

# ASCLS-TN NEWSLETTER

KEEPING YOU UP-TO-DATE ON ASCLS ACTIVITIES IN TENNESSEE

Volume 1, Issue 2

January 2010

Fourth Quarter

## ASCLS-TN President's Update

Happy New Year and welcome to the 2nd edition of our ASCLS-TN Newsletter! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season and are rested up to put your new year's resolutions into action. As always, one of my resolutions is to give my ASCLS commitments at the local, state, regional, and national level my all. I hope that all of you will join me! Past-President Sue Ann Allen and President-Elect Katherine Hopper, along with the members in Middle Tennessee, have a great meeting planned for us in the spring. TALC 2010 will be held at the Opryland Radisson on April 15th and 16th. We are looking for volunteers to speak, sponsor a door prize, and just help out where needed. If you are interested, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the ASCLS-TN Board. We are here to help YOU reach your new year's goals of being an active laboratory professional!

**Angela Phillips, MLS**  
ASCLS-TN President 2008-2010



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**Ideas for the  
ASCLS-TN NEWSLETTER ?**  
Let us know! Send an e-mail to:  
[BeccaBL2@aol.com](mailto:BeccaBL2@aol.com)

## ASCLS Leadership Academy Now Taking Applications for 2010-2011 Class

Are you interested in improving your leadership skills? Would you like to learn more about ASCLS and the opportunities that are available through active participation in a professional organization? Are you working toward your State of Tennessee Supervisor's License and need a way to get leadership/management continuing education? If so, you may be the type of person we are looking for!

ASCLS is excited to solicit applications for the 2010-2011 ASCLS Leadership Academy. The one-year program was designed in 2006-2007 to prepare ASCLS members for current and future leadership roles in the organization by providing a structured program of study of critical leadership topics. There are many benefits to the participants in the Leadership Academy including developing skills that can

be transferred to the work setting and life in general, providing opportunities to learn from and dialogue with current and past ASCLS leaders, as well as be mentored by ASCLS leaders and acquiring the confidence and self-esteem to step into leadership roles.

The following topics are covered during the 12-month Leadership Academy and P.A.C.E™ continuing education credits will be awarded for each session completed.

- ASCLS 101
- History of the Profession
- Leadership Styles
- Communication Skills
- Organization Skills
- Time Management
- Mentoring/Coaching
- Conflict Management Skills

- Recruiting Leaders
- Motivating People/Getting Things Accomplished
- Strategic Planning/Goal Setting
- Team Building
- Networking

Selected participants are also required to:

- 1) Attend leadership workshops in conjunction with the 2010 ASCLS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA (July 27-31), the 2011 Legislative Symposium in Washington, DC (mid-March) and the 2011 ASCLS Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA (July 26-30).
- 2) Participate in a series of conference calls to develop and perfect leadership skills.
- 3) Complete a Leadership Academy Project and present findings at the 2011 ASCLS Annual Meeting.

*continued on page 2*

## Board Member Spotlight :



### Perry Scanlan

Madison CLS program. After work at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN and attending graduate school at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Dr. Scanlan became a faculty member at Austin Peay State University in the fall of 2006. Dr. Scanlan focuses on teaching microbiology and immunology courses, and has active research on herpes simplex viruses and MRSA. He is very active with the students in the Medical Technology program and is working on establishing a new ASCLS-Clarksville local chapter, including a new student forum on



the APSU campus. At the Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference (CLEC) in Biloxi, MS, Dr. Scanlan is leading a round table discussion on developing a young professional educators group to provide social activities for young educators. Perry serves as a member at large on the ASCLS-TN board of directors.

## Middle-Tennessee ASCLS Society Update

ASCLS in middle Tennessee is still planning regular meetings, but is looking for members to host a month at their facility.

The last meeting was held at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in October. Katherine Hopper provided a review of lymphocyte morphology.

Future middle-TN meetings are scheduled for 5pm on January 28 at Vander-

bilt, February 18 (location yet to be determined), and March 25 (location TBD).

Updates will be posted on <http://ascls-tn.org>. Members interested in hosting the February or March meetings (or any other future meetings) should contact Katherine Hopper at [Katherine.m.karas@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:Katherine.m.karas@vanderbilt.edu) or SueAnn Allen at [sueann.allen@hotmail.com](mailto:sueann.allen@hotmail.com).

## Leadership Academy (continued)

ASCLS is currently seeking candidates for the 2010-2011 class of the ASCLS Leadership Academy. Candidates must be current ASCLS PF1, PF2, or FYP members and individuals may self-nominate or be nominated by any current ASCLS member. Current Student Members are not eligible for the Leadership Academy.

Admission to the Leadership Academy is through a competitive application process. Candidates must agree to a commitment of personal time and effort over 12 months in addition to a financial commitment for travel expenses to attend Leadership Academy workshops and activities. Candidates selected will be required to certify their intention to commit to attendance at each of the previously listed meetings where Leadership Academy activities will be held as well as regular conference calls, in addition to the time necessary for successful completion of the program. Candidates are required to complete an application form, respond to 5 questions and submit two (2) recommendation forms and letters of recommendation.

All interested ASCLS members should go to the ASCLS website

<http://www.ascls.org/members/Academy/index.asp> for application forms and instructions.

Completed applications must be received by **March 31, 2010** to be considered for the 2010-2011 class.



Feel free to contact Lynn Ingram [lingram@uthsc.edu](mailto:lingram@uthsc.edu) if you have any questions about the ASCLS Leadership Academy.



### Confused About Your Certification? A message from ASCLS President

By now, you have probably received a notice from the Board of Certification (BOC) regarding access to your "account". When you click on the links provided in that e-mail, you will be taken to the ASCP website and asked for some demographic information. Eventually, you'll be placed into what is called "MyASCP". If you, like me, find that confusing and unacceptable since this is not about "MyASCP" but rather about "MyBOC", then I would like to help clear up the confusion and encourage you to contact the BOC about the level of customer service you believe you deserve. You are now a customer of the BOC, not ASCP. If you feel that the website connections and links to activating your account for the BOC do not reflect that relationship or are not appropriate, you need to tell them, clearly, professionally, and in

HUGE numbers, via the 1-800 number provided at the bottom of the page. As a customer, you need to voice your dissatisfaction to the BOC. If they do not hear from you and me, they will have no idea that there is a problem. I would like to share with you the issues that I have called to the attention of the BOC:

1. The choices on the "demographics page" for "describing myself" do not list "Medical Laboratory Scientist: and MUST do so before I will complete this info. Since it was a required field, I marked it as "other" for the time being.
2. My ONLY association with ASCP is through the Board of Certification. There is no such thing, now or ever, as "MyASCP" for Mary Ann McLane, since I never intend to have any affiliation with ASCP except through the BOC. The relationship that does exist, and for which there should be a unique website, is

"MyBOC." Anything less than a unique website for the BOC, with absolutely no

mention of ASCP membership, goes against everything the negotiators discussed and negotiated for during those 4 years.

3. My information regarding my certification is my own information, not the BOC's and definitely not ASCP's. Similar to HIPAA, I should be able to gain access to that information whenever I choose, without an arbitrary deadline set by the BOC. It is completely unacceptable to place a January 14, 2010 deadline in place for individuals to access their "account" for the BOC, with a payment penalty if this is not done by that deadline.

One thing that we MUST all understand is that this process is only 2-3 months old. (I'm still learning all the "powers that be" types of things that come with a leadership position in ASCLS, and cannot send out something that is not accurate.) The e-mail from the BOC is actually the first one to which specific, targeted

comments and complaints can be addressed. I want people to feel empowered to do that complaining, but it has to be to the agency for whom we are customers, and that is the BOC. If we, en masse, let the BOC know that their customer, YOU, are not happy, then I cannot imagine (naive thing that I am) that things would not change. In fact, two other issues raised by me have been changed already: the first BOC newsletter had the name ASCLS misspelled on the first page, and it is now corrected. The disclaimer at the bottom of those first e-mails we received, saying "you are receiving this because you have been an ASCP member..." have now been changed to reflect "BOC" instead. So the BOC does respond! Therefore the thing to do as a first step is to phone and email your thoughts, complaints and needs, firmly, professionally and politely to the BOC at 1.800.267.2727, option 2, 2 and [hoc@ascp.org](mailto:boc@ascp.org).

And do it today!

**National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (NMLPW) will be held April 18-24, 2010.** It is not too early to make your plans to celebrate the week and educate others about the role you play on the health-care team.

ASCLS has added information to the [NMLPW webpage](#) for 2010

[www.ascls.org/conferences/2010NMLPW](http://www.ascls.org/conferences/2010NMLPW)



## Getting Ready for TALC 2010 in Nashville

The 2010 Tennessee Annual Laboratory Conference (TALC) is coming to Nashville April 15-16. Plan on joining your colleagues at the Opryland Radisson for opportunities to network with lab professionals from across the state (and beyond) and gain up to 12 hours of continuing education credit. Special features for this year's TALC include:

- Nationally recognized speakers
- Continuing education sessions for every lab section (review sessions as well as news of the latest innovations)
- Management continuing education for those pursu-

ing their state supervisors license

- Mini-ASCLS leadership institute for those interested in becoming more active in ASCLS and taking on leadership roles
- FREE student events for all CLT/CLS students
- Numerous vendor exhibits

Institutional passes in which a business can pay for one admittance badge that can be shared among as many as 4 employees. It is an exciting time to be a laboratory professional in Tennessee! Get your car pool organized and be on the lookout for more information on <http://ascls-tn.org> and in the mail.

## ASCLS-TN STUDENT CORNER Austin Peay State University

The Austin Peay State University medical technology program is proud to announce a New Year's resolution! It is creating a new ASCLS-TN student organization in Clarksville, TN. The current student organization Lambda Tau will be transitioned and transformed into the ASCLS-TN family. Our active student chapter will be involved in community service, university service, and professional activities at the national and state levels. Previously our student organization had participated in several community service activities including G.H.O.S.T. (A safe Halloween initiative), Thanksgiving dinners to the needy, Christmas gift donation to needy families, provided donations to the Robert T. Crews Medical Technology Scholarship fund, and held

health screening days for anemia, diabetes, and basic blood typing to encourage blood donation to the American Red Cross. In addition to service, we strive to be involved in ASCLS-TN and national meetings to participate in professional activities that strengthen skills and promote our laboratory profession. Our student organization hopes to increase student membership and in turn continue the membership increases seen in the state society. Dr. Perry Scanlan, Ms. Jane Semler, and Dr. Eleanor Jator will be working on establishing the new student organization over the next year. Establishing a new organization is difficult. We would greatly appreciate any help other student chapters or ASCLS professionals could provide to our fledgling organization.

Austin Peay students:  
Left: Joanne McGuire  
Background: Alan Pugh  
Foreground: Julie Viruez



## Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Update

The clinical laboratory professionals in Memphis, TN and the Shelby County area have the opportunity to be a member of the local professional society, namely the Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (MSCLS). The organization meets monthly. This is a fantastic opportunity to network and earn a continuing education credit. Additionally, the meeting includes a food drive as a service to the community. MSCLS has contributed over 180 pounds of food to the Mid-South Food Bank in the past year.

The 2009 speakers were local bench technologists, supervisors, laboratory educators, and an attorney. This was an excellent time to share knowledge and experiences. MSCLS has also spotlighted past Memphis graduates of the clinical laboratory certificate program, the medical lab technician and medical technologist programs. In 2010, several of our speakers will include professionals representing both local and national vendors. There is also a plan to have an awards ban-

quet in July. We invite all local laboratorians to join us at the monthly meetings designed to promote the profession.

By Darius Y. Wilson



ABOVE: MSCLS members gathered in December for a Christmas celebration.

**2010-11  
MSCLS Officer  
Elections  
Coming in April!**

**Nominate a colleague  
today for:**

**President-Elect**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Parliamentarian**

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

Memphis Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
 All meetings begin at 5:45 pm  
 February 4, 2010 @ St. Jude Children's Research Hosp.  
 March 4, 2010 @ Trumbull Laboratory, LLC  
 April 8, 2010 @ Methodist University Hospital

ASCLS - Middle Tennessee Society  
 All meetings begin at 5:00 pm  
 January 28, 2010 @ Vanderbilt  
 February 18, 2010 @ location TBD  
 March 25, 2010 @ location TBD

Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference  
 February 25-27, 2010 in Biloxi, MS

TALC 2010: ASCLS-TN Annual Spring Meeting  
 April 15-16, 2010 in Nashville, TN

Region III Spring Council Meeting  
 April 23/24, 2010 in Ashville, NC

## Hey There East Tennessee!

Let's start the New Year off and revive the East Tennessee chapter of ASCLS!

If you are an East TN member, we would love your input! We are aiming to start meetings with CEU credits and your input is vital! Let us know what your expectations are for a local chapter. Please email Holly Brown at [hfoosterbrown@hotmail.com](mailto:hfoosterbrown@hotmail.com) or Donna Wright at [dmwright@mercy.com](mailto:dmwright@mercy.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!

Check us out online!  
[www.ascls-tn.org](http://www.ascls-tn.org)  
 Join our Listserve at:  
[ascls-tn-members-request@ascls-lists.org](mailto:ascls-tn-members-request@ascls-lists.org)

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 ★ Are you a vendor? ★  
 ★ Are you interested in exhibiting at the Tennessee Annual Laboratory Conference (TALC) 2010 in Nashville, TN at the Opryland Radisson on April 15th & 16th? ★  
 ★ Please contact Rebecca Rogers at [rebecca.leah.rogers@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.leah.rogers@gmail.com) for an application or check the ASCLS-TN website for more information. [www.ascls-tn.org](http://www.ascls-tn.org) ★  
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## 2010 ASCLS/CLMA/ASCP/AMT Legislative Symposium

This event is jointly sponsored by ASCLS, CLMA, ASCP and AMT. This is an opportunity for each of you to "provide the face" of our profession with our elected senators and representatives.

As in years past, there will many legislative issues impacting our profession, including the impacts of health care reform, reimbursement changes, and workforce funding, just to name a few. This is the opportunity to have your voice and those of your colleagues heard on Capitol Hill. We have made a difference before and we can make a difference again.

The registration form for the symposium along with the hotel information is available on the ASCLS website at the following link: <http://www.ascls.org/conferences/2010LegDay/Flyer%20LEGDAY%202010.doc>

Let's make it a goal to have all of our states represented!

For more information contact Rick Panning, GAC chair at [rick.panning@allina.com](mailto:rick.panning@allina.com) or 612-262-5012

Well it has been exactly one year that I have been a part of this profession. I must say it has been a wonderful, yet challenging year. For those of you that don't know me, I entered this profession after starting my career working in both an environmental and R & D lab, before returning to school to become certified as a Medical Technologist. Over the years I have learned that while I don't particularly enjoy change and fight it most of the time, it is necessary to progress forward both personally and professionally. Our profession is in a constant state of change and progression. Our National healthcare system is under revision and new technologies are introduced all the time as laboratories become

more specialized. In the last year we have united our own certification agencies resulting in yet another change in our titles. I can't help but think that while it all seems to be more trouble in the front end, in the long run we will tweak these changes for the better. I know it is easy to sit back and criticize changes as they happen but in the coming year, I challenge each and every one of you to keep an open mind and be involved. We as Technicians and Technologists know our profession better than anyone. While a student, a seasoned Technologist irritably asked me, "Why in the world would you want to do this for the rest of your life?" It caught me off guard just a little, so I just shrugged and replied, "It's just

## Perspective of a New Professional

what I do." In hind sight my response could have been better but thinking back to that encounter, I think this year I shall make a Professional Resolution instead of just a New Year's Resolution. I resolve to try to keep my positive attitude and passion for my profession, for no reason other than that I am proud of what I do. I also resolve to embrace changes and to do my part to make this profession better. And lastly to encourage the students in which I come contact because our profession is truly a great one to want to be involved in. May we all resolve to have a positive attitude and outlook

on the challenges we face and do our part to make our profession better. I welcome the challenges that this year brings and wish everyone all the best.



Holly Brown, MLS (ASCP)  
 East TN Children's Hospital  
 ASCLS New Professional