



# NewsScope



## 2011 Conference on the Prairie

Hi! It's me again, Erl N. Meyer. I was at that Spring Meeting NE-IA ASCLS/CLMA/ASCP put together for all those cool laboratory professionals this past April. Let me tell you, I had SO much fun! From the opening keynote speaker, Dr. Kenneth Bayles, to the closing speaker, Mary Ann McLane, my head was spinning with all the break-out sessions, food, vendors, dancing, food, friends, and all-around fun. This meeting was jam packed with things to do. The La Vista Convention Center was an awesome place to host this meeting. Everything we needed was all within our reach. And who can complain about the awesome happy hour?! The time spent mixing with fellow colleagues from across the states shows us all what a wonderful profession we are lucky to be a part of. It was even more evident at the awards ceremony for Nebraska and Iowa

◆ • ◆ • ◆ •	ASCLS organizations. You will see some of the recipients farther into this edition. So many wonderful people being recognized for being an outstanding student, member, mentor, and professional is pretty sweet.
<b>Inside this issue:</b>	
Presidents Column	2 It gives us all a little boost to strive to do better. And of course we couldn't do any better than at our social opportunity!! This year we
Legislation Day	3 were treated to a dessert bar (OMG! the chocolate was divine) and some dancing. You can bet I shook my little beaker a bit. There are
Spring Meeting 2011	4 some different styles of dancing between the younger generation and the seasoned generation! Kudos to all of you that came out! I know
Installation of Officers	5 we all had a great time! I think every organization was even able to get their annual business meeting taken care of with instillation of their new
Awards	6 officers and the yearly business at hand! A HUGE thank you needs to go out to all the ladies and gentlemen that spent countless hours plan-
Directory	7 ning this wonderful event! Stay tuned for information on the next
In Loving Memory	8 Spring Meeting coming soon in April of 2012!

# A Message from the President



**Hello Everyone!** I have just returned from the ASCLS National Meeting in Atlanta, GA. It was a great time with lots of learning and networking. The new president of ASCLS Cathy Otto has asked us to continue Mary Ann McLane's charge of providing the face of the laboratory, but Cathy would like us to also provide a voice. I have been looking at the things that ASCLS offers us here in Iowa and I enjoy the things that bring us together the most. Things like board meetings, the annual meeting, and national meetings. However there is not much that we get together for in the "off season". So I would like to see people around the state start getting together for no good reason except to talk about their labs, and see friends. I love going out with my ASCLS friends and talking about what the doctor said or what they ordered, and can you believe they did not know what a Type and Screen was! You know things that are funny to us, but maybe not to our other non-lab friends. So when you get together for a pizza or a beverage... let me know! If I am near enough I would love to join you, but if I am not near, then it would be great just to hear others are getting together.

The House of Delegates at the National Meeting voted to approve a new Vision Statement for ASCLS. The statement Voice, Value, Vision will stay as a slogan to ASCLS, but will no longer be stated in the Vision Statement. The house also voted to continue negotiations with CLMA towards a merger. The CASA taskforce will continue negotiations and keep the constituents informed.

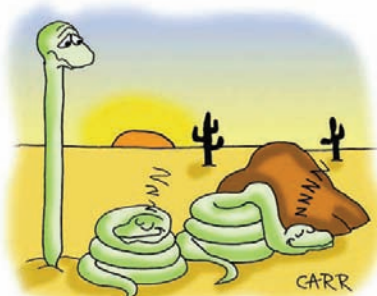
We have made a change to our NewsScope Newsletter. We will no longer be mailing it in an effort to reduce wasted paper and become a more green society. We will be e-mailing the newsletter, and if you could either print it to share with your lab, or forward them the e-mail that would be a great help! If you are not getting this letter electronically or would like a paper copy, please e-mail Vonnie at [monkeyfarm@smunet.net](mailto:monkeyfarm@smunet.net), or Judy at [jjackson@mvrbc.com](mailto:jjackson@mvrbc.com).

I hope to lead Iowa the way you want to be lead, but if you have comments, questions, anything! Please let me know, and I will get answers, or take your feed back to the necessary person. Thank you for all you do for your profession!

~K. Lindsey Davenport-Landry, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>



"It's simple. My nurse blindfolds me, I spin around a few times, and then I try to reattach your tail."



There were times when Stanley regretted his stint as a lab snake during the Viagra trials of '97.

# Mark Your Calendar~!

**Make plans to attend the ASCLS-IA Fall Board Meeting on October 29th. Location and time will be announced soon. Always check the website [www.ascls-ia.org](http://www.ascls-ia.org) if you ever are a 'wonderin'!**

**Stay tuned for more information on the next Spring Meeting comin' your way from the Hotel Kirkwood in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 11-13th. It is a great time no one should miss!**

Ms. Jackson Goes to Washington DC  
By Judy Jackson



K.L. Davenport-Landry, T. Orntner, J.Jackson

For the first time I accepted the offer to represent ASCLS-IA at the Legislative Symposium held in Washington DC on March 21-22. I was joined by two other members who have previously attended, Theresa Orntner and Lindsey Davenport-Landry. There are four groups; ASCLS, CLMA, ASCP, & AMT that join together annually to identify important issues that affect laboratories in our country. The morning session is spent doing an overview/update/ impact of legislative and regulatory issues. Following lunch the group focuses on preparing for Congressional visits. This includes reviewing talking points and role playing among each states' attendees. Before going to the hill appointments were set by Theresa, with our state's senators and representatives and the "leave behind packet was prepared."

This year we discussed three concerns with each office staffer:

Laboratory Developed Tests (LDT): Any change in package insert is considered to be in this category. There have been rumblings that the FDA is thinking of overseeing this process. The issue came to FDA's attention when a for-profit laboratory altered a testing procedure and then marketed their version for sale. The ask on this issue from the lab community was any legislation concerning genetic testing, personalized medicine and/or LDTs should be not be crafted without input from clinical laboratory professionals and other stakeholders in the clinical lab community.

CMS issues were twofold. First, the requirement to obtain physician's signature on every hard copy of lab requisitions should be rescinded. During our last visit to the office of Representative Latham the staffer shared a letter stating that it is the intention of CMS to rescind this policy.

The second request was to modernize the Clinical Diagnostic Lab Fee Schedule. The current fee schedule was adopted based on 1983 prices. During last year's session a bill was introduced to the House of Representatives but did not get acted upon. We asked if this could be reintroduced. We also requested one of our Iowa Congressman to be a sponsor or if they would be one of the legislators who signs on with their support of this bill. During our discussion of this issue we used important key words like this should be "budget neutral" or "cost savings" as some fees would increase but other would decrease.

I chose as my topic to share with each office the personnel shortage that is facing laboratories.

I started my discussion with the fact that 40 percent of the lab workforce is within ten years of retirement. I also shared that we will need 11,000 new practitioners annually through 2018 according to Bureau of Labor Statistics but are educating less than 5,000 per year. To personalize the information, I shared that several lab openings go unfilled for 1-2 years in our area. Also that several area hospitals have recruited and sponsored new lab technologists to work in their hospitals from the Philippines. The ask to address this shortage problem is the reauthorizing the Workforce Investment Act. This act should include provisions that make institutions of higher learning partners in job creation initiatives, make public institutions of higher education automatically eligible as job-training providers, and designate medical lab personnel education programs as one of a group of preferred programs where large numbers of jobs vacancies exist.

After our visits each of us selected 2 or 3 staffers that we follow-up with to make sure they did share our information with their boss, our Congressman.

Other highlights of my trip to DC included attending the America's Blood Center's Award dinner, March 21<sup>st</sup>. It was honor to see one of my supervisors from Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center, Dr. Louis Katz receive the Thomas Zuck Award for lifetime achievement.

I enjoyed a beautiful walk from the Capitol past the Washington Monument to see World War II Memorial. And also getting the opportunities to meet others who work every day to provide the answers that save lives of others quietly within laboratories across our country.





The rendition of "Oh, Micky" for our Mick Williams



Hmmm. Our NewsScope Editor



K. Lindsey Davenport-Landry, Becky Gorsch, and Keri Erickson up to some mischief!



Tara Sorenson and Jan Frerichs at the ASCLS-IA Booth

I told you these lab people know how to have fun!!!



A popular break-out session



The infamous Doug Davis at the PAC/GAC Silent Auction table



Jan Frerichs and K. Lindsey Davonport-Landry trying to keep order in the classroom!!!! HA!



# New Faces of Leaders.....



President Keri Erickson installs K. Lindsey Davenport-Landry as the ASCLS-IA President. It's always a proud but somewhat overwhelming moment but each and every incoming President soon warms to the task and does an exceptional job! Good luck, Lindsey! We look forward to your leadership!



Keri gives Lindsey her President's Pin. Even though her time as President is over, Keri is now considered the Past-President and will help the new President with many different tasks as well as becoming the Nominations and Awards committee chair. Thanks, Keri for your wonderful reign as the 2010-2011 President!



New Board members and Committee Chairs are sworn in after elections for those members present at the annual meeting. Those shown are Hannah Lambert, 1st year Board member, Linda Digglemann, Treasurer; Rachel Leemkuil, Secretary; Judy Jackson, President-Elect; and Mick Williams. These members will fill their positions immediately and start working hard to fulfill their new duties. Thanks to all of those members who seek leadership roles. You are one in a million and we enjoy your dedication to our professional organization!



New President Lindsey takes over the meeting and proposes to the members her vision for ASCLS-IA along with a detailed budget up for approval. We look forward to the direction you will be taking us, Lindsey and we will be doing our best to help you in "your" year of leadership!



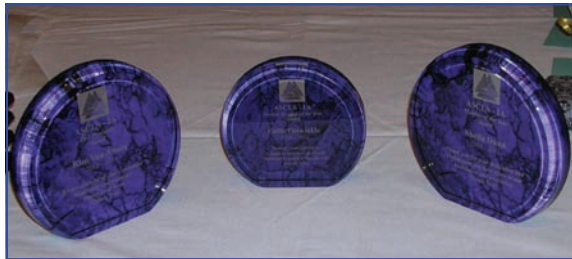
**AND OFF WE GO  
TOWARDS A FUN  
AND EXCITING  
2011-2012  
ASCLS-IA YEAR!**

## AND THE AWARDS GO TO.....

Each year ASCLS-IA awards members with recognition for their hard work and dedication not only to our organization, but to our profession. We recognize support staff, co-workers, mentors, students, and phlebotomists as everyone in the laboratory has their special part to play to make us successful. Keep in mind throughout this next year on who you may want to nominate for being so super special! The following are some pictures and names of those who were super special this year! Congrats to everyone!



Amy Kapanka as Mentor of the Year.



These member were unable to attend the ceremony:  
 Past-President Award Kim VonAhsen  
 Student Member of the Year Callie Ostwinkle  
 Member of the Year Sheila Dunn



Hannah Lambert receiving an ASCLS-IA Scholarship

### Omicron Sigma - State level

- Vonnie Hinrichsen
- Mick Williams
- Judy Jackson
- Shawn Froelich
- Rachel Leemkuil
- Amy Frank
- Neil Kumor
- Karen Campbell

### Omicron Sigma - Regional level

- Sheila Dunn
- Keri Erickson
- Tara Sorenson
- Theresa Ortner

### Omicron Sigma - National level

- K. Lindsey Davenport-Landry
- Jan Frerichs
- Kim VonAhsen

### National Nominations

- Jan Frerich for Member of the Year
- K. Lindsey Davenport-Landry for New Professional of the Year



Zona Merryman was recognized for having been a member of ASCLS-IA for 55 years! 55 years!! Imagine! And she is quite the person! Congrats, Zona! Here's to 55 more!



Matt Rivera as MLT Student of the Year.

### Members on Regional Committees

- Sheila Dunn and Kim VonAhsen  
Regional Secretary
- Theresa Ortner, PAC Chair
- Jan Frerichs, Member Services
- Kim VonAhsen, PACE

### Members on National Committees

- Jan Frerichs, Member Services
- Kim VonAhsen, PACE
- Mick Williams, By-Laws
- Theresa Ortner, PAC Treasurer

MLS Student of the Year, Whitney Burkhart  
 Outstanding Support Staff, Bridy Shepard  
 Phlebotomist of the Year,  
 ASCLS-IA Scholarship recipients:  
 Hannah Lambert and Beth Burgess

**2010-2011 BOARD MEMBERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	K. Lindsey Davenport-Landry	<a href="mailto:president@ascls-ia.org">president@ascls-ia.org</a>
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## IN LOVING MEMORY....

*Grace Powers*, a Medical Technologist at Iowa Methodist Medical Center for over 40 years, died of cancer on July 23, 2011. She was affectionately called the “bone marrow lady” to people outside the lab and the “go-to lady” for morphology and hematology instrument questions at the Medical Center. Grace was well respected and admired by her peers, her students, the pathologists, and the nurses who encountered her.

Grace had a special way with students and was a wonderful professional mentor teaching them not only superb laboratory skills in the hematology arena, but demonstrating a good work ethic, a joy and pride in her profession and how to enjoy and approach the challenges of the lab. She was very patient and understanding with students and new employees. Grace was a hematology instructor in the IMMC Clinical Laboratory Science Program where she lectured on Hematology and Urinalysis. She coached many Student Bowl teams, was a judge at the state level and a participant in the IMMC student-tech bowls. Grace could always be counted on to assist students and fellow faculty whenever needed. Because of her dedication to teaching, she touched the lives of many students and peers and made the laboratory a better place because of the quality of her work.

Grace graduated from Humboldt High School, Iowa State University and the Iowa Methodist Medical Technology Program. She was at IMMC her entire career, retiring in 2008. She was an avid Cubs fan, a great bridge player, enjoyed bowling and just having a good time with friends and family.

Grace had a wonderful smile and her wry wit, her laughter, her friendship and her expertise will be greatly missed.

Condolences may be sent to Grace’s mother at: Grace Hoag, 18 W. Fork Drive, Humboldt, Iowa, 50548. Memorials in Grace’s name may be sent to ASCLS-IA in care of Linda Diggelmann, 2741 Linden Road, Iowa City, Iowa, 52245 and will be used to assist with the education of laboratory professionals.

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