



Winter Edition 2016/2017

Focus

ASCLS Idaho Newsletter

Celebrations

Celebrations abound this time of year. There are company parties, family gatherings and festivities of every kind filling our calendars and our lives. I love this time of year! I want to share with you some of the things we can be celebrating within ASCLS-Idaho. I believe we can celebrate the successful participation we saw as we gathered to help Rake Up Boise on November 12th. It was a beautiful day filled with friends and laughter and it was a wonderful opportunity to get out of the lab and make a difference. The families we helped were especially grateful for the helping hand. It was definitely a feel-good day and a cause for celebration. I would encourage all of you to plan on joining us again next fall as we continue to support this worthy cause. This is the perfect chance to make a difference.

The next thing we can celebrate is the growing number of members we have as well as the opportunity for continued growth. We had the chance to visit the ISU students at the various campuses across the state and share with them the value of joining and supporting their professional society. I am pleased to let you know that many of them could see the value and joined our society. These young students are the future of our profession and the opportunity to mingle with them, share valuable experience and knowledge with them is the thing that will keep our profession strong into the future. It is invigorating to see their enthusiasm and anticipation of a bright future. It helps keep me motivated to continue to work hard and make a difference. When people become apathetic and feel they can't make a difference that is a sad day. I hope you will still feel the joy of your profession and the hope of a brighter day tomorrow. Find a friend and share this feeling with them and invite them to join or renew their membership. You are the one that can make a difference right within your own lab. Let's find even more reasons to celebrate as more of our friends and co-workers find a reason to support ASCLS.

One of the biggest celebrations we have going on this year is our annual Spring Convention. Our convention will be held April 20-22 at the ISU campus in Idaho Falls. It will be the Convention of Higher Learning, a celebration of education, continuing education and the value of maintaining and increasing our knowledge. Our program will be packed with cutting edge topics, new information and valuable resources. Plan now to join our celebration of education. We look forward to seeing you at our convention and hope you will bring a slew of friends with you so we can really get down and party!

The final celebration I would like to mention is the headway we are making with our licensure efforts. Last year, we made important inroads with legislators and came very close to having our bill heard before the committee. We are continuing our efforts in this arena and hope that we will have cause to celebrate this year. The pursuit of licensure is the best way we have of protecting our profession and ensuring that the level of quality and education we require is maintained and monitored. We encourage you to speak with your representatives about this important issue.

As you celebrate this season in whatever way you like I hope you will know that ASCLS is celebrating you. You are the reason we work to support the programs and events of ASCLS. You and your contribution to the laboratory is always cause for celebration.

Happy Holidays!
Love,
Diane



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ASCLS Idaho Calendar

- Board Meeting February 1st, 6-8 pm
- Legislative and Licensure Reception TBA
- Legislative Symposium March 25th
- Spring Convention of Higher Learning April 20th—22nd
- Mini Leadership Academy June 24th
- IMSS October 28-30th



It was so much more than leaves. It was spending time with friends. It was investing in our community. It was helping four widows. It was getting out of the lab and making a difference.

Check out those Shirts!!

ASCLS-Idaho has designed a t-shirt as a way to get our faces and our profession out there in our community where we can let them know about the difference we make in the lab every-day. You can get yours for \$12 by contacting [Diane Stumpf](#).



ASCLS Idaho: Getting Out of the Lab and Making a Difference with Rake Up Boise by: Kami McGann

Gloves? Check. Rake? Check. Wait, it's broken! I'm sure I have another one...somewhere. Maybe I can borrow one. Actually, I should borrow several just in case people forget their rakes. Leaf bags? Check... barely. After checking three different

Boise. Our residents were so thankful!

It was so much more than leaves. It was a beautiful fall day. It was spending time with friends. It was meeting the families behind our col-

leagues. It was investing in our community. It was helping four widows maintain their yards. It was getting out of the Lab and making a difference.

The need for leaf raking in the fall is great, and certainly not ex-

clusive to Boise. Our experience with Rake Up Boise has opened our eyes to the opportunity to serve in our own communities. The Laboratory at Valor Health has plans to rake yards in Emmett next year. Just a crew of scientists, with their gloves and rakes. After all, it's just leaves.

More information about NeighborWorks at <http://nwboise.org/>

If you have info about opportunities for ASCLS Idaho to give back in your community contact Kami McGann at kimcgann_bsmt@hotmail.com



Zamzows for Rake Up Boise leaf bags, I could only scrounge up 8. Thankfully Winco had some. Maps? Check. Goodness, it's only leaves!

Rake Up Boise is presented by NeighborWorks, a non-profit that provides resources and events to build stronger communities. This year thousands of volunteers came out to rake leaves for nearly 1,000 residents. It was definitely an opportunity to make a difference for the elderly and disabled.

ASCLS Idaho had two teams: The Laboratorians and the Scientists, consisting of members (and family) from Idaho Falls, Emmett, Meridian and Boise. We started our day at Shari's for breakfast and got familiar with our assigned yards. The Laboratorians had two near Garden City and the Scientists had two in South



Now, What do you do? By Hannah Edwards

As medical laboratory scientists, it is difficult to inform the public of our existence. Whenever I mention that I'm going to school to enter this career, the listener always asks, "And...What does that do?" Because these professionals support the front-line professionals like doctors and nurses, it is difficult to suggest this career to young people. With the HIPAA laws, hospitals cannot give tours to curious students.

But what if we brought the laboratory to them? Such an example of engaging young people to this field would be Rhena Cooper. She is passionate about science, and about sharing her enthusiasm with young people. She is the main microbiology instructor at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and also the outreach coordinator for Idaho Network of Biomedical Research (INBRE). I once volunteered for one of her science demonstrations "Women in Science", where high school girls came to the community college to see petri dishes and algae under the microscope. She also gives talks to demonstrations at elementary schools, and at the local ale house (what better way to talk about microbes than with a mug of fermented goodies?).

Taking her example, I wonder how the medical laboratory community could outreach to young people? Could we not show them how to identify neutrophils on a blood smear, or how to find the best vein for a venipuncture? Surely there are ways that we can engage the next generation and promote our profession.

Join the discussion on our [Facebook page](#) #OutoftheLab

Greetings of the Season to Region VIII Leadership

As the year winds to a close I want to say Thank You to each of you for your commitment to ASCLS and Medical Laboratory Science. Region VIII is fortunate to have so many dedicated professionals willing to share your time and talents to make us the best region in ASCLS.

As I write this, the snow is falling and the fire is burning in the stove. It's so peaceful in the woods, it gives me the serenity to reflect on the crazy year we've had. This has been a year of big changes starting in ASCLS with the retirement of Elissa Passiment and culminating in the most bizarre presidential election this country has ever experienced. I know that emotions have run the gamut and there is more uncertainty about our future than I can ever recall but I have a few core factors that I can always rely on and one of those is ASCLS.

My ASCLS family provides me a shelter from the craziness, and a chance to come together and share common values and concerns. I don't have any idea what 2017 will bring politically but I know that in ASCLS and in Region VIII, we will continue to work together to bring the best scientific meetings to our states and to IMSS; we will share our message with our coworkers and introduce them to the benefits of belonging; we will join together to serve our communities while bringing the face of our profession to the public; and we will continue to serve our patients and caregivers with professionalism and with the expertise that only a laboratory professional can provide. Stay warm and stay positive!

Thank you for all you do!

Holly Weinberg
Region VIII Director



Calling all ASCLS-ID Members

Do you or someone you know have the following professional attributes?

- **Outstanding commitment**
- **Motivates others**
- **Leadership skills**

Are you interested in developing a deeper understanding of your very own professional organization?

In January 2017, a call for nominations will occur for the following ASCLS-ID positions for 2017-2018!

President-Elect
Editor
Secretary
Treasurer
2 Year Board Member

It's a great way to become involved in issues critical to Medical Laboratory Science, develop relationships, and further your own professional growth.

Nominate someone who would be an outstanding candidate or nominate yourself!

Be on the look-out for communication coming in January.

Questions? Feel free to reach out to Chris Doran at chris.doran58@gmail.com.

Interview with the fun and amazing Bonnie Sanders!! By Mechelle Reeve



Bonnie Sanders

Bonnie comes to our facility in Twin Falls all the way from Texas. She is new to Idaho because she is a traveling MLS and absolutely LOVES Idaho! She has lived in eastern Texas most of her life, except for a few years in Arkansas. She was raised on a farm in Woodville, TX with 4 siblings. They each had a horse growing up and as Bonnie says, "that was our entertainment." Her horse's name was Hobby.

Bonnie always had a love for science and the laboratory, which lead her to this field. While going to school to obtain her laboratory degree, Bonnie was the 'Chief Bottle Washer' at the county hospital before the days of autoclaving. She completed a CLA program and then worked as a CLA in a physician's office lab for a few years. Then she finished her labora-

tology is her preferred area. She says in her 38 years as a laboratorian, she has seen lots of changes and advances in our field.



Shoshone Falls, Twin Falls, Idaho

So how did this energetic, smiling, Texas gal with southern accent and all end up in Idaho? Well at the last facility Bonnie worked at there were two traveling techs that she became friends with. They talked about their experiences as travelers and encouraged Bonnie to become a traveler. Bonnie was ready for a change in her life and wanted to try something different and she'd always wanted to travel (and travel she has!). She thought this was a good time in her life to experience something new, while still being in the field, so she decided to give traveling MLS a try. She has enjoyed being a traveler thus far because she is able to learn new instrumentation, try new things, and use her laboratory experience in different but rewarding ways.

Bonnie's first choice of traveling jobs was in Washington, but a job offer there didn't seem a good fit. Then another job fell through from Montana. Her recruiter asked if she was interested in any other states and she said she'd consider Idaho. Well when the interview call came from Twin Falls, Bonnie said those two other closed doors lead her here and



Crater's of the Moon National Park

tory degree at Lamar University and did an internship and worked in Beaumont for a few years. Bonnie has worked at laboratories of all sizes, both large and small, and all shifts. She is a generalist, but hema-

she feels like this is where she's meant to be right now. A few of the perks also for the Twin Falls offer was that she was familiar with a lot of the instrumentation, and the shift was 7 on/7 off evenings which Bonnie likes. She'd never been to Idaho before, but was all in for this new experience.

Since coming here in the early summer, Bonnie has thoroughly enjoyed her first traveling job experience and truly loves Idaho and the West. Some of the things she enjoys about Idaho are the people and the area. She says she relates to the people, the town, people's attitudes, and morals. It reminds her of where she grew up. She also loves the sunshine and low humidity, and its close proximity to great National Parks.

Bonnie says, "You can't get any better than Idaho, its God's country!" She has done many new things while in Idaho such as kayaking, lots of hiking, watched hours of BASE jumpers on the Perrine Bridge in Twin Falls, made new friends, visited Shoshone Falls, Sun Valley, traveled to Jackson Hole, Yellowstone, and even gone to Victoria Canada! While smiling, Bonnie says, "I feel young again!" She has nothing but good to say about Idaho and this area.



"You can't get better than Idaho, its God's Country!"

Bonnie is one of the most cheerful people I've ever met. And her enthusiasm for Idaho, people, her adventures, and life in general makes her such a fun coworker. Her smile and laugh are also contagious. So what is Bonnie going to do when her contract is up in Twin Falls? She's going to go back home to

Texas to stay warm for the winter. But she will definitely be back to Idaho, to experience more that Idaho and the surrounding areas have to offer her and perhaps another traveling laboratorian position will bring her back sooner than later. We sure hope so!



Tetons Jackson Hole, Wyoming



Save the Date:

**2017 ASCLS– Idaho
Spring Convention**

April 20-22, 2017

**ISU Idaho Falls
Campus**

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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.

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Idaho's Next Legislative Session – Here Before We Know It!

The 2017 Regular Session of the Idaho Legislature will convene on Monday, January 9 with several new senators and representatives in attendance. ASCLS-Idaho will be re-introducing our licensure bill sometime during the first month of the session, and we will need every member to help us be successful. Here are some ways you can help:

Go to www.legislature.idaho.gov to find out who your legislators are. Then send them a quick email or give them a quick call to let them know you support licensure for laboratory professionals and ask for their support for our bill.

Ask a couple of colleagues, friends or family members to contact their legislators, too, to let them know that they also support our bill.

Offer to give written or oral testimony in Boise when the bill comes up for a hearing. Contact Debbie Shell at dmsell1707@gmail.com for more information on how to testify.

Plan to attend the ASCLS-Idaho reception for legislators on Thursday, February 9, 4-6PM (location TBD). This will be a great opportunity to talk with legislators one-on-one about our bill. Encourage your legislators to attend to learn more about the clinical laboratory. Invitations will go out to them soon.

Read the licensure bill at www.asclsidaho.org if you haven't already done so.

Watch the ASCLS-Idaho website (www.asclsidaho.org) for updates on the progress of our bill.

We have a good core of support for this legislation, but we need every member to let legislators know of the importance of this bill for high quality laboratory testing and patient safety. **Talk to your legislators today!**