



RLE

undercurrents

Volume 3, Number 2 • Spring 1990

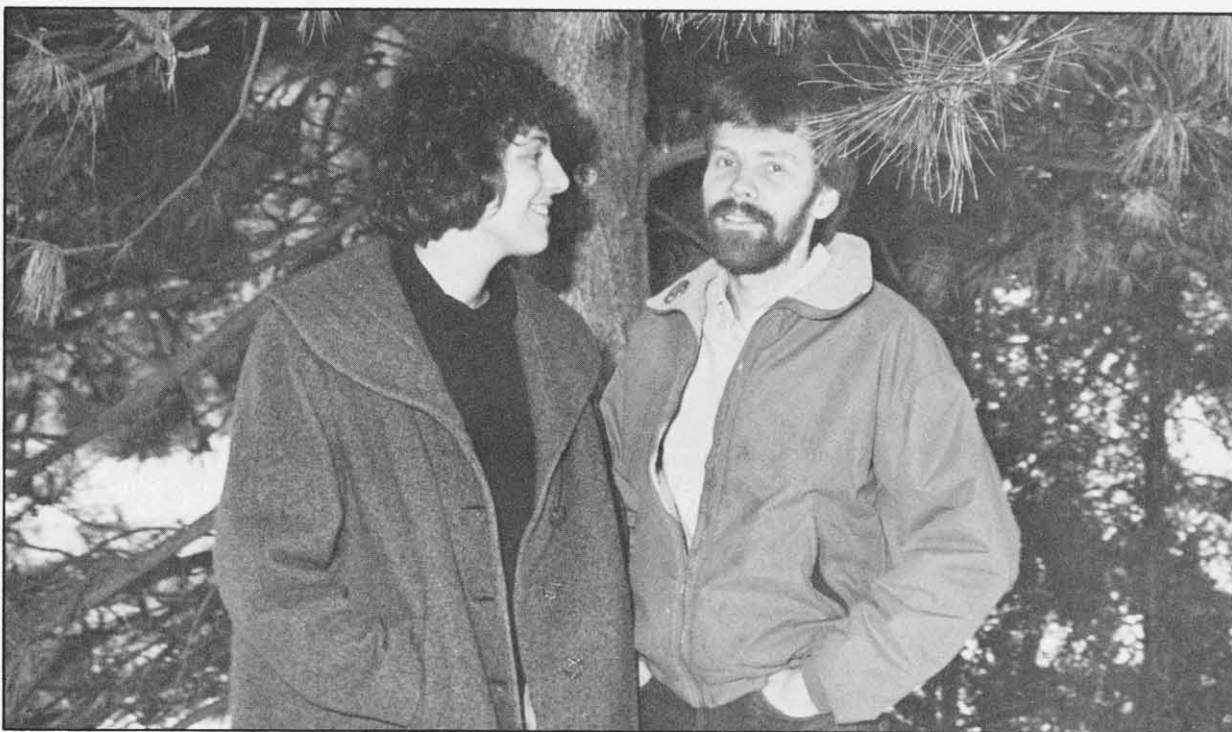
A Newsletter for the RLE Community at MIT

HERE AND THERE

On March 1, 1990, Senior Stock Clerk **Brian E. Ray** and wife Robin announced the birth of Matthew James, who weighed in at seven pounds. Matthew's big brother, Daniel Patrick, will be two years old in June.

Professor **John M. Graybeal** of the Surfaces and Interfaces Group and Laura Senator were married on January 14, 1990, in South Salem, New York. John and Laura met at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey, where he was a postdoc and she was a technician. Laura is now in her fourth year of medical school here in Boston, specializing in pediatrics. The couple honeymooned in Kauai, Hawaii.

Principal Research Scientist **Stanley C. Luckhardt** of the Versator Project and Professor Lyna L. Wiggins of MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning were married on January 7, 1990.



FOCUS ON... LAURA AND FRAN DOUGHTY

Francis M. Doughty, part-time Administrative Assistant for Professor Donald E. Troxel in the Image Processing Group, joined RLE in 1987. He previously worked for Professor Roger G. Burns in the Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences (EAPS). Originally from Roslindale, Fran had earned a bachelor's degree in music composition from UMASS Boston in 1984.

In 1988, Laura B. Doughty joined her husband at RLE as a part-time Administrative Assistant for Professor Abraham Bers in the Plasma Physics Group. She had also worked at EAPS before coming to RLE. A Randolph native, Laura has a bachelor's degree in psychology from UMASS Boston.

Music has played an important role in both Laura's and Fran's life. Laura studied classical voice and began singing professionally at the age of 13. They met in 1980 while rehearsing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony for a UMASS Chorale performance at Symphony Hall and were

married in 1981. Fran now composes and plays guitar, and Laura has been a member of several choral groups.

Laura and Fran gratefully boast, "We're each other's closest friend!" Except for eating lunch and commuting, their work paths cross only occasionally. This arrangement suits them well because, "Although we like spending time together, we know that our work styles are markedly different."

The many cultural and educational benefits of working at MIT plus the peace and beauty of their pondside Westminster apartment make up for their nearly five-hour round-trip commute to Cambridge. The couple enjoys organic gardening and pursues many outdoor activities including cross-country skiing, skating, snow-shoeing, biking, hiking, and canoeing. Fran is particularly fond of bird watching and animal tracking, and Laura is an accomplished knitter and baker. Their cozy apartment is shared with their two cats Muffin and Gandalf.



Dorothy A. Fleischer, Administrative Assistant to RLE Director Jonathan Allen, was accepted for membership in the National Association of Science Writers (NASW) in October 1989. Membership in the NASW is selective, and Dorothy was accepted based on the articles she has written for RLE *currents*. Dorothy earned the Bachelor of Science in Speech from Emerson College (1979), where she specialized in business and mass communications, and has been with RLE since 1985. In addition to her work as staff writer and editor of *currents*, Dorothy's contributions have included the RLE brochure, *undercurrents*, RLE's fortieth anniversary symposium and party, and the annual RLE holiday party. Said Dorothy of *currents*, "I am very grateful for the opportunity to work on *currents* with others in Headquarters, and I enjoy the chance to make people aware of the research done at RLE."

SPONSORED PROJECTS DATABASE IN THE WORKS

This fall, Headquarters plans to introduce a main-frame-based sponsored projects database. As new RLE accounts are established by MIT's Office of Sponsored Programs, pertinent data will be entered into the database by Fiscal Officer Don Duffy's assistant. Information will include the account number, name of principal investigator, contract number, name of sponsor, period of performance, and type of award. This will enable Headquarters to produce updated charts of account lists, sorted on a variety of categories, for the over 300 RLE sponsored project accounts.

Once the Fiscal Group finishes its work, the Communications Group gets into the act. RLE

Publications Assistant Mary Greene will enter information on the reports due under each award. This will include the type of report required (technical, annual, final, etc.) and due dates. To better serve its busy principal investigators, Headquarters plans to issue quarterly notices, informing investigators of upcoming reports due under their research projects. The database will use IBM's Structured Query Language (SQL), and in keeping with the nature of relational databases, it will be capable of interfacing with RLE's personnel database which is already on-line.



Photos by John Cook

BOB PRIEST IN PRINT

RLE's Senior Technical Illustrator Robert H. Priest is an artist with a broad range of creative talents. As an illustrator, Bob contributes to many publications in the New England area. As a painter, he works in oils on a large scale in his Boston studio, and his art has been exhibited in area shows. Bob's first book, *The Town that Got Out of Town*, was recently published by David R. Godine Publishers in Boston, and has met with critical success. *Just Entertainment*, *Time* magazine's new entertainment weekly, devoted a full-page review to the book. The book tells the story of the buildings in Boston getting up from their foundations and travelling northward to visit their fellow buildings in Portland over the Labor Day weekend. Executed in the scraperboard technique, the illustrations achieve a bold black-and-white effect that both adults and children will enjoy. Bob is currently at work on a second book.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Research Assistant Pierino Bonanni is a graduate student who works with Professor David H. Staelin on remote sensing in RLE's Radio Astronomy Group.

Perry successfully combined his interests in photography and electronics when he built a completely automated film processor for his color darkroom. Last year, in its Tanglewood flyer, the Boston Symphony Orchestra published two of Perry's striking color slides of July 4th fireworks. The BSO will use his fireworks slides again this year in its Tanglewood flyer and a membership brochure.

A Yonkers, New York native, Perry comes from a large, close-knit Italian American family. Perry is fluent in both Italian and French, and tutors Wellesley College students part-time. Weight lifting, playing the piano, and oil painting are his other hobbies. He also spends free time building electronic and mechanical gadgetry in his home workshop.

Perry earned his SB, SM, and EE degrees from MIT, and is currently working on his PhD under Professor Staelin's supervision. His thesis topic is signal processing as it relates to atmospheric remote sensing. After graduation in 1990, Perry plans to take a research position in industry.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Recently, there have been instances of stolen personal articles in RLE, so please take extra care in locking up personal items when you are away from your work area. If you notice any suspicious persons in your area, please call Campus Police (100) immediately. All thefts should be reported to Campus Police as well as to RLE Facilities and Safety Officer Gerry Power (3-2541).

A WARM WELCOME TO...

RLE is pleased to welcome **Debra L. Harring**, part-time Senior Staff Assistant, who started working with Professor Jae S. Lim in the Digital Signal Processing Group on February 5, 1990.



Debbie garnered extensive secretarial experience at P. J. Burne and Company, an architectural firm in Melrose, and Cognition Technology Corporation in Cambridge prior to joining RLE. She also operates her own specialty clothing business, Heirloom Sewing.

IN MEMORIAM

RLE extends condolences to the family and friends of two former RLEers:



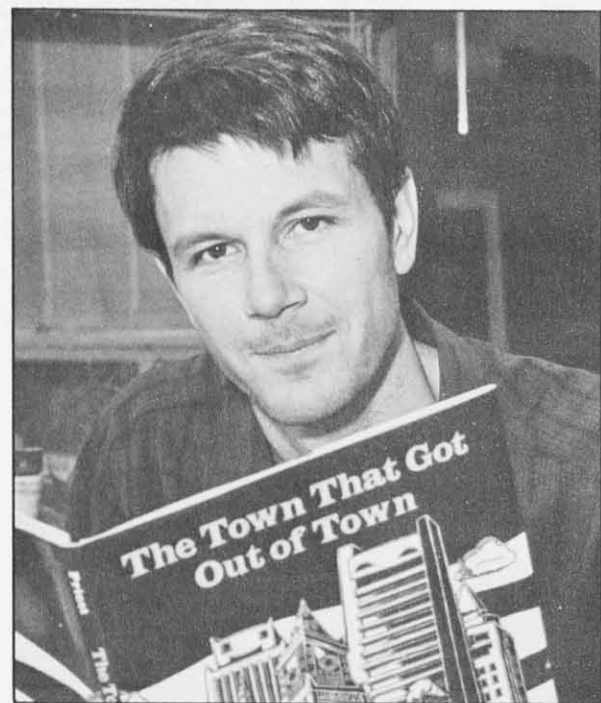
Jeremiah Brennan



John J. McCarthy

Jeremiah Brennan of Belmont, Massachusetts. (1906-1989) RLE Shop Helper from 1951-1971. Jerry was a native of Ireland, and is fondly remembered as a loyal and dedicated worker.

John J. McCarthy of Gloucester, Massachusetts. (1915-1990) RLE staff member from 1951-1980 and MIT alumnus (SB '52). Professor George Bekefi was John McCarthy's supervisor for many years, and recently shared his memories with *undercurrents*: "His experimental skills and knowledge of microwaves was legendary, as was his modesty. J.J., as we affectionately called him, gave help and advice unstintingly to graduate students and professors alike. The renowned Gaseous Electronics Group at RLE, led by Professors Sanborn Brown and Will Allis (and later, myself), owed much to our beloved J.J." Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Ann's Church in Gloucester.



COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND CAMPAIGN



The MIT Community Service Fund (CSF) annual campaign takes place during the spring term. Your tax-deductible contribution directly benefits the Cambridge community and is a wonderful opportunity to "give at the office." Your donation, whatever size, is most appreciated. This year's CSF solicitor is Publications Assistant Mary S. Greene. For more information on how you can contribute to this worthwhile cause, please contact Mary at 8-5871.



RLE Holiday Party '89: "Barbershop Eleven" (standing from left): Manny Cabral, Bruce Russell, Donna Ticchi, the late Richard Adler, Santa Claus, Bob Aalerud, Fernando Corbato, and Ken Stevens; (kneeling from left): Nibat Berker, mystery student, and Hugh Secker-Walker. (Photo by Sarah 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: John F. Cook, Dorothy A. Fleischer, David W. Foss, Barbara Passero, Robert H. Priest, and Donna Maria Ticchi.

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