

# The Palmetto Probe

## National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

How did you celebrate Lab Week? Send us your stories of activities you did at your school, hospital or clinical site. We would love to hear from you!! Send us your pictures too!! Who knows, you may find some ideas from others to use for next year's celebration!! Send your stories to [kpearson@tctc.edu](mailto:kpearson@tctc.edu). We look forward to hearing from you!!

**Here's what we've heard so far:** Kershaw County Medical Center Lab staff planned to bring the "Lab Explorers" to life and perform a short play at several local schools. For the schools that they couldn't get to, the staff was going to provide a DVD of the play along with some books and materials. Way to go KCMC!!



## Student Bowl 2008

*by Karen Pearson*

Wow! What a great day we had!! Students from all eight Technical Colleges participated in Student Bowl held at Midlands Tech in Columbia. The "grand prize winner" was Connie Hines of York Tech. She won \$100. Alesha Thompson from Spartanburg Community College came in second. She won \$75. Third place and \$50 went to Sarah Carpenter, an MT student, from the program at McLeod Regional Medical Center. During this time we held a "membership drive". By the end of the day we had signed up 30 new members. We also took donations for "Driving for Donors". This drive is to raise money to help those who need bone marrow transplants financially offset some of the costly aspects of bone marrow transplantation. A final total of \$320.05 was raised! Way to go!!

## ?? Question of the Quarter??

Do you have questions that you would like to have an answer to? This spot might just be what you are looking for! Send your questions to [kpearson@tctc.edu](mailto:kpearson@tctc.edu) and we will feature a question with an answer from an expert.



## “Lab Explorers” Come to Life

by Karen Pearson

“Lab Explorers” is the creation of Deborah Brock, MHS, MT (ASCP), SH. She is a Medical Laboratory instructor at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, SC. The “Lab Explorers”, Petri, Hema, Erl, and Unit are caricatures of some common lab items. Erl is shaped like an Erlenmeyer flask. Hema is shaped like a blood collection tube. Unit is shaped like a unit of blood. Petri is shaped like a Petri dish. These characters play a special role in the detection of disorders and they have “adventures” that help children understand about the workings in the lab and how they help people feel better. Deborah began the “Lab Explorers” line with a book entitled *The Adventures of the Lab Explorers: Sometimes When You Feel Bad*. It’s a book that helps children understand what happens when blood is collected. Her next book actually focuses on one of the explorers, Petri. This book, *The Adventures of the Lab Explorers: Petri Helps Kill Germs*, has Petri going on a lab adventure after his grandson’s friend gets a cut on the hand. Deborah reports that the next character to come to life is Hema. “The story is finished but I haven’t found the time to work on the pictures. I would really like to have the book done by the end of July for the National Meeting.” When asked about why she created the Lab Explorers, Deborah says, “I wanted to create the lab explorers for several reasons. I love children's literature. I wanted lab tech's kids to be able to read about what their parents do. I wanted to promote our profession.” She reports that in the future, she may add some more stories about the Lab Explorers and has even begun a story geared toward teenagers. If you would like more information about these books, please contact Deborah at [dbrock5@tctc.edu](mailto:dbrock5@tctc.edu).

## Humor From Around the Lab....

Heard anything funny around your lab, school, or office? Send it to us! Laughter is the best medicine and we all know that we do, indeed, need to laugh! Send it to [kpearson@tctc.edu](mailto:kpearson@tctc.edu).



- Submitted by LAV Community Supporter

## MLT Students Give to “Hearts for Kids”

by Jessica Smith

“Hearts for Kids” was a special event sponsored by HIS radio for children that were in the hospital on Valentine’s Day. This project was geared for children to give them a sense of hope for the holidays and to let them know that people were thinking about them. The Medical Laboratory Technology students of Tri-County Technical College and Greenville Technical College joined together to make Valentines for these children. We dropped off over 200 Valentines to HIS radio. The employees of the radio station distributed over 30,000 cards to children and their families that were in the hospital February 14, 2008. It was a joy to know the Valentines that were made brought a smile to children in need.



*~Congratulations to all the 2008 Graduates! Each and every one should be proud of the accomplishments made. We wish you the best on taking the National Registry Exam. ~*



# Carolinas Clinical Connection 2008

by Karen Pearson

The 2008 Carolinas Clinical Connection was held at the Hilton Wilmington Riverside Hotel in Wilmington, NC on March 26-28. Opportunities for Continuing Education were provided through various break-out sessions with guest speakers. This year, Janis Livingston was presented with the Member of the Year award. Keys to the Future award was presented to Jessica Smith. Vendor of the Year honors went to David Smith from Kelly Scientific. Congratulations to all!!

This year's meeting provided the participants with an extra bonus. They all gathered to spend time under the beautiful North Carolina stars! Albeit, the timing was not what everyone had wanted. Apparently this year's participants were treated to an evacuation at 2 a.m. due to the fire alarm going off in the hotel. They gathered under the stars for approximately an hour while the Fire Department checked the building. Unfortunately, it turned out that someone pulled the fire alarm as a prank!! Perhaps the next meeting will be a bit quieter!

The Carolinas Clinical Connection for 2009 will be hosted by South Carolina. If anyone is interested in being a speaker at the 2009 CCC please contact Tiffany Whittle at [Tiffany.Whittle@gvltec.edu](mailto:Tiffany.Whittle@gvltec.edu). More details will be forthcoming regarding the 2009 meeting.

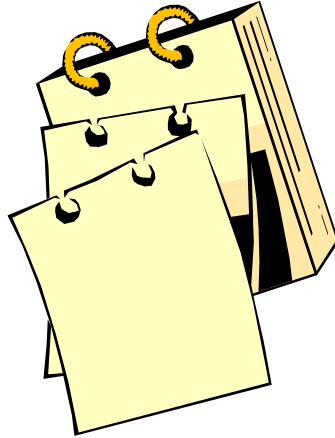


Janis Livingston receiving the Member of the Year Award



Jessica Smith receiving the Keys to the Future Award

# Save the date



*CCC 2009*

***March 25-27 2009***

*Embassy Suites- Kingston Plantation  
Myrtle Beach, SC*

*129.00 +taxes/night*

*Includes breakfast and manager's reception*

*Details Coming Soon*

**June 2008**