



RLE

# undercurrents

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A Newsletter for the RLE Community at MIT

## Smiling Faces Support RLE's Surfaces and Interfaces Group

In this issue, we feature three support staff who provide administrative support to RLE principal investigators, but are not located in Building 36 or appointed through RLE. Because of their important contribution to the Laboratory, we feel that they deserve recognition in *undercurrents*. We are sure that you will enjoy meeting them.

**Debra L. Harring** finds her familiarity with MIT very helpful in carrying out her daily duties as administrative secretary to Professor Robert J. Birgeneau, Dean of the School of Science and a principal investigator in RLE's Surfaces and Interfaces Group. Since October 1993, Debra has been handling Dean Birgeneau's busy calendar, greeting visitors, and scheduling and preparing for meetings. She also answers telephone inquiries and types reports and proposals.



Administrative Secretary Debra L. Harring. (Photo by John F. Cook)

Debra has been employed at MIT since February 1990, when she began working for Professor Jae S. Lim in RLE's Advanced Telecommunications and Signal Processing Group and for RLE Professor Emeritus



Waving a Red Sox hat, Administrative Secretary Barbara L. Fox, Red Sox season ticketholder and a big fan, shows the foul ball which was hit directly into her purse during a game. (Photo by John F. Cook)

Patrick Lee of RLE's Quantum-Effects Devices Group, Professor Mehran Kardar, and others. Born in Paris, Imadiel emigrated with her mother to Jerusalem when she was twelve years old. She served two years in the Israeli Army as a graphic designer. At age twenty, she enrolled in the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design from which she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Design and Environmental Planning. Imadiel received a scholarship to study in the Department of Urban and Environmental Policy at Tufts University. While writing her master's thesis on the land rights of native Americans, Imadiel took several courses at MIT. Imadiel received her degree from Tufts in 1982.

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William F. Schreiber. From January through September 1993, she provided secretarial services for Professor Stanley Fischer, head of the Department of Economics.

Working out on Nautilus equipment and doing aerobics gives her enjoyment, and Debra finds that exercising gives her energy. She has two children, Joshua and Amanda. Joshua, a 10th grader at Everett High School, is a member of the Quiz Kids, the school's debating team which won the regionals this year. He has his blue belt in karate. Seventh grader Amanda's bowling team competed in the state finals in doubles this year.

**Barbara L. Fox** has been working as administrative secretary in the Physics Department since July 1985. Barbara provides secretarial support for Professor Simon G.J. Mochrie of RLE's Surfaces and Interfaces Group, Professor George B. Benedek, and Professor Toyochi Tanaka. She enjoys her daily duties which include arranging travel and typing and copying reports, proposals, and classroom materials. Recently, Barbara organized a very successful symposium in honor of Professor Benedek's

65th birthday. Before coming to MIT, Barbara worked as a secretary for Temple Beth Am in Randolph and for American Safety Razor.

Barbara and her husband Bob, director of sales and marketing for Gerber Electronics, are Randolph residents. They have two children, Janet and Wendy, and two grandchildren, Max, three-and-one-half years old, and Jake, three months. Barbara is very fond of her grandchildren, knitting them sweaters and playing kickball with Max.

Avid Red Sox fans, Barbara and Bob hold season tickets and occasionally travel to other cities to attend Red Sox games. Jake and Max often sport Red Sox jerseys, hats, and other paraphernalia.

Barbara also enjoys reading and winter vacations in Delray Beach, Florida.

In June 1989, Administrative Secretary **Imadiel Ariel** joined the Atomic, Condensed Matter, and Plasma Physics Division of the Physics Department. Imadiel provides administrative and secretarial services for Professors John D. Joannopoulos and A. Nihat Berker of RLE's Surfaces and Interfaces Group, Professor



Administrative Secretary Imadiel Ariel displays some of the beautiful hand-painted silk scarves she has created. (Photo by John F. Cook)



Aerial view of MIT on January 18, 1934. The future site for building 20 is at the far end of the football field. (Photo courtesy of the MIT Museum)

## RESERVING JUDGMENT

While MIT's attempts to control current spending and reduce the deficit have produced several interesting proposals, some more Draconian than others, none equals the measure described in the following excerpt from a letter to a new employee written in 1934 by Professor John C. Slater, head of the Department of Physics, and one of the founding fathers of RLE.

...This position would be a one-year instructorship at a salary of \$2,400, as I mentioned. There is one feature in connection with this which ought to be understood. For the last two years, we have had at the Institute a so-called salary reserve fund, according to which 10% of our salary has been held back by the Institute in case the financial situation should become so bad during the year that a deficit was likely. However, both times this has been entirely refunded at the end of the year, and there have been no deductions in salary at the Institute. This plan will be put into effect again next year, but we hope that, as in the two preceding years, it will be possible to refund the total amount. I mention it, however, in order to avoid any possible misunderstanding.

## Neither Rain Nor Snow



Head Custodian **Lorraine M. Levasseur**, RLE's "Mail Lady," has been cheerfully delivering mail regularly to the staff in buildings 36, 38, and 39 since 1985. Lorraine, who enjoys working with people, begins each work day at building 24 by picking up mail for her buildings. Back in her office in 36-193, she first sorts the mail and then delivers it. In the afternoon, she picks up and

sorts new mail and then delivers "specials." Specials are items that must be signed for such as packages and certified, insured or express mail. Lorraine is also responsible for updating MIT directory listings, delivering telephone directories (MIT and NYNEX), and cleaning as assigned by her supervisor. In addition, Lorraine provides recycling baskets when requested.

A life-long resident of Somerville, Lorraine has three children, Tom, Michael, and Cheri, and three grandchildren, Christopher, fourteen, Thomas, nine, and Cate, six. Lorraine is married to Shine Levasseur, who retired from MIT in March 1994 after 20 years as a groundsman with Physical Plant.

Traveling is her special interest. Each spring, Shine and Lorraine visit family in Arizona. After her retirement in January 1996, Lorraine plans to "see a bit of the world." Other interests include reading mysteries, skiing, and watching her grandchildren's sports activities. (Photo by John F. Cook)

## New Faces



Assistant Fiscal Officer **Mary E. Young**, began working for RLE in April 1994. At RLE, Mary works on pre-and post-award administration, including developing and processing research proposals, coordinating payroll, and monitoring our many accounts.

A Charlestown native, Mary has been employed at MIT since 1981, first as an office assistant in the Program in Science, Technology and Society, then moving to Political Science as an administrative assistant. She spent four years at the Division of Toxicology as administrative staff assistant before becoming an assistant fiscal officer for the Plasma Fusion Center in 1992.

Mary and her husband, Bob, an assistant principal at Braintree East Middle School, live in Wilmington along with her mother Polly and their sons, Bob and Greg. Bob, 20, is a trained pastry chef, who will be attending Middlesex Community College this fall to become a teacher. A junior at Wilmington High School, Greg runs track and plays the saxophone in the school's marching and jazz bands.

Mary is enrolled in a degree program in business administration at Emmanuel College. She enjoys reading in her spare time. (Photo by John F. Cook)

### Smiling Faces, continued from page 1

While working in an environmental consulting firm, Imadiel began developing her interests in fine arts photography and continues to work on crafts in her spare time. She started a silk painting business in 1990, after teaching herself the technique. Imadiel held her first show of her one-of-a-kind, hand painted scarves at MIT recently. Future shows will also display ties and wall-hangings along with the scarves.

Imadiel resides in Carlisle in an historic home built in 1720, which also houses her studio.

## SHORT WAVES . . .

Professor **Jacqueline N. Hewitt** of RLE's Radio Astronomy Group, husband Professor Robert P. Redwine, Director of the Laboratory for Nuclear Science, and son Keith, five years old, announce the birth of Jonathan on November 28, 1993.

Financial Administrator **Virginia R. Lauricella**, Professor **Bruno Coppi** of RLE's Plasma Physics Group, Professor **Jin Au Kong** of RLE's Electromagnetics Group, and Dr. **John Melngailis**, formerly a senior research scientist in RLE's Materials and Fabrication Group, were inducted into MIT's Quarter Century Club at a ceremony on March 22, 1994.

**Eleanora L. Luongo**, administrative secretary in RLE's Sensory Communication Group, became a grandmother for the second time on February 12th when Alex Joseph was born to her daughter Laura Govoni and son-in-law Vincent. Alex's older brother Michael is five-and-one-half years old.

Financial Assistant **Gina L. Milton**, husband Ron, and sons Christopher and Rashad, welcomed Tyler Jourdan Avery to their family on November 26, 1993.

On June 22nd, RLE faculty, staff, and students gathered to honor Purchasing Officer **John S. Peck**, who has been with RLE for 34 years. John was transferred to the General Purchasing Office on July 1, 1994.

**Clare F. Smith**, administrative assistant in RLE's Radio Astronomy Group, retired in May 1994 after 44 years of service at MIT.

On January 15, 1994, Professor **Kenneth N. Stevens** and Research Affiliate **Sharon Y. Manuel** of RLE's Speech Communication Group were married. The couple resides in Somerville.



In April 1994, **Janice Zaganjori** joined RLE's Digital Signal Processing Group, working part-time as senior office assistant for Professor Gregory W. Wornell. Janice had been employed as a temp in Professor Wornell's office since September

1993. Before coming to RLE, Janice worked as a receptionist/secretary in the School of Management at Boston University for three years. She earned an associates degree from Fisher Junior College.

Janice has a musical family: her two brothers tour Europe and the United States as the Paratore Brothers performing two-piano recitals and her two sisters sing and one also composes. Janice teaches classical and popular piano and takes piano lessons to renew her skills. Whether listening to music, serving as an accompanist, or occasionally playing in an ensemble, Janice finds music relaxing and enjoyable.

Janice and her husband, Shemsi, a maintenance technician at the Algonquin Club in Boston, have two daughters, Diana and Laura. A lover of nature and animals, Janice resides in Arlington. (Photo by John F. Cook)

## PROFESSOR SHOCKS SECRETARIES WITH RADICAL VIEWS ON QUANTUM MECHANICS!



At the RLE Secretaries' Day luncheon on April 27, 1994, Professor Daniel Kleppner, RLE Associate Director, is in deep discussion with: from left, Secretary Denise M. Rosetti and Administrative Assistant Cindy LeBlanc of RLE's Advanced Telecommunications and Signal Processing Group, and Senior Office Assistant Rita C. McKinnon of the Headquarters Communications Group. (Photo by John F. Cook)

## RLE undercurrents

*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: Joseph F. Connolly, John F. Cook, Dorothy A. Fleischer, David W. Foss, Rita C. McKinnon, Barbara Passero, and Mary J. Ziegler.

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**Santa eases inflation fears.** In a move to ease ballooning toy deficits, Santa's helpers Fred L. Palmer, postdoctorate associate in RLE's Atomic and Molecular Physics Group, and graduate students Louise Janduri of the Sensory Communication Group, Andrew E. Grumet, Circuits and Systems Group, and Hong Tat Ewe, Electromagnetics Group, are rewarded for their participation. (Photo by David W. Foss)