn.edu. Thanks!

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The FINAL WORD

"A Career, Not a Job..." *Submitted by: Cassandra Gallati, ASCLS-MN Database Coordinator-Membership Services*

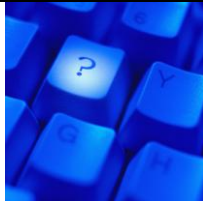
My name is Cassandra Gallati and I am the Database Coordinator for Membership Services. At the beginning of every month I pull the complete Minnesota membership list from the national website, download it into an excel document, and separate all members based on the 7 areas in the state of Minnesota. This makes it easier for Area Directors to contact their members and hopefully helps members feel more connected to ASCLS by more local contact from leaders.



“My only regret is that I didn’t join sooner as a student.”

“...can proudly say I have a career, not a job.”

Newsletter Editor



I graduated in 2009 from Winona State University with my degree in Clinical Laboratory Science and got involved with ASCLS as a student. When I look back at the tireless efforts many members of ASCLS put into not only getting me to join but also in helping me understand the endless benefits of being a member, I am immensely grateful. My only regret is that I didn’t join sooner as a student. On October 27th students from all over the metro area going into the laboratory profession flooded one classroom at Argosy University in Eagan to learn topics beneficial to their success such as; interviewing skills, scholarship opportunities, career choices, and networking benefits of joining ASCLS. I watched many students sign-up that evening (a total of 13 after all was said and done) and I believe it is from the sheer excitement and enthusiasm our metro area leaders radiate about their own experiences in being a member.

This is our job as ASCLS members and leaders to share our experiences and enthusiasm about being a part of our professional society. I am excited to report our membership numbers continue to increase! At the beginning of September we had 288 members statewide. By October 1st we had 313 members and October 31st we’ve increased to 349 members.

I want to stress the importance of continuing to reach out to new members and lapsed members. Everyone has an excuse or a reason why right now isn’t the right time to join. Yet, it’s our job to ask, and ask again. If it weren’t for the many dedicated and passionate members of ASCLS who weren’t discouraged by my several “no’s” in the beginning, I wouldn’t be where I am today. I currently work at the VA Medical Center in Minneapolis and can proudly say I have a career, not a job. ASCLS reminds me of this through all the wonderful and inspiring continuing education they provide to me as a member. I also have ASCLS to thank for my career advancement. It provides me the opportunity to gain leadership skills and confidence within my profession even after having only been within the field for a short time. I want to thank all our members for their continued efforts and dedication to our professional society.

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Editor of ASCLS-MN e-LABorate Newsletter is Paula (Snippes) Vagnone. If you have any comments or questions, please contact her at: paula683@yahoo.com

We encourage our members to contribute to e-LABorate. If you have an article that you would like to share, please contact me.

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