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.

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 Barbara L. Fox, Administrative Secretary. Debra, 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 grade Amanda’s bowling team competed in the state finals in doubles this year.

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

Barbara L. Fox is working as administrative secretary in the Physics Department since July 1985. Barbara provides 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, Jason and Amanda. Jason, a third-year student at Mortimer School, is a member of the Quiz Kids. The school’s debate team which won the regionals this year. He has his blue belt in karate. Seventh grade Amanda’s bowling team competed in the state finals in doubles this year.

Barbara L. Fox has been working as an 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 Tamaka. 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.

During the year, 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, 10-months old, and Jake, three months. Barbara is very fond of her grandchildren, knitting them sweaters and playing kickball with Max.

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 Mehran Kardar, and others.

Patrick Lee of RLE’s Quantum-Effects Devices Group, Professor Mehran Kardar, and others.

Born in Paris, Imadiel took several courses at MIT. Imadiel received her degree from Tufts in 1982.

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

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

Hoad 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 lifelong 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 Shire Levasseur, who retired from MIT in March 1994 after 20 years as a groundsman with Physical Plant.

Traveling is her special interest. Each spring, Shire and Lorraine visit family in Arizona. After her retirement in January 1996, Lorraines 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 Enroll in College. She enjoys reading in her spare time. (Photo by John F. Cook)

Smiling Faces, continued on 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 home built in 1720, which also houses her studio.

PROFESSOR SHOCKS SECRETARIES WITH RADICAL VIEWS ON QUANTUM MECHANICS!

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. Laurocelli, Professor Bruno Cornaggia of RLE's Plasma Physics Group, Professor Jin Au Kong of RLE's Electromagnetics Group, and Dr. John Meinagel, 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.

Eleanor 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 Alex. 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 E. 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.

SHORT WAVES . . .

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. Rotetti 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)

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