

# The Palmetto Probe

September 2008

## Carolinas Clinical Connection 2009

**When:** March 25-27 2009

**Where:** Embassy Suites-  
Kingston Plantation  
Myrtle Beach, SC

**How much:** \$129+taxes/per night

**Includes:** Breakfast and Manager's  
Reception

*Come on down! Bring a friend! Earn CEU's, Learn something new! Have some Fun in the Sun!!*



We're Sorry...

We need to make a correction regarding Student Bowl. In the last issue of the Palmetto Probe we inadvertently left out references to the three MT schools in the state. They sent students to participate in Student Bowl. Those schools are: Palmetto Health Columbia, McLeod (in Florence) and Palmetto Health Richland (Armstrong Atlantic Students).

Changing the Tides at CCC... Water you Wading For?  
Tiffany H. Whittle, MT (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>

Don't "wade" around; you have to start making plans to attend the annual Carolina Clinical Connections Conference. This year's conference will be held March 25-27, at the Embassy Suites – Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach. Hotel rooms will be \$129.00 per night and includes breakfast and a manager's reception daily.

This year the planning committee has been working hard to provide quality educational sessions. There will be six breakout sessions. They include Hematology, Chemistry/Immunology, Blood Bank, Microbiology, Management and Student/Educational sessions. We have invited speakers from across the US. Some of this year's speakers and their topics include: George Fritsma (Hemostasis), Lynn Ingram (A Liver Review), and Sue Beck (Certification Review), Chris Parker (Arterial Blood Gases) and many, many more.

Registration fees will be as follows: \$150 for full conference/member and \$175 full conference/nonmember; \$25 for student full conference.

You should receive your brochure by Mid- December with more information. As a member of the 2009 Planning committee, we hope that you come out and help us "Change the Tides at CCC".



# Fall Festival: A Harvest of Professionalism

Tri-County Technical College (Anderson Campus Multipurpose Room) Anderson,  
South Carolina

Friday, October 3, 2008



SCSCLS Member: \$10.00  
Non-Member Registration: \$20.00

**Registration:** Contact Polly Kay (pkay@tctc.edu or 864-646-1349) by Friday, September 26, 2008, with the number of students/faculty who will be attending from your institution. Please send one representative to the registration table with the payment for the entire group. Checks may be made out to the South Carolina Society for Clinical Laboratory Science.

8:00 AM – 8:30 AM Registration and payment

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM **Professionalism 101:** A variety of professional issues will be addressed. David G. Smith, Area Manager of Kelly Scientific Resources will be the featured speaker. He will provide information related to Job Seeking Skills.

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM **Break and Networking Activity**

10:30 AM – 12:00 AM Choice of breakout session

## Super Drugs and Super Bugs—What’s a Lab to Do?

Through the use of case studies, pictures, and illustrations, this talk will explore the varied and challenging clinical presentations associated with Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Clostridium difficile* infections. Recent scientific advances and discoveries related to these types of infections as well as regulatory requirements will be shared. Finally, strategies for testing and surveillance with respect to these two organisms will be explored, compared, and contrasted.

**Shirley Adams**

## The “WHO” says WHAT about Leukemia’s?

This session is intended to be a basic review of Leukemia’s. The format is designed to assist new students of Hematology and/or practicing laboratory professionals who have not studied Hematology for awhile in identifying the major characteristics of a few specific leukemia’s. Emphasis will be placed on the World Health Organization (WHO) classification.

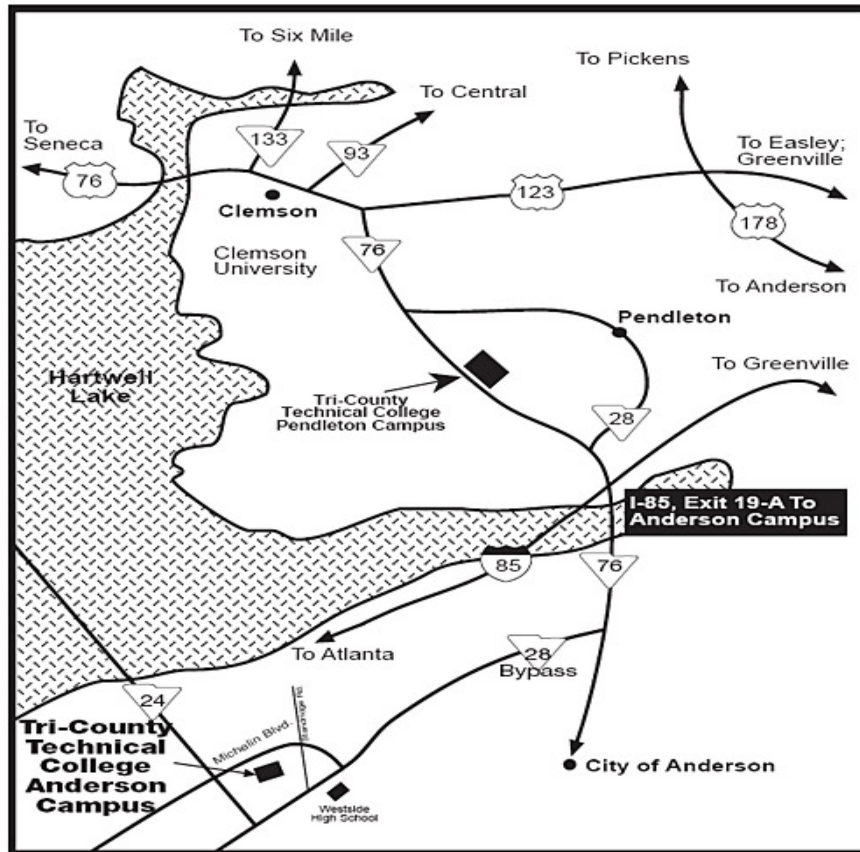
**Deborah Brock**

*Sponsored by the South Carolina Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (SCSCLS)*

All sessions have been submitted for PACE approval. The South Carolina Society for Clinical Laboratory Science is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E. program. Validation for PACE credit will be located at the registration table. Participants must sign the attendance sheet at each session attended to get credit. The program objectives are as follows:

1. To offer up-to-date sessions on topics in clinical laboratory science.
2. To provide a forum for interaction with other clinical laboratory personnel.
3. To improve professionalism and motivation within clinical laboratory science.
4. To promote the profession of clinical laboratory science.

## Tri-County Technical College - Anderson Campus



### **TO ANDERSON CAMPUS:**

511 Michelin Boulevard Anderson, SC 29625

**From Greenville:** Take I-85 South toward Atlanta. Take Exit 19-A, US Hwy 76, toward Anderson. Take the 1st right, just past the Olive Garden Restaurant, onto Hwy 28 Bypass. Go approximately 3 miles to Michelin Blvd. Turn right onto Michelin Blvd. and the Anderson Campus is 1 mile on your left.

**From Easley:** Take Highway 123 toward Clemson. Turn left onto Highway 76 to Anderson. Take the 1st right, just past the Olive Garden Restaurant, onto Hwy 28 Bypass. Go approximately 3 miles to Michelin Blvd. Turn right onto Michelin Blvd. and the Anderson Campus is 1 mile on your left.

**From Seneca:** Take Highway 123 toward Clemson. Bear right onto Highway 76 to Anderson. Take the 1st right, just past the Olive Garden Restaurant, onto Hwy 28 Bypass. Go approximately 3 miles to Michelin Blvd. Turn right onto Michelin Blvd. and the Anderson Campus is 1 mile on your left.

**From Columbia:** Take I-26 West toward Spartanburg, then the 385 connector. Once in Greenville, take I-85 toward Atlanta. Take Exit 19-A, US Hwy 76, toward Anderson. Take the 1st right, just past the Olive Garden Restaurant, onto Hwy 28 Bypass. Go approximately 3 miles to Michelin Blvd. Turn right onto Michelin Blvd. and the Anderson Campus is 1 mile on your left.

**From Charleston:** Take I-26 toward Columbia.

**From Savannah/Hilton Head:** Take I-95 to I-26, then I-26 to Columbia

**From Anderson:** Take Exit 19-A, US Hwy 76, toward Anderson. Take the 1st right, just past the Olive Garden Restaurant, onto Hwy 28 Bypass. Go approximately 3 miles to Michelin Blvd. Turn right onto Michelin Blvd. and the Anderson Campus is 1 mile on your left



## *SCSCLS Student Forum Chair Attends National Meeting in Washington*

By Harmony Hicks

My name is Harmony Hicks, and I attend Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, South Carolina. I am the Student Forum Chair of the SCSCLS. Recently, I attended the 2008 National ASCLS meeting in Washington, DC as a student delegate. It was a great experience. At first, I was overwhelmed; there were so many people from around the country and world.

As Student Forum Chair from SCSCLS, I attended national Student Forum meetings and had the chance to meet others like me from around the country. We discussed issues and elected officers for the following year. It was great to meet fellow students and learn about the different ways to get involved. While getting to know other students, I realized that they are the future leaders of the organization, and therefore of our profession. The people I met are going to be the ones that will be the movers and shakers, and that is an amazing thought. I also had the opportunity to participate in the House of Delegates meeting. This is where representatives in ASCLS from around the country have a chance to discuss pressing issues such as competitive bidding, licensure, etc. Another resolution that was discussed was defining levels of practice for the bachelor MT and associates MLT levels. It was a great experience to be able to see the process and vote on these issues. I also attended several scientific seminars dealing with issues in patient safety, blood banking, microbiology laboratory cases, and emerging viruses. At the convention center there were hundreds of booths, there were so many that I saw only less than half of them. There were vendors from around the world, ranging from cutting edge research companies with new technologies to companies selling pediatric Q-tips. It was very interesting to see what new directions that our field is heading into. I talked to companies at their booths about job opportunities. There was a wide range of possibilities, from working in hospitals around the country, with the Department of Defense to travel with diplomats around the world, to taking contracts around the country as a traveling MLT.

Oh, the sightseeing! Washington is full of history and monuments. There were so many sights within walking distance of the convention. I stayed down the street from the White House at the Capital Hilton. It was a wonderful experience to meet people from around the country that are so energized, motivated and love what they do and are so involved. All in all, it was an amazing experience being a part of an organization that is dedicated to voicing our concerns and to the advancement of our field.



## Have You Heard the News?????????

CHICAGO – Aug. 28, 2008 - The American Society for Clinical Pathology Board of Registry (ASCP-BOR) and The National Credentialing Agency for Laboratory Personnel (NCA) have reached an agreement on the formation of a unified credentialing agency. The respective agencies have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) that has also been ratified by the sponsoring organizations, namely, the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS) and the Association of Genetic Technologists (AGT). Execution of the LOI indicates that the organizations have reached a mutual agreement in principle on the formation of a unified certification organization that embodies a shared vision for peer credentialing.

Unification will simplify processes for educational program directors, student applicants from accredited institutions (NAACLS and CAAHEP) as well as all other eligible individuals who receive on-the-job laboratory training. In addition, this union is intended to increase credibility and respect from other healthcare professionals and employers, and focus on critical issues for the future of the profession. Construction of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is currently underway between these organizations detailing the governance, the impact of the single certification agency on the credentials of currently certified individuals, as well as the impact on policies related to re-certification and new applicants. In the interim, both agencies (ASCP-BOR and the NCA) will continue business as usual as the transition unfolds.

\* \* \* So what do you think? Send your feedback/comments to [kpearson@tctc.edu](mailto:kpearson@tctc.edu) and let us know how you feel about unification! \* \* \*

## ***A Note From the Editor:***

*Dear Friends:*

*I just want to take a moment to tell you how excited I am to be producing this newsletter. It has been a goal of mine since I was a freshman at Tri-County Tech. I want to use this forum to promote our profession as well as give us all a deserved “pat on the back” for a job well done.*

*This newsletter is to inform as well as highlight the successes of individuals. As a student, I felt it was important that students who achieved honors should be recognized. This promotes a healthy self-esteem as well as encouraging recruitment for the MLT/MT programs.*

*For the professionals, it is great to read about the achievements of peers around the state. It is a way for ideas to be shared. This promotes positive growth for Medical Laboratory Professionals.*

*The only downside to this undertaking is putting together a newsletter each quarter with very little information to build from. This is where you come in: you as a student and you as a Medical Laboratory Professional.*

*I am asking that students as well as Laboratory Professionals please send me your stories or ideas. You don't have to write an article. Just send me your idea or information on whatever news story you have and I will put everything together and put it in the newsletter.*

*If everyone will send something at least twice a year, we could make an outstanding newsletter. Who knows, perhaps some day we could win an award for it!*

*Please email me at: [kpearson@tctc.edu](mailto:kpearson@tctc.edu). I look forward to hearing from you!*

*Blessings,*

*Karen Pearson, MLT (ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Editor-in-Chief*