



# Leaves change...and likewise... ...VSCLS Board of Directors

Meet the President of VSCLS, Charlene Waybright.

Welcome to a new year with VSCLS! I have accepted the honor and challenge to become this year's VSCLS President. Currently, I work as a bench tech with Carilion Consolidated Laboratory in the Special Testing Department. I am young to the profession; however, I do have two teenagers. I also have a strange shift, 11:30 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday and I work night shift every third weekend. Presently, I am working on my Master of Science Degree in Health Sciences on the Clinical Laboratory Science track. I am committed to our chosen profession and want our Society to work for all of us.

Our membership has increased. Presently, we have 174 members. A portion of our members are first year professionals. Nationally, ASCLS has recognized these members who need a voice as they

has been established for professionals that have been in the work place five years or less. They will focus on ways to appeal to new professionals to our Society, provide leadership development opportunities



The leaves are fast falling....stop and look around....

are becoming our new workforce. The Young Professionals Committee

and develop new and convenient continuing education alternatives. On the

## Congrats to the Class of 2005.....

...associate degrees, baccalaureates, categoricals, cytotech, master's degrees and PhD..... whatever the achievement, you are to commended!

### Augusta Medical Center

- M.Yoder
- S. Ramsey
- C. Collins
- T. Whittaker

- A.Castiglione L.Wahlgren
- E. Frawley B. Zeleke
- N.Hamidullah L.Patterson
- N.Myint
- L.Spotswood
- S.Stewart

Here's who in the Commonwealth of Virginia:

### Carilion Medical Center

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### Special points of interest: 2006

- ASCLS CLEC – Feb – San Antonio, TX
- Legislative Symposium – Mar 27-28 Washington, DC
- 2006 ANNUAL SPRING MEETING - Tentative dates Apr 2-4 in Fishersville, VA
- NMLW – Apr 23-29
- ASCLS Annual Meeting - Jul – Chicago, IL

# Perfect Location, Perfect Speakers, Perfect Food = Successful Spring Meeting

## Expenses:

Entertainment – Group Dynamics \$1200.00  
 Casino – Roulette Wheel, Black Jack, and more  
 Food – AMC Catering \$ 796.25  
 Breaks, Lunch, Reception  
 Printing – Preliminary Program \$193.62  
 \*\*No postage - Inserted in Newsletter Mailing  
 Printing – Final Program \$93.71  
 Name Badges – \$23.09  
 Meeting Folders - \$58.56  
 Casino Prizes – \$45.93  
 Basket Raffle Tickets \$14.73  
 P.A.C.E. Materials \$59.64  
 Beverages for Casino \$65.15

## Speakers' Expenses:

Hotel \$388.15 (4 speakers)  
 Mileage \$267.64 (3 speakers)  
 Transportation \$300.00 (1 speaker  
 airfare)  
 Meals \$45.46 (2 speakers)  
 Honorarium \$22.50 (1 speaker)



## 2005 Annual Spring Meeting - Were you there?

Total Profit for 2005: \$2180.21

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43 Full Registrations

40 Flex time Registrations from Augusta Med. Ctr.

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\$535.00 Basket Raffle Monies for Scholarship

## The Patient Must Come First.....by Mary Ann McLane, ASCLS Reg II Director

I had the great fortune of being an invited speaker at the recent meeting of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis, held Aug 6-14 in Sydney, Australia. In many ways, it was similar to all the other national and international meetings I've attended over the years; many state of the art scientific talks, a filled vendor hall with exhibitors displaying their latest offerings. One vendor's booth, in particular, caught my attention. "One company had a sign which emphasized their corporate philosophy and mine as well!"

I phrase it a little bit differently: "The patient must come first!" It brought to mind the charge given to all ASCLS societies this year by President Bernie Bekken (Past President of VA), based on the 2001 studies published by the Institute of Medicine. We in this country, despite having a quality of life which surpasses most of the rest of the world, are still more likely to die while under the care of a healthcare professional than while flying on a plane. The incidence of deaths per year directly attributable to medical errors in this country is estimated to exceed 98,000. This is "more than those from motor vehicle accidents, breast cancer, or AIDS—three causes that receive far more public attention. Indeed, more people die annually from medication errors than from workplace injuries." Since medical laboratory data is the greatest single source of objective medical information used by healthcare professionals to diagnose and treat patients, it is imperative that we identify and eliminate all potential

ways in which preanalytical, analytical, and postanalytical error can affect our "product" delivered 24/7/365. We have been asked by President Bernie Bekken to brainstorm the ways in which such errors can occur and suggest solutions. When I presented this to the ASCLS-PA Board at the summer meeting, there was some hesitation as if this were more of a theoretical exercise than one touched by reality. You may have the same first impression. I would like to provide a personal scenario which may change your minds and fire you up!

While at the ASCLS Interim Board meetings this past March, I experienced what I was convinced were signs of a heart attack: sternal chest pain, nausea, vomiting; I tried self-medicating as if it was heartburn, but I knew by day three that I needed medical care. I was taken to the emergency room at Georgetown Hospital in Washington, D.C., and was triaged quickly by the staff there. A nurse came to draw my blood with 4 tubes: 2 red tops, a blue and a purple top. As she drew the anticoagulant tubes, she did not mix them at all. I mentioned this to her, and she still did not. She placed the tubes in a small bin on the ledge in the room, unlabeled, and came around my right side to connect me to the EKG. As she finished and was getting ready to leave, she asked if she could do anything else for me. I replied "Yes, mix those tubes!" She did a half-

Mary Ann McLane writes.....

One Company had a sign which emphasized their corporate philosophy, and mine as well.....

"Every Patient Matters"

way mixing and shared that they have more problems with hemolysis than clotting, to which I suggested the nursing staff needed to contact their lab colleagues to figure out why! She left without labeling the tubes (I'd closed my eyes and didn't yell for her to come back!). A second nurse (change of shift) came in with the labels, asked me my name but did not check my wristband, and proceeded to label the tubes and take them away. I felt more than chest pain at that point, as you can imagine.

This one episode provides me with a LOT of instances of error being made: improper sample mixing/handling; not labeling tubes immediately; not identifying the patient before labeling tubes; recognizing a source of problem (hemolysis) without doing anything about it....Now, I am sure that you have at least one episode, taken from your actual experience as a lab professional, to match my story. It's those stories that President Bernie Bekken wants you to share, without naming facilities or people...just situations where patient safety and the quality of the lab results were compromised. Over the course of this year, you will be given opportunities to share those stories.

## \*\*\*\*\*This and That\*\*\*\*\*

### VSCLS TREASURER REPORT

4/17/05 – 9/24/05

Accounts Receivable: \$1241.76

Investment Fund Account: \$23,366.46

Checking Account : \$3142.43

Grand Total : \$27,750.65

### Income from Merion Publications:

\$3945.07 (included in the  
 Investment Fund Acct)

### Other monies recd , but not on report:

Spr Meeting 2002/2003 – \$241.76  
 Spr Meeting 2004 – \$1942.77  
 Spr Meeting 2005 – \$2180.21



VSCLS is lucky to have Connie Laubenthal as Treasurer and Jerry Houghton as Spring Meeting Finance Chair

Thanks for your attention to the \$\$s!

## Leaves change.....

The VSCLS board will consider adding a new committee chair position – young professional – to be voted on by the membership at the annual Spring Meeting.

Another issue before the membership, should VSCLS change its name to ASCLS – Virginia? Other states have changed their society’s name to this format, ASCLS – state name, to identify themselves as the local chapter of ASCLS. Name recognition with ASCLS will alleviate confusion to new members and will help with vendor support at our annual Spring Meeting. However, many are attached to our current name and feel a name change will cause confusion. Members’ thoughts are welcomed and appreciated.

This year the VSCLS Board of Directors will develop strategies to improve patient safety and reduce medical errors from a laboratory perspective. As laboratorians, we have created ways to reduce errors by documenting and identifying pre-analytical, analytical, and post-analytical

errors. We are able to help other health care areas to improve patient safety. If you have any ideas on patient safety or reducing medical errors you would like to contribute, please check out our web site at [www.vscls.org](http://www.vscls.org) and let me know what you think.



*Charlene Waybright started her professional career at the Carilion Medical Center School of Clinical Laboratory Science in Roanoke, VA.*

## Where have we been and how many have been....

The Annual Spring Meeting has a rich history - to include where the meeting has been and who (attendees & exhibits) have been there.....what’s wrong with this picture? Why and how has this happened?

No data prior to 1989 other than where the meeting was held:

- '81 – Richmond
- '82 – Va Beach
- '83 – Roanoke
- '84 – Richmond



- '85 – Norfolk
- '86 – Roanoke
- '87 – Richmond
- '88 – Va Beach
- '89 – Charlottesville; 261 Attendees; 35 Exhibits
- '90 – Williamsburg; 270 Attendees; 39 Exhibits
- '91 – Charlottesville; 242 Attendees; 26 Exhibits
- '92 – Va Beach; 253 Attendees; 32 Exhibits
- '93 – Roanoke; 222 Attendees; 34 Exhibits
- '94 – Williamsburg; 247 Attendees; 28 Exhibits
- '95 – Richmond; ? Attendees; 20 Exhibits
- '96 – Va Beach; 276 Attendees; 18 Exhibits \*
- '97 – Roanoke; 165 Attendees; 19 Exhibits \*
- '98 – Williamsburg; 154 Attendees; 14 Exhibits \*  
\*Joint endeavor with VSSAMT
- '99 – Charlottesville; 116 Attendees; 11 Exhibits
- '00 – Va Beach; 113 Attendees; 13 Exhibits
- '01 – Va Beach; 87 Attendees; 10 Exhibits
- '02 – Williamsburg; 74 Attendees; 9 Exhibits
- '03 – Richmond; 103 Attendees; 10 Exhibits
- '04 – Richmond; 98 Attendees; 5 Exhibits
- '05 – Fishersville,; 83 Attendees; No Exhibit Hall

## 2005 graduates cont.

**Membership Moment**  
As of Sep 2005  
VSCLS Active Members - 174  
Welcome New Member - Nwe Myint

### Norfolk State University

J.Bradley

### Central Virginia Comm. College

T. Amos      M. Callahan  
T. Jeffers    L. Kolody  
B. Madere    L. McCluster  
K. Trout

### Northern Virginia Community College

K.Banz      C. Olson  
U.Bhula     W. Phanitdee  
E.Caballero   V. Tinoco  
Q. Can      M. Lee  
B. Murphy    C. Norris

**Congrats also to the Wytheville Community College graduates and to Fairfax Hospital graduates....**

### Virginia Commonwealth University

N. Calcaterra      J. McKenney      J. Hall  
S. Cowardin      T. Minter      M. Langley  
A. DeJesus      C. Morden      A. Powell  
A. Genadopoulas      N. Morgan  
A. Henna      M. Sales  
K. Klompus      E. Usher  
M. Marshall      Y. Washington  
E. Massie



**VIRGINIA SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL  
LABORATORY SCIENCE**

Board of Directors Meetings:  
November 12  
January 21  
March 11

Comments, Suggestions, Recommendations  
Jhilerbowman, editor

***Communication is encouraged***



## Help for our ASCLS Members in Louisiana, Mississippi, & Alabama.....100% benefit.....how you can help!

Words from Mary Ann McLane, Region II Director.....10/27/05

As expected, the farther we move from September, the less we are hearing about the difficulties faced by the hurricane survivors from Katrina. And yet we all know those difficulties continue. ASCLS was one of the first laboratory organizations to put the HHS, CDC, and RED CROSS links on our website, urging our members to help out as much as time and money allowed for each person right at the beginning of the crisis.

The ASCLS Executive Committee voted to set up a fund for our own ASCLS members affected by Katrina, and we have placed development of this into the hands of some of our ASCLS Past Presidents – Barbara Brown, Karen Karni, and Dana Duzan. They are now ready to ask for solicitation of funds.

*Here's where Virginia comes into play....We need your help!*

Donations will be handled through the E&R Fund for tax purposes..

Make checks payable to ASCLS/E&R Fund, Inc., and designate it for the "disaster relief fund".

All donations will be processed at the National Office.

Address for mailing:

ASCLS Education & Research Fund, Inc.

6701 Democracy Boulevard, Suite 300

Bethesda, Maryland 20817

We need help in identifying those members in need. Anyone with contact information about members displaced from their homes

and/or jobs by Katrina and/or Rita are asked to provide them with information about our Fund.

We are also soliciting vendor support, for advertising our Fund and also for financial assistance. Your help in contacting our Industry supporters will be invaluable.

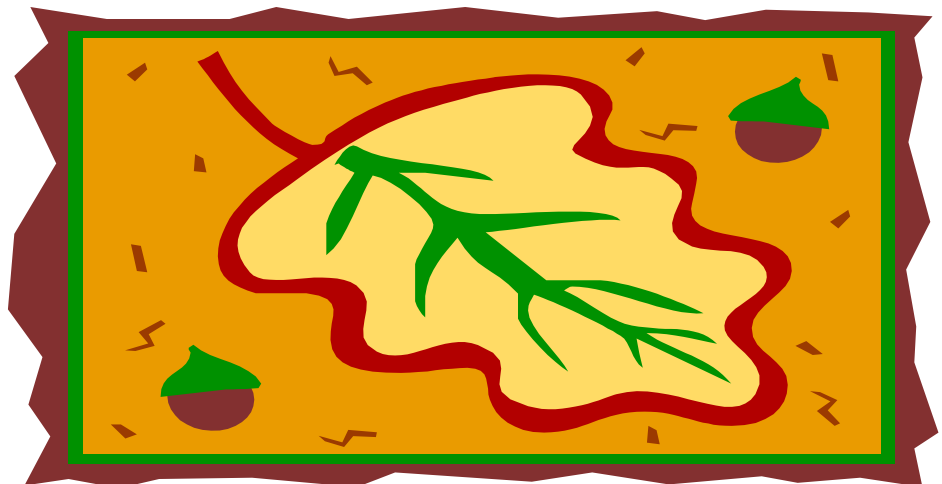
All members living in those areas affected by Hurricanes will receive complimentary membership for one year. Financial help will be determined by the amount of money donated to the Fund and assigned at the discretion of the EVP Elissa Passiment and

President Bekken as recommended by the Committee.

Thanks for all you do for our society and profession....here's a definite membership benefit....be a part of an effort for our own colleagues. Get the word out to those in your own society in case they are not on the distribution list.

Questions may be sent to Mary Ann McLane at the following email:

mclane@Udel.Edu



***Congratulations to Bernie Bekken – ASCLS President 2005-2006  
Virginia is Proud of you.....***