Greetings Radiologic Sciences Alumni and Friends!

So far, 2016 has proven to be quite a busy year! We were thrilled to welcome a new group of clinical students to the Radiologic Sciences program. Now, we are preparing for senior clinical group to graduate. The NSU School of Allied Health will have students from all of our programs graduating in the spring semester—Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences (BSRS), RT to BSRS, Bachelor of Applied Science in Allied Health (BASAH), and the Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences (MSRS). We are always so excited to see our students complete their programs and continue on their path to meet their professional goals.

This semester we submitted our self-study for reaccreditation of the BSRS program. That task has taken the effort of all our faculty. In the fall of this year, we will welcome the site-visit team to conclude the process. We are looking forward to the evaluation and completing the process. We are proud of our program and look forward to hearing the feedback from others in the profession regarding our students, faculty, and program. Many of you work with our students and may see some of the site-visitors while they are on campus.

We are working developing some potential new opportunities for technologists to continue their education in the future. As you may know, the ARRT is requiring more educational preparation for some of their post-primary certifications. We are exploring which of these we may be able to offer—such as MRI, invasive cardiovascular, and others. These offerings will be designed as post-baccalaureate certificate programs that will be offered entirely online. Look for more information in the future.

This fall the MSRS program will be entirely online! This will benefit students who are working full-time or live at a distance from the campus. Our faculty are experts in online education and have the skills and support to be able to offer this program online. We are confident that the quality of our courses will be second to none.

Thank you for your continued support of NSU and the School of Allied Health. I hope you all have a wonderful spring and summer!

Fork ’em Demons!

Laura Aaron
A co-worker and I have been reading the book titled “Personal and Professional Growth for Health Care Professionals” by David Tipton. We did not realize how entwined our personal and professional worlds were until we read the book. What an eye opener!

I feel we all think by achieving an education and working in healthcare imaging, we should be able to call ourselves professionals. However, the truth and reality is that far too many of us equate our technical abilities and positioning skills to that of being a professional. If gauged by these two aspects of our daily work, by definition we have an OCCUPATION which does not equate as a PROFESSIONAL. The following is a brief clarification of occupation and professional. An occupation requires technical skills. In the imaging profession, our own personal experience and growth are brought into the delivery of patient care as we create the images. Without this personal touch, the many daily exams begin to become more like that of an occupation. Lacking personal touch is something that we all have been guilty of at some point in our careers. The lack of a personal touch can become a big problem as we are all instructing students to “Do as I Do”. Students look to us as mentors, emulate how and what we do, and are sponges that absorb knowledge and experience. As professionals, we are to set aside any ensuing issues and not permit what is going on in our personal world to reflect on the treatment of our patients.

Keep in mind that patients are trusting us with their healthcare and want the best images possible. We teach our students to respect and develop a relationship with each patient. Furthermore, to give patients a “warm and fuzzy feeling”. The results will be a patient who will do their very best to accommodate you to achieve perfect images. Many times, we forget these are PATIENTS; not customers for a specific service. Being sensitive to each patient should be a “habit” that we have achieved to a fine art and ready to share the “how to’s” with students.

Personal growth is a continuum and opportunity to become a better person. Bringing your personal growth into the profession is one of the best tools that you can share and teach a new student. Do not permit the business of a department nor the daily personal challenges that we all have (trust me) to overshadow who we are as a profession. We are a group of highly educated, very skillful, talented people who unite in healthcare, and exhibit compassion and respect for each other. This is what makes us a PROFESSIONAL and what our students need to see! I know how hard it was to gain professional skills; however, acquiring personal and professional growth is more difficult. It starts with self-reflection by taking a hard look in the mirror to recognize our deficiencies.

It is very disheartening to hear stories regarding how some technologists speak to their patients and our students. We are all human with feelings. Therefore, I plead with each individual to reflect on two things:

One. How do we treat patients?

Two. What are we exhibiting to our students?

Let us remember we are educating the future of our profession. I challenge all of my fellow IMAGING PROFESSIONALS to reflect and act to improve in our personal and professional worlds.
NSU graduates promote within the Willis Knighton Health System

The Willis Knighton Radiology Department has recently gone through major changes, and many of the promotions that have taken place pertain to Northwestern State University Radiologic Sciences Alumni.

For Shelley Wells, her career with Willis Knighton has come full circle. In 2002, Shelley began working at Willis Knighton as a secretary – the same year she started the Radiologic Technology program at NSU. She graduated two years later and was repositioned from secretary to Radiologic Technologist (RT). After working as an RT for one year, in 2005, Shelley was promoted to PACS Administrator for the entire radiology department.

Shelley was the first at Willis Knighton to hold the position of PACS Administrator, as it was a newly created position. In the six years she held the position, she created the framework for the PACS department and set the structure for what it is today. Today, there are a total of eight people that work within the PACS department.

In 2011, Shelley was promoted to Assistant Director of the radiology department at Willis Knighton. She held this position from 2011 to 2015 and while accomplishing a multitude of other duties, took the time to reformat the new employee procedures within the department, create a more effective means for maintaining a high level of quality control of the technologists, and developed new continuing education opportunities for technologists working at Willis Knighton.

In January of 2016, Shelley was promoted to Director of Radiology. She is settling in well and working on some big projects. Two projects she is most excited about are the development of a Lung Cancer Screening Program and the construction of a new Breast Health Center.

Shelley was not the only NSU Radiologic Sciences graduate to see promotion within the Willis Knighton System recently. Taiten Salter, an NSU graduate in 1995, has been promoted to Assistant Director and Garon Gaspard, who graduated in 2011 as part of the first class of NSU’s Master of Science in Radiologic Science, has been promoted to Operations Manager. Garon’s promotion left the position of Chief MRI Technologist to be filled, which went to another NSU graduate Scott Brown, who graduated in 2009.

Northwestern State University could not be more proud of our graduates. Seeing our graduates hold such respectable positions is humbling and reiterates our belief in the quality of our program and the students that graduate from it. When asked what advice Shelley would give to our current students she said, “Make the most of your school experience. The clinical experience is difficult, but it all carries over to the profession. Also get involved in the SGA and the LSRT!”
The School of Allied Health represented at national conference

In February of 2016, the Association for Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology (ACERT) held its 41st Annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV. ACERT is dedicated to improving the quality of education among radiologic technology programs. The annual conference includes educational courses for program faculty, clinical instructors, and students. ACERT continues to meet each year in Las Vegas to hold a quality educational conference. ACERT provides professional collegiality that supports its membership as it encounters the new challenges in medical imaging and therapy education.

During the Annual Meeting, two faculty members, Dr. Tammy Curtis and Kelli Welch Haynes, were accepted to present at the conference. Dr. Tammy Curtis spoke on the topic of Radiographic positioning and Kelli Welch Haynes spoke on Radiation Protection. Both presentations were on the student program at the conference.

Additionally, a current student in the Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences program, Carol Rose, also spoke at the meeting. Carol spoke on Factors Important in Developing Clinical Competence in Diagnostic Imaging Students on the clinical instructor’s program.

Master of Science in Radiologic Science Students Continue to Contribute to Profession

It is a well-known fact that students enrolled in the Master of Science in Radiologic Science (MSRS) program at Northwestern State University are part of a small fraternity of technologists. In a 2013 survey conducted by the ASRT, only 5% of technologists have earned a Master's degree (ASRT, Radiologic Technologists Wage & Salary Survey, https://www.asrt.org/docs/default-source/research/r13_wagesalarysurvey.pdf?sfvrsn=2). So to be enrolled in the MSRS program indicates that the student is ready to take the next step towards advancement in his or her career path. And while it is assumed that graduates of the MSRS program will become leaders in the profession through their publications, presentations, and other contributions to the field of radiologic sciences, many students have already reached that goal. One such example is current MSRS student, Carol Rose.

In addition to her role as an MSRS student, Carol Rose also teaches at the University of West Indies in Jamaica. Prior to her teaching career, Carol worked as a radiologic technologist in several hospitals, both in Jamaica and in Barbados. Carol has also worked diligently to advance her career through education. After earning a diploma in diagnostic radiography, Carol went on to earn an Associate degree in Management Studies, a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management, and a Master of Business Administration with a Human Resource concentration. Now, Carol is seeking her MSRS with an Education concentration here at NSU.

In addition to her educational pursuits, Carol has also contributed to the radiologic science body of knowledge through both publications and presentations. Carol has co-authored five abstracts which were published in the West Indian Medical Journal, and has co-authored two research papers published in Radiologic Technology. Carol has also presented on several topics to the Jamaica Society of Radiologic Technologists and most recently presented at the Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology national meeting held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Taking part in a graduate program offers exciting possibilities for the student. Through instruction and preparation, students are enabled to truly advance the field of radiologic sciences in many different ways. Carol Rose exemplifies those possibilities through her many contributions, and will certainly prove to be a model for future students.
A Danelius-Miller Method Solution

Frequently in radiographic settings, technologists are required to perform and achieve diagnostic views of the hip, upper femora, and acetabular areas when patients have limited, or no range of motion of the effected hip region.

You probably run into this often in your work environments. The view commonly performed to visualize the hip, upper femora, and acetabular areas is known as the Danelius-Miller Method (see Fig. 1) or also known as the cross-table lateral view. This projection is necessary when patients exhibit any signs of abnormality in the hip locale (e.g., dislocation, pathologic condition, or suspect fracturing).

When imaging patients’ extremities, technologists often perform all of the AP projections first, and then use a horizontal beam for completing the lateral projections. Although this is customary, employing the Danelius-Miller projection while imaging the patient’s lower limb likely is not the most efficient choice, nor the choice for limiting patient movement.

You or your coworkers may never have considered this but, a reversal scenario of the Danelius-Miller method can help expedite the exam time, reduce patient movement when abnormality is suspected in the hip or upper femora region, and provide an improved patient comfort position with a resultant improvement over the Danelius-Miller method (see Fig. 2).

For the Reverse Danelius-Miller Method.
- Patient Position: The patient remains in the supine position.
- Position of Part: Flex the knee and abduct the unaffected limb this prevents the patient having to grasp the detector/IR and the unaffected limb potentially interfering with the CR entrance as with the traditional Danelius-Miller Method. This position also prevents the patient from being required to suspend in mid-air their unaffected limb. This is a cumbersome patient position and often causes muscle spasm and motion artifact on the resultant image.
- Position of detector/IR: The detector/IR is positioned under the non-effected leg with the knee and lower leg—in flexion—draping over the detector/IR. The detector/IR is placed parallel with the effected femoral neck. Although this will produce a small OID gap, this is identical OID gap as with the Danelius-Miller method.
- Description of Central Ray: The primary beam is positioned and aligned perpendicular to the effected femoral neck, entering the lateral aspect of the hip, and exiting the medial aspect of the patient’s hip.

So give this new position a try on your next patient when you would typically use the Danelius-Miller method. I would like to hear how much this improved your patient care and/or imaging department practices. I can be contacted via email woodb@nsula.edu

Megan Girod graduated from Northwestern State University’s Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences program in 2011. During her senior year, Megan was able to focus on an advanced modality in which she chose the Cardiovascular Catheterization Lab. Megan completed her clinical training at Willis Knighton North and Pierremont in Shreveport, LA. After graduation, she was honored to receive a job in the Cath Lab at Willis Knighton. In June 2012, she decided to move closer to home and was hired in the Cath Lab at Our Lady of the Lake Heart and Vascular Institute in Baton Rouge, LA. Megan is now a preceptor and she shares her Cath Lab passion by mentoring and preparing new employees with orientation and training in radiography, scrubbing, and monitoring various procedures.

Megan was chosen to become a part of the Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) team for a little over a year now. This has totally taken her out of her comfort zone and has taught her so much about herself.

Megan said her educators at NSU instilled in her many lessons and skills including to always look professional, act professional, and communicate like a medical professional.

Thanks to her stellar education, Megan is comfortable communicating with patients, anesthesiologist, cardiologist, and cardiovascular surgeons. NSU BSRS program taught her the skills needed to be able to work well with a team. She enjoys working with a team that includes medical members from all aspects of the field and has made her appreciate even more how important everyone’s role is within the hospital. She says her clinical instructors at NSU challenges their students to learn how to use critical thinking skills in critical or emergent situations. Megan enjoys the thrill of emergent procedures and appreciates the immediate reward once a life is saved in the Cath lab.

Megan has plans to further her training in Electrophysiology and pediatric cases. The Cardiovascular Lab is a place where there is always the opportunity for learning and growing as a medical professional. Therefore, Megan plans to continue broadening her horizons within the cardiology modality.

When Megan isn’t working, she is spending time with friends and family. She will be married this April to Tyler Bonin, of St. Amant, LA.
Brooke Simmons Spector | Class of 2011

Brooke Simmons Spector graduated from Northwestern State University Bachelor of Science Radiology program in May of 2011. Following graduation, she began the MSRS program offered through NSU in August 2011, graduating in December 2013 with a concentration in administration. Following graduation from the BS program, she did not plan on continuing education, but after much thought and consideration she decided to begin the Master’s program. While she prepared to pursue my Master’s degree, she started working at one of the main local hospital’s (Christus Saint Frances Cabrini), PRN status in July of 2011.

When she began the Master’s program, she had no idea what she would use her degree for once she graduated. Her thoughts for obtaining the degree at the time were,

“I was not married, no children and I was already accustomed to working (clinic) and doing school assignments so it would not be a huge change. Also, once I achieved my Master’s degree I would have it, no one could take it from me, and one day it would hopefully pay off. Once I completed my Master’s degree I was approached in the summer of 2015 by Louisiana State University – Alexandria (LSUA)’s Allied Health program to co-teach the first year student’s positioning class and be a clinical instructor once they began clinic in the hospital. Soon after I began at LSUA as adjunct faculty, I was approached by Ms. Haynes to be a clinical instructor starting in the spring of 2016 for Northwestern State University’s Allied Health program. I am currently adjunct faculty for both universities as a clinical instructor alternate days of the week.”

Other than her ventures into education in the radiology field, she maintains PRN status at Cabrini hospital for diagnostic radiology and computed tomography (CT). She has worked full time on the weekends in Computed Tomography at Rapides Regional Medical Center since October of 2014. She became CT certified by the ARRT by March of 2015. She was also recently married in October of 2015. Although her schedule remains quite hectic most of the time, she enjoys all of the work she is doing. Her Master’s degree has more than paid off in a short period of time. Brooke hopes that as an alumni, she will eventually become a full time member of the NSU Radiology faculty.

Ashley Crain | Class of 2012 and Kelly Spears | Class of 2014

Ashley shares: “I must say time has flown by since graduating from Northwestern. It is so hard to believe that it has been almost 4 years!” Ashley is so very thankful for her education that she received from NSU. Ashley feels the program really prepared her to advance in the medical field in opportunities that she never dreamed were possible. Upon graduation, Ashley began working as a Radiologic Technologist at Velocity Care Urgent Treatment Center. Shortly after employment there, she was able to obtain her Laboratory Assistant Licensure. Ashley states that she is so thankful for what she learned about venipuncture and patient care in the program. Ashley is currently working at Louisiana Family Medicine clinic for Dr. Rainwater as the Lab Manager at his Bossier office. “I have to say from my experience in urgent care and primary care, that patient care is one of the most important aspects that you can study. The program has offered me many opportunities!!”

Kelly says that she has been on a journey since graduating from NSU. She was offered a job at Velocity Care as a senior student and began working for them upon graduation. She is thankful to NSU for her patient care skills because those skills were applied most at Velocity Care. Kelly earned her laboratory license while working for Velocity Care and after spending a year with them, she has taken another job where she is the Department Head of the x-ray department of a private family practice clinic. Kelly is still looking forward to furthering her education and expand her knowledge base. She says that NSU had prepared her to strive for the best in her career and that is what she plans to do.
Highlights of LSRT Mid-Winter Seminar 2016

The NSU students attended and participated in the student programs at LSRT mid-winter seminar held in Alexandria, La. February 2016. The junior students attended student focused lectures and social activities with other radiology students from across the state. The senior students took a mock registry exam and then attended the registry review lectures as part of their preparation for taking the national ARRT certification/registration.

The NSU faculty had a prominent role in the LSRT Midwinter program. Faculty members Tammy Curtis, Kelli Haynes, Joel Hicks, and Jennifer Michael each presented lectures at Mid-winter seminar. Additionally, Tammy Curtis and Joel Hicks served as moderators for the technologists lectures. Kari Cook, who is the chair of the Louisiana Educators in Radiologic Science Council, hosted and moderated the student programs.

The students and faculty all benefited from this fun educational event. They also had a great time networking with students and technologists from around the state.
Scholarship Fund…
How Can I Help?

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 to:
NSU Foundation, Radiologic Sciences
Attn: Laura Aaron
1800 Line Avenue
Shreveport, LA 71101

Call 318-677-3020 for additional information

What is your interesting idea or topic to share with other technologists?

In recent years, there have been NSU students and NSU alumni publish some of their work in radiology journals. Truly, a few of them have been lengthy studies, but the last few have been new ideas related to radiographic positions that are not in radiology textbooks. You may have wondered how difficult it would be to have your idea or work experience presented to be published. There is no doubt, there are positioning skills where you have adapted the textbook positions or shortcuts you use daily that should be showcased in print. Writing your ideas or personal experiences that may be of interest to other imaging professionals presents an excellent opportunity to be published and to share. Once upon a time, you as an imaging student, likely prepared case studies as a part of your educational experience. In my opinion a patient’s case study is the easiest way to translate into a technologist’s first publishable paper. These case studies provide most, if not all, of the information needed to take the next step, along with guidance from an experienced co-author. This extra undertaking enables you to add to the volume of knowledge in a meaningful and interesting way. Even if you do not have prior experience in writing a case study, it’s really doable and this type of manuscript makes an important contribution to your profession, and may be something you would enjoy sharing with others in your department or the imaging profession.

The most difficult part of writing a case report for publication consideration is often choosing the case for the report. Consider the following items, and if they would apply, you have a case that would work for a possible publication:

- Would this case be of interest to other readers?
- Did the case require modification from the normal procedure?
- Did the case require critical analysis on a part of the technologist?
- Was this case unusual, rare, or does it demonstrate an emerging problem?
- Did the case result in a change in clinical practice?

Another popular area some technologists choose to pursue on their first attempt at publication, is to write on a practice that works for them in their work environment such as a new or innovative positioning skill that is not in published textbooks.

Please contact Ben Wood, R.T. (R) woodb@nsula.edu if you have an idea, adapted radiology patient position/procedure or clinical experience that may add to clinical professional practice.