

VSCLS TODAY

Virginia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Special points of interest:

- ASCLS CLEC – FEB 26-28, 2004 – Milwaukee, MI
- LEGISLATIVE SYMPOSIUM – MAR 22-23, 2004 – Washington, D.C.
- VSCLS ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION – MAR 28-30, 2004 – Richmond, VA
- NMLW – APRIL 18-24, 2004
- 71ST ASCLS ANNUAL MEETING – JULY 27 – 31, 2004 – Los Angeles, CA

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The Long and Winding Road

It is an honor and a pleasure to have the opportunity to serve as your President for the 2003-2004 year. My story is not often told, but I would like to share a few significant and humbling moments with you.

My curiosity for the profession began when I was twelve years old and my father died suddenly of meningitis. I spent the next several years wondering about the why and how of this mysterious disease. After high school graduation, like most, I needed a summer job. My mother called her friend, the CEO of our small hometown hospital and I suddenly found myself in the clinical laboratory as a lab aid/secretarial assistant. I was hooked. I learned from day one that these few, but committed, dedicated professionals had the knowledge, skills, and ability to tap into the very questions about disease processes I had been asking myself.

But, for me, there was a barrier. I had not been a stellar high school student. I had not taken the math and science

courses necessary to prepare me for a career in the sciences. A path to a career in laboratory science seemed unattainable, so my path took a different direction. I ended up working fulltime in a dental office, and took evening courses, part time, at a nearby community college to boost my math and science deficit. I loved the community college experience. They fully understood the non-traditional student, and went out of their way to help me succeed.

Memories of my summer lab experience were always in the back of my mind. I would visit the lab every time it was open to the public (National Medical Laboratory Week) Ten years passed. I saw an ad in our local paper for a work-study program being offered in the laboratory of the same hospital where I had such an exciting summer job experience. By this time, I was 27 years old, married with an eight-year daughter and a brand new baby daughter, but my husband knew of my hidden passion, and encour-

by Frankie Harris-Lyne



Winter does have it's own beauty.....and according to the groundhog it will happen

aged me to apply. I was stunned and a little frightened when the opportunity was, indeed, offered to me.

*Frankie Harris-Lyne, AAS, BIS, CLS(NCA)
Asst Professor & Clin. Educ Coord.
MLT & Phleb Program
Northern VA Community College
Annandale Campus*

VCU Students Awarded National CLS Scholarships

Please join in congratulating the following individuals, Ms. Danielle Kimble and Mr. Sean Metts.....well-deserved award recipients. Our best to you both as you pursue your career.

Danielle Kimble, a senior in the CLS program at VCU has been named a recipient of an ASCP Associate Council Student Scholarship. Ms. Kimble was selected from over 150

entries from across the country for outstanding academic achievements and strong leadership activity. Along with a very busy schedule as a full-time student, Ms. Kimble is a Senior Resident Assistant at VCU, a position that includes supervising 15 resident assistants, each responsible for overseeing the dormitory life of 50 residents, and acting as the advisor of the dormitory hall government. Addi-

tionally, she has participated in an internship program as a pathology laboratory assistant in Washington, D.C. each summer and winter vacation since 2000. Ms. Kimble has also been awarded the Ann Miller Memorial Scholarship from the Richmond Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and the Daria Downing Scholarship.

Might you know someone who is deserving? Nominate them!

The following awards are presented to deserving individuals each year:

- ◆ Certificate of Service (all members recognized for years of Service in increments of five years)
- ◆ Appreciation Award (given to an organization, business or an individual outside the society who has contributed services over the past year to the Society)
- ◆ Key to the Future (recognizes those new members who have "shown" or made a definite mark in a forward direction; a desire is noted to move on – UP)
- ◆ President's Award (bestowed to one or more members at the discretion of the President for exceptional service to the society)
- ◆ Omicron Sigma Honoree (Instituted by ASCLS in 1977. It is the ASCLS President's Honor Roll. The members are recognized on the National, Regional, and State Level)
- ◆ Educator of the Year (Award given to an individual dedicated to the profession, one who enjoys their work with the students and is a vital part of their future.)



Send your nominations to: Karen Gordon, VSCLS Awards Chairperson: kgordon@nvcc.edu

- ◆ Member of the Year (Award presented to an outstanding individual and is nominated from the general membership.)
- ◆ Ida Reilly National Honor Roll (recognizes those individuals who have made active, long-term contributions to ASCLS; criteria based – a minimum of 50 points must be accumulated before a member becomes eligible for placement on the honor roll; Criteria includes: 1) ASCLS Board of Directors, State Society BOD; 2)ASCLS Committee (Chair, Member, Elections, Region Council Officer, Region Council Member); 3) Editor , ASCLS Author; 4) Scientific Assembly Activity; 5) Representative to ASCLS Affiliated Organization;6) Task Forces (Appointed); 7)

Delegate, ASCLS National Meeting;

- ◆ *If you are interested or think you might meet the criteria for the Ida Reilly Honor Roll Placement, contact Karen Gordon for further detail or if you have any questions about any of the above awards, don't hesitate to contact her there are countless individuals who are worthy.....let's get the word out there!*



ASCLS
MEMBERSHIP
3340

VSCLS
MEMBERSHIP
166

2004 VSCLS ANNUAL MEETING & EXHIBITION...ARE YOU THERE?

If you are reading this and you have not received a Preliminary Program, please notify me immediately.....either by phone, 540 (981-8032) or by email, jhiler@carilion.com.....it is not too late.....I just need to know where to send it!

The Program Committee, under the superb leadership of chairperson, Bernie Bekken have worked countless hours in es-

tablishing a meeting with all the appropriate offerings - P.A. C.E. approved educational sessions, a vendor-supported exhibition hall, and, of course, food and fun.

Until your Preliminary Program arrives, don't forget to visit the Society web page (www.vscls.org) and gather a lot of meeting detail. While there just go ahead and register on-line and

then go one step further, call the CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL in Richmond and make your reservations.(1-800-2CROWNE).

- 24 Educational Sessions
- Wine & Cheese Reception
- Exhibition Hall
- Special Opportunity - VA DCLS
- Questions: Contact Bernie Bekken BBekken@AugustaMed.com

Frankie's Message continued

I jumped at the chance, took a significant cut in pay, and luckily found a family of babysitters. I was trained on-the-job as a phlebotomist (the work part). I took classes at the same community college I had been attending, but at a different campus location because the AAS degree program in Medical Laboratory Technology was only offered on one campus, an hour and fifteen minutes from my home (the study part). I worked as a phlebotomist in the early morning, drove to classes, drove home and studied. I worked as a phlebotomist on the weekends, and then studied. In 1984, I graduated with honor and began my career in my hometown hospital. I wanted to continue my formal education, but could not imagine how... until I attended a VSCLS annual meeting and reconnected with the Program Director from my alma mater community college. She expressed her need for an adjunct phlebotomy instructor, and asked if I was interested. Even though I had not completed my four-year degree, the Phlebotomy program allowed me the opportunity because it was a certificate program, and, as such, the instructor requirements were "expert in the field" with extensive experi-

ence. Much to my surprise, I felt very much at home in the classroom. This experience compelled me to find a way to continue my formal education I rearranged my work hours to three twelve-hour shifts and was accepted at a local university to complete my four-year degree tailored to my career goals...Health Communication. Ten years after completing my associate degree, I completed my bachelor degree. One year after completing my bachelor's degree, I was hired as a fulltime faculty member in the MLT program at Northern Virginia Community College, my alma mater. Now...here I am. I have continued my formal education and hope to complete my MS degree in Occupa-

tional / Technical Education within the next year...or two! I am a life-long learner. I am passionate about my students' successes, my profession and my professional association, VSCLS/ASCLS. The moral to my story: Never give up on your dream. Passion, not money, should be your motivator. Become an active member of your professional association, VSCLS/ASCLS, because, in addition to providing relevant continuing education, it is a connection to networking, friendship, and the profession. It can also lead you, as it did me, to a rewarding, life changing career opportunity.

VCU Students continued

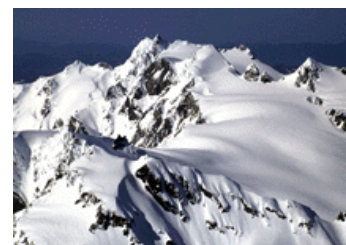
Another competitive national scholarship, the Alpha Mu Tau Honor Fraternity Student Scholarship was awarded to Mr. Sean Metts. Mr. Metts is currently a senior student in the CLS program at VCU. He is a motivated individual dedicated to pursuing knowledge and has received a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, Biology and Biochemistry and a Master of Science degree in Microbiology/Immunology before entering the CLS program. Mr. Metts' enthusiasm for education extends to helping fellow students. He has tutored dental students at VCU in microbiology and freshman students at Clemson University in

chemistry. Mr. Metts has also been awarded the VCU School of Allied Health Professions Phi Kappa Phi Wayne C. Hall Undergraduate Scholarship and the Ann Miller Memorial Scholarship from the Richmond Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.

The Richmond Society for Clinical Laboratory Science is a nonprofit, professional/educational organization. The Society first met on May 14, 1946... a small group of clinical laboratory professionals met at Stuart Circle Hospital in Richmond, VA. Their intent was to establish a "local society of technologists". Their objectives were to elevate the professional standing of its members; to encourage a higher degree of

efficiency in laboratory methods; to create close cooperation and understanding between technologists, physicians and all others employed in the interest of public health; and to promote good fellowship among its members. In the following months, officers were elected, committees were formed, a constitution was established, meeting dates were set, and speakers were scheduled. History was in the making! By the December meeting, yet another long-standing tradition was introduced. The minutes read "a social hour followed with excellent refreshments served..."

These words were read in "50 years of Meeting and Eating"...a wonderful cookbook published in 1996...an endeavor to raise money, thus allowing the good to occur as is written above.



Skiing anyone?

Interested in joining a VSCLS List Serve?

With a resident Web Master on the VSCLS Board of Directors - Darrell Little, our professional society is slowly but surely moving into the 21st Century. Darrell has been the person who has been instrumental in putting together all that we have - our web page, the Region II web page, our PayPal capabilities for registering on-line for our Annual Meeting, our VSCLS BOD list serve and now the question arises - Would there be interest to support a List Serve for the membership of

VSCLS? This idea surfaced at our January BOD meeting, but we realized there would be security / privacy issues involved, so we decided to put together a short article for the newsletter, and then further discuss the idea at the Annual Meeting.

Our list serve would operate like many others. Many of us subscribe to one list serve or another and we chose to subscribe or not - sometimes we stay members and other

times we unsubscribe - the choice is ours. The offering is merely presented and the choice would be up to the member like any other.

More details to follow.....or stay tune for further instructions to be presented at vscls.org.

And in the meantime -

THANK YOU DARRELL -
Your expertise is greatly appreciated.

1980 VSCLS

Annual Meeting

Program found in a drawer in the

Chemistry Lab at

Carilion Roanoke

Memorial Hosp....

Meeting was held in Northern VA; 32

Breakout Sessions; 1

BB Workshop; 40

Exhibitors; Wine &

Cheese Reception;

Champagne Reception;

Banquet; & Student

Bowl - Wonder how

many attendees? 200+

*****This and That*****

VSCLS Treasurer Report

As of 1/24/04

Summary of Assets:

Accounts Receivable: \$1,025.49

Investment Fund Account:

\$27,182.38

Checking Account: \$3,605.27



Don't forget to check out our own Connie Laubenthal - February 2004 MLO - Page 52

Nominations Committee

Wish to announce

the

Following

Nominees:

Treasurer - Connie Laubenthal

Nominations Committee (3Y Term) - Frankie Harris Lyne

President Elect - TBA

Elections - 3/29 @ Gen. Membership Meeting



Virginia Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Editor:

Janet Hiler Bowman
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Comments, Suggestions, Recommendations
Email: jhiler@carilion.com

**We're on the web....
.....www.vscls.org**

**HOT OFF THE PRESS
CLEC 2005**

**WILLIAMSBURG LODGE – FEB 24-
26**

CONTRACT SIGNED; DATES CONFIRMED

55 Years of Service – Meet the person –Karen Lewis

Some of the membership might have a hard time even thinking of someone devoting 55 years of service to an organization/profession. (You are the lucky young members of VSCLS)..... but there is a person who can relate and she is Karen Lewis.

On behalf of the VSCLS Board of Directors, Karen Lewis was recently recognized for her devotion to the profession. VSCLS President, Frankie Harris-Lyne, Treasurer, Connie Laubenthal, and P.A.C.E. Coordinator, Judy Horton meet with Karen, escorted her through the new Medical Education Center of the Northern VA Community College in Springfield, VA. After the tour, the four ventured to a

nearby restaurant for lunch where many old and new methodologies were shared. Karen brought one of her textbooks from her alma mater, the University of Virginia, to share with the group. The lunch ended with a presentation to Karen, of an inscribed letter opener carefully chosen for the occasion.

We hope Karen will remember the day as fondly as the three VSCLS board members will. With all of the current issues that surround our profession, it is refreshing to meet a life-long CLS who is as proud of her profession today as she was 55 years ago.

The entire membership

would like to thank
you, Karen, for your support and dedication to our professional organization, VSCLS/ASCLS.



Persons like Karen and many others, along with their positive attitude, help to paint the success of our professional society that you are a member of today.