Greetings from the NSU School of Allied Health!

2014 is off to a good start for the NSU School of Allied Health. In this edition of the newsletter, you will see several stories about the accomplishments of our faculty and students. I am especially proud of some of the exciting things that our students and former students have been participating in lately. Our students have taken on leadership roles in organizations, presented at conferences, participated in contests, provided service to the community, and many other activities. I really believe that the extra mile they are going now is a good indicator of the types of professionals they will be when they graduate.

Our faculty have been working hard with our students to help the students with many of the projects that they have been participating in. Always, they are serving as excellent role models and mentors for our students. It has been rewarding to the faculty to have students who are enthusiastic about the profession that they will be entering.

In the last issue of the newsletter, we told you about one of our students, Holly Lane who created a coloring book for pediatric patients about radiology. I am thrilled to tell you this project has really taken off! Since the last issue, we have had more coloring books printed and we are using the proceeds from the coloring books to help fund a scholarship for radiologic sciences students. If any of you are interested in the coloring books, please let us know and we will be glad to work with you. I hope that you will consider supporting this worthy cause.

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
With February being recognized as National Heart Health Awareness month by the American Heart Association, let’s reflect on how the NSU Radiologic Sciences program has influenced the quality of cardiac care that is being delivered in the CenLa area. In 2006, the seed for Cardiac Imaging to become a routine clinical rotation for the CenLa campus sprouted from the personal connection and interest of one student. Upon completion of this extended rotation in cardiac imaging, this graduate chose to accept a position with a Shreveport Cardiology group. After a few years away, this graduate returned to RRCM and was immediately given a position in the cardiac department. Since this time, he has gone even further in his training to become the PACS Specialist for the Cardiac Department.

With our first experience with the Cardiac department being such a great success, future students were given the opportunity to experience this type of advanced imaging as a routine clinical rotation. From this beginning, our program has had many students elect to spend their final semester in Cardiac Imaging and upon graduating, all have been offered the opportunity for employment. Since its inception as an approved clinical rotation, our program has had seven students chose cardiac imaging as their specialty. Of these seven students, five are currently employed in the Cardiac Catheterization Department at Rapides Regional Medical Center. The other students elected to accept cardiac imaging positions in other medical facilities that were more suitable to their current geographical locations. With employment offers to all that have completed specialty training, along with two others that did not specialize, but are currently working in this department, this is a huge accolade to the quality product (graduates) our program produces. Several of these graduates have been given advanced training by local interventional cardiologists and are now performing much more complex procedures. We are so proud to know that our program along with the cardiac department supervisor Mrs. Debra Allen at RRMC have assimilated such a great group of cardiac imaging specialists. We are proud to know that these alumni who work in a very high volume department still find time to give back to the program by offering support and teaching current students in our program. With student number nine currently in this specialty, our influence and presence in providing the cardiac imaging needs of the CenLa area will continue to flourish. We would like to acknowledge by name this team of cardiac imaging specialists who we as a program are incredibly proud to call our alumni: Justin Tibbett (2006), Jacie Harris (2008), Kady Cart (2009 & 2012), Daniel Azua (2010), Alicia Cranston (2010), Lyssa Littleton (2012), Landa Johnson (2013), Brandon Hughes (2013) and Clinton Whitehead (2014-Growing Senior).
Lambda Nu is the national honor society for the radiologic sciences. Lambda Nu uses the upper case Greek characters L (Lambda) and N (Nu) to represent the inverse relationship and delicate balance required between the art and the science inherent in the radiologic sciences professions. The objectives of this society are to:

- foster academic scholarship at the highest academic levels
- promote research and investigation in the radiologic sciences and
- recognize exemplary scholarship

The criteria to be inducted into Lambda Nu are a 3.6 minimum grade point average in the radiologic sciences curriculum and only 3 students per year are invited to join Lambda Nu. This year those students are Mishael Tolan, Jason McGuire and Lindsey Morse will graduate in May of this year.

After graduation, Mishael plans to move to Washington State, get settled and start working as a radiographer. Jason also plans to further his education. He plans to attend school at MD Anderson to become a physicist. Lindsey plans to further her education in ultrasound.

NSU Goes to Las Vegas!

Dr. Laura Aaron, Kelli Haynes (1995), and Courtney Cooper (2005 & 2011), were selected to present their research at the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on February 5-7. The topic, “You Posted WHAT Online?!?! RT’s Attitudes Regarding eProfessionalism” was presented as the opening lecture and was well received by the audience. The research explores the extent to which technologists use social media and their perceptions of the acceptance of its use in the workplace as well as what is appropriate content to share about oneself. The research was an expansion of Courtney’s research project from the MSRS program.

Another NSU alumni and faculty member who presented was Dr. Tammy Curtis (1999). Her topic “Imaging Procedures Prep for the ARRT Radiography Exam” was held on the student program and was very well attended and enjoyed by the students at the conference.

Also in attendance at the ACERT conference were Becky Farmer (1993) and Joel Hicks (2006).
I would like to introduce one of our graduates, Elizabeth Nelson. She has proven to be an extraordinary person in whatever she puts her mind to. For example, before she graduated NSU’s program in 2009, she was elected to be a student intern for the ASRT Leadership Academy and the ASRT House of Delegates Meeting that was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This was her first time to fly, but that did not stop her. She was excited to network with technologists from across the country and to learn about how things were different in various areas as compared to Louisiana. It was encouraging to Elizabeth as a student to see such a large group of technologists who were so passionate about their profession. Elizabeth found their interest in the profession and the work they did to positively impact her personal motivation. This ended up being one of Elizabeth’s most memorable and interesting stories for the radiologic sciences program.

After graduating with her BSRS in 2009, Elizabeth Nelson enrolled in online MRI courses at the University of Missouri to become more familiar with the physical principles of MRI and to aid in preparation for the MR registry, which she successfully passed. Elizabeth feels that obtaining her BS degree at NSU provided her with a well-rounded didactic and clinical education. It gave her the opportunity to explore a variety of modalities. The experience and skills that she gained by spending her final semesters in MRI before she graduated helped her to begin her career in MRI. Currently, Elizabeth is employed as a staff MRI Technologist at University Health in Shreveport, LA. Over time, Elizabeth’s experience has expanded through various opportunities to be involved in MRI departmental projects, such as ACR accreditation, updates to MRI questionnaires, updates to department policies and procedures, MR protocol revisions, and maintaining protocol updates on each magnet.

Elizabeth decided to pursue her Master’s degree at NSU and graduated a second time in 2012. During her studies in the Master’s program, Elizabeth spent some time at the University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center where she had the opportunity to explore the education of students in a variety of modalities, including: radiography, MRI, and CT. She now implements many of the educational tactics she observed while working with current students as they rotate through her MRI department. Elizabeth clearly demonstrates leadership skills among coworkers and future radiology students. So what does the future hold for her? We will have to wait and see. Elizabeth is interested in teaching MRI education and would welcome the opportunity for management.

Elizabeth would like to leave you with her personal philosophy concerning your career in radiology, “As Carlton and Adler (2006), the authors of one of our physics textbooks stated, imaging is an art and a science. Many times, the art of imaging is thinking outside of the box and communicating with patients to acquire quality images. As technologists, we strive daily to acquire quality images. Each acquired image represents a person—A person who may be nervous regarding imaging. Taking time to recognize the person positively impacts the patient’s experience in the imaging department and also contributes to the quality of images.”
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 and this form to:
NSU Foundation, Radiologic Sciences
Attn: Laura Aaron
1800 Line Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71101
Call 318-677-3020 for additional information
Alexandria Radiologic Science students joined many other local non-profits on Saturday February 15th at the 20th Annual “Cause We Care Fair” held at the Alexandria Mall. The Fair is an interactive activity event in which local non-profit organizations provide information and entertainment for children of all ages. This year, the Radiologic Sciences students decided to join in the fun passing out colors and coloring pages featuring Oliver, a character created by current student Holly Lane. “Children visiting the booth were told the story of ‘Oliver Gets an X-Ray’ in which Oliver hurts his paw while playing and has to have an x-ray. He is scared and his friend tells him there is no reason to be afraid. He learns that x-rays don’t hurt. It is important that we educate children about imaging procedures so that they are less scared when they come in for their procedure” Cook said. The students enjoyed working with the children at the event.

On March 8, 2014, the Alexandria students joined together at Big Island Field to raise money and bring awareness to the risks associated with heart disease and stroke. The team collected donations and designed and sold t-shirts to raise $450 for the Central Louisiana American Heart Association. Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of all Americans. This disease affects not only the patient, but also the family and friends as well. Raising both awareness and money for this very worthy cause is extremely important as we all may be affected by this at some point in the future. The students had a great time participating at this event.
Research is one of the integral parts of any four-year program, and that is certainly the case in the Radiologic Sciences program at NSULA. Each year, faculty members work very closely with every student in the preparation of research projects. This year, the Radiologic Sciences program was very fortunate to have five students present their research findings during the 27th Annual Northwestern State University Research Day, which was held in Natchitoches on March 13, 2014.

Jasmine Alfred presented a research poster describing elastography, a potential replacement of breast biopsies. The poster described how the procedure is performed and important considerations for the radiologic technologist.

Candice Brigalia presented a research poster describing hemihypertrophy, which is a medical condition affecting children’s growth. The poster described the condition as well as the importance of identifying the condition for both radiologic technologists and radiologists.

Kelsi Copeland gave an oral presentation of her findings from a service learning project involving after-school tutoring and how that service learning project has translated into improved clinical performance.

Heather Houston gave an oral presentation of her findings from a service learning project involving equine therapy as an adjunct therapy for special-needs children and how that experience has helped her better communicate with children with special needs in the clinical setting.
Holly Lane presented a research poster on her findings from a service learning project in which she created a children’s coloring book describing the x-ray process. The poster described how the coloring book has been used to ease the fears of children who were undergoing a radiology procedure. The poster also described future uses for the coloring book.

Kendall Delacerda & Holly Lane

This spring the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologist’s Midwinter 2014 conference was held on the campus of University of Louisiana at Monroe, where all the educational activities were delivered in the Student Union Center. There were great representations and great presentations of NSU faculty and students. Technologists and students throughout Louisiana attended the two day educational conference beginning the representations: Karrah Collis placed 3rd in the junior division student bee. Senior student Brittany Outlaw chaired the Student Advisory Council, where, students Holly Lane, Laken Baggs, and Stephanie Averitt, presented at the advisory council session. They presented the developments of the coloring book “Oliver Gets an X-ray” developed by Lane. Alexandria faculty member Kari Cook chaired the Louisiana Educators in Radiologic Sciences council and secured all the speakers for the student program. She also coordinated the student evening social “Winter in the Wetlands: Duck Dynasty”.

Dr. Tammy Curtis spoke on “Radiographic Procedures” and Kelli Haynes spoke on “Radiation Protection” on the student program. Dr. Laura Aaron spoke on “Understanding the Standards Revision for an Accredited Education Program”, and Becky Farmer presented “Stressed or blessed?” identifying dangers of occupational burnout. Joel Hicks rounded out the first day’s session with “Vascular Interventions: A Look Inside the Radiographer’s Toolbox”.

NSU at LSRT
We are on Facebook! NSULA-Radiologic Sciences is the name of our page. Please go and “like” us for current, up to date, program information as well as job postings and other news worthy information.