

ASTSA

NEWS

A COMPLIMENTARY QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM
AST FOR STUDENTS OF SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY



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- ▶ Read about Nina Starr Braunwald's famous artificial heart valve replacement surgery.

Meet Your 2017-2018 Student Representatives

Each year, four students are elected during the ASTSA Student Forum at AST's Conference to represent their peers throughout the year. Then they return to conference the following year to run the student forum.

Learn more about your representatives:

Lakia Boler

Prairie State College, Chicago Heights, Illinois



I believe that the greatest benefits of being a member of a national professional organization is the family bond you feel once you've met others that have the same passion as you do for the profession and the education that you gain from being a part of the different conferences and events

that the organization provides.

It is important to me to become a Certified Surgical Technologist because I have worked very hard to complete the required course and have dedicated so much of my time, money, and life to learning the profession. Becoming certified does not only look good on a resume, but it also shows your dedication and commitment.

Jessica Leach

Chattahoochee Technical College, Acworth, Georgia



The Surgical Technology Conference changed my view about the profession in a great way. To be in a room full of people that have the same kind of respect and passion for the profession that you are learning about lets you know that you will always have someone there to help you. Also

learning that there are techs there that have been doing this for more than 25 years, also lets you know that it is a rewarding career choice. Being able to sit in different sessions and learning about new technology and procedures can help you fully grasp where we are going in the surgical community.

Having a membership in your professional organization is important because you have a community of people that you can reach out to. There will always be times in your career that you will need to network with other people in your profession and having a membership in that organization will help you get to know people in your field.

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Save the Date



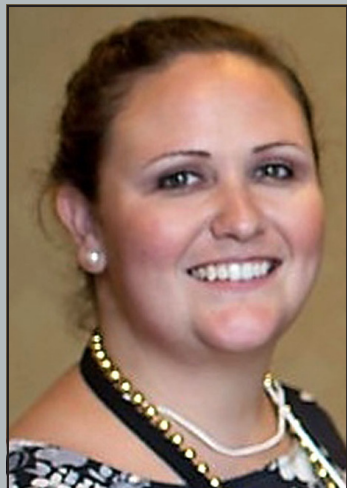
AST SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



Orlando, Florida | May 31-June 2, 2018

Bonnie (Shelly) Malone, CST

Holmes Community College, Kosciusko, Mississippi



I am a firm believer in you-get-out-what-you-put-in. Not only is it important for us to share in a community that helps us to grow and evolve, but to connect with that community in an active and meaningful way so that we never lose sight of why we do this. Being a part of a professional

organization helps the individuals within it to grow, mature and perfect their trade.

I was beyond thrilled the day I learned I had passed the CST. I literally just sat on my couch and cried when I got the news. This has been something that I have wanted to achieve for such a long time and it required every part of my life to change to reach the goal. The CST isn't just a test. Those credentials are something to be proud of because they

prove that you care enough about your patients to take the time to become, at the very least, proficient in caring for them.

Ruby Lemus

College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas



There is a difference between knowing what to do and knowing why you are doing what you do. I feel that the process to certification allows certified techs to really understand their importance during surgery. It is also a quite an achievement and something to be proud of!

Maintaining membership allows techs to keep up with the fast-changing world of the OR, whether it be staying educated on new surgical advances or updated on changes to state legislation. It allows you to stay connected and stay informed.

ASTSA Student Forum Agenda

June 1, 2018 • Orlando, Florida

- 7:15-7:45 AM..... Meet and Greet with
2017 Student Representatives
- 8-9 AMAST Candidate's Forum
- 9:15-9:30 AM Welcome from the Presidents
AST, ASA, ARC/STSA, NBSTSA
- 9:35-10:05 AM ...How to Position Yourself
for Your Dream Job
Mary Jo Nowicki, CST
- 10:05-10:35 AM .How to Survive
After You Land Your Dream Job
Stephanie Allen, CST
- 10:40-11:40 AM..ASTSA Candidates' Speeches
- 11:45 AM-12:15 PM — Lunch (1st raffles)
- 12:25-1 PM..... Voting
- 1:10-2:10 PM Certification Exam Q&A:
Everything You Ever Wanted to Know
About the Certification Exam
NBSTSA
- 2:15-2:35 PM..... CE Information Session:
I'm Certified. Now What?
Earning and Submitting your CEs
AST
- 2:40-2:50 PM Voting Results (2nd raffles)

Plan to Run in Orlando

If you are interested in representing surgical technology students nationally, start planning. Begin saving money or fundraising so that you can attend AST's Surgical Technology Conference in Orlando, Florida, May 31-June 1, 2018. (AST student members pay only \$99 for the conference if they register by March 15.) The election takes place on Friday during the ASTSA Student Forum.

Pay close attention to the eligibility requirements and deadlines that are detailed in the ASTSA Student Representative Manual. **It's very important to note that you must submit your paperwork by 4 p.m. May 31 (the evening before the Student Forum) so your name can be entered into the voting system.** Late submissions will not be accepted.

The manual contains all the forms and instructions you'll need to run, along with all the responsibilities that will be required of you if you're elected. Plus, if you are elected and meet all the criteria, you'll receive financial assistance to help you attend the conference again in 2019.

NINA STARR BRAUNWALD

Nina Starr Braunwald, MD, is regarded as a pioneer in the field of cardiothoracic surgery. Born in New York City in 1928, Braunwald was the first woman to perform open heart surgery, the first woman certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, and the first woman elected to the American Association for Thoracic Surgery.¹

One of the most important areas of her clinical research was her work in creating prosthetic heart valves. She designed and fabricated an artificial mitral valve using flexible polyurethane with Teflon tendinous cords, which she implanted in dogs as part of her research.

In 1960, at the age of 32, she led the surgical team that implanted her valve into the first human patient. Following the surgery, the patient was able to leave the hospital and did well clinically for several months. This surgery became a landmark procedure as the first successful implant of an artificial heart valve in a human patient.

Braunwald continued her groundbreaking research with the development of another prosthesis—the cloth-covered Braunwald-Cutter valve—which was successfully implanted in thousands of patients in the late 1960s and early 1970s.¹

“Her other significant contributions include development of the stented aortic homograft (a graft of same-species tissue, in this case, human tissue) for mitral valve replacement, surgical treatment of chronic thromboembolic disease, and pioneering techniques for the use of tissue cultures to discourage the formation of clots when prosthetic valves and circulatory assist devices are in use.”² Braunwald’s research contrib-

uted to the eventual development of nonthrombogenic surfaces for artificial heart valves and other implantable cardiac assist devices.¹

In 1952, Braunwald became one of the first women to train as a general surgeon at New York’s Bellevue Hospital. After completing her training in general surgery and her residency at Georgetown University Medical Center, she began working with Dr. Andrew G. Morrow at the Clinic of Surgery at the National Heart Institute (now called the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.)

Her appointments included deputy chief, The Clinic of Surgery at the National Heart Institute; associate professor of surgery at the University of California at San Diego (where she established the school’s first cardiac surgery program); associate professor in surgery at Harvard; and staff appointments at the Brigham and Women’s, Boston Children’s and the West Roxbury Veteran’s Administration hospitals.

As the mother of three daughters, Braunwald was also a pioneer in balancing work and family responsibilities. Although she did not seek the publicity, the emerging feminist movement of the 1960s often used her as its poster child.¹ This public-

ity, along with being featured in articles in *Life* and *Time* magazines, led to her being a favorite of Sunday magazines as well.¹

“Many of the current leaders of thoracic surgery owe much of their career success to their association with Nina Braunwald.”³

Braunwald died in 1992 at the age of 64.



Charcoal Portrait by Dave Ludwig

References

1. Braunwald E. Nina Starr Braunwald: Some Reflections on the First Woman Heart Surgeon. *Ann Thorac Surg.* 2001;71: S6-7. DOI: 10.1016/S0003-4975(00)02397-3. Accessed Oct. 16, 2017.
2. “Changing the Face of Medicine—Dr. Nina Starr Braunwald.” National Library of Medicine website. http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/physicians/biography_41.html. Accessed Oct. 16, 2017.
3. Wallace RB. Women in Thoracic Surgery and the Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education. *Ann Thorac Surg.* 2001;71:25-26. DOI: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0003-4975\(00\)02396-1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0003-4975(00)02396-1). Accessed Oct. 16, 2017.

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"If you're practicing for your national it's a very good app to practice off of" – *M Chang*

"Thanks to this app, I passed!"

– *Tovah M*



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

August 2017

Brittany Brnjic	Buckeye Hills Career Center, Rio Grande, Ohio
Tobias Elliott	Maine Medical Center, South Portland, Maine
Lori Erskine	Maine Medical Center, South Portland, Maine
Emily Estes	Maine Medical Center, South Portland, Maine
Brittany Graham	Maine Medical Center, South Portland, Maine
Jamie Carr	Mount Diablo Adult Education, Concord, Calif.
Aimee Dosier	Mount Diablo Adult Education, Concord, Calif.
Sarah Elizabeth Marchio	Mount Diablo Adult Education, Concord, Calif.
Jillian Blanchette	New England Institute of Technology, East Greenwich, R.I.
Kathleen Reilly	New England Institute of Technology, East Greenwich, R.I.

September 2017

Shelby Backward	Cherokee Nation WW Hastings, Tahlequah, Okla.
Sara Fountain	Cherokee Nation WW Hastings, Tahlequah, Okla.
Jaymee Jones	Cherokee Nation WW Hastings, Tahlequah, Okla.
Abby Olson	Cherokee Nation WW Hastings, Tahlequah, Okla.
Patrick Braker	Concorde Career Institute, Orlando, Fla.
Leah Bratlie	Concorde Career Institute, Orlando, Fla.
Jacyln Garcia	Concorde Career Institute, Orlando, Fla.

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