



NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY  
OF  
RADIOLOGIC SCIENCES, INC.

# The Imagist



## Brennan Elected to ASRT High Office

William Brennan of Sound Beach Long Island, NY had been elected to the office of President-Elect of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. Mr. Brennan is a past president of the Association of Educators in Radiologic Technology of the State of New York and the New York State Society of Radiologic Sciences. He has been a program director and educator in the Radiologic Sciences and is currently PACS Manager at New York Presbyterian Hospital Cornell-Weill in New York City. He was a member of the Advisory Board of the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Environmental Radiation (NYSDOHERP) until its dissolution. Mr. Brennan has served NYSSRS as a New York State delegate in the ASRT House of Delegates. He has served ASRT as a Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Delegates, Chair of the Bylaws committee and as a member of several committees.

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## Professionalism in Radiologic Technology -Students Perspectives

By Paulette Peterson, Professor of Radiologic Technology – Monroe Community College

This article is really a compilation of the thoughts of several of my recent graduate students. They were assigned a research paper or project as part of my Radiology Management course. What was interesting this year (2012) was that so many of them picked topics that had to do with the motivation and attitudes of the Radiologic Technologists they observed while doing their clinical rotations. As a long time supporter of the notion of Radiologic Technologists being recognized as professionals some of these observations made me start re-thinking the belief that technologists deserve that recognition.



For example, one student recounted an episode where a patient with a walker was following a technologist out of the radiographic room and the technologist let the door close on the patient. There was no apology even though the elderly patient was visibly upset.

Another student noted a situation where two technologists, working together on a case were blathering on and on about departmental problems, personal issues and so on, the student felt the patients discomfort and tried to converse with her. The two technologists reprimanded her, in front of the patient.

One student, a man in his fifties working on a second career, wrote about the attitudes of technologists in general. The underlying theme was that patients deserve to be treated kindly and with respect but his experiences showed that many technologists view their patients as inconveniences or nuisances. Attitudes like this fly in the face of what is perceived as professional behavior.

Recent headline grabbing incidents such as minimal or no collimation use and excessive doses also reflect a lack of professionalism within radiologic technology.

What is going on here? These are people who have graduated from Radiologic Technology programs where I feel certain that aspects of professionalism, professional behavior, and proper patient protection practices were taught, discussed and emphasized.

Perhaps the problem is that once they become radiographers and employees all evidence of them being part of a “profession” goes out the window. Radiologists and departmental employees such as nurses and physician assistants usually recognize the abilities and scope of practice of the technologists that they work with. However, hospital administrations do not appear to respect the education and experience of technologists in the same way that they do nurses. Technologists are typically viewed as low end employees. In fairness, this is also the case with many of the Allied Health Professions.

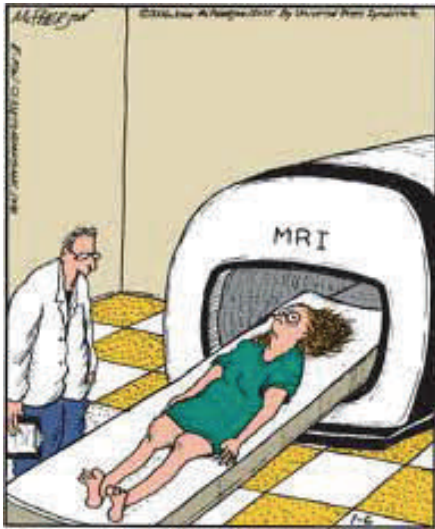
Sadly, one of my students wrote about the general well being of technologists. In her opinion she noted that many technologists, especially those close to or in middle age are “broken down both physically and spiritually”. Radiologic Technology is a hard and emotionally draining job, apparently younger people see it taking its toll over the long term.

Recognition, responsibility and reward are effective methods to positively motivate employees and Radiologic Technologists are no exception. Perhaps addressing this sad state of affairs should start with radiology administrators and managers who are often the first line of communication between staff and those at the higher levels. Understandably once a technologist moves into a managerial position their focus changes but it would be great to see them become advocates for the technologists they manage and once worked with.

Attending professional meetings and conferences can be uplifting for the spirit. At these meetings technologists listen to lectures and learn new things. But most importantly they can share their experiences with other technologists and can see that their problems are shared by others from all types of institutions and geographical areas. Managers should commit to making information about meetings and conferences known to their staff, encourage attendance and support their attendance financially.

*I wish to thank Christine Pollino, Ken Kowalski, Suzanne Mullard, and Colleen Schlosser, some of my 2012 graduates who wrote very thought provoking papers on technologist's attitudes and behaviors. I hope their careers provide them positive and rewarding experiences and that they commit to not repeating the behaviors they observed as students.*





"OK, Mrs. Dunn. We'll slide you in there, scan your brain, and see if we can find out why you've been having these spells of claustrophobia."

### “Certainly I can!”

**By: William Brennan M.A., R.T. (R)(CT), CIIP**

One of my heroes has always been Teddy Roosevelt and I dare say that you will frequently find me quoting him. One piece of particularly good advice I would like to pass on to the radiologic technology students out there. Teddy said, **“When you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, 'Certainly I can!' Then get busy and find out how to do it.”** Let me tell you how this wisdom helped me in my career.

When I first graduated, CT was just getting a hold in medical imaging. I had always been fascinated with computers but knew little or nothing about how they worked. In school we had learned little about CT except that it was a relatively new technology with great potential. I was offered a job as an RT in a private practice that paid a

great deal less than what my fellow classmates were offered for their first jobs. However, what interested me was the fact that 1 day a week I would get to learn CT. The radiologist asked me if I thought I could do it and I said, “Certainly I Can.” This led to other CT positions down the road for me.

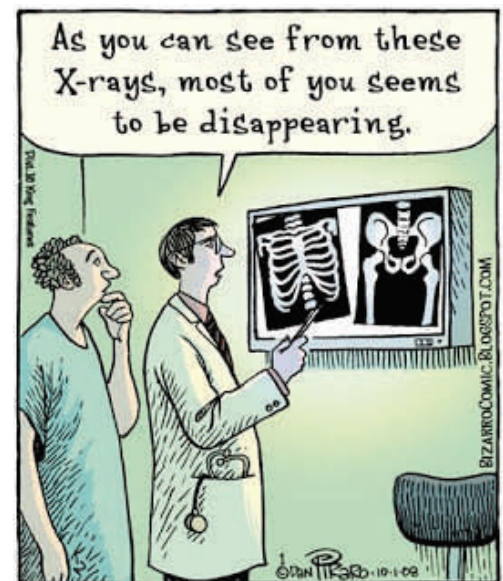
A year and a half later I was at the funeral for this same radiologist and found myself sitting next to my former program director who was now an administrator at a local hospital. After the services he asked me if I had my bachelor’s degree. His institution had a radiography program and he needed a program director. I was only out of school for 2 years and had never taught a day in my life but when he offered me the job I said, “Certainly I Can.” I went on to run three different schools of radiologic technology.

A few years ago I was quite happy teaching in one of these programs when I learned that the hospital was going digital with their first PACS. I had gained a little more experience with computers by now but knew nothing about DICOM, IP addresses, AE titles, networking and the rest. When the announcement was made at a department meeting that they would be looking for a PACS manager I said, “Certainly I Can.” I now help administer the PACS at the number one health care institution in NY.

Three years ago I was chatting with ASRT CEO, Sal Martino at the An-

nual Governance and House of Delegates meeting when he asked me why I wouldn’t consider running for a position on the Board of Directors. I figured no one would vote for me but I gave my usual answer anyway, “Certainly I Can.” Well, that seems to have worked out.

So, graduating seniors of radiologic technology programs all over this great country; as you embark on the beginning of your career in this profession that offers more avenues of opportunity than most others, when you are asked if you think you can do something remember that you are an R.T.....**you know the answer!**





## Annual Conference Preview

There will be something for everyone at the annual conference of the NYSSRS Friday October 24-Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup> in Corning, NY. Technologists can earn at least 12 credits from a variety of topics. Speakers from around New York State are tentatively scheduled to present talks in current infection control practices, CT safety, promoting a positive image of RT's, lithotripsy facts and fundamentals, what can go wrong during interventional procedures, and cryogenic tumor treatments. Alex Damiani from the New York State Department of Health will present on ethical and legal issues and introduce attendees to other department personnel.



## Chinese Auction Fundraiser

During the annual conference the NYSSRS sponsors a "Chinese Auction" fundraising activity. A Chinese auction is a type of raffle where multiple items are available and tickets can be entered to win them. It is similar to a Theme Tray auction. Donations for the auction, individual items or theme trays/baskets, are greatly appreciated, even if you cannot attend. Contact Paulette Peterson at [ppeterson@monroecc.edu](mailto:ppeterson@monroecc.edu) or at (585) 292-2374 for more information.



## Doyle Recognized as Life Member of RSRT

Eileen Doyle was awarded life membership in the Rochester Society of Radiologic Technologist last Fall. Professor Doyle became a member of RSRT as a student at Monroe Community College (MCC) in Rochester, NY and has served as a board member, committee chair and member. This past year she has served as secretary. Professor Doyle has remained at MCC as a faculty member and is currently the Program Director. Congratulations to RSRT Life member, Professor Eileen Doyle!





Student Bowl: 1st Place-Monroe Community College



Student Bowl: 2nd Place - Broome Community College



Student Bowl: 3rd Place - Mercy Medical Center



Poster Contest: 1st Place-Stony Brook University



Poster Contest: 2nd Place-Broome Community College



Poster Contest: 3rd Place-Broome Community College

**Essay Contest:**

**1st Place - Leonardo Garcia, 2nd Place - Branden Bartlett, 3rd Place - David Chevaller**



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