



# NewsScope

## 2010 ASCLS National Annual Meeting – A First Timers' Perspective

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As a student and recent graduate and new professional in Medical Laboratory Science, it was an honor for us to be present in Anaheim, California for the 2010 ASCLS 78<sup>th</sup> Annual National Meeting in July to represent ASCLS Iowa and ASCLS Region VI. This was my (Shawn's) first time attending an ASCLS National meeting and the second time for Tara. The week's schedule was packed with meetings and social opportunities. The atmosphere was prime for networking, learning and refreshing memories at scientific sessions, and even catching a few rays at the Hyatt pool. After all, the scientific session on Vitamin D's clinical applications demonstrated that most of us could use a prescription for more of the sunshine vitamin!

Some of the scheduled events that we attended throughout the week included Student Forum Orientation, Business Meeting and Elections, various committee meetings such as Leadership Development, Membership Recruitment, Patient Safety, and New Professionals. Then of course we must include the expansive exhibition hall, displaying state-of-the-art laboratory instruments and cutting-edge testing technology and products. We managed to return to the hotel with all sorts of promotional tokens of lab affection, and even bottles of spice rub for cooking!



L-R Tara Sorensen, Shawn Froelich, Lindsey Davenport-Landry, Meighan Sharp, Kim VonAhsen, Jan Frerichs, Keri Erickson, Mick Williams



L-R Tara Sorensen, Jan Frerichs, Shawn Froelich

One of the most memorable events at the meeting was the ASCLS President's Reception and Education and Research Fund Silent Auction. There was some dancing involved, and a twist on a musical chairs scavenger hunt. Who knew that lab professionals could be so much fun when they are not working? One definite perk of the event was the dessert buffet complete with a chocolate fountain.

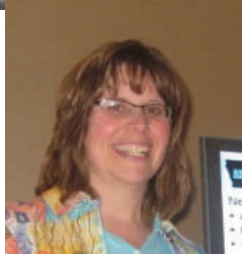
Perhaps the most striking event was the Awards Ceremony. For those of you who have not attended before, imagine a ballroom filled with laboratory professionals from all different states, backgrounds, and ages all being recognized for the value of each of their contribution to medical laboratory science. ASCLS members received awards in numerous areas such as research, leadership, and advancement of the profession. We even received the Keys to the Future award along with Meighan Sharp. It was an inspirational event that validated our decision to join the profession that awards its workers every day by giving patients quality test results to aid in their care.

The closing keynote speaker delivered a powerful talk emphasizing that Medical Laboratory Scientists are "wanted now more than ever." As MLSs we must join forces with ASCLS and work to retain and recruit current and new members of ASCLS so that our profession can have a strong voice in this time of critical need for more medical laboratory professionals.

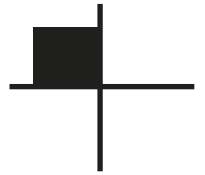
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### How ASCLS works for you....

#### Networking opportunities for you.

Question about instrumentation, procedures, or regulations? ASCLS has list serves available where you can ask questions from your fellow professionals throughout the nation.

Questions about your career path? ASCLS has a mentoring program available. Looking at a role in Leadership? ASCLS offers Leadership Development. Our state society has 3 graduates of the Leadership Academy (Kim Von Ahsen, Theresa Ortner, and Lindsey Davenport Laundry). Meighan Sharp is currently attending the Leadership Academy.

Questions about workplace issues? Since ASCLS is the organization of Laboratory Professionals, we can offer support for your unique workplace challenges. Through our state and national meetings, we have a place where you can network in person. Our list Serves also provide a resource in this area.

Looking at career opportunities? Through networking and job postings, you can access different career opportunities. Last July, ASCLS-IA sent 6 delegates to the National Meeting in Anaheim, CA. These delegates represented Iowa at various national committees and at the National Board Meeting.

#### Advocating on Laboratory issues to lawmakers and governmental agencies.

Last year, ASCLS worked to repeal competitive bidding .

Currently, ASCLS is representing Laboratories regarding proposed regulations requiring a provider's signature on all orders (including nursing home and reference lab orders). ASCLS is continuing to work on revising the Laboratory Fee Schedule.

#### Empowering and educating you about Legislative decisions impacting your daily life.

Through our email campaigns, we are disseminating information faster than ever. The more voices heard, the stronger our message. Last year, ASCLS-IA sent 3 members on your behalf to Legislative Day in Washington, DC. These members spoke with our Iowa state senators and representatives about Healthcare issues.

#### Promoting your profession.

Using Facebook, Twitter and the ASCLS website , ASCLS provides information to the general public about Laboratory Science. Lindsey Davenport Laundry along with her Leadership Development class developed a video about the Laboratory Profession. Through the " Providing the Face campaign", ASCLS is promoting our profession both nationally and locally. ASCLS also represents the Laboratory Profession to governmental agencies and professional organizations. For the Public Health Day in Des Moines, 2 ASCLS-IA members (Theresa Ortner and Jan Frerichs) were there to support the Iowa Department of Public Health.

#### Improving people's health and safety

The ASCLS Consumer Task Force answers internet questions from the general public and the ASCLS Patient Safety committee has developed patient resources for your use. As one of the sponsors for Lab Tests Online, ASCLS offers an accurate online resource.

#### Providing Education .

ASCLS offer timely and applicable continuing education: ASCLS-IA provides an Annual Spring meeting, allowing you to network with your colleagues while meeting your continuing education needs. Our upcoming state meeting will be held in conjunction with Nebraska at the La Vista Conference Center April 13-15, 2011.

ASCLS works for all Laboratory Professionals. Now that you are aware of what ASCLS provides both locally and nationally, share this information with 3 fellow professionals. Your membership matters!

## Did you hear?.....

Meighan Sharp has been selected to serve on the ASCLS Patient Safety Committee at the National level. The Patient Safety Committee serves to advance understanding of the laboratory professional's role in patient safety, and is dedicated to research, education, and the promotion of best practices that allow clinical laboratory professionals to deliver safe laboratory testing and services. The committee provides tools, resources, and educational materials to improve safety for all patients served.

You may access these tools and materials to help you educate your clients by going to [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) and click on "Committee" option. Scroll down to the alphabetical option for Patient Safety Committee and there are many Adobe and Word documents that you can download and customize specifically designed for education of patients and their testing. It had to take numerous

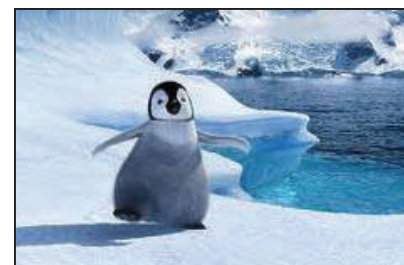


man-hours to put this info together so we give these dedicated professionals a round of applause and wish Meighan all the best !

## Iowa and the ASCLS Awards Part 1

Iowa was well represented at the 2010 ASCLS National Annual Meeting. There are many categories to nominate members to be recognized at the national level. There are also awards for websites and newsletters and papers and the list is quite long! This past year our very own Mick Williams was nominated for ASCLS Member of the Year. There were 17 nominees and we thought for

sure our Mick would win! He was happy to be nominated. Although he didn't bring home the gold, he showed his golden heart by being so happy that he lost to his good friend, Shirlyn McKenzie! Thanks, Mick, for being such a wonderful person and awesome member! You are Number 1 with us!!



Happy Feet!!

## Iowa and the ASCLS Awards Part 2

We were excited to learn at the ASCLS National Annual Meeting that the Iowa newsletter, the NewsScope, the one that you so faithfully read and enjoy, came in second in the Constituent Society Publication Color Version category! Woot! Woot! We were judged on this past year of

NewsScope editions. This was our first endeavor as editors in putting a newsletter together so we were pretty excited to receive this honor. Of course, we couldn't have done it without the input of those members that submitted many interesting articles

and story ideas. We will keep tweaking, changing and fussing to see if we can improve and bring home the big prize next year!! Keep sending those articles and ideas!!



## A Day on the Des Moines “Hill”

By Theresa R. Ortner, BA MLS(ASCP)cm  
GAC/PAC Chair ASCLS-IA

We were gradually making our way around the Capitol building trying to gain access and of course, the weather would be cold and the cold wind blowing over snow and ice covered grounds. As Jan Frerichs and I trudged our way around that building, I thought to myself, while being careful not to fall on the ice, does the Capitol really need to be on a hill to make it “The Hill” in Des Moines?

Now that I perhaps have grabbed your attention, let me explain why we were on the “Hill” during a pleasant February day. ASCLS-IA was invited to attend the Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) Day on at the Capitol in Des Moines. Let me give you a little background on IPHA. It was founded in 1925 with the following goals in mind:

- \* Mission Statement: To mobilize a diverse membership to lead and advocate for public health
- \* Vision Statement: Meeting the public health needs of all Iowans through a recognized, valued, and well-supported public health system.

IPHA consists of members throughout the state of Iowa in many diverse healthcare backgrounds, such as Epidemiology, Laboratory, Health Administration, Maternal and Child Health, Nutrition and Physical Activity, and Public Health. Every year, IPHA schedules a day while our State legislators are in session to go and advocate for healthcare. There are posters and other small presentations set up in and outside the room which is reserved for IPHA. Senators and Representatives are invited to come, grab a bite to eat and talk to their constituents about their concerns.

Some of the issues addressed this year were: Supporting Public Health in Health Reform, Protecting essential Public Health functions during economic downturns and promoting the “Iowa Public Modernization” bill that was passed in 2009. We were invited to join in on a conference call the day before the actual hill visit and to come with some of our own personal talking points. We were to have a short summary of points that could be conveyed in the amount of time an elevator ride might take, also referred to as an “elevator speech”. Just looking over some of the topics I mentioned about, can you personally think of key talking points? As Jan and I rode to Des Moines together, we discussed our talking points and how they related to the issues at hand. Just a few, brief, direct statements can make all the difference in the world and let me tell you, once Jan had those statements figured out, she was a fireball on the “Hill” that day.

Jan and I discussed the recent flu concerns and how the lab is the forefront for diagnosing it. We told other Representatives, Senators, and attendees about our job and how 75% of the clinical diagnosis comes from the work we do in the lab. We discussed how there is a shortage of qualified personnel and how vital it is to have qualified people in these positions. We emphasized the important role the laboratory plays in discovering diseases and aiding in a cure for those conditions.

While Jan and I did not get a chance to connect with our personal representatives, we were able to talk

Continued from page 4

to others that came through. When the luncheon was over, Jan and I went to the floor that houses the chambers to meet with our Representatives. I had requested a meeting with my Representative from Marion, Nick Wagner, and discussed our issues at length with him. I was also able to connect with Senator Hammerlinck from Scott County and talk to him about these issues also. Sen. Hammerlinck and I went to high school together and he is currently the Chair of the Finance Committee. Jan and I were escorted around the chambers and had a chance to hear how things worked and the process which every bill must go through. We were encouraged to visit again and bring more concerns to them at any time. They truly want to hear from their constituents in order to completely fulfill their commitments to us.

Jan and I both found this to be an amazing experience and we look forward to hopefully being invited to come back next year when IPHA has another day on the “Hill”. As GAC/PAC chair I am also looking at the possibility of ASCLS-IA coming together and doing a similar day on the “Hill” in the future. After all, the only way to make progress is to ‘climb’ the ladder (in this case, the Hill) to get what you want.



## HAVE YOU GOT A MINUTE?

We will have some positions to fill at our Spring Meeting and are looking for nominations to help us out! If you or someone you know has been wanting to become involved with ASCLS-IA now is your chance! It will enrich your life and open new doors for you! Please feel free to email us at

[awards@ascls-ia.org](mailto:awards@ascls-ia.org)

and we will do our best to help you out! Positions we are looking for are:

**President– elect**

**Board Member**

**Committee Chairs**



## ~ Renewal, Recertify, Revive!

### The 3 R's

Everywhere we turn, someone is asking us to renew something. Our drivers license, our insurance, our cell phone contract. It can be overwhelming to say the least. Sometimes there can be a gimmick to try to lure us to join or renew. I have a basket of junk in my closet to show how many things I've needed to renew and received a cheap trinket even the dogs won't play with. Now here comes ASCLS with something that made me extremely excited. If you join or renew your membership within

ASCLS, you can select a Certification Maintenance Membership and get 12 hours of P.A.C.E approved online continuing education for only \$55 plus the national and state dues. The CMM is a one year subscription with Media-Lab, Inc. that includes designated discipline hours required for the Board of Certification (BOC) Certification Maintenance Program. This special offer is available ONLY to ASCLS members. Now this is something I can use and use I will! It isn't easy work-

ing long hours and not being able to get away to classes and inservices that I need to keep my certification. I hope you will join me in taking advantage of this cool opportunity! All the information you need to get started is located on the [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) website. Look under "What's New" scroll on the right hand side of the screen for the prompt to learn more about the Certification Maintenance Membership. Let's get learnin'!!! Any questions, please email Joan at [joanp@ascls.org](mailto:joanp@ascls.org).

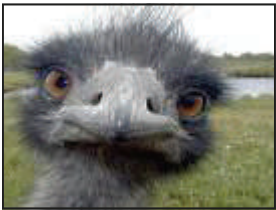
## Chicken Soup for the Laboratory Soul

By Vonnie Hinrichsen

LOOK FOR US

ON  
FACEBOOK  
AND  
TWITTER!!

Several years ago, I was working as one of 3 techs in a 12 bed hospital in northwest Iowa. It was small in size, but big in heart. Everyone knew everyone else and patients quickly became family. One such patient was a frightened 9 year old red-headed cherub that was diagnosed with leukemia. She was the cutest little thing with all that lovely strawberry hair! She got smart about having her blood drawn all the time. It was a while before she had her port installed so the arm was the place we were forced to draw from. I had small children at home so I implemented what worked at home ~ bribery. For a Twin Bing, she was good for one try. We bought boxes of those things and she never tired of them!! We had many ups and downs during this journey of her disease and we went thru a bunch of that sweet cherry and chocolate candy. We did reach the end of this road with a victory for that little red-headed girl! We all said our tearful good byes and take care's and went along our way. Fast-forward 7 years and I am walking along the carnival at the Relay for Life event hosted by this small town. All of a sudden, this bouncy teenager with long, curly auburn hair shoves a Twin Bing in my face. Startled, I look up into that teenager's smiling blue eyes and I recognized that beautiful face. That Twin Bing was the best present I have ever received in my career.



## Save the dates.....

Cedar Valley Science Symposium	January, 15th Wartburg College
Winter Board Meeting	January, 20th VA Medical Center, Iowa City
Spring Meeting	April 13-15th, LaVista Conference Center, Omaha

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# THE FUNNY PAGE!

If you eat a live frog every morning, nothing worse will happen to either of you the rest of the day!

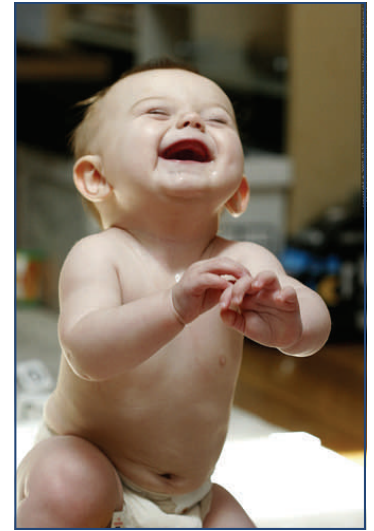
Santa Claus has the right idea ~ visit people only once a year!

Last night I was looking at the stars and I wondered.....where the heck is my ceiling!!

Never play leapfrog with a unicorn

A clean desk is a sign of a cluttered desk drawer

Never hire a color blind Bomb Technician



**We have a new website!**  
<http://wp.ascls-ia.org>  
**Check it out cause it is AWESOME!**

Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back!

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him to use the Net and he won't bother you for weeks!

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