Maggie is leaving her contract work with ASET coordinating the Society’s on-line education program at the end of 2014 and we’ll all miss her. She has touched so many lives in the past ten years. Her story is inspirational and very much worth sharing.

Back in 1983 Maggie was introduced to neurodiagnostics while working as a secretary in a neurology clinic in Texas. They had been seeking to hire a technologist, but had no success. She was offered the opportunity to train on-the-job to fill that role. And fill it she did! She accepted the challenge and learned everything she could about recording EEGs and then other neurodiagnostic modalities. She worked in Arlington and North Dallas the first few years and then worked at North Texas Neurology Associates in Wichita Falls, Texas for seventeen years, became a supervisor, trained others and passed every ABRET exam she could! She obtained the R. EEG T., R. EP T. and CNIM credentials. Her next job was working as a trainer for Nicolet Biomedical. She traveled across the country to help new users learn how to operate their equipment. She visited more than 77 labs while working in this capacity. She met many technologists and that has helped her understand the vast diversity of education and experience that exists in the world of neurodiagnostic technology. She observed stellar labs, attaining the highest quality standards of patient care, and also the opposite. This has given her the drive to bring knowledge to everyone who needs help to do the best job possible.

Maggie has been in the field for over thirty years now and has been a member of ASET for her entire career. She served a term on the ASET Board of Trustees from 1993 to 1996. She was an examiner for ABRET and served 6 years on the ABRET Board of Directors from 1998-2003, and served as their treasurer. She has also been active with the Texas Society of Neurodiagnostic Technologists several years ago.

Maggie is a shining example of how successful on-the-job training can be when the trainee is devoted to learning as much as possible and motivated to gain a high level of skill. Her experience has given Maggie insight into how important it is to have access to support and educational tools.
When Maggie began her work for ASET nearly eleven years ago, her primary goal was to create on-line courses. ASET had none at all at the time, and Maggie began by doing extensive research on e-learning concepts and the features of on-line learning portals. She was as quick a learner in this area of expertise as she was when learning neurodiagnostic technology years ago. Over the course of the past decade Maggie has built four complete on-line course curriculums: for EEG, IONM, NCS and LTM and a single course in Evoked Potentials. These are very comprehensive courses, and Maggie selected expert faculty to provide the content, working closely with them to build lessons and appropriate test questions for each course. Her skills have grown as e-learning has grown, incorporating innovations. She connected with the E-learning guild, an organization that provides information about the latest developments in distance learning tools. Maggie has been dedicated to learning as much as possible about distance learning theory and techniques and has invested in obtaining advanced degrees in information technology. She worked first on a Bachelor of Science Degree in IT, and has also graduated with honors upon completion of her Master of Science Degree in Instructional Design and Technology.

Once all four on-line curriculums were complete, she began the two year process to achieve approval from the American Council on Education for college credit recommendations for the courses. Obtaining approval required a rigorous assessment of course design and content and included two site visits by their staff and appointed subject matter experts. Maggie was the primary point of contact during the entire assessment process. With her guidance, the ASET on-line courses were approved by the American Council on Education, with a recommendation for a total of 51 college credits for the four curriculums combined.

Maggie loves to add fun to the learning process and she enjoys designing graphic art, animations and making videos to include in on-line course lessons. Her talent and creativity shine through and make lessons easy to understand with visual aids she has included. For the past three years, she has hosted an “Alternate Reality Game” as a fun way to earn ASET-CEUs. The year-long games she has created foster exploration and learning through a story line with clues. Stories have included Dr. Neuro-Who, A Fantastic Neuro-Voyage and this year’s game is based on Star Trek.

Maggie has also hosted the ASET conference call seminars beginning in 2005, which she updated to webinars with new technology in 2010. Hers is the friendly voice you hear introducing the presenter at the start of the webinar. She works behind the scenes to make sure the speaker is comfortable with the technology and she plans the entire webinar program, selecting topics and speakers to address a wide variety of interests.

Throughout her career, Maggie has advocated for professionalism in our field and encourages everyone to take credentialing exams. She strongly believes that every technologist is capable of achieving this goal. She encourages everyone to give it their best effort and she tutors technologists whenever they need help. She is always approachable! Whenever technologists let us know that an exam is successfully passed, she shares in the celebration of their achievement. She takes such a great deal of pride in knowing that she is able to help technologists achieve their goals.

Maggie is passionate about Neurodiagnostic education and urges educators to incorporate innovative thinking and use of technology to enhance clinical site supervision. Her dream is to see many more students enrolled in distance programs, with sufficient clinical sites to meet the need for technologists in areas where there are no seated classroom programs. She is hopeful that we can collectively “think outside the box” and offer alternative pathways with a clinical internship at the end of a course of study when distance education is involved.

Every day, Maggie talks to many technologists from around the country and around the world. She always has time to spend with each and every caller. She listens carefully and makes thoughtful suggestions and follows ups with whatever resources she has promised to share. Maggie has a special interest in
international students, and a vision to provide affordable education in Neurodiagnostics to technologists in developing countries.

In recent years, Maggie has fostered connections to OSET, the International Organisation of Societies for Electrophysiological Technology. She is currently serving a term as secretary for OSET, and in this role she has networked with other neurodiagnostic practitioners from around the world. She works to build educational resources for the international neurophysiology community and finds great satisfaction in sharing information with those that have limited access to formal educational tools.

Maggie also does great live presentations, and is a talented teacher. She has served as faculty for many of the ASET Seminar courses.

Best of all, Maggie is a wonderful story teller. She has a great collection of stories about mishaps she has experienced that will make you laugh! You might want to ask her about the blue marker story! Maggie brings joy and confidence to so many people. Thanks to Maggie for all she has done. We all wish her a bright future.