



President's Message

Kyle McCafferty MLS(ASCP)^{CM}

New (Membership) Year's Resolutions

Happy New Year!... Well, new ASCLS membership year that is. I am so very excited for what this year has in store for us, and I look forward to serving as the society's President. Like any new year, now is the time to reflect on our ourselves, reevaluate our goals, and create new resolutions. Some questions I am asking myself are: What can I do to be more helpful to my coworkers and colleagues? How can I make myself more accessible? What professional skills do I have that need the most improvement? This year is another new beginning and is a chance to answer these questions and more. These tips may help.

Like any New Year's resolution, it is difficult to motivate yourself to make the necessary changes to succeed. I think that best way to begin anything is to take the smallest step first. In the example of being more helpful, perhaps the simplest thing I could do is to ask if anyone needs any help with anything at least once a day. An offer of help is a lot less threatening for the stand-off-ish coworker who may be too quiet to ask for help on their own.

Set expectations and set them high. I know this isn't common advice, but I will explain why I have always lived by this. Consider two people building a house. The first person is a very hard worker. They wake up every morning and go to work, focusing on the task at hand, but never visualizing the end result. They probably succeed at getting the foundation for the house done that day.

The second person wakes up and makes a long to-do list of what they want to accomplish that day, in sequential order. They tell themselves that they want the foundation poured, walls built and installed, and the roof put on all-in-one day, so that they may take their lunch breaks sheltered from the rain. Doesn't that sound like something nice to work towards to? They tell their team to pour the foundation while others build the walls. Unfortunately, the concrete must dry before they can install the walls on top of it, so the workday ends at that. But guess what? Those walls will be waiting for them the next day, already made. This shows the importance of setting your expectations high, even if you don't reach them immediately. You are capable of so much more than you think!

My last piece of advice going into this new year is to reach out to someone new. ASCLS is a community of laboratorians who are passionate about the impact they have on the profession and their peers. You'd be surprised how many times I was scared to introduce myself to the more engaged people in ASCLS. Something easy you can do is sending an email. Ask what opportunities there are to get involved with the society (there is always something). I have been fortunate enough to have some truly amazing mentors who have elevated my skills and my career, and I know I am not alone in this regard.

This year has so much potential to be the best year ever, but it will be decided by our actions.

Do you have any other helpful tips or resolutions you are going to try? Let me know and I'll include them in my next Newslinks article!

Email me at: kyle.mccafferty1@gmail.com

Inside This Edition:

President's Message

Page 1

MSU BLD Program Advertisement

Page 2

Where Has Your MLS Career Taken You?

Pages 3-5

ASCLS MI 2024 Meeting Venue

Page 6



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ASCLS-Michigan *Newslinks*

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Clinical Laboratory Science

A focus on what is happening in our profession

Featuring articles from Scientific Assembly Chairs or Board Members.

Materials from all members are also welcomed. Submit to editor. See page 2 for details.



The Places Your Medical Laboratory Career Can Take You!

This may be the first in an ongoing series. Where might you not have gone (physically or figuratively) had you not chosen the MLS career? Please send articles and photos to editor (details page 2) and share your stories.



An Epic Journey

Paul Guthrie

With most of the pandemic restrictions that limited in-person training and conferences lifted, people are once again able to travel and interact directly with peers. This year's ASCLS-Michigan and ASCLS-JAM are two exemplary examples for the benefits of in person meetings. Hopefully a viral resurgence will not prevent these opportunities from continuing.

Last year, the laboratory I work at transitioned to the Epic Beaker Laboratory Information System (LIS). Changing your LIS is a huge task. We all know the many levels and layers of complexity in the medical laboratory. A well designed and functioning LIS is critical in supporting the laboratory's role in patient care. Upgrades and enhancements are ongoing for any system. To that end, I was fortunate to attend the Epic XGM conference at the company headquarters in Verona, Wisconsin this past May. The XGM "Expert Group Meetings" is attended by thousands of customers. One never knows where your Medical Laboratory Scientist role will take you. The purpose of this article is not to discuss the many meeting sessions, demonstrations and presentations, but to share some photos of the amazing campus. If you are ever in the area, it is worth doing the self-guided tour: [Visiting | Epic](#)

The campus is about 10 miles from Wisconsin's capital Madison. It covers 1,100 acres with a couple dozen office buildings, two large food service buildings, a training center with a 5,800-seat auditorium, and the Deep Space auditorium that seats 11,400. The New

York Times called the campus "[Willy Wonka and the Medical Software Factory - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)" To me it was like a combination of Disney World and a Google or Microsoft campus. Many of the buildings have themes, like the Wizard of Oz, Harry Potter, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory with some intergalactic sci-fi mixed in. The architecture, and landscaping were amazing. Almost all parking is in out of sight and underground. Many trails link the buildings, with Holstein cow patterned bicycles freely scattered about for anyone's use. Epic is not an IT company where the standard is people working from home. In-person collaboration seems to be optimal for a culture with optimal teamwork. Roughly 10,000 employees work at the site.

Below an aerial view of the campus are a few photo's taken during breaks in the conference. Had I not been an MLS, I likely never would have seen any of this.



Epic campus, Verona Wisconsin



I brought my bike along. Great bike paths all around the Madison region and Epic campus.



View of original farm maintained on campus



Holstein cow bikes available for use



Training Center, Deep Space area



Emerald City/Wizard of Oz section of campus



Alice in Wonderland "rabbit hole" option (vs stairs)



Sculpture in Wizard themed area



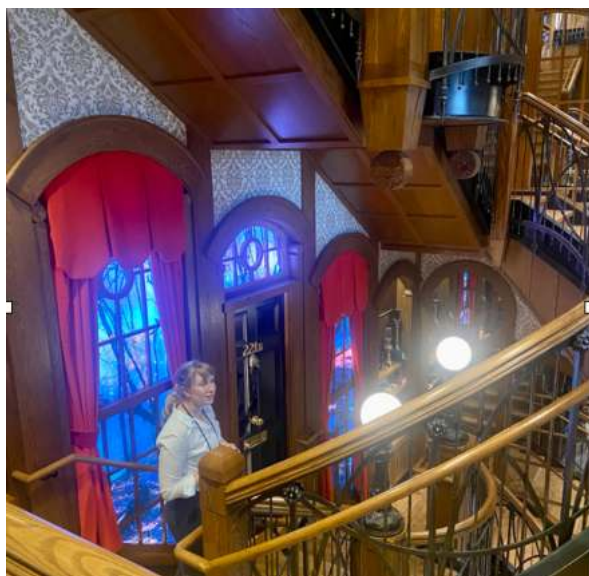
Dinosaur sculptures on campus



New "Castaways" section under construction



One of many works of art



One of the office building interiors



Merry-go-round in the training center

ASCLS-Michigan 2024 Annual Conference



Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

6800 Soaring Eagle Boulevard

Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

April 14, 2024 – April 16, 2024



Mark your calendars for next year's annual conference. The ASCLS-MI Annual Conference is the largest state meeting for laboratory professionals, vendors, educators, and students in Michigan each year. Our next meeting will be in a new venue in the center of the state.

Click below to

- [Submit a session proposal or topic suggestion](#)
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We look forward to seeing you in 2024!



American Society for
Clinical Laboratory Science



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