

# Turn-Around-Timesm, October 2004

## The Prez Says

President

Mary Lashinski, CLSA State

Here I am, your new President of CLSA reporting for duty. First of all, I would like to thank all the CLSA members who agreed to the nomination and to be on the ballot at our April General Membership Meeting. I congratulate the winners in your new position in CLSA. I am finding out there are some states that have not been able to fill their highest offices and still other states that have merged with a neighbor state because of lack of volunteers and leadership. I have recently contacted the committee chairs and most are willing to continue at their position. We have a great group of volunteer leaders for all members to turn to or to want to be a part of (we do have a few open positions) and I thank you all for the time and expertise you offer to CLSA.

I attended the 72<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, CSI-LA, in July as part of the Alaskan Delegation. With the governance schedule, scientific sessions, roundtables, workshops, and exhibit hall with more than 550 companies, we stayed very busy. There were many governance meetings and scientific sessions that will be helpful for the year ahead. We are in an ever changing profession and we are going to have to make some changes to help keep our society going.

We need to identify strategies for improving the visibility of our profession through community outreach. The media has helped us out recently with its news reports on Bioterrorism and weekly TV shows like CSI. We need to see what we can do locally so everyone will know what a Clinical Laboratory Scientist is. This in turn will help us to get more high school students interested in the field.

We need to encourage new members to join our society. It is common that professional careers have organizations that they are recognized through and are a part of. Less than 30% of CLS/CLT professionals belong to any laboratory organization. Many of our colleagues do not think it is important to be a part of our society until something affects them and it is too late. We need to change this thinking and each sign up a co-worker. Our society will gain strength by having more numbers and we will be recognized.

Do you remember what it was like your first day or week on the job, or when you first stepped into the lab for your practical training as a student? Recognize that everyone adjusts to new surroundings/instruments/co-workers in a different way. We could have up to four generations of laboratory professionals in one workplace. With each generation and person coming from a different background which could affect their values, attitudes, and expectations of the job. We need to put ourselves in their place as we are orienting that new person. We need to understand their thought process even if it is different from ours. We cannot afford to loose them. A mentorship program might be a big help to students as they are going through their classes and when they reach the job force. Would you be willing to be on a list of Clinical Laboratory Scientists willing to be a mentor?

Continuing Education, Networking, and Teamwork are a very important part of this organization. With all Laboratory Professionals being a part of ASCLS/CLSA we will

make the title of CLS/CLT as common place as RN/LPN.

## The Power of a Well-Said “Thank-You”

How our very own Sheri Kulhanek came to hug the President, Board Chairman, and CEO of Dade Behring is a story that needs to be shared. And you’ll want to know *why* she wanted to!

See the amazing account of how CLSA’s “thank you” to Dade Behring turned into \$1.25 million in scholarships for undergraduate training of tomorrow’s laboratorians.

It’s too big for Turn Around Times... see the story online at [www.clsaonline.org](http://www.clsaonline.org)

### Reflections

Sheri Kulhanek, President

As my year as President of CLSA comes to a close, I reflect back on all that has been accomplished in the past year. For some it may seem that the year has progressed slowly into the present time. For me, it has been a time of fast paced learning and exciting developments for ASCLS. Being President of CLSA has given me a closer look at the inner workings of our organization and the amazing people that volunteer part of their lives as well as their time, money and energies for the benefit all of us. Many of those people are among us. I cannot thank all of you enough for all of your words of encouragement and support. Sometimes, it was all that was needed to energize me and get things going again. An organization like CLSA is kept alive by each and every member doing whatever they can, contributing their talents and helping their friends and colleagues to achieve higher goals. You have all given me so much and together we have accomplished many things.

This year we enjoyed a wealth of education and networking at our annual conference. We have seen many student members complete their degrees and enter the profession. And our membership has steadily grown in numbers. This has been a great year for me!

Working together and continuing to support one another, our vision for the future of our profession and for CLSA will become stronger. Stay involved, support your leadership and always appreciate how far we have come and those who have made the journey with us .

### Congratulations!!

Sheri Kulhanek, Past President

One of the most **rewarding** duties as President of CLSA is recognizing the effort and contributions of our members. In the 2003-2004 year, there were many who volunteered their time, energy and resources to make CLSA successful. There are a number of awards given each year in recognition and thanks for all that has been accomplished on behalf of all of the members and the profession. It was an honor to present the following members with awards at the 2004 CLSA Annual State Conference.

<u>Member of the Year</u>	<u>Volunteer of the Year</u>	<u>Keys to the Future</u>	<u>Omicron Sigma</u>
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Heidi Mannion

Lana Assyd

Mary Lashinski

Lana Assyd

Mary Lashinski

Heidi Mannion                      Heidi Mannion                      Karen Martin                      Ryan Carroll

Karen Martin    Teresa Johnson                      Teresa Johnson

Sue Myers    Gloria Kragness

As the ASCLS Member of the Year nominee for the state of Alaska, Heidi Mannion was invited to attend the national awards ceremony at the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Los Angeles in July 2004. Heidi was not able to attend, but it was my privilege to stand in for her at the awards ceremony. It is truly an honor to be nominated for this award and every nominee is recognized before their peers and presented with a plaque.

The 2004 ASCLS Member of the Year award went to Kathy Hansen. Although only one deserving member can win the award, we were proud to have Heidi as our nominee!

Another exciting award that was **also** presented to Heidi Mannion was the ASCLS Education and Research Fund “Allegiance Graduate Research Award”. It is a scholarship awarded for work on a research project. Heidi’s project, “Decentralized versus Centralized Phlebotomy: A Comparison of Effectiveness and Efficiency” was chosen for the award.

As anyone can see we have many talented people in our organization!!

*Many thanks and congratulations to all of our award winning members!*

## **North by Northwest**

Heidi Smith, Director, ASCLS Region IX

This past July at the ASCLS Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, the outgoing Student Forum Representative, Robbie Peetz, set up three different student meetings. At one of these meetings she asked available members of the Board of Directors to come and meet the students and talk with them. I was available at that time so I went. After walking what seemed like about three miles inside the Los Angeles Convention Center, I finally found the room. After we introduced ourselves, Robbie had each of the Board members sit at different tables and talk with the students at that table. I happened to pick a table full of students from The Medical College of Georgia. There were about ten or twelve students from that one school there. They asked a lot of the usual questions but one question in particular struck me.

One young man from MCG asked me if I thought there was a “generation gap” in ASCLS. He struggled with finding the correct terminology since he obviously didn’t want to offend me. And I thought “generation gap” was a particularly good one. Unfortunately, I didn’t have time to completely answer his question as Robbie had other activities scheduled for these students. But basically, I agreed with him. We DO know that there is a generation gap and it is disturbing. The “old folks” (I can say that because I am one) are very concerned and trying to figure out what to do about this phenomenon. The students are members primarily because of two reasons: 1) they probably have at least one instructor that says they have to join so they can get the discounted rate at the spring and fall seminars; and 2) the state society pays their membership. For students it is a no-brainer. Then we skip about 10-15 years and you have all the gray heads. These are

the people who put on the meetings, are all the officers and on all the committees and who get to go to the national meeting as delegates. Quite frankly, most of us in the “gray head” category wouldn’t know how NOT to be an active member.

But what happened in those intervening 10-15 years? This is the group we so desperately need to join up and become active. The students will graduate and get jobs. Many will have student loans that will need to be paid off. Many will marry and start families. So they will have other priorities for their dollars. But annual membership for a PFI in ASCLS is less than \$10.00 a month. As a matter of fact it is only \$8.50 a month for most states this year. That is less than the cost of one (good) pizza. And the FYP is even less. So why don’t they keep their membership up??

I think of membership in ASCLS as similar to the foundation of a house. When you build a house, you think of “a roof over your head”. But that roof wouldn’t last very long without a good foundation to support it. Clinical Laboratory Science is the profession that provides me with a roof over my head. It pays the bills and puts food on the table. It buys my car and pays to maintain it. CLS gets me where I want to go. And my membership in ASCLS is the foundation that my profession is built on. ASCLS has provided me with the tools to grow professionally as well as technically. It has supported the roof over my head.

If today’s students are concerned about the “generation gap” I challenge them to do two things:

1) **MAINTAIN YOUR MEMBERSHIP**, even through the hard times. We have all gone through times when money was not the most plentiful thing we had. But if you maintain your membership through the next 5 – 10 years, you will personally be doing something positive about the generation gap. And you will be in a prime position in a few years to take over the leadership of your professional organization. And 2) in your first job, ask one of your fellow employees who is also a recent graduate if they are a member of ASCLS. And if they are not, **GET THEM TO JOIN!** If each student were to do these two things, we just may be able to solve this problem yet and dissolve the generation gap.

## **Are You Looking for Greater Service in YOUR Organization?**

There are several key positions available within the ranks of CLSA for 2005-2006.

We are always looking for ***new leadership*** to perhaps take us in new and exciting directions.

The positions available are:

President-elect (3 year position, begin as President-elect, progress to President then Past-president)

Director, Southeast District (3 year position)

Secretary (2 year position)

**Nominations & Elections (2 positions)** (1 year for each)

If you are interested in any of these position please feel free to contact me. Even if you don't feel that you are ready to take on a position of responsibility, but would like to be a part of CLSA in greater measure perhaps by serving on a committee or helping out with some task, please contact me with your interest. This is your organization. Together, we make it work for all of our members and help to make ASCLS a stronger voice. Any amount of time and effort that you can contribute **will** make a difference.

Sheri Kulhanek, Nominations & Elections

[akcherokee@aol.com](mailto:akcherokee@aol.com)

## Attention ALL!

DID YOU KNOW YOU ARE GREATLY NEEDED IN ALASKA?

Alaska Health Fair is a non-profit organization that relies on volunteers statewide to provide opportunities for Alaskans to receive low cost blood tests and free health education & screenings.

Each year, Chemistry and Hematology tests are offered at over 115 health fair sites in Alaska. More than 10,000 people had their blood drawn while attending health fairs last year alone.

**Qualified volunteers are greatly needed to help draw blood samples from health fair participants at sites throughout Alaska.** Health fairs vary in size and while some sites need only 2 or 3 people drawing blood, some large sites may need up to 25 friendly, experienced folks collecting blood samples.

Health fairs are held both during the week and on Saturdays during the Fall, starting in September and in the Spring. Volunteer opportunities are available for all sites and for 2 to 6 hours per site.

If you have the skills to draw blood and would like to help serve your community, please contact Alaska Health Fair at 278-0234 or check out our website for Volunteer Applications at [www.healthfair.ak.org](http://www.healthfair.ak.org). And yes, you are greatly needed.

Thank you,

Angie Hamill, MT (ASCP), Lab Manager, Alaska Health Fair.

Sandy Burnham, Executive Director  
Fall 2004

**Need continuing education credits to maintain your career certification?**

**Check out the UAA Capstone Seminar Schedule**

PACE credit is provided through CLSA and seminars are open to the public.

## UAA Capstone Seminar Schedule– Fall 2004

Date	Topic	Speaker
September 3	Introduction to Forensic Science and the State Crime Lab	John Giacalone- Crime Lab
September 10	Basic Flow Cytometry	Gloria Kragness-UAA
September 17		

September 24	JCAHO Regulatory Issues including Tracer Methodology	Karen Hursh-VA
October 1	Things that go Bump in the Night	Judy Cope- ARH
October 8	Update on Cardiovascular Disease Testing	Felicia Czekaj- Providence
October 15	Testing for Urine Drugs of Abuse	Eileen Nickoloff-Providence
October 22	DNA Forensics	Abirami Chidambaram
October 29	Anti-phospholipid Antibody	Sherrill Jones
November 5	Student Presentation	Janice McCrary
November 12	Student Presentation	Deanna Miner
November 19	Student Presentation	Danielle Maruska
November 26	Thanksgiving – No classes	
December 3	Student Presentation	Clayton Simpson
December 10	Student Presentation	Mako Mizobe

Capstone Seminar is held from 3-5 PM in room AHS 147. Seminars are 1-1.5 hours in length with a question and answer period after the seminar. Parking is free on Fridays at the University. PACE credit is provided through CLSA and is open to the public

## Industrial Liaison Report

Sharlane Donaldson

Rarely does so much technology converge under one roof as was present at the joint **AACC/ASCLS convention**, held this year in Los Angeles the final week of July. The exhibitor list was a veritable “who’s who” of the well known to the unknown... from AACC to Zhongshan Biotech... with every letter of the alphabet and every shade of familiarity in between, six hundred or so strong (who could count??) The gamut of product lines was there, from high tech like Large Volume DNA Isolation to low tech like Large Volume Trash Containers. New assays like Cystic Fibrosis Mutation Detection Products were side by side with new versions of old tests like HbA<sub>1c</sub> and H. pylori. See a CBC on a credit card size device, or see it on a huge system. And of course, one can hardly forget the attention grabbers, from the obnoxious (a bright orange Semi trailer that dominated the convention center skyline) to the cuddly (plush stuffed black labs at the ASCLS booth).

Funny thing, though, for all the thousands of things to be seen (and ultimately purchased) there were items on my wish list for our rural labs that were nowhere to be found. On the other end of the spectrum, there were items that no one in Alaska even dreams of having in their lab. We are a unique mix here in our state, a place where big geography and small volumes coexist and we do our best to meet the needs of our population.

***In closing, one significant piece of industry news*** .. Inverness Medical (which is currently best known to us as the owner of Wampole) recently won a significant settlement for patent infringement against two large manufacturers of EIA pregnancy tests. The technology is the basic lateral flow membrane platform that we use every day for our rapid tests. This situation bears watching: the potential exists for it to affect other

analytes, cause price increases, result in kits being withdrawn from the market, even affect the survival of well-established companies. Stay tuned!

## **CSI-LA: Small Town Girl Hits the Big Time**

Sharlane Donaldson

Through a wonderful set of circumstances, I had the privilege of being a CLSA delegate at the joint national meeting of AACC and ASCLS in LA. This report shares some impressions and experiences with those who we represented—you, our fellow laboratory professionals in Alaska.

Stories and events tumble around in my brain, and the urge to recite them in detail is strong. Since we don't use Parcel Post to mail TAT, I lecture myself: Resist the urge to talk about 'the experience'—the great shopping just outside the hotel door, wonderful eateries, the stars on Hollywood Blvd, the fun of rooming with a like-minded professional and having a maid make our beds, thoughts about earthquakes from the 15<sup>th</sup> floor of a downtown LA hotel, or sore feet. No, the lecture continues, Be professional: report on educational sessions, business meetings, the mammoth exhibit hall, and first impressions of our national organization.

**BIG** is a word that characterizes much of the experience, especially the events shared with AACC. The Exhibit floor was massive and very international. It seems everyone from everywhere was there to either buy or sell and in some cases, both. (See my Industrial Liaison report for more details) The sessions were big (at least some of them) and so were the names of many of the presenters. The number of delegates at the business meeting was overwhelming, and big issues were on the agenda.

My favorite educational session was on Diabetes and was taught by Dr Anne Peters Harmel, the head of the very progressive diabetes program at nearby USC. Anne's presentation was extremely informative and I have a personal goal of getting her to Alaska for our convention as well as any other professional meetings we can arrange. What was doubly fun about the timing of the meeting was that Anne is the physician of Gary Hall Jr., the Olympic swimmer, and she was on her way to Athens. Gary, a Type 1 diabetic, won Gold in the 50-meter event and Anne has filed reports on "Medscape" about their Athens experience.

Another privilege was meeting and hearing Dave McGlasson. Having worked hard to get him to AK in April for CLSA and then being unable to attend the conference, I was very happy to be in his presentations in LA.

The ASCLS House of Delegates had two major discussion items, one a "career pathway" and the other, as explained by Ryan Carroll in his report, the proposed Masters' level entry requirement. My personal sense is that the two camps on these issues largely come down to the difference in perspective between educators and those actually working in the field.

Being a delegate to "National" was a wonderful experience and I thank CLSA for the opportunity to be one of your representatives.

## **ASCP Certification 2004 and Beyond**

Marcia Souser , TAT Editor

If you become ASCP certified **beginning** in 2004, you will be required to complete the Certification Maintenance Program every three years for your certification to remain valid. Most career categories require a minimum of 36 points within the three year period.

*By serving on committees/boards related to the profession (national, state, region, local), you can earn up to 2 points per year!*

*\*\*What a great opportunity to volunteer your time and earn points at the same time!\*\*\**

Check out the ASCP website for more information on the CMP requirements.  
[www.ascp.org](http://www.ascp.org)

## **A Student's Perspective**

Ryan Carroll, MT Practicum Student

Believe it or not, Los Angeles in July was very nice; too much smog but great weather. I had the opportunity to attend the National ASCLS conference held in downtown Los Angeles. The expo was held at LA's enormous convention center along with some of the education programs; the rest of the meetings and education programs were at the Hyatt Regency Hotel six blocks away from the convention center.

As student representative for Alaska and Region IX, I started off at the student forum orientation and quickly learned about the politics and the tasks of the delegates and other jobs that lay ahead. I highly recommend for students and First Year Professionals (FYP) to stay active in their state organization as well as ASCLS. ASCLS makes decisions that effect all laboratorians and gives us a voice to be heard my all.

To be honest, I went into medicine hoping to be far from politics. I found out politics play a huge role in healthcare. A topic that was debated for hours on the last day at the conference in the House of Delegates was what position ASCLS would give to NCCLS about having a Masters in Medical Technology as entry level for Clinical Scientists. As laboratorians we need to be active in our state chapter and elect leaders who share our views. These are the people at the national conference who are voting on important issues. The House of Delegates could not reach a decision and has decided to wait for near completed research to be tallied before bringing the issue back to the House. One position states that there is already a shortage in our workforce, and making entry level a master's degree will only make it harder to fill these positions. The opposition gives the argument that Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy have already gone to master's level education and have received higher wages and more respect from other healthcare personnel.

A concern addressed by everyone and the topic of the closing keynote address was student retention, and getting the youth interested in laboratory sciences. Delegates unanimously added a new bylaw for a new position on the Board of Directors. The position is 'First Year Professional' (FYP), and will be held by the Student Chair in their second year on the Board of Directors. Student representatives from all the states elect a Student Chair who also sits with the Board of Directors. Once completing a year as Student Chair that person then becomes First Year Professional on the Board of Directors. This new position is an attempt to allow for ideas and opinions of a younger generation to infiltrate into the Board of Directors. Robbe Peetz from Nebraska was Student Chair and is now the first to take the FYP position.

The education programs were from all aspects of clinical science. The opening keynote was amazing. The two hour seminar was given by M. Lee Goff, PhD in Forensic Science and specialist in entomology at the University of Honolulu. He had an eye catching PowerPoint and gave a great presentation on how his team at U of H used insects to determine the time of death of an individual. We found out how maggots play an integral part in this whole process. Oh, and of course there were all kinds of pictures to go along the subject; the most interesting was how people's pets help to determine the time of death. Cats will start feeding on their master's carcass immediately and start on the mandible, while dogs will wait until they have almost starved to death and then proceed to the abdomen. The exception is poodles and cocker spaniels: Doctor Groff found that these two breeds behave in the same manner as cats.

My favorite session was 'HIV Challenges Science: Are We Losing the Battle' presented by John E. Lewis, PhD at Loma Linda University. He gave staggering statistics on the number of infected individuals in the United States and the "resource-poor" regions of the world. A large part of the problem in the "resource-poor" countries is that people are not educated on safe-sex or do not have access to the materials. Society plays a huge role; in African society safe-sex is often looked at in a negative light.

*I had a great time and enjoyed my trip as student representative. I highly suggest that all students and young professionals stay active with CLSA and ASCLS. Become active members and work on committees that will advance our profession.*

## **Important Dates to Remember**

National Medical Laboratory Symposium Portland, OR	October 20-23, 2004
Clinical Laboratory Educator's Conference Williamsburg, VA	February 24-26, 2005
Legislative Symposium Washington DC	March 21-22, 2005
National Medical Laboratory Week	April 24-30, 2005
CLSA Annual Conference	Spring 2005
ASCLS Annual Meeting Orlando, FL	July 26-30, 2005

**Children's Miracle Network**  
Public/Professional Affairs

Sheri Kulhanek, Chair,

Once again, we put together a fundraising event to support the Children's Miracle Network at our annual state conference. The Children's Hospital at Providence in Anchorage is the recipient of all the funds we raise. Our money stays right here in our great state and goes toward OUR children's care.

For this year's fundraiser we had a series of drawings held at various times throughout the conference. The main table of items was set up in the exhibit hall. There were so many fantastic items donated from all over Alaska! Each day, with the help of our UAA student members, tickets were sold and drawings were held. In addition to all the fun, we managed to raise \$1400.00 for CMN!!!

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, I was invited to Providence Hospital to do an on-air check presentation to the Children's Miracle Network at their annual telethon. As always, everyone was very excited that CLSA would be there for the television broadcast. It's really rewarding when we can see the good our efforts provide for the children of Alaska and their families.

Thanks so much to everyone for bringing such special and unique items for the drawings and for encouraging everyone to buy tickets during the conference. Special thanks to the UAA MLT Club students!! They worked very hard not only at the conference with set up and ticket sales, but also beforehand gathering items for the drawings. Some of the most incredible items were supplied by our student members. The Japanese prints, baby quilt, afghan, embroidered clothing items as well as many of the excellent gift certificates were all the work of our students!! Many thanks; we couldn't have done it without you!

It's great to do something worthwhile for those in your community. We do this each day in our work and daily lives and in the extra effort we make for the Children's Miracle Network. At the ASCLS annual meeting in L.A. in July, CLSA was once again recognized as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest contributor to the Children's Miracle Network among all 50 of the ASCLS state societies

**GREAT JOB EVERYONE, THANK YOU!**

## **On-Line Membership Renewal** Membership Chair

Mary Lashinski,

Is your membership current? Do you recall getting a notice in the mail earlier this summer, or maybe more than one? In looking through the membership roster it looks like there are a few of you that thought you would get around to it later. Now is the time! You don't even need to find that renewal form that was sent to you, you can do it all on line. Just go to <http://www.ascls.org> from there go to the *members section*. Enter your user name and password, or if you have never logged on you can register here. Once you are registered you can **renew your membership online**.

After the renewal is done for another year don't log off yet. I would like each and every one of you (even if you have already renewed) to click on **modify your membership profile**. On this page you can edit or correct your name, email, work or home address information. As membership chair for CLSA it is very important that the information that is listed is really what you are now using. If you happened to not get a renewal notice maybe you moved and it just never got to you. Please fill in all information so the state leadership will be able to contact you if needed, including email if you have one. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need help with renewal or modifying.

**Your paid ACSLS membership is valid from August 1 to July 31.** The only exception to that is if you are a **brand new member** signing up at spring conference time. Your membership is then good through the following July. It is like getting 15 or 16 months for the price of 12 months. Remember this is **new members only** and I think some of us have been confused by this in the past.

### **The American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science**

Promotes the *VALUE* of the clinical laboratory science profession in all arenas possible.

Strives to be the *VOICE* for the laboratory practitioner in the workplace, the classroom, the community, the legislative arena, and all for the good health of the public..

Is actively defining the *VISION* of the future of the profession.

### **Newsflash: Lifescan Users** Industrial Liaison

Sharlane Donaldson,

If you are responsible for Point of Care glucose testing run on a LifeScan system, you will want to read this warning letter dated August 16 sent by FDA to LifeScan. It's long but there is some "real stuff" in it that bears watching.

[http://www.fda.gov/foi/warning\\_letters/g4909d.htm](http://www.fda.gov/foi/warning_letters/g4909d.htm)

There does not appear to be a new product recall related to this letter.

### **National Medical Laboratory Week Committee Chair**

We have an opening for the position of committee chair for National Medical Laboratory Week. The precious chair was Gloria Kragness, and she is very willing to help anyone who might be interested in this position. She did a wonderful job last year and has all the information to pass on to help you through your first year. This in an appointed position in CLSA. Anyone interested in volunteering for NMLW Chair, please contact Mary Lashinski-CLSA President.

Email: [mary.lashinski@bannerhealth.com](mailto:mary.lashinski@bannerhealth.com) Phone: 907-488-1460

