Greetings Radiologic Sciences Alumni and Friends!

This fall has been filled with activity at NSU and in the School of Allied Health. We started the semester welcoming back our continuing students and greeting a many new students in all of our programs. The fall enrollment for the School of Allied Health increased in all of our programs—Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences (BSRS), RT to BSRS, Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health (BASAH), and the Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences (MSRS). We have been thrilled to be working with such a great group of students. The students are the reason that each of the faculty are here and we have certainly enjoyed working with all of them this semester.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to attend a Radiologic Technology Week celebration planned by our BSRS students. I was so proud of the event that they planned. It was wonderful to see all of the students together listening to radiologic sciences professionals that they had invited to the event. Many of the technologists who attended were alumni of the BSRS program and they shared their expertise with the current students. Other technologists who attended were strong supporters of the program. Without the technologists who work with our students in the clinical sites each day, our program would not be successful. So, thank you to all of you who work to help mold the next generation of professionals.

This semester, we have been doing some planning to continue to improve the experience for our students. Just one example of that is our plan to move our MSRS to be completely online starting in the fall of 2016. We are making this change for a number of reasons. First, students have expressed their desire for this program to be online. Students enrolled in the MSRS program are typically working full-time and finding the time and money to travel for class is a challenge. Second, our faculty have become experts in online education. We know that we have the skills and support to be able to offer this program online. We are confident that the quality of our courses will be second to none. We are really looking forward to beginning this new chapter in the fall and welcoming a strong cohort of students to begin their journey in the MSRS program.

We have also been working on our self-study for reaccreditation for the BSRS program. This is a large undertaking, but I have been extremely proud of the faculty working on this project. I know that many of you who graduated from the BSRS program can attest to the quality of the program and the faculty. I know that our site visit in 2016 will give us the chance to show others how strong this program is.

I want to thank all of you for your continued support of NSU and the School of Allied Health. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season!

Fork ‘em Demons!

Laura Aaron
Students and Faculty attend the LSRT conference

The Radiologic Science students were in attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists.

The Quiz Bowl team: pictured front row left to right; Taylor Stanford, Kaitlyn Taylor and Jessica Orr. Back row left to right; Elizabeth Yerby, Joshua Douglas and Dasmon Mose.

Students Jessica Orr and Taylor Stanford placed in the Scientific Exhibit at the Louisiana conference. Jessica Orr received first place for her exhibit titled “Radiation Protection Advances in Computed Tomography-Bismuth Shielding.” Taylor Stanford received second place for her exhibit titled “Cautions with Post-Processing.” Congrats!

NSU faculty were also present. Our very own, Dr. Tammy Curtis, Joel Hicks, Jennifer Michael and Kari Cook will serve on the Board of the LSRT for the 2015-2016 year. Dr. Tammy Curtis was sworn in as President and Joel Hicks will serve as President elect. Jennifer Michael is continuing as secretary and Kari Cook will continue as the chairperson of the Louisiana Educators in Radiologic Science (LERS).
Alumni Spotlight

Clarissa Manno | Class of 2012

Velocity Care Urgent Care Centers have provided an alternative to emergency rooms for citizens of Shreveport and Bossier City for a number of years. By providing excellent medical care with little or no wait, it is little wonder that Velocity Care’s business has grown to include three centers in Shreveport/Bossier City, a center in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the possibility of still more centers in the future.

In addition to providing an excellent medical alternative for patients, Velocity Care has proven to be great place to work for several of the graduates of the NSU Radiologic Science program. Of the NSU alumni who work for Velocity Care, several have moved into managerial and supervisory roles. Clarissa Manno (2012) is one such example.

After demonstrating exemplary clinical and patient care skills in her first few years at Velocity Care, Clarissa Manno was moved into a new role as Employee Development Coordinator. In this new position, Clarissa is responsible for the training of all new employees. Further, Clarissa is required to ensure that all employees are up-to-date with all of the new equipment used at Velocity Care. Considering the number of centers, and the number of employees at each center, Clarissa has certainly stepped into a more-than-full time position. Clarissa is thrilled with her new position and excited about her new responsibilities. Clarissa said that in this new position, she has to think “outside of the box” on an almost daily basis. She said that by being challenged to critically think during the NSU Radiologic Science program was what prepared her for these new challenges. Clarissa also credited the NSU faculty for forcing her to be structured; again, a trait necessary in her new position. Obviously excelling in this current position, Clarissa is now in the process of becoming the new Lab Supervisor.

Clarissa was quick to point out that several former NSU graduates have gone on to work for Velocity Care. Kellye Davidson (2007) has worked for Velocity Care for a number of years and is in charge of Human Resources at Velocity Care. Similarly, Jenny Poston (2011) has worked for Velocity Care for several years and is the Assistant Administrator of Occupational Medicine at Velocity Care. Lyssa Jean (2012), Daniel Hawkins (2014), Ariel Goelden (2015), and Kelsi Copeland (2015) are newer employees, and are doing outstanding work, as well.

Velocity Care has proven to be a great partner with the NSU Radiologic Science program. Current students rotating through the various locations are given the unique opportunity to participate in total patient care. Graduates who work for Velocity Care, like Clarissa Manno, are given an opportunity to work for an organization where education and hard work are rewarded with rapid advancement.
Scholarship Fund…
How Can I Help?

Radiologic Sciences Scholarship Fund

Do you remember when you were a radiology clinical student? If you do, you must remember the struggles that you encountered and likely one of those struggles might have been paying tuition. With YOUR help, we can assist a radiology clinical student with their financial burden by offering a scholarship that is funded in part by YOU, an alumni or supporter of this program.

The Radiologic Sciences Support and Scholarship Fund helps maintain the day-to-day excellence of the School of Allied Health by making a difference in every aspect of life at NSU. Because needs and opportunities differ over time, it is important to have a robust Support Fund each academic year to afford vital resources and to seek additional ones. In light of the ongoing limitations in State funding, we must look to private donations and the community for this support.

Your support and positive representation of the Radiologic Sciences Program is appreciated and critical to our continued success! Please consider a donation of any size to help support our students.

Thank you for your tax-deductible contribution to NSU, Radiologic Sciences Program. We greatly appreciate your support.

Make your check to: NSU Foundation / Radiologic Sciences Support Fund

Please mail your check to:

NSU Foundation, Radiologic Sciences
Attn: Laura Aaron
1800 Line Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71101

Call 318-677-3020 for additional information

Me, publish an article???

What is your interesting idea or topic to share with other technologists?

In recent years, there have been NSU students and NSU alumni publish some of their work in radiology journals. Truly, a few of them have been lengthy studies, but the last few have been new ideas related to radiographic positions that are not in radiology textbooks. You may have wondered how difficult it would be to have your idea or work experience presented to be published. There is no doubt, there are positioning skills where you have adapted the textbook positions or shortcuts you use daily that should be showcased in print. Writing your ideas or personal experiences that may be of interest to other imaging professionals presents an excellent opportunity to be published and to share. Once upon a time, you as an imaging student, likely prepared case studies as a part of your educational experience. In my opinion a patient’s case study is the easiest way to translate into a technologist’s first publishable paper. These case studies provide most, if not all, of the information needed to take the next step, along with guidance from an experienced co-author. This extra undertaking enables you to add to the volume of knowledge in a meaningful and interesting way. Even if you do not have prior experience in writing a case study, it’s really doable and this type of manuscript makes an important contribution to your profession, and may be something you would enjoy sharing with others in your department or the imaging profession.

The most difficult part of writing a case report for publication consideration is often choosing the case for the report. Consider the following items, and if they would apply, you have a case that would work for a possible publication:

- Would this case be of interest to other readers?
- Did the case require modification from the normal procedure?
- Did the case require critical analysis on a part of the technologist?
- Was this case unusual, rare, or does it demonstrate an emerging problem?
- Did the case result in a change in clinical practice?

Another popular area some technologists choose to pursue on their first attempt at publication, is to write on a practice that works for them in their work environment such as a new or innovative positioning skill that is not in published textbooks.

Please contact Ben Wood, R.T. (R) woodb@nsula.edu if you have an idea, adapted radiology patient position/procedure or clinical experience that may add to clinical professional practice.
Throughout the course of being a student, technologist, and an educator in our program, I have been told so many times the importance of networking. It seemed at these times this was just a way of saying get out there; mix and mingle with people with the common thread of medical imaging. I have seen the idea of networking being used in helping with job placement and during conferences where information was shared between different programs. The real importance of networking was not realized until I was faced with some life changing situations and used networking to help me through such a hard time. The fact is that networking is actually a gateway into a reservoir of strength that one can pull from when one is at their weakest. Maybe you have been laid off and need the contacts from your network to land that next job opportunity, or maybe you are ready for that next level of education and are looking for peers that have already achieved that same educational goal for support and direction.

There are many other times when professional networking can be that one thing that keeps you in the imaging profession. But I realized another even more important aspect of professional networking when faced with a family illness, and without the networking provided by being an alumni of our program I am not sure I would have had the strength I needed to keep myself grounded as I addressed this situation. Having such a strong group of imaging professionals in both the clinical and educational worlds, has provided me with avenues of support that would have otherwise never been available. Knowing how much strength I gained from having such a support system has overwhelmed me, and made me appreciate “networking” in a totally different way. To know when you are at your weakest, you can actually go to work and gain so much strength from our program’s network of students, graduates, and fellow faculty has made me appreciate the imaging profession in a completely new light.

I think each and every one of us should keep this network of support in mind when it comes to helping others; life can and will change quickly and knowing that there is a foundation of support that one can pull from when times are the toughest, may be the one thing that keeps us going and helps find the strength to keep us moving forward. So the next time you are offered the chance to get involved in a part of our program, either as a student or as an alumni, please remember you are one part of a much larger group and one day this network of peers may be the one source of support that helps you stay grounded and see light at the end of what may appear to be a very dark and lonely tunnel. Stay a part of our local, state, and national network of imaging professionals, give back and pay forward what our program continues to feel is our strongest philosophy, be the best that you can be and continue growing by being a life-long student. This will be important to you one day, if it has not already!

By: Kendall Delacerda
Thanks to everyone who participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Along with the help from NSU Radiologic Sciences students and alumni, the Shreveport-Bossier community raised over $49,000. The Race took place on Saturday, September 26, 2015 in Shreve City. The Race for the Cure series is the world’s largest and most successful education and fundraising event for breast cancer ever created. Racers can choose to walk or run a 1 mile fun run or 5k. According to the Susan G. Komen website, “Race for the Cure is a celebration of life after breast cancer, a tribute to those that have lost the battle with the disease, and an opportunity for a community to come together to raise crucial funding to support the work of the Komen Northwest Louisiana Affiliate.” Again, thank you to those you participated; we hope for an even bigger turn out next year.

The NSU students and faculty from the CenLa campus participated in their Race for the Cure on October 24th. Team NSU helped the Komen Cenla organization raise a total of $142,000 for breast cancer research. The race was held in downtown Alexandria and the team hopes to have even a larger representation next year and raise even more money! Fork Out Cancer Demons!
Chelsi Maree Eichmann is the daughter of Lane and Tamba Eichmann and is from the rural community of Jonesville, Louisiana. She is the senior class president on the Alexandria campus through Northwestern State University’s Radiologic Science program. This year she is the proud recipient of the Dora Douglas Briggs Scholarship.

Upon her graduation, Chelsi will be the third in her family to graduate from NSU. Chelsi chose the radiologic science profession because of a knee injury she suffered while in high school. She wants to help others and feels that the radiologic science field will allow her to do that. She is currently focusing her last semester in MRI and will graduate in May of 2016.

The Dora Douglas Briggs Scholarship for Cenla Nursing and Radiologic Science Students was established several years ago by Dr. Harry Briggs, also known as “the Paddlin’ Professor.” He established the scholarship in honor of his aunt, Dr. Dora Douglas Briggs. For several years around his birthday in May, Dr. Harry Briggs would swim two miles in Kincaid Lake to raise money for the scholarship. Due to his advancing age of 94, he has retired his swimming trunks. Despite his retirement from the swim, those who know him best and the NSU community still gather in May to celebrate his birthday and thank him for his great generosity.

NSU graduates were caught on video going the extra mile at Willis-Knighton Cancer Center located in Shreveport, Louisiana. This video can be found on YouTube and has over 3,900,000 views to date. Graduate Daniel Speir (Education and Compliance Officer) promised his pediatric patient, Sophia, that he would join her in a dance once she completed her treatments. Sophia was the first pediatric patient treated at Willis Knighton Cancer center since the opening of the proton therapy center in 2014. When the other therapists heard of his promise, nearly the entire staff joined in and planned a flash mob dance to the “Whip.” You can find NSU graduates Daniel Spear, Krystal Jeffrey, Angie McKnight, William Burrell, Helen McClinton, and patient Sophia on YouTube getting their groove on.

Several years early, 12 year old Sophia was diagnosed with scoliosis and had to wear a brace 23 hours a day. As her back pain progressed, MRI images presented a large tumor located in her spinal cord. Sophia underwent surgery to remove the tumor, but unfortunately, the tumor returned; therefore, she started proton therapy treatment.

NSU graduates and WK staff reached out to put a smile on Sophia’s face, as a result, they were surprised to find their video went viral in a short period of time.

NSU faculty are proud to see their graduates making a difference in our profession, community, and putting patients first.

Go Graduates! You Rock!
NSU Celebrates National Radiologic Technology Week

Each year the clinical Radiologic Sciences students plan an event to celebrate National Radiologic Technology Week. This year to celebrate the anniversary of the discovery of x-rays, the senior class invited a panel of advanced imaging technologists to share with the guests information about their education, their careers and the pros and cons of what they do. The students enjoyed having the opportunity ask the technologists questions about the modalities that they have chosen to specialize. The event was a huge success!

During the event, the students honor the technologist they select their favorite. This year they selected Matt Baker and Will Jones (not pictured). The students select these technologists based on their professionalism and willingness to teach and help students. Thanks guys for being a shining example to our students!