

## O Protégé Profiles:



### **Julie Ontiveros, Coffee Memorial Blood Center**

Becoming part of the Protégé Program is part of what has been a whole new experience for me. I just joined the wondrous world of blood banking in January when I accepted the

position as Development Director at Coffee Memorial Blood Center. I have a background of many years in non-profit, most recently with United Way, but this is new...and very exciting! The challenges that come with being new in an organization actually fit in very nicely with joining SCABB and the Protégé program. I appreciate so much the opportunities that SCABB offers to its members and look forward to developing relationships in this network. By attending the Annual Meeting workshops, I increased my knowledge a colossal amount (as well as my awareness of what I did not yet know).

My mentor, Christie Loe-Malone and I have already committed to think outside of the box (ummm...break the rules?) in our approach to Protégé projects. Christie has given me great guidance from day one and encouraged me to be creative. I knew right away when I came to the SCABB meeting and met no development staff from other organizations that it would be interesting to learn why those people were not attending. This is one area I will be looking at as a project - how blood centers use their development staff in planning and implementing their business. I think this information could be beneficial to other blood centers as non-profits in current economic times. In addition, it could potentially benefit in increasing membership as we encourage development staff to join SCABB. As a new member of the Membership and Fundraising committees, I think that will be a good fit. I encourage anyone who wants to really become a part of the history that SCABB is making to consider joining the Protégé program, whether as a mentor or Protégé. You will benefit more than you could even envision.

### **LeeAnne Hairr, MT(ASCP), American Red Cross GO-ARC**

I received my Bachelor's of Science in Medical Technology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2001. I am employed as an IRL technologist with the American Red Cross Greater Ozarks Arkansas Region. I am involved in the ARC Employee Advisory Committee, Arkansas Young Professionals Network and passionately serve as American Red Cross Team Leader for the Komen Arkansas Race for the Cure. I plan to attend SBB School at Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in the spring.

A small project I began after the Annual Meeting was to have a product demonstration presented to fellow employees in the Technical Services Department of the American Red Cross. I met Nicole Forloine with Typenex during my rounds in the Exhibit Hall. We chatted a bit as I completed a survey on their Blood Recipient Verification System.

She offered a product sample containing segment devices, her business card, and ID band color survey, and I moved on to the next vendor. It wasn't until lab week preparations that I had my Ah-ha moment. It was the perfect product demonstration. Nicole remembered me from the Annual Meeting and was glad to participate in our lab week festivities.

I had such a wonderful time at the 2008 Annual Meeting. I met so many friendly folks truly passionate about blood banking and I couldn't wait to get back and share what I had learned. I had considered pursuing my SBB for a couple years. Meeting instructors from Gulf Coast and UT Southwestern calmed my anxiousness about continuing my education, and the PMP gives me access to so many "like" minds. My mentor, Joe Ridley, has offered many suggestions to help me outline objectives to get the most out of my protégé experience. These opportunities given to me have been THE turning point from my days of being the complacent bench tech. I'm looking forward to the 2009 meeting.

*(continued from page 2)*

### **The President's Message**

The Protégés are busy this year - look for the articles highlighting their successes in this issue of PULSE. You'll have a chance to meet each protégé at the 2009 Annual Meeting as each one of them will be moderating one of our educational sessions. The Exhibits Committee has shared our new meeting shell with the exhibitors. As a result, the commitment to exhibit has been wonderful and we continue to get more vendors signing up each day. The Local Arrangements Committee -WOW! What more can I say other than you're in for a grand time in Oklahoma City. Each of the Program Committees: Administrative, Donor Recruitment/ Collections, and Technical/Scientific, has lined up a stellar group of quality speakers. You're not going to want to miss the opportunity to learn what's new in blood banking from these individuals. Now is the time to get your travel and education budget approved!

Finally, the Strategic Planning Session hosted by your Vice President, Nancy Haubert, was remarkable. The board has laid out a multi-year plan that will excite the tenured and the newest of members alike. Just to mention a few of the areas where the Association is focused: development of a marketing plan, establishing virtual meetings and conferences, enhancing physician recruitment, and the development of defined sponsorship opportunities/packages. We can't do these things without your support. When the membership drive kicks off in October, please consider becoming a Sustaining Member of the Association. I can assure you that the board and Finance Committee are good stewards of the budget and invest every available penny into providing opportunities for members to enhance their abilities to deliver quality blood services.

*LeaAnn Teague*

LeaAnn Teague, MBA, MT(ASCP)SBB  
President

## O Associate Corporate Members

### **Attending AABB in Montreal?**

While there visit our Associate Corporate Members in the Exhibit Hall and ask for your SCABB Member ribbon to attach to your AABB badge!

Be sure and say hello to your fellow SCABB members as you see them throughout the AABB meeting!

### **Act Fast Delivery**

[www.actfastdelivery.com](http://www.actfastdelivery.com)

### **Active Response Media**

[www.activeresponsemedia.com](http://www.activeresponsemedia.com)

### **BioArray Solutions**

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