

Students of Laboratory Science, Be Proud!

Joanna Ellis, Student Forum Chair



As an August graduate of the Texas State University Clinical Laboratory Science Program, the wave of relief and excitement is just settling over me. The journey was arduous. The sleepless nights and overwhelming amounts of information to comprehend, process, and repackage leave us thoroughly exhausted. The learner's fatigue can strip us of the desire to sift through professional websites and read ASCLS publications we view superfluous during this time of academic saturation. However, as your TACLS Student Forum Chair, I must inform you of the great disservice such an oversight is to you as a student and as a professional.

I was given the extraordinary honor and opportunity to attend the ASCLS Annual Meeting in San Diego, California. I want to thank Dave Falleur, Sandy Tijerina, and all of the students who voted for me during the TACLS meeting. It was an experience that reignited the excitement and energy I hope to always feel for my career. I am proud of the degree I hold, and proud of the organization that represents us. I want to let Texas students know some specific ways our professional organization is making us proud.

The outgoing ASCLS Student Forum Chair, Kyle Riding, hosted a series of student

meetings where we discussed issues that keep students from making a stronger impact on our national organization and the profession as a whole. We performed a SWOTS analysis and determined that students are generally inundated by assignments and information to absorb. Time is the biggest threat and the reason most students are reluctant to get involved. This translates into a serious weakness of our impact by limiting student commitment and membership. We discussed the importance of abolishing the misconception that getting involved means becoming an officer or dedicating every day off to the cause. Commitment to our profession can present itself in endless ways with varying time requirements. Examples are: getting involved locally to spread knowledge of the impending CLS shortage, recruiting new students, donating funds to the national Political Action Committee, writing or speaking with legislators, promoting licensure, attending annual conferences, and continued membership in ASCLS. Our greatest strengths are our dedication to the health of our nation, amazing leadership, and the hope that a unified voice increased in numbers will move our profession forward in the future.

During the student meetings we elected John Whetstone as the ASCLS 2008 Student Forum Chair. He is also a member of our Region VII from Louisiana. John is highly motivated and interested in maximizing involvement from students. Christopher Olsen from Colorado is Vice Chair and Kate Code is secretary. The officers were interested in beginning an ASCLS student blog on the ASCLS website. I am a member of the blog committee and welcome any ideas of what postings you find important.

The annual meeting is well known for its informative and inspiring continuing education sessions, business meetings, and scientific assemblies. I participated in a focus group with Lehman Millet who is working with ASCLS and

Students Be Proud Continued on Page 7

Students Be Proud (from page 6)

Abbott to generate a recruiting video aimed at high school students. Their ideas were hip and portrayed our career as a noble endeavor. I attended a session where Tim Randolph described the barriers facing those interested in bringing laboratory services to utterly impoverished areas of the world, such as Haiti. Dr. James Griffith from the University of Massachusetts delivered a disturbing view of the effects of global warming on infectious diseases. Rick Panning and Gilma Roncancio-Weemer discussed licensure issues in their states of Minnesota and Illinois where they have battled tirelessly and are on the edge of a successful quest for qualified and licensed laboratory professionals. Louisiana representative, Patsy Jarreau, gave helpful tips for how Louisiana achieved this ultimate goal. These are just a few of the sessions that show the span of impact our profession has on the world.

Dr. Shirlyn McKenzie of the University of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio has passed the presidential torch to Rick Panning of Minnesota. Under Dr. McKenzie the Leadership Academy was founded to teach members the skills to become the future of ASCLS, a video is being generated to present to hospital officials and legislatures entitled "A Day Without The Lab", and more visibility for our profession has been realized. Mr. Panning has large shoes to fill, but his inaugural speech was galvanizing. His quote from Paul Wellston spoke to me. "If we don't fight hard enough for the things we stand for, at some point we have to realize we don't really stand for them. Passion is not enough. Action is required."

The message that I received from this annual meeting was laboratorians provide invaluable services to our nation and our world. It is NOT just a degree you are struggling to make it through or just a paycheck at the end of a stressful work period. Ours is a noble endeavor that has earned your pride and promotion.

Faculty Positions at Texas State University-San Marcos

Assistant/Associate Professor, Clinical Laboratory Science, tenure-track. Review of applications begins October 1, and will continue until positions are filled.

Teaching areas include immunohematology/immunology or clinical chemistry/clinical microscopy in an undergraduate CLS program. A background in molecular diagnostics is also helpful. Other duties include coordination of clinical education experiences with clinical affiliates in the Central Texas area. These positions are for a 9-month contract with possible summer employment. Salary is negotiable. Applications from minority populations and those who are bilingual (Spanish) are encouraged. Texas State University-San Marcos is an AA/EOE employer.

Master's Degree required, Doctorate preferred from a regionally accredited institution and at least three years of clinical laboratory experience. Certification as a Clinical Laboratory Scientist or Medical Technologist by a national certification agency is preferred, however applicants with other professional certifications will be considered. Applicants must have a sufficiently strong background to establish and maintain a research program in their area of expertise.

Applicants should submit a letter of application/intent, curriculum vita, and a list of three references to:

Dave Falleur, Chair
Clinical Laboratory Science Program
Texas State University-San Marcos
601 University Drive
San Marcos, TX 78666