

October
2024

*Journal
of the
Louisiana
Society
Of
Radiologic
Technology*

Volume
37
Issue
1

Internet address www.lsrt.net

FOCAL
THE SPOT
MONITOR

2025 Mid Winter Seminar

March 8, 2025

LSU-A

Alexandria

More details later at www.lsrt.net

**Always on the Front line of
Healthcare
It's time to be Seen**

*Celebrate National Rad Tech Week
November 3-9, 2024*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (past President, current President, and President Elect)

Chairman

Sarah Barnes, MBA, R.T. (R)(CT)
Sbarnes@lsua.edu

Members

Heather Koepp, M.A., RT. (R)(CHES)
koepph@northoaks.org

Monica Weber, MSRS, R.T. (R)(M)
mweber@mcneese.edu

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Heather Koepp, M.A., R.T. (R)(CHES)
Address—see Board of Directors

President-Elect

Monica Weber, MSRS, R.T. (R)(CT)
mweber@mcneese.edu

Vice President

Allee Clark, MSRS, R.T. (R)(CT)
arleecrews@msn.com

Recording Secretary

Brittany Smith, MSRS, R.T.(R)(CT)
seruntine@ulm.euc

EXECUTIVE BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Executive Secretary-Membership

Jessica Despino, MSRS, R.T. (R)(MR)
ashworthj@nsula.edu

Executive Secretary-Finance

Megan Wedgeworth, MBA, R.T. (R)(CT)
wedgeworthm@nsula.edu

Director of Publications

Greg Bradley, M. Ed., R.T. (R)
gbradley@mcneese.edu

Meeting Planner

Manny Rodriguez, MHA RT (R)(CT)
ferodrigu@yahoo.com

Councils and Task Force

Educators/ LERS

Jessica Love, MSRS, RT (R)
lovej@nsula.edu

Student Council

Alaina Parham—*Chair*
Alania.parham@gmail.com

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

Historian

Susie Beasley, M.Ed., R.T. (R)
sbeasley@mcneese.edu

Legislative Affairs

Allison Puente, MSRS, R.T. (R)(CT)
apuente@mcneese.edu

Nominations & Credentialing

Caitlan Clark, MSRS, R.T. (R) CRA
cclark36@mcneese.edu

Student Affairs

Allee Clark, MSRS, R.T. (R)(CT)
arleecrews@msn.com



Find us on
Facebook

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

For some time, I have thought about what I would say tonight. A few years ago, I listened to Rebecca's acceptance speech, then Ally's, and then Sarah's. Wow, they all were incredible and so moving. How do I fill their shoes? Then I remembered something one of my former leaders said – she said, "Sure, you have big shoes to fill. But you did not get where you are now in anyone else's shoes but your own."

This is something that has stuck with me for many years. Interestingly, her daughter will begin our program next week. It is incredibly humbling to be entrusted with one of my former leader's daughters, as well as children of alumni from our program.

When I became program director in 2019, again another time I had big shoes to fill. My predecessors were Marsha Talbert, Ms. Judy Bennett, and the infamous Mr. Ken Travis. I have all these people to thank and especially Mr. Ken. I have known Mr. Ken for 30 years. Mr. Ken was my program director and positioning instructor. Now our roles have changed a bit. He calls me "his boss" and I call him "my friend." He has always encouraged me to be more active in the LSRT and the ASRT, and here I am. I blame Mr. Ken and Carmen for getting me into this.

I would be remiss if I did not mention others who have influenced me throughout my career. Greg, Brett, and Ms. Susie – I'm going to date all of us. But I remember all of you when I was student. Now, I am proud to call you, friends and "colleagues."

I remember the first time I sent board meeting minutes, and I received a flattering email from "the" Dr. Kelli Haynes. That validation meant so much.

Ms. Sue, thank you for always reminding me that "knowledge is power."

The first time I heard Dr. Kevin Clark speak, I thought how great it would be to have an educator like him – full of knowledge and lots of humor. He keeps you engaged. So, to be inducted tonight by him is very special.

Look around this room tonight – Greg, Brett, Ms. Susie, Ms. Sue, Kelli, Anne, Charlene, Laura, Tammy, and Jay. There are LSRT legends here.

Michele Sutton, North Oaks President/CEO and Jeff Jarreau, Chief Human Resources Officer. They both have always supported "our little program" in big ways.

Last but certainly not least, my mom, Garrett, and Geoffrey. I think Geoffrey has attended more LSRT meetings than lots of members. Seriously though, Geoffrey knows the love and passion I have for our profession, program, and students and if it is important to me then it is important to him.

God has blessed me with a supportive family and the best job, colleagues, and students. He has given me an opportunity to do what I love. I trust that He put me here tonight – at the right place, at the right time and for the right reasons.

I will not stand here and say that I have always been an active member of the LSRT and ASRT as that would not be the truth. Sure, I was a member of both, but I really did not contribute nor was I actively engaged. Our students participated in the Quiz Bowl, t-shirt, and the essay competitions but that was about it. There is a difference between being a member and being an active, engaged member. Just as there is a difference between hearing and listening.

It has been said that "In complacency lies a slow descent into mediocrity." This hit hard as I



Continued on next page

am not okay with mediocrity. I expect more than mediocrity from our students. I do not expect them to be perfect, but I do expect a perfect effort all the time. My goal is for students to graduate as better versions of themselves. So, if this is what I expect and we as educators, instructors, preceptors, managers, and staff technologists expect then this is what we must be.

In our careers, we will surely have days where we lack motivation and complacency is a lot easier than doing and giving more. However, we must stay motivated and driven – we must remember our “why.” Everyone has a different “why” and our “whys” might even change over the years.

Early in my career, if you had asked me about my “why” or who was my “why”, I would have told you Shayna Morgan, a 2004 graduate from our program, and daughter of some dear friends of our family. After unexpectedly losing my dad in a tragic accident in 2002, I did not know how I’d ever walk in the hospital, again. It took months. Three months to be exact. But I had made a promise to my dad that Shayna would finish x-ray school.

As I mentioned, this was early in my career and in the years that followed there were more students and more “whys.” In fact, 273 students or “whys.” Every student has become my “why” as most days I spend as much time or more time with them than I do Garrett. There is something special and unique about our “little program” – and our family.

Today, I will tell you that my “why” is my first cousin, Jason. Jason and I are only 6 weeks apart. Our moms are sisters, and we are more like siblings than cousins. On February 1st this year, Jason was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. The cancer metastasized to his proximal femur and his brain. Since his diagnosis, I have wanted to be at every appointment and in every imaging and treatment room with him.

I wanted to make sure he was receiving the best, safest, quality care by the best healthcare professionals. It did not matter if it was an area outside of my expertise. I just wanted to be there for him. Obviously, that is not possible. But what I can do for Jason and every patient in this state is advocate for them so that they are cared for by licensed, certified imaging and radiation therapy professionals.

It has been said, “be strong enough to stand alone, smart enough to know when you need help, and brave enough to ask for it.” I am asking for your help now. Please help me – help the LSRT protect our licensure laws and ensure that if there are proposed rule changes to PRTs who are licensed by the BME that they are in the best interest of our patients.

Help us ensure that all imaging and radiation professionals are licensed by the LSRTBE and certified by the ARRT. Ultimately, I am asking you to help ensure the safety of every single patient in Louisiana.

The ARRT Code of Ethics is “intended to assist registered technologists and candidates in providing for the protection, safety, and comfort of patients.” We must remember our code. We must remember our passion that initially drove us to this profession – you must remember your “why.”

Three years ago, when I reached out to Carmen then Rebecca because I wanted to be more involved in the LSRT, tonight is not exactly what I had in mind. I was thinking serve on a committee or something. Never did I think I would serve as your President. Yet here I am. So, thank you for this incredible opportunity to serve as your 2024-2025 Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists President.





CHECK OUT THIS RAD MEMBERSHIP OFFER



\$18.95



**FOR THE MONTH
OF NOVEMBER
JOIN THE LSRT FOR ONLY \$18.95**

TO JOIN VISIT LSRT.NET

IMPORTANT -PLEASE READ

Information on Certification of a Private Radiologic Technologist (PRT)

This is a crucial time for licensed radiologic technologists in Louisiana, our professional society (the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists), and patients in our great state.

Currently, the Louisiana Board of Medical Examiners (LSBME) is circumventing the educational requirements that qualify the certification of a **Private** Radiologic Technologist (PRT) and allowing medical assistants to be trained in a manner which is discrepant to specifications of regulatory statutes. These medical assistants, under the unlawful certification of a PRT, perform medical imaging exams at urgent care clinics across the state.

Additionally, the LSBME has advised the LSRT that there will be a Rules change to Title 46 which would allow virtual supervision to satisfy the requirement of direct supervision currently required under Chapter 29. The virtual supervisor will be responsible for monitoring multiple facilities simultaneously and will not be required to have ARRT or ACR credentials. The lack of a supervisor who has demonstrated professional standards in medical imaging, in addition to virtual supervision, lowers the standard of care and compromises patient safety. As you already know, licensed technologists in the state are prohibited under Louisiana law from training an unlicensed individual, so you cannot supervise PRTs.

The LSRT is focused on advocacy- particularly maintaining high standards of education to enhance the quality and safety of patient care. One major concern is the LSBME's plan for immediate relief could have a permanent effect as the effects of ionizing radiation are cumulative and very much so real. Perhaps, there are some misconceptions about the stochastic effects of ionizing radiation due to the reduced incident rate of responses. However, this is due to strong restrictions and practices, education, certification (by the ARRT), and the licensure law (by the LSRTBE).

There is no equivalency in education between a PRT and an ARRT licensed and certified radiologic technologist, particularly when considering the use of ionizing radiation on human tissue, the increased use of medical imaging to improve patient diagnosis/ treatment, the increased life expectancy and cumulative exposure, and the continued increase in cancer diagnoses.

The LSBME has been tasked with a monumental challenge to increase access to care while also prioritizing patient safety. However, increasing the number of PRTs is **not** the safest option for our patients. If the board votes to approve the Rules change, then the state APA procedure will be followed for final approval. The LSRT is asking for support from you to safeguard patients in Louisiana.

For the last 15 months, the LSRT has advocated continuously for patients in the state on this issue. We will continue to monitor the discussion and voice our concerns. Louisiana is not alone in this matter- all states are trying to meet the demand for more imaging professionals. Some of those states (30) utilize a *limited scope [technologist](#)*. Different from the PRT, this person would be required to complete an educational program and then take a state licensing exam for limited radiography (likely chest and extremities). This state licensing exam is created by the ARRT for states to use. The Louisiana State Radiologic Technologist Board of Examiners (LSRTBE) that authorizes your full scope license should also be the agency that handles the limited scope license (not the LSBME).

There are over 7,000 radiologic technologists and therapists in this state, but less than 400 of you are members of this society. [The society](#) cannot continue without more membership!



LSRT OFFICERS INSTALLED

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists



Dr. Kevin Clark, a Fellow with the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT), installed the newly elected officers for 2024-2025.

The installation took place during the 66th Annual Meeting held in Shreveport. The newly installed officers *pictured from right to left* are:

President: Heather Koepp, President-Elect: Monica Weber, and Recording Secretary: Brittany Smith. Vice President: Allee Clark was not present for the Photo.

LEERS

Louisiana Educators in Radiologic Sciences of the LSRT

The LEERS elects new officers for the 2024—2025 year:



Chairman
Jessica Love

Northwestern
State University -



Vice Chairman
Jessica Ferguson
Northwestern State
University
Secretary
Elizabeth Azua
LSU-A





***LSRT
Delegates to
the ASRT
House of
Delegates***



LSRT members attending the ASRT Meeting in Orlando



LSRT or LSRTBE Who do I Call???

Many technologists continue to get confused over the difference between the LSRT and the LSRTBE. Who should I call?

LSRTBE—Louisiana State Radiologic Technology Board of Examiners

- Licensure is Mandatory to work in a hospital or hospital owned facility
- Licensure Fees are due every two years and are in effect from June 1 to May 31
- Website address—www.lsrtbe.org
 - Executive Director—Hollie Taranto, laradbrd@bellsouth.net, or (504) 838-5231
- Consult the website for licensure information, renewal CE requirements, policies and position statements, etc.

LSRT
AND
LSRTBE
ARE TWO
SEPARATE
ORGANIZATIONS

LSRT—Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

This is your State Professional Organization

- Membership is Voluntary
- Dues paid on an annual basis (July 1—June 30)
- Educational meetings are held twice a year (providing CE credits for membership)
- Purpose—to advance the professions of radiation and imaging specialties, to maintain high standards of education, to enhance the quality of patient care, and to further the welfare and socioeconomics of Radiologic Technologists. In order to maintain high levels of ethical conduct, the LSRT adopts the Code of Ethics established by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ASRT) and the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT).
- Website address—www.lsrt.net for officer, meeting information and other LSRT News and Events
 - For Membership information—Look on line at www.lsrt.net or contact Jessica Ashworth Despino at asworthj@nsula.edu

LSRT web address

www.lsrt.net

LSRTBE web address

www.lsrtbe.org

QUIZ BOWL CHAMPS

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

FIRST PLACE: Receiving a trophy, a check for \$300 and individual plaques and certificates

Northwestern State University Shreveport



TEAM MEMBERS:

Abby Flynn
Stella Srisawang
Destiny Bryant
Jenna Bonnette
Alyssa Reeves

COACH: Megan Wedgeworth

PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

Tammy Curitus

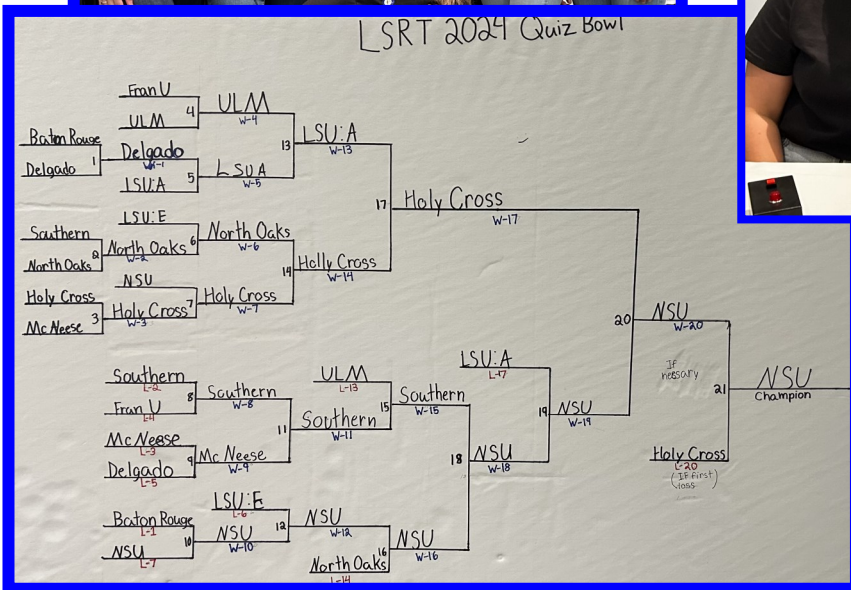
2024 Quiz Bowl Sponsor:
Majestic Medical Solutions



**2024
Quiz Bowl
Moderator**

*Dr. Kevin
Clark*

Northwestern State University



2024 QUIZ BOWL

University of Holy Cross

SECOND PLACE: Receiving Individual plaques and certificates

University of Holy Cross

TEAM MEMBERS:

Matthew Segari **Courtney Vidrine**
Dustin Nguyen **Courtney Holler**
Sierra Spoon **Alexa Joiner**

Coach: Katie Catalanotto

Program Director: Chimene Pitre



2024 T-SHIRT CONTEST

First Place: receiving \$100 **McNeese State University**



2nd place Tie **Southern University & North Oaks Medical Center**

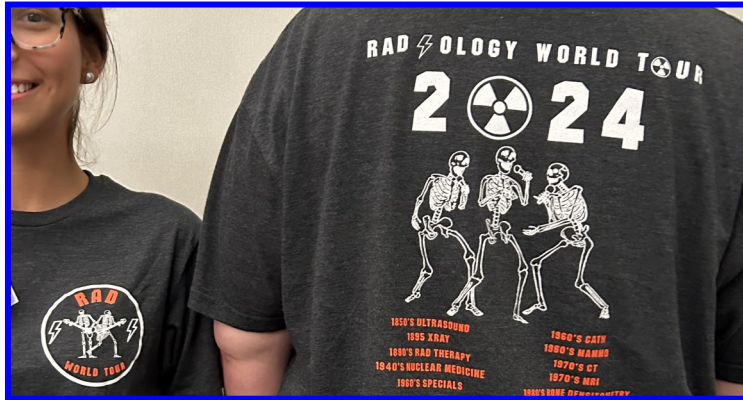


3rd place Tie: **Fran U & University of Louisiana at Monroe**



2024 T-SHIRT CONTEST

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists



2024 WINNERS

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

Student Scientific Exhibit Winners

1st place

“Ciliochoroidal Melanoma: Diagnosis and Treatment Using Radiologic Technology”

Olivia Urbano, Carlie Reed and
Adriana Zubiate

*Franciscan Missionaries of Our
Lady University*

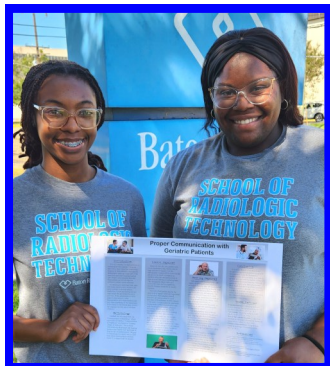


2nd place

“Proper Communication and Geriatric Patients”

Tya Ashford and Destiny Carter

Baton Rouge General Medical Center

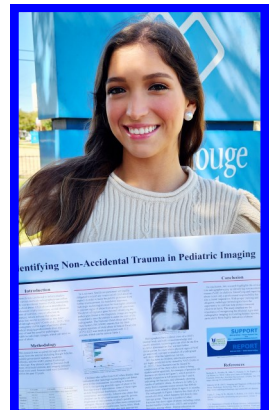


3rd place

“Identifying Non-Accidental Trauma in Pediatric Imaging”

Aliya Rivers

Baton Rouge General Medical Center



2024 WINNERS

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

Scientific Exhibit Winners

Technologist Category

1st Place

***“Cyber Security Healthcare
Issues in Radiology:
Data Breaches”***



Sheena Abarca

2nd Place

***“Proposal: To Reduce
Cancellations of Radiology
Outpatient Procedures ”***



Zephaneth Zoleta Munson

Scientific Essay Winner

Technologist Category

1st Place

***“The Disease Obesity and Diagnostic Im-
aging Challenges and Considerations”***

Lakeidra Bell

Baton Rouge General Medical Center



2024 WINNERS

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

Student Scientific Essay Winners

1st place

“Diagnosing and Evaluating Severity of Lymphedema with Diagnostic Imaging”

Olivia Watkins

North Oaks Medical Center



2nd place

“Exploring White Matter Integrity with Diffusion Tensor Imaging”

Kara Odinet

North Oaks Medical Center



3rd place

“The importance of Ultrasound in the Diagnosis of Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome”

Kaelyn Seals



2024 STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

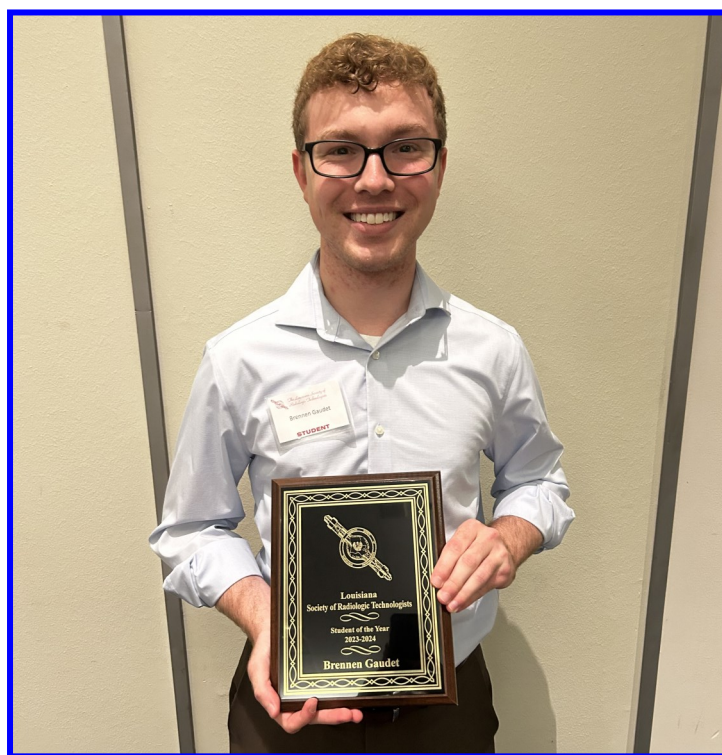
The 2024 Student of the Year is Brennen Gaudet.

Before applying to the School of Radiologic Technology, Brennen earned a Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in English from Nicholls State University. He graduated Summa Cum Laude and is now a member of Lambda Nu National Honor Society - Louisiana Gamma Chapter.

In September 2023, Brennen was selected by their classmates as the Student of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter. Selection is based on dependability, behavior, appearance, and initiative. Additionally, Brennen was on the school's Quiz Bowl team and participated in the Scientific Essay competition this year.

Among the many comments made by preceptors about Brennen are very helpful, always interested in learning new exams, has Radiologic Technology and great positioning skills, does an excellent job with difficult exams, and is an exceptional student.

He will graduate next July from North Oaks School of Radiologic Technology where his brother, Jace, graduated in June 2023.



Congratulations to Brennen Gaudet!

2024 TECHNOLOGIST OF THE YEAR

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

It is with great pleasure that we introduce the recipient of this year's LSRT Technologist of the Year award. This year's recipient is Dr. Tammy Curtis.

Dr. Curtis embodies the essence of kindness, positivity, and unwavering dedication to the profession. With a longstanding commitment to the LSRT spanning many years, Dr. Curtis has selflessly served in various leadership roles within the organization, holding a total of 15 titles. Her enthusiasm for helping others shines through in all she does, making her a true asset to both the LSRT and the radiologic technology community at large.

Dr. Curtis has presented more than 35 lectures at the state and regional level. In addition, she has presented over 10 times nationally, contributed to more than 10 editorial book reviews, authored 13 book publications, and published numerous articles in our profession's peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Curtis serves not only as a mentor to us professionally, but also as a friend. Please join us in celebrating Dr. Tammy Curtis for her outstanding contributions and exemplary leadership.



Congratulations to Dr. Tammy Curitus

JOE SCHWARTZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists

The **Joe Schwartz Memorial Scholarship** is given annually. Joe Schwartz was one of the past presidents of LSRT. He was also a life member and a true professional in every aspect of the word. After careful consideration of multiple submissions, the committee decided to award two scholarships this year.

The first recipient for a \$500, scholarship is **Anna Broussard** from McNeese. Anna has demonstrated exceptional dedication and academic excellence, making them a deserving recipient of the Joe Schwartz Memorial Scholarship. Her commitment to their studies and community service embodies the values that this scholarship aims to honor and support.



The second recipient for a \$500 scholarship is **Kamryn Michael**, from North Oaks. She exemplifies the spirit of the Joe Schwartz Memorial Scholarship through their outstanding academic achievements and unwavering dedication to community service. Her passion for making a positive impact reflects the core values that this scholarship seeks to promote.

Congratulations to Both

LSRT wishes you a Happy and Wonderful Radiologic Technology Week

Susie Beasley, LSRT Historian, has corresponded with the Governor's office and the Governor has declared November 3-9, 2024 as Radiologic Technology Week in Louisiana. This aligns with the National Radiologic Technology Week. Please let the LSRT know how you and others at your place of employment celebrated National Radiologic Technology Week. Your submissions will be included in the next issue of the Focal Spot Monitor or the LSRT web site at www.lsrt.net. Submissions to gbradley@mcneese.edu by December 15, 2024. Governor's Proclamation on next page.



PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Louisiana Society Of Radiologic Technologists



PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Louisiana Society Of Radiologic Technologists



Internet Address www.lsrt.net

LSRT
GREG BRADLEY, M. Ed., R.T. (R)(ARRT)
EDITOR, FOCAL SPOT MONITOR
MSU P.O. BOX 921820
LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA 70609-2000

FOCAL SPOT MONITOR

LSRT

2025 Mid Winter Seminar

March 8, 2016

LSU-A

Alexandria

More details later at www.lsrt.net

67th LSRT Annual Meeting

July 10—12, 2025

Baton Rouge or Lafayette