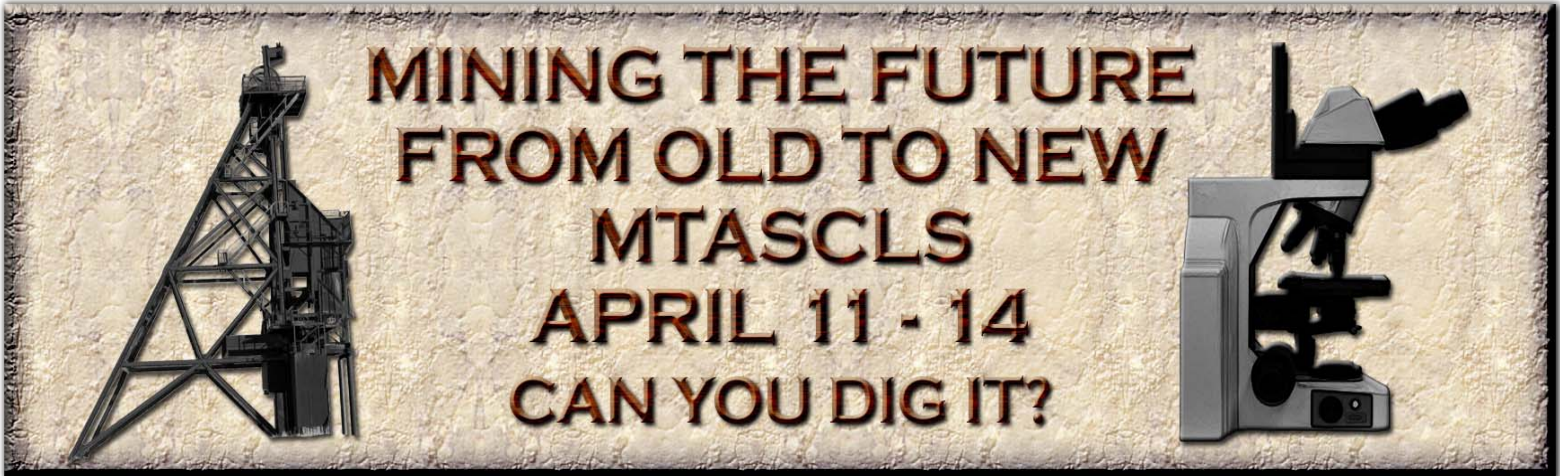
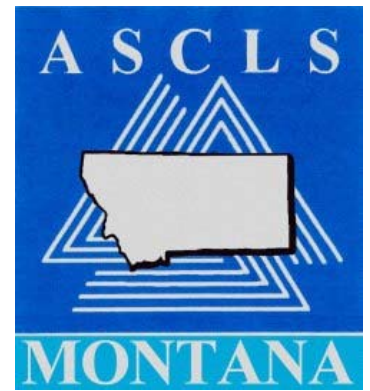


Montana Laboratory News

Spring 2007



Butte is hosting the 2007 ASCLS-Montana Annual Spring Meeting and Educational Seminar April 11-14th. The Annual Meeting and educational events will be held in the Copper King Hotel and Convention Center. The hard working crew putting this year's meeting together include: Karen Flint, General Chair; Linda Bronson, Registration; Lou Olcott, Publicity; Sherry Coulthard, Exhibits; and David Jinneman, IT. They have put together an impressive schedule of educational programs, descriptions are included in this edition. There will also be some fun and exploration of Historic Butte. Thursday evening students and young professionals will enjoy a night out on their own in addition to the traditional silent auction to benefit the Children's Miracle Network .

Friday evening we are invited to a traditional Butte Pasty dinner at Gamer's Diner followed by a walking tour of some of uptown Butte's historic sites and a trolley ride to the Montana Tech Mining Museum for Wine and Dessert.

One attendee from each institution is invited to attend courtesy of the Montana Public Health Laboratory. To be eligible for this offer, the person must attend both Pandemic Influenza sessions on Friday, and must RSVP to the Public Health Lab by April 4th. Contact Deborah Franklin at 406-444-0930 (difranklin@mt.gov) or Kathy Martinka at 406-444-0944 (kmartinka@mt.gov) to RSVP.

In This Issue...

Region VIII Director	2
Office Candidates.....	3-5
Student News.....	6-7
License renewal.....	7
Calendar	7

VISIT the ASCLS-Montana website at: www.ascls-montana.asclsregionviii.org/

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Spring "Cleaning"

Susie Zanto

Region VIII Director

Despite the foot of snow that fell last week, spring is fast approaching, and that means Spring Meeting time! Planning committees are busy with the countless tasks that accompany a successful meeting. State Society Board members are busy working on their projects and making certain that progress can be reported at the annual meeting in April. In Montana, we are all reviewing our continuing education credits to ensure we have enough for our license renewal in May. In between all of this, we are busy with our lives both at work and at home.

My husband and I are starting our Spring Clean-Out. We don't necessarily Spring Clean – we just try to agree on the "stuff" that can be thrown out (in my case, to provide room to collect more "stuff"?). Our criteria?? I have to be able to use "it" within the next year, or "it" is out with the trash!

That got me thinking – Am I using the things I possess in a worthwhile manner? How many of you are using your talents and skills to promote your profession? Believe me, the organizational and critical thinking skills you use daily at your workplace serve ASCLS equally well! Have you volunteered even an hour a week to help ASCLS strive to represent your interests?

If you have, and many of you have, THANKS! Without your energy and enthusiasm ASCLS could not continue to provide the quality of service it does.

If you haven't yet had the opportunity, ASCLS needs your participation. The talents you possess should not get "thrown out with the trash" because you haven't used them. Please consider becoming an active member of your state society. Attend your state Spring Meeting and offer to help – you'll find the rewards are well worth the effort!



Meet the Candidates

It's time again to elect officers for your state society. Ballots were mailed to all members last month. If you have not yet mailed in your ballot, be sure to do so and vote for one (1) person for each office. Your name must be on the envelope in order for membership to be verified. Do not mail in a ballot if you will be at the meeting in Butte. However if you wish to change a previous vote at the state meeting you may do so by requesting that your previously mailed ballot be destroyed. Ballots must be mailed by April 6, 2007.



PRESIDENT-ELECT

Joni Gilstrap

Joni has been working at Billings Clinic for 9 years and is currently the Quality Assurance/Technical Consultant for the Billings Clinic Laboratory. Joni was a co-chairperson of the 2006 IMSS meeting in Jackson, WY. She was also the IMSS Coordinating Committee "Member of the Year" in 2004, and has been the Exhibit Coordinator of that meeting for the past 4 years and has been on the Coordinating Committee for the past 5 years. Joni has been honored with the Omicron Sigma award and was honored with the ASCLS –MT "Member of the Year" award in 2006. Joni also serves as District Chair for District III and has been active in ASCLS-MT holding positions on the Board of Directors, and Nominations. Joni is married with 2 sons; one attending MSU-Bozeman, one a High School senior.

Article continued on Page 4

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Meet the Candidates (continued)

TREASURER

Vivian Schaffer

Vivian works at the Public Health Lab in Helena where she works mostly with STD testing, serology, and molecular testing. Vivian is originally from Arizona where she worked at a private hospital for over 12 years. Ten years ago she moved to Montana and now she feels like a Montana native. Vivian has 2 daughters; one is married and lives in Helena, one is attending the U of Montana after 4 years in the Marine Corps; and a 7-year old grandson. If elected, this will be Vivian's second term as Treasurer. She has also served ASCLS-MT on the Board of Directors and on the Awards and Scholarship committee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Connie Buchanan

Connie Buchanan earned her B.S. from the U of Montana and a Master's degree in education from MSU-Billings. She describes herself as thriving on knowledge and is excited about learning something new every day. She has a passion for her job! Connie has two children; a son who graduated in Mechanical Engineering last spring, and a daughter with a Board of Ph.D. in Occupational Therapy who can afford her own school loans payments. Connie and her husband both plan to remain in the workforce, however, for the next few years and Connie feels like now the time is right to become active in their respective professional organizations.

Linda Wolford

Linda has worked at Daniels Memorial Healthcare Center for 22 years. She is the Manager of the Laboratory and Radiology Departments. Linda is completing her second term on the Nominations Committee for District I. She has been actively involved in the Montana Society of Radiologic Technologists for 13 years; serving as Treasurer for 4 years, President-elect for 2 years, President for 2 years, and on the Directors of that organization for 5 years. Linda would like to become more involve with ASCLS-Montana. Linda is married and has a son who is an Electrical Engineer and a daughter who is a Radiation Therapist.

Meet the Candidates (continued)

NOMINATIONS – DISTRICT I

Keri Taylor

Keri graduated with Distinction from Ohio State University with a degree in Medical Technology. Her first job after graduation was in Beech Grove, Indiana. From there she moved west to Wolf Point, MT where she worked from 1999 until 2002 and since then she has worked as Laboratory Manager and Infection Control Coordinator at McCone County Health Center. Keri is married with two boys, ages 3 and 5. She and her husband live on a ranch 34 miles from Circle where they raise beef cattle, sport cattle, and horses. Keri participates in rodeo barrel racing and roping events, scrap booking, traveling, and reading. Keri has several other community service positions: She volunteers as an EMT for the Redwater Valley Ambulance Service and serves as the 4-H horse project leader for McCone County. She belongs as a member to the Circle Roping Club, the Outback Barrel Racing Association, and the Wrangler Team Roping Championship Organization.

NOMINATIONS – DISTRICT III

Amy Steinmetz

Amy has worked at the Billings Clinic for the past seven years. She started as a bench tech and is now in the Lab Information System department. Amy has been on the nominations committee for the last two years and has enjoyed being involved. Last year she received the Key to the Future Award at the National ASCLS convention in Chicago. Amy says she has learned a lot about the ASCLS organization in the last two years and would really like to stay involved. Her goal is to increase membership among the younger generation of Laboratory Professionals and encourage them to become involved in the many activities that this organization has to offer.

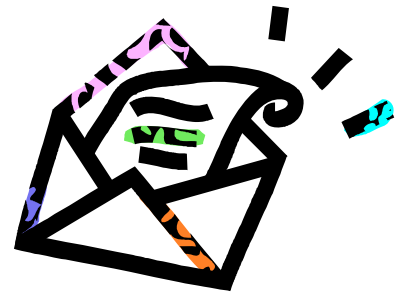
NOMINATIONS – DISTRICT V

Currently no nominations. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the General Business meeting on April 12th.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Currently no nominations. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the General Business meeting on April 12th.

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CLS Students in Montana

This year Montana was fortunate to have several CLS interns at various clinical sites in the state. Among them are:

Jed Doxtater: Jed is from Kalispell, MT and is completing his internship at Community Medical Center in Missoula.

Grant Heald: Grant calls Stevensville, MT home. He is also finishing his clinical training soon at Community Medical Center in Missoula.

Michelle Morgan: Michelle is from Billings, MT. She enlisted in the Army National Guard after High School and has been going to school while completing her enlistment. She has a 3 year old son, Gavin, who keeps her busy, as well. Her free time hobbies include bowling, movies, shopping, and other family activities. Michelle is completing her internship soon at St. Vincent's Healthcare in Billings.

Amber Metz: Amber grew up in Gillette, WY. She has a degree in microbiology from MSU-Bozeman and a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science from the University of New Mexico. Amber is completing her CLS internship at St. Vincent Healthcare in Billings and plans to remain in the Billings area after graduation. Amber's free time is spent camping, boating, and teaching second graders at her church.

Amanda Kimmet: Amanda is from Cut Bank, MT. She will be completing her degrees in Biology and Clinical Lab Science from the University of Mary in Bismarck upon graduation from the internship program through the University of North Dakota. Amanda is finishing her clinical training at Northern Montana Hospital in Havre, MT. After graduation she hopes to remain in the Cut Bank area where she enjoys the mountains of Glacier National Park and her farming and ranching background.

Sarah Anderson: Sarah is from Glendive, MT. She graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Biological Sciences and migrated to the Portland, Oregon area where she worked in research for a time. She realized she wanted to return closer to home and found Clinical Lab Science and is now in her internship program at Benefis Healthcare. Sarah's after-hour interests are artistic. Sarah designed the safety poster for the fume hood.

Shannon Gretch: Shannon is a Great Falls native and graduate of the University of Great Falls with degrees in Biology and Business Administration. After completing her internship at Benefis Healthcare Shannon and her soon to be husband are excited about future travels. Shannon's interests include snowboarding and other athletic endeavors. She is recently engaged to a young man from Roy, MT who is stationed at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls.

David Sechrist: David graduated from Colorado State University in Fort Collins with a degree in Health and Exercise Science. He discovered Clinical Lab Science through exposure while working in the hospital environment and is currently interning at Benefis Healthcare. He would like to stay in Montana after completing his internship. His interests include someone special in Billings and almost anything athletic.

Article continued on Page 7

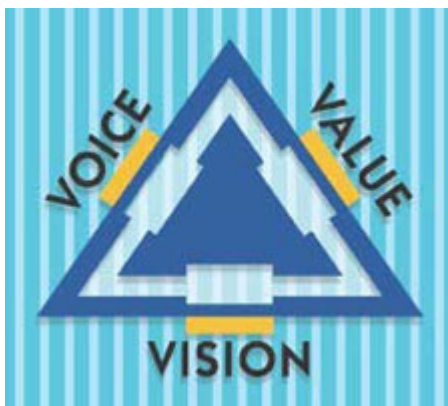
CLS Students in Montana (continued)

Robert Senecal: Robert grew up in Philipsburg, MT and graduated from the University of Montana with a degree in Microbiology and Medical Technology. He is interning at Benefis Healthcare in Great Falls. Robert is married to an elementary school teacher and they are parents of two little girls who keep them busy. Robert plans to stay in Montana after completing his training.

In addition to these students, there are also two students interning at Billings Clinic, one at Holy Rosary Healthcare in Miles City, two at Kalispell Regional Medical Center, one at Livingston Regional Memorial Hospital, one at St. Patrick Hospital in Missoula, and one at St. James in Butte for a total of 17 CLS interns in Montana clinical sites this year.

Remember, it's time again to renew your state license. It's easy to do renew online using your credit or debit card or straight out of your checking account at LicenseRenewal.mt.gov or at cls.mt.gov. You must have the renewal notice that was mailed to you in order to renew online. After the renewal process is completed, you can print your license documentation right then and there.

You may renew your license online up to 45 days after the renewal deadline date of May 1. **BUT,** it a penalty fee of **100%** will apply after the May 1 deadline. In addition, disciplinary action may be taken against a licensee who practices with an expired license.



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ASCLS – Montana Calendar of Events

April 11-14, 2007	ASCLS-MT Spring Education & Business Meeting, Butte, MT
April 11, 2007	ASCLS-MT Spring Board Meeting, Butte, MT
April 12, 2007	ASCLS-MT Annual General Business Meeting, Butte, MT
July 17-21, 2007	ASCLS National Meeting, San Diego, CA
September 19 - 22, 2007	InterMountain States Seminar, Jackson, WY - - Idaho is host state