Legg's Top 5 List

Jeff Legg-Chairman

After 13 years in the department, 18 years as an educator, and 6 years as chair, I admit that I still love my job--at least most days! Many things make working for VCU Radiation Sciences an enjoyable experience. Taking a page from David Letterman, I'll outline the 5 things I enjoy about my job:

Number 1: Learning...I draw a paycheck to do what I've always enjoyed--learning new stuff! I constantly get to learn new things about the profession and education; it never feels stagnant. It is almost like being a professional student!

Number 2: People...Because I work at a large university/academic medical center, I have contact throughout the day with young, enthusiastic, and knowledgeable students, from a variety of health science disciplines. It is also rewarding to watch alumni move on to do great things in their personal lives and careers.

Number 3: One of the features that I enjoy most about my job is the opportunity to serve on professional committees. Not only is it a chance to support the profession but it also enables me to know other radiologic technologists from across the US (and even the world). It is also cool to watch college sports on TV and know some of the faculty and RTs who might be from that school.

Number 4: My entire career has been at either VCU or VCU Medical Center. In working with radiographers from a variety of programs across the center, I can say that I've always been prepared. I have never had any professional surprises from being trained in a level 1 trauma center/teaching hospital. And I know our graduates have that same level of experience.

Number 5: Creativity... I often find myself preparing new PowerPoint presentations or revising earlier slide sets. I get considerable pleasure out of this process of reviewing and assembling visual aids for my lectures. I really enjoy making these slides attractive using various color schemes, photos, drawings, and some humor.

I only offer 5 since space is limited. But how did I do? Did I miss something? What makes you happy about your job and life?

Please feel free to contact me at (804) 828-9104 or jlegg@vcu.edu
Yet another year has flown by and what a great year we had. So where do I begin?

**Students**

This year we graduated the largest class of NMT students in department history--10! This outstanding group of students is now out there looking for employment. If you hear of any openings, please tell those responsible to contact the school. Our NMTCB pass rate over a 5 year period stands at 97.4%. We placed in the upper third this year in program ranking when compared to all other accredited NMT programs.

**Program Development**

In the fall of 2011, the University approved moderate changes within the NMT curriculum:

- Blending Physics and Instrumentation into a combined course given over two semesters with two associated labs
- Starting in the spring of 2012 we will have a new course in PET/CT
- A laboratory course in Radiopharmacy has been approved and will begin during the fall

Over the years VCU has given us monies for capital expenditures and this year was no exception. **We received over $17,000 to further upgrade the equipment in the hotlab.** These monies allowed us to purchase the last of the lab equipment required for our students to complete all lab assignments within our student lab, both for instrumentation/physics and radiopharmacy. An ironic twist to our program's curriculum was the development of new accreditation standards, specifically requiring PET/CT to be added to the curriculum and radiopharmaceutical compounding to be taught in a laboratory setting if it cannot be completed at a clinical affiliate.

In the clinical arena, Mr. Riley's observations compelled him, with assistance from other clinical faculty, to modify student evaluation forms. These new forms are designed to place more emphasis on the student’s technical skills and knowledge of nuclear medicine procedures. Additionally, with the help of clinical personnel, overall evaluation approaches are being reviewed to improve grading standards and encourage students to strive for excellence in the development of their clinical practice.

**Commentary**

Professionally, as Specialty Representative in Education for the Society of Nuclear Medicine-Technologist Section, I submitted the following statement to the National Council meeting in June 2011. Let me share with you a modified version:

"Some ten plus years ago I remember talking with the vendors at one of our annual meetings, about how few PET scanners were being sold and that only 60 or so units were in operation across the US. Disappointing. Then came the reimbursement for single lung nodule, and the growth curve for PET began to climb. As the reimbursement picture continued to improve, so did the need for PET. Next came PET/CT fusion and our new name, "molecular imaging." From an educational standpoint, I wonder how do we keep up with all this? Doesn't it feel somewhat
overwhelming? More importantly, how do we prepare our students for what lies ahead, after graduation? Can we give them a competitive edge? While CT has become incorporated into JRC standards, one has to ask, "how far does one incorporate it?" Is there enough time in your NMT curriculum to implement more than just the fundamentals of CT (didactic/clinic)? Then let us not forget about MRI and its fusion into our evolving modality. Should we be preparing our students for yet another paradigm shift?"

What I do know is that we need the right ingredients to navigate through whatever paradigm might appear. We are supported by the University, have knowledgeable faculty who are aware of what is transpiring at the national level, and, most important, we have a diverse blend of clinical affiliates. To all of you, thank you for your hard work and dedication. Your reflection--no our reflections--are seen in the quality displayed by our graduates.

Judith Cohn, long-time clinical supervisor at the Massey Cancer Center at VCU, retired this year and while we (and the students) miss her, we wish her all the best as she now has time for her husband and her dogs. We would also like to thank Jennifer Humphrey and Liz Haynes for their time of service as clinical supervisors at CJW Johnston-Willis and Williamsburg Radiation Therapy, respectively. New clinical supervisors include: Carolin Augustine (MCV), Melissa Santiago (CJW) and Crystal Richardson (Williamsburg).

Our radiation therapy students continue to participate in Gamma Chi and its community service projects as well as the American Cancer Society’s Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk each October. We would love to have some alumni join our team this year for the 10th Anniversary of the event. It’s easy to do, just use this link to either participate or donate.

http://tinyurl.com/VCUteam2011

We extend congratulations to Tanya [Boswell] Craig (2006) on the arrival of a baby boy this year. Ashkan Parniani (2008) relocated to the Baltimore area as a dosimetrist at Franklin Square Hospital and Allison Hylton (2007) moved back to Richmond and is working at VCU Medical Center’s downtown campus. Selina [Singh] Rogahn (2008) has enrolled in a Master’s of Business Administration program in Texas. Amy Aurand (2007) is now a dosimetrist at Hershey Medical Center in PA. And congratulations to Hemangi Patel (2007) on her recent marriage. We wish the happy couple all the best.
Radiography Update – Dr. Terri Fauber, Program Director

We graduated 16 students in 2011 and I’m happy to report all successfully passed the ARRT certification exam. Currently enrolled students include 12 seniors, 15 juniors, and 17 sophomores that began fall 2011. We have seen an increase in enrollment in our BS Completion program and have 18 enrolled as of fall 2011. Our BS Completion Program is an opportunity for registered technologists to complete a baccalaureate degree.

Quality students and technologists at clinical affiliates are essential to the success of our program. Each year we recognize an outstanding student and technologist. This year we awarded Ms. Candra Dodd the Katina E. Plaster Memorial Award as outstanding senior and Mr. Johnnie Worsley, clinical instructor at Patient First-Parham Road, was nominated by students as the outstanding technologist; both received the JRCERT Certificate of Excellence Award. Additionally, VCU’s Radiography Program was selected by the ASRT to receive one sponsored student membership. Ms. Myra Wynn, class of 2012, was selected for the ASRT’s Sponsor a Student Program. She receives a full year of ASRT student membership.

Program improvement has always been a priority and we value feedback from all our communities of interest. The Radiography Advisory Committee has served as one method of obtaining feedback from clinical affiliate administrators. In addition, we have a radiologist serve as the program’s medical advisor. Dr. Jim Messmer served in this role for the past ten years until his retirement in 2011 and has been a strong advocate for the Radiography Program. His dedication and loyalty to our department and program will surely be missed. We wish him well in retirement.

This year was particularly exciting for our department when VCU’s basketball team made the NCAA Final Four competition. One of our students in the class of 2012, Miss Sarah Bates, participated in the games as a VCU cheerleader. We took great pride in supporting her and our basketball team as they journeyed to the Final Four.

Although the job market continues to be a challenge for our graduates, they have made great strides in finding jobs within and outside of the Richmond area. I believe the quality of our students is a direct result of the dedication and commitment of all the radiographers, supervisors, and staff who play an integral role in developing our students’ clinic skills. So thank you once again!
Class of 2011

Bottom row: Megan Mathews (R), Candra Dodd (R), Azadeh Nazari (T), Kari Turner (T), Suzan Bhalani (T), Rebecca Bell (R), Kallan Boyter (R), Frances Patterson (R), Heba Badawood (N), Renee Woodfin (R), Amy Beninati (R)

2nd row: Jasmine Beatty (R), Kim Gainsforth (T), Shakelia Blanding (T), Kelly Hevener (T), Brittany Alston (R), Caitlin Alewine (N), Amanda Easterling (N), Melissa Hewitt (N), Tessa Gaddy (R), Bantie Kassahun (R)

3rd row: Sheena Everett (R), Amy McCoy (T), Brittany Miranda (R), Farah Malaeb (T), Tori Keel (N), Corrine Wicker (R), Derek Bristol (R), Samson Kebede (N)

Top row: Matthew Holland (N), JR Sakiey (C), Edward Adams (T), Ibrahim Aldousari (N), Lucky Freitas (RA), Travis Prowant (RA), David Winyard Jr (R)

Key to Programs: C = degree completion, N = Nuclear Medicine Technology, R = Radiography, RA = Radiologist Assistant, T = Radiation Therapy
Class of 2011 Awardees

Congratulations to the following seniors who were awarded graduation awards in their respective program.

**Candra Dodd** won the *Tina Plaster Memorial Award*. This award was initiated by the Radiography Class of 1992 in memory of a classmate who was tragically killed during the final year of her program. The award recognizes a radiography senior who displays the characteristics associated with Tina: excellent patient care skills, strong academics and a high standard of professionalism. Pictured at left is Candra along with Johnnie Worsley, 2011 Radiographer of the Year!

The *Elizabeth Blackburn Award in Nuclear Medicine Technology* was established as a permanent endowment from Dr. Alton R. Sharpe. **Heba Badawood** won the award this year (picture at right with Dr Legg).

**Kelly Hevener** was awarded the *Outstanding Radiation Therapy Student Award*. She is pictured at left with program director, Melanie Dempsey.

Congratulations to these outstanding graduates!
Outstanding Technologists & Therapist-2011

At the May graduation luncheon, the department honored three individuals chosen by our senior students in recognition of their positive impact on the student’s clinical education.

- **Outstanding radiation therapist:** Le Truc Pham, BS, RT(T) of the St. Mary’s Hospital Department of Radiation Oncology--and an alum!
- **Outstanding radiographer:** Johnnie Worsley, RT(R) from Patient First, Parham Road.
- **Outstanding nuclear medicine technologist:** Johanne Shea, BS, CNMT, Henrico Doctor's Hospital, Forest Campus.

2011 International Speaker for VCU Radiation Sciences

In June, Radiation Sciences students, faculty, and alumni were visited by Kristen Hurst, a 2004 nuclear medicine alum. Kristen has spent the past several years in Australia where he currently works at the Royal Brisbane Hospital in Queensland.

Kristen's lecture, "A Stranger in a Not Strange Land: My Last Three Years in Australia as a Nuclear Medicine Technologist" provided a comical yet informational review of the land of Australia, medical imaging/therapy, and some of the highlights of his career. Not only were VCU students exposed to where their careers can take them but they also learned how healthcare can differ between two counties that speak the same language.

Over the past several years VCU Radiation Sciences has received several international visitors, including faculty from the University of Liverpool, Great Britain and the University of West Indies, Jamaica.

Who knows who will come visit next year?
2011 Trivette Memorial Scholarship Awards

Thanks to the continued generosity of radiation oncologists Drs. Judy Chin, Taryn Torre, George Trivette and Jo Anne Walker, the Department has once again awarded the Janet Harvey Trivette Scholarship.

The 2011 recipient is Jamie Bender pictured at right. Jamie is a member of the class of 2012 from Stafford, Virginia.

The award was created in memory of Janet Trivette, the late wife of Dr. George Trivette. The Janet Harvey Trivette Scholarship rewards a rising senior radiation therapy student who shows exemplary clinical aptitude and has maintained a departmental grade point average of at least a 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. The generous scholarship provides the student’s in-state tuition, fees and books for both semesters of their senior year.

2011 National Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Amanuel Negussie, member of the radiation therapy class of 2012 and winner of a Varian Radiation Therapy Student Scholarship. This scholarship program is supported by the ASRT Education and Research Foundation. Since 2002 a student or faculty member from the VCU Radiation Sciences department has won a national scholarship from the ASRT!
Faculty Scholarship

Melanie Dempsey coauthored "Safety Considerations for IMRT" with several physicians and radiation physics. Look for it in Practical Radiation Oncology.

Beth Meixner serves as the Chair of the Radiologic Technology Advisory Board, Virginia Board of Medicine.

Terri Fauber published an article on her ASRT funded research in the July/August edition of the Radiologic Technology journal. Her experimental research focused on high kilovoltage digital exposure techniques and its effect on patient dosimetry. Timmerie Cohen and Melanie Dempsey, Radiation Therapy faculty, are coauthors and provided consultation on patient dosimetry.

A new textbook, Essentials of Radiographic Physics and Imaging by Drs. James Johnston and Terri Fauber, was published by Elsevier April 2011. In addition to Dr. Fauber's imaging and exposure content, this textbook provides the prerequisite radiation physics and expands the digital imaging content. Beth Meixner contributed the chapter on Computed Tomography.

Terri Fauber and Beth Meixner presented at the 2011 VSRT Student/Educator Seminar in Virginia Beach.

Jeff Legg and Melanie Dempsey are completing their ASRT grant funded research on the patient safety culture of US radiation therapists. In addition, they are studying the patient safety culture of vascular-interventional technologist with a colleague from Louisiana. Look for publications in 2012.

Timmerie Cohen is completing the dissertation phase of her studies in health care policy at VCU.

Melanie Dempsey is President of the American Association of Medical Dosimetrists.

Beth Meixner will end her nearly 20 year term as editor of the VSRT's The Electron. Congratulations on your fine work for the state's professional organization.

Mark Crosthwaite is President of the Mideastern Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine-Technologist Section. He also spoke this year at the Society of Nuclear Medicine Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Over the summer, Paul Riley worked with the Virginia Department of Health during his internship for VCU's Program in Public Health.

Faculty continue service on editorial review boards or review for the following professional journals:

- Terri Fauber - Radiography (United Kingdom) and Radiologic Sciences and Education
- Melanie Dempsey - Radiation Therapist
- Jeff Legg - Radiologic Technology, Health Care Management Science, and executive editor of Radiologic Sciences and Education
Gamma Chi Honor Society update — Ferell Justice, Chapter Director

Since our last communication with alumni, there have been 22 additional members to Virginia Gamma Chi. This brings our total membership number to 182 since our inception in 2006. This organization continues to grow and participate in projects which benefit the community. This past year the student and faculty members of Gamma Chi participated in several events which were very successful.

Events for this past year included working with the VCU Dental School by putting together bags of necessities (water, nutrition bar, tooth paste and brush, and dental floss) which benefited homeless individuals within the Richmond and VCU area. These ‘hope bags’ were distributed by our students at various times throughout the academic year. Another activity we continue to participate with (since the inception of the organization) was the collection and donation of detergent to benefit VCUHS’s Hospital Hospitality House. In addition to our community events, the membership participated in the annual Richmond Academy of Medicine Alliance (RAMA) Antique Show in February.

A special ‘Thank You’ is due to this past year’s officers, they were: President, Suzan Bhalni (’11); Vice President, Lucky Freitas (’11); Secretary, Kelly Hevener (RT ’11); Treasurer, JR Sakiey (’11); and Historian, Alicia Minggia (’12). Also, congratulations is extended to this year’s Gamma Chi Scholarship recipients Megan Mathews (’11) and Kelly Hevener (’11).
75th Anniversary/Alumni Reunion

On April 16, the VCU Department of Radiation Sciences celebrated its 75th anniversary. Held at the Jefferson Lakeside Country Club in Richmond, alumni from several decades attended the festivities. The reunion weekend kicked off that morning with a tour of the VCU Medical Center--both old and new. Alumni and friends toured the old West Hospital, 18th floor where the Department was previously housed. Leaving the past behind, the tour concluded with visits to the current clinical departments at VCU Medical Center and the Department of Radiation Sciences' offices on the Monroe Park Campus.

At the country club that evening, alumni and guests caught up on old times. The event's guest of honor and speaker was Joanne Greathouse, department chair from 1980-1998. Mrs. Greathouse spoke on the evolution of radiation sciences during her early days in the profession.

Some fun awards were given to alumni, including:

- **Class with the most number of alumni in attendance**: Class of 1969 with 7 attendees
- **Most 'seasoned' alum attendee**: Mrs. Evelyn Hayes Mueller (1943)
- **Most recent alumni**: Rachel Young and Kelli Griczin (2010)
- **Alumni who traveled this furthest to attend**: Charlene Hudgins Hemp (1978) from South Windsor, CT and Honey Hough Rae (1986) from Fort Worth, TX

Good food, drink, door prizes, socializing, and dancing followed.

Many thanks to the Alumni Reunion Planning Committee, chaired by Ferell Justice, for organizing the event. More pictures can be found at the Department's Facebook site.

Below: Past and present Department of Radiation Sciences faculty in attendance
More Scenes from the 75th Alumni Reunion....
2010-11 Annual Giving Campaign Thank You

We could not offer quality programs without continued philanthropic support. Gifts directly assist our students. Your gifts help us provide additional funding to attract and support the best and brightest students and faculty. Our thanks to the many generous alumni and friends who contributed to our Department of Radiation Sciences Annual Fund. You’re help is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to the following individuals who contributed to the Radiation Sciences Department

* Dave Handschuh (1993)  
* Paul Legg (in memory of Diana Legg)  
* Elizabeth and Ralph Hill (in memory of Diana Legg)  
* Michael Bell (former faculty)  
* Dr Ann Fulcher, VCU Medical Center  
* Dr James Messmer, VCU Medical Center  
* Dr Maryann Turner, VCU Medical Center  
* Lauretta Crawley (1973)  
* Daphne Mosley (1978)  
* Debbie Beckel (1991)  
* Chris Shaver (2003)  
* Deborah Grumbine (1968)  
* Scott Teffteteller (1994) ? correct spelling

2011/2012 Distance Education Courses Available for CE Credit

During the fall and spring semesters the Department of Radiation Sciences offers a variety of distance education courses that can be taken for CE credits.

Our typical schedule:

Fall
- Cross sectional anatomy (2 credits)
- Introduction to computed tomography (2 credits)
- Introduction to vascular-interventional radiology (3 credits)
- Radiographic pathology (3 credits)

Spring
- Cross sectional anatomy (2 credits)
- Radiobiology (2 credits)
- Radiographic pathology (3 credits)

If you have tuition waiver through your facility this is an excellent way to earn CE credits. Every credit hour of the course earns you 16 CE credits according to the ARRT. So, a 2 credit course will take care of your ARRT requirements for the entire biennium (32 credits)!

For more information call or email Jeff Legg at (804) 828-9104 or jlegg@vcu.edu
Where in the World is ......................

Help us bring our alumni records up to date. We have lost touch with the following alumni and would very much like to re-establish contact. If you know where they are or can let them know that we are looking for them it would be greatly appreciated. Contact Jeff Legg at jslegg@vcu.edu.

- Sharon J. Adams ’96 RTE
- Amy B. Alden ’77 RTE
- Jean O. O’Brien Arvais ’77 RTE
- Lisa A. Baker ’93 RTE
- Denise L. Banker ’96 CRS
- Alexis B. Beard Beaver ’70 RTE
- Greg A. Blount ’95 CRS
- Koleen E. Brown ’83 RTE
- Mindy S. Carris ’83 RTE
- Sharon R. Carson ’94 CRS
- Alice A. Cesena ’92 RTE
- Meguewell Childs ’02 CRS
- Vanessa L. Chin ’81 RTE
- Kristie M. Clark ’94 CRS
- Hunter E. Collier ’84 RTE
- Celestia Conway ’66 RTE
- Debra A. Costanzo ’73 RTE
- Becky S. Slayden Cutchins ’90 CRS
- Patricia I. Davis ’96 CRS
- William R. Davis ’76 RTE
- Margaret Quinn Diaz ’70 RTE
- Shari L. Donohoe ’84 RTE
- Jennie M. Eanes ’98 CRS
- Colette D. Ellis ’87 RTE
- Lisa D. Elmore ’94 RTE ‘96 CRS
- Sheryl A. Embrey ’96 CRS
- Victoria G. Fabian ’85 RTE
- Mary Lyle Falls ’77 RTE
- Lucy G. Frazer ’51 RTE
- Stephen J. Gavin ’93 RTE
- Kathy L. Goldstein ’84 RTE
- Donald Graham ’73 RTE
- Beverly D. Grant ’86 RTE
- Joyce M. Griggs ’80 RTE
- Lisa S. Harris ’87 RTE
- Hilda Henley ’47 RTE
- Connie G. Hill ’85 RTE
- Brenda J. Hobbs ’70 RTE
- Janet E. Hodge ’74 RTE
- Mary F. Holmes ’84 RTE
- Lola Cannon Horne ’64 RTE
- Karen Hunter ’76 RTE
- Pennie C. Jones ’76 RTE
- Wanda K. Jones ’80 RTE
- Kendra Keenan ’94 RTE
- Debora Kindred ’85 RTE
- Susan Hargis King ’82 RTE
- Dorothy D. Lagos ’77 RTE
- Karen L. Litchfield ’80 RTE
- Karen A. Livesay ’85 RTE
- Manetta L. Long ’84 RTE
- Barbara R. Loudermilk ’83 RTE
- Lorie Harris Lowder ’90 CRS
- Susan N. Lynch ’70 RTE
- Rebecca P. McDonald ’82 RTE
- Suzanne Gayle Morgan ’70 RTE
- Suzanne A. Mullins ’93 CRS
- Amanda D. Murray ’98 CRS
- Kenneth W. Nash ’82 RTE ’83 CRS
- Jaunda S. Ivan Owens ’54 RTE
- Heena D. Patel ’00 CRS
- Carrolle Thomas Patrom ’80 RTE
- Emilie L. Petro ’90 RTE
- Diem-Nhien Pham ’00 CRS
- Randall Pike ’93 CRS
- Debra L. Porter ’72 RTE
- Dorothy Roberts Poss ’71 RTE
- Madhvi M. Prasad ’94 CRS
- Linda B. Price ’71 RTE
- Wendy R. Quinn ’88 RTE
- David “Steve” Rankin ’91 RTE
- Ann M. Robenalt ’00 CRS
- Mari-Anne Roderick ’77 RTE
- Deborah Leibold Rossi ’75 RTE
- Sara L. Rowe ’94 CRS
- George M. Russell ’83 RTE
- Bettie Sheffield ’54 RTE
- Windsor Lewis Sherman Jr. ’91 RTE
- Margarette M. Smith ’49 RTE
- Shirley Rhodes Sommardahl ’65 RTE
- Sylvia Stinnett ’51 RTE
- Michael L. Taylor ’78 RTE
- Ronnie N. Taylor ’90 RTE
- Mary Puckett Vandaule ’70 RTE
- Toni Ware Waddell ’79 RTE
- Dorothy A. Walker ’83 RTE
- Judy L. Wallace ’73 RTE
- Shirley May Davis Wiltshire ’50 RTE
- Teresa B. Wiltshire ’84 RTE
- Jennifer L. Yarber ’96 CRS
- Deborah E. Zeman ’87 CRS

KEY:
RTE – Radiologic Technology, Radiography certificate and AS
CRS – Clinical Radiation Sciences (BS)