

# The Link



FOR RADIATION TECHNOLOGY

SUMMER/FALL 2008



**Dr. Laura Alipoon, Ed.D, RT(R)**  
**Chair of Radiation Technology**

I became the Department Chair in February of 2006. It has been a very busy two years full of change. We have updated and upgraded many of our programs, and we've also added new programs. Our Associates Degree in Medical Radiography is now 21 months in length instead of 18. Beginning in the Fall of 2008, we are rolling in the CT program to the AS degree. Students will have the didactic coursework for CT along with a handful of competencies when they graduate from the AS degree. They can then complete their competencies on the job or with us by taking "Advanced Clinical." The Special Imaging program has been separated into two school certificates. Students can now take CT or MRI only, in six months each, or can still take both programs in nine months.

We have several online programs to enable busy professionals to continue their learning journey. We are currently in the process of taking the online Radiologist Assistant Programs (BS and BS Certificate) to the Master's level. If approved by the board in December and WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) shortly thereafter, the MSRA will start accepting applicants in 2009.

It is proposed that there will be two tracks for entrance: 1) Join the program with an AS degree, and graduate with a BS and Masters at the end of three years, 2) Join the program with a BS and graduate with an MS in two years.

We also have an online Masters in Radiation Sciences (MSRS) that will begin in September of 2008. Our Bachelor's in Radiation Sciences (BSRS) went online this summer of 2008! Upon completion of the BSRS, students will also have a minor in Health Care Administration. Our last online program to mention is the school certificate in Imaging Informatics that will begin this fall. The program consists of 12 quarter units and enables the learner to function as a PACS Administrator.

With all of these programmatic changes there comes a pressing need for additional faculty and staff. As of July 1st, we have added two new full-time faculty members and two new contract faculty. We now have three RRAs teaching in the RA programs as contract instructors.

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite you to join us in two yearly activities. First, we look forward to seeing you at the next Alumni Homecoming weekend, April 16-18, 2009. We would like to do something special for the alumni of radiation sciences over this special weekend. Would you like to help us locate your former classmates so you can reconnect with them next spring? If so, please contact me at [lalipoon@llu.edu](mailto:lalipoon@llu.edu) and let me know which program you completed, what year you finished, and how to reach you.

Secondly, I'd like to invite you to join us on our continuing education cruises. In 2007 we went on a fantastic trip to Alaska, this summer we will be cruising to Mexico, the summer of 2009 will be a Caribbean cruise, and plans are in progress for the Greek Isles during the summer of 2010! The continuing education units are optional. So join us for some fun and bring the family along! I look forward to seeing you on the cruises and at the homecoming weekend.

Sincerely,

*Laura Alipoon*

## 2008 CALENDAR

AUGUST:  
CE Cruise to Mexico.....10-17

NOVEMBER:  
National Allied Health Week....2-8  
Rad Tech Week.....2-8

## AWARDS

APRIL 19  
ALUMNI AWARDS BANQUET

Distinguished Alum: Cynthia Rapp '84  
Rising Star: Duane Lee '08

MAY 21  
AWARDS CHAPEL

Faculty Award: Amy Marsh, RT  
& Amee Boyd, RT  
Research Award: Marissa Andersen, RA

BSRS Faculty Recognition Award:  
Andrew Cantos Malit  
& Natalie Beechler

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## LLU CEUs at Sea: Continuing Education for Health Care Professionals Set Sail on August 8-15, 2009

Save the date for the *Loma Linda University Friends & Family 7-day Cruise to the Western Caribbean* with six CEU credits applicable toward radiation technology (radiography, ultrasound, radiation therapy, nuclear medicine, CT, MRI), respiratory therapy, nursing, advanced practice nursing, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, dietitians, social workers, and chaplains.

CEU courses will include such topics as, "LAW: The License You Lose May Be Your

Own" and "SPIRITUAL: I'm Not a Chaplain, But My Patient Wants to Talk."

You don't have to be a health care professional to join the group. All are invited! This fun adventure will take place on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and will stop at locations such as Haiti, Cozumel, Grand Caymen, and Jamaica. Beginning in September 2008, you can reserve your cabin for the cruise to the Caribbean. Call Cheryl at University Travel to book your trip today! (909)796-8344 or (800)362-3389.



## RT Classroom Makeovers

Two classrooms have been given a long overdue face lift in the Radiation Technology department. The large classroom, A826, across the hall from the department offices, has new carpet to replace the old brown rug. This room also has new tables and chairs, a vast improvement from the tiny desks used since the 1950s. There are also electric strips that travel each side of the classroom for students to plug in their laptops. This allows students to take advantage of the wireless network.

The smaller lab classroom, A825, has been given new beige and brown floor tiles as well as new tables and chairs. The green chalk board has been replaced with a white board, and the desks have been rearranged so that the front of the room isn't next to the entrance. No more interrupting the teacher at the front if students come in late.



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## Research Award Given to Radiation Assistant Student

Marissa Andersen, a second year student pursuing her Bachelor of Science Certificate in the Online Radiologist Assistant Program, has been awarded the Loma Linda University Student Research Award based on her literature review entitled *Connecting Childhood Obesity and the Field of Radiology in Diagnostic Studies*. Marissa completed the project on March 21, 2008 and was immediately noticed by her instructor Madeleine S. Waters for her outstanding work. "Marissa reflected originality in the choice of topic, eagerness in her desire to research the topic and write about it, and passion for her profession [as she researches] ways to advance the field in an area of current relevance," says Ms. Waters, a contract faculty member in the RT department. Together with Michael Iorio, program director for the online RA program, they submitted Marissa's project on behalf of the Radiation Technology department.



"Among Marissa's many noteworthy attributes," says Mr. Iorio, "her passion, dedication, and excellence have led to her success as a student. I believe these attributes will undoubtedly lead to her success as a Radiologist Assistant."

This award was presented at the Annual Awards Chapel in the Campus Hill Church on May 21, 2008. Marissa currently lives in Ooltewah, Tennessee, so Ms. Waters accepted the award on her behalf.

## Siemens Scholarship Awarded to First Year Student

Heidi Serrano, a first year Radiologist Assistant student, has been awarded the Siemens Clinical Advancement Scholarship by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Education and Research Foundation. The Siemens Clinical Advancement Scholarship Program assists medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals seeking to enhance their clinical practice skill and ability to provide excellent patient care. "It is an honor to have students of Heidi's caliber attend our university. It is also a privilege to have her in the RA program," says Mike Iorio, instructor and program director for the online Radiologist Assistant Programs. Ms. Serrano says she is proud to be a "product of Loma Linda University."



## Faculty Featured at ACERT Conference

From February 6-8, 2008, the Association of Collegiate Educators of Radiation Technology (ACERT) held a conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. There were three groups of people in attendance at this conference: Educators, Clinicians and Students.

Brenda Pfeiffer, RT instructor in the School of Allied Health Professions (SAHP) as well as the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program Coordinator and Radiation Technology Marketing Specialist, spoke to the Educators on leadership in a talk called "Leadership 101." Dr. Laura Alipoon, Chair of the SAHP RT Department, spoke to the students in a talk called "Laugh for the Health of It." This is the third time that ACERT has requested that Dr. Alipoon give this talk since different students attend each year, and it is so well received.

In addition to the faculty being featured, Ben Galusha, a graduating student, ranked fourth out of 300 in the student bowl!

## FACULTY PROFILE: Renee Stone

Renee N. Stone, M.A.M., RT (R)(M), is currently the program director of the Bachelor of Science in Radiation Science (BSRS) program. Her passion for radiation sciences comes from a lifetime of exposure by members of her family. Her father was the administrator of Radiology at Loma Linda University Medical Center for many years, and her family owned a business that consulted for radiation science organizations and facilities. It's no wonder Renee's first degree was an A.S. in Radiation Science from Crafton Hills College. She also holds two degrees from the University of Redlands, CA: a BS in Business and Management, and a Masters in Management (M.A.M.).



On October 27, 2007, she was inducted into the Whitehead Leadership Society, an organization through the University of Redlands that honors students for academic and leadership achievement.

Not only is Renee active in her program, she also participates in the Spiritual Life and Wholeness Committee at the School of Allied Health Professions, and works part-time at a clinic in San Bernardino.

Renee enjoys her work at LLU. She has a deep appreciation for the values of the institution and feels that unlike other universities, LLU faculty believe in their students and truly give of themselves to facilitate their success.

# STAY CONNECTED...ONLINE!

We would love to hear about what's happening in your life.  
Email photos and information to [jpruehs@llu.edu](mailto:jpruehs@llu.edu).

Update your personal information online  
by visiting the alumni website and clicking on  
Stay Connected. To get there quickly, here's your link:  
[www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/alumni/stayconnected](http://www.llu.edu/llu/sahp/alumni/stayconnected)

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## The Link

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