Welcome to the fall 2012 edition of the Image Makers newsletter for the NSU Allied Health Department. In the last newsletter, I shared with you information about all the programs we now offer in the allied health area—Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences, the RT to BSRS program, Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences, and the Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health. All of these programs are off and running for the fall semester. We have been excited about the addition of the new programs and pleased with the continued success of the programs that have been in existence for some time now.

This fall we kicked off a campaign to develop more resources for the Allied Health Department. As most of you are aware, state funding for higher education has steadily declined. Additionally, the national economy has had negative effects on families and students. The Allied Health faculty felt that it was time for us to work to develop scholarship funds for our students. So, we are very excited to announce that we are creating a scholarship fund that will be specifically for radiologic sciences students.

To fund this scholarship, we have started by planning two activities that will raise funds. First, we are selling t-shirts to students and technologists. The profits that we get from selling the t-shirts will be added to the scholarship account. Second, this year marks the 40th anniversary of the Radiologic Sciences Program at NSU. In celebration of this occasion, we are planning an alumni reunion event for the spring. This will give alumni a chance to visit and catch-up with their classmates, as well as, to raise funds for the scholarship. Proceeds from the reunion will also go to the scholarship fund. You will be hearing more about this event in the coming months.

As always, we look forward to hearing feedback from all of you. If you have any suggestions or comments about any of our programs or activities, we would love to hear them. We take pride in listening and responding to you. Please feel free to contact me at carwilje@nsula.edu. Thanks so much for your support and interest in the Allied Health Department. I hope that you enjoy the newsletter.

Laura Aaron

Celebrate National Radiologic Technology Week with us Nov. 4-10
Welcome to the Fall 2012 edition of the Image Makers Newsletter for the Allied Health Department. The name of our department has changed from the Radiologic Sciences Department to the Allied Health Department. We felt the change was needed due to the addition of our newest program, the Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health (BASAH) program. This program started in the spring semester of this year, and we currently have 22 students enrolled. We are excited to be able to offer program, which is the first of its kind in the state of Louisiana.

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We are working on some exciting things in the BSRS program. First of all, in honor of National Radiologic Technology Week, next week, we will be having an open house on both the Shreveport and Alexandria campuses. The clinical students will be hosting the events. The junior class will be preparing a slide show presentation on the history of radiology. In Shreveport, it will be from 2pm-4pm on November 6th, in the second floor atrium at NSU. The students on the Alexandria campus will be hosting an open house as well. The breakfast reception will be held in the atrium at Rapides Regional Hospital, November 8th from 7:30-10:00am. We hope you will join us.

The next exciting event we are working on is a class reunion. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Radiologic Sciences Program at NSU. We have graduated over 500 students and this is a great opportunity to celebrate. The reunion will be held March 16, 2013 at Trejo’s in Shreveport. Invitations will be mailed next year. We would love for each of you to join us. This will be a great opportunity to reconnect with classmates, faculty and clinical instructors.

Are you following us on Facebook? This is a great method to keep up with what is going on in the department. We post job openings, application due dates and other important information. So, log into Facebook and find us at NSULA-Radiologic-Sciences. As always, if you have any ideas you would like to see in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me at: haynesk@nsula.edu. We would love to offer stories that you would like to see. Thanks so much for your support and interest in the Allied Health Department. I hope that you enjoy the newsletter.
Amber Estess graduated from the Radiologic Science program at Northwestern State University in 2010. Amber says that working in the heart catheterization lab is both very demanding and very rewarding. According to Amber, she enjoys all aspects of the heart cath lab, but particularly enjoys scrubbing with the physician during cases. Amber is currently preparing to take both the ARRT Cardiac-Interventional and the Peripheral-Interventional registries as well as another exam to become a Registered Cardiac Interventional Specialist (RCIS). All of these advanced registries will help Amber progress in her current position.

Amber credits much of her success in the cath lab to her preparation in the Radiologic Sciences program at Northwestern State University. Amber says that one of the main things that the program taught her was how to think and work independently, which in turn helped her be a more confident person. In addition, Amber credits the fact that she was able to spend the last semester of her program working in the heart cath lab as a student. This practice of the NSU Radiologic Science program allows for students to explore different radiology disciplines in addition to their diagnostic radiology studies. Very often, students are able to be hired directly into their preferred specialty area. This was exactly what happened for Amber, as she was hired in the Willis-Knighton Cath Lab even before she had graduated.
“Don't Ever Burn Your Bridges”
Social Networking Helps Repair and Maintain

As a child, many remember being told by our parents the old adage “Don’t burn bridges that you may need later”, the words were heard however at that point in time they really didn’t feel applicable to life as it was at that moment. As that life became larger and more complicated, these wise words would resurface in our thoughts, but this time more applicable and with a personal interpretation of “do not hurt a relationship that you might need later”. Whether the relationship was personal, professional, or even spiritual the meaning still held firm and true. How many of us have done the opposite and allowed the bridge to burn, knowing that crossing back to the other side would be impossible? How many alumni reading this at this very moment have lost contact with their classmates or other program alumni that may have helped to advance you in the educational process? I personally know that I am guilty, blaming geographical distances, different chosen areas of imaging, levels of success and management, and the best excuse of all being too darn busy.

A few weeks ago I was social networking using Facebook (FB) (Yes, really I have become one of them, although I am but an infant to this social networking frenzy) and I read a couple of postings that was from a panic minded alumni that was facing the threat that most if not all have experienced of losing a job by downsizing. Nothing was etched in stone, however let’s face it; we graduate some pretty smart and well-rounded people who can read the fine print and in between the lines. I offered what comforting words I could and started putting out my “feelers” on what jobs that may be available using both the phone and FB. At this same time, work was still going on to finalize full-time job placement for some spring graduates. I had alumni of all levels from managers, lead techs, supervisors, to newly graduates helping with this hunt. This one “shout-out” led to many people joining the hunt and by the time the jobs were located and filled, I had actually “talked” with alumni from classes of 2004 up to 2012. This made me realize the power and usefulness this program’s alumni network bridge can have on keeping us all in touch with one another, in good times and not so good times (like HELP!, I need a JOB!). Being able to call on every program alumni for their help on employment opportunities and other issues using both the traditional networking along with this new social networking platform, opens the entire imaging profession to those in need. Before electronic networking, it was make a phone call (hoping the number is current), leave a message, and hope this person has the alumni pride to return the call. Not the best means of finding a job, not to mention the time issue. Today we have individual, program, university, and imaging organizations with FB accounts. There is no reason at any given time for us to not know how and where each of our classmates is faring in the profession. This can now be accomplished by reading only a few news feeds and postings daily (Ok I know many who are reading far more than just a few, LOL).

I now plan to spend a little time each week researching and reconnecting with my Class of 1993 by requesting to be their friend (again) and make it a point to stay in contact. These classmates and other alumni may have the knowledge and the “wood” to help repair or rebuild bridges that have gone in decay because of neglect or have already burned due to poor past decisions. I would ask all that are reading our newsletter to think about what has been said and become proactive in helping to make our program bridge the strongest it can be. One day we all may need to cross back over, I don’t know about you, but I want to know that the slats are stable and that I won’t be crossing rough water without the support of our network.

“NSULA Radiologic Science” is our new Facebook page. Please visit us there and “like” us to receive the latest updates from the program.
The Family Counseling Agency is a private, non-profit agency which was founded in 1914 and currently serves 8 parishes in central Louisiana. The Turning Point Shelter is one of several programs designed to aid battered women and children in need. This shelter provides 24 hour confidential emergency shelter. Victims of domestic violence can stay in the shelter for as long as 45 days. During those 45 days, they are offered services such as counseling, case management, advocacy, parenting education, life skills education, support groups, daycare and tutoring for children, all free of charge to the victim. After losing their state funding in 2011, The Turning Point Shelter is now a citizen based program that must rely solely on donations from individuals.

When a victim of domestic violence flees from their home, they must leave with little to nothing. They may not have time to grab a diaper bag or a suitcase with clothes. Many are not thinking of grabbing a toothbrush or any other basic toiletries. This is what led the Alexandria Radiologic Science students to act. On September 24, 2012, they delivered basic toiletries such as diapers, wipes, bottles, shampoo, razors, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. to the shelter. This is only one way in which the students have chosen to give back to the community; they will participate in the 3rd annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on October 20.

The beautiful brass Friends of Nursing & Radiologic Sciences Donor Tree at the Northwestern State University Nursing Education Center in Shreveport, Louisiana, provides a unique opportunity for you to establish a permanent memorial to those you love or wish to honor and to support the College of Nursing & Radiologic Sciences.

Your generous gift will be used to support the outstanding programs of the College of Nursing and to provide scholarships for Nursing and Radiologic Sciences students.

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Leaf (250 available) - $100.
Foundation Stone (14 available) - $1,000.
Honor Bench - $2,500.

I wish to reserve the following item(s):

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Name: 
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Make your check to: NSU Foundation / Nursing Support Fund

Your donation is tax deductible -501(c)(3). Donors will receive written acknowledgement of their donation.

Please mail your check and this form to:

NSU Foundation/Nursing Support Fund
c/o Laura Aaron
1800 Line Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71101

Each brass leaf can be engraved with up to 20 spaces per line including blank spaces and a total of three lines. Each brass stone can be engraved with up to 30 spaces per line and a total of 5 lines. Indicate the information for your leaf, foundation stone, or honor bench below:
Do you enjoy receiving this newsletter?
Do you find it informative?
Do you want to know more about your fellow graduates?

You can help support this newsletter and other worthy projects within the Radiologic Sciences Department of Northwestern State University.

Radiologic Sciences Support And Scholarship Fund

The Radiologic Sciences Support and Scholarship Fund helps maintain the day-to-day excellence of the Radiologic Sciences Program 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! We invite you to select one of the Levels of Donation and Support below.

Radiologic Sciences Program Support and Scholarship Levels

_______ Roentgen Donor — over $100.00
_______ Gamma Donor — $51.00 - $100.00
_______ Beta Donor — $26.00 - $50.00
_______ Alpha Donor — $1.00 - $25.00

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 and this form to:
NSU Foundation, Radiologic Sciences
Attn: Laura Aaron
1800 Line Avenue
Shreveport, LA  71101
Call 318-677-3100 for additional information
VonDarius Heard is definitely one NSU alumni that is tough to match! VonDarius graduated from NSU’s baccalaureate radiologic science program (2008) and is yet to slow down! He adopts the life-long learner philosophy, choosing to further his education. NSU was only a springboard for this young man. Subsequent to graduation at NSU, he obtained another diploma from Arkansas State University in radiation therapy, was president of ASU’s student association of radiologic imaging science, a representative of the Dean’s student council, and recipient of ASU’s radiation therapy outstanding academic award in 2010. He still was not done. He spent the next year in Buffalo, New York pursuing his (CMD) Certified Medical Dosimetrist certificate from Roswell Park Cancer Institute. He still was not done furthering his education. He currently is enrolled in the Master of Science in radiologic science program at NSU pursuing a concentration in administration. While he is also currently employed as a medical dosimetrist with Southern Urology in Lafayette, LA, he proudly maintains ARRT licensure in radiography, therapy, and computed tomography.

VonDarius has certainly achieved an enormous amount of knowledge and expertise in many areas of the imaging sciences—in a very short period of time—however, he also expanded his professional interests by attending the annual conference of the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists in St. Louis, MO, and lecturing on “Dosimetric implications of number of breathing phases used in the definition of internal target volume [ITV] in the treatment of non-small cell lung cancers using stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT)”.

When asked, “VonDarius, so you are currently in the Master of Science in radiologic science program what is next with you?” He states: “My ultimate goal with the MSRS degree is to become a director of an oncology department while teaching radiation physics. Also, I attribute my academic success to the wonderful faculty I have had throughout my educational career and by following my personal motto ‘keep moving forward’”. VonDarius is clearly an example of a life-long learner—for current and future allied health professionals—in the imaging sciences to model after.
What will our students experience when they rotate through LSU Health Shreveport clinic education setting? One of the first unique features guaranteed is exposure to trauma patients. LSU Health is a level one trauma center serving communities across Northwest Louisiana, East Texas and Southwest Arkansas. LSU Health allows our students to spend time training during both day shifts and evening shifts in the radiology emergency department where they have direct capture portables as well as two radiology x-ray rooms. But, that’s not all.

The students are exposed to an atmosphere of both diverse patients and a diverse work force. LSU Health is considered a teaching hospital and serves as a primary site for clinical education programs for medical students and allied health students of LSU Health Sciences Center as well as a primary site for students from other allied health programs throughout the region. LSU health is currently licensed for and operates 459 beds. The hospital is dedicated to caring for the needs of the indigent and underprivileged from throughout the area. Furthermore, it is common for our students to perform imaging exams on prisoners. LSU Health provides medical care for prisoners from all over the state. Due to budget constraints, other southern hospitals no longer offer medical care for prisoners; therefore, the number of prisoners treated at LSU Health in Shreveport has increased over the last few years.

Other specialty services include The Ambulatory Care Clinic that provides varying degrees of care: urgent, acute, chronic, specialty, primary, diagnostic, rehabilitation, minor surgical procedures, and health care prevention/maintenance. Here you will find our students scheduled in x-ray, sonography, and mammography services. Moving on to across the street, the hospital affords our students to gain experience in Radiation Therapy, CT, MRI, Nuclear Medicine, Heart Cath, and Special Procedures/Interventional. The hospital setting also allows our students to perform exams on in-house patients in the diagnostic radiology department. Another imaging rotation is performing x-rays, mammography, and bone density exams on patients admitted to the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center.

As you can see, the NSU students are spread abroad many areas from one spectrum to the next. It takes the clinical instructors half a day to check on the students and the rest of the day to back track. Other areas that our students are exposed to include burn patients housed in the regional Burn Center, and not so fortunate victims in the mortuary upon which the students normally hear about on the local evening news. LSU Health is also one of only six hospitals in the nation affiliated with the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Other affiliations include providing surgical services for Overton Brooks Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Shriners Hospitals for Children in Shreveport, and Willis-Knighton Health System. Our students gain a vast amount of exposure in the surgical rotations.

Lastly, LSU Health is one of the primary institutions who hire NSU graduates for a variety of imaging opportunities. Some students are hired directly into special imaging while others cross train after they have been employed for a while. We tell our students, “you will see things at LSU that you will not see anywhere else!”
We’re on the Web!
http://radiologicsciences.nsula.edu/

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