

IMAGING WITH TIGER PRIDE

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER FOR FHSU DEPARTMENT OF ALLIED HEALTH

Community Outreach



Outside of their studies, the RT and DMS students have been busy this semester with many events and activities. Some of these included community service activities organized by the Allied Health student organizations, the Association of Radiologic Technology Students and the Society of Student Sonographers.

In October during Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month, members of the Society of Student Sonographers volunteered as mystery readers for a kindergarten class at Wilson Elementary School in Hays. They read "Ava and Banjo's Ultrasound Adventure!" to the kindergarteners, which tells the story of a young girl who goes to a medical clinic to get an ultrasound examination of her abdomen. In the event that any of the children need to get an ultrasound done, this will help them to understand what to expect.

Early in November, the on-campus RT and DMS students participated in lab demonstrations during the Health and Behavioral Sciences Day. This event included over 120 registered students, consisting of high school juniors and seniors as well as college transfer students interested in careers in the health and behavioral sciences. During the event, students visit all six departments within the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences and have the opportunity to learn about opportunities in each department, tour the facilities, and engage with students, faculty, and staff.

In mid-November, just in time for Thanksgiving, students in the Allied Health and Health and Human Performance Departments gathered 320 items for the Tiger Food Pantry. The Tiger Food Pantry supports many students, faculty, and staff members within the FHSU community with readily accessible healthy food as well as nutrition information.

We are proud of our students for taking the initiative to engage with members of the community, prospective students, as well as members of the University through various service opportunities!

Equipment Update in the Department

Our department is elated to share the news of several pieces of updated equipment in the RT lab! The equipment update included two mammography units, a C-arm, as well as a portable X-ray machine with a DR plate. The equipment was installed during the winter break for use this spring semester.

The funding for this equipment was a collaborative effort between the Department of Allied Health, the Dean of the College of Health and Behavioral Sciences, and the President through the Division of Administration and Finance. We are incredibly thankful for the support of our programs from the Dean, as well as the administration at Fort Hays!

It is vital for the department to stay up-to-date with current practices and equipment in the medical imaging field in order to continue to educate competent medical imaging professionals. We would like to especially thank our alumni, Aaron Bollig '04, Western Regional Sales Manager with RadSource Imaging Technologies, Jeremy Taylor '05, Chief Operating Officer with RadSource Imaging Technologies, for the most recent acquisition of equipment. Further, we also recognize Greg Beyer, initial FHSU Radiology Program Director and formerly KS Account Manager with Browns Medical Imaging and his successor, Daren Beltz '98, KS Account Manager with Browns Medical Imaging for their long-standing historical contributions and continued support. We are incredibly grateful for these alumni who have worked diligently to provide these opportunities for past, current, and future students at Fort Hays State University!



Introduction of New Mentor Program

Over the course of the fall semester, the department has implemented a faculty mentor program available to all major students. The goal of the mentor program is to enhance collaboration between faculty members and students. The program is tailored to meet the needs of each individual student through group, peer, and/or individual mentoring activities.

Group mentoring events this semester included a freshman orientation, ice cream social, and several program information nights to guide students through the program application processes. These events included current students and faculty members in both the RT and DMS programs to answer any questions pre-program students have.

The department also hosted a mentoring night with alumni guests Bailey Dinkel '12 and Jamie Richards '03, '15. They presented information regarding their specialties, nuclear medicine and radiation oncology, respectively. We are appreciative of our alumni sharing their time and expertise with our students!

We plan to host several more career pathway/expert panels during future mentoring events. If you have any interest in presenting to our students regarding your specialty or experiences in the field, please reach out to Courtney Gushi (cjpgushi@fhsu.edu) at 785-628-5678.

**SCAN
ME**



Scan the QR code to be directed to the FHSU Allied Health website (or visit <https://www.fhsu.edu/alliedhealth/mentoring-program2/mentoring-program>) for more information regarding the mentor program.



Alumni Spotlight – Brian Ralph ‘83



What degree(s) did you earn from FHSU?

I graduated from Fort Hays State University in a class of ten with an AS in Radiologic Technology and a BS in General Science in 1983.

Where have you taken your career since graduation? Have you pursued any further education?

After graduating from FHSU, I took a position as a staff technologist at St. Anthony Hospital, which after a hospital merger became Hays Medical Center. I had the opportunity to cross-train into ultrasound, nuclear medicine, CT, and special procedures. I received a BA in Healthcare and Administration from Ottawa University Kansas City in 1990. I realized a purely administrative role was not going to be the career goal for me. When the opportunity arose to attend the newly formed Radiology Practitioner Assistant program through Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, my family was fully supportive. I graduated in 1999 with seven of my original ten classmates with a BS in Advanced Radiologic Sciences. My role currently as a Radiologist Assistant is to provide fluoroscopic studies in rural facilities and to attend medical staff meetings to facilitate communications between Plains Radiology Services and our client facilities.

What is something you enjoyed about the Allied Health Department or the program(s) offered?

While a student at FHSU, we were assigned to rotate through three hospitals and an orthopedic clinic for clinical experience. I believe those rotations provided the FHSU students with many different clinical situations and an excellent foundation allowing us to excel after graduation.

What advice would you give someone thinking about a career in medical imaging?

Many of my classmates received additional degrees and went into education or Physician Assistant programs. The medical imaging field has bloomed since I went through the program and there are many areas in which to specialize. There are plenty of jobs available in all aspects of imaging services.

News from Campus

- Applications for the Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in Medical Imaging to begin in Fall 2024 are now being accepted. Contact Christa Beiker (crbeiker@fhsu.edu) at 785-628-5678 with questions.
- The RT program was awarded the 8-year accreditation award by JRCERT based off the submission of the program self-study and on-site campus visit that occurred in March 2023. This is the maximum duration of an award.
- Faculty member Tara Rohn earned her Master of Science in Instructional Technology degree in May 2023.
- All 12 of the senior DMS students successfully completed the required physics and instrumentation examination through the ARDMS, earning a 100% pass rate.
- The department faculty welcomed their newest members - Arrica Braun welcomed her daughter, Gracie, in July and Courtney Gushi welcomed her son, Miles, in September.
- The senior DMS students along with three of the sonography faculty members attended the SDMS Conference in National Harbor, MD in September.
- Two of our faculty members were recently honored on the length of their service to the university and state of Kansas. Jennifer Wagner received the 25-year award and Denise Orth received the 20-year award.
- Over the fall semester, there were 130 scheduled prospective student visits to our department.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Jan 31:** RT Applications Due
- Feb 15:** DMS Applications Due
- Feb 28-Mar 1:** RT Annual Meeting and Selection
- March 6:** DMS Annual Selection
- May 10:** Commencement



FHSU Department of Allied Health



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Follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated on events occurring in the department, student updates, and job opportunities!

