



The Central Ray



A Quarterly Newsletter from the **California Society of Mentors & Students in Radiologic Technology (CSMSRT)**

A Facebook.com Support Group for Students, Educators, Mentors & Technologist in the Imaging Field

"Students Can Make A Difference in Radiologic Technology!"

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

T H E C A L I F O R N I A S O C I E T Y O F M E N T O R S &
S T U D E N T S I N R A D I O L O G I C T E C H N O L O G Y

The California Society of Mentors & Students in Radiologic Technology is a Facebook support group which brings students, mentors, teachers and working technologists together.

Feedback to the CSMSRT can be directed to:

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The Central Ray wishes everyone a successful, prosperous, healthy and Happy New Year!

Thank you for being a member!

W H A T I S I N T H E F U T U R E F O R R T ' S ?

As we say good-bye to 2009, we welcome the New Year! What will 2010 hold for RT Students and Radiologic Technologists? CSMSRT rubbed elbows with the leaders and scoured the earth to get up to date information for you!

Expect to Pay More- The ARRT is expecting to raise its fees for Primary and Post Primary Certifications. Your initial certification is considered your Primary certifications. For many, it may be Radiography, Ultrasound and/or Nuclear Medicine. The fees for these will increase from \$150.00 to \$200.00 for applications postmarked after

December 31, 2009. Post Primary Certifications are those certifications you obtain after, or

in addition to, your primary certification. For many this will include CT, MRI, and Bone Dosimetry, These fees will also increase, though they will be structured differently. For more information, visit www.arrt.org

Associates Degree Minimum-

The ARRT Board of Trustees has approved a minimum Associates Degree Requirement. This will require that candidates seeking certification after January 1, 2015 must earn at least an associates degree prior to sitting for the ARRT Certification Board Exam.

This has been an issue of debate for quite some time.

There are those that feel that

an associates degree requirement would not help the candidate seeking certification. Some feel that this will only add to additional hardships that students face. Some claim that courses such as English and other Liberal Art courses have no place in the medical field.

However the ARRT believes this new requirement supports their mission of promoting high standards of patient care, and will assist in positioning those who will graduate in 2015 and beyond in that endeavor.

More information about this can be found on www.arrt.org

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C O N F E S S I O N S O F A N R T G R A D U A T E

The days of filling out time sheets, completing competency sheets, asking a registered tech to review images and getting clinical grade sheets signed are over! I did it! I've graduated from the RT Program! All the stress of being a student is finally over?! Right? Well, not exactly—now the real works begins! What do I mean?

Preparing for the ARRT- Preparing for the ARRT requires that you be focused, determined, and attentive to the task at hand. For me this meant telling all my friends that I had to postpone all celebratory engagements until I passed the exam. This also meant having a scheduled routine for studying. My routine consisted of studying 3.5 consecutive weeks before I scheduled to take the exam.

Staying Focused- Honestly, staying focused was the most difficult part of the whole experience. I wanted to go out with my friends, and wanted to see the latest movies. However, I knew there was a bigger stake. If I didn't pass the ARRT, the past two years would have been for nothing.

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CONTINUE – WHAT IS IN THE FUTURE FOR RT'S

Enrollments Drop in RT Programs-The American Society of Radiologic Technologist, (ASRT) recently indicated that there has been a drop in enrollment in Radiologic Technology, Nuclear Medicine and Radiation Therapy Programs across the nation.

The ASRT Study found a 1.9 percent decrease for radiography programs, a 0.5 percent decrease for radiation therapy programs and a 15 percent decrease for nuclear medicine technology programs when compared with 2008 enrollment numbers. This is surprising news, since in programs such as the one at San Francisco City College, program applications and information regarding Radiologic Technology have been flying off the shelves. They can't keep them fully stocked!

For students currently enrolled in RT Programs across the country this could mean additional job opportunities upon graduation. As soon as the economic situation stabilizes, technologists that are ready to retire may feel comfortable enough to take that step, thereby freeing positions they now hold. It is only a matter of time.

Cultural and Linguistic Competency-

Cultural and Linguistic Competency (CLC) is an area that will be an fascinating issue for RT's to address in the coming year. We all come from diverse backgrounds. This is what makes each of us unique. The challenge that has faced many in the healthcare industry is how to address patients who are culturally and linguistically diverse. Why is this so important?

Imagine someone out there right now who isn't getting the proper medical attention they need because of their inability to communicate effectively to their healthcare provider. As an integral part of the healthcare system, we owe it to ourselves and to the patients we are serve to be sensitive to their needs when it comes to their culture and their language.

During the past couple of years, many states have mandated that CLC be incorporated into some education format for their healthcare providers. For example, The California State Legislation passed Assembly Bill 1195. AB1195 is targeted at physicians practicing in California. The spirit of this bill is to ensure that they recognize the disparity and lack of

proper treatment for people facing language and/or a culture barriers. While some of you may not practice or live in California, I am confident that some of the patients you see still fit the CLC Category.

The Medical Leadership Council on Cultural Proficiency indicates that more than 200 different languages are spoken in California. Approximately 40% of the population reports speaking a language other than English at home, and of those, over half reported to be limited in speaking English.

Radiologic Technologists are an integral part of the healthcare team. In order to provide quality care, we must connect with the patient, communicate with them about their needs, and help physicians obtain a correct diagnosis.

We owe it to ourselves as patient advocates to be educated on CLC issues. This will assist in providing optimum patient care and assist physicians and other important healthcare team members in better treatment planning.



CON'T: CONFESSIONS OF AN RT GRADUATE

I decided to put myself on a strict regime. I would get up at 8AM and work on 2 chapters of my ARRT review book per week. After each week, I would incorporate more chapters into my weekly routine thereby scheduling myself to finish 6 chapters in 3 weeks. I decided to use the final 4 days to review.

Day of Exam- To say I was a wreck is an understatement. I realize that this was the "make or break" moment for me. I also realize that I needed to pat myself on the back for coming this far. Completing a two year program and finishing a rigorous clinical education is not easy! I need to give myself credit.

What ever happens will happen. I studied to the best of my ability and I know that I will do the very best I will do. The ARRT provides strict guidelines for testing. The testing center strictly adheres to the guidelines. I was given my testing exam desk and began taking the exam. As a testing strategy, I focused on questions I could answer first, and returned later to those I couldn't answer or were taking up too much time,.

I completed the exam in 2 hours and 40 minutes and the received a preliminary score. I passed ! It will take approximately 4 weeks for the official results. As I walked out of the testing center, I began to think all the hard

work I've done has finally paid off! I am very hopeful of the outcome of the official results!

Now What? Now that I've worked so hard in what I hope will be an RT Certification, I want to ensure my profession remains strong. This is why I will continue to be involved with the state and national professional organization. I realize that in order for my profession to remain strong and to be stronger patient advocate, I need to work harder and do more for the professional society. I owe it not only to me, but to the patients I will hopefully see for many years to come.

