



Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program

MISERICORDIA
UNIVERSITY

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Visit us at
misericordia.edu

Sonography– And then there were...
Slogan for class of 2011

Sincerest Appreciation to our Clinical Affiliates

Sheryl and Karen extend a huge **thank you** to department administrators, JRCDMS approved clinical instructors and all the sonographers who generously give of their time to work with our students. You are what builds the reputation of our program.



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July 2011

MU Sound Byte

Misericordia University
Diagnostic Medical Sonography



Issue 3

Congratulations to the Class of 2011

On March 18, 2011 ten students graduated the Sonography Program. The celebration was held at Misericordia University's Insalaco Hall. University administration, faculty, and clinical instructors, celebrated with the graduates and their families.

Each class of students is unique in their camaraderie. This class will always be remembered for their love of luncheon parties. No doubt, they provided some great food to be shared with all. As a gift, they created a recipe book that will be cherished for many years.

For the first time and as a remembrance, the Golden Spoon award was given to Debbie Owens for her initiation and coordination of the luncheon parties. On the more serious note, the Academic Achievement award was presented to Bailey Chapman Reedy who maintained a 4.0 GPA. This



Class of 2009-2011

KUDOS!

is an accomplishment knowing the rigor of the sonography program.

Currently, eight of the ten have secured employment either fulltime, part time or per-diem. The reputation of the program has allowed this success in a current tight job market. All ten students pass the physics exam on first attempt with eight of them currently possessing the RDMS credential. Seven have earned both the abdomen and ob/gyn specialties and one with Ob specialties. The others are continuing to apply for their exams! So far 100% pass rates for those who have taken them.

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Fall Course Offerings

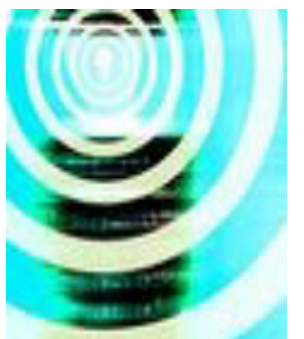
The Sonography Department is offering the following courses **on-line**; thus, sonographers can do all the course work from their homes:

Advanced Vascular (3 credits) ; Breast Sonography (2 credits) and Focused Sonography (3 credits)

On campus courses include:

Physics with lab (3 credits) and Introduction to Vascular Sonography with lab (3 credits)

If interested in any of these courses, please contact the program at 570-674-6790 by July 20, 2011. Cost is \$350.00 per credit.



The program is very fortunate to have tremendous support from the community. **Sentinel Imaging**, a refurbished equipment vendor and service company is located in Clarks Summit, PA. The company has been extremely attentive since the inception of the program. They offer the program very considerable pricing for equipment, service and often will donate their time to troubleshoot equipment idiosyncrasies. They also allow for use of their quality assurance phantom for teaching purposes.

Wyoming Valley Health Care System Department of Cardiology recently donated an Imex vascular unit. This unit will provide demonstration in performing physiologic arterial testing. Previously they have donated transducers and other supplies that are utilized by the program.

Med-Sim, manufacturer of a simulation phantom for sonography, recently upgraded the program’s

system. The system, purchased in 2003, was in need of transformation from 3.5 dick storage to a USB storage capability. Med-Sim generously updated the entire system to include a flat screen monitor and latest software updates. The system’s functionality improved greatly as well as student’s being able to save required images to USB. Appreciation was given to Med-Sim for the upgrade which is equivalent to several thousand dollars.

Student Involvement

The program encourages the students to become part of the sonography profession through local and national society memberships, attendance at external events and attending healthcare related events. In March, six sonography students attended the Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania Interprofessional Educational Collaborative Event held at Misericordia University and Kings

College. This event, sponsored by the Commonwealth Medical College introduced our students to the roles of other healthcare professionals. In June, two students attended the Vascular Ultrasound Seminar St. Luke's Hospital Radiology Education Committee, in Bethlehem.

It can be challenging for students to see the benefits of attending such events, as time is a precious commodity

while enrolled in the program. We ask that you share your enthusiasm of attending these events and memberships into the societies in hopes your mentoring will aide them in seeing the benefits.

Getting Involved

Clinical Associate Benefit Offerings

With the addition of the Bachelor of Science degree in Sonography and the Advanced Sonography courses being offered online, we hope you will take advantage of Misericordia University’s offering of free tuition for up to six credits per fiscal year (July 1st to June 30th).

The benefit can apply to all undergraduate or graduate level courses and does not need to be sonography related courses. In order to qualify for the benefit, the sonographer must be credentialed (RDMS or RVT) and work with our students on a

regular basis. The management of the credits is at the discretion of the JRCDDMS approved Clinical Instructor and Department Director in event multiple sonographers want to take courses. Contact Karen Klimas at 570-674-8013 with any questions.

Clinical Instruction CMEs

Once again this year, the program will be offering SDMS continuing education credits in appreciation for Clinical Instructorship. The maximum number of credits is six per year. The cycle is from January 1st to December 31st. New forms have been e-mailed out to clinical instructors. Please feel free to make additional copies as needed. 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.

What Constitutes Instruction?
Following SDMS CME policies, instruction is defined as:

1. Observing the student perform the examination or part of the examination and offering technical tips and protocol suggestions.

2. Reviewing the images with the student after the examination and discussing pathology, pathophysiology, anatomy, differential diagnosis, expected clinical manifestations, technique or laboratory values of certain conditions.

Note: Time spent “in the room” with the student and not providing instruction is not considered educational and is not eligible for CME credit.


SDMS National Conference- Georgia

The SDMS annual conference is September 23-25th with pre conference tutorials on Thursday September 22nd. Location is the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia.

It is a great opportunity to refresh one’s knowledge in the areas that are less practiced or hear the latest uses of sonography in your specialty. An abundance of CME’s can be earned in these three/four days.

Atlanta is a great place to visit. The world’s largest aquarium and the

Coca-Cola factory tour is within walking distance of the hotel.



Updates on the profession

ARDMS is no longer requiring recording a specific number of breast sonograms performed for those who currently possess RDMS. If you are interested in sitting for the Breast Sonography Specialty exam, you may wish to take our comprehensive course offered this fall, then apply for the exam. See www.ardms.org for full details.

The CARE bill has been reintroduced into the House of Representatives. It is uncertain what progress will be made over the next few months due to the unsettling discussion regarding the debt ceiling. As information is received, the program will pass it along to you, our faithful supporters.

ICAVL and ICAEL lab accreditation is requiring all sonographers working in an accredited department to be appropriately certified. For echocardiographers, the year is 2014 and for vascular sonographers, the year is 2017. If anyone needs assistance in getting credentialed, please contact the program.