



TACLS News

TACLS Clinical Laboratory Conference

TACLS held its annual Clinical Laboratory Conference at the Hilton Austin North Hotel, April 3-5. The three-day conference included forty PACE approved sessions, including three exciting general sessions on Bioterrorism, Medical Research on the Space Shuttle, and Professional Issues. Also, twelve organizations displayed their products, or recruited employees and potential students. There were over 200 attendees including a large number of pre-CLS students from the University of Texas at Austin. As has been the case in previous meetings, the students outnumbered non-students, 2 to 1. The programs for students included three case study presentations by students from Southwest Texas State University, and sixteen poster presentations by students from various CLS programs, a session on career opportunities, and a panel of lab managers who discussed their expectations for new graduates. We also had Student Bowl with teams from M.D. Anderson, The Methodist Hospital, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, UT Health Science Center-San Antonio, and Temple College.

Thanks to all the members of the TACLS 2003 Conference Committee who worked so hard to provide a quality program for students and laboratory professionals. Committee members were Dave Falleur, Phil Kostroun, Terry Kotrla, Carolyn Ragland, Rod Rohde, Cecile Sanders, Becky See, and Jeff Shinn.

Next year's meeting will be in Houston, April 1-3 at the West Chase Hilton Hotel.



National Medical Laboratory Week, April 20-26

Send us your photos and a story about how you celebrated Lab Week at your laboratory. Send them via e-mail to dfalleur@swt.edu or mail them to:

Dave Falleur
TACLS News
313 Village West Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666



TACLS Member of the Year

Three TACLS members were nominated as Member-of-the-Year. Thomasine Newby of Tyler, Duncan Samo of Corpus Christi, and Sandra Tijerina of Edinburg. TACLS PF-1 and PF-2 members voted in March. There was a run-off election at the TACLS Business Meeting in Austin and

Duncan Samo was elected. Duncan received a plaque and a check in the amount of \$500. The check was presented to TACLS by Bill Murray of Infolab. Infolab has sponsored the Member of the Year Award for more than ten years. Congratulations to these outstanding laboratorians and special thanks to Infolab.



Thomasine Newby

District 7 nominated Thomasine Newby for this prestigious award because of her qualifications as a clinical laboratory scientist and her highly significant contributions to the clinical laboratory science community in the state of Texas, and nationally. Thomasine Newby is well known in Texas as well as nationally, having served as TACLS President in 1997-98, President Elect in 96-97, and Past President in 98-99. Her service to the state included board member 1993 to 96, chair of TACLS Strategic Planning Committee, District 11 President and an active member of the local society. Her contributions include being Region VII Secretary from 1996 to 1998, ASCLS Nomination committee from 1999 to 2001, Chair of ASCLS Nominations Committee and ASCLS Liaison to JCAHO. She has received the Omicron Sigma National Honor Role from 1993 to 2002, Keys to the Future in 1993, and TACLS H.A. Bardwell Award in 1999. She continues to be an active driving force in the Clinical Laboratory Science profession and has a distinguished career in the Industrial sector of health care.



Duncan Samo

Dallas District 4 nominated Duncan Samo for TACLS member of the year. Duncan has served TACLS at every level of the state society, including president, and has been on the Texas advisory board over ten years. Currently he is past-president of TACLS, Region VII PAC representative, and formally was Region VII secretary. In 2002, Duncan and colleague Lynn Ingram (TN) brought fun back to the national meetings with the "Texas n' Tennessee Boot Scoot & Boogie". Duncan heads the CLT/MLT program at Del Mar College, and hundreds of students have had Duncan as an excellent professional role model.

Sandra Tijerina

District 16 nominated Sandra Tijerina for Member of the Year. Sandra has been active on the state level for several years. She has served as the PACE Chairman for four years. This is a very time consuming job which involves summarizing PACE forms from all TACLS sponsored continuing education programs and review of education objectives and speaker qualifications in order to ensure compliance with PACE regulations. In addition she has served several terms on the State Nominations Committee. On the district level, Sandra has been the glue that has kept the district together for the last few years. Officially, she has served as the District Treasurer for eight years, President for one year and secretary for one year. Unofficially she has performed many other vital duties, which kept their district running. She has assisted the last several District Presidents by sending out the monthly meeting notices, identifying speakers and planning meetings. She has also assisted each year with the District's Golf Tournament. The purpose of this tournament is to raise money for student scholarships. She has attended all the annual state meet-

What Has TACLS Done For Me Lately?, Dave Falleur

A frequent question asked when recruiting new members or when considering renewal of your membership is why should I belong to this organization? What has it done for me? Here is a brief list of the recent activities of TACLS members in support of clinical laboratory professionals around the state.

On April 2, TACLS government affairs committee members visited legislators and their assistants at the state capitol in Austin. Earlier in March, TACLS members visited with Texas Senators and Representatives in Washington.

TACLS provided over 40 contact hours of continuing education credit at the Clinical Laboratory Conference in April.

TACLS board members have been working with a public relations firm to develop a public service announcement which will feature clinical laboratory professionals and the important work they do. The PSA will be broadcast on local television stations later this Spring.

TACLS supports students through scholarships, Student Bowl, Poster Sessions, Case Studies, and the Student Forum.

TACLS supports educators through sponsorship of

the Texas Clinical Laboratory Educators Meeting.

TACLS publishes a newsletter and hosts a web page with current information about issues affecting laboratory professionals.

TACLS will be developing an assessment of the shortage of clinical laboratory professionals in Texas and the impact that has on the quality of health care. This report will be presented to the Public Health Committees of the Senate and House.

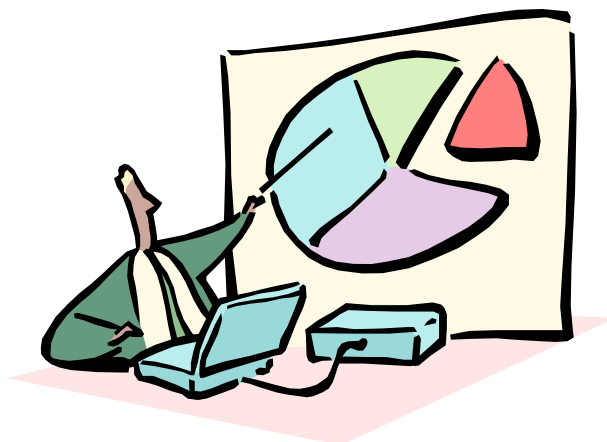


TACLS Conference CD

If you missed the TACLS Clinical Laboratory Conference in Austin you missed an excellent program, however you have a second chance! We have developed a CD with many of the speakers hand-outs on them. They are in either Adobe Acrobat Reader (PDF) format or Microsoft PowerPoint. The CD price is **only** \$10.00. To order

your copy, send your \$10.00 check to:

TACLS Clinical Laboratory Conference
P.O. Box 395
San Marcos, TX 78667



UT Southwestern Grad Aces Certification Exams

Sun-Young Son, who graduated *cum laude* from the Medical Laboratory Sciences Department at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas in August, 2002, earned the **highest score** (788) on the Board of Registry MT exam during the Fall cycle, and earned a 125 scaled score on the NCA exam. Sun completed the equivalent to a CLT program in South Korea before immigrating to the U.S. in 1996.

When she arrived in the U.S., Sun did not speak English. Six years later she earned her B.S. at UT Southwestern with only a single "B" on her transcript. Sun is now employed at Carter Blood Care in the Dallas area.



Student Bowl

There were five teams who competed in the Student Bowl Competition at the TACLS Conference in Austin. They included M.D. Anderson, The Methodist Hospital, UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, and Temple College. The first place winner was The Methodist Hospital, second place went to M.D. Anderson, and third place went to Texas A&M Corpus

Christi. The Methodist Hospital team included Kelley Key, Kelli Kammla, Gina Hill, Yu Li, and Jackie Jikaroon. The M.D. Anderson Hospital team included Jojo Sanjarjo, Mohammad Khan, Vincent Banzon, and Attila Kalocsay. The Texas A&M Corpus Christi team included Tracie Aden, Lori Autry, Brooke Young, and Elizabeth Gonzalez.



The Methodist Hospital Student Bowl Team



Texas A&M Corpus Christi Student Bowl Team



M.D. Anderson Hospital Student Bowl Team

TACLS Clinical Laboratory Conference, April 2003



TACLS Awards Ceremony

President John Wentz recognized the following TACLS members for their service to TACLS and ASCLS.

H.A. Bardwell Award

Duncan Samo

Presidential Merit Award

Dave Falleur

Member of the Year Nominees

Thomasine Newby

Duncan Samo

Sandra Tijerina

Key to the Future Award

Melissa Bowen

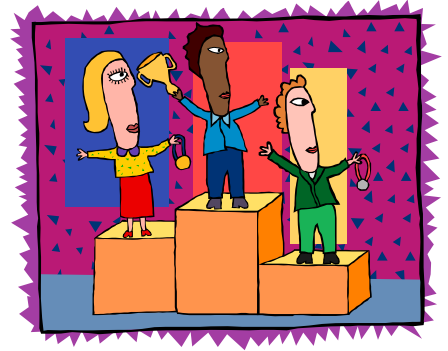
Cade Pippin

Sandy Wortman

Membership Awards

Thirty Years—Dave Falleur, Janet Hill, Dale Obermuller

Twenty Years—Janet Gabrielse, Lance Haase, Rebecca Hladky, Patricia Gibson, Becky See



Omicron Sigma Awards

The following TACLS members received an Omicron Sigma pin in cognition of their service to TACLS and ASCLS. Members who were recognized for service at the

National level:

Karen Chandler

Janet Englekirk

Vicki Freeman

Lynn Little

Karen McClure

David McGlasson

Shirlyn McKenzie

Isaac Montoya

Linda Smith

The following TACLS members were recognized for service at the

Regional level:

Duncan Samo

Becky See

John Wentz

The following TACLS members were recognized for service at the **State** level:

Joan Aldrich

Dave Falleur

Phil Kostroun

Karen Murray

Ellen Sanderson

Candace Schaper

Patricia Smith

Sandra Tijerina

Christina Thompson

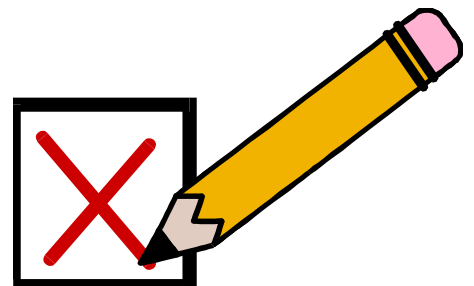
TACLS Elections

TACLS held its annual elections this Spring. Christina Thompson, from Aransas Pass, was elected President-Elect. Candace Schaper, San Antonio, was elected Treasurer. Dave Falleur, San Marcos, and Karen Chandler, Edinburg, were elected as Board Members at Large.

At the business meeting at the TACLS Clinical Laboratory Conference the following TACLS members were elected as delegates and alternates to the ASCLS House of

Delegates meeting in Philadelphia in July:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Joan Aldrich | Karen Murray |
| Linda Smith | Karen Chandler |
| Duncan Samo | Judy Baughman |
| Debbie Faubion | Dave Falleur |
| Lynn Little | Vicki Freeman |
| Ellen Sanderson | Carol Creech |

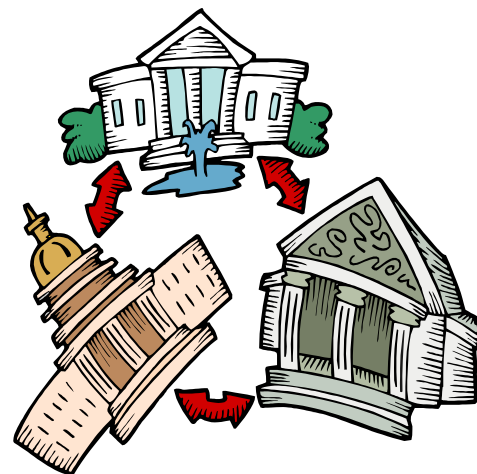


TACLS Legislative Day

TACLS members Duncan Samo, John Wentz, and Christina Thompson visited with their local state representatives as well as the House and Senate Chairs of the Public Health Committees. They created a document which provides information about the personnel shortage in Texas and its impact on the quality of health care. The document also addresses concerns about the future of educational programs. For a copy of this document, go to the following website:

www.tacls.org/

TACLS has been asked by the Chair of the House Public Health Committee to develop an interim report on the clinical laboratory personnel shortage in Texas. This report will be presented to the House and Senate Public Health Committees before the next legislative session. Future legislation could be developed from the findings of this study. Thanks to Duncan, John, and Christi, for taking the time to represent the concerns of all clinical laboratorians.



Silent Auction A Big Success, Karen Chandler

TACLS held its annual silent auction on April 4, 2003, in Austin, Texas. For the last several years, the silent auction has been a tradition at the annual meeting. Proceeds from the auction are divided between the Children's Miracle Network and the Student Scholarship Fund. It seems that each year more people participate by donating items or bidding on the items, which are available for auction. This year was no exception. The auction raised over \$1000.00. This is the largest amount that the auction has raised since its inception several years ago. Next year we would like to have a live auction at the Houston meeting. This will generate even more interest. Don't miss it!

On behalf of the TACLS Board, I would like to thank everyone who donated items for this worthy cause. The Board would also like to thank everyone who took the time to bid on the auction items.

The following people donated items this year:

Carol Creech, Linda Smith, Grace Taylor, Judy Baughman, Ellen Sanderson, Sandra Cabrera, Grace Taylor, and Karen Chandler. Also the following organizations donated items:

District XVI - Rio Grande Valley, District 6-Dallas, UTMB-CLS Program, UTPA CLS Program, M.D. Anderson CLS Program.



Upcoming Events

- National Medical Laboratory Week, April 20-26
- American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Annual meeting, July 22-26, Philadelphia
- Texas Clinical Laboratory Educators Meeting, August 15, Dallas
- TACLS Clinical Laboratory Conference, April 1-3, 2004, Houston



Moving?
Please send the attached address label and your corrected or new address to TACLS News, P.O. Box 474, Edinburg, TX, 78540-0474

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