



TACLS (Texas Association for Clinical Laboratory Science)

Student News Letter

ASCLS Mission/Vision Statement

ASCLS serves as the voice of all clinical laboratory professionals, creating a vision for the advancement of the clinical laboratory practice field, and advocating the value and the role of the profession ensuring safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient centered health care.

Science on the Seawall – 2009 TACLS Annual Convention

March 25 to March 28

Galveston Convention Center at the San Luis Resort Galveston Hilton

With so many opportunities at this year’s annual convention, what are my expectations? First, show your school spirit and cheer on your Student Bowl teams. Dress in team colors and get into the competitive spirit. There is no better team than your team. Show them how much you appreciate them representing YOUR school..



Galveston Convention

After the Student Bowl competition, get to know the other students from all over the great state of Texas. This is a great time to talk about and compare our experiences. It is amazing that regardless where we decide to further our education and train in Clinical Lab Science, there are so many similarities in what we face and how we achieve our goals. Friendships made now are life long and every year we can look forward to seeing each other at the annual convention and catch up on the events from the past year.

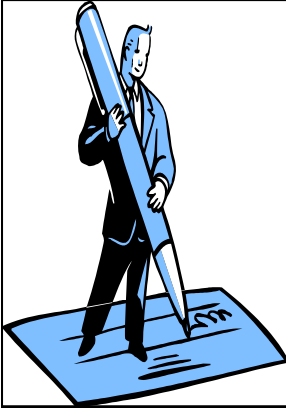
Keep up with the current issues involving our profession. There will be guest speakers and presentations covering current trends and ideas. How better to get the lowdown on what is driving CLS today than to attend a presentation from the people who are living it every day. Topics will include research, governmental affairs, current technology and trends. These topics will extend beyond the classroom.

And most importantly, you will be surrounded by our future employers; professionals representing every aspect of the CLS, looking for the next generation to hire. From hospital and research labs to equipment manufactures and sales professionals, a glimpse of the opportunities that lay ahead of us after graduation. This is what you are training for, to put your education, knowledge, and expertise to work.

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Registration for Annual Meeting



Sign- Up!

Register before or on **March 20th!!**

www.tacls.org

-online registration/paypal

Student Fees:

	Full (3days)	Daily
ASCLS Members	\$50.00	\$25.00
Non-Members	\$100.00	\$50.00

*****Late Registration Fee (after March 20th)- \$50.00**

Become an ASCLS member :
www.ascls.org

Students: \$25.00

1st year Professionals: \$40.00

Professional I: \$95.00

Professional II: \$72.00

TACLS Student Activities

- **Student Bowl**
Wednesday 7 pm to 9 pm
Thursday 11 am to 5 pm
Friday 8 am to 12 pm
- **Student Forum Lunch**
Thursday 12 pm to 1:30 pm
- **Student Forum Candidate Speeches and Election**
Thursday 5:15- 7:00 pm
- **Karaoke Night** – Thursday 7 pm to 10 pm

I hear the word “Networking” but how do I do it?

In the same way computers are networked together so that they can communicate and share information, we as student’s need to communicate and share information within our profession with other professionals. Just think of all the knowledge and experience saved in some of the seasoned professionals. If we could just tap into it!

The good news is that those same people with all the knowledge and experience love to share with others. We just need to ask them about their

story! At the conference, we will be surrounded by many experienced professionals and all we have to do is ask. The first mistake that one can make is to stay where it is safe. Hanging around friends and not allowing yourself to step out and visit with others.

- Ask for business cards or contact information. In the age of the information high-way, keeping in touch is now easier than ever. A simple email allows contact that is convenient for both.
- If someone is employed in an area that sounds interesting, ask questions. Find out how they got to where they were.
- Always get information about careers, salaries, hours, benefits, etc. The more you know, the more accurate your expectations. School provides us with the knowledge to succeed in our careers.

We need to find out were the opportunities are!



“Networking”

A call for the next Student Forum Leaders

Are you interested in getting more involved? Are you a leader at your school? Do you have what it takes to motivate and inspire students? Do you have an idea about where your profession is going? Now is the time to stand up and make your voice heard! It is time to elect the 2009-2010 Student Forum leaders. Elections will be held during the TACLS Annual Conference in Galveston, Texas.



Elections

Warning: Life changing events, Proceed at your own risk!

I am interested, but what do I need to do?

*First make sure to evaluate where you are at, what you want for yourself and other students professionally, make sure you have the time and are willing to put forth the effort, be able to make sacrifices, be able to manage time well, work well with others, be able at times to help out more when others can not (be able to lead and follow!), and make sure you understand the position you are interested in and the work that is done.

- Decide which position you are interested in.
- Prepare a brief description as to your ideas and why you want to be elected.
- Get your classmates to support you. There is power in numbers.
- At the convention, present your ideas to the Student Forum.
- Solicit support from students from other schools in attendance.

Texas is a very active state in ASCLS. There is a consistent drive for membership, Licensure, and advocacy. The members love to see the student involvement and bend over backwards in support.

3 Student Forum Positions:

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

**If you are interested in running and would like more information on a certain position and duties please feel free to e-mail us.*

Schedule For Student Elections

Thursday, March 26th

12:00 –1:30 pm **Student Lunch**

- During lunch Nominations and Introductions will take place
*If you would like to run for an office be prepared at this time to introduce your self, What office you are running for, and a brief overview of your speech.

5:15– 7:00 pm **Candidate Speeches and Election**



Students Still Needed for National Committees

Student Reps need to be appointed to the listed National Committees. Volunteers that would like to participate must get back to us immediately so an appointment can be made. Please send an email to the National CLS Student Forum at clsstudentforum@gmail.com. Including your name, email, and other contact information. If you have any questions, please contact Michele "Mickey" Yost at the above email or Lezlee Koch at lezleek@sio.midco.net.

By serving on one of the committees the student member will be included in committee activities, requests for input, conference calls, etc. It is an excellent way in which "student voices" help shape the future of our profession and allows them learn more about ASCLS and all it does for its members and our profession.

- **Member Recruitment Committee**: Responsible for the recruitment of members into the Society.

- **Member Services Committee**: Responsible for the retention of present members, reactivation of lapsed members, and other member services.

- **Leadership Development Committee**: Cultivates members to encourage those individuals who have indicated a talent and interest in serving in a leadership position.

- **Committee on Professional Affairs**: Provides a face for laboratory professionals by communicating our education and training and our impact on the public's health, educating the public regarding the pivotal role clinical laboratory professionals play as essential members of the healthcare team, advocating for increased professional visibility by serving as a resource for the public and other healthcare professionals and promoting good citizenship as an attribute of a clinical laboratory professional.

- **Awards Committee**: Coordinates all activities on publication, description, nomination, selection and presentation of Societal Awards.

- **Product Development Committee**: Coordinates the development and maintenance of current publications, as well as facilitates the creation of new publications.



American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
Voice, Value, Vision

Patient Safety Supersedes the Need for Speed and High Workload

Over the last decade, 60,000 patients in the United States were asked to get tested for Hepatitis B Virus and Hepatitis C Virus due to healthcare personnel failing to follow basic infection control practices. No one wants to put patients at risk knowingly. We need to be reminded that shortcuts do exactly that. These are excerpts taken from an editorial by Matthew T. Patton published in the January 12, 2009 ADVANCE for Medical Laboratory Professionals magazine. In my relatively short period of time spent working in the lab, I constantly have to remind myself that the patient is the benefactor of the tests I am running. There are techs that have found ways to get work done very efficiently. Turn around time is monitored by management. Every effort is being made to turn the work out quickly. As long as the “more efficient” way of doing things is not a shortcut and results are not compromised, we are doing patients a service by providing the physician with timely information. Something to consider is our reliance on automation. Complacency in our attitudes to just turn out what the machine says will endanger the patient as well. We must adjust the way we carry out our daily functions to ensure “We” are confident that the equipment is performing the task accurately and precisely. Remember, we have the education, knowledge and skills to perform our jobs. Our training is intense, thorough, and complete. As long as we keep this all important priority at the forefront of daily tasks, we will perform our jobs with great integrity and respect.

Student Forum:

Left: Erin Walker (Secretary)

Middle: Kassandra Madrigal (Vice Chair)

Right: Stephen Tidd (Chair)



Student Voice/Input

Just a reminder to all:

We the student forum are here for you! In order for us to be effective and informative greatly depends on your voice and input. We need to know and would love to hear what you think, questions, how we can better serve you. Please let us know if there is something we can discuss for you or something you would like more information on. Let us know your concerns, your opinions, what we are doing right, what we can improve on. The only way for us to be better is to know your thoughts.

Please feel free to **e-mail** us with information, comments, questions, advice, praises.. etc. at tacsstudentforum@gmail.com.

Also visit our page on **Facebook** (TACLS): this is a great resource- you can post (comments, questions, information), keep up to date, and keep in touch or meet other CLS student from around Texas.