



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Paula Kelley

The motivational power of a t-shirt has long been known to blood bankers. But do you know what great lengths (literally) a swimmer will go through to get one? My prized 2005 collection includes t-shirts from two 5K swims in Austin's Lake Travis, a 2.4 mile rough water swim at Makena Beach, Maui, and a relay race

across the Maui Channel. Yet, one of my favorite t-shirts is one that I don't have. It proclaims: "I swim because 70% of the earth is covered with water." (What better reason to be in a pool at 6 am?) The geography of that percentage shifted considerably in August and September as hurricanes battered the Gulf Coast. Hurricane Katrina left over 70% of New Orleans underwater. The subsequent arrival of Rita added Texas to our member states of Louisiana and Mississippi who experienced the fury of these devastating storms. All told, nearly 70% of our individual and institutional members reside in affected states. The experiences of our colleagues and friends who were directly impacted are extraordinary. The 2006 Annual Meeting's closing plenary session "Hurricane Warning" will share stories of loss, victory, hope, and lessons learned.

Successful annual meetings don't happen by accident. They are the result of countless hours of careful planning by many: Exhibits, Local Arrangements, Administrative, Technical/Scientific, Donor Recruitment and Collections Program Committees, as well as our Etcetera Events team at the Central Office. Planning an exceptional meeting program is a daunting task all on its own. Planning an annual meeting program in the midst of evacuations, chaos, and recovery is an extraordinary endeavor. I would like to recognize David Gremillion and Carolyn Beck (chairs of the Administrative and Technical/Scientific Program Committees), LeaAnne Ashley (District III Director), Susan Begnaud (Exhibits Co-Chair, Nominating Chair), Sarah Jones (Protégé Mentorship Program Co-chair), and all the committee members who balanced the competing demands of work, family and their South Central commitments in the eye of the storm. On behalf of the entire Association, thank you!

The strength and commitment of our Association's members was further evident at a State and Regional Association Officers' Breakfast sponsored by AABB in Seattle. SCABB was represented by six members from the board of directors, a number that nearly equaled the number of representatives from the other associations combined. The breakfast was held to promote networking and the exchange of ideas and best practices between regional associations. SCABB continues to work to build strong relationships at both the regional and national level. We are partnering with the AABB Accreditation Program to bring New Assessor Training to our annual meeting pre-convention program. Plans are also well underway for a joint annual meeting with the California Blood Bank Society in 2007.

SCABB board members past and present were also out in full force to pay tribute to Bill T. Teague, Founder and CEO of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center and 22nd President of SCABB, and to celebrate his legacy of service. Bill may soon be retiring from his role as CEO, but he hasn't retired from SCABB. Expect a legendary experience at the Annual President's Reception and Award Banquet where Mr. Teague will perform the honor of master of ceremonies. We were especially delighted to have Dedric Myers join us at the SCABB table for the Teague Tribute. Dedric is the first protégé to be paired with a mentor in the new Protégé Mentorship Program. Coincidentally, Dedric is employed by Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, and his mentor is Jim Teague! The legacy continues...

Oh, and back to the t-shirts. Walk or run, for competition or just for fun, this is your opportunity to prove the motivational power of a t-shirt. The Annual Meeting Fun Run is back by popular demand after a 6 year hiatus. Will the 1999 winners be present to defend their titles? Join your South Central colleagues at "Fun Central" to find out. See you at the starting line!



Dedric Myers, Protégé and Jim Teague, Mentor

Meet the Protégé

By: James W. Teague, BS, SBB(ASCP)

It is my honor to be part of the pilot Protégé program for the South Central Association of Blood Bankers. Succession planning is important for any organization and our President, Paula Kelly, and

Vice President, Elizabeth Waltman have formed a special Task Force to begin formulating and implementing a mentoring process. I was delighted to be asked to be on this task force and am honored to mentor the first protégé. I met Dedric at the annual meeting in Galveston during the new member brunch. He seemed an ideal candidate for the program. He accepted my invitation to be a protégé and we began the mentoring process. He was immediately selected for membership on two SCABB committees, and is well on his way to becoming an active member of the association.

I asked Dedric if it would be okay for me to write a brief article about him to advertise and encourage other potential protégés to join the program. He readily accepted. With no further adieu let's "MEET THE PROTÉGÉ".

Dedric has been a Who's Who since High School, where he was captain of the varsity basketball team at South Pike High in Magnolia, MS. He attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA where he participated in the Student Government Association (Officer) and was President of the Microbiology Club. He received his B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Science from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 1997. While at U of M he was the Student Government Association Senior Class Representative.

Dedric started his blood bank career early, as the first job he took out of MT school. He had a strong supervisor and mentor who gave him the confidence to overcome the trepidation of beginning his career in such a critical area. As has happened to many of us, blood banking began to grow on him. He realized he had the "knack" and skill, coupled with the fact a close family member was diagnosed with cancer and treated with blood components, it was permanently entrenched. Sound familiar to anyone? Dedric has since worked as a bench tech, charge tech, lead tech, Technical Director and Lab Manager at various hospitals and blood centers throughout the South, from Georgia to Texas. Currently he is a Quality Assurance Specialist at the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston, TX.

Dedric will tell you that one of the things that makes him "tick" is education. He knows that it's not only vital to know what you're doing, but why you are doing it. His excitement and enthusiasm for the field is infectious. His future plans are to stay in Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine and contribute to our craft as an administrator, director or executive.

Along with SCABB, Dedric is a member of SEABB (Southeastern Area Blood Bankers), the ASQ (American Society of Quality) and the AABB, where he volunteers as an accreditation assessor.

Please join me in welcoming Dedric Myers as South Central's first Protégé. We will both have an identifying sign on our name badge at the Annual Meeting in Arlington in May. Please stop and ask how things are going and how you can become involved as either a Mentor or Protégé. If you are interested in becoming a Mentor or a Protégé, contact Sarah Jones at sjones@giveblood.org or Elizabeth Waltman at ewaltman@blood-systems.org.

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Online Membership Renewal Launched!!!

A: For South Central online membership renewal, the "three or more character" password requirement has been disabled. You will need to use your assigned password to access the site.

Q: I deleted my renewal email or I forgot my username/password?

A: Contact South Central, Central Office for this information. 303-238-4145 or scabb@scabb.org