It’s Never Too Late!---An Old Timer as a First Timer
Georgia A.McCauley, PhD, MBA, MT(AMT)

What a wonderful time I had attending the AMT 71st Annual Educational Program and National Meeting for the very first time. It is a bit embarrassing to tell you that I have been an AMT member since 1976 and have never attended an AMT national convention. Well, let me tell you, I will not intentionally be missing another one! From the minute-by-minute account of the emergency aircraft Landing on the Hudson presented by USAirways First Officer Jeff Skiles at the keynote address, through the interesting and timely topics of the educational and scientific presentations, meeting agendas, and social interactions, the national convention was unequivocally a first class event! I would like to share some “snapshots” with you from my experiences as a “First-Timer”.

Snapshot #1 - Key Note:
The audience listened intently to First Officer Jeff Skiles as he related his life-saving disaster preparedness training and teamwork experiences as a crew-member of USAirways Fight 1549 on January 15, 2009 to the importance of our own healthcare professional training and practice of policies and procedures. In a humble, and at times, humorous way, Officer Skiles explained that a lot the things had gone right that day after the decision was made, within seconds after both engines were disabled by hitting Canada geese, to land the aircraft in the Hudson River. He emphasized that because of the training, practice and teamwork of the crew and passengers precious lives were saved that day.

Snapshot #2 - General Session:
“Keep thinking of something that has brought you happiness”, instructed Patricia D. Culliton, as she facilitated a guided imagery exercise designed to relieve stress, during her presentation titled Integrative Pain Management: The Science and Spirit of Mind/Body Medicine. Ms. Culliton, MA, LAc, Director of Alternative Medicine Division at Hennepin Faculty Associates, Minneapolis and faculty member of the Center for Spirituality and Healing at the University of Minnesota, emphasized the importance and impact of the mind-body-spirit connection to a healthy and happy life in work and play. Highlights from current research on self-care techniques (breath work, acupuncture, guided imagery) were shared with the audience. It works!

Snapshot #3 - Educational & Scientific Sessions
Flow Cytometry in Leukemia and Lymphoma, presented by Robbi Montgomery, MLS, MT(ASCP)SI, Director of Education, Clinical Laboratories, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN, reviewed the basics of flow cytometry, discussed indicators of malignancy, and how CD (clusters of differentiation) markers are used for assessment of diseases. The audience learned how flow cytometry is used to classify and Continued on page 5….
**The Tarheel Tech** is the official publication of the North Carolina State Society of American Medical Technologists. It is published two times per year in June and December. Submit comments and information to:

**Editor:**

Tommie Williams, MT (AMT)
4435 Clarksburg Road
Clemmons, NC 27012
twill29316@aol.com

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**NCSSAMT Officers and Board**

**President:**
Judy Smith, MT
201 Bluff Street
Mt Airy, NC 27030
(b) 336-719-7124
(h) 336-789-2460
jujusmith@embarqmail.com

**Vice President:**
Caroll Wood, MT
2838 Isley Lane
Burlington, NC 27215
carol@triad.rr.com

**Secretary**
David McCullough, MT
1513 Wensley Drive
Mt Airy, NC 27030
(h) 336-786-5304
dmccullough01057@roadrunner.com

**Treasurer**
Ray Dean, MT
PO Box 103
Hurdle Mills, NC 27541
(b) 919-681-3223
(h) 336-364-1205
lutherdean@msn.com

**Board of Directors**
Mary Midkiff, MT
252 Paisley Drive
Mt Airy, NC 27030
mmidkiff@nhsc.org

Tommie Williams, MT
4435 Clarksburg Road
Clemmons, NC 27012
336-407-9694
twill29316@aol.com

**Treasurer**
Louise Hilliard, MT
224 Bland Ave
Burlington, NC 27217
lhilliard@triad.rr.com

**Vice President:**
Caroll Wood, MT
2838 Isley Lane
Burlington, NC 27215
carol@triad.rr.com

**Secretary**
David McCullough, MT
1513 Wensley Drive
Mt Airy, NC 27030
(h) 336-786-5304
dmccullough01057@roadrunner.com

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mmidkiff@nhsc.org

Tommie Williams, MT
4435 Clarksburg Road
Clemmons, NC 27012
336-407-9694
twill29316@aol.com

**Scientific**
Tommie Williams*
Judy Smith
Caroll Wood
Mary Midkiff
Jerry Johnson

**Audit**
Shirley Mitchell
Beverly Brown
Dorothy Derr

If you are interested in serving on a committee for 2010 please contact

**Judy Smith, MT**
jujusmith@embarqmail.com

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Look for electronic version of
The Tarheel Tech at www.AMT1.com
Select State Societies then State Society websites

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**Committees – 2010**

**Publications and Placement**
Tommie Williams*
Judy Smith

**By-Laws, Policies and Procedures**
Judy Smith*
Dave McCullough
Tommie Williams
Mary Midkiff

**Membership**
Mary Midkiff*

**Scholarship**
Caroll Wood*

**Legislative & Proctoring**

Dave McCullough*
Louise Hilliard

**Publicity**
Lynn Dean*
Ray Dean
Shirley Mitchell (NMLPW contact)
Caroll Wood

**Nominating**
Caroll Wood*
Ray Dean
Judy Smith

**Budget**
Ray Dean*
Tommie Williams

**Awards**
Louise Hilliard*
Lynn Dean
**President’s Message**

Judy Smith, MT(AMT)

It is amazing to me how time is flying by. I hope each of you have had an enjoyable summer. I wish each of you could have attended the National Convention because there was no way that you could avoid having a good time.

My week in Minneapolis was filled with all kinds of activities. My first meeting on the EQS Committee was a very enlightening experience. I feel honored to be able to serve on this important committee. I attended seminars on today’s hot topics that were very informational. The keynote address by Jeffrey Skiles, the first officer on the airliner that landed on the Hudson River in New York last January was astounding. He talked about how yearly competency reviews and exercises completed by the airline pilot and himself had helped avoid a more catastrophic result with more loss of lives. As President of NCSSAMT I represented the state society as a voting member of the Resolutions Committee.  The Meet the Candidate session allowed us to get to know the Board of Directors candidates and the AMTIE Board of Trustee Candidate and hear comments on their committed
efforts to AMT.  The social events, the Welcome Party, OGM and Awards Banquet were very nice and enjoyable. On Friday the Annual Business Meeting covered lots of information. A bylaw amendment proposed by NCSSAMT concerning realignment of the Nominating Committee was presented to the delegation but did not receive enough support to pass. Mary Burden and Jeffrey Lavender were elected to the Board of Directors and Kay Ferguson to the AMTIE Board of Trustees.

NCSSAMT maintained the status as an Honor Roll State Society which congratulations go to everyone. Special congratulations go to Jerry Johnson on being the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award. Good job, Jerry. NCSSAMT delegates held an active part in the week long meeting and did a fine job representing our membership.

The Fall Fest Seminar for Medical Assistants and Phlebotomists will be held Thursday, October 22 on the campus of Winton Salem State University. You can obtain 2 CE credits by attending this evening session. Our Fall Focus Educational Seminar will be held November 21 also on the campus of Winston Salem State University. The Board of Director’s Meeting will be held on Friday November 20. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan now to attend!! The programs offer topics of interest for everyone.

Our membership is growing and we need everyone to take part in supporting AMT. Please let me know what committee you would like to serve on and grow with the organization. The networking between friends and members helps keep us in the know of laboratory issues.

**A Note from the Editor**

Tommie Williams, MT

It’s Official! “The Tarheel Tech” is green. With this issue, NCSSAMT is no longer distributing our newsletter via snail mail.

This change will allow us to save money on our publications and use those funds to continue to offer outstanding continuing education programs. It has been a labor of love for me. I have enjoyed working on “The Tarheel Tech” and I hope you look forward to reading the newsletter and catching up on all our activities.

My plans for 2010 include expanding the size of the newsletter and including more photos of our state activities. I hope each of you will take time to send me articles and pictures for our newsletter.
April 21-23, 2010
Carolinas Clinical Connection
“Another April in Asheville”
Crowne Plaza Tennis and Golf Resort

Featuring:

Motivational Keynote Address - “Quality Control for Your Attitude” by Tim Dumas, AKA "The Lab Guy".

Informational General Session on Thursday - “Professional Recognition: Licensure and Advanced Degrees” by Shirlyn McKenzie and Tim Randolph

Motivational Endnote Address on Friday – "It’s not always what you know, but who you know" by George Fritsma.

Yummy Vendor Reception to open Exhibits Wednesday evening with exhibits open Wednesday and Thursday

Continental Breakfast provided Thursday and Friday

Super Buffet Lunch Thursday

Optional LaZoom Bus Shuttle to downtown Asheville for dinner Thursday evening

24 fantastic discipline breakout sessions with nationally known speakers in:

Hematology, Microbiology, Clinical Chemistry, Immunology/Blood Banking, Management/Education

Student and New Professional issues

See page 2 for the "At A Glance" for session speakers and titles

The Crown Plaza was recently renovated and a new meeting expo center added.

Reserve your room online at www.ashevillecp.com. Use the group code of CAC to get the conference rates ($115 per night for a King or two double beds) or phone toll free at 800-733-3211. The local number is 828-254-3211. Call for conference prices for King Executive and Villa Suites. The hotel address is:
Snapshots from the 71st Annual AMT National Meeting

The North Carolina Delegation:

(left to right back ) Jerry Johnson, Judy Smith, Georgia McCauley, Caroll Wood, Ray Dean, Lynn Dean (left to right front ) Tommy Williams, Mary Midkiff and Dave McCollough

Mary, Mike McCarty, AMT legal Counsel, and Judy review the resolution they will present at the Resolutions Committee meeting.

Lynn and Tommy enjoy the Welcome Party.

Caroll, Lynn and Georgia at Awards Banquet

Judy Smith NCSSAMT President with our two first tiers; Jerry Johnson and Georgia McCauley.

Dave checks out downtown Minneapolis.

Caroll Wood and Judy Smith at awards banquet.

Did someone say casino?
Delegate Reports from 71st Annual National Meeting

Mary Midkiff, MT

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a NC delegate to the National Convention. Once again our convention planners provided us with a lot for our money. I am sure there are no other organizations which keep registration fees as low for their members.

Our keynote address was a bit hit. US Airways First Officer, Jeff Skiles talked about his experience the day when flight 1549 landed on the Hudson and how training, procedures, and teamwork saved lives that day. Does this sound familiar? These are the very same methods that we use in our profession to keep our patients safe.

During the week I had the opportunity to chair the Future Planning/Membership Committee meetings on Monday and Tuesday night and will highlight some of the recommendations from the committee.

AMT should increase involvement in continuing education by hiring a Director of Education and possibly support personnel

Make changes necessary to AMTIE approval process for educational sessions with the goal of getting ASCLS to accept AMTIE credits in the same manner that AMTIE accepts PACE credits

North Carolina sponsored an amendment to restructure the National Nominating Committee. We were very disappointed that this was defeated during the business meeting, however, we plan to draft another resolution with suggested changes to present next year.

Jerry Johnson, MT

Orientation Session: I attended the orientation session for first timers. There were 58 first time delegates to the convention. Convention expectations and order of business for the convention were discussed. In this session the District Councillors were introduced and each councilor spoke about their respective area of responsibility. AMTIE president Patrick Cuvioiou addressed the group and explained the work of the AMTIE Board of Trustees and the responsibilities of this board, changes within the CEU reporting form, and the importance of continuing education for laboratory professionals.

Welcome Keynote Address: Jeff Skiles, First Officer for flight 1549 “Landing on the Hudson” was an inspirational speaker that went into detail about the plane crash/emergency landing into New York City’s Hudson River on January 16, 2009. He explained how training and standard operational procedures were followed and in turn saved 155 peoples lives when the flight lost two engines over the Hudson River. Canadian geese were sucked into both engines, disabling the aircraft, creating an emergency landing on the river.

Educational & Scientific Sessions: Educational sessions were offered each day, I had the opportunity to attend “Motivation for Mentors, Supervisor and Others “with David Plaut and Carol Smola. If you have not attended a session with Dr. Plaut, you have really “missed the boat”. He is a “fun” speaker with various dry jokes and tricks for his attendees. I also attended two more of his sessions, “Electronic Calibration and Quality Monitoring” and “Point of Care Testing: State of the Instruments and How to Implement”. In addition, I attended “Urime Drug Screen Collection Update Training and “Patient Safety in the Physicians office and POL”. There were several educational and scientific sessions in a variety of disciplines for your choosing.

AMT Resolutions Presentation, Meet the Candidates: Candidates for elections were introduced for upcoming elections. I was very impressed with the candidate’s knowledge and answers from the floor questions.

Welcome Reception: Attended and enjoyed by all members and guests that attended. State society baskets were given to winning members from a drawing. I particularly would have liked to have won the Illinois state society basket! Food, Fun, Music, and Dancing was enjoyed by all.

Awards Banquet and Convocation: This event was attended by all members and guests. The food, fellowship, and awards were wonderful. I received the Distinguished Achievement Award. I am very humbled by receiving this award and am thankful for the nomination from Mary Midkiff, MT (AMT) , past president of the NC State Society.

AMT Annual Business Meeting / AMTIE Annual Business Meeting: Attended by all delegates. This session included Committee reports from each committee. North Carolina had three committee chairs, Mary Midkiff, Future Planning/Membership Chair, Tommie Williams, Publications Chair, and Carol Wood, Scholarship Chair. AMT celebrates 70 years this year. North Carolina was noted as an honor roll state. Resolution to change the National Bylaws, Article IX, Nominating Committee, Section 8 to 72 hours prior to the annual business meeting was presented for vote by North Carolina, which was defeated by majority vote. AMTIE Business meeting concluded that we have 1200 Community College affiliations, an increase of 60% since 2002. Alarming statistics reported that the need for Medical Technologist is 15,000 per year, average age of med techs is 49 years, and lab schools are turning out less than 5,000 techs per year.

"Alarming statistics were reported that the need for Medical Technologist is 15,000 per year, average age of med techs is 49 years, and lab schools are turning out less than 5,000 techs per year."
Delegate Reports continued

David McCullough, MT

It was a pleasure and an honor to serve as a delegate and to represent our State Society at the 71st Educational Program and National Meeting. We used to call this meeting a Convention and it still has that feel. I am going to report on the events, meetings, or sessions which a delegate from North Carolina State Society is required to attend. Much of this report will be my opinion or impression, other delegates may have had a different view and I encourage you to read their reports. I will also comment on the speakers, social events, awards convocation, and a general overview of the meeting as a whole.

Monday June 21: Although not strictly a delegate requirement, I attended the proctoring committee meeting and also spent a short few minutes in the Future Planning/Membership Committee meeting.

Tuesday June 22: I spent a few minutes with the chair of the Moderators Committee, then attended the opening ceremonies. The keynote speaker was USAirways First Officer Jeff Skiles who related his experiences as a crewmember of Flight 1549 which landed in the Hudson River on January 15, 2009. He talked of the procedures, training, and cockpit resource management within the aviation community.

Wednesday June 23: The Resolutions Presentation/Meet the Candidates meeting started at 8:00 AM, obviously a little early for some attendees (the welcome party was Tuesday night) as a member from one of our western states introduced a resolution to start this session in the afternoon at the next meeting in Las Vegas. This would not be a resolution, resolutions are introduced as a legal procedure to change AMT by-laws and the starting time of this meeting is not in the by-laws. There were only two members running for the Board of Directors so the meeting did not have the flavor of previous ones, election of the two candidates would be nearly automatic.

Thursday June 24: I moderated Mary Midkiff’s lecture on safety in the physician’s office and POL, did a poor job of introducing her, the cat must have bit my tongue, she did a great job, 42 in attendance, just great.

The Awards Banquet and Convocation was Thursday night, the food was excellent, all the NC delegates were at our table and we were happy to see Jerry Johnson receive the Distinguished Achievement Award for her efforts on behalf of the State Society. We couldn’t have had a more deserving member receiving this award.

Friday June 25: National Meeting Day – First the Town Hall session where reports are presented from the various AMT committee chairs and comments or questions may be made by the delegates. The afternoon session started with presentation of the NC State Society sponsored resolution which would change the Nominating Committee from one which interviewed candidates for the BOD and recommended those they felt were most suitable to sit on the Board to a committee which would actively recruit candidates for the board. After some heated discussion (I was the most heated one of our delegation, probably should apologize but will not) the resolution was defeated. We devoted much time on this resolution, especially past president Mary Midkiff, and were disappointed to say the least.

As I stated previously, the election to the Board of Directors was no contest, Jeff Lavender and incumbent Mary Burden were elected by acclamation.

The conclusion of the meeting was a sad time for many of us as an Icon of our organization, Patrick Cuvello of Texas, long time chairman of the Education, Qualification, and Standards Committee and President of AMTIE found it necessary to retire from his posts. Pat was a former AMT President, has received every award in AMT, and was presented the coveted “LIFE” award by the Virginia State Society at the conclusion of this business meeting. Pat has devoted much of his life to AMT and I personally will miss his presence.

So, the convention is history, history filled with pleasant memories of good friends and interesting lectures and workshops. Dianne Powell and the AMT staff are to be congratulated on a job well done. I believe the AMT ship is still afloat and making progress thanks to hard working member committees, the Board of Directors, Executive Director Chris Damon, Director of Testing James Fidler, and the AMT staff. I want to thank the NC State Society for allowing me to serve as one of your delegates.
It’s Never too late ... continued from page 1

treat leukemia and lymphoma as case studies were presented. When I first started my med tech career, fellow laboratorians were excited about the “new” technology of a three-part differential. At this session, the audience was introduced to Beckmen-Coulter’s hematology and flow cytometer technology that generates a 16-part diff!

Snapshot #4 – Meetings and Socials
AMT members were provided the opportunity to participate in the Town Hall session, the Annual Business Meeting, as well as District and Committee meetings. The meeting agendas evidenced that AMT is truly ran by its members and the meeting reports indicated that our professional organization is active and growing at the state and national level. State societies were providing their state pins for those that collect them. I collected quite a few during the week!

All attending the Welcome Party had a good time, while enjoying the fellowship, food, drinks, and prizes. Attendees could win beautiful gifts baskets filled with all kinds of goodies provided by the different state societies. Everyone was so friendly and helpful that it made me feel like I was at a family reunion, not attending a national meeting for the first time. The ballroom for the Awards Banquet and Convocation was decorated with an evergreen forest theme. Luminaries of pine trees, animals, and beautiful white lights accented the décor. Each attendee could take an evergreen sapling from the table centerpieces to take home and plant as a memento of the national meeting. A lot of happiness and sometimes tears of joy celebrated the effort, dedication, and work of the deserving awardees.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the 72nd AMT Educational Program and National Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada next year!!!

District Councillor’s Comments Shannon Newman MT(AMT)

It doesn’t seem that the National Convention has come and already gone. This year’s convention was full of great speakers and topics. Keynote speaker, Jeff Skyles was very entertaining. He talked about how important teamwork along with training and following procedures made the miracle that took place on January 15th into the Hudson River. He related his experience of that day to the challenges we face in healthcare everyday and that teamwork and continuing our training or education really is important to keep our day to day operations running smoothly.

At this year’s convention we had a total of 379 attendees. There were 58 1st timers, and 8 were from the Southern District. I expect to see the 1st timers at next years convention. Next year’s convention will be at the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort Spa at Summerlin on July 12-17, 2010. Make plans to attend next year.

I would like to congratulate every award winner. The Southern District had 13 award winners and the two highest and prestigious awards given by AMT were awarded to members in the Southern District. Patricia Poitier-Sands was presented the Medallion of Merit and Charles Baker was presented the Order of the Golden Microscope. Congratulations to all of the award winners for their hard work and dedication to AMT.

Last, I would like to mention that the Council is working on reviewing all forms and manuals to be put on the website. The new President’s quarterly form, award form and the State Office’s manual should be on the AMT website soon. On the website, it will be separated into three sections: (a) membership, (b) state leaders, and (c) board/council. Also, make sure you read the Council’s corner in the AMT Events for record retention and other important information.

STUDENT WRITING AWARD
Sponsored by North Carolina State Society AMT

ATTENTION! MT/MLT, RMA, and PHLEBOTOMY STUDENTS

Write a scientific or feature article and win a commemorative plaque and monetary award presented by the North Carolina State Society of American Medical Technologists. Topics may include the student’s role in the diagnosis and treatment of disease, review of a condition or disease process, new test or test methodology, patient safety, phlebotomy, why I chose this profession, the meaning of professionalism, etc.

DEADLINE: February 1st The 1st place award winner will receive $150 and the 2nd place award winner will receive $100. Papers must be typed and mailed to the North Carolina State Society President. The address in listed in The Tarheel Tech or may be obtained from the AMT website under the NCSSAMT State Society (AMT web site is www.amt1.com)
NCSSAMT Proposed By Laws Amendments

The following bylaws amendments will be presented to the membership for adoption at the Spring 2010 NCSSAMT Business Meeting to be held Thursday April 22, 2010 in Asheville, NC.

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 3 of the NCSSAMT By-Laws: These bylaws may be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote of members present at any business meeting of this society provided the members have been given thirty (30) days notice by mail of the proposed amendment, and provided AMT subsequently approves such amendment.

Deletions are indicated in [red bold italics]
Additions are indicated in blue bold underlined

ARTICLE II
Membership Fees and Other Revenues

5. The Audit Committee shall meet annually prior to the NCSSAMT business meeting for the purpose of examining the society’s books and other records. The Audit Committee shall be composed of two to three NCSSAMT members. The state Treasurer shall be present at the Audit Committee meeting to answer questions, but may not take part in the actual audit. State officers cannot be members of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall make a full report of its findings to the members at the business meeting. The report shall be in the form of a certified, itemized statement, signed by the members of the committee and certified as a true audit of the society’s records by the President. A copy of this report is to be forwarded annually to the Executive Councilor and District Councillor. A notation must be made in the state books that such an audit has taken place.

ARTICLE III
Meeting of Members

4. Delegates and alternates to the Annual National Business Meeting of AMT (National Convention) shall be elected by majority vote of the members present at the North Carolina State Business Meeting held in the spring. Any member in good standing that has attended at least two North Carolina State Society Business Meetings within the 24 months prior to the election of delegates is eligible for election as a delegate. In addition, the State Society may fill its quota of delegates from North Carolina members in good standing who are in attendance at the National Educational Program and Business Meeting of AMT and qualified members attending the annual scientific seminars who present themselves to the State President or Chair of the Delegation prior to the end of the credentialing process and with approval of the Board of Directors. Vacant delegate seats of any discipline may be filled by eligible members regardless of their discipline.

ARTICLE IV
Officers and Directors

2. A person shall be eligible for the office of NCSSAMT President if he or she is currently a member in good standing of the society for two (2) years prior and has attended four (4) State Society meetings within six (6) years prior to the election.

A person shall be eligible for society office other than that of President if he or she is currently a member in good standing for one (1) year prior to election and has attended two (2) State Society meetings within four (4) years prior to election.

3. The Editor of the State Society Newsletter, ("The Tarheel Tech"), shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, the Editor having no vote on such appointments.

6. Board of Directors of this society shall consist of duly elected officers, the immediate Past President, the Editor of the State Society newsletter, ("The Tarheel Tech") and four (4) at-large directors elected by the membership. The Board of Directors shall plan, manage and conduct business and affairs of the society. The Board of Directors shall meet in conjunction with each membership meeting, and in addition, on call of the President, Vice President, or three (3) Directors on ten (10) days notice. A majority shall constitute a quorum.
AMT Mission

The mission of AMT is to manage, promote, expand upon and continuously improve our certification programs for allied health professionals who work in a variety of disciplines and settings, to administer certification examinations in accordance with the highest standards of accreditation, and to provide continuing education, information, advocacy services and other benefits to our AMT members.

AMT Vision

Our vision is for American Medical Technologists to be acknowledged and recognized by the world as truly being THE premier certification and membership organization for allied health professionals, particularly those in the professions of medical technology, phlebotomy, medical assisting, dental assisting and medical office administration.