Greetings Radiologic Sciences Alumni and Friends!

By the time you read this, the holiday season will be upon us. The fall semester has been packed with activities inside and outside the classroom for the School of Allied Health and our students. This edition of the newsletter will highlight many of those events. We hope that each of you finds a way to stay involved with the School of Allied Health and with NSU. Please reach out to us and let us know how you are and keep in touch!

The spring semester of 2017 will bring our site-visit for reaccreditation of the BSRS program. Some of you may be involved in meeting some of the team members as they visit our clinical sites and talk to clinical instructors. Your continued support of the program and our students is key to our success. We are looking forward to completing the accreditation process and keeping our program strong.

This fall the MSRS moved to a 100% online format. We have been receiving excellent feedback and hoping to see this program continue to grow. Students who work full-time or live at a distance from the campus are benefiting from the online format.

Thank you for all that you do to support NSU and the School of Allied Health. I hope you all have a wonderful and blessed holiday season!

Fork ‘em Demons!

Laura Aaron

NSU College of Nursing and School of Allied Health Supports Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

Thanks to the student and faculty who participated in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

The Race took place on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the Centurylink Center in Bossier 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. Since its founding in 1982, Komen has funded more than $800 million in research and provided more than $1.6 billion in funding to screening, education, and treatment and psychological support programs serving millions of people around the world. Again, thank you to those you participated; we hope for an even bigger turn out next year.

Remember and remind others: October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, get yourself checked.
Mallory Halford Receives the Dora Douglas Briggs Scholarship

Mallory Halford is from Alexandria, Louisiana and originally started her college career at Louisiana Tech. She decided to transfer to NSU when her heart led her to change her major to Radiologic Science. She is currently seeking to double major in Business Administration and Radiologic Sciences. She is serving as the President of the Senior radiologic sciences class and she holds the position of CENLA representative for the LSRT. Her studies are extremely important to her. She has been on the honors list multiple times and the Dean's list twice. In the spring, she will complete a fellowship in CT before graduating in May. After graduating, she plans to move to Shreveport to further her education to eventually become a Physician's Assistant. The Dora Douglas Briggs Scholarship for CENLA Nursing and Radiologic Science Students was established several years ago by the late Dr. Harry Briggs. Dr. Briggs, also fondly known as “The Paddlin Professor” started the scholarship as a way to honor his aunt Dora Briggs. Sadly, Dr. Briggs passed away in June of this year. He was a kind man with a giving spirit and he will be deeply missed by all who had the pleasure to know him. His legacy will live on through his many scholarships he established at NSU.

CenLa Growth: Maintaining Quality
by Kendall Delacerda

Over the fifteen years of teaching for our program, I have seen such huge spurts of growth in the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health on the Shreveport Campus and often wondered why we here in Alexandria have not experienced the same. Well, I can now say that this growth has finally hit our CenLa Campus with a huge bang. We have literally outgrown our building and are bursting at the seams, as we continue to expand in both number of students and faculty. When storage rooms are being relocated and purged, to open up more room for new faculty, I would think that is a sign of growth and a great thing for all concerned. NSU CenLa is now offering more general education courses and have also taken its first cohort of Associate Degree in Nursing this fall. With this growth, NSU's presence will finally begin to get the recognition that we have been struggling to gain for our programs. I am extremely proud to know that we are producing the quality of students that employers are willing to support with endowed monies and are literally waiting in line to hire when they graduate. What a great feeling when area medical facilities, that are not invested in our programs, are calling and hiring our graduates. This is a true testament to the quality of graduates NSU provides. I was recently asked if I have any concerns or problems with my job, and of course, I could not think of a better place to work than with my NSU family, but I do have a concern with growth at the expense of quality. I have seen expansions in other industries to cause complete company shuts downs as the quality of the product went plummeting as demand began to rise. This is one thing that we at NSU will not allow to happen in our College of Nursing and School of Allied Health. We will ensure that each and every student continues to get the same quality of education. I hope all Alumni who are now clinical instructors/preceptors for our programs will continue to give your time to these entering students, paying close attention to those that may need a little TLC during their first couple of semesters. Remember we are all part of their educational experiences and have to take care of what will be our future healthcare providers. I hope all Alumni who are now Clinical Instructors, mentoring new faculty in our clinical settings, and continuing to share in the responsibility of ensuring each student gets the quality education they deserve and expect from NSU.
NSULA-CENLA Alumni Chapter

On Thursday September 1st, the 1st social meeting of the NSULA CENLA Alumni Chapter was held at Embers, a restaurant in the revitalized downtown area in Alexandria. Hosted by CENLA Alumni President Bobby Woods, networking and after work happy hour was enjoyed by all that attended. Although a small turn out, being the first meeting it was a huge success and we are already looking forward to the upcoming second meeting. I would like to invite all graduates to join our Facebook page NSULA-CENLA Alumni Chapter so we can grow in number and also so you will get the next invitation to what promises to be another great event. The radiologic sciences faculty on the CenLa campus has been placed on the planning committee and would really like to use this as an opportunity to have a reunion with all of our graduates. Please share this link and encourage all of your past classmates to join. If you are wanting to see your school buddies or maybe in the need of some fantastic networking opportunities, this will be the spot to get it all. Hope to see you all very soon.

ASRT member?
There is a scholarship opportunity for you.

Are you an ASRT member? If so, you are probably using the most central resource provided, in that they will automatically track your earned CE credits and securely transfer them to the ARRT, ARDMS, MDCB and/or NMTCB. Although this is obviously an important resource, another resource that you may not realize is the ASRT also offers scholarships to technologists who desire to go back to school for an advanced degree. That’s right, through the ASRT Foundation, scholarship opportunities are open to ASRT members. ASRT’s offerings for technologists are professional-level scholarships. Professional-level scholarships are for technologists who have applied to or are currently attending an accredited degree or certificate program and are also an ASRT member in good standing. These opportunities are for folks who are transitioning directly into radiation therapy, sonography, magnetic resonance or nuclear medicine. These opportunities are provided by individual donors, ASRT Foundation patrons, the ARRT, Elekta, HEALTHeCAREERS, Siemens, and Varian Medical Systems. The application process for 2017 will open November 1st. Check into the ASRT Foundation’s scholarship opportunities www.asrtfoundation.org/scholarships in hopes of lessening the financial burden on your selected professional-level program.
Todd Branton | Class of 2009

Todd Branton graduated from Northwestern State University in 2009 with his BSRT. While in his advanced modality clinical rotation at LSUHSC-Shreveport Cardiac Catheterization Lab, he found an interest in cardiology and the many technological options used to treat these patients. He realized this career path would offer many opportunities for further advancement, both professional and educational.

Upon graduation, he accepted a position in the Cardiac Cath Lab at Willis-Knighton Pierremont. At WKP, he provided imaging for all cardiac and peripheral procedures. He also assisted cardiologists in an operator position, providing support as needed through the procedures. He developed a strong base of knowledge of complex procedures consisting of coronary intervention, peripheral intervention, and device implants at all three of the WK campuses. After two years in the WK system, he accepted a position with LSU Health/University Health, in the cardiac cath lab. During his five years with LSU Health/UH, he enhanced his cardiac knowledge and technical skills. As he became more knowledgeable, he began performing educational in-services for new employees, current staff, and physicians. He was chosen to attend multiple medical device company sponsored educational opportunities in: Cleveland, Houston, Jackson, and across Louisiana.

Todd recently left UH and began working for Boston Scientific, as a Field Clinical Representative, in the Cardiac Rhythm Management division. This field is highly competitive, and he is certain that his BSRT degree from NSU gave him an advantage in the hiring process. He is currently training to assist physicians and other medical personnel with pacemaker and defibrillator implantations as well as post implantation following. He plans to use the knowledge he has gained through his education at NSU, and his last 7 years as an RT(R) to excel in this new career. He is excited to be working with such a great company that makes it their mission to advance technology to improve the lives of patients.

When Todd isn’t working, he loves to spend time with his amazing wife Rachel, their beautiful daughter Ryan, and gorgeous Boykin Spaniel, Lucy.

Nichole Johnson | Class of 2013

In May 2013, Nichole graduated from NSU with a BS degree in Radiologic Technology and started working at Sabine County Hospital in July. She worked weekends and call from July 2013 to September 2015. As the only technologist in the department, she was in charge of performing x-rays and CT exams on in-patient and ER patients. In October 2015, Nichole was honored to be appointed as the Director of Radiology. As the Director, she is in charge of overseeing the Imaging Department to ensure the work flow in the department goes smoothly and production goals are met. She is also responsible for making schedules and ensuring all equipment is functioning to meet radiation safety standards for the protection of my patients and employees and is also the QAPI coordinator and Radiation Safety Officer. “The experience and guidance I received through NSU classes and clinical sites prepared me for the evolving field of Radiology and the different patients we care for day to day. We were introduced to situations where we had to think on our toes and apply critical thinking skills in order to get the best images. Not all patients will be ambulatory and position perfectly and you have to adapt. The in depth and hands on experience that NSU provides, prepared me for the position I hold today. I work with a great team at Sabine County Hospital.”

Logan Maxey | Class of 2013

Logan earned his BS degree in radiologic technology in May 2013. He started working at Sabine County Hospital in Hemphill, TX the Monday following graduation and was excited to find a great job so close to home. His day includes performing x-ray exams and CT exams on emergency room patients, inpatients and outpatients. Since beginning his career here in 2013, Logan has become the head CT technologist. "I work with exam protocols and keeping track of patient doses involving CT. NSU prepared me for all aspects of my career. I learned everything I needed to know in the classroom and clinical setting. We learned how to adapt to different situations of patient care. The faculty at NSU want you to succeed and be the best Radiologic Technologist you can be. I’m glad I chose NSU to pursue this field.”
NSU RadSci Students Play Victims in Community Mass Casualty Incident Disaster Drill

Junior and senior radiologic science students gathered on campus at 5:30 Wednesday morning, October 12, 2016 to have moulage (trauma makeup) applied to their bodies as they prepared to play victims of a mass casualty incident during a community wide disaster drill at the Shreveport airport.
The students along with Dr. Tammy Curtis, Joel Hicks, Becky Farmer, and Librarian Paula Craig boarded two SporTran buses and were escorted to secure areas at the airport grounds.
Previously, during Hurricanes “Katrina” and “Rita” the Shreveport Regional Airport received numerous evacuee related flights including hospital and nursing home evacuees. As a result, the Federal Coordinating Center (FCC) for the National Disaster Medical System added the Shreveport area to the list of locations who can receive medical evacuees from future hurricanes, earthquakes or other catastrophic events in the United States.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires commercial air service airports to conduct a full scale exercise once every three years in order to maintain compliance with safety regulations. The exercise was evaluated by FAA officials, Barksdale Airforce Base training personnel as well as numerous emergency response providers for response times, coordination of the response, and other objectives.

As part of the drill, the students were staged at two different disaster sites at the airport. One site was a coordinated event in which students played evacuees from New Orleans who were injured during a hurricane. The students were loaded and unloaded onto a C-130 aircraft to test the first responder’s skills.
The second disaster site scenario involved an American Eagle ERJ-145 which landed but then overshot the runway, causing the airplane’s nose and mid-section to slide off the runway end, injuring the crew and an unknown number of the 50 passengers onboard. The fuselage ruptured, fuel leaked from the plane, and the tower was unable to reach the crew by radio. These students were staged in a large area on the tarmac.

The students were then assessed, tagged and transported to color coded tarps depending on their injuries for further evaluation.

Students were placed on either black (dead), red (serious), yellow (moderate), or green (walking) tarps and received further triage.
After the drill, the students were asked, “As a result of playing the role of victim during a simulated mass casualty disaster drill, what new knowledge did you gain related to patient care and caring for trauma victims of mass casualty incidents in the near future?” Below are a few of the student’s replies:

- **TIMING can save a life.** One thing that I would change or point out and I hope someone actually reads this is.... For the walking and talking victims that were sent to the side in the very beginning.... some of those were non trauma and some were trauma victims. One of them was a girl who’s tag read that she had broken ribs, flail chest and respiratory rate of 60. It took at least 20 min or more before someone came to triage us. In a real life situation, she would have died before someone actually assessed her. She would have gone into respiratory failure. In her situation TIMING would have saved her life.

- **How to stay calm in a high stressful situation.**

- **Time is essential, and accurately and efficiently triaging patients in a timely manner can save lives.**

- **Pay attention to the details.** The majority of issues given were internal, not external. Looking at the vitals was extremely significant for determining what was wrong with everyone.

- **How important it is to work collaboratively as a team with all involved.**

- **Using empathy and professionalism even during a disaster**

- **Teamwork is especially crucial during times of disaster.** Proper triage of patients is important.

- **I learned that no one can truly be prepared for anything but we can prepare the best we know how to do with the knowledge base that we have.** I learned that even though this is just a drill today, that there are people who have lived through situations such as a mass casualty.

- **Caring for a mass casualty can be overwhelming because the amount of people, but I learned that they categorized the injuries. Red was the worst, the most urgent. Then yellow was the semi-emergency, and green were your people that were okay, but had minor injuries. Black stood for the people that died.**

- **I learned that the first responders have to use great judgement to determine if someone is able to be saved. And how much that could weigh on someone to have to make that decision.**

- **There are multiple organizations involved and it requires a large amount of patience and decision making.**
LSRT Meeting

The 59th Annual Meeting of the LSRT was held in Baton Rouge in July. The Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists is the state society for Radiologic Technologists and students. The Radiologic Science clinical students and faculty attended and participated in the event. NSU was well represented. The senior level students competed in the Quiz Bowl competition, T-shirt competition, Essay competition and the Exhibit competition. Kristen Dall won first place in the Essay Competition. Kelsey Coutee won second place in the Exhibit Competition.

Four faculty members, Dr. Laura Aaron, Becky Farmer, Joel Hicks, and Kelli Welch Haynes, presented at the conference. Dr. Aaron spoke on career paths for Radiologic Technologists on the student program. Becky Farmer discussed Student Retention Strategies to Radiologic Science Educators. Mr. Hicks presented on the topic of professionalism and Mrs. Haynes spoke on Forensic Radiology. Also, NSU Radiologic Science alumni, Todd Jackson, participated in the student open forum. In the forum, technologists from many modalities are present to answer questions. Todd answered questions regarding radiology management.

MSRS student, Nicole St. Germaine presented at the conference and she was elected to the board of LSRT as the 2nd vice president.

Bill Callaway, author of several radiologic science textbooks, was present at the conference. Mr. Callaway also presented at the conference. Two clinical students from the Alexandria campus, Lakerielle Kittlin and Jessica King, won signed copies of his registry review book.

Joel Hicks, Clinical Coordinator of the Radiologic Sciences program was elected as President of the LSRT. And Dr. Tammy Curtis will serve as the Chairman of the Board. Jennifer Michael will serve as the chair of LERS (Louisiana Educators in Radiologic Sciences).
The students were very excited to see Mr. Hicks named President of the LSRT.

The Quiz Bowl team; Front row, right to left; Haley Neal, Haneen Ziedan, and Christine Mettenbrink. Back row, right to left: Rebecca Glorioso, Kristen Warke, and Ariel Kendrick.

Students at the Presidential banquet.
The students and faculty always enjoy attending the LSRT Annual Meeting. In addition to providing continuing education credits for registered technologists, the meeting provides opportunities for networking and getting involved in the radiologic sciences profession.