



the FILTER

NSCLS 2009 Award Recipients

Laboratory professionals often cite “lack of recognition for a job well done” as one of their primary job frustrations. The NSCLS Awards Program is a way for you to recognize the outstanding contributions by individuals in your laboratory and professional society.

NSCLS 2009 Award recipients were announced by Tracey Vrba, Lucas Christensen and Amy Stanley at the Awards Luncheon during the 2009 Great Plains Regional Laboratory EXPO Iowa-Kansas-Missouri-Nebraska combined spring meeting on April 29, 30 & May 1, 2009 at the Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa.



Award of Excellence: Rex Famitangco



Filter Award: Karen Keller

Congratulations and Thank You for your contributions to
Clinical Laboratory Science in Nebraska!



Exhibitor Appreciation: Siemens



Key to the Future Award: Nicole Meier

Not Pictured: Technical Support Award of Excellence: Troy Ferdig.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Linsey Donner, MT (ASCP)

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements
1 August 2008 – 30 April 2009

Money Market balance - 1 August 2008 \$20,049.11

Cash receipts

Money Market Interest Income	\$178.31
2008 spring meeting profit	\$7,562.35
Stephanie Gillespie Memorial	\$100.00
ASCLS membership	\$1,875.00
Total Money Market cash receipts	\$9,715.66

Disbursements

Transfers to checking account	\$9,700.00
Total Money Market disbursements	\$9,700.00

Money Market account balance 15 January 2009 \$20,064.77

Checking account balance - 1 August 2008 \$115.30

Cash Receipts

Transfers from Money Market	\$9,700.00
Stephanie Gillespie Memorial Fund	\$50.00
Bank service charge reversal	\$35.00
Total checking account cash receipts	\$9,785.00

Disbursements

ASCLS meeting - President	\$456.05
ASCLS meeting - members	\$2,666.67
ASCLS meeting silent auction	\$50.00
ASCLS Legislative Days	\$2,990.30
ASCLS PACE Fee	\$325.00
Bank Service Charge	\$35.00
Board Meeting	\$84.84
State Charter	\$20.00
Filter	\$389.21
Region VI assessment	\$1,100.00
Treasurer	\$111.95
Quad/Spring Meeting Seed Money	\$1,000.00
TOTAL checking account disbursements	\$9,229.02

Checking account balance 30 April 2009 \$671.28

NSCLS SUMMARY OF ASSETS:

Money Market balance 30 April 2009	\$20,064.77
Checking account balance 30 April 2009	\$671.28
Scholarship CD balance 30 April 2009	\$14,590.52
Legislative CD balance 30 April 2009	\$5,130.31
Savings CD balance 30 April 2009	\$11,231.06
NSCLS TOTAL ASSETS - 30 April 2009	\$51,687.94

GAC/PAC Update

Government Affairs Committee/ Political Action Committee

Submitted by Andrea Schank, MT(ASCP)

Four representatives from NSCLS were able to attend the 2009 Legislative Symposium in Washington, D.C., on March 23 and 24. Roxanne Alter, Tracey Vrba, Nicole Meier, and Andrea Schank participated in the 2009 Symposium. This year, the Legislative Symposium was a joint effort by representatives from ASCLS, ASCP, CLMA, and AMT. Approximately 100 students, faculty, staff, and society members represented thirty-nine states. The Symposium focused on two topics this year: Medicare Fee Schedule Modernization and the Laboratory Personnel Shortage.

We discussed how critical it is to the survival of Clinical Laboratory Science that the Medicare Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Fee Schedule be modernized. The current fee schedule was designed in 1983 and has not been updated in over twenty-five years! A modernized clinical laboratory fee schedule is critical because practitioners base up to seventy percent of their patient care decisions on information provided by laboratory tests. They require accurate clinical information to effectively treat their patients. The current fee schedule discourages the development of new technology and laboratory testing by not providing appropriate reimbursement to clinical labs. This impedes patient access to the most state-of-the-art testing. A modernized fee schedule that provides adequate payment for clinical laboratory tests and specimen collection will enhance patient access to necessary healthcare services in all patient care settings.

Each of us who were able to meet with our Senate and House Representatives asked that they support a bill known as H.R. 1452. H.R. 1452 is a bill that Representatives Stupak (D-MI) and Burgess (R-TX) have introduced in the House that requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to convene a negotiated rule-making committee to develop a modernized, consensus-driven clinical laboratory fee schedule. The purpose of this bill is to ensure patient access, involve relevant stakeholders, create mechanisms for periodic updates and modernize the fee schedule to reflect increased cost and enhanced technology.

We were also able to discuss the overwhelming shortage of Clinical Laboratory Personnel. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that by 2016, the United States will need 92,000 additional Clinical Laboratory Scientists to replace retiring staff and fill newly created positions. With fewer than 4,700 individuals graduating each year from accredited training programs, the number of graduates would need to increase more than three-fold to meet the estimated demand!

The contributions laboratory professionals make to patient care cannot be overstated. Laboratory professionals play a critical role in patient care. Laboratory testing performed by skilled laboratory practitioners is the foundation for most medical diagnoses and treatments. Ensuring patients have access to the most qualified laboratory professionals needed to provide prompt, quality testing services is imperative to quality care.

We asked for congressional support of the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in 2009 with an enhanced authorization level for the Community-Based Job Training Grants Program. We asked that our Representatives urge HHS to designate a portion of the \$200 million available for Health Professions Training in the stimulus package to Clinical Laboratory Science students and Clinical Laboratory training programs. (Title VII Allied Health Programs). Also, we asked they urge HHS to reauthorize Title VII Allied Health Programs to include provisions that support laboratory training programs and students.

If you would like more information on these topics, please don't hesitate to contact any of us who attended the Legislative Symposium. It is important that we form a united front and lobby to make these items heard by our representatives in Washington, D.C. Please don't hesitate to contact your Congressmen and Representatives today regarding these issues!

NSCLS Fall Business Meeting Minutes

submitted by Joyce Colombe, NSCLS Secretary

Present: Tracey Vrba, Roxanne Alter, Andrea Shank, Anita Smith, Melissa Gonzalez, Lucas Christensen, Karen Keller, Linsey Donner, Joyce Colombe and Amy Stanley - Connected via phone: Nicole Meier and Shana Jensen

1. President's Report: President Tracey Vrba and Roxanne Alter attended the Region VI meeting. The theme for NMLPW is "Lab People Get Results". In November 2008, there were 8250 members. If all members had renewed, there would be more than 11,000 members. Many students join but then do not renew the next year. ASCLS has a new award which is "Volunteer of the Year Award". Annual meeting sessions are going to go from 90 minutes to 60 minutes. There is an update of the Region VI manual. The Secretary/Treasurer position and Council Chair position have been changed to a Secretary and a Treasurer position. The Council Chair position has been removed. According to the Region VI manual, the State President needs to attend the President's Council, Board of Directors open session, and the Region VI caucus.
2. Secretary's Report: Joyce Colombe distributed a copy of the minutes from the Fall Business Meeting held on October 12, 2008. The minutes were approved as written. They will be sent to Courtney to be put in the Filter.
3. Treasurer's Report: Linsey Donner distributed a copy of the quarter report. No bill has been received for PACE yet. Ruth Ann Bartels had submitted funds for a scholarship memorial for Stephanie Gillespie.
4. Committee Reports:
 - A. Bylaws: Anita Smith reported that the bylaws are back on the website. She asked for any changes. There was a discussion of reimbursement for meetings if someone does not attend the appropriate meetings and what expenses are paid and what is not paid. NSCLS may want to change the name to ASCLS-NE. Anita reported that at one time the lawyers Ericksen and Sederstrom did pro-bono work for NSCLS. Anita needs to check if they still do this. To change the name would involve filing a document, going to court to get it filed, and changing it in all the by-laws. The Board can make a recommendation, members vote on it, and the National organization has to approve it. This can take a year or two. Anita recommended we get more information before we decide to do this.
 - B. Membership: Nicole Meier has sent a membership report to be put in the Filter. She reported nothing new at this time. Student membership looks good. We need to look at retaining student members as first year members. Some suggestions were a congratulations card from NSCLS to all graduates, a session at the Quad Meeting about ASCLS, a Facebook page, and emailing people to remind them to renew their membership. Whitney Gatz has started a Facebook page. Chelsea Dockins is helping with this. Another suggestion was to have continuing education sessions around the state.
 - C. PACE: Karen Keller has contacted the Region VI PACE chair from Iowa. We will use CE organizer. The brochure needs to go to National. Kim will contact Karen so people can do online PACE.

D. Leadership Development Chair. Melissa Gonzalez is in this position. It was suggested that she look at applicants for the leadership academy. The state can nominate people to go. NSCLS would be responsible for the cost of sending someone. Once someone completes the leadership academy, they would be better equipped to fill positions of leadership.

E. PAC/GAC: Andrea Shank would like to go to legislative days which are March 23 and 24. Tracey Vrba gave information on legislative days. Registration fees are \$195, rooms are \$199, plus there is the cost of the flight. NSCLS has budgeted for 3 people to go at a cost of \$1000 per person. Linsey Donner, Roxanne Alter, Lucas Christensen, and Tracey Vrba were interested in going. NSCLS could pay for 4 people to go. There is a great deal of information to learn. PAC is trying to raise money through donations. This fund helped defeat competitive bidding. Tracy gets emails from Elissa Passiment from the ASCLS National Office regarding PAC.

F. Student Forum: Linsey Donner reported that the student social on December 20 at Dave and Buster's had 26 students present from UNMC, Methodist and SCC. The MLT students from North Platte have started to participate. Linsey has contacted the Hastings program but has not heard back from them. Student Forum may try to have a social out west. Student Forum has a link on the NSCLS website. They are currently selling T-shirts and polos shirts as a fund raiser. Courtney Else may be interested in taking over student forum. Barb Miller has been contacted regarding the NSCLS scholarship. Students can go to the NSCLS website for information. There was a discussion if there is money available at the graduate level for a scholarship and the student loans available through NSCLS. Students can apply for loans at a low interest. This money was donated by Frieda Oltmann. Whitney Gatz is writing a report regarding Student Forum for the Filter.

G. New Professionals: There is a new way to set up this committee with an adviser, new professional, first year professional and student forum president. Individuals could move up to the next position. We could give it a try and see if it works.

H. Filter: Courtney Olson has picked 1/15, 4/15, 7/15, 10/15 as deadlines to get the Filter out.

I. Website: Martin Steinbeck continues to update the website. The awards information will be on the website.

J. Nominations: The President-Elect position is still open. The rest of the positions have been filled.

5. Quad State Meeting: Thursday night social is from 6 - 8 PM with Nebraska hosting. The state business meeting was scheduled for Thursday at 4:45 PM. It was suggested to move it to Friday early before the sessions start. Moderators are needed for the sessions. The awards are scheduled for Wednesday. Nebraska has usually had the awards on Friday. It may not be possible to change the awards day. It does not appear that there is any luncheon scheduled for Friday.

6. The 2010 NSCLS Spring Meeting will probably be in Omaha. CLMA and ASCP will need to be contacted to see if they want to be part of the Spring Meeting.

2009 ASCLS Annual Meeting

July 21-25

Chicago, IL

Renaissance Chicago Hotel

Clinical Laboratory Expo

July 21-23, 2009

McCormick Place Convention Center



the **FILTER** is going **green**

Starting this summer, the **FILTER** will be distributed electronically. If you would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the **FILTER**, please contact Courtney Olson at colson@nscls.net or 324 S. 53rd St Lincoln, NE 68510.

REVIEWING FOR BOARDS?

NEED TO BRUSH UP ON YOUR LAB KNOWLEDGE?

LOOKING FOR AN ONLINE WAY TO FULFILL YOUR LAB
CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS?

FIND IT ALL AT

The banner features the 'LabCE' logo in large white and yellow letters on the left. Below it, it says 'presented by MEDIA LAB, Inc.' in a blue box. To the right, there is a horizontal strip of four small images showing medical professionals in a lab setting. Below the images, the text 'online laboratory continuing education for medical technologists' is written in white on a dark blue background.

www.LabCE.com

President's Page. . .

Tracey Vrba, MT(ASCP)



Your NSCLS leadership has been busy the first half of this year!! We have continued to focus on our two main goals of improving and strengthening NSCLS leadership and connecting electronically to our members.

Four leaders, Government Affairs Committee Chair Andrea Schank, Membership Chair Nicole Meier, Region VI Nominations Chair Roxanne Alter, and I, attended the 2009 Legislative Symposium in March. In April, Senior Board Member Amy Stanley and Junior Board Member Lucas Christensen assisted in finalizing plans for the 2009 Great Plains Regional Laboratory Expo. Also in April, the newly structured New Professional Committee held a teleconference to set goals of its own. This was the first of a series of committee meetings to be held throughout the summer. In late May, the 2010 Spring Meeting Planning Committee lead by Senior Board Member Lucas Christensen will meet to begin working on next year's meeting. In June, a committee will be meeting to review NSCLS Bylaws. Finally, in July, those attending the Annual Meeting in Chicago will participate in a teleconference to prepare for the trip. We hope to send several leaders to the Annual Meeting!

Elections were held during our Annual Business Meeting. All leadership positions have been elected and filled for the 2009-2010 year. Newly elected and appointed leaders include:

President – Nicole Meier
President-elect – Shana Jensen
Senior Board Member – Lucas Christensen
Junior Board Member – Jillian Christensen
Membership Chair – Lynnett Kastens
New Professional Advisor – Chelsea Dockins
New Professional – Alicia Eisenmenger
First Year Professional – Whitney Gatz

Are you electronically connected to NSCLS???? If not, please start by checking out our website www.nscls.net. On the leadership page, you can find an email address to contact any board member, officer, or chair! There is a new page to view minutes from Business Meetings. You can also view this or previous FILTER publications. On the Student Forum page is a link to the NSCLS Student Forum FACEBOOK group. The group is created and administered by our New Professionals Committee. Students and New Professionals are welcome to join!

Every member should be receiving emails from president@nscls.net. If you are not, please email me to let me know! We may not have your current email address. Please contact us if you would like to become active in NSCLS leadership! We would love to hear from you! Send us your comments, questions, or concerns!

Student Forum

Submitted by Whitney Gatz, NSCLS Student Forum

The NSCLS Student Forum has been hard at work this year with multiple activities including fundraising, publicizing and planning a winter social.

We were able to do a fundraiser to kick off the year thanks to Shirley Noble, who donated 2 Husker Football Tickets to our organization. The NSCLS Student Forum was able to raise more than \$1200. A big "Thanks" goes to Shirley for her donation, and to all of the NSCLS Student Forum Members who helped sell the raffle tickets.

We also sold fun T-shirts and Polo's with the NSCLS logo on the front. On the back was a Levi-Jennings chart with the phrase "Laboratory Professionals are Always in Control" underneath. They were a big hit and we made \$432 profit.

This year, the students from both the UNMC CLS program and Southeast Community College MLT program got together for a Winter Social. It was held in December at Dave and Buster's in Omaha. There was quite a turnout and it was a great experience for the students to meet with one another, relax and have a good time.

This year at the Quad State meeting, held in Council Bluffs, IA, students from all 4 states got together and went bowling as a fun activity on one of the nights. It was fun to meet students from different states who were going into the same field.

We have also been making way with publicizing the NSCLS Student Forum a bit more. The Student Forum has its own page on the NSCLS website which is updated frequently with news and events pertaining to our group. New this year, is a "blog" for students as well as the public to express their opinions on certain topics.

Another addition this year is the NSCLS Student Forum Facebook group. With the sparked interest in Facebook recently, we feel like it is a good way to stay in touch and show our pride in being a part of the NSCLS organization. Current events are posted here as well as messages from group members pertaining to the organization.

If you would like to check out what's going on with the NSCLS Student Forum, please visit our web-page at <http://www.nscls.net/studentforum.html>. Also, for the "Facebookers" out their; please join our NSCLS Student Forum group on Facebook next time you log in.



Pictured: Deborah Watts (SECC) and Linsey Donner

The NSCLS scholarship committee was pleased to present
scholarships this year to
Deborah Watts and Becky Schainost.

Congratulations Deborah & Becky and

Best Wishes to all CLS students in Nebraska!

AMA Approved Clinical Laboratory Science Programs In Nebraska

CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[Medical Laboratory Technician Program](#)

East Highway 6, P.O. Box 1024

Hastings, NE 68902

Phone: 402-461-2451

Interim Program Director: Shirley Noble, MS, MT(ASCP)

Education Coordinator: Lori VanBoening, MT(ASCP)

Email : lvanboening@cccneb.edu

MID-PLAINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[Medical Laboratory Technician Program](#)

McDonald-Belton Campus

601 West State Farm Road

North Platte, NE 69101

Phone: 308.532.8980 or 800.658.4308 (ext. 254)

Medical Advisors: Dr. Byron Barksdale and Dr. Lyle Barksdale

Program Director: Martin Steinbeck, M.Ed., MT(ASCP)

Email : steinbeckm@mpcc.edu

NEBRASKA METHODIST HOSPITAL

[Medical Technology Program](#)

8303 Dodge St.

Omaha, NE 68114

Phone: 402.354.4563

Medical Director: Deborah Perry, MD

Program Director: Julie Richards, MPA, MT(ASCP)BB

Email : julie.richards@nmhs.org

SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[Medical Laboratory Technician Program](#)

Lincoln Campus Admissions

8800 O Street

Lincoln, NE 68520-9989

Phone: 402.437.2760 or 800.642.4075

Medical Director: Aina I. Silenieks, M.D.

Program Director: Janis Bible MT(ASCP)

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER

[Clinical Laboratory Science Program](#)

987549 Nebraska Medical Center

Omaha, NE 68198-7549

Phone: 402.559.8366

Medical Director: James Wisecarver, MD

Program Director: Linda Fell, MS, MT(ASCP)SH

Education Coordinator: Karen Honeycutt, M.Ed, MT(ASCP)SM

Email : LFell@unmc.edu

Lincoln, NE 68510
324 S. 53rd St.
Attn: Courtney Olson

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Spring Edition—2009

2008 – 2009 NSCLS OFFICERS

President	Tracey Vrba	tracey_vrba@hotmail.com
President-elect	Nicole Meier	nmeier01@hotmail.com
President-Elect-Elect	Shana Jensen	sjensen@sfmc-gi.org
Past President	Robbe Peetz	turby10cj@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Linsey Donner	lmdonner@unmc.edu
Secretary	Joyce Colombe	jcolombe@southeast.edu
Senior Board Member	Amy Stanley	amy_stanley@siemens.com
Junior Board Member	Lucas Christensen	lchrist2@gmail.com
Student Forum Chair	Whitney Gatz	wgatz@nscls.net
First Year Professional	Chelsea Dockins	cdockinsmgm@aol.com