So far, 2013 has been an excellent year for the Allied Health Department here at NSU. As always, we have been very busy keeping up with the students and our alumni. Each spring we meet with members of our Advisory Council to update them on the program. At our meeting this spring, we had lots of news to share with them. I thought you might like to hear some of it as well.

All of our programs remain strong and several have been growing. One program that has seen significant growth in the last few years is our RT to BSRS program. This program is an online program that is designed for technologists who completed an associate or certificate radiography program to obtain their bachelor’s degree. We have almost 50 students in that program now. These students are all over the nation.

Our Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health (BASAH) program is taking off as well. This fall there were 22 students enrolled in that program. Those students came from many different areas of allied health including medical technology, paramedics, pharmacy technicians, respiratory therapists, nuclear medicine, occupational therapy assisting, and surgery technicians.

The BSRS program had another year with 100% of the graduates passing the registry on their first attempt. We now have 96.8% average pass rate for the last 5 years. We are hoping to improve that this year! We have 31 students who are expected graduate in May and then take the registry.

The MSRS program had 8 students graduate this fall. We are very excited that this program is continuing to stay strong. Some of the graduates of the MSRS program are getting some great opportunities to put what they learned in the program to use. They are working in education and administration positions.

In the fall newsletter, I told you about our fundraising efforts for a radiologic sciences scholarship. I am pleased to say that we have had 2 successful fundraising events. We are planning a third event in the fall of this year. You will be hearing more about that as the plans develop.

I want to thank all of you who have supported this new scholarship with your donations and participation in our first two events. If you have not had the opportunity to donate to the radiologic sciences scholarship fund, I would like to encourage you to do so. We are hoping to be able to award our first scholarship in the fall.

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: carwil@nsula.edu. Thanks so much for your continued support and interest in the Allied Health Department at NSU. I hope that you enjoy the newsletter.

Laura Aaron
Welcome to the Spring 2013 edition of the Image Makers Newsletter for the Allied Health Department. The semester is off to a busy start. We accepted our new group of clinical students and they are getting settled into the routine of attending classes and labs four days a week. Our senior students are counting down the days until graduation in May. The Radiologic Sciences faculty will be hosting the Recognition Ceremony on May 8, 2013.

Did you attend the 40th Anniversary Alumni Reunion? We had a great turnout. We had attendees from our traditional BSRS program, the online RT to BSRS program and the Master of Science program. It was so nice to reconnect with graduates, and even my own classmates. The event was definitely a success, thank you to everyone that came out for a fun night of socializing and to support the Radiologic Sciences program.

The next exciting event we are working on is a Sporting Clay Shooting Tournament. This is a fundraising event for the newly established Radiologic Sciences Scholarship. The Allied Health Department has established a scholarship for undergraduate, clinical radiologic sciences students. So, we are just starting our fundraising efforts to fund the scholarship. The tournament will be held November 9, 2013 at Los Paloma’s in Benton, to coincide with National Radiologic Technologists Week. Invitations will be mailed later this year. Details will be published at a later date. We would love for each of you to join us.

Are you having trouble finding us on Facebook? I have heard this from a few people. Here is the direct link: https://www.facebook.com/?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/NSULA-Radiologic-Sciences/281278478568549 Following us on Facebook is a great method to keep up with what is going on in the department. We post job openings, application due dates, some fun facts and other important information. We are also posting information and updates on alumni. So, if there is a job opening in your department, or you have an update, please feel free to post this information on our page.

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.
Landa Johnson is from the rural community of Pitkin, Louisiana where only thirty percent of high school graduates complete college. She is the senior class president on the Alexandria campus and the Vice chairman of Student Affairs Committee for the LSRT. Upon her graduation, she will be the first in her family to receive a college degree. Landa chose the radiologic science profession as a major because of the wide variety of potential areas of specialization. She is currently focusing her last semester in Cardiac Catheterization.

Landa has been a great asset to the program. She has taken on a great amount of responsibility. She has gone above and beyond for her classmates and the program, accepting any task thrown her way.

The Dora Douglas Briggs Scholarship for Cenla Nursing and Radiologic Science Students was established several years ago by Dr. Harry Briggs. Each year, around his birthday in May, Dr. Briggs swims two miles in Kincaid Lake to raise money for the scholarship established in honor of his aunt, Dr. Dora Douglas Briggs. Dr. Briggs, also known as “The Paddlin’ Professor” will swim once again this year to celebrate his 92nd birthday. The celebration will be held at Tunk’s Cypress Inn on Kincaid Lake.

Alumni Spotlight– Tina Heiss, Class of 1993

Since graduation in 1993, Tina has worked in several areas of radiology, from CT/MRI to mammography. In 2008, she finally returned full-time to the area in which she was most interested while in college, ultrasound. She currently works in ultrasound at Christus Schumpert, where she has been since 2011. “My work experience has taken me from small rural hospitals to large, multi-campus facilities all over Louisiana. I’ve even spent time teaching in the public school system. I’m thankful for the education I received from Northwestern and the opportunities that my clinical experience gave me.” When her husband was transferred to Baton Rouge in 2009, she was fortunate to have experience in multiple modalities because the job search was much easier, knowing that she wasn’t limited to one area of imaging. Now that she’s back in the Shreveport/Bossier area, Tina is enjoying the return to the hospital where she spent so much of my education.

Tina Heiss, BS, RT(R)(CT)(M), RDMS, RVT

Landa Johnson recipient of Dora Douglas Briggs Scholarship

Landa Johnson is from the rural community of Pitkin, Louisiana where only thirty percent of high school graduates complete college. She is the senior class president on the Alexandria campus and the Vice chairman of Student Affairs Committee for the LSRT. Upon her graduation, she will be the first in her family to receive a college degree. Landa chose the radiologic science profession as a major because of the wide variety of potential areas of specialization. She is currently focusing her last semester in Cardiac Catheterization.

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Alumni Spotlight–
Justin McKnight– Class of 2009

Justin is currently employed by CHRISTUS Coushatta Health Care Facility located in Coushatta, Louisiana. His titles include Manager of Accounting and Assistant Administrator of the Rural Health Clinics.

After graduation, he began working as a PRN technologist at CHRISTUS Coushatta Health Care. This continued for approximately 6 months before the Financial Data Coordinator position became available. He applied for this position and was soon hired. In less than one year, he took on the responsibilities of HIPAA Officer, Compliance Officer, and Dental Clinic Coordinator. A year and half later, he received an opportunity to become the Assistant Administrator of the Rural Health Clinics to manage CHRISTUS Coushatta Rural Health Clinic, CHRISTUS Ringgold Rural Health Clinic and CHRISTUS Dental Clinic, while continuing to manage the finances of CHRISTUS Coushatta Health Care.

Justin has obtained two Bachelor of Science degrees from Northwestern State University in Business Administration with an emphasis in Finance and Radiologic Sciences. The two Bachelor of Science degrees obtained from NSU have given him the opportunity to perform financial and administrative duties in the healthcare setting. One of his most memorable stories from x-ray school was when Justin and former classmate, Todd H. Branton, won 2nd place for the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists Student Scientific Exhibit at the LSRT convention which illustrated a new and innovative treatment method for liver cancer using radioactive beads.

Justin’s parents, Cecil Frank Easley Jr. and Belinda Kay Easley, are also NSU alumni. His father received a Master of Science in Mathematics and his mother received a Master of Science in Education. His father has been an educator for 52 years, 12 of which he was a principal, and he is still teaching today. His mother has been an educator for 41 years, 13 of which as Red River Parish Superintendent, which is her current position.

In April this year, Justin will be celebrating his one-year wedding anniversary with his college sweetheart, Angela Nichole McKnight. She also has a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences from NSU and is currently in the Radiologic Sciences Master’s program at NSU and aspires to be an educator as well.

Justin’s personal philosophy to success includes getting a good education, finding something that you enjoy and putting your heart into it. “If you do not enjoy your work it is difficult to be motivated. If you are not committed, then chances are you will be unsuccessful. Someone once told me to be who you are. Life is too precious and short to waste time striving to be something you are not”.
For all you alumni out there, remember back to your very first positioning lab, when your nerves took over, your heart skipped a few beats. You were drenched with perspiration, and all you could think about was when it was over was, I survived. Although the feedback was given and points were awarded, you really couldn’t remember anything about your performance. You had practiced so much that your actions tended to be more “robotic” than how you now interact with your patients. Just think how much more you could have learned from that process, if only you would have been able to relive that experience, once the mind reconnected with the body and the nerves calmed the shaking hands.

Well now, with the use of iPads, that opportunity is now a reality and part of the Radiologic Sciences program. The faculty purchased four iPads and have been using them to video students during labs in both positioning and patient care. These videos are then downloaded and saved for review by the students at a later time. The videos are viewed in private with the instructor as part of a remediation and also as a group which has allowed students to learn from each other’s performance. Although a little reserved about having other students watch their videos, once everyone agreed, and all the videos were viewed, the class seemed to bond a little tighter. Critique was limited to the actual student being viewed (which even they couldn’t help but laugh at themselves). Realizing the fact that everyone had “moments” of greatness (and some not so great) helped to calm that doubt (deep in the mind and gut) that many struggle with at the beginning of the program (remember that feeling? I do!!). The repetition offered by this technology is invaluable to learning quality patient care communication skills. Listening to themselves, students can appreciate what their words actually sound like to their patients. Their body language can also be critiqued and corrected, ensuring the patient remains their primary focus throughout the process of learning to be a fantastic technologist.

This is the first semester we have used them, and already, we see the value they bring to the students learning experience. The future use of iPads will continue to bring so much to the program, as the faculty continue to learn more about its capabilities and we wade through the sea of endless apps that are available looking for those that will enhance our program. If by chance you find some app that you think may be useful to the program, please share. Technology is only as great as the person using it!!
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 & 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.

****************************************************
Leaf (250 available) - $100.
Foundation Stone (14 available) - $1,000.
Honor Bench - $2,500.
I wish to reserve the following item(s):
Leaf  |  Foundation Stone  |  Honor Bench ______

Name: 
Address: 
City, State, Zip Code: 
Contribution Amount Enclosed: 

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
As a former instructor in the NSU Radiologic Science program, Carole White is one of the many reasons that our program has been able to enjoy forty years of excellent students and graduates. Mrs. White taught at NSU in the Radiologic Science program from 1981-1992. While at NSU, Mrs. White taught many subjects, including radiographic positioning, technique, and darkroom chemistry. In addition, Mrs. White was the clinical instructor for students as they completed their clinical training at the former Schumpert Medical Center (now Christus Schumpert). When asked what she remembers most from her time as instructor, Mrs. White replied “the students—always the students.”

Since leaving NSU, Mrs. White has remained active in the field of radiology, working in a variety of medical offices. Until her most recent “retirement,” Mrs. White worked for ten years at Willis-Knighton Quick Care. After leaving that position, she has continued to practice as a radiologic technologist for Christus Schumpert First Care, working at least twenty hours a week. Confirming the suspicion that “once a teacher, always a teacher,” Mrs. White continues to work with radiography students as they rotate through that clinic.

In her spare time, Mrs. White continues to build and repair computers, a hobby that she began in 1982. In addition, she enjoys photography and visiting with members of Solo Flight, a social group for widowed individuals in her church. Most of all, though, she enjoys fishing on Caddo Lake.
From Coushatta to Chicago! NSU proudly highlights one of the most accomplished graduates from the radiologic science program. Jay Hicks class alumni circa 1998! Although it has been 15 years since he was awarded his BSRS from NSU…Jay has certainly come—and—gone a long way. It is approximately 900 miles from the humble backwoods of Coushatta in rural Desoto parish to the bustling ‘windy city’—where he is the associate director for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

The JRCERT is the programmatic accrediting body for educational programs in the imaging sciences such as: radiography, dosimetry, and radiation therapy.

His work duties as the associate director for the JRCERT, include but are not limited to: Overseeing the scheduling of site visits, assignment of site visitors to teams, development of site visitor workshops and training webinars, and evaluations of the site visit process, responsible for all procedures and processes relating to educational programs and accreditation documents in the accreditation system, develops program accreditation recommendations for committee consideration, responsible for presenting various workshops/seminars and assumes office management responsibilities in the absence of the Chief Executive Officer.

His current position with the JRCERT has been possible due in large part to the large volume of other areas of professional accomplishments he has demonstrated since graduation from NSU engaging in areas such as: service to and contributing to professional organizations, presenting on the state, regional, and national levels, and numerous efforts in various service activities related to the radiologic sciences. One his most notable contributions to the imaging sciences is to be involved with the ongoing national initiative “Care Bill” legislation—and in recent years—and participated in RT in DC, as the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists representative in Washington, D.C. He also holds masters degree in radiologic science education from Midwestern State University and currently is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership from Creighton University. Way to go Jay!
CENLA students continue relationship with local organization

On Monday March 25th, the Alexandria Radiologic Science students joined together to provide some Easter cheer for the children of the Turning Point Battered Women’s Program. Inspired by their service project in the fall semester, the students wanted to carry the tradition into the spring by helping out the Turning Point Program of Central Louisiana.

Due to budget cuts and the loss of their funding, Turning Point has transitioned from a battered women’s shelter to a program. The women and children who are in the battered women’s program are placed in an emergency place of respite and then are placed in their own homes, while receiving therapy and job/housing placement assistance. The therapy available to them includes: general counseling, independent living skills training, anger management, family counseling, and accessibility to mobile crisis teams, should any member of the family experience suicidal and/or homicidal