



# FOCUS

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

What a busy year we have had!

Quynh and Nicole and their team have worked so hard on our [ASCLS Idaho Spring Convention](#). It will take place at the Grove Hotel in Boise starting April 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. We have great speakers and vendors coming. We hope you can make it and bring a coworker with you.

[Our licensure effort](#) is still in progress. Debbie has done an incredible job with the help of Representative Phylis King. We are so thankful to the both of them. It is such an interesting process and those involved have learned so much.

Don't forget to check [our fabulous website](#). Diane keeps it interesting and informative. When you see it you will see why it is truly award winning at the ASCLS National Level.

Mark your calendars for [IMSS in Jackson](#), WY for another wonderful convention in the fall. It starts on September 29<sup>th</sup> and is presented by the ASCLS Region VIII Council.

Thanks to you all for your commitment to ASCLS Idaho. It is definitely a team effort. We do appreciate all of our members. See you at the Amazing Convention!

♥ Diana



**ASCLS-ID BOARD  
MEETING**  
April 21

**SPRING  
CONVENTION**  
April 21-23

**ASCLS-ID  
MINI-LEADERSHIP  
ACADEMY**  
June 11

**NATIONAL  
MEETING**  
July 31-Aug 4

**IMSS**  
Sept 29-Oct 1



## THE AMAZING CONVENTION ... WONT BE AMAZING WITHOUT YOU!

Guess what? All the preparations have been made ... everything is spit and polished ... and the only thing left is for you to arrive and truly make the 2016 ASCLS-Idaho Spring Convention amazing!

In preparation for your amazing experience, there are a couple of things you might want to do before you arrive. First, visit our website to [download the handouts](#) provided by the speakers prior to attending the convention. We hope to have most of the handouts submitted early next week, a couple of days

before the meeting. Handouts will be available throughout the convention and for the month following the close of the convention. Handouts are password protected and all registrants should have received the password via email with their registration confirmation. If you need a reminder, stop by the registration desk during the convention and we will be happy to share the secret with you.

The other item that will make your stay amazing is to figure out the [available parking](#) (see the [downtown parking map](#)

## LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS

We would like to extend an invitation to each of our members to join us on Saturday, April 23rd from 12:00-1:45 at the Grove Hotel for our Annual Business Luncheon where we will hold the general membership meeting, conduct the elections for the 2016-2017 ASCLS-Idaho Board and discuss and vote on the budget for the coming year.

As a member of ASCLS, your voice is the voice that matters. You have the power to shape the direction and vision for the coming year. We value your presence and hope that you will take the time to drop in, join us for lunch and participate in the business of ASCLS-Idaho. And never worry, we'll be sure to save a seat for you!

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*"As a member of ASCLS, your voice is the voice that matters."*

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[available on our website](#)) or plan on biking it! For you amazing people who like to do more than just sit in the lab, the [Boise Green Bike](#) option is right up your alley! You can park in the St. Luke's parking for free, rent a Boise Green Bike and ride on over to The Grove Hotel. [Check out this option on our website](#) as well.

Now, we know most of you are amazingly organized people who have planned on attending the Amazing Convention for months and have made all your plans well in advance. But...for those of you who are a little bit more like me and have procrastina-

tion as your middle name...never fear! There is still plenty of time for you to take advantage of our [online registration](#) which will be open throughout the entire convention! That is right! If you are sitting around Friday with nothing to do...[just jump online...quickly register](#)...and come join us for the Amazing Convention! We will be so glad to see you...after all...this Amazing Convention won't be nearly as amazing if you are not there!





## PIECES OF PAPER... AND OTHER AMAZING THINGS

My favorite part of the entire convention is always the Friday night Awards Banquet! I don't know if it has the same effect on you or not, but I think it is the most Amazing Thing to receive a piece of paper with your name printed on it! In kindergarten, I used to do ANYTHING to get a piece of paper with my name on it...and I can't wait to see what kind of amazing people will receive those Amazing Pieces of Paper this year!

*"I can't wait to see what kind of amazing people will receive those Amazing Pieces of Paper this year!"*

Amazing Paper is not the only thing that will make Friday special. We have arranged our very own [Amazing Race](#) scavenger hunt activity. This is sure to be a ton of fun. We will break up into groups for this activity and yes...you can secretly organize your groups ahead of time, make your devious game plan and trounce the rest of us. After all, it is all in good fun!

Later that night, after the trouncing, we will have the most amazing opportunity to recognize two amazing ASCLS members who have a combined total of over 100 year in ASCLS! Gretchen Downer has been a member for 51 years and Lucy A. Miller has been a member a mere 50 years. Can you believe that? I have to say...that is pretty amazing! We look forward to honoring these members as well as many other amazing members of ASCLS.

And...if that weren't enough...we have the Most Amazing Entertainer booked for that evening. [The Amazing Illusionist](#) will wow us and thrill us and amaze us as he works his magic. I'm pretty sure you can plan to be amazed!

So...if you haven't gotten the message yet...join us on Friday and enjoy an amazing evening!

## LUCY A. MILLER: AN AMAZING MEMBER FIFTY YEARS IN THE MAKING!

Amazing things don't just happen overnight. It takes time to create something of greatness. It takes years of dedication, hours of voluntary service and a lifetime of achievement to truly become amazing.

Lucy A. Miller is one of those amazing things.

Lucy started her training at Washington State University where she received her Bachelor's degree in Bacteriology and Public Health. Her real training came at St. Luke's in Boise where she worked for 11 years as the only microbiologist, even

making her own sheep blood media...after hours on her own time!

As her family grew, Lucy and her family moved to Salmon. Here she worked for Steele Memorial as a PRN employee while she juggled being a mother and a professional. She remembers when Blood Banking meant drawing your co-workers as donors, doing the crossmatch right then and transfusing the blood before the night was over.

In 1982, they moved to Mountain Home where the Lab Di-

rector hounded her about coming to work at the Elmore Medical Center. She accepted the job to work on-call, every other weekend, which seems like an easy job...until you learn that one weekend she worked 48 hours straight...because she is just that amazing!

Membership in ASCLS has always been a top priority for Lucy...all through her training, PRN years, full-time employment and even into her Golden Years. Thank you, Lucy, for all you have done to make our profession amazing!

## GRETCHEN DOWNER: SUPPORTING HER PROFESSION FOR FIFTY YEARS AND COUNTING!

I joined 'ASMT' in Oregon after I passed the ASCP exam over 50 years ago. I have always felt very strongly that a big component of being a professional is to support the profession through its organized societies. ASCLS is the face and voice of our profession in the wider world.

Over the years I have watched ASCLS mature and change with the times. When I began working, everything was done manually and it has been amazing to watch the development of instrumentation over the years. While I was employed, it was remarkable to be able to contact techs all over the area to discuss issues and ask advice. ASCLS has been the main resource for providing continuing education, bringing to our

widespread state the best and the brightest in speakers and workshops. This is not possible without the support of the association by ALL those in the profession.

I was a "busy" wife, mother and hospital employee. The demands of a small facility are 24/7 yet my staff and I managed to figure it out. I certainly did not "have time" for the society -- I "made time" because I felt it was so important...and I will always feel that way. I was not always active in the ASCLS leadership, but over the years I have served on the Board, as Treasurer and as President. One finds that demands of time and energy ebb and flow and one contributes when they can.

I have always maintained my membership because the membership base is what supports everything. Years ago, I was able to participate in a 'campus without walls' program that ASCLS sponsored and over a few years completed my MA degree in Lab Management. I could not have done that without ASCLS. Our last national President was one of my classmates--the network is huge!

This has been an amazing career and I have never regretted choosing this path. No profession is without its challenges, but together we can work on the solutions. The job itself is made richer through the associations with the professionals who make up our great Society, ASCLS!





## THE ADVENTURE OF PURSUING LICENSURE

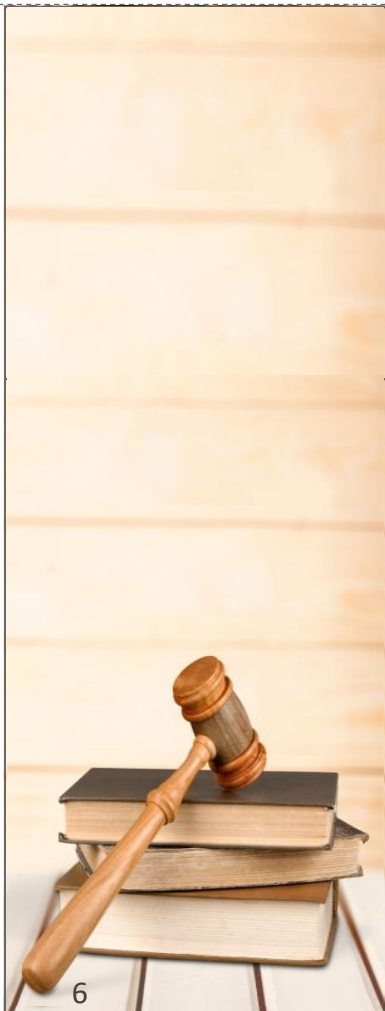
*Article submitted by Debbie Shell*

The 2016 Idaho Legislative Session has drawn to a close, and, in spite of the hard work of many of our ASCLS-Idaho members, we were not able to pass a licensure bill this year. Most of those who have worked on licensure bills in other states say that licensure efforts typically take several years to be successful. So, although disappointed, we will re-group, make a new plan, and return next year with renewed enthusiasm and more data to prove that licensure is important for all patients in Idaho.

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*“We will need a strong team with lots of creative ideas on how to convince legislators that licensure is important”*

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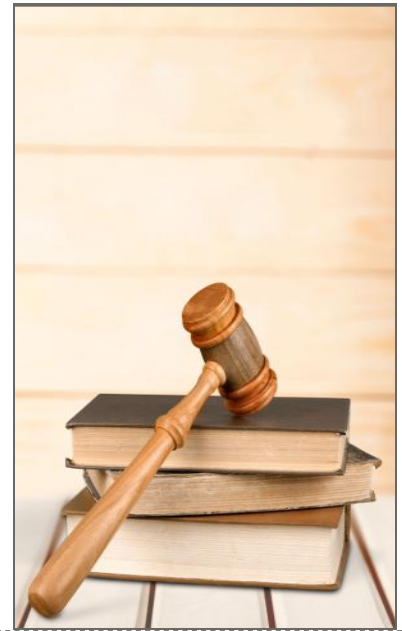
After numerous member communications during the fall of 2015, letting legislators know of our intention to draft legislation to require a license to practice medical laboratory science in Idaho and asking them to support our legislation, we started 2016 with a reception and lab tour for legislators on February 2. Although attendance was small, those that came really enjoyed the lab tour (and hopefully the hors d'oeuvres!). Thanks to St. Luke's Boise Lab for providing the tours!

On February 8, the House Health and Welfare Committee accepted our draft bill, and agreed to have it printed for their consideration, and that became House Bill 453 (HB453). The following week, our first hearing with the House Health and Welfare Committee occurred on February 17. Several of our members (and a non-member) testified regarding the importance of licensure for our profession. The Idaho Medical Association, the Idaho Hospital Association and the Idaho Freedom Foundation all testified against the bill. Several members and non-members submitted written testimony in favor of licensure, and many lab professionals had contacted their legislators in advance of the hearing.

Wayne Hoffman, testifying for the Idaho Freedom Foundation, stated that licensure increases business and consumer costs

*Continued on Page 7*

and does not improve medical care. He also stated that it creates an entry barrier, stifling job creation and limiting competition. Toni Lawson, testifying on behalf of the Idaho Hospital Association, stated that licensure was not necessary, since hospital staff are in line with specified certification, and any quality issues are covered under CLIA hospital licensure (sic). She also stated that the regulatory burden would be a disadvantage in hiring and recruiting staff from other states. Ken McClure, representing the Idaho Medical Association, expressed concern about rural physicians not being able to perform moderately complex tests in their offices (as currently staffed) under this



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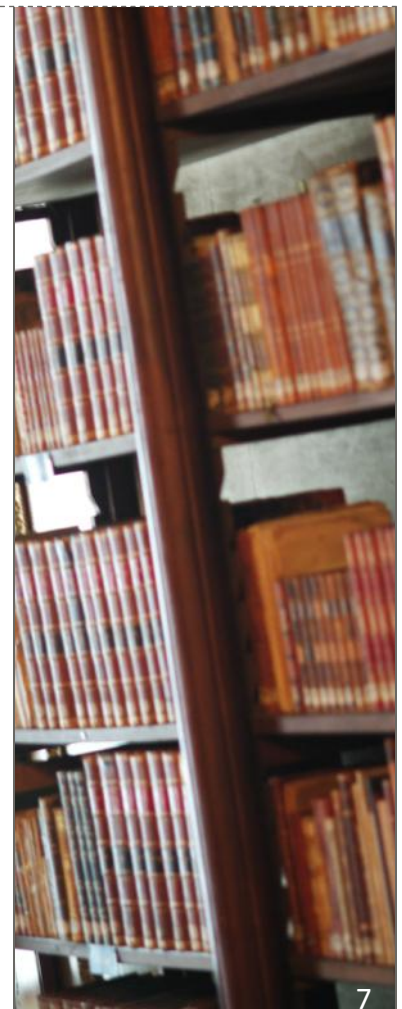
*“We will return next year with renewed enthusiasm and more data to prove that licensure is important for all patients in Idaho.”*

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legislation, and that using waived tests gives less reliable results. He suggested an exemption for this situation. He also stated that physicians are liable for anything happening in their offices.

Health and Welfare Committee members asked several questions during the hearing, and ultimately a motion was made to hold the bill in committee, which essentially kills the bill. A substitute motion was made to hold the bill for time certain, until February 23, 2016. That motion carried by voice vote.

A second hearing was scheduled for February 23, and then delayed until February 25. We had several members scheduled to testify, when it came to our attention that there were more organizations that had concerns about the bill, including the state public health lab in Boise. After lengthy discussion, we decided to grant their employees an exemption, as we do federal lab employees, for work that they perform with those employers. Other organizations, including the Idaho Primary Care Association and a rural clinic coalition had concerns about lab testing not being able to be performed in rural physician offices and clinics. Based on this input, and on concerns expressed by representatives of the Health and Welfare Committee, we opted to ask the House Health and Welfare Committee hold the bill for



## ISU STUDENTS DOING STELLAR JOB

*Article submitted by Sue Galindo*



The Medical Laboratory Sciences Program at Idaho State University is having another great year. We are pleased to report that our most recently graduating cohort had a 100% placement rate! That means every student either got a job or chose to pursue more schooling. Ad-

ditionally, the ASCP BOC pass rates were exceptional. There continues to be huge demand for our field, and we are thrilled to be able to educate these competent and energetic students. Our program continues to grow, and we were able to expand into Idaho Falls last year, in addition to our Pocatello and Meridian campuses.

*“Participating in the community health fair is a great opportunity for ISU MLS students to practice their skills.”*



We are also excited that the Bengal Lab, a Pocatello-campus clinical laboratory, has recently opened. Bengal lab offers specialized, low-

cost, clinical laboratory blood work and drug testing services provided to ISU Health Center patients, ISU students, faculty, staff and the local community. It has provided another valuable venue for MLS student clinical experiences. Recently, the MLS students had the opportunity to practice their pre-analytic, analytical, and post-analytical skills as they ran the community health fair, under qualified supervision, in conjunction with Bengal lab. It was a great opportunity for students to practice their skills in phlebotomy, test ordering and advising, running clinical instruments, and interpreting lab results. We look forward to providing continued positive contributions to the health care mission here at Idaho State University, and to the surrounding communities.

## FISHING FOR JOY

Save the date for the first adventure of summer: **Fishing for Joy with Susan Morris and Holly Weinberg!**

These two amazing leaders will share some of their tips and tricks at the 2016 ASCLS-Idaho Mini-Leadership Academy, June 11th. Seasoned leaders, new leaders and even followers will all be hooked!





ASCLS-Idaho is Pleased to Present:

# Fishing for Joy

With Susan Morris & Holly Weinberg

**June 11, 2016**  
**9:30-12:30**

**Snake River Grill**  
**611 Frog's Landing**  
**Hagerman, Idaho**

Earn CEU Credits...Make New Friends...Learn New Skills at the  
2016 ASCLS-Idaho Mini-Leadership Academy!

Your registration includes this one-of-a-kind seminar followed by  
lunch. The ASCLS-Idaho Board meeting will be conducted that  
afternoon and is open to all who would like to attend.

Hagerman Valley Inn  
661 Frog's Landing  
208-837-6196

Billingsley Creek Lodge & Retreat  
17940 US Hwy 30  
208-837-4822

Hagerman RV Village  
18049 Hwy 30  
837-4906

Miracle Hot Springs  
Hwy 30 between Buhl and Hagerman  
543-6002

**Registration Fee:**  
Member: \$25 Student: \$15  
Non-member: \$35

Sportsman River Resort  
18678 Hwy 30  
837-6364

**Mail Registration Form to: Marj Montanus**  
**1996 Tamarack Loop Twin Falls, Idaho 83301**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my payment of: \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks Payable to ASCLS-Idaho



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## THE ADVENTURE OF PURSUING LICENSURE (CON'T)

this year, rather than have a “NO” vote for the bill on the record.

Further discussions regarding our pursuit of licensure will be held at [ASCLS-Idaho Board meetings](#) and the membership meeting in April. It was the consensus of those participating in this year’s efforts that we did make some progress in letting legislators know who we are and the important role we play on the healthcare team. In order to further these efforts, we will need a strong team with lots of creative ideas on how to convince legislators that licensure is important for the health and safety of patients in Idaho.

[Please contact any ASCLS-Idaho Board of Directors](#) member with ideas, suggestions, concerns and questions about our licensure effort. Again, it will take a strong team working together throughout the coming year to be even more successful next year!

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*[Be Informed...Stay Connected...Get Involved @ \[asclsidaho.org\]\(#\)](#)*

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### OUR MISSION

The mission of ASCLS is to make a positive impact in health care through leadership that will assure excellence in the practice of laboratory medicine.



## Questions, Comments & Submissions

The ASCLS-Idaho FOCUS Newsletter is published quarterly and is made available to all ASCLS-Idaho members in electronic format. Rights to edit for content and length of material are retained by ASCLS-Idaho. All ASCLS-Idaho members are invited to submit articles for publication.

### PLEASE CONTACT:

Kristine Hodson, ASCLS-Idaho Editor  
387 West 160 North, Blackfoot, ID, 83221  
Cell: (208) 406-9222 Home: (208) 785-1519  
[dkhodson@gmail.com](mailto:dkhodson@gmail.com)