



ASCLS is excited to introduce the ASCLS Voices Under 40, a monthly recognition of one of our many, talented and committed young professionals under 40 years old. The ASCLS Voices Spotlight has been developed to honor ASCLS members who have shown exceptional commitment to ASCLS, the laboratory profession, and their community at large at a younger age in their professional career. Each month we spotlight one of the Shining Voices who were selected from many nominations across the country.

Please meet Joshua J. Cannon, MS, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Joshua is currently serving as an instructor in the department of Medical Laboratory Sciences and Biotechnology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA. He teaches the lecture and laboratory components for hematology and urinalysis & body fluids. In addition, Joshua also teaches the laboratory components for clinical chemistry and immunology. As an instructor Joshua gets to participate in admission events and information session in the Greater Philadelphia Region, as well as participate in program outcomes and assessment, curriculum development and accreditation maintenance. He is currently serving on the curriculum committee for the university. Joshua also gets to promote the medical laboratory profession by participating in various events such as the Philadelphia Science Festival.



"Many members of ASCLS have become my family-and I literally call them that," Joshua mentions in his personal statement. Today Joshua serves as the ASCLS-PA President as well as a member of the Region II council. Joshua continues to be active in ASCLS because he believes it is his duty and privilege to promote his profession. Being actively involved in ASCLS in his opinion is the best way to advocate for and promote ourselves as the scientists, technicians, assistants, and

phlebotomists who-directly or indirectly- touch each patient behind every specimen. Also the amount of support and guidance he has received from other ASCLS members has been overwhelming.

When asked what his favorite personal accomplishment has been within ASCLS, Joshua responded with, "Updating the LaboraotryScienceCareers.com website with Lezlee Koch and Susie Zanto. The Coordinating Council on the Clinical Laboratory Workforce asked for members to volunteer to update the website. We worked for nearly a year and basically started from scratch to create the new and improved website. It is now an incredible resource to not only promote the medical laboratory science profession, but many other laboratory science careers that are critical to healthcare and public health."

Joshua was highly recommended for this award by his peers. One of his nominators has this to say, "I have known Joshua since he joined ASCLS-PA just a few years ago. In that short time, Joshua has accomplished more than many of the members who have been around for *decades*. I have not seen enthusiasm and continued service to the profession and our society in a very long time. I am more optimistic for the future of our society because of young members such as Joshua and the other nominees/awardees of the Voices Under 40 Award."

Outside of ASCLS, Joshua's greatest achievement has been, "landing my dream job within three months of graduating. Although I love laboratory bench work, during graduate school, I discovered what I was meant to do for the rest of my life: teach. I wanted to teach full-time so badly after graduating but was told it would be impossible at my age, especially without laboratory experience. Before graduating, I began practicing as a medical laboratory scientist per diem; I did not want to begin working full-time in the laboratory because my goal was to focus on teaching. While working in the laboratory, I passed my board exam and became certified. Around this time, a full-time, entry-level teaching position opened at my alma mater. There were two qualifications: a master's degree in Medical Laboratory Science and MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> certification. My first day was September 1, 2016, and it felt like a dream."