Reflections on Catherine Lorusso

Senior Technical Typist Catherine Lorusso has worked in RLE since 1974. She smiles and says, "I came to MIT right out of my kitchen in Belmont. Working here is a challenge, and I enjoy the busy atmosphere of my office." For her first four years, Catherine worked with Professors Bernard F. Burke and the late Alan H. Barnett. In 1979, she transferred to the Plasma Physics Group to work with Professor Coppi on a part-time basis.

Catherine is devoted to her family and church. She is active in the St. Paul Evangelical Church in West Somerville, where her brother, the church's founder, has served as minister since 1956. Catherine was church treasurer from 1956-1966 and taught Sunday school for many years. In addition, she prepares baked goods for many church functions and is a Sunday school aide, teaching the third- and fourth-graders once a month. "I occasionally serve Sunday dinner to visiting missionaries and bible school students from all over the world," she recalls. In Catherine’s opinion, "It will be a crowning day when science acknowledges that, in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).

Although Catherine does not play a musical instrument, her husband George, a semi-retired precision tool-and-die maker, and their four grown children are quite musically inclined. "While the children were growing up, we had our own little ensemble which sometimes performed in church programs at Easter and Christmas," Catherine remembers. George and David both play the violin, Stephen plays the flute, Christine plays the piano and organ, and Loretta is a professional pianist in Vienna.

Professor Coppi remarks, "Catherine truly treats us all just like family, at times bringing in homemade cookies to share among the group members. She's quite a unique person and deserves the best."

Last July, an informative program on laser safety was presented to the staff and students of the Atomic, Molecular, and Optical Physics Group. Assistant Radiation Safety Officer Michelle Fitzgerald of MIT's Radiation Protection Office covered issues related to laser safety, particularly how eye and skin damage can result from the misuse or misalignment of lasers, and discussed how to select the proper safety eye wear. Michelle also distributed the pamphlet The MIT Laser Safety Program (Beam Hazards).

Organized by RLE Facilities Officer Gerard F. Power, the presentation was first in a series that will be offered to RLE students and staff as part of the lab’s chemical hygiene plan. MIT requires safety training for research personnel at three levels: general and personal safety, handling and disposal of toxic and hazardous waste materials, and specialized areas such as laser safety. According to Gerry, "It is the obligation and responsibility of MIT and RLE to ensure that everyone who works with lasers participates in a laser safety program. This will be documented in RLE’s safety and training database, and becomes part of an individual’s permanent personnel record." Gerry urges all RLE staff or students to register their laser applications to ensure that everyone is protected. Please contact Gerry (x3-2511) if you would like more information on upcoming presentations, or if you would like to submit suggestions on safety-related issues pertinent to your research. (Photo by John F. Cook)
A Warm Welcome To...

Administrative Assistant
Sally C. Bemus started work with Professor Alan V. Oppenheim in the
Digital Signal Processing Group on July 13, 1992. A native of
Scituate, Massachusetts, Sally joined RLE after five years with
the Laboratory of Computer Science (LCS). Before coming to LCS in 1987, she
worked on a horse farm near Houston, Texas, for two years. An animal lover with three cats, Sally
enjoys drawing and painting horses, gardening, cooking, and singing in the MIT Women's
Chorale. She also teaches Sunday School at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Quincy and
serves on the church council. (Photo by John F. Cook)

Administrative Officer
Joseph F. Conolly joined RLE Headquarters on October 5, 1992. Since 1986, Joe has served as
Assistant to the Director at M.I.T.'s Haystack Observatory in Westford, Massa-
chusetts. He has worked in various capacities at MIT since 1965, including the Center for Space
Research, the Office of Institutional Studies, the Joint Center for Urban Studies, and the Office of
Sponsored Programs. A graduate of Boston College (BS 70), Joe and his wife Kay have a
son, Jason, and a daughter, Eileen, who both attend Western New England College in Spring-
field, Massachusetts. Joe and Kay love to golf. Joe also enjoys reading mystery stories. The
couple live in Stoneham with their bulldog Clyde. (Photo by John F. Cook)

Man of Merit

Be Prepared! cautions the sign in RLE's Tool Crib announcing that it will be closed for two weeks in
July. This will be no ordinary vacation, though. Senior Stock Clerk Bruce Russell, in
his role as Assistant Scoutmaster of Arlington Boy Scout Troop 96, will shepherd eight scouts to
Camp Quapawocket in Bridg, New Hampshire. As one of 20 volunteer staffers at the Cambridge
Council-owned camp, Bruce helps to oversee
ment badge instruction and the daily activities of
up to 200 scouts. His eight years of Navy experi-
ence lend authenticity to many camp activities such as knot-tying and boating.

A Note To Our Readers

Keeping in step with today's cost-conscious
environment, RLE wants you to know that the
cost of producing current and undercurrents is
borne by the limited discretionary funds
available to the laboratory. There is no addi-
tional cost burden to RLE's allocation or research
accounts or MIT indirect costs for producing
these publications.

RLE Holiday Party in the Grier Room (34-401) on December
16th, noon to 2 p.m.

Desperately searching for ways to entertain guest? RLE will.
Experience helpful but not necessary. Established company
Call John Cook x337560.

A Fond Farewell

Director Jonathan Allen presents Administrative
Officer Donna Maria Tocchi with farewell gifts and
good wishes. Last June 1988, RLE staff and students gathered to see good-bye to Donna after
seven-and-a-half years with us. Mr. Sprague is our
Assistant Dean for Financial Administration
with MIT'S Dean of Science Robert J. Birgeneau. (Photo by David W. Foss)

In Memoriam

Lawrence F. Sprague of Boxford, 91, died May
27, 1992. Mr. Sprague, a Lynn native, worked as
an Electrical Technician with Professor Wayne B.
Siemens' group from 1978 to 1987. Mr. Sprague retired from RLE in 1988 as a Project Technician.
He is survived by his wife Sally R. Sprague.

Short Waves . . .

In May 1992, Francis M. and Laura B.
Doughty were both elected to volunteer posi-
tions with the Town of Wendell, Massachusetts. Fran, a part-time Administrative Assistant to
Professor Donald E. Troxel, was elected to a
three-year appointment on the Wendell library's
board of trustees. Laura, a part-time Administra-
tive Assistant to Professor Abraham Bers in the
Physics Group, was elected to the
Wendell planning board for a three-year term.
The couple have lived in Wendell since building
their house there in July 1980.

Administrative Assistant Cindy Lellianco and
Senior Staff Assistant Debra L. Harring, both with
the Advanced Television and Signal Process-
ing Group, received certificates in applied
mathematics from the Lowell Institute in Febru-

Administrative Assistant Susan E. Nelson of the
Circuits and Systems Group and Robert C. are
married in the backyard of her home in
Hollbrook, Massachusetts, on September 19,
1992. The new Mr. and Mrs. C. honeymooned
in Newport, Rhode Island, and live in
Hollbrook with Susan's sons James and Ethan.

Professor Gregory W. Wornell of the Digital
Signal Processing Group and Kimberly Fayte Katz were
married on June 15, 1992, at the Princeton
University Chapel in Princeton, New Jersey. Kim
is a doctoral candidate in economics at the Univer-
sity of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Greg is
on leave of absence through May 1993 at AT&T
Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

On May 18, 1992, Re-
search Specialist Joyce
Mauze1la started work with
Research Scientist Dr.
Joseph S. Perlil in the
Speech Communication
Group. A native of
ATTLEboro, Massachusetts,
Joyce earned a bachelor's
degree in electrical
engineering from the University of Rhode Island,
a bachelor's in speech and hearing from
Northeastern University, and a master's in speech
and hearing from the University of California at
Santa Barbara. Joyce enjoys running (she has
two Boston Marathons to her credit) and playing
the piano. (Photo by J ohn F. Cook)

Charles P. Rocheleau
joined the Plasma Physics Group on August 12,
1992, as a part-time Senior Staff Assistant for Profes-
sor Abraham Bers. A
native of Salem, Massa-
chusetts, Charlie attended the Berklee College of
Music and New Hamp-
shire College. He has served in the Massa-
chusetts National Guard and worked as a systems
programmer at General Electric in Lynn. From
1974-1984, he toured the U.S. and Canada
tensively as an entertainer. In 1985, he signed up
as a headliner in the travel industry and performed
on over 600 cruises to Alaska, Mexico, and
the Caribbean. Charlie has also made appearances
on local television and has cut three albums. A licensed pilot and a ham radio
operator, he enjoys photography, sailing, and
backpacking. (Photo by John F. Cook)

Undercurrents is a publication of the Research Laboratory of Electronics for the
RLE community at MIT. The following individuals contributed their time and
energy to this issue: John F. Cook, Dorothy A. Fleischer, David W. Foss, Barbara
Passeiro, and Robert H. Priest.

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