



VOLUSION...ASCLS SD

Grassroots explosion of **VOICE, VALUE, VISION**
Official publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science ~ South Dakota

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2014 National ASCLS Award Winners



**Renee Rydell
Amanda Graves
Katie Tipton
Stephanie Jacobson
Lezlee Koch**



VOLUSION...ASCLS-SD is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS SD members in electronic format. The current issue and past issues will also be available for on-line viewing on the Society's web page: www.ascls-sd.org The co-editors reserve the right to edit content and length of material to meet publication specifications.

All ASCLS SD members are invited to submit articles of interest to the co-editors for publication in future issues.



Chicago was ASCL-SD's Kind of Town Honoring Our Members!

**Pat Tille
ASCLS-SD President
2014-2015**

First of all as the ASCLS-SD 2014 President, I would like to welcome all of you to an exciting new year. You will see a lot of new faces and a lot of changes this year. I have been working with committees to identify strategic goals and identifying new members to serve on committees and help with tasks. With that said if I have not contacted you and you have an interest in assisting with something please let me know.

This year's annual ASCLS meeting demonstrated the great participation and demonstration of engagement and professionalism by many of our members. Three SD members were recognized as Keys to the Future including Melissa Saxlund, Jennifer Bannsworth and Amanda Graves. Amanda was also recognized as an outstanding leader for the student forum with two awards, one from the National Student Forum representative for all of her active participation at the National level and the other for all of her work in promoting the student forum and creating project runway at the ASCLS-SD meeting in Rapid City to raise money for student scholarships. In addition, Katie Tipton was recognized for her leadership in SD as our new professional member. After running up and down the stage to accept awards for Amanda and Katie, I was also glad to accept an award on behalf of Stephanie Jacobson, Caleb Distal and myself for a distinguished author award for a case study that was published in the Clinical Laboratory Science Journal, "Ketoacidosis exacerbated by an infection with *K. pneumoniae*."

In addition to these awards, several members were recognized with a gold omicron sticker on their name badge. The state presidents, regional directors and national president for service to the professional organization present this award. This year's SD awardees included, Katie Tipton, Deb Pravecek, Kay Rasmussen, Tanya Crocket, Tami Svatos and Pam Kieffer at the state level. Lori Murray, Shirley Heber, Susan Lopez and myself at the regional level, and Lezlee Koch at the national level.



Annual each year, each state has the opportunity to recognize a member of the year. Previously this award, although entitled member of the year was actually a lifetime achievement award. After several years in the making, the award has now been changed to recognize a member in each state for the contribution to the professional society and a new lifetime achievement award was created. Renee Rydell was recognized as ASCL-SD's member of the year.



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The new lifetime achievement award nominees were truly representative of many years of dedication and commitment to the profession of laboratory science and service to the society. As someone who was mentored and encouraged by many individuals, I felt SD should be represented at this inaugural award. It was my pleasure to nominate a member who has been in ASCLS for over 40 years; the only other individual I know of, other than myself who has served as the ASCLS-SD president for three terms, has served on numerous national committees and is a past Region V Director. Please join me in congratulating Lezlee Koch for her recognition as a ASCLS Life time achievement nominee. It is a distinguished honor to be nominated in itself. The field was full of deserving individuals and I am sure the decision was very difficult. Please join me in also recognizing Shirlyn McKenzie, ASCLS TX as the recipient of the 2014 ASCLS Life Time Achievement Award.



ASCLS Annual Meeting in Chicago!



From left, front row: Renee Rydell, Lori Murray, Pam Kieffer, Stacie Lansink, Tami Svatos. From left, back row: Bridget Parsons and Pat Tille





ASCLS SD 2014-2015 Leadership & Contact Information:

President

Pat Tille
(P) 605-688-6016
Patille@live.com

President-Elect:

Stacie Lansink
(P) 605-688-6016
medstacie@hotmail.com

President-Elect-Elect:

Jeffrey Kistler
(P) 605-225-1773
jefrey.r.kistler@questdiagnostics.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Tami Svatos
Tamisvatos@nvc.net

Past-President:

Shirley Heber
sheber@sio.midco.net

New Professional Member-at-Large:

Amanda Graves
gravesjas@msn.com

Board-Members-At-Large:

Tanya Crockett
tanya.crockett@avera.org
Deb
Pravecek dpravecek@hotmail.com
Katie Tipton
kapieschke@gmail.com

Student Forum Rep:

Bridget Parsons
bridget.parsons@jacks.sdstate.edu

Membership Chair:

Katie Tipton
kapieschke@gmail.com

Publications Chair:

Stacie Lansink

Nominations Committee:

Lezlee Koch
lezleek@sio.midco.net
Janet McArthur J
Mcarthur@rcrh.org



Students Across The Country Share the Passion of the Profession!

**By: Bridget Parsons, ASCLS-SD Student Forum
Representative 2014-2015**

As a Medical Laboratory Science student, I never fully realized the opportunities that being a Student Forum Representative for South Dakota would bring when I applied. As the president of the Medical Laboratory Science Club for South Dakota State University, I thought that I had fulfilled my student leadership obligations. I did not realize that there were more opportunities to grow and network within this profession, besides finding classmates and alumni on social media sites. When the opportunity arose to apply to be the Student Forum Representative for South Dakota, I submitted my application with excitement and apprehension. When I was appointed, I was overjoyed, but then realized, I had no idea the depth of the pool I had just dove headfirst into. I was scared, and was doubtful of my capability to be a full time student, oversee a student organization, and represent South Dakota in a national professional society. It wasn't until I had the opportunity to attend the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) national meeting in Chicago this summer that I gained confidence, and knew I could make a difference.

In late July, ASCLS had their national meeting complete with speakers, meetings, silent auctions, and an immense laboratory expo. It was all very overwhelming but excitement filled the air. Everyone talked about change, and making an impact. It was thrilling to be within a society of peers that cared so much for the profession. I spent five amazing days with laboratory professionals who welcomed me with open arms. I met many extraordinary people, including lab directors, professors, and authors, but the people that impressed me the most, were the students.

I had the opportunity to spend my time in Chicago with approximately 30 students from Medical Laboratory Science programs from across the country. Most were student representatives for their state, but others came on scholarships because they were just as passionate for this profession as their peers representing them. Meeting with all of these bright, and eager minds was thrilling. These students also introduced me to past student representatives that were excited to have a career they loved. Many of them expressed to me the importance of ASCLS, and that it had helped them immensely in securing careers not only in the state they grew up in, but states across the country as well.

After the week was over, I had more ideas than my brain could hold. However, one thought was most prominent. Laboratory professionals are the unsung heroes in the medical world, and our stories may never be told. But it is the passion that all of us share in promoting this profession that is so uplifting and has resonated within me since I left Chicago. Now that my plane has landed, and the daily grind is back in full swing, I have not forgotten the buzz of that meeting. I hope that more students have an opportunity to attend these influential gatherings of the minds. The opportunity has changed my life.



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www.ascls-sd.org



ASCLS Region V
www.ascls-sd.org/asclsregionv



ASCLS Region V Fall Symposium
www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting



ASCLS Region V Tri-State Leadership Academy
www.ascls-sd.org/tri-state-leadership-academy



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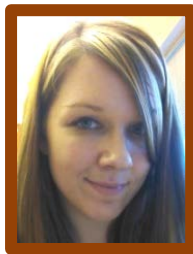


Membership Matters



Have you renewed your ASCLS 2014-13 membership? If you have not, please consider renewing today so you continue to receive all the benefits that ASCLS membership brings you. When you renew, you make the following professional statements,

**"I'm a proud medical laboratory science & health care professional!"
"I demonstrate my commitment to my profession, my patients and the public
I serve through my professional membership in ASCLS !"**



**The Value of ASCLS
Membership and Networking**
Katie Tipton- Membership Committee Chair
Board Member at Large
2014-2015

As a laboratory professional there are many organizations that one can become actively involved in. So what is the value of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science or ASCLS? This is something the organization has struggled with, particularly in the last few years. Why? Because one of the main reasons members joined ASCLS was the opportunity to attend a meeting where they were able to go to educational sessions and obtain the appropriate continuing education. This is no longer a necessity for many laboratory professionals, as there are so many venues to obtain continuing education on line. Okay, so there is a somewhat value that has been reduced to a potential, but no longer essential to the laboratory professional.

How about political action and government affairs and the value of that service? As a professional organization, ASCLS raises funds to lobby and interact with senators and representatives to in fact respond and influence decisions that will affect the laboratory and health care. Many will say this is not something they have an influence on, however the organization as a whole does advocate and is involved at the national level. There are decisions that have been influenced by the participation of ASCLS and will continue to be so, it is simply not something that a member at the state level necessarily can get their hands on or really wrap their mindset around the value of this important function of the professional organization, but it is a true value to the continued future of the laboratory profession and health care field.

Event

Calendar



**ASCLS Region V Tri-State
& CLMA-MN Fall
Symposium**
Oct. 9-10, 2014
Alexandria MN
www.ascls-sd.org/region-v-meeting



**ASCLS-SD & CLMA
2014 Fall Collaborative
Conference**
November 6-7
Sioux Falls, SD
www.ascls-sd.org/id71.html



As a grass roots organization and an organization of your peers and colleagues as well as new and young laboratory professionals, I believe that the professional and personal networking is truly the most personal and long lasting values of ASCLS that is not found in any other laboratory professional organization. The ability to reach out to members through contacts is invaluable. This is evident at many levels. Have you ever thought about purchasing a new test kit or a new instrument? It is natural to go to the manufacturer or sales representative. Now, is that not their job to represent their kit or the instrument to the best of their ability? Absolutely! So why not reach out to some in the scientific assembly relative to that instrument, say chemistry for instance, that may have indeed used the instrument or if not may know someone who has had experience with it. Think of laboratory practice like a teaching environment, even the professor does not have all the answers, but as a group of educated professionals who can look at items in many different perspectives, the answer or knowledge you seek may be out there and presented in your frame of reference. Lab directors, bench practitioners, consultants, specialists, phlebotomists, medical laboratory scientists, medical laboratory technicians and laboratory technical assistants; no matter the role of the professional each has a unique perspective that can be useful in a decision making or problem solving, or even thinking about a career move to another company or institution. Someone has been there before you.

And if that is not enough, think about every day you walk into work. Are there things you talk about to your colleagues that your spouse, significant other or friend simply would not understand why you look at it the way you do? Look around the room, laboratory professionals have a very specialized and unique view of the world. Sometimes that is good, sometimes that is not considered "normal." But "normal" is a very relative term. That is networking. So why not network beyond the boundaries of the lab and beyond the boundaries of your state, even beyond the boundaries of the United States? Someone will have the answer or the knowledge or simply the reassurance that your problems, or your project are not unlike someone else's. It just so happens that to you, at that moment, your problem or idea or is unique to you.

And lastly, do not just think outside of your facility and outside of your testing menu, think outside of your personal experience and your personal interactions. ASCLS is a professional network of professionals, colleagues and friends. Your "stress" for the day may be as simple as the dog did not make it outside in time and you have to clean it up, to hail damage on your care (no one in SD had that this year), to needing gas money or food money, or maybe even something more serious than that. When those little things happen, that are big to you, remember ASCLS is there for you as well. Trust me I know, as right now the outpouring of friends that know me and those that do not, are there to support me in the spirit of professionalism and the common bond known as ASCLS and the laboratory profession. That is the true value of ASCLS that no other organization can match and is a life-long value no matter what your position is or has been during your career. That value of ASCLS is each and every one of you.



Congratulations to Lezlee Koch on her nomination for the Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Meeting in Chicago.



**Be An ASCLS
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Recruit A New
Member!**

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www.ascls.org/join-ascls/join

Share **ASCLS's VOICE, VALUE & VISION** with your professional friends and colleagues! We all benefit when ASCLS grows! The more members we have in SD, the stronger our professional voice is here at home.

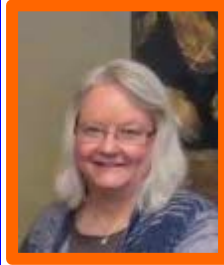
Recruitment tips & tools can be found at:

<http://www.ascls.org>
<http://www.ascls-sd.org/>



Board of Directors Update and Committee Needs!

By Pat Tille, ASCLS-SD President 2014-2015



Are you interested in government affairs and making a difference on capitol hill? Or are you interested in promoting the profession or even helping build membership? Have you ever wanted to help decide who will be speaking and what sessions will be offered at a professional meeting? If any of these areas sound interesting to you, the board is looking for some members to help with these committees. Please contact the president, Pat Tille at patille@live.com. This is your organization and we WANT YOU!

As members of the society, it is important for the Board of Directors to keep you informed of changes. In August, Deb Pravecek decided to step down from the board as the President-elect. After consulting with the nominations chair, Lezlee Koch, it was recommended that the board approach the three current board members at large, to identify who may be interested in moving to the President-elect position. This would allow the president to mentor and work with that individual so that they would be in a position to run for ASCLS President, should they choose in 2015. After approaching all three Board Members at Large, Stacie Lansink was the only one interested in moving into the position. After executive board discussion, a full board meeting and vote was required to approve Stacie's appointment to fill the vacancy. That vote was unanimous from the board.

Secondly, upon moving Stacie to fill the vacancy left by the resignation, the board was left with a one year vacancy in the board member at large position. Stacie had already completed all but the final year of that term on the board. The executive board recommended placing Deb Pravacek back into that position, so that when the full election occurred in the spring of 2015, a board member at large could be elected to a regular full term. That decision was also brought to the full board and approved unanimously. If you are interested in serving on the ASCLS-SD Board of Directors please feel free to contact the nominations committee representatives.



ASCLS SD Bylaws March 2014

Vacancies: In the event of a vacancy in the position of President, the President-Elect shall succeed to that office. Any other vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors may be filled by a vote of the Board at any regular or special meeting. As applicable, the new member of the Board of Directors shall serve until a successor is elected at the next annual meeting of the Society.



It's Time to Renew Your Professional Spirit! Plan on Attending the 2014 Fall Conferences





Opening Keynote: The Boston Marathon Disaster

By: Pam Kieffer, ASCLS-SD Secretary/Treasurer 2013-2014



Kelsey Brown

Krista Fleming

Erin Harms

Carlie Hoffman

Amanda Horn

Kae Januschka

Korrine Jones

Michelle Kaiser

Maria Confina-Labao

Camilla Lucero

Taylor Miller

Alissa Neigel

Allie Peterson

Mackenzie Pfeifle

Tatiana Robelia

Megan Rosol

Amanda Royseth

Jade Ternus

Brianne Weber

It was the third Monday in April, Patriots Day in Boston — the day reserved for the running of the Boston Marathon. It was a beautiful sunshine day on April 21, 2014, and this was the 118th marathon in Boston. It began like previous marathons in Boston. Runners from more than 90 countries participated in this event and more than twenty-three thousand runners started the 26.2 mile course. One-half million spectators had come to watch their friends and/or relatives run the course. Some of the spectators didn't know any of the runners, but they came to each year's event because they enjoyed watching the dedication of the runners cross the finish line

As the runners were coming closer to the finish line, the excitement in the crowd began to escalate. When over half the runners had crossed the finish line, an explosion occurred. This was about 2:50 pm Eastern Time. Only seconds later, a second explosion happened that was about 50-100 yards away from the first.

In a matter of minutes, all local hospitals in Boston were mobilized, one of which was Massachusetts General. As the Opening Keynote speaker at the ASCLS National Meeting on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, Walter "Sunny" Dzik, MD and co-director of the Blood Transfusion Service at Massachusetts General, provided us with some of his inside information about this tragic event. Many of the injuries were lower leg injuries — some patient's had some type of foot injury and some had no foot left, and then some patients had legs injuries or had no leg(s) left. None of the marathon runners were injured; but many of the innocent spectators were. It was later determined that the bombs were "pressure cooker" bombs placed on the ground, which when detonated, caused many small pieces of metal and parts of the pressure cooker to lodge in spectator's lower legs and feet. Spectators present, but not injured, reported to journalists about what they saw and how they felt at the time of the explosion. The ground shook when the bombs exploded, and spectators, as well as runners, rushed to help the injured and get them to safety. Only three died in this massacre but around 160 - 180 were injured.

In the Keynote, "Sunny" referenced the first Boston Massacre, March 5, 1770. This involved the killing of 5 colonists by British regulars. The presence of British troops in the city of Boston was increasingly unwelcome. This riot began as a street fight between a "patriot" mob that consisted of about 50 citizens throwing snowballs, stones, and sticks, and a squad of British soldiers. A British officer called in reinforcements when the British soldiers were being attacked. This resulted in the British firing into the mob, killing 3 on the spot and wounding 8 others, two of whom died later. The Boston Massacre was a single event leading to the Revolutionary War.

Although the Boston Massacre of 1770 and the Boston Marathon Disaster of 2014 were two different events that took place at two different times, the analogy is real. Both events resulted in deaths as well as the unwelcome presence of the British in 1770 and the unwelcome presence of two bombs created by Dzhokhar Tsarnaev in 2014.



**Region V Meeting in Alexandria, MN at
the Arrowwood Resort
October 9-10,2014**



Andrea Wittmayer

Adeline Wiertzema

WELCOME TO ASCLS_SD!



**VOLUTION... ASCLS-
SD**

Stacie Lansink, Editor



Education Scientific Assembly: Open Educational Resources (OER)

By: Alison Albertson, ASCLS-SD Education
Scientific Assembly Chair 2014-15



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