



Accreditation Review Council on Education  
In Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting  
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Fall/Winter  
2010

Sponsored by the Association of Surgical Technologists and The American College of Surgeons

**Chair’s Message**

Tony Makin, CST, BS, FAST

**Supporting Program Enhancement Through Continuing Education Workshops**

The ARC/STSA has expanded its commitment to enhancing the education process by offering sessions at the annual Instructors Forum and Instructors Workshop. These offerings have included Beginning and Advanced Site Visitor Training for potential accreditation site visitors and the Accreditation Fundamentals for Educators (AFE) workshop. These two sessions are led by members of the Board and include the most current information concerning and potential changes or updates in the accreditation process.

The Board of Directors voted to require all newly appointed program directors, whether starting a new program or directing an existing program, to attend the AFE. This requirement became effective in January 1, 2009 and prompted the ARC/STSA to add a third session which is currently held in Denver during the first weekend in August. This session has been expanded to allow more time for questions and discussion concerning the start of a new program and the application process for accreditation services. The August session has been offered in 2009 and 2010 and has been well attended. This indicates that many program directors want to have a solid background and understanding of the CAAHEP Standards.

The Board of Directors is currently working towards completion of the *Standards and Guidelines* review and revision process for surgical technology as mandated by CAAHEP. The ARC/STSA is required to initiate review of its Standards every five years. There may or may not be significant changes made at this time. In addition, as work on the 6<sup>th</sup> Edition of *AST’s Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology* nears completion, it is expected to be released in 2011. Any changes that are made in the *Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology* must be evaluated by the ARC/STSA, and subsequently implemented by all surgical technology programs, and then documented by site visitors as the program adapts its courses to reflect any changes. The ARC/STSA will, as in the past, provide all programs with sufficient time to transition to the new *Core Curriculum* prior to a mandated implementation deadline.

The ARC/STSA also posts many of its standardized forms on our website. Some of these forms may be used as guides to develop an individual program’s forms while others must be used as they are presented. Of

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**ARC/STSA  
Board of Directors**

**Chair**

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Decatur, IL

Carolyn Stewart, PhD, EdS  
Rock Hill, SC

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## Chair's Message (cont.)

course, if there are any questions or concerns regarding the accreditation process and documentation, the program director or instructor can contact the ARC/STSA staff or talk to a member of the Board of Directors at either the national Instructors Forum or Instructors Workshop every year.

The ARC/STSA has the goal of assisting every CAAHEP accredited program to become the best program it can be by providing an array of services to enhance the program through accreditation. We are becoming more than "those people who show up every 10 years". Look for upcoming education events on the ARC/STSA website and in *The Surgical Technologist*. In addition, please contact the ARC/STSA staff when accreditation questions arise.

Wishing all of you "Happy Holidays" from the ARC/STSA.

## The ARC/STSA is excited to announce **Katie Bowe** as the Graduate Commissioner of CAAHEP!



- Ms. Bowe is a surgical technology graduate of Macomb Community College.
- She plans on obtaining a Bachelors of Science with concentration in Surgical Technology from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan
- After obtaining her BS, she plans on returning to Macomb for the surgical first assistant program
- She also plans on attending graduate school to earn a Masters in Physician Assistant.
- She is both honored and excited to take on this new role as recent graduate commissioner and looks forward to representing not only recent graduates of surgical technology but all recent graduates of all CAAHEP accredited programs!

# ARC STSA Workshops In Conjunction with the 2011 Instructors Forum

Friday February 11 2011 • San Antonio Texas  
Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk

- 7:30am: Registration
- 8:00-Noon: **Accreditation Fundamentals for Educators (AFE)**  
ARC STSA Board of Directors **4CEs**
- Noon-1pm: Lunch (*on own*)
- 1-5pm: **Site Visitors Training (SVT)**  
*Beginning\* or Advanced\*\**  
ARC STSA Board of Directors **4CEs**

#### SVT Workshop Prerequisites:

\*Status as a currently approved ARC STSA site visitor.

-or-

Must attend AFE Workshop and complete the online CAAHEP Site Visitor Quiz ([quiz.caahep.org](http://quiz.caahep.org)) prior to attending Beginning Site Visitor Training.

\*\*Must have attended Beginning Site Visitor Training and completed at least one site visit in the last twelve months prior to attending Advanced Site Visitor Training.

- **Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk Info:**  
Please see Instructors Forum ad at [www.ast.org](http://www.ast.org)

#### ARC STSA Registration Fees

- AFE \$100  
 SVT Beginning Free  
 SVT Advanced Free

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Member/Cert/License no: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution/Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check for payment enclosed

Please send registration and check/money order to:

**ARC STSA, 6 W Dry Creek Circle, Suite 110, Littleton, CO 80120**



**ARC/STSA**  
Accreditation Review Council On Education  
In Surgical Technology And Surgical Assisting



With the fast-approaching Holiday season, the ARC/STSA Board of Directors (BoD), its Subcommittee on Accreditation for Surgical Assisting (SASA) and the accreditation services staff wish you and your students Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Since our last newsletter, the Spring/Summer 2010 edition of the *Outreach*, there has been significant activity as a result of the Fall work of the ARC/STSA and CAAHEP. More highlights of ARC/STSA activities and events in programmatic accreditation services for surgical technology and surgical assisting programs from June through November 2010 include:

- Elected a new Executive Committee including **Tony Makin, CST, BS, FAST** re-elected Chair, **Betsy Slagle, MS, RN, CST** elected Vice-Chair, **Connie Bell, CST, FAST** elected Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors. And, **Van Bates, CST, BA** elected Chair of the SASA subcommittee on surgical assisting.
- Continued development of future *Standards and Guidelines* revision by launching 2010 **ST Academic Credentials Survey** online to obtain education community of interest preferences ([www.arcstsa.org/2010\\_ST\\_standards\\_survey.htm](http://www.arcstsa.org/2010_ST_standards_survey.htm)).
- Development and initial testing of new and enhanced **2011 Annual Report**—custom, user-friendly, online e-report application for **surgical technology** programs with launch in February 2011.
- Preplanning for new 2011 **Annual Report** custom report form in preparation for launch of first-time annual reporting of outcomes by **surgical assisting** programs in February 2011.
- Presented new training workshop **ARC/STSA - A Standards Interpretive Guide (SIG)** for representatives of 17 other Committees on Accreditation (CoA) at the annual **CAAHEP** Summer Workshop in New Orleans, LA.
- Completed the 1<sup>st</sup> academic year (2009-2010) of compliance with CST **outcomes exam thresholds (100% participation & 70% pass rate)** with 304 participating ST programs which previously elected the **CST exam** as their sole assessment tool.
- Provided a 3<sup>rd</sup> opportunity for ST programs to *voluntarily* implement the **CST exam** as their

sole **outcomes assessment exam**; now **86%** of ST programs have transitioned before the mandated *deadline* of **August 1, 2011** for all ST programs.

- Conducted **18 on-site visits** and **120+** Board of Directors' **reviews** of program applications, progress reports, requests and other accreditation actions.
- Recommended **6 Initial** and **26 Continuing** accreditation awards in surgical technology and surgical assisting with approximately 465 surgical technology and 10 surgical assisting CAAHEP accredited programs in the United States.
- Conducted **102 protocol reviews** expediting ARC/STSA action *between* formal Board of Directors' meetings on program change requests and other submissions.
- Re-authorized the ARC/STSA Scholarship Program for another five years and *expanded* the Scholarship awards total amount to \$5000 (a 67% increase).
- Launched the ARC/STSA **2011 Scholarship Program** in two categories, as a service to students and educators, with a receipt deadline of **February 28, 2011** for all applications (details at [www.arcstsa.org/2011\\_scholarship.htm](http://www.arcstsa.org/2011_scholarship.htm)), and opened applications to Surgical Assisting students and educators.
- Updated both the **Standards Interpretive Guide - Surgical Technology** ([www.arcstsa.org/pdfs/SIG-ST.pdf](http://www.arcstsa.org/pdfs/SIG-ST.pdf)) and the **Standards Interpretive Guide - Surgical Assisting** ([www.arcstsa.org/pdfs/SIG-SA.pdf](http://www.arcstsa.org/pdfs/SIG-SA.pdf)) to assist programs in demonstrating compliance with current CAAHEP *Standards & Guidelines*.
- Approved four new ARC/STSA **on-site evaluators** (site visitors).
- Approved two new and separate policies for **Satellite Campus** ([www.arcstsa.org/pdfs/SatelliteCampusPolicy.pdf](http://www.arcstsa.org/pdfs/SatelliteCampusPolicy.pdf)) and **Consortium** ([www.arcstsa.org/pdfs/ConsortiumPolicy.pdf](http://www.arcstsa.org/pdfs/ConsortiumPolicy.pdf)) applications to assist programs in addressing impact of economic downturn in multiple communities.
- Enhanced service to SA programs with 1<sup>st</sup> academic year of *outcomes assessment* data collection required for compliance with the 2008 CAAHEP Surgical Assisting **Standards &**

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**Guidelines** (outcomes assessment effective August 1, 2009.)

- Hosted a successful August 2010 **Accreditation Fundamentals for Educators (AFE)** workshops for 21 participants. *The AFE is a required training session to assist all newly appointed program directors (effective January 1, 2009) and is available to all program directors, instructors, preceptors and school administrators.*
- Presented the training workshop **Successfully Filing the ARC/STSA Annual Report** for program directors at the Instructors Forum in Charleston, SC.
- Posted updated ARC/STSA standardized ST and SA program reporting forms on the website for easy 24/7 access ([www.arcstsa.org/forms/ST/index.htm](http://www.arcstsa.org/forms/ST/index.htm)).
- Exhibited at the **ACS 96<sup>th</sup> Clinical Congress** in Washington, DC and the **CA-SA 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference** in Hollywood, CA to educate attendees on programmatic accreditation benefits and the value of graduate practitioners.
- Completed *pilot-test* academic year (2009-2010) to establish thresholds for SA program compliance with 2008 Standards for programs which elected either the **CSA** or **CFA** credentialing exam as their **outcomes assessment exam**. Thresholds will be announced on our website ([www.arcstsa.org](http://www.arcstsa.org)) by the end of the year.\*

\* As with other Committees on Accreditation (CoA) in the CAAHEP system, the ARC/STSA Board of Directors and its SASA employ

objective, data-driven methods as part of the due diligence exercised in the evaluation of, and threshold-setting for, any credentialing exam recognized as an appropriate entry-level outcomes assessment tool.

As we approach our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ARC/STSA and CAAHEP continue to share a common mission to provide world-class recognition for quality surgical technology and surgical assisting education, through specialized programmatic accreditation services, for students, educators, and regulatory agencies and the healthcare consumer (public).

CAAHEP accreditation is widely recognized as the *gold standard* for programmatic accreditation in the healthcare professions. CAAHEP accreditation is an inclusive process aimed at enhancing education programs in North America regardless of location or institutional setting. CAAHEP is the largest allied health accreditor.

Since 1994, the ARC/STSA has served as the sole Committee on Accreditation (CoA) recognized by CAAHEP for accreditation of education programs in surgical technology and surgical assisting and the ARC/STSA is proud to collaborate with CAAHEP in providing beneficial accreditation services to all of our communities of interest.

CAAHEP is the only CHEA ([www.chea.org](http://www.chea.org)) recognized allied health accreditor employing a comprehensive, two-tier accreditation process as a public service.

Congratulations to all of these programs who have been awarded initial and continuing CAAHEP programmatic accreditation in the past half year...we applaud your continuing commitment to excellence in surgical technology and surgical assisting education through specialized programmatic accreditation.



## Future Mailings — Don't Lose Out!



The **ARC/STSA OutReach** is issued two times a year via e-mail. Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address so that you continue to receive each issue. Please e-mail [info@arcstsa.org](mailto:info@arcstsa.org) if your e-mail address has changed. Please be sure to include your name and your school name so that we may update our database.

If you know of someone who would like to receive a copy of the **ARCSTSA OutReach** but is not currently on our mailing list, please send the information to the e-mail address listed above or contact us at (303) 694-9262.

## The Subcommittee on Accreditation in Surgical Assisting (SASA) Updates

### Fall 2010 Meeting

The Subcommittee on Accreditation for Surgical Assisting (SASA) held its Fall 2010 meeting in September in Denver, CO in conjunction with the ARC/STSA Board of Directors meeting. Significant business items and program reviews were undertaken including one surgical assisting program application for initial accreditation, several program change requests and ten surgical assisting program progress reports. Those progress reports detailed each of the ten accredited program's compliance with the final implementation features of the outcomes-based 2008 *Standards and Guidelines for Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Assisting*.

The SASA business agenda included an initial review of outcomes assessment exam (OAE) performance data for the "pilot-test" academic year, 2009-2010, as part of the ARC/STSA's formal process to establish performance thresholds for CAAHEP accredited program outcomes compliance. Final data will be reviewed by SASA at the end of November with threshold recommendations forwarded to the ARC/STSA Board of Directors in December. CAAHEP accredited programs will be formally notified of minimum OAE performance thresholds once established for the 2010-2011 academic year.

At that same business meeting, SASA elected Van Bates, CST, BA (TN) as its new Chairperson while expressing appreciation to Clinton Crews, MPH (VA) for his committee leadership over the previous two years. The ARC/STSA Board of Directors joined in congratulating Mr. Bates on his new leadership position.

### Outcomes Assessment Examinations (OAE)

SASA and the ARC/STSA Board of Directors recognition of, and threshold setting for, surgical assisting credentialing examinations is not a new process in the world of programmatic accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) oversees the development, standardization and implementation of outcomes-based *Standards and Guidelines* (S&G) for all twenty-two allied health disciplines served by its eighteen separate Committees on Accreditation (CoA) including

the recognition of national credentialing examinations as appropriate outcomes assessment measurements of program success.

Outcomes-based assessment of program success is not exclusive to specialized programmatic accreditors. Major institutional accreditors—regional and national—have adopted outcomes-based accreditation (OBA) standards in the pursuit of a more evidence-based demonstration of institutional success in the public interest. This transition is typical across higher education accrediting agencies with support from both governmental and non-governmental agencies.

Foundational to all CoA S&G's is the CAAHEP Standards' standardized template which incorporates outcomes assessment and reporting of performance (pass-rate) on national credentialing exams as part of outcomes-based accreditation in health science disciplines as diverse as Anesthesiologist Assistant, Cardiovascular Technology, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Emergency Medical Services (EMT, Paramedic), Perfusionist and Polysomnographic Technology.

As with the other CoA's in the CAAHEP system, the ARC/STSA Board of Directors and its SASA employ objective, data-driven assessment as part of their due diligence exercised in the evaluation of, and threshold-setting for, both national credentialing examinations recognized as an appropriate entry-level outcomes assessment tool, the CSA (NSAA) and the CSFA (NBSTSA) exams.

The ARC/STSA implemented the same examination performance data analysis method for setting pass-rate thresholds for the national CST examination already voluntarily implemented by 86% (396) of all accredited surgical technology programs, beginning two years prior to mandatory implementation by all surgical technology programs.

CAAHEP has a rich history, converting to outcomes-based accreditation ten years ago, with the ARC/STSA serving as one of the first CoA's to transition to outcomes assessment measurements in the development of S&G for surgical technology programs. The transition to outcomes-based S&G for surgical assisting education programs is the last in the CAAHEP system having been more recently launched with the adoption and implementation over a two year period of the 2008 S&G for

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## SASA Updates—cont.

surgical assisting, including the outcomes assessment 'pilot-test' year noted above.

CAAHEP is not alone being one of several national and specialized programmatic accreditors that have converted to outcomes-based accreditation, from purely process based systems, growing out of the support by higher education institutions for a measureable outcomes-based system. That transition included recognition of the value of credentialing examination performance measurements as one of several programmatic outcomes measures.

In the final analysis, full implementation of outcomes measures—including OAE minimum thresholds for surgical assisting education—will serve to enhance accredited programs in meeting community needs. In addition, credentialing exams recognized as reportable OAE reflect the desire for evidence of program and graduate success by the surgical assisting education communities of interest including students, graduates, employers and the public (health care consumers). SASA looks forward to continuing support from the higher education community for its efforts in safeguarding the public trust through outcomes-based accreditation.



## Subcommittee on Accreditation in Surgical Assisting (SASA)

### Chair

Van Bates, BA, CST  
Fairview, Tennessee

### Committee Members

Clinton Crews, MPH  
Norfolk, Virginia

Dorothy Rothgery, CST/CFA, MS  
Detroit, Michigan

Mark Shikhman, MD, PhD, CSA  
Belleville, Michigan

Carolyn Stewart, PhD, EdS  
Rock Hill, South Carolina

## Standards Interpretive Guide for Surgical Assisting

Check out the SA *Standards Interpretive Guide* (SA SIG). This guide provides insight into understanding each Standard and provides explanations and examples to assist programs in demonstrating compliance with the 2008 CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines for Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Assisting*.



Check it out at [www.arcstsa.org](http://www.arcstsa.org) today!

## NBSTSA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE JANUARY 1, 2011!

The NBSTSA student scholarship is available to any student currently enrolled in a NBSTSA recognized surgical technology or surgical first assisting program.

Scholarship applications will not be considered unless completely filled out, signed and accompanied by all appropriate supporting documentation. **Applications must be received by the NBSTSA March 31, 2011.**

Scholarship recipients will receive notification from the NBSTSA by June 6, 2011. Scholarship applications can be found at [www.nbstsa.org](http://www.nbstsa.org).



THE NATIONAL BOARD  
OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY  
AND SURGICAL ASSISTING

## Congratulations to the 2010 ARC/STSA Scholarships Winners!!

### 2010 Advanced Degree Scholarship Winner



**Jayne MacPherson, CST  
Program Instructor  
Bunker Hill Community College  
Chelsea, Massachusetts**

I graduated from the David Hale Fanning School in 1969 and have worked as a Surgical Technologist for 40 years. In the early part of my career, I did not get certified for one reason or another. I have been certified since 1992 and I have been very active in AST since becoming certified.

I was one of the founding members of the Massachusetts State Assembly serving as Vice-President of the Massachusetts State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists from 2001 to 2005. I also served on the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists from 2005 to 2009. In September, I was elected Vice-President again. I am also a member of the GAPA Committee and the Education Committee.

As a member of the GAPA Committee, I have testified twice before the Massachusetts Public Health Committee trying to get a Surgical Technologists credentialing passed. We hope that our efforts will be successful this legislative session.

I was 42 when I started going back to school. I had worked as a Surgical Technologist for 23 years and was beginning to think about what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I graduated from Lesley in 1999. The spring semester of the year I graduated from Lesley, I took a part-time position at Bunker Hill Community College as a clinical instructor. At the time I took the position, the full-time instructor was moving to another state. In September of 1999, after working in the same place for 30 years, I took a full-time position as an assistant professor in Surgical Technology program at Bunker Hill Community College.

I graduated from Framington State College in 2004 with my master's degree and was sure that I was done with school. I was wrong again. I missed the learning, the camaraderie with my fellow students, the challenges of learning new things and the exchange of ideas. In the winter of 2006, I started looking at PhD programs and came across a Certificate in Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) offered at Simmons College in Health Professions Education that was being offered online. I went to an open house and in September of 2006 I started the CAGS. After finishing the CAGS, I started the PhD in Health Professions Education in September of 2007. My hope is to finish the PhD in December of 2010. My research is in adult women returning to school with English as their second language pursuing Allied Health Certificate and Associate Degree programs.

As an educator, I have presented at local State Assembly meetings and at the National conference. I have web-enhanced the Surgical Technology lab and created videos

to help the students learn the skills necessary to be successful in clinical. My next goal is to create mock cases and video them to help the students begin to get the sequences and rhythms of surgical procedures. These videos can also be downloaded to iPods so students can look at them at home, on the train, or at school.

I have been married for 40 years and live in the same town I grew up in, about four streets away from where I grew up. I have two daughters: the oldest works as a manicurist and the youngest is a special needs teacher. I still work per diem in the same hospital. I'm starting my 41st year as a Surgical Technologist, and I still love it.



### 2010 Student Scholarship Winners



**Jenna Aronson  
Student  
Moraine Park Technical College  
Fond Du Lac, WI**

I have always been interested in pursuing a team-based career that is directed toward helping others. Several mission trips

throughout the country have solidified my desire to choose a career where I can make a difference every single day. As I am also intrigued by the human body, the medical field seemed like the right place for me. Surgical Technology excites me not only due to its rewarding outcome, but also due to the everyday challenge. Not one patient or surgery is the same and therefore must be strategized and adapted toward the individual. I have decided to step up to this challenge of becoming a surgical technologist because I believe this career fits many of my personal goals.

Someone once said that the sky is the limit to achieve one's dreams. A much wiser individual stressed to not let anyone tell you that the sky is the limit when you know people have walked on the moon. My goal right now is to graduate, become certified, and make a career in Surgical Technology. In the near future, I would love to build my educational building blocks higher to surgical first assistant and possibly into the nursing field. I am eager to give as much as I can to a career involving helping others and thus flourish as a person. I want to be an influential member of a team providing care to an individual in what could be their most critical period in their life.

My dream is to evolve into a hard-working, dependable, and dedicated surgical technologist who has the knowledge and capability to take part in life-changing surgeries. I have the motivation, determination, and attitude to accomplish anything I put my mind to. I would love to be an individual who adds depth to a surgical team. I will go the distance.

Thank you for helping make my dreams come true by your financial support and encouragement.



**Jade Duncan**  
**Student**  
**Western Dakota Technical Institute**  
**Rapid City, SD**

First, I would like to thank the committee for giving me the honor of receiving one of their scholarships. I know that many well-deserving people applied and I am very grateful to be one of the applicants that was chosen. I would also like to thank my instructors and classmates for their support and encouragement through my studies.

I have been in health-care for four years as a Certified Nurse's Assistant and after visiting an open house at Western Dakota Tech, I knew that Surgical Technology was the right career for me. I have always been interested in helping people and this career provides so many different ways to do just that. Every day I get the opportunity to help not only my patients, but my co-workers and the surgeons as well. I am currently completing my clinical rotations at Black Hills Surgical Hospital and it has been a wonderful experience. My preceptors are always more than willing to assist me and answer any questions that I may have. I will be finished with clinicals at the end of

July and I hope to find employment in the Rapid City area.



**Davina Foster**  
**Student**  
**Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences**  
**Reading, PA**

My name is Davina Foster and I graduated from the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences on July 23, 2010 as a surgical technologist. I live in Mohnton, PA with my children, Grace, age 6, and Samuel, age 4. My interests include learning and spending time with my family.

I decided to pursue a career as a surgical technologist because I have always been interested in sciences and fascinated by the human body. I actually attended an open house at the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences to look into the nursing program. During the tour, one of the surgical technologist instructors gave a presentation on the program and my decision was made

right there in that room that this was the career I wanted to pursue. Through my clinical experience it has been wonderful waking up each day looking forward to the prospect of a new and exciting experience. My experience has been enhanced by the two amazing women who instruct the program, some excellent professors, and a myriad of preceptors, whose guidance and confidence in me has been invaluable to my development and I would like to thank them all for everything they have done.

Thanks to the support of my wonderful family and fantastic instructors, I am nearing the end of a journey that will culminate in a rewarding career. I look forward to beginning my career as a surgical technologist and want to continue my education.



**Amanda Harrell**  
Student  
Stevens Henager College  
West Haven, UT

First of all I would like to thank ARC/STSA for choosing me as one of the lucky recipients of a 2010 ARC/STSA Student Scholarship Award! This has been one of the most exciting experiences I have had since high school, and trust me it's been a few years. So

thank you for believing in me and choosing me to represent a scholarship winner!

When I was reading the letter I got really nervous especially when I read the part that I had to send in a picture and a brief biography. I never really talk about myself and I was struggling with what to say but then I realized that I can do this. So here I go.

Starting school back in October of 2008 I didn't really think about what I was getting myself into. The idea of becoming a Surgical Technologist was kind of scary and I really didn't know how well I would do. I knew that I had to do this for myself, my wonderful husband David and my two handsome little boys Jahspers and Zehryck. I didn't quite know how it was all going to work with having a family and going back to school after being away since 2001, but I knew I was ready and this is what I had to do. Once I got into the core classes of the program I became more and more excited about the career path I had chosen.

These 18 months of school were some of the craziest and hardest times of my life. I always strive to do my best and I did this at all costs. I earned an overall GPA of 3.96, I graduated with High Honors and I am now a lifetime member of the AST National Honor Society.

I would say that I'm an overall well-rounded individual. I love to spend time with my family, we love to camp, fish, swim, and cuddle up and read books together. I have also played the clarinet since I was about 12 years old. When I'm not spending time with my family or taking a break for myself, I am usually out there trying to help others. I am an avid member of the local Parent Teacher Association in which I am in charge of Service Projects. Just last year I, with the help of my son's elementary

school, rose over \$600 to give a needy family a wonderful Christmas. This year I hope to double that amount and do many more things to help the community. I have a huge heart and can't stand to see anyone suffer. I always have to help whether it be lending a shoulder to cry on or going out of my way to help whenever I am needed.

Becoming a Surgical Technologist is just the beginning of my lifelong goals and aspirations. I am hoping to become a First Assistant and work for a surgeon preferably in the orthopedic profession. Then I would like to go back to school to further my education to become a Physician's Assistant. I feel like surgical technology is a great start for me to achieve my goals and I can't wait to see where this profession will take me. I just love that I will be able to make a difference in the lives of others!



**You've  
achieved  
success in  
your field  
when you don't  
know whether  
what you're  
doing is work  
or play.**

~ Warren Beatty ~

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following surgical technology and surgical assisting programs which have been awarded initial and continuing CAAHEP programmatic accreditation at the September and November 2010 CAAHEP meetings. These programs have successfully completed the accreditation process and have met or exceeded the national standards outlined in the CAAHEP *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Technology* or the *Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in Surgical Assisting*.

## Schools That Have Received Initial Accreditation:

### Surgical Technology:

Virginia College—Montgomery, AL  
Hazard Community and Technical College, KY  
Rasmussen College—Moorhead, MN  
Eastwick College, NJ  
Carver Career Center, WV

### Surgical Assisting:

College of Southern Idaho, ID

## Accelerated Alternate Delivery (AAD) Approval:

### Surgical Technology:

Indian River State College, FL

## Schools That Have Received Continuing Accreditation:

### Surgical Technology:

American Career College—Anaheim, CA  
American Career College—Los Angeles, CA  
Glendale Career College, CA  
Mt. Diablo Adult Education, CA  
Central Florida Institute, FL  
Daytona State College, FL  
Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology, FL  
Sarasota County Technical Institute, FL  
Virginia College—Pensacola, FL  
Eastern Idaho Technical College, ID  
Elgin Community College, IL  
Jefferson Community and Technical College, KY  
Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College, KY  
St. Catharine College, KY  
Rochester Community & Technical College, MN  
Central Piedmont Community College, NC  
Fayetteville Technical Community College, NC  
Guilford Technical Community College, NC  
Choffin School of Surgical Technology, OH  
The Reading Hospital of Health Sciences, PA  
Tri-County Technical College, SC  
Presentation College, SD  
Miller-Motte Technical College—Clarksville, TN  
Baptist Health System School of Health Professions, TX  
Northcentral Technical College, WI  
Western Technical College, WI

We applaud your continuing commitment to excellence in surgical technology and surgical assisting education through specialized programmatic accreditation.

## ~ Calendar of Meetings and Events ~

**February 11, 2011:** AFE and Site Visitor Training—San Antonio, TX

**February 11-12, 2011:** AST Instructors Forum—San Antonio, TX (including ARC/STSA “**Successfully Submitting the 2011 Annual Report**” workshop)

**March 16-19, 2011:** SASA and ARC/STSA Board of Directors Meeting—New Orleans, LA

**May 20, 2011:** CAAHEP Board of Directors Conference Call

**July 18-19, 2011:** PRR Panel Meeting—Denver, CO (tentative)

**August 6, 2011:** Accreditation Fundamentals for Educators (AFE) Workshop—Denver, CO

**September 14-17, 2011:** SASA and ARC/STSA Board of Directors Meeting—Denver, CO

**November 18, 2011:** CAAHEP Board of Directors Conference Call

## ARC/STSA Staff

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# ➤ We're Committed To Advancing Your Education.

## The ARC STSA 2011 Scholarship Program Multiple Scholarships—Up to \$1,000 each

The Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC STSA) is pleased to announce the launch of our 2011 Scholarship Program in service to the Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting student and educator communities.

Annually, since 2005, the ARC STSA Board of Directors has awarded multiple scholarships of up to **\$1,000** in at least two separate categories, Student Scholarship and Educator Scholarship. In 2010, the ARC STSA awarded a total of **\$3,000** in scholarships to 4 students and 1 educator.

➤ All eligible applicants are strongly encouraged to apply before the **February 28th deadline**. For eligibility requirements and to apply visit [arcstsa.org/scholarship.htm](http://arcstsa.org/scholarship.htm) today!

Scholarship recipients will be announced at the 2011 AST National Conference in San Francisco and will be posted on our website, [arcstsa.org](http://arcstsa.org), by June 17, 2011.



## ARC/STSA Fall 2010 Office Hours/Holiday Schedule



ARC/STSA regular office hours are Monday – Friday, 8 AM – 4:30 PM (Mountain Time).

### Offices Closed

ARC/STSA offices will be closed on the dates noted below in observance of the holiday season. Accreditation services and assistance will resume on the next business day during regular office hours.



Thursday-Friday, *November 25-26, 2010*  
Thursday-Friday, *December 23-24, 2010*  
Friday, *December 31, 2010*

Thanksgiving Observance  
Christmas Observance  
New Year's Observance



On behalf of the ARC/STSA Board of Directors, SASA members, and the Staff, we wish all a happy and healthy holiday season!!

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ATTENTION NEW Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting PROGRAM DIRECTORS!!

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR NEWLY APPOINTED SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND SURGICAL ASSISTING PROGRAM DIRECTORS EFFECTIVE 2009

At the Fall 2008 Board of Directors meeting, the board approved a new mandatory professional development requirement for newly appointed program directors.

Effective **January 1, 2009**, all newly appointed program directors are required to attend an ARC/STSA *Accreditation Fundamentals for Educators* (AFE) Workshop within **one** (1) year of appointment.

The AFE Workshop is designed to give program directors, instructors and administrators basic information on the accreditation process, including:

- Accreditation Definitions
- Institutional versus Programmatic Accreditation
- Initial versus Continuing Accreditation
- Terminology Associated with Accreditation
- Accreditation Actions
- The Accreditation Process
- Assessment Planning
- Standards Interpretive Guide (SIG)
- Annual Reporting Requirements
- CAAHEP Standards & Guidelines
- Program Review Report
- Types of Accrediting Bodies
- Findings Letter Responses & Progress Reports

While this workshop is open to all Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting Program Directors and educators, newly appointed ST and SA program directors will be required to submit proof of attending an AFE to the ARC/STSA in support of their appointment.

The workshops will be offered three times per year:

- before the AST Instructors Forum (Friday, February 11, 2011 in San Antonio, TX)
- during the AST Instructors Workshop (Wednesday, June 1, 2011 in San Francisco, CA)
- on August 6, 2011 in Denver, CO (registration and information available online at [www.arcstsa.org](http://www.arcstsa.org))

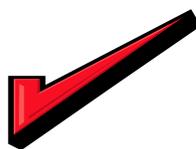
The cost of the workshop is **\$100 plus travel and accommodations**.

Please contact the ARC/STSA at 303-694-9269 or [Info@arcstsa.org](mailto:Info@arcstsa.org) for more information.

### Program Responses to the ARC/STSA



Please note, for responses in excess of **20** pages [excluding the ARC/STSA findings letter], the program should submit one hard-copy report, printed double-sided and bound (book binding, spiral binding or 3-ring notebook) **and** one single file or "seamless" electronic/digital PDF file that matches the hard-copy document **exactly** [the electronic file should be submitted on a CD-ROM, DVD or external drive (electronic drive or "thumb" drive)]. Please note that submissions in excess of 20 pages [excluding the ARC/STSA findings letter] that do not include an electronic copy **or** that include multiple files within the electronic copy will be returned to the program for revision, at the program's expense. This may delay the program's document review.



## It Out

The ARC/STSA now has standardized accreditation forms for **both** ST and SA programs available for downloading and use. Please visit the "**Forms and Facts**" pages at: [www.arcstsa.org/forms/ST/forms\\_and\\_facts\\_ST.htm](http://www.arcstsa.org/forms/ST/forms_and_facts_ST.htm) and [www.arcstsa.org/forms/ST/forms\\_and\\_facts\\_SA.htm](http://www.arcstsa.org/forms/ST/forms_and_facts_SA.htm).

## Thank You ARC/STSA Site Visitors and PRR Panelists!

**We could not do what we do without you!!**

Michael Batterson  
Ruth Ann Briggs  
Lorrie Campbell  
Phil Carlock  
Patricia Clarke  
Nicole Claussen  
Jinnie Cook\*  
Lynda Custer\*  
Wanda Dantzler\*  
Crit Fisher\*  
Gregory Frazer  
Scott Geist  
Robin Keith\*  
Susan Kinney\*  
Joe Long  
Bonita McCoy\*  
Libby McNaron\*

Janet Milligan  
Jan Olmsted  
Jody Randolph\*  
Lisa Reed\*  
Michelle Rey\*  
Emily Rogers\*  
Kathy Snyder  
Grant Wilson\*

BoD and SASA  
Van Bates\*  
Connie Bell\*  
Arthur (Tony) Makin  
Dorothy Rothgery  
Betsy Slagle\*

(\*2010 PRR Review Panel)



You made our **June – December 2010** site visits and PRR Panel a success!

A revised version of the *Surgical Technology Standards Interpretive Guide (SIG)* has been posted to the ARC/STSA website—additional revisions will be posted after January 1, 2011

Survey!

Survey!

### Take the Survey!

ST educators and administrators, we need your input. Please take the *ARC/STSA ST Academic Credentials Survey*

online at [http://www.arcstsa.org/2010\\_ST\\_standards\\_survey.htm](http://www.arcstsa.org/2010_ST_standards_survey.htm).

Survey!

Survey!

Please notify your IT Department and be sure that any firewalls or security systems permit e-mails from the ARC/STSA to be accepted into your regular e-mail inbox, not sent to "junk mail"!



*\*All fees are payable to the ARC/STSA unless otherwise specified.*

**ARC/STSA Accreditation Packet** **\$150**  
 The ARC/STSA Accreditation Packet (otherwise known as the Self-Study packet) should be ordered when a program is pursuing application for initial accreditation. Materials in this packet include accreditation process and procedure documentation and materials required for submission of the Self-Study application.

**Initial Accreditation-Application Fee** **\$1500**  
 This fee is due and must be submitted with the submission of the initial Self-Study application.

**Initial Accreditation-On-Site Evaluation Fee** **\$2500**  
 The initial on-site evaluation fee covers preparation and travel expenses incurred by the ARC/STSA. Due upon submission of the initial Self-Study application.

**PRR Continuing Accreditation-Application Fee** **\$1000**  
 This fee is for all programs seeking transition from Initial to Continuing accreditation. Due upon submission of the Program Review Report application.

**Consultative On-Site Evaluation Fee** **\$4000**  
 The consultative site visit fee covers preparation and travel expenses incurred by the ARC/STSA. Please refer to the ARC/STSA website for circumstances requiring a consultative on-site evaluation. Due at least 30 days prior to the on-site evaluation.

*Note: Fees for Random/Continuing on-site evaluations are included in the ARC/STSA Annual Fee.*

**ARC/STSA Annual Accreditation Fee** **\$1500**  
 Annual accreditation maintenance fee due for all accredited programs. Programs are invoiced in January annually. (\*\*Please note: CAAHEP invoices a separate accreditation maintenance fee by institution annually).

**Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology or  
Core Curriculum for Surgical Assisting**  
 (Published by AST; available at 800-637-7433)  
 Standard III.C requires that programs meet *or* exceed the curricular requirements defined in the program-specific Core Curriculum.

**ARC/STSA Approved Program Assessment Exams**  
 For PAE contact AST at 800-637-7433.  
 For CST or CFA contact NBSTSA at 800-707-0057.  
 For CSA contact NSAA at 888-633-0479.  
 Standard IV.B requires that programs implement one of these Outcomes Evaluation Tools, elected by each program, as part of ongoing outcomes accreditation requirements.

**Distance Education-Application Fee** **\$500**  
 For all programs pursuing approval of Distance Education (DE) programs. Due upon submission of DE application.

**Satellite/Consortium-Application Fee** **\$500**  
 For all programs pursuing approval to offer program at multiple facilities through Satellite or Consortium models. Fee is multiplied per satellite or consortium campus. Due upon submission of Satellite/Consortium application.

**Satellite-On-Site Evaluation Fee**  
**\$2500** for main campus and **\$1500** for each satellite facility/campus.  
 The satellite on-site evaluation fee covers preparation and travel expenses incurred by the ARC/STSA. Fee is multiplied by number of satellite facilities/campuses. Due upon submission of Satellite Self-Study application.

**AAD Option-Initial Application Fee** **\$500**  
 For surgical technology programs pursuing approval of an Accelerated Alternate Delivery (AAD) option in tandem with their accredited traditional program. Due upon submission of the AAD application.

**AAD Option-Annual Maintenance Fee** **\$500**  
 Surgical technology programs that have been approved to offer the AAD option will be invoiced an annual fee in addition to the ARC/STSA annual fee.

**Distance Education/Satellite/Consortium-Annual Maintenance Fee** **\$500**  
 All programs that have been approved to offer their program at multiple facilities or through a distance education, satellite or consortium model will be invoice an annual fee per additional facility, in addition to the ARC/STSA annual fee.

**ARC/STSA Late Fee** **\$100**  
*(Effective August 1, 2011 = \$250)*  
 The ARC/STSA strictly enforces a late fee which applies to any materials received in the ARC/STSA office after the assigned/requested due date. This fee will only be waived if the program notifies the ARC/STSA prior to the due date of its inability to meet the assigned date and an extension is granted by the ARC/STSA. Only one extension of up to 30 days will be granted to each program.

**CAAHEP Annual Accreditation Fee** **\$450**  
 Annual accreditation maintenance fee is separate from any ARC/STSA fees. Each sponsoring institution is directly billed by CAAHEP every May.

*www.arcstsa.org  
303-694-9262*