



President's Message

Annual Spring Conference Wrap Up & Message to Graduates

Meighan Sharp, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, ASCLS-Michigan President

Hello and Happy Spring to all! I would like to start off by thanking everyone who helped organize and attend ASCLS-Michigan's Annual Spring Conference in Southfield. Overall, I felt the conference was a huge success. The conference was well attended, there was robust educational content, and the vendors in attendance were very impressed with Michigan's hospitality. Thank you to all our wonderful speakers who provided a wealth of knowledge and educational content to all our attendees. A special thank you to ASCLS President, Kim VonAhsen for traveling all the way from Iowa, and giving our closing keynote on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Laboratory Profession. Along with great educational content, ASCLS-Michigan honored members who have served the society and continue to advocate for the profession at our annual awards ceremony. Congratulations to all the award winners. Again, thank you to all who planned this meeting and attended. I look forward to next year's conference.

The spring season brings a lot of change. This holds true for ASCLS-Michigan's graduating seniors. This time of year, for you involves final projects and exams. The relief of hitting "submit" on your final, final exam turns to more stress knowing that the BOC Examination looms. You will be trading the cap and gown for scrubs as you enter the medical laboratory workforce. Just know that all the course material and clinical rotations have prepared you for your career in medical laboratory science.

Students, I wish you the best of luck as you venture out into the workforce. Please continue your membership with ASCLS. **Congratulations on all your successes and all that is yet to come.**

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Jean Doss Retires

-Ric Benson



Jean Doss was feted May 3 as she takes retirement from Capitol Services, Inc. In the last effort that ASCLS-MI made to gain licensing for laboratory professionals in Michigan, Jean was the chief lobbyist. She remains disappointed that we were not successful in that effort, but her many successes in Lansing were enumerated in remarks from legislators, legislative staffers, clients, and colleagues.

It was said that the State of Michigan is better for her work and volunteer efforts over the last 30 years affecting mental health, midwifery, dental hygiene and food security. Jean remains "of counsel" to Capitol Services, meaning she is available as an advisor, and will spend the next year deciding what the next chapter of her life will be.

Kathy Doig and Ric Benson were able to attend the event and express appreciation from ASCLS-MI for everything that Jean contributed to raising our awareness of and skills in state-level government advocacy. Thank you, Jean!



**American
Society for
Clinical
Laboratory
Science
Michigan**

ASCLS-Michigan *Newslinks*

A bi-monthly publication of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - Michigan. Deadlines for articles are the 20th of Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, & Dec. Articles must have name of author. Anonymous letters will not be published. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Articles appearing in *Newslinks* represent the opinion of the author and may not represent the opinion of the society.

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145 Redwood Drive
Troy, MI. 48083

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for a complete listing and contact information for all ASCLS-MI board members and a wealth of other information on the Society.

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ASCLS Michigan Annual Awards

This year's awards ceremony was held in person on April 3, 2023 at the Westin Southfield in the "Celebration of the Profession" Special Event. Our hard working members were honored and recognized.

The Member of the Year Award

The Member of the Year Award recognizes an individual who is active in professional, civic, and non-professional activities and who has contributed significantly to the goals and mission of the society. The 2023 ASCLS-Michigan Member of the Year is **John Ko**. An excerpt from this year's awardee's nomination letter states:



"John Ko has been an active member of ASCLS-Michigan since his time as a student, when he served as the Developing Professional Director on the Board of Directors. He stepped into this role with little guidance from the previous holder of the position, but carried out the role expertly, and in the time since, he has served in a variety of roles, including District Director, President-Elect, and President. His tenure as President began in the summer of 2020, in the height of the COVID pandemic. He ensured organization activities continued, and his steadfast leadership during this critical time was vital in guaranteeing the ongoing success of the organization, even in a time when all meetings (Board meetings,

committee meetings, and even our Annual Conference) had to be held virtually. Even after his time in a presidential role ended, he has returned to the Board as a District Director, highlighting his ongoing dedication to service to the profession.

John has also represented our Constituent Society at the national level as a Delegate to the House of Delegates a number of times. He is active in ASCLS at the national level, including JAM Abstract and Proposal Review Committee Member and, most notably, serving as the Emerging Laboratory Managers Education Steering Committee Vice Chair this past year. To serve in high level roles at both the constituent society and national level is a testament to his dedication to the profession. This individual is not only involved in service to the profession, but also in civic activities. He is a Board Member for the Filipino American Community Council of Michigan (FILAMCCO), an organization dedicated to initiating and advancing the civic, cultural, and professional interests of Filipino-Americans based in Michigan, as well as implementing meaningful projects, activities, and advocacy."

Board of Directors Appreciation Award

This award is intended to recognize non-members who have contributed significantly to the profession and/or society. This year's awardee is the **Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory**.

For many years, right up until the COVID pandemic, the MSU VDL was "home" for the ASCLS- Michigan Board of Directors. They provided conference room space for Board meetings and allowed use of their kitchenette for food functions held in tandem with Board meetings. Having a regular, standing location for Board meetings was certainly valuable for ASCLS-Michigan and the work ASCLS-Michigan does for the profession, and it was much appreciated.



Mock Certification Awards

The Mock Certification exam is an excellent opportunity for individuals and MLS programs to assess and prepare for their readiness for the BOR Certification Exam.

This year's team winners:



In third place was **Saginaw Valley State University Team One**, with team members Lauren Ellsworth, Jacob Collier, Emily Grove, and Elena Holley. (Pictured at left with Mattie Brechbiel presenting certificates.)



In second place was **Eastern Michigan University Team Microbes**. Team members are Jessica Callaghan, Joel Choynowski, and Heather Henning. (Pictured at right.)



In first place was **DMC Team One**, composed of team members Alison Bartholomew, Evan Reo, Erin Beaufait, Delilah Hauswirth, and Jaycie Bos. (Pictured at left)

This year's individual winners:

Placing first was **Elena Holley** from Saginaw Valley State University. Pictured (left) with Mattie Brechbiel.

There was a tie for second place:

Hannah Bourdeau from Grand Valley State University and **Kennedy May** from Beaumont Hospital Based Program.

These students have all shown that the future of medical laboratory science is bright in Michigan.



Joseph Miller Memorial Award



Established in honor of a vendor who passed away following an ASCLS-Michigan Annual Conference, this award recognizes an outstanding medical laboratory science student who will complete their clinical internship in the calendar year in which the award is presented. This year's award winner was **Hannah Bourdeau** (pictured at right with Mattie Brechbiel) from Grand Valley State University. An excerpt from this year's winner's nomination letter states:

"Hannah is a bright, kind and self-motivated individual who takes pride in her work. She picks up new skills in both the classroom and the job setting quickly and requires little supervision. Although she is independent enough to not require much guidance, she takes constructive discussion with grace and continuously works to improve her skills. In addition, Hannah was instrumental in running an academic club for current and prospective MLS students at GVSU. She has represented our job field admirably when volunteering with a campus event over the summer. Her work ethic and academic performance are why she is a deserving candidate for the Joseph Miller Memorial Award."

Martha Roulund Membership Award

Established in honor of former ASCLS-Michigan Executive Secretary Martha Roulund in 2003, this award provides a voucher for Ascending Professional dues to deserving Developing Professional Members. This year, we have two recipients of the Martha Roulund Membership Award. **Laksha Ahuja** and **Katelyn Farrar**. (Pictured Left to right)

Laksha is serving as the president of a new student organization on GVSU's campus, Laker Lab Scientists. She has led the organization with determination and professionalism. In just one year since the organization's formation, she has organized campus life night events, funding to the state meeting for her cohort, as well as career development activities for her peers. She shows interest in bettering the profession of MLS through her work with the student organization on campus. She also shows interest in the professional society, taking the initiative to attend the ASCLS-JAM meeting last summer as a developing professional travel scholarship recipient.

Katelyn is the current Developing Professional Director for ASCLS-Michigan and is the current national Developing Professional Forum Chair and Representative to professional who is not only good at executing and staying on top of her tasks, but she also develops ideas that will benefit the Developing Professionals of ASCLS. It was her idea to develop national trivia games that students across the country could compete in. The goal of the games was not only to recruit new Developing Professionals, but also to arm the students with knowledge needed to graduate from their respective programs, become certified and enter the workforce. She has tremendous emotional intelligence with the DPF officers and councilors. She shows her leadership through the lens of a team player. She is a valuable asset in everything she participates in and this will only grow more as an Ascending Professional and Professional member of ASCLS.



Congratulations Laksha and Katelyn!

Donna Duberg Mentorship Award

Established in honor of passionate educator Donna Duberg in 1990, this award recognizes an individual who has exhibited outstanding abilities to enlighten and mentor others in the professional society. This year's award went to **Dr. John Gerlach**. An excerpt from his nomination letter reads:



"Dr. John Gerlach been a major supporter of Laboratory Sciences as a profession throughout his career. He engages his existing students as the MLS Program Director at Michigan State University, and actively stays connected with alumni. He not only checks in on their professional growth but lends opportunities to further develop their skills. Lifelong learning is front and center for this individual. He invites new graduates to develop this habit early on in their career for personal fulfillment, so that they become mentoring contributors as well. He actively reaches out to his mentees to present at professional conferences, pursue advanced degrees, and engage in professional roles. His bubbling smile and attitude of positivity allows those around them to further see their potential and future possibilities with confidence."

Pamela Agren Inspiration Award

Established in honor of dedicated member Pam Agren in 1999, this award recognizes an individual who is actively involved in behind the scenes activities for the society. This year's honor went to **Mattie Brechbiel**. (pictured below at right with Stephanie Mabry presenting gift) Her nomination letter reads:

"Mattie has been an active member of ASCLS-Michigan since her time as a student, when she served as the Developing Professional Director on the Board of Directors. She has also served as a District Director, and beginning in the summer of 2021, has taken over the role of Finance Chair. In this role, she is responsible for budgeting, approving expenses, and maintaining the financial integrity of the organization. This position is critical to ensuring ongoing operations of the organization, and it is one that takes a great deal of time, attention to detail, and responsiveness to ensure reimbursements are distributed to those with financial outlays in a timely manner. This position is also, however, nearly entirely behind-the-scenes, and is one that would only come to attention if there was an issue (not entirely unlike the laboratory itself!). This individual carries out her duties in this position expertly; her success is evidenced by her ability to remain "behind-the-scenes" in this role. This individual has also taken on a large project to revitalize the state Mock Exam and regularly takes time to nominate students for ASCLS-MI awards and recognition opportunities. In all her roles, this individual is a trusted voice of reason in Board discussions and consistently acts with the goal of advancing ASCLS-MI in mind."



Omicron Sigma Awards

First award in 1977, Omicron Sigma is the ASCLS President's Honor Roll for Outstanding Service, recognizing those who have gone above and beyond in their dedication of time, energy, or resources in carrying out the duties of their position. Recognition is at three levels: national, regional, and constituent society.

For service at the Constituent Society (pictured left to right):

Kyle McCafferty
Kristina Martin
Stephanie Mabry
Christina Lim
Mattie Brechbiel

For service at the Regional Level: **Kathy Hoag**



For service at the National Level: **Katelyn Farrar** (pictured at right with Meghan Sharp)

Additional individuals may be recognized by the ASCLS President for service at the regional or national level with the Omicron Sigma award at the upcoming Joint Annual Meeting in Providence Rhode Island this June. All Omicron Sigma awardees will be recognized by a special badge ribbon at the Joint Annual Meeting.

Key to the Future Award

This award recognizes and rewards ASCLS members who has demonstrated their leadership potential to the organization by directing at least one task force or project, chairing a committee with significant tasks, or performing exceptionally as a constituent society board member. This year's award went to: (photo not available).

Claire Danielson: Claire is our first Board member from the Upper Peninsula in quite some time. She is a regular attendee at Board meetings and speaks to the concerns of our more northern members. She is a wonderful mentor to her students at Michigan Technological University, as can be evidenced by our MTU attendees at this very conference!

Joanne Guan: Joanne is a current District Director for ASCLS-Michigan. She is passionate about her involvement and has represented ASCLS-Michigan at the National Legislative Symposium. She is stepping into the Government Affairs Committee Chair-Elect position, and I am grateful for her dedication and efforts on behalf of our Society's legislative concerns.

Alania Nido: Alaina has served as our Ascending Professional Director this past year, and has represented the interests of our newer members admirably. She has also been involved in career recruitment initiatives on behalf of ASCLS-Michigan. She has represented ASCLS-Michigan as a career vendor at the Michigan Science Teachers Association Annual Conference and at the Lake Fenton High School Career Day.

Presidential Recognition Award

This honor is bestowed to individuals who have greatly assisted the President during their tenure. (Pictured left to right, Stephanie, Meghan and Kristina)

Stephanie Mabry: Stephanie has been incredibly valuable to me. She has been incredibly useful and resourceful with helping me navigate my role as President of ASCLS-Michigan. I would be totally lost without her guidance.

Kristina Martin: As Leadership Development Chair, Kristina has been great help to me with updating policies and serving on the Annual Meeting Steering Committee. Her knowledge as a past president herself has been very helpful during my presidency.

Mariane Wolfe: As Past-President, Mariane was able to supply me with the tools I needed to get my Presidency off to a great start. She provided a solid foundation for to continue the goals and strategic plan set in years prior



Congratulations to all of our 2023 award winners!

Scenes from the 2023 ASCLS -Michigan Annual Meeting in Southfield

Thanks to Ric Benson for capturing all the memories with his camera



Exploring Southfield on a nearby trail



Membership Meeting



Excellent Speakers



Vendor Displays



Employer Recruitment Booths



Mentorship for Professionalism

ASCLS- Michigan: Board of Directors Installation, Passing of Gavel and Pins.

Please enjoy this excerpt from the ceremonies held on April 3rd

Meighan Sharp: Will the newly elected officers please come forward? Will the members of the Society please rise?

Members of the Society, you have chosen these officers to guide you in the coming year. Upon you rest the responsibility of giving whole-hearted assistance to each of them so that they may direct the affairs of the Society with dignity and distinction. Will you pledge these newly elected officers your support and assistance? Members please be seated.

Officers of the Society, the members have pledged their interest and support. They have shown confidence in your ability and judgment. Your election is your authority to serve during the coming year. As new officers, you will need wisdom, patience and understanding. We are confident you will show yourselves worthy of the trust placed in you.

Talina Black, you have accepted the responsibility of the office of Developing Professional Representative. It will be your duty to attend meetings of the Board and the Society, and to perform any duties assigned by the Board. Do you pledge to assume these duties?

Katelyn Farrar, you have accepted the responsibility of the office of Ascending Professional Director. It will be your duty to attend meetings of the Board and the Society, and to perform any duties assigned by the Board. Do you pledge to assume these duties?

Mattie Brechbiel, Amy Morris, Roslyn McQueen, Claire Danielson, Joanne Guan, and Alaina Nido have accepted the responsibility of the office of District Directors. It will be your duty to attend meetings of the Board and the Society, and to perform any duties assigned by the Board. Do you pledge to assume these duties?

RJ Benson, as Secretary, it will be your duty to keep a faithful record of all meetings, and to perform other duties as assigned in the Bylaws and by the Board. Do you accept these responsibilities?

Caitlyn Madden, you are to serve as President-Elect. It will be your duty to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President, being of aid in any way you can. You should become familiar with the responsibilities of the Office of President so that you may carry out the affairs of the Society when necessary.

Do you accept these responsibilities?

We do.

The Officers of the Society are now duly installed. You may be seated - with the exception of the current president and our incoming President-Elect.



2023 ASCLS Michigan Board of Directors Installation

At this point, our current President will pin our incoming President and pass the President's gavel.

Our current President-Elect will now pin our incoming President-Elect.



Kyle McCafferty pinning
Caitlyn Madden



Meighan Sharp passing gavel to
Kyle McCafferty

This concludes this evening's ceremony of events. Please join me one final time in celebrating our Society's awardees, incoming leaders, and all our dedicated members!

Enjoy the rest of your evening, and we will see you tomorrow morning for our Annual Membership Meeting!

***Thanks to everyone
who worked to
make this meeting
a success and to all
who attended!***



**ASCLS-Michigan
2023 Annual Conference**

April 2-4, 2023
The Westin Southfield Detroit
Southfield, MI

www.asclsmi-conference.org

Michigan Governor's Proclamation



Governor Gretchen Whitmer

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April 23-29, 2023: Medical Laboratory Professional Appreciation Week

April 23, 2023

WHEREAS, laboratory professionals are scientists, technicians, histotechnologists, cytotechnologists, phlebotomists, pathology assistants, and pathologists; most have a two- or four-year degree, with the exception of phlebotomists, who only require a high school degree, and pathologists requiring a medical degree and residency; and,

WHEREAS, laboratory professionals aid in the discovery and diagnosis of various illnesses and diseases, help prepare and ensure blood products for transfusion, aid in the diagnosis of all types of cancers, identify bacterial and viral agents, provide suggestions for effective treatments, and aid patients by monitoring glucose and cholesterol to help maintain a healthy lifestyle; and,

WHEREAS, laboratory professionals were at the forefront of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, rapidly developing testing and diagnostic methods that reached millions while maintaining regular laboratory functions; and,

WHEREAS, laboratory professionals have risen to every challenge to ensure that services such as testing and diagnostics remain available to patients across the state, despite an increased workload;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gretchen Whitmer, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim April 23 – 29, 2023, as Medical Laboratory Professional Appreciation Week in Michigan. We thank the dedicated professionals behind the scenes for their dedicated service to our state and country.

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science



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Visit
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