

## AEIRS 2012 Annual Meeting: Education Update



The 2012 AEIRS Annual Meeting was held Thursday, July 12 & Friday, July 13 at the Hyatt French Quarter in New Orleans, LA with 207 educators in attendance. The conference was a great success under the guidance of **Dr. Carole South-Winter** and **John Eichinger** with topics presented of value to both novice and experienced educators. The AEIRS Annual Meeting was preceded by a JRCERT Accreditation Seminar on Tuesday, July 10 and a JRCERT Site Visitor Workshop on Wednesday, July 11. Thanks to **Leslie Winter** and members of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology for their support!

The main themes of the educational sessions presented at the 2012 conference were educational technology, educational strategies, and problem solving skills in the radiologic sciences.

Educational technology sessions included information regarding hybrid course design presented by **Heather Moore**, MEd, RT(R) and **Julie Gill**, PhD, RT(R)(QM); the use of iTouch devices presented by **Jammie Wilbanks**, MSRS, RT(R); and a special presentation by **Susan Robertson**, MS, RT(R) discussing the use of iPads to enhance student learning. Susan Robertson was the recipient of the 2012 AEIRS/Elsevier Innovator of the Year Award to recognize the work of an outstanding faculty member in imaging sciences demonstrating exceptional innovation and effectiveness in regards to promoting student learning through technology. Congratulations Susan!

A wide range of educational strategies were discussed, from the importance of developing a good course syllabus, presented by **Daniel DeMaio**, BS, RT(R)(CT), to assessment strategies, presented by **Glynnis Gaines**, MSHS, RT(R)(CT)(MR), **Julie Gill**, (PhD, RT(R)(QM), and **Kellie Cranfill**, BS, RT(R)(BD). **Glynnis Gaines** shared information for creating an assessment plan, emphasizing the value of classroom assessment, as well as examples of classroom assessment techniques. **Julie Gill** reviewed strategies in writing good multiple choice questions to assess higher levels of learning, and Kelli Cranfill demonstrated how various grading rubrics can be modified for use in a variety of classroom and clinical settings.

Educating radiologic science graduates to be critical thinkers and problem-solvers continues to be of paramount importance. On Thursday morning, **Nina Kowalczyk**, PhD, RT(R)(CT)(QM), FASRT shared information regarding the incorporation of problem-based learning in radiologic science classrooms based on nursing models currently in use at McMaster University. **Jeff Legg**, PhD, RT(R)(CT)(QM) presented the results of research conducted in conjunction with Dr. **Laura Aaron** and **Melanie Dempsey** regarding the patient safety culture of radiation therapists and CVIT technologists. The session discussed the impact of a given safety culture on students and the critical assessment and communications skills required for successful patient safety initiatives. **Jennifer Yates**, EdD, RT(R)(M)(BD) concluded the conference on Friday afternoon by exploring the process of learning and development of problem solving skills in radiologic technologists. Results of Dr. Yates research concluded that:

- the most difficult problems technologists face in practice are usually complex in nature, with well- and ill-structured aspects, technical and non-technical aspects woven together;
- technologists develop advanced problem solving skills through experience in the workplace, primarily through informal means, using a combination of deliberate and unintentional learning practices;
- experience alone does not result in problem solving expertise. Differences exist in the ways “expert” problem solvers approach learning and solve problems as compared to “challenged” problem solvers; and
- worksites that provide appropriate supports and challenges assist technologists in their development of complex problem solving skills. Communities of practice facilitate this process.

**Jim Temme**, MPA, RT(R)(QM) provided a presentation regarding his activities with the Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team (DMORT), a unit of the National Disaster Medical System. Although this team is usually assigned to disaster events in the U.S., Jim was called to Haiti following the devastating earthquake in January 2010. Mr.

Temme shared his experiences in working as a radiographer with an interdisciplinary team of anthropologists, forensic pathologists, finger print experts, and medical legal investigators. Jim's 2 week experience in Haiti reminded him of how wonderful life can be in the United States.

## Scholarships and Awards

*Susan Robinson (left) accepts Elsevier award from Jennifer Gianino*



In 2012, AEIRS and Elsevier jointly established a new **AEIRS/Elsevier Innovator of the Year Award** to recognize the work of an outstanding faculty member in the imaging sciences who demonstrates innovation and effectiveness in the use of technology to enhance student learning. This honor was awarded to Susan Robinson, MS, RT(R), Associate Professor in the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences, Indiana University School of Medicine. Ms. Robinson completed a project to provide a collaborative and comprehensive laboratory experiment to test theoretical digital imaging principles using the highly technical components of CR with innovative hands-on interactions using Apple iPads to enhance student learning.

The two primary goals of the project were to

increase student success and retention through collaborative learning and to use Apple iPad technology to promote critical thinking. Ms. Robinson concluded that iPads provide a tremendous potential in changing how both educators and students think about teaching and learning because the unique interface allows the students to interact and engage with the curriculum. Great work Susan!

The recipient of the 2012 **Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences Research Grant** was Nina Kowalczyk, PhD, RT(R)(CT)(QM), FASRT. Dr. Kowalczyk is an Assistant Professor in the Radiologic Sciences Division at The Ohio State University. This grant will fund a survey study to investigate the status of online education in radiography, radiation therapy, and nuclear medicine programs across the United States. The study will also assess the use of online educational tools, methods of delivery, and the instructor information technology self-efficacy. Congratulations Nina!



*Paula Pate-Schloder COB presents Research Grant to Nina Kowalczyk*



## Honors Lecture

The 2012 Honors Lecture was presented by Jeff Killion, PhD, RT(R)(QM), on Thursday, July 12. Dr. Killion serves as the Graduate Coordinator for the master's degree program at Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas. He is very active in the profession and AEIRS, having served as Director at Large, President -Elect, President, and Chairman of the Board of Directors. He is currently a member of the AEIRS Editorial Review Board.

Dr. Killion is an avid presenter and provided an enlightening and entertaining session regarding invitational education in the imaging sciences. His presentation focused on methods educators can use to create an environment inviting students to learn. He believes that this is an area often overlooked in the classroom. Killion focused on the positive aspects of learning and provided examples of how any learning moment could be transformed into a positive and inviting interaction. He used costumes to help engage the audience and modeled the behaviors to help them understand how to engage students in approaching learning opportunities with a positive attitude. His session emphasized the need to celebrate success and opportunities in learning. His positive attitude was infectious and inspiring.

## New AEIRS Life Member

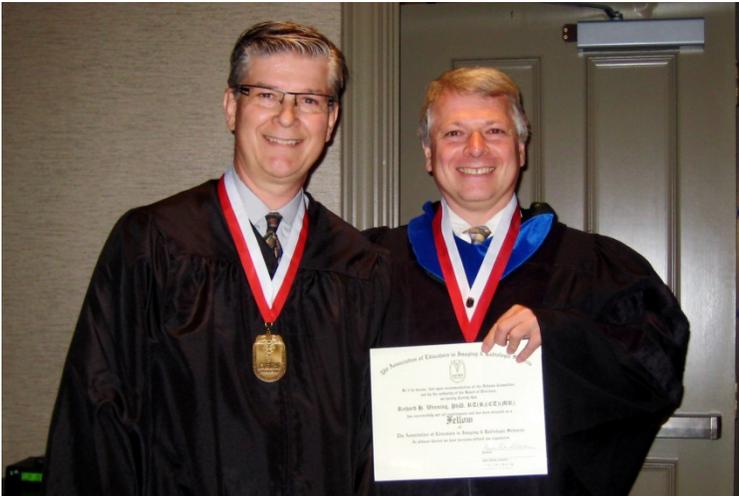
Judith K. Williams, RT(R), BMSc, FASRT, FAEIRS was awarded life membership on Thursday, July 12, one of the highest honors the AEIRS can bestow upon any member. Judy graduated from the Grady Memorial Hospital School of X-ray Technology in 1959. Soon after, she earned her Bachelor's degree and within 4 years she was teaching radiography students in the Grady Hospital program. Judy taught for over 35 years serving as both the program director and educational director for the Department of Radiology at Grady Memorial Hospital. She became active in the profession early in her career and continues to be an active member of the Atlanta and Georgia Societies of Radiologic Technologists. Judy was awarded life membership in both organizations in recognition of her long-time commitment and works in advancing these professional organizations. She has been a member of the ASRT for 52 years serving in many capacities.

Judy has been an active AEIRS member for 36 years and her contributions to AEIRS have been profound. She was an active proponent of "equal representation" and was the only AEIRS member to complete two full terms as President, serving on the Board of Directors for ten consecutive years. One of Judy's most notable accomplishments is her involvement with the Atlanta's Student Radiographers' and Educators' Conference. She is nationally recognized for this work and has been involved in the seminar for 49 years. Under her leadership of 39 years, the seminar has grown considerably with the number of attendees exceeding that of other professional society meetings. The quality of the meeting is considered among the best in the country and students are provided an incredible educational experience.



Judy received the honor of ASRT Fellow in 1986 and the honor of AEIRS Fellow in 1993. She has earned the utmost respect for her promotion of professional development and her tireless contributions to the profession. Congratulations Judy!

## New AEIRS Fellow



Richard H. Weening, PhD, RT(R)(CT)(MR) was recently inducted as a Fellow in the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences. He is an Associate Professor and Program Director for Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Computed Tomography in the Department of Radiologic Sciences at the Jefferson School of Health Professions at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Weening's PhD in theoretical physics was conferred in 1991 by The College of William and Mary. He has published numerous research manuscripts in the plasma physics field and was recently appointed as a Visiting Professor at the Princeton Physics Laboratory. He has also held plasma physics appointments at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, The Swiss Federal Technical University and General Atomics.

In the field of MRI, Dr. Weening has collaborated on micro-MRI bone research as an NRSA Research Fellow in the Department of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania and on functional-MRI research at Thomas Jefferson University. He also actively publishes research related to MRI safety, MRI education, and the radiologic sciences profession.

Richard has been an AEIRS member since 2002 and was instrumental in the formation of the MRI Primary Pathway in 2006, while serving as AEIRS liaison to the ARRT. Dr. Weening has a special interest in helping students gain a better understanding of the physics involved in medical imaging; especially in helping students understand how technical knowledge can be applied in practical clinical situations. He sets high standards for student achievement and professional development and works tirelessly with colleagues to increase the professional standing of the radiologic sciences. Congratulations Richard!

## New Members Reception

Thank you to Phillip Femano, PhD and Medical Imaging Consultants (MIC) for their generosity in sponsoring the 2012 AEIRS Board of Directors' reception for new members. This was an opportunity for the newest members to AEIRS to meet the Board of Directors, Fellows, Life Members, Past Presidents, and Honors lecturers of the organization.



A great time was had by all!