

Winter 2016  
Issue 1, Vol. 5

American Society for Clinical Laboratory  
Sciences Oregon Chapter Newsletter  
**The Centrifuge**



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**Special Interest  
Articles:**

- ASCLS Diversity Statement
- Student experience at 2015 ASCLS National Meeting

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**Thank You to Outgoing Centrifuge Editor Beth Zentzis**  
by Patty DeTurk, MLS(ASCP), Incoming Centrifuge Editor  
and President-Elect ASCLS Oregon

I want to extend my personal thanks and appreciation to Beth Zentzis for her work for ASCLS-OR:

First, for creating our new logo. Second, for building and maintaining our website. Third, for designing and building our award-winning newsletter, *The Centrifuge*, and editing and enlisting contributions to it since 2012. Finally, Beth has

volunteered many hours to ASCLS Oregon, maintaining our presence in print and online, carrying forward the philosophy that good communication strengthens us professionally and personally. We have benefited from her experience beyond the laboratory including writing, editing, graphic design, and education.

We wish Beth well as she moves on to new endeavors. Our Oregon chapter of ASCLS is attempting to fill the gap, but always in appreciation of what was before. Thank you Beth!

*Thank  
You*

**Congratulations Recent Graduates**

by Cara Calvo, MS, MT(ASCP)SH and Ana Sacramento, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>



Portland Community College Medical Laboratory Program graduated 25 students in 2015 (7 of which took the online program). 23 have taken the ASCP exam and passed in their first attempt; 2 have not yet taken the exam.



Oregon Institute of Technology Clinical Laboratory Program graduated 45 students in December 2015, with a 97% pass rate for the graduates who have taken the exam (11 still have yet to take it). Historically, the program has a job placement rate of 100% within six months of graduating. The 2015 graduating class included

about 71 percent women and 29 percent men, the majority in the 25 to 35 age range.

For additional information on these two programs, please visit these websites:

<http://oit.edu/wilsonville/academics/degrees/clinical-laboratory-science>

<http://www.pcc.edu/programs/medical-lab/>



**ASCLS Diversity Statement**

by Patty DeTurk, MLS(ASCP), Incoming Centrifuge Editor and President-Elect ASCLS Oregon



*I'm a Lab Tech;  
what's YOUR  
superpower?*

The ASCLS Diversity Task Force was charged with the creation of an official diversity statement, which would allow ASCLS to set up benchmarks for improvement, and to help formulate strategies to increase the diversity of in membership.

The Diversity Statement was created over several months of intense work by task force members. After some discussion by the House of Delegates in Atlanta, July 2015, it was agreed that the statement being recommended may potentially need improvement, but it was essential to ASCLS to have an official statement in place. The official definition for diversity by ASCLS as presented to the Forum by the Diversity Task Force reads as follows:

*“ASCLS is an inclusive, culturally relevant community of people acknowledging their differences and unique characteristics; it is an organization where all persons can engage and participate in a meaningful way empowering everyone to grow and learn.”*

Among the strategies recommended by the task force to increase diversity in the membership and leadership is to:

- Identify under-represented communities within the laboratory practice field;
- Develop ways to make membership relevant to the under-represented;
- Work with the Membership Development Committee to recruit these communities into ASCLS;

- Identify barriers and disparities in ASCLS related to diversity and find and recommend ways to overcome them.

It was also recommended by the Diversity Task Force to change the name of the **Forum for the Concerns of Minorities to Diversity Advocacy Council**. This name change was voted on and approved by the current Forum members.

*If you have feedback on the ASCLS diversity statement provided in this article, please email Patty DeTurk at [pathwaysnw@aol.com](mailto:pathwaysnw@aol.com). The next Centrifuge will include a recap of the feedback. It will also be provided to the ASCLS Diversity Task Force.*



**Upcoming Education Events**

**ASCLS Washington Spring Seminar  
April 14-16, 2016, Renton, WA**

*Earn up to 20 P.A.C.E. contact hours, catch up on the latest trends in the profession; network with current and new colleagues! For more information, visit the website: <http://www.asclswa.org/SpringSeminar.html>*

**Portland Microbiology Grand Rounds  
March 29, 2016, 5:30 PM, Portland, OR**

*Know Antibiotics: The Importance of Definitive Pertussis and Group A Strep Diagnosis by Mary-Margaret Fisher, BSMT(ASCP), The Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters. Email [Susan.E.Sharp@kp.org](mailto:Susan.E.Sharp@kp.org) for more information and to reserve a seat.*

**ASCLS-Oregon Officers 2015-2015**

Caro Calvo	President
Patty DeTurk	President-Elect
Maja Chioupkova	Past President
Jerri Ramirez	Secretary
Krista Moore	Treasurer
Lorianne Smith	Student Representative
Meghan Moore	First Year Professional
Helen Wand	Board Member At-Large
Patty DeTurk	Principal Agent
Emily Barbur	P.A.C.E. Chair
Heidi Smith	Director of Scholarships

## Student Delegate Experience at the 2015 National Meeting

by Vathani Logendran, MLS(ASCP), Centrifuge Assistant Editor

The end of summer term as a CLS student at OIT was coming to a close, and there was a lot on my plate before it was going to end. My spirits, however, were revitalized when I was given the opportunity to be going to the Annual ASCLS Meeting in Atlanta, GA by ASCLS-OR. No matter how busy I was at the time, I knew this was an opportunity that needed to be seized. I was incredibly excited at the prospect of what a national meeting could hold. I took a red-eye flight from Portland and arrived to the scorching Atlanta heat on the morning of July 28th. I met both Meghan Moore (ASCLS-OR New Professional) and Lorianne Smith (ASCLS-OR Student Representative) who were my awesome roommates for the next three days!

The ASCLS Annual Meeting and Clinical Lab Expo exceeded my expectations in every sense of the word. It is difficult to identify my favorite aspect because every possible experience brought something new and meaningful. On the first night of the day I arrived, there was the First Timers' and Student Reception. I was able to meet many students

and new professionals, who were just as enthralled by the opportunities that awaited us. I had the honor of speaking to the well-known Roslyn McQueen, who is a Research Doctor at Hurley Medical Center in Michigan, and I was inspired by her work and ideas.

I walked through the Clinical Expo in absolute awe at the sight of the various innovative instruments and analyzers from all over the globe. It was like being in an entirely new world! I was amazed to see exactly how advanced technology has contributed to furthering the health field. I was particularly looking forward to the seminars that doctors, medical technologists, and other health professionals were giving. A few of my favorite seminars included "Vector Borne Diseases in the United States – What's the Buzz?" and "A Systematic Approach to Grading Blood Cell Morphology". These seminars allowed me to apply my own previous

*Student Experiences continued on p. 4*

### ASCLS Offering FREE CE Credits

by Emily Barbur, MLS(ASCP) and P.A.C.E ASCLS-OR Administrator

ASCLS offers a "Thank You" program, to acknowledge your choice of ASCLS as your professional organization. Everyone who renews their membership before September each year has access to six **free** CE credits. You can choose between FOCUS articles, downloadable Case Studies and Learning Scope articles from *ADVANCE for Administrators/Laboratory Professionals*.

Instructions for these credits can be found at <http://ascls.org/join-ascls/member-thank-you>



### Events Calendar: 2016

Event	Date	Where
Board of Directors Meeting	January 31 2:00 – 3:30 PM	OIT Wilsonville, OR
Legislative Symposium	March 14 & 15	Alexandria, VA
Alpha Mu Tau \$1500 scholarships application due	April 1	
ASCLS Washington Spring Seminar	April 14-16	Renton, WA
Medical Laboratory Professionals Week	April 24-30	
Selecting delegates to National Meeting, and selecting new officers	February to May	
Board of Directors Meeting: Delegates to National Meeting selected, New officers elected	May - Second half, exact date TBD	Wilsonville, OR
Annual Meeting & Clinical Lab Expo	July 31 – August 4	Philadelphia, PA
Northwest Medical Laboratory Symposium	October 12 – 15	Portland, OR

The Centrifuge is published triannually by ASCLS-Oregon for the Oregon Clinical Laboratory Science community.

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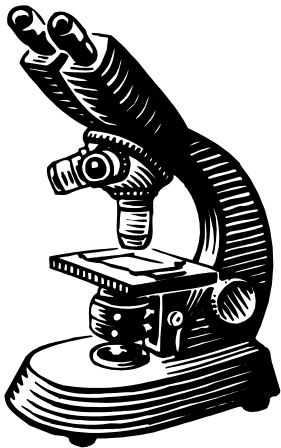
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For submissions, events, recognition and announcements or suggestions, please send an email to:

[pathwaysnw@aol.com](mailto:pathwaysnw@aol.com)

## ***Student Delegate Experience at the 2015 National Meeting*** ***continuing from p. 3***



*Keep calm and put your lab coat on.*

knowledge from the classroom while providing a more in-depth picture. On top of all of this, I had the pleasure of being invited to fun and fancy events like the Sysmex Customer Charity Event and the Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity dinner that had a "Gone With the Wind" theme. Those were some memorable nights!

One of the most amazing opportunities that the ASCLS Annual Meeting provided was those for the students. The ASCLS Student Forum puts together student-related events, raises money for student travel grants to attend the ASCLS Student Forum, and much more. I was extremely excited about the work that ASCLS Student Forum did, and wanted to be able to provide that for future students. From the first night, after talking to individuals in elected Student Forum positions, like Elizabeth

Ezeb and Jazmen Myers, I was encouraged to run for a Student Forum position. I decided to run for ASCLS Student Forum Vice Chair.

Throughout the Annual Meeting, I talked to many individuals and discussed what I was excited to accomplish if elected Vice Chair. The ASCLS Student Forum elections were on the last day of the Annual Meeting, and nine students were running in total. Each student gave a five minute speech talking about their experiences and what they hope to do if elected. All the student delegates at the ASCLS National Meeting voted for the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. To my surprise, I was elected the Vice Chair! To this day, I remain honored and grateful for the opportunity I was given to attend the ASCLS National Meeting. I learned a lot, met many amazing people in our field, and was

given incredible opportunities. I am currently serving as the ASCLS Student Forum Vice Chair until the beginning of August of 2016, and I'm excited to say that although we have accomplished a great amount, there's so much more in store!

Opportunity. That is quite possibly my favorite word, and I can never use it enough. I love being involved on a greater level, and seizing opportunities where they arise. The ASCLS National Meeting of 2015 was exactly that type of experience, and I only hope that more individuals in the field of CLS seize the opportunity to attend future ASCLS National Meetings.



## ***Student Corner***

### **APPLY to Scholarships!**

Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity and Education and Research Fund Scholarships are for **undergraduate and graduate students. 20-25 scholarships awarded annually!**

DEADLINE for **all** scholarships: April 1st

For **more** information, go to: <http://www.ascls.org/about-us/celebrate/107-scholarships-and-awards2/alpha-mu-tau-fraternity1/71-alpha-mu-tau-fraternity>





If you have an announcement, article or essay you would like to contribute to **The Centrifuge**, please feel free to submit it for publication! Has someone you know receive a promotion? An award or prize? Special recognition? Done something unique that deserves highlighting? Learning about one another's accomplishments helps to inspire us all. Please send ideas and submissions with the subject line, "The Centrifuge Submission" to: Patty DeTurk [pathwaysnw@aol.com](mailto:pathwaysnw@aol.com)

Pardon our dust – the ASCLS-OR website is currently under construction

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## Kudos – ASCLS National Awards 2015



Awards for exceptional contributions were given to ASCLS members at the ASCLS 83rd Annual Awards Ceremony in July, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. Winners from Oregon are listed below. We are incredibly proud of the achievements!

Laura Gotthardt, Oregon Institute of Technology, Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity James Holley Memorial Scholarship

Lorianne Smith, Portland Community College, Edward C. Dolbey MLT scholarship

Greatest Percent Membership Retention: 2nd Place: ASCLS-Oregon (94.8%)

*Were you an award winner or scholarship recipient not listed here? Please email The Centrifuge editor at [pathwaysnw@aol.com](mailto:pathwaysnw@aol.com), for inclusion in the next issue of the newsletter.*

*Please see the ASCLS website for a complete national listing of winners (go to page 6 of this issue of ASCLS Today):*

[http://ascls.org/images/publications/newsletters/Web\\_version\\_September\\_2015\\_79822\\_ASCLS\\_Final.pdf](http://ascls.org/images/publications/newsletters/Web_version_September_2015_79822_ASCLS_Final.pdf)

### Watch for the Centrifuge Newsletter Reader Survey in Your Email

By Jackie Rice MT(ASCP), Incoming Centrifuge Associate Editor

The editorial staff of the Centrifuge is very interested in feedback on *your* newsletter. We want to know what topics you would like to see addressed in the newsletter, what information you find useful and any other ideas and suggestions you have. You will receive a link to the survey in a few weeks. Thank you in advance for completing the survey. The responses will be summarized and analyzed for improvements to the Centrifuge.