In this issue of *Academic Radiology*, we begin a multipart series that explores personal lives within the academic radiology department. Rather than a treatise on economics, productivity, performance measures, and demographics, this series will present a "personal diary" of the people who live the radiology life from day to day. What are their private concerns? What are their goals? What makes the job so good one day and so frustrating the next? What keeps them coming to work each day? What are the highs? What are the lows?

To obtain the best overview of this microcosm of hospital life, we sought a cross section of the members of the academic setting. A department is composed of individuals with diverse skills and backgrounds—administrators, physicians, scientists, technologists, nurses, clerks, secretaries, and so on. Each member of the department has a unique view on the role he or she plays in the greater functioning of the radiology juggernaut. There is an ebb and a flow in a department that maintains vibrancy. Some staff are fresh out of training or new to the job, while others are leaving the department for reasons ranging from graduation to promotion, retirement, or a different job. Still others have the perspective of being away from the practice of radiology and can reflect on that life with the benefit of hindsight.

For this series, we solicited contributions from people from different institutions to get a wide range of perspectives. We anticipate that these personal diaries will reveal the emotions of 1st-year residents, nurses, administrators, patients, retired chairpersons, support staff, and the like. If nothing else, perhaps the series will serve as empathy training within our community so that, for example, physicians will know the trials and tribulations of the billing clerks, nurses will know what headaches the transcriptionists must endure, graduating fellows will feel the happiness of the newly enrolled technologist students.

We welcome your suggestions of whom to invite to open up their souls, to reveal the scars and the achievements of each member of our academic radiology community via this medium. We would be pleased to consider reader contributions for publication. Please don’t hesitate to let us know what you think of this series.