



MU Sound Byte

Misericordia University
Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Issue 15

Congratulations to the Class of 2017

On March 12, 2017, fifteen students graduated as the thirteenth class of Misericordia University's Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. The celebration was held on campus in Insalaco Hall. University administration, faculty, and clinical instructors, celebrated with the graduates and their families.

The Academic Achievement Award for Academic Excellence in DMS was awarded to Stephanie Serafin, Larksville, PA.

All fifteen students passed the ARDMS SPI and Abdomen specialty exam on their first attempt (100%) earning the RDMS credential either prior to or shortly after completion.

Thirteen graduates earned both the Abdomen and OB/GYN specialties within the first six weeks after completion.

The program is currently aware of thirteen graduates who are employed. Three

graduates, Jacqueline Reimer, Tori Reinert and Brittany Jones continued their education and completed clinical externships; maternal fetal medicine, vascular, and pediatrics, respectively.

Jocelyn Valencia was recognized for her participation in a bottle recycling program that benefits the St. Gabrielle's Angels.

Thank you to everyone for your role in their successes.



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Fall Course Offerings

The Sonography Department is offering the following courses **on-line**:

Advanced Vascular (3 credits) ; **Breast Sonography** (2 credits) and **Advanced Fetal and Pediatric** (3 credits)

Many compliments are received from sonographers who take these courses.

If interested in any of these courses, please contact the program at 570-674-6790 no later than **August 5, 2017**

Changes to Clinical Associate Benefit Process

Our program values its clinical sonographers who participate in the education of our students. For quite some time we have offered our Clinical Instructors (CI) the opportunity to earn college credits by taking a course through our Clinical Associate Benefit Program. Fortunately, we are able to continue offering this benefit, however, there have been some changes to the process. Submission of paperwork will be moving to an on line format. We are currently in the pilot phase of this process. Everyone will be informed when this new format is implemented.

With this new format, clinical hours will be assigned to appointed clinical instructors at the end of each semester. Clinical Instructors will be able to accrue hours for a longer period of time instead of the one year as previously followed. Hours will be entered for each CI per semester. Automatic emails will be sent to those who have accrued a specific number of credits. To ensure our CIs receive the emails, it is important the sonography department has the correct email address in order to track your credits. If your email

address has changed or does change, please remember to update the program in a timely manner. The university committee overseeing this process will be creating a brochure with all pertinent information to send to all clinical associates regarding the process. As always, thanks to **all** of the sonographers who mentor our students. Your time and talent is invaluable and without you, we would not be as successful as we are.

For more information regarding this process, please contact Karen Klimas at 570-674-8013 or email at kklimas@misericordia.edu

New Simulation Equipment

The Department is pleased to share the University's support in purchasing Vimedix ultrasound simulation equipment.

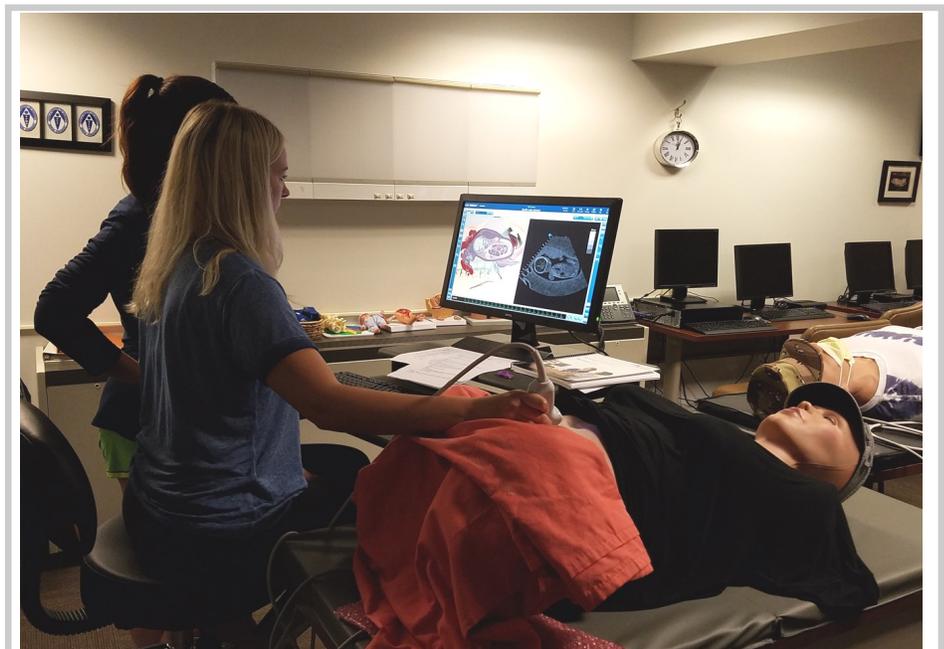
Simulation is important for sonography programs to provide both normal and pathological cases. It is extremely useful to the students entering into the program to learn to scan, identify anatomic structures, and understand relational anatomy while simultaneously being capable of viewing three dimensional anatomic sectional anatomy. The students develop skills to differentiate normal from abnormal sonographic appearances, critically think through the disease process and acquire additional relevant images, and create sonographer worksheets.

The department possesses the male body to simulate abdominal scanning which also allows for limited cardiac scanning to illustrate the cardiac/liver relationship. With this simulation, the department purchased an additional 10 pathological cases. A separate female simulator was purchased for obstetrical

scanning. This simulator provides opportunities for the student to learn both the transabdominal approach and transvaginal scanning of the first trimester, and multiple cases of anomalies in second trimester. The cases provides for instruction in fetal cardiac to obtain outflow views and m-mode for

viability. The calculation package is available to orient students to correlate measurements with gestational ages.

The purchase of this equipment enhances the educational activities for the Instructors and students.



Clinical Instruction CMEs

Reminder: please complete the required forms for SDMS Clinical Instructorship CME's. Due date for all forms and paperwork to be submitted to Karen Klimas is December 15. When submitting, be sure to include the log of time spent with the student(s) and the evaluation form. Be sure the student

verifies and signs the form for each block of time spent instructing the student. Upon receipt of these documents, you will be issued your CME certificate via e-mail. Please note, the ARRT does NOT accept clinical instructorship credits. They are accepted by the ARDMS.

Did you know.....If you are a member of the SDMS, your CME activities will automatically be tracked for you. Yet another perk of SDMS membership!

This activity is tracked by



Credentialed versus State Licensure

Often as sonographers we can easily become confused by the numerous words used to display our competence as a diagnostic medical sonographer and who oversees or regulates the sonography profession.

The sad reality is, unless you live in Oregon or in North Dakota, sonographers are not mandated by federal or state law to be certified or credentialed to perform sonographic examinations. Thus, it means anyone can become employed as a sonographer. Now we know this is not completely true, as there needs to be a level of education to be able to obtain quality diagnostic images and create worksheets to assist the interpreting physician, but certification is essentially voluntary. However, over the past decade, there has been a significant increase in the number of employers requiring sonographers to be credentialed in at least one specialty area or become credentialed within a specific time period. Many employers are requiring multiple specialties to demonstrate competence to their

patients.

Credentialing is not about being a better sonographer than a non-credentialed employee. The certification process to earn a credential is a mechanism to test and validate the individual has demonstrated the minimum knowledge required to perform sonographic examinations in that specialty. Professionals should have the minimum requirement to be certified in their specialty.

“Licensure is the mandatory process by which a governmental agency grants time-limited permission to an individual to engage in a given occupation after verifying that he/she has met predetermined standardized criteria, and offers title protection for those who meet the criteria.” (www.sdms.org)

The Legislative Committee of the Pennsylvania Society of Radiologic Technology (PSRT) in conjunction with ASRT and SDMS worked together to draft a PA licensure bill. Representative Brian Cutler of Lancaster County has

submitted PA State House Bill 1545 the *Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Health and Safety Act* to the Professional Licensure Committee. Representative Cutler is a registered radiologic technologist who furthered his education in law. Submitting the PA bill to the committee is the first step of the legislative process.

Why support licensure? In other states such as North Dakota, sonographers were not permitted to enter information into Medical Records because they were not licensed professionals. Oregon and New Hampshire pursued licensure to protect the public from individuals who were causing harm to patients, yet were able to continue to hold their credentials.

State licensure benefits the profession as well as the public.

If you have further questions regarding **HB1545**, please contact Sheryl Goss at 570-674-6790.

Congratulations

On May 20, 2017 three sonographers graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Sonography.

Virginia

Elizabeth Jacob, RDMS,

Pennsylvania

Kacper Waskiewicz, RDMS

Angelica Zurat, RDMS, RVT
(pictured)



Bethany Francis, MS, RDMS, RVT
was featured by SDMS in their series on *Sonographers Making Waves*.

<http://www.sdms.org/news/2017/06/02/sonographers-making-waves---bethany-francis>

Graduates Lindsey Solovey, BS, RDMS and Mary Karsnak, MS, RDMS, RVT joined GE as application specialists.

Amanda George Montgomery, BSDMS, RDMS, RVT earned a Masters of Science degree from Thomas Jefferson University.

Dates and Reminders

August 10, 2017: Last date to register for fall courses

August 27, 2017 : First week of on-line classes

October 12-15, 2017 SDMS annual meeting
Dallas, Tx.

Clinical Advisory Meetings

Fall 2017: Dates forthcoming

Clinical Instructors and Department Managers are invited and encouraged to attend.

Thomas P Saxton Pavilion, Edwardsville

Geisinger Medical Center, Danville

Arnot Ogden Medical Center, Elmira, NY

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