President’s Message

The October 2nd meeting in OKC at the Baptist Medical Center was very well attended (139). We had some fantastic speakers and some of the classes were standing room only. Carlo did an outstanding job with speakers and he deserves a great big THANK YOU!!! Everyone else that helped register, prepare speaker packets, arrange meals, and otherwise made things go smoothly, my thanks go out to you, too.

The National AMT Board is monitoring the Obama Health Care Plan, along with many other groups. They are still trying to decide how this will affect labs. Oklahoma society members need to evaluate what the future holds for them. Most of the present board will retire in the next 10 to 15 years. Those of you who will be working in our chosen profession for a much longer time need to decide who is willing to take these board members places. Who is going to be the watchdog of your generation? The current board has tried to always stay on top of any issues that affect labs and to make sure that our voices are heard. Remember, not all decisions made in the area of lab medicine are in our best interest. Make your voice heard.

Be happy, healthy, and safe in the coming year.

Anna Seals, RPT (AMT)
OKSSAMT President
2009 – 2010

Notes from the Editor

Once again, this year is almost gone and, once again, I haven’t started my Christmas shopping. Oh, well. Maybe next year, I’ll get things done sooner.

It has been another great year for OKSSAMT and for me. I was honored to be nominated and then to receive the Distinguished Achievement award from AMT. I also was awarded the OKSSAMT MT of the Year award. Thank you Vernon and committee for this great honor.

As I work putting together this Issue of the SoonerScope, I am looking forward to next year. Our publication will be going online. I have been checking out programs to make the Sooner Scope exciting and fresh. There will still be printed copies available to the members without email. Just let me know if you need a printed copy. My phone number and address is available elsewhere in this issue for you to use to notify me. Unless I hear from you directly before the Spring 2010 issue, you will not receive a printed copy (deadline May 1, 2010).

Once more, I would like to encourage attendance at our State and National Meetings. They really are fantastic!

Happy Holidays,

Lia Kaye Spears, MT (AMT)
Your Sooner Scope Editor

Vernon Bass and Lia Spears
OKSSAMT Delegates

Mary Burden greets registrants at the Fall One Voice III Educational Seminar
Greetings Central District Members,

As I write this message to you, we are heading into the “Dog Days of August.” Hope this fact will bring a little refreshing news your way.

First, AMT is celebrating their 70th birthday this year! I congratulate the home office staff and the Great Lakes District for the awesome job they did in hosting the National Convention just held in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Scientific sessions were great and the social events really rocked. I just finished reading the comments from members on the evaluation forms. Nearly all rated it to be excellent to near perfect.

Events you should be aware of for the remainder of this year and going into the next year include the following. First, all of your state meetings for the fall. Beginning inn 2010, eight of the southern states will be hosting the Magnolia Conference, to be held in Panama City, Florida at the Edgewater Beach Resorts. The dates are February 25, 26, and 27. Log onto the AMT website and click on Magnolia Conference for registration and room rates. This will be the most inexpensive conference you will ever attend.

The National Convention will be held next July 12th to 17th at the J.W. Marriot Resort in Summerlin, Nevada. This resort is located a few miles off the strip in Las Vegas. There are 13 restaurants at the resort ranging from soup, salad, and burgers to buffet, and fine dining.

I'm very proud of Central District. At the Minneapolis Convention, Central District took home 17 National Awards. This is very commendable. There were 57 first timer attendees and a total registration of 374. Many of the first timers enjoyed this convention so much that they indicated in their evaluations that they are looking forward to next year in Las Vegas. The most common theme on the evaluations was the family reunion atmosphere they experienced at the convention.

Watch for your AMT Events magazine, this will highlight, with pictures, the great time all experienced in Minneapolis.

I challenge each member to attend at least one of your state meetings a year. Your state officers work awfully hard in organizing and putting on these state meetings. Show your appreciation by attending.

Hope to see all of you within the next year or so.

Randy Swopes, MT (AMT)
Central District Councilor

One Voice III Fall Conference Report

By Carlo Ledesma, MT, CLS(H)

This year’s fall conference was held at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Ok. It was very well attended, not only by laboratory professionals but most allied health professionals as well. Practicing technologists and students alike were present to advance and to acquire current knowledge of laboratory practice. A wide variety of speakers and topics was available for the attendees to choose from, ranging from general public health issues to technical advancements/knowledge concerning hematology, molecular diagnostics, immuno-hematology, microbiology, and clinical chemistry.

I really enjoyed seeing that the laboratory professionals in our state gather to advance their current skills and also to interact with colleagues and friends. This endeavor that we do gives a dual purpose to our constituents. I hope that future meetings will prove successful as gain more publicity and respect from our colleagues in the medical field.

I hope to see everyone again for the spring meeting – approximate date is April 16, 2010. The meeting will be held at Rose State College. We will once again provide a very informative and encouraging seminar to you, our laboratory colleagues.

Any article appearing in this journal is to be assumed as representing the opinion of the author, and is not to be considered as reflecting the policy of the American Medical Technologists unless the article is so designated.
Delegates Report

The American Medical Technologists 71st Educational Program and National Business meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 22nd through June 27th, 2009. This meeting is affectionately referred to as our “Annual Family Reunion”. Every year, we are happy to greet old friends and make new ones as we meet the first time attendees. The Hilton Hotel and the staff members were outstanding.

They greeted us on the first day, ask our names and called us by our names all week. Minnesota is a beautiful part of the country, they rolled out the RED CARPET for us and we enjoyed a wonderful week. The meeting was attended with 58 first time attendees. All attendees enjoyed an exceptionally good educational program. First Officer Jeff Sikes talked to us about the “Landing on the Hudson”. His humor was contagious, as he related the banter between him and pilot “Scully.” Each year, the convention committee prepares a program that provides sessions that can be valuable to all disciplines. Of course, the social events were outstanding, the state baskets were a hit as usual, the food was good, the DJ played good music and I ALMOST won a basket. Oh, well, next year!

This year, AMT honored one of our most outstanding members. Pat Cuvello, President of AMTIE, EQS committee chair and contributor to our educational meeting has decided to retire. Pat’s contributions to our organization are innumerable, he will be missed and we hope that his health will allow him to continue to attend. Thank You Pat.

Oklahoma’s Mary Burden was re-elected to the Board of Directors, while former Oklahoma member Jeff Lavender (Texas) was elected for the first time. Roxann Clifton will serve as Vice President for another year.

My thanks go out to the state society for allowing me to represent them at this meeting. I look forward to going to Las Vegas next year for the 72nd “Family Reunion.” Why don’t YOU make plans to join us?

Respectfully,

Vernon Bass, MT (AMT)
Thank you OKSSAMT for allowing me to serve as a delegate to the national AMT meeting this year. I always enjoy the meetings and I especially enjoy getting to travel to different places around the country. This was a first visit for me to Minnesota and it is a beautiful part of the country featuring softly rolling hills, wide rivers, and many trees – I would like to see the Minneapolis area in the fall when the foliage is turning. And, then, of course, there was the Mall of America. I should have worn my pedometer to help me keep track of the many, many miles I walked around there.

Briefly, I would also like to share some of my experiences while there. I can never brag on the key-note speakers and the educators enough. Jeffrey Skiles – one of the pilots from the plane that landed on the Hudson River – was the keynote speaker for the opening ceremony. His story was interesting and inspirational even though he didn’t feel like he was the hero the media called him. He praised the rest of the crew on the flight and said he would be glad to fly with any of them again. Two other keynote speakers stand out – one was a holistic healer, a marvelous educator, and the other was a forensics expert. Remember the TV show Quincy? That’s what his job was like but he assured the audience that it was not that glamorous of a job as usually portrayed on TV. I enjoy all the classes and am continuously amazed at where they find such excellent speakers for the annual educational seminar.

Of course, there are the get-togethers that I enjoy tremendously. At the awards banquet, I was presented the Distinguished Achievement award – a great honor for me and I appreciate the board of directors voting for me. Oklahoma made the State Honor Roll Society again and we can thank our state president and board of directors for all their hard work. Plus, two of our Oklahoma students received awards: one for MLT Student of the Year and one for writing an award winning article. Way to go ladies.

Besides the classes and parties, I also attended the Editor’s Workshop, the leadership meeting, sat as a mentor, and served on the Convention Committee. I also found time to tour downtown Minneapolis with friends that I had made in previous years and some new ones that I made this year. We had a blast – saw the famous Mary Tyler Moore statue and sampled some Minnesota cuisine. And, let’s not forget the cruise – what fun!

I would like to close by encouraging all members to try to attend an annual AMT business meeting and educational seminar some time in the near future. They are fun, exciting, learning experiences. New experiences are often described as experiences of a lifetime – a National AMT Educational and Business Meeting is that and more.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your delegate.

Respectfully submitted,

Lia Kaye Spears, MT (AMT)