Greetings from the NSU School of Allied Health!

It seems like every time it is time for me to write the introduction of this newsletter, I am telling you about all sorts of changes that have been happening. Well, this newsletter is not an exception. Again, I have lots of exciting things to share with you.

In October, Louisiana System Board of Supervisors approved changes to our organizational structure within the college. We are now the **College of Nursing and School of Allied Health**. We are very pleased to have all of our allied health programs recognized with this change.

Also, Dr. Norann Planchock has retired as dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health. She was always an excellent supporter of the allied health programs, faculty, and students at NSU. We are now being led by Dr. Dana Clawson, who is serving as Interim Dean. Since she has started in this position, she has made some positive changes that will help us continue to grow.

Another exciting change that we have had involves one of our faculty members. I am very pleased to tell you that we will now be referring to Tammy Curtis as **Dr. Tammy Curtis**. She has completed her PhD in Health Studies at Texas Women’s University this semester. Please congratulate her if you see her.

This time of the year always makes me take the time to think about the things for which I am thankful. I can tell you that there are too many things for me to list! But, what has definitely been a blessing in my life are the fabulous allied health faculty that I have the pleasure to work with every day here at NSU. They are truly talented and always go above and beyond to make sure they are doing the best job possible for all of our students. If any of you have had experiences with any of the faculty that you would like share, please feel free to email me or post them on our Facebook page.

As always, we look forward to hearing from all of you. We love to hear what you are doing and how you have been. Please feel free to contact me at: carwilel@nsula.edu. Thanks so much for your continued support and interest in the School of Allied Health at NSU. I hope that you enjoy the newsletter.

Laura Aaron
As faculty members of the program, we strive to promote and encourage students developing good critical thinking skills. We as imaging professionals know all too well the importance these skills are to becoming a proficient technologist. One attribute that is not really appraised or even acknowledged within our program is creativity. I became aware of this after the spring 2013 class started and these cute little cartoon drawings began appearing on test scratch papers and on the class-rooms dry erase boards. The student responsible for these artful little drawings was identified and labeled our classroom artists. Any time a drawing was necessary for physics and positioning class, she would already be at the dry erase board ready to draw. I was completely intrigued by this raw talent and such great imagination. At this point, I had no idea that these little cartoons would become one of our most successful community service projects.

Threaded throughout the program, community service is an important and required part of who we are as a program and a profession. Starting as a mandatory requirement, the program hopes students will carry this instilled feeling of community involvement forward and beyond the program. The kickoff of this fall semester brought the need for more hours of service and students began the brainstorming on how they would fulfill this requirement. Some chose the more traditional and obvious activities such as food drives and nursing home visits, which in themselves are fantastic and much appreciated by the recipients. Others looked for what had been done successfully in the past, one such event “Coloring with Kids” was a huge success. This project entailed the purchasing of coloring books and crayons, which were then brought to local elementary schools for a day of coloring. This was when the magic began and “Oliver Gets an X-ray” was conceived. Our newly discovered artist and honor’s student proposed that she draw a few pictures that would be copied and used for “Coloring with kids”. The program had many reservations and concerns, but after several meetings and discussions, the project was approved for community service hours. The few proposed drawings would be increased into a fully developed coloring book with a short story portraying “Oliver” and his experience of getting an x-ray. As the drawings were being created, I started thinking about the production and expense involved in such an undertaking. I contacted our print shop on main campus and after some convincing, it was agreed NSU print shop would be able to volunteer their services and compile the images into a real coloring book. After many readings and some editing, the final product came into fruition and has since been used at several local schools with much enthusiasm. The children have enjoyed hearing the story of a little cat named “Oliver” and all that he experienced while getting an x-ray. Several area hospitals are considering the use of the book as a new “surprise” tool for children who come to their facility for imaging. We are so proud of our “artist” and her accomplishments in designing this book. We are hopeful this little book will gain recognition both for its value as a “peace offering” tool for future pediatric imaging patients and as a teaching tool for our future imaging professionals.
Kristy Bell, BSRS RT (R)- Class of 2004

Kristy graduated in 2004 and began working as a staff technologist at Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Specialists (OSMS) in Alexandria. In August of that year, she left and took her dream job with the Alexandria VA Health Care System. In 2010, she was promoted to Administrative Officer of Imaging Services. Kristy is “honored to work at the VA, being able to serve our Veterans who have given so much for our freedom”. Her future plans are to stay at the VA in Alexandria until retirement. “I love my job and the people who I work with. They are my second family”. Kristy has been happily married to Jason Bell for 11 years and they have two children: Maggie-7 and Mason-2.

Alumni Spotlight—RT to BSRS Graduate
Roderick Gage

Roderick Gage is a proud husband and father of two precious daughters. He is a recent graduate of NSU RT to BSRS program. While in the military, Roderick was captivated by the field of Radiology. While deployed, his assigned roommate was a Radiologic Technologist and this captured his interest in the profession. Upon his arrival home, he was dealing with the same dilemma as most adults; looking for a promising career. Roderick attended Southern University’s Radiologic Technology program under the direction of Mrs. Shelia Swift. After he graduated in the summer of 2008, he acquired employment at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center. At this time, he learned that Radiology is a broad, yet competitive field. Roderick heard about the RT to BS program by one of Northwestern State University’s clinical instructors and decided to seize the opportunity in the Fall 2010. He had the option to enroll in online courses, which made his transition seamless as well as convenient. Considering he was a full-time student at NSU in Natchitoches, LA before deployment in the Armed Services, it enabled him “to finish something that he started.” Roderick graduated from Northwestern State University in May 2012, and is very proud to add this to his list of accomplishments.
Congratulations to NSU students for winning LSRT 2013 competitions!

**Kelly Spears and Terry Stoute** won 1st place Scientific Exhibit with their presentation of the “Lodox Scanner”.

2nd place winners of Scientific Exhibit was **Yentl Williams and TaSheika Kilgore** for presenting “New Automated Breast Ultrasound System”.

Third place winners of the Scientific Exhibits were **Brandy Johnson, Jasmine Jones, and Shandriqua Hill** and who presented “Mammosite Brachytherapy.”

For the 2013 Scientific Essays competition, **Mishael Tolan** won 2nd Place for her topic on “Mental Illness within Mammography”.

**Jason McQuire** won 3rd place Scientific Essay competition with his topic on “The Future of Ultrasound.”
**Make a Lasting Impression**

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 & School of Allied Health.

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

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Make your check to: NSU Foundation / Radiologic Sciences 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/Radiologic Sciences Support Fund  
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1800 Line Avenue  
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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 be-
Do you enjoy receiving this newsletter?
Do you find it informative?
Do you want to know more about your fellow graduates?
Do you want to help worthy students with scholarships?

You can help support this newsletter, scholarships and other worthy projects within the School of Allied Health 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 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! 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
Sally is a 2007 graduate B.S.R.S. from NSU’s undergraduate radiologic science program and will soon be a 2013 graduate of NSU’s M.S.R.S. Master of Science in Radiologic Science program. Sally is currently employed at Overton Brooks VA Medical Center as Lead Technologist; wherein, some of her duties include: Performing general diagnostic x-rays, including emergency room and trauma patients, fluoroscopy, mobile, and C-arm procedures; responsible for all interventional procedures and consenting patients for these procedures; perform evaluations and clinical competency examinations for radiography students; and essentially overseeing day-to-day operations within the department. She is also an appointed clinical instructor with NSU’s radiologic sciences program where she evaluates clinical students and performs clinical competencies on student exams. One of the accolades she has been imparted since being employed at the VA is being a “Risk Cause Analysis” member wherein collaboration with other VA upper level officials develop action plans for improving existing patient safety measures. Being affiliated with this collaborative group, Sally was able to glean ideas that spawned a pilot study for her final masters’ research assignment “Conflict Management in the Radiology Department”. Separate from employment and school work, Sally resides on Lake Bistineau in Doyline, LA with husband Noel, their 6 month old Parker Jo, and stepson Noel IV.

Newly elected officers of LSRT were Joel Hicks as 2nd Vice President and Tammy Curtis as 1st Vice President.

Kari Cook was selected as chair of LSRT-Louisiana Educators in Radiologic Sciences (LERS).
Since 1987, Northwestern State University has offered students a unique opportunity to study in Louisiana’s only designated honors college-The Scholar’s College. In this environment, students could challenge themselves both academically and personally in these honor classes. An issue with this system, however, was that students were limited to only a few of the more traditional majors. NSU recognized that many students enjoyed the challenges of an honors class, but also wanted to major in something outside of those majors offered in The Scholar’s College. Because of this, NSU began an Honor’s Program in 2011. In this program, students work on extra assignments and study, while still taking the classes needed for their major.

This fall, three students in the Radiologic Science program have challenged themselves by participating in an Honors class: Kelsi Copeland, Heather Houston, and Holly Lane. The designated Honors class for this fall was Mrs. Farmer’s Advanced Patient Care.

One of the major requirements of this class was for students to participate in a service-learning project, where students combine an activity that both teaches them about patient care and also gives back to the community.

The three ladies in the Honors program have worked very closely with Mrs. Farmer and Mr. Hicks to develop these assignments for the Honors class. Kelsi Copeland has spent many afternoons during this semester tutoring elementary school kids through the Volunteers of America. Heather Houston has donated much time at an equine therapy ranch, where workers use horses to help autistic children overcome emotional issues. Holly Lane spent many hours creating a coloring book titled “Oliver Gets an X-ray.” This coloring book has since been distributed to many elementary schools in the Alexandria area to help children understand more about what it means to take an x-ray.

To make this an Honors class, all three agreed to volunteer more time than required with each of their specific projects. All three have also spent time researching their projects and the outcomes of their projects. Kelsi, Heather, and Holly will then present their projects at the Northwestern State University Research Day in the spring of 2014, to complete the Honor’s requirements.

Service learning is a valuable tool that teaches students many lessons. All of the students in Mrs. Farmer’s Advanced Patient Care class have certainly given to the community and gained knowledge at the same time from their projects. Kelsi, Holly, and Heather, however, have challenged themselves to go above and beyond what is required and should be congratulated for their efforts.
This summer Dr. Laura Aaron was elevated to fellow by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT). The honorary category of Fellow is bestowed upon members of the ASRT who have made outstanding contributions to the radiologic technology profession and to the ASRT. This category was initiated within the ASRT to honor members who were dedicated to the organization and contributed unselfishly to the profession. The first class of 12 technologists was elevated to Fellow status in 1956. Fellows have volunteered in leadership positions at the national and local levels, written articles for publication, presented at professional meetings and helped advance the radiologic science profession. Each Fellow is committed to the advancement of the profession at the district, state, regional, national and international levels. Dr. Aaron is listed as one of only two individuals from Louisiana who have been awarded this prestigious honor by the ASRT. Jolene Carson is the other individual who was elevated to fellow in 1988.

An active researcher and published author, Dr. Aaron has volunteered in several positions for the ASRT and ASRT Foundation since becoming a member in 1993. In addition to serving as a Louisiana affiliate delegate and as a member of the ASRT Grass-roots Network, she also has worked on several ASRT committees, task forces and project groups. She is a former chair and member of the Editorial Review Board for Radiologic Technology, one of ASRT’s peer-reviewed scientific journals, and has served on the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists board of directors. She currently serves as the Executive editor of the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences (AEIRS) journal, Radiologic Science and Education. Dr. Aaron is the director of the School of Allied Health at NSU.

Congratulations Laura,
Your NSU family is so proud of you!!
Congratulations to Dr. Curtis!

Tammy Curtis is an Associate Professor and Clinical Coordinator for the Radiologic Sciences Program. Tammy joined our faculty at NSU in 2001. She teaches in both the undergraduate and graduate level programs. Tammy says, “I love teaching. It is my passion and I'm excited to be able to focus on it again. I love my students and I love seeing our NSU graduates working in the community. Nothing makes me more proud.”

Tammy completed her Master’s of Science in Radiologic Sciences Education at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas. This fall, Tammy has completed her PhD in Health Studies – Higher Education Program from Texas Women’s University in Denton, Texas. Dr. Curtis says, “I want to thank the faculty for their continued support while I was in school. Also, I want to thank Dr. Aaron for being my mentor and for all of the pep talks over the years.”

Tammy has published in both peer reviewed and non-reviewed journals, contributed to publications in textbooks, serves as a professional reviewer for academic educational textbooks, and is currently a coauthor of Merrill’s Atlas of Radiographic Positioning and Procedures textbook.

Tammy has presented lectures on the national, state, and regional levels. She also serves on the board of the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists and has held many offices for the past twelve years.

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