new challenge everyday, and I plan on making it my job and blood banking tremendously. It's a Reference and Transfusion Lab (R&T). I enjoy my current position as a lab assistant in the Transfusion Service before transferring to my job as chairperson is more than a job, and a blood Laura’s passion for the mission. It is evident that her success of ATI blood drives are directly linked to shots. The people who work with Laura Sugg say the make sure all students are updated on necessary McDonald House, as well as the health department to various projects including the National Marrow Donor Program, the food and toy drives for the Ronald Program, the food and toy drives for the Ronald Center, as well as the hosting this year's Award gala. Delicious Mexican food and the stylin’ sounds of the DJs kept the audience entertained throughout the event. President-Elect, Jose Garcia, wowed us with his DJ acumen, taking the mic on several occasions.

The 2010 Presidents Award of Merit, Outstanding Individual was presented to Laura Sugg, ATI Training Center. Nominated by Carter BloodCare in Bedford, Laura was recognized for her commitment and efforts in consistently increasing donor collections. She multiplied the school’s three annual drives to five, and is always willing to pull together extra drives based on community needs. She is credited with creating a day and a night shift for each drive to better accommodate students. In 2009, ATI blood drives collected a total of 530 units, more than five times the previous year's total. Laura’s efforts with ATI are a tremendous help, especially during the summer slump when grade schools and traditional universities are out. In addition to her work with Carter BloodCare, Laura works with various projects including the National Marrow Donor Program, the food and toy drives for the Ronald McDonald House, as well as the health department to make sure all students are updated on necessary shots. The people who work with Laura Sugg say the success of ATI blood drives are directly linked to Laura’s passion for the mission. It is evident that her job as chairperson is more than a job, and a blood drive is more than an event.

Nominated by Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, the 2010 Award of Merit, Contribution, was presented to Louisiana National Guard’s Youth Challenge Program (YCP), a preventive rather than remedial youth-at-risk program which targets unemployed drug-free and law-free high school dropouts, 16 to 18 years of age. The YCP platelet program has been highlighted as a model in several SCABB presentations. The YCP platelet program exemplifies how to successfully plan, schedule and collect apheresis platelets on mobile drives. Since that first platelet drive in May 2008, YCP has conducted 42 platelet drives that resulted in a total of 532 apheresis platelets collections. They have conducted 25 blood drives since November 2005, collecting 1,363 whole blood and 338 2RBCs. These cadets should be applauded for their hard work and perseverance in bettering their lives and the lives of so many others.

Dr. Matthew Gottlieb Rising Star Award was presented to Lisa Fults. Since joining SCABB, Lisa hit the ground running participating in a variety of activities. Lisa presented at the 2007 SCABB annual meeting as well as at the AABB annual meeting an oral abstract titled Alternative Method for QC of leukoreduced RBCs Using Total Hgb in Place of percent RBC Recovery, as well as two poster presentations; "Automation Enhances Component Production, and Evaluation of Repeat Incomplete Filtrations. She has co-authored two articles for the PULSE. Currently Lisa is the co-chair of both the Technical Scientific Committee and Local Arrangements Committee.

The Cornerstone Award was presented to the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center and its subsidiary QualiTex Laboratories, which have contributed significantly to the success of the South Central Association of Blood Banks for many years. This organization has been an avid supporter of the Association and this year is no exception as evidenced by twelve South Texas and QualiTex employees currently serving the association via committees and the board of directors! Furthermore, at the annual business meeting, the voting delegates accepted the nomination slate electing Jose Garcia as President-Elect, who 2011 will become the 54th President of the association.

Congratulations to all the award winners and to everyone for a fantastic meeting and award event.

Check out 2010 Annual Meeting & Exhibit Show photos at www.scabb.org>Annual Meeting

Protégé Profile - Matthew Poncin

I am excited about the year ahead of me in the SCABB Mentor/Protégé program. I have been with Carter BloodCare (CBC) for seven and a half years. I worked three years in the Component Production Lab, two years at CBC’s Satellite Children’s Medical Center of Dallas Transfusion Service before transferring to my current position as a lab assistant in the Reference and Transfusion Lab (R&T). I enjoy my job and blood banking tremendously. It’s a new challenge everyday, and I plan on making it my career. In addition to working full time in R&T, I am going to school in the evenings, and work PRN in the Blood Bank for St. Paul University Hospital at UT Southwestern.

I have planned my quarterly projects on paper and can’t wait to get started on them. I am working on submitting an abstract/poster and I want to be a moderator at the SCABB annual meeting next year.

One project that I am most excited about is serving on the committee to help with inventory management using the new Haemonetics freezing method. This new freezing method is a closed system that allows a 14-day expiration when the unit is thawed. However, to use this method the units must be frozen within six days of collection. A new process must be implemented to manage the antigen negative and rare units at CBC.

Another project that I am excited about is creating job classifications for lab assistants because I believe this is going to be the most challenging of all tasks. Not many laboratories currently use lab assistants and those that do only use them for a limited amount of job responsibilities. I am ready for what lies ahead of me and the challenges that come with it.