



# VOLUTION...ASCLS SD

Grassroots explosion of **VOICE, VALUE, VISION**

Official publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science ~ South Dakota

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VOLUTION...ASCLS-SD is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS SD members in electronic format. The current issue and past issues will also be available for on-line viewing on the Society's web page: [www.ascls-sd.org](http://www.ascls-sd.org) The co-editors reserve the right to edit content and length of material to meet publication specifications.

All ASCLS SD members are invited to submit articles of interest to the co-editors for publication in future issues.



## 2007 ASCLS REGION V TRI-STATE MEETING: "Harvesting the Knowledge" – October 1-3, 2007!

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director

This is a meeting you won't want to miss... mark your calendars now... plan on attending the ASCLS Region V Tri-State Meeting hosted by ASCLS-ND. The three day event will be jam packed with excellent continuing education sessions, keynote speakers, social activities, and a gala exhibit hall!



**October 1-3, 2007**  
**Ramada Inn ~ Fargo ND**  
**Hosted By: ASCLS-ND**

### Here's Just a Few of The Exciting Educational Sessions Planned!

- LEAN & the Lab
- Case Studies
- Flow Cytometry
- Phlebotomy
- Multiple Myeloma
- Billing & Coding
- HIV
- Measuring Quality
- Osteoarthritis/Bone Markers
- Monitoring Heparin w/ anti-Xa
- Pharmacogenetics Testing
- ISBT Donor Labeling
- Employee Drug Testing
- Ask the Safety Lady
- Susceptibility Testing
- Emergency Preparedness
- Body Fluids
- Government Affairs
- Maternal Serum Screens
- Diagnosis of Fungal Infections
- Personal & Professional Development
- Vitamin D Metabolism
- Herbal Medicine Seminar
- Body Fluids
- Hematology Topics
- Blood Cultures
- Specimen Integrity
- Workforces Shortages
- Aspirin & Plavix Therapy
- Herpes Testing by PCR

### Social Events & Region V Council Meeting

- Monday Evening: Dinner with ASCLS Trivia & Networking
- Tuesday Noon: ASCLS Region V Presidents Council Meeting
- Tuesday Lunch with Exhibitors
- Tuesday Evening Exhibitor Social Event

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**LEGISLATIVE DAYS 2007: "Laboratorians Storm The Hill"**

By: Legislative Day Attendees

**Shirley Heber, ASCLS-SD Government Affairs Committee (GAC) Chair:**

As Government Affairs chair for ASCLS-SD, I was privileged to attend the 2007 session of the national clinical laboratory Legislative Days in Washington, DC. This annual conference is co-sponsored by ASCLS, CLMA and ASCP, and was held this year on March 19 and 20 in downtown Washington, just a short train ride from the political scene on the Hill. Laboratorians from all 50 states were in attendance, along with many Clinical Laboratory Science students from across the nation. It was exciting to see how many different areas of health care have been influenced by members of our profession, as evidenced by Clinical Laboratory Scientists currently working in education, administration, outreach, hospital and private clinical laboratories, and more.

Our collective goal was to learn about current laboratory issues which are pending legislation in Congress. This year's hot topics were Competitive Bidding, Pod Labs, Co-payment for Laboratory Services, the Personnel Shortage, and the Clinical Laboratory Fee Schedule. As a group, it was agreed that Competitive Bidding was the #1 topic to be discussed with our state's Congressmen and women, in an effort to either delay or ultimately block any attempt to implement a laboratory competitive bidding demonstration project. We also agreed to key in on the extremely critical shortage of qualified personnel for the field of Clinical Laboratory Science. Those in attendance spent a full day in training to prepare to discuss these topics with our legislators. If you aren't sure how Competitive Bidding will affect your hospital, or want to learn more about it, contact one of your board members, check out the ASCLS website, talk to one of the names below who were at the meeting, or just Google "Competitive Bidding Clinical Laboratory"!

Collectively, ASCLS, CLMA and ASCP also urged members of Congress to agree to co-sponsor the Allied Health Reinvestment Act. This bill is an attempt to help address the personnel shortage our profession is currently experiencing. The Senate version of this bill is S. 605. Discussions are underway on a House companion bill. Members of Congress were also urged to restore funding for the Title VII Allied health programs to their FY 2005 levels. Funding for these programs was cut severely in last year's budget, with the potential to seriously limit funding dollars available to support Clinical Laboratory Science training programs at healthcare institutions across the country. Our Student Forum Representative, Matt Lauterbach, gave testimony to how these budget cuts would personally affect the Clinical Laboratory Science program he has been involved in at the University of North Dakota.

On Tuesday, March 20, our group met with Legislative aides from the offices

## ATTENTION ASCLS-SD MEMBERS!

Have you visited our  
NEW & IMPROVED  
Web Page?

[www.ascls-sd.org](http://www.ascls-sd.org)

### Current Pages:

- ➔ Our Purpose
- ➔ Membership & Benefits
- ➔ Student Information
- ➔ Event Calendar & Meetings
- ➔ ASCLS-SD Members Page
- ➔ Regional & National News
- ➔ Board of Directors – Meetings/Update
- ➔ Web Newsletter - VOLUSION
- ➔ Laboratory Links
- ➔ ASCLS-SD Leadership & Contacts
- ➔ Blips, Tips & Fun
- ➔ Management & Technical Tid Bits

## NEW REGION V ADDITION TO OUR WEB PAGE!

Our ASCLS-SD web site is now also hosting ASCLS Region V web page information. Check out the Region V information:

- ➔ Region V Leadership & Contact Info
- ➔ Events calendar
- ➔ Info on Regional actions



of Senators Tim Johnson and John Thune, and Representative Stephanie Herseth. While none of the members of the House or Senate from South Dakota were available this year for our meetings, the respective Legislative aides were very interested in our discussions, and all pledged the support of their Senator or Representative for our causes.

Other laboratory representatives in attendance from South Dakota were Patti Buus from Winner, Deb Piper, Lezlee Koch and Matt Lauterbach from Sioux Falls. My suggestion to all of you for next year.....offer to get involved! Networking with other laboratorians from across the nation is vital. Sharing information with other professionals who "speak the same language" is not only important, but fun! Who else out there can talk about stool collections, microbiological specimens, and be eating and drinking at the same time? **The special folks who are proud to be called Clinical Laboratory Science Professionals, that's who!!!**

### Emily Tron, ASCLS Region V Student Forum:

The Legislative Days Symposium this past March in Washington DC was very interesting. The city was beautiful and full of interesting sites, history, and the cherry trees were just starting to bloom. I traveled with the North Dakota President-elect and the First Year Professional member. We were to present issues pertaining to the clinical laboratory to our senators and congressmen in our respective states. Such issues included personnel shortage, pod labs, and competitive bidding.

The first day of the meeting we met with representatives from ASCP, ASCLS, and CLMA to help discuss and prepare us for the meetings the following day. We then met with our senators (or assistants) to communicate all the important issues facing the laboratory, including competitive bidding, educational funding and workforce shortage issues. The voice of clinical laboratory professionals on capitol hill is very important. This is why it is imperative that we meet yearly to remind our elected officials that we need to be heard to assure availability of clinical laboratory testing that we depend on not only as clinical laboratory professionals, but also as consumers.



## ASCLS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL: It's Time To Re-invest In You!

ASCLS annual membership renewal is now in process. Your renewal is a way to re-invest in yourself. ASCLS brings value to clinical laboratory professionals in South Dakota and in the nation. Journals, newsletters, web pages and electronic information is shared and is only available to members. Continuing education meetings are held to bring affordable education to you. Did you know that ASCLS-SD alone sent over 150 electronic communications out to our members to keep them up-to-date with what is happening in our profession? Did you know the ASCLS-SD website was updated with new information 8 times this past year? Did you know that every day new tasks are being undertaken by ASCLS & ASCLS-SD to promote the profession of clinical laboratory science and it's professionals? Renew today... Re-invest in Yourself through ASCLS Membership!



**RECRUIT  
A NEW  
MEMBER!**



**BE AN ASCLS STAR**

Every clinical laboratorian deserves the professional benefits of **ASCLS!**

**We invite each of you to share how much ASCLS membership and benefits means to you with at least one other laboratory professional.**

Every member receives the benefits that you enjoy as an ASCLS member-

- CLS Journal (Prof I only)
- ASCLS Today
- Members-only discounts on publications
- Savings on meeting registrations
- Membership in state and regional organizations
- Current information about legislative/regulatory issues
- An [instant network](#) of laboratory professionals

Share the **ASCLS VOICE-VALUE-VISION** with your friends and colleagues! We all benefit when ASCLS grows! The more members we have in South Dakota, the stronger our professions voice is here at home. This stronger voice benefits our laboratories and each one of us.

New members can join on-line at [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) or paper applications can be printed from the same location.

Check out, [www.ascls.org](http://www.ascls.org) or [www.ascls-sd.org](http://www.ascls-sd.org), for tools and tips for member recruitment to help you in recruiting a new member.



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: "Year At A Glance"**

By: Lori Murray, ASCLS-SD President 2006-07

This past year has been such an incredible learning experience for me. I am very excited that I am being given the opportunity to have another year to learn more. I feel as though I was just beginning to understand what I should be doing even though my term was ending and I didn't really feel as though we accomplished much. Being given a second term to continue the work we started, I hope to make more progress and expand our member base as well as continue the efforts we have begun in collaborating with other organizations for advocacy on key issues. As President, I get to suggest, assist, observe and be a cheerleader to our group. But it is the group—each of the members- that make up the voice and add the value to our society. I have been so very proud to represent you and our State.

The Advocacy efforts in our State this past year have been strong. Collaborating with CLMA-Siouxland has given our lab voice more meaning. Why is that? Partly because, even though both groups were for or against similar issues, we were each speaking to differing parts of a process, so those in government were confused about just what the clinical laboratory wanted. By sitting down and agreeing on key points, we were able to capture the attention of crucial persons and groups to get backing on issues such as Competitive bidding.

Recognizing that focusing on the same points made a difference in our voice being heard and having a larger member base that supported those issues was key as well. That is why ASCLS-SD is focusing hard on membership development and recruitment. We need to develop leaders that are willing to take this society to a new level, as well as grow our base membership, so that other organizations take our views seriously. When you take the number of clinical laboratory professionals in our State, and compare that number to the actual membership in the two professional organizations in our state, we have so much work to do. It is typical of Clinical laboratory professionals to have definite opinions, yet all too common for them to sit back and want to stay behind the scenes. Things have to change in order for us to make quicker progress. Now is the time to come out and get involved. Other professions such as nursing seem to get more backing. I believe that is because they figured out early on... by combining their voice on issues they were heard. We cannot sit back any longer. Every laboratory professional needs to get involved. Just by being a member helps to support our efforts, but your active involvement is what will truly make the difference.

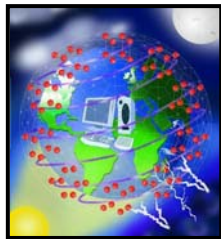
Therefore, I continue to ask... what is it that you need? What can our society be doing to make you feel a part of the bigger picture? We need to hear from you. We will be brainstorming our game plan for the year as soon as we return from the ASCLS National Meeting in San Diego in July. Continue to share this newsletter with your colleagues, convince them to look at our website, and inspire them by your actions, to make changes and get involved!!

*Mark Your  
Calendar ~  
Upcoming  
Events*

ASCLS National Meeting  
July 17-21, 2007  
San Diego CA

ASCLS-SD Fall Meeting  
September 7, 2007  
Rapid City SD

Region V Tri-State  
Meeting  
October 1-3, 2007  
Fargo ND



**Hot Sites on the  
Web....**

**American Clinical  
Laboratory Association**

Results for Life....  
Lab Testing: Better  
Health, Improved  
Outcomes

[www.labresultsforlife.org](http://www.labresultsforlife.org)

**Labs Are Vital ..  
Sponsored by Abbott**

Support for Labs....  
A voice for Lab  
Professionals

[www.labsarevital.com](http://www.labsarevital.com)

**Lab Tests Online...**

Public resource on clinical  
laboratory testing  
And the laboratory  
professionals who do the  
testing

[www.labtestsonline.org](http://www.labtestsonline.org)



**REGION V DIRECTOR SHARING: "I'll Take A Bouquet  
of Dandelions...Any Day"**

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS Region V Director

Today's riddle.... What is green and yellow all over?  
Of course, it's my front yard with its dazzling crop of dandelions!

Most of us think of dandelions as those terrible, awful weeds. Hundreds of thousands of dollars and labor hours are spent each year trying to rid our landscape of this mistake of nature! Yet, some individuals see dandelions as a delicious addition to a salad, herbal tea, strong medicine to cure what ails you, or even a fine wine. So now you may be thinking, "she's got dandelions on the brain" or "where in the world is she going with this subject?"

When I think of dandelions, I think of ASCLS! Like a dandelion with its flower head consisting of hundreds of tiny ray flowers, ASCLS through its constituent societies also has hundreds of dedicated members who are ray flowers for our profession through their vision and value. A dandelion's flower head can change into the familiar, white seed head overnight, ASCLS and its professional members are faced with regulatory and reimbursement challenges every day that requires quick change in how we practice our profession, sometimes even overnight! Each dandelion seed on its seed head has a tiny parachute so that it can spread far and wide in the wind, ASCLS members have the parachute of 'professional voice' which allows them to spread the word of ASCLS mission and core values into clinics, hospitals, educational institutions, industry, and research facilities around the world. A dandelion also has a branched, long taproot that grows deep, brings it the resources to thrive and even when one tries to remove it, it may break and the pieces left regenerate to form multiple new plants. Clinical laboratory professionals are faced with adversity every day, membership in ASCLS gives us "a professional taproot" that grows deep, provides us essential resources that can lead to success, and gives us professional strength and professional identity.



Tomorrow when you go to work, take time to listen and observe your co-workers. Are they complaining? Do they make statements that they are "stressed out"? Do they talk negatively about their profession? Do they have



a permanent frown on their face? Do they see challenges as obstacles and not opportunities? If the answers to any of these are 'yes', put on your 'mask, gown, and gloves', the professional negativity and apathy bug are very contagious! Live each day practicing professional infection control, surround yourself with positive professionals, surround yourself with other ASCLS members, continue to involve yourself in professional activities, and remain connected with ASCLS. When you feel the moment is right, step up to one of those less than positive, non-ASCLS members and offer to take them outside on a walk to enjoy and learn about dandelions!



**ASCLS-SD  
Salutes & Welcomes  
Our Newest  
Members!**

**Kathryn Becker**  
Menno

**Kari Berntson**  
Vermillion

**Tracy Busche**  
Britton

**Nicholas Gau**  
Brookings

**Val Hieb**  
Brandon

**Danielle High Bear**  
Brookings

**Jeffrey Kistler**  
Dell Rapids

**Janette MacNeill**  
Spearfish

**Travis Nelson**  
Lake Norden

**Anna Oskar**  
Sioux Falls

**Carmita Sanders**  
Ellsworth

**Jessica Solberg**  
Sioux City

**Tom Squires**  
Webster

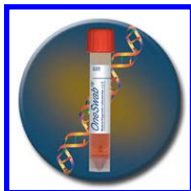
**Michael Woolheater**  
Sioux Falls

**Michael Zwart**  
Sioux Falls

**“Wishing you all a  
wondrous professional  
journey in ASCLS!”**

## **SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY MICROBIOLOGY: “Why Use DNA Testing For Identification of Group B Streptococcus?”**

By: Patricia Tille PhD MT(ASCP), Molecular Diagnostics Tech Specialist  
Avera McKennan Regional Laboratory, Associate Professor of Molecular  
Biology University of Sioux Falls



Molecular diagnostics is rapidly becoming the gold standard and replacing various methods for culturing infectious agents within the clinical laboratory. However, it is often difficult for technical directors and laboratory directors to convince physicians and administration that the cost increase associated with molecular diagnostics is worth the improvement in faster and sometimes more accurate patient diagnosis. It does not take an expert to understand that a faster, more accurate diagnosis should naturally lead to improved treatment and prognosis for the patient.

So, is DNA testing for the identification of Group B Streptococcus (*Streptococcus agalactiae*) worth the investment? Newborn infants are highly susceptible to infection with Group B streptococcus when born to a woman who is colonized in the vaginal or anorectal areas, and experience long, labored deliveries. CDC recommends screening all pregnant women at 35 – 37 weeks gestation in order to provide intrapartum prophylaxis. Even with the recommended screening, it is estimated that 2-5 infants per 1000 live births are infected with Group B Streptococcus. Early onset of disease results in a 50% mortality rate. After the first week of life, the mortality rate drops significantly.

How can there be such a high incidence of transmission from mother to a newborn baby with the implementation of CDC recommendations? Most clinical microbiology laboratories are still using presumptive biological identification based on physiological and biochemical traits of the isolated organism. Following 18 – 24 hours of incubation of the patient sample in an appropriate media such as LIM broth, the laboratory will complete a variety of tests such as a gram stain, catalase reaction, hemolysis on blood agar, PYR hydrolysis, CAMP and others. If hemolysis is used as a presumptive criteria, it has been shown that some strains of Group B Streptococcus are non-hemolytic requiring additional serological or biochemical tests. This can add significant time on to the identification process and is dependent on subjective interpretation by the testing personal. As laboratory professionals, we strive to always provide the best possible laboratory result based on our judgement and interpretation of results. Unfortunately, reality is we are all human and subjectivity is “subject” to erroneous interpretations.

Nucleic acid testing provides a non-subjective accurate identification of Group B Streptococcus with a fluorescent labeled probe to a specific target sequence. The GenProbe Group B Streptococcus Accuprobe test provides a simple method for specific identification of Group B Streptococcus within 18 hours of sample collection. The Accuprobe test has proven to positively identify all 9 serotypes of Group B Streptococcus. In various clinical studies, the sensitivity of the assay ranges from 81-99.9% with specificity of 96.3 – 100% both with a 95% confidence interval. In the realm of molecular testing



**BEE SAFE!**  
**Summer Safety**  
**Tidbits!**  
 From the “Safety Lady”-  
 Terry Jo Gile



**Fans in the Lab**

Be careful with fans in the lab.

Fans have been used for years to improve the air circulation in labs. As instrumentation has gotten bigger, and the heat output greater, the use of fans has become more prevalent.

This is a temporary fix, however, one that addresses the symptom but does not solve the basic problem. You don't have enough cool air circulation coming into the lab.

Fans stir up the particles in the air and on the bench tops and floors. It is an infection control issue, and fans cannot be used where microbiology plating or reading is done for fear of contamination.

Don't use fans as a stopgap measure. Get at the root of the problem and solve it. It will save you money in the long run.

the sensitivity and specificity may seem to not be as accurate as expected. However, any one familiar with the methods and processes used within the molecular diagnostics field would know that this is exceptionally high in molecular diagnosis of an infectious organism. When faced with a 50% infant mortality rate in the first week following birth, even in this day and age offering pre-natal care and Group B Streptococcus screening programs, a quicker, specific test seems to be unquestionably an option to consider. The clinical efficacy of such a test cannot be realized until more laboratories implement molecular diagnostics and clinical data has been collected demonstrating the prevention of disease and reduction in infant deaths. Initially, a laboratory may identify more positive specimens than usual, but molecular tests are statistically more sensitive than culture methods. Wouldn't you rather pay a little more for a test, catch a few more positives and save a few more precious babies? (For more statistical information and references the Accuprobe Package Insert is available on-line at [Gen-probe.com](http://Gen-probe.com)).



**CONSUMER INFORMATION RESPONSE TEAM: “An Invitation To All Clinical Laboratory Professionals”**

By: Pam Kieffer, ASCLS Consumer Information Response Team Member

Want to help consumers understand their laboratory testing? Want to challenge yourself and relay your talents in interpreting and evaluating laboratory testing? Want to utilize your knowledge to help others help their physicians make decisions about their health care? Then do I have a DEAL for you! The ASCLS Consumer Information Response Team is composed of clinical laboratory professionals who do just this. Clinical laboratory scientists perform millions of laboratory tests yearly. As you know, the clinical laboratory is composed of several sub-specialty areas: Chemistry, Hematology, Immunology, Microbiology, and Transfusion services and provides over 70% of the objective data that physicians need for accurate diagnosis and treatment. The Consumer Information Response Team members choose a sub-specialty area -- like chemistry -- and respond to consumer questions about their particular laboratory test. In our response, we are able to tell them about the test and about implications associated with their values. The consumer can take this information to their physician and be better able to discuss it with their physician. This is our scope of practice -- the scope of practice of the clinical laboratory professional. Many times patients have only a few minutes with their physician and are either too timid to ask questions, or do not think of the questions until they are out of the office. We've probably all been in that canoe! We emphasize to our consumers that we are not trying to determine a diagnosis, but rather to provide them with enough information so they can have their questions prepared at their next visit – or even provide them with the questions to ask!





**BEE SAFE!  
More Summer Safety  
Tidbits!**

**Temperature &  
Humidity**

The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) has guidelines covering temperature range and air-exchange rates.

As laboratories add more automated equipment, the room temperature goes up due to the amount of heat generated. Old labs are often a composite of several small rooms that lack the proper circulation and ventilation. If it is too hot, the equipment doesn't work properly and the lab results are erroneous.

ASHRAE also states that air exchange is important. Twelve exchanges per hour remove 99% of airborne particulates in 23 minutes.

Armed with this information, laboratory management should work with the facility's engineering department to assure employee comfort.

**What is the proper temperature for the laboratory?**

A: Temperature in the lab should be maintained at 65°–70° F with humidity between 35%–55%.



In addition to answering questions that come directly to our ASCLS web site, we provide our service to Lab Tests Online [www.labtestsonline.org](http://www.labtestsonline.org). Lab Tests Online is a collaborative effort of about 16 laboratory organizations. We have the site in the United States, and there are a number of sites in other parts of the world, one of which is a Polish site. We have been the recipient of multiple awards, including the Outstanding Web Site award by the Web Marketing Association (WMA), Silver Award for Patient Education in the 2005 Spring/Summer WWW Health Awards Program, and an Award for Best Health/Healthcare Content in the fourth annual eHealthcare Leadership Awards.

Personally, I thought I knew a LOT. I teach many of these disciplines, so it is my responsibility to keep up with new knowledge and testing. However, I have learned so much by participating as a member of the Consumer Information Response Team. Just as an example, I just experienced a question associated with a test called the CA-PTH INT. Yes, it is associated with testing for parathyroid hormone. What I learned about it is this: CA-PTH INT involves the cyclase-activating (CA) portion of the PTH molecule, which is the first four amino acids at the amino terminal end in the intact molecule. As you know, PTH has a total of 84 amino acids in the whole molecule. Only the intact molecule and the amino-terminal fragment have biologic activity. CA-PTH seems to pick out those patients with primary hyperthyroidism better, and the test appears to be more sensitive than the total and C-terminal fragment.

Another REWARD has been the appreciation of consumers as we help them understand their laboratory testing. Here is one, out of several, that I have received. *“Amazing!!! That is what I feel when I can go to this website and ask a question.....and get a very quick response from you! You have probably realized at my many questions that I am having numerous tests done. I have an excellent endo doctor. So good, that it is very hard to get an appointment with him. I have several labs scheduled for him in the meantime. Anyway thanks again for all of your help!!!! It is nice to know why I am collecting or giving to the labs every week. You are appreciated once again for your time and interest.”*

The ASCLS site originated about 5 years ago with a team of 7 laboratory professionals who answered approximately 2-5 questions a day. Currently we have over 30 clinical laboratory professionals who volunteer one or more days a week to answer questions in their specialty areas and are handling about 100 questions per day! That brings me to my request. We need more volunteers to help us respond to consumers. It would be wonderful to involve more laboratory professionals in this wonderful and rewarding opportunity. So...come join us. Experience the gift – the gift of knowing you have made a difference in someone's life. For more information, you may contact me directly at: [PKieffer@rcrh.org](mailto:PKieffer@rcrh.org)



**☞ Sharing Your Knowledge, Sharing Your Talents in ASCLS...  
Allows You To Be... All That You Can Be! ☞**

**16 Things to Always Remember As An ASCLS-SD Member... and One Thing to Never Forget**  
.....

1. Your presence is a present to the world.
2. You're unique and one of a kind.
3. Your life can be what you want it to be.
4. Take the days just one at a time.
5. Count your blessings, not your troubles.
6. Within you are so many answers.
7. Don't put limits on yourself.
8. Dreams are waiting to be realized.
9. Decisions are too important to leave to chance.
10. Reach for your peak, your goal, and your prize.
11. The longer one carries a problem, the heavier it gets.
12. Don't take things too seriously.
13. Remember that a lot . . . goes forever.
14. Remember that professional friendship is a wise investment.
15. Realize that it's never too late.
16. Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way.

**And don't ever forget . . .  
For even a day . . .  
As A Clinical Laboratory  
Science Professional – You  
Are A Health Care  
Shining Star.**



**ASCLS-SD MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: 2007-08 Student Forum Representative, Annual Meeting Elections & Awards!**

By: Lezlee Koch, ASCLS-SD Publications Co-Chair

**Michael Woolheater**  
**Clinical Internship: Sanford Health, Sioux Falls**



ASCLS-SD is proud to introduce to you our new 2007-08 Student Forum Representative, Michael Woolheater. Michael will assume his new position after this year's national meeting... but we wanted you to get to know a little about him before his term begins!

Michael attended the University of South Dakota and is currently interning at Sanford Health in Sioux Falls in their CLS/MT program. He started in June of this year and will finish in May of 2008 with a BS in Medical Technology. Michael works at USD as a technology fellowship for the department of modern languages, biomedical sciences, and the center for teaching and learning. Also, on August 26th he will be celebrating five years with Best Buy in Sioux Falls as a computer technician.

When asked about his health care or community achievements, Michael stated, "I have been on the USD School of Medicine's Dean's list, selected to be the recipient of the USD Faithe Scholarship, and have also received the USD Promise Scholarship and the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship. I was once chosen as Best Buy Employee of the Quarter and have been selected for Best Buy MVP many times. While these are great achievements in my life, my most proudest moment was winning the Roosevelt High School Matball Championship. I loved my team and if you guys are reading this (like that would ever happen), go Beavers!"



Michael's professional views on the clinical laboratory profession are to be commended. "I would compare the value of the clinical laboratory profession in this world to the importance of a motherboard in a computer, brakes in a car, ozone layer in our atmosphere, and the importance of the apple in an appletini. One just doesn't work without the other and nothing on that list is more important than any other. I did a lot of research in many different areas before I chose to be a medical technology major and I honestly had no idea how extremely important CLS really is. It makes me proud knowing that I get to be apart of something so valuable." When asked why he chose Clinical Laboratory Science and became a student member in ASCLS Michael stated, "I have always enjoyed the technical aspects of everything I do. Science and how things work were my calling. As with any profession I think one has to have a lot of passion for what they are doing. If you are going to commit to something you are going to spend the rest of your life doing, it might as well be something you enjoy. I know that CLS is something that I will never get bored with and I know that I will be able to benefit the profession as much as it will benefit me. I am truly looking forward to my future in the profession. I decided to join ASCLS because I knew I am just getting started in a field that is very vast and comprehensive and I want to be as involved as possible. Something as big as clinical laboratory science can be very overwhelming if you don't have people to support you and share your ideas with. I found an area of study that fits me best and interests me so much I



**SPECIAL  
CONGRATULATIONS TO  
OUR 2006-07  
MEMBERSHIP AWARD  
RECIPIENTS!**

**2 YEAR**

Jennifer Carlson  
Robert Clark  
Jeanine Dodson  
Shannon Dunn  
Shirley Heber  
Elaine Hilton  
Ann Krumpus  
Vikki Laurence  
Anita Linn  
Lisa Mathison  
Nicole McFarlane  
Jenna Paye  
Alyssa Pogany  
Nancy Schweitzer  
Michelle Sedlacek  
Kathy Stiefvater  
Tanya Stuckey  
Brandi Zerfoss

**5 YEAR**

Peggy Jennings  
Michelle Loecker  
Sonja Lynch  
Ruth McFarland  
Angela Mueller  
Lori Murray  
Brendon Sato  
Andrea Schaub  
Ivy Senska  
Sandra Sheppard  
Becky Zahn

**10 YEAR**

Rosemary Jenson  
Susan Smith

**15 YEAR**

Theresa Nelson  
Patricia Tiller

**25 YEAR**

Pam Kieffer

**30 YEAR**

Carol Adams  
Etta Bassinger  
Janet McArthur

**45 YEAR**

Bonnie Fingerhut

want to make it my life. I want to be involved with other people who think the same way I do and are interested in the same areas of study.”

Michael also wanted to share. “In December of last year I asked my girlfriend of three years, Christina Jenkins, to marry me. We are engaged and have already begun preparing for our wedding on September 6th of 2008.” Michael has created an online ePortfolio to display things he’s done and great moments in his life. Feel free to visit his online ePortfolio which is located at <http://www.usd.edu/~mwoolhea>

**Special congratulations to Michael... we wish you a wondrous journey in  
Clinical Laboratory Science and ASCLS!**

**CONGRATULATIONS & SPECIAL WISHES TO...  
2007-2008 ASCLS-SD Officers & Nominations Committee**

**President:** Lori Murray, Garretson SD

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Michael Andersen, Freeman SD

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Susan Lopez, Volga SD

**Past President:** Patricia Tille, Sioux Falls SD

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Deb Pravecek, Brookings SD

**Board Members-At-Large:**

Ruth McFarland, Flandreau SD

Nancy Schweitzer, Mobridge SD

Kelly Thomas, Rapid City SD

**Young Professional Member-At-Large:** Tanya Stuckey, Sioux Falls

**Student Forum Representative:** Michael Woolheater, Sioux Falls SD

**Nominations Committee:**

Mona Gleysteen, Castlewood SD

Debra Piper, Tea SD

**2007 ASCLS-SD Awards & Scholarships**

**ASCLS-SD Membership Awards: Refer To Side Column**

**ASCLS OMICRON SIGMA – State/Regional/National**

Ruth McFarland (State)

Brendon Sata (State)

Darla Van Asselt (State)

Patrick McMahon (State)

Michael Andersen (Regional)

Warren Erickson (Regional)

Debra Piper (Regional)

Mona Gleysteen (National)

Lezlee Koch (National)

Tanya Stuckey (State)

Rebecca Aman (State)

Susan Lopez (State)

Donald Wahl (State)

Lori Murray (Regional)

Shirley Heber (Regional)

Pam Kieffer (National)

**ASCLS-SD Keys To The Future**

Shirley Heber

Mary Jo Rohrbach

**ASCLS-SD Member of the Year**

**Deborah Pravecek**

**ASCLS-SD Scholarship Recipients**

Nicholas Gau

Travis Nelson

Christel Jonker