The Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was the first of the Institute’s great modern interdepartmental academic research centers, and a model for those that followed. Today we are one of MIT’s largest such organizations, and the most diverse research laboratory at MIT in our scope of intellectual interests. Research in RLE encompasses an extensive range of natural and man-made phenomena, and our projects are both basic and applied. Common among all RLE efforts is an expansive 21st century interpretation of the 20th century term “electronics,” starting at the most basic physical realm of atomic and quantum physics and extending all the way to sophisticated engineering application technologies. This year, we celebrate our 60th Anniversary. We stand on the foundation of the Laboratory’s past achievements and look ahead to the directions that RLE will take in the future. Please join us.

WHAT ARE

the limits of today’s science and technology, how did we get here, and what lies ahead? The Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) celebrates the sixtieth anniversary of its 1946 founding by convening key leaders in forefront research areas from around the world to present their ideas about what the future holds. BEYOND THE LIMITS, a year long colloquia series, explores the boundaries of our current understanding of nature, and assesses the exciting opportunities to deepen that understanding and to apply new discoveries to innovative technologies. Like RLE itself, BEYOND THE LIMITS encompasses a diverse set of disciplines and multiple viewpoints. Learn, discover and celebrate with us as these distinguished speakers present their assessments of where we are—and their visions for where we are going.

RLE invites all members of the MIT community, scholars and researchers from other institutions, and the general public to join us in these colloquia. Speakers for Fall 2006 are presented in this announcement. Speakers for Spring 2007 will be announced shortly.