



Helen Carr Peake
1931-2002

Helen Carr Peake grew up in Cambridgeport, Massachusetts, not far from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). She was graduated from the Morse School in 1944 and Cambridge High and Latin School in 1948. She enjoyed academic challenges, especially in mathematics, but was not able to study advanced mathematics in high school because it was not open to female students.

In 1951, Ms. Peake was graduated from the School of Nursing of the New England Hospital for Women and Children in Roxbury. In 1952, she married William T. Peake, a graduate student at MIT. She attended Simmons College for one year before moving to Dayton, Ohio, where she completed the BS degree in Biology in 1955 at the University of Dayton, Ohio.

After returning to the Boston area in 1956, Ms. Peake continued her education through Harvard and MIT extension courses. In 1990, as a special student, she took freshman calculus at MIT—and passed, to her great satisfaction. Other serious pursuits included child raising, genealogy, the stock market, and computational data-processing. Her husband became a distinguished member of MIT's Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE), the Eaton-Peabody Laboratory (EPL), and MIT's Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) faculty.

As part of these research and academic communities, Ms. Peake sought interactions with students, learned about their backgrounds, celebrated their accomplishments, and helped them deal with problems. These connections with MIT enriched both her life, and the many individuals who met her and were graced by her kindness and attentive support.

We invite you to learn more at:
www.rle.mit.edu/peakefund

THE HELEN CARR PEAKE FUND

a resource to promote student excellence in biomedical science and engineering

“To this day, the one who had the most influence on me, other than my parents, was Bill Peake. He taught me science, how to speak and write English, and how to be a decent human being. The impact he and Helen had on me was tremendous. Helen knew my parents were 10,000 miles away and I was alone. She treated me like her son. She invited me to her house every holiday. When I got married as a student, she held a dinner reception for 100 guests at her home. She gave us used furniture and a washing machine, and she gave our first son \$500 for college. She was an exceptional, warm, wonderful human being. I learned a lot from her, mostly that happiness does not come from doing things for yourself but from doing things for others.”

—Sheldon Pang, Sc.D. 1988

The Peake Fund was established with a generous gift from Dr. Sheldon Pang, an alumnus of the Research Laboratory of Electronics (RLE) and its affiliated Eaton-Peabody Laboratory (EPL), an inter-institutional research center of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Harvard Medical School (HMS), and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (MEEI).

With that initial donation, and with many additional gifts, the Fund has now grown to support two activities meant to recognize, support, and promote RLE and EPL student excellence in fields intersecting biomedical science and engineering.

THE HELEN CARR PEAKE RESEARCH PRIZE

Each year, the Fund supports the Helen Carr Peake Research Prize. It consists of a substantial competitive annual cash award to an MIT student for bioengineering research of extraordinary quality performed in either RLE or EPL.

THE HELEN CARR PEAKE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

Periodically, the Fund supports the Helen Carr Peake Research Assistantship. It consists of MIT graduate stipend and tuition support awarded competitively to an MIT student conducting research in either RLE or EPL and pursuing a doctoral degree in fields related to bioengineering.

We invite you to learn more, and to read about the winners, at:

www.rle.mit.edu/peakefund

Please consider joining the many others who have supported the Peake Fund by making your own gift to MIT. Donations of any size are appreciated, and all funds received will go to the permanent endowment, which in turn provides annual income to support the objectives of the Peake Fund.

You can make a gift now online using your credit card by going to the Peake Fund’s web address:

www.rle.mit.edu/peakefund

An online gift provides an instant MIT gift acknowledgement that you may print out for tax purposes.

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All donations to the Peake Fund are charitable gifts and will receive MIT acknowledgement suitable for tax purposes. If you have any questions concerning an anticipated gift, or wish to discuss arrangements for a major gift, please do not hesitate to contact Justin M. Wade, Assistant Director for Finance and Sponsor Relations, Research Laboratory of Electronics at MIT, at +1.617.253.5621 or jwade@rle.mit.edu. Thank you.

“Professor Peake, who was a member of Dr. Pang’s doctoral committee and an important intellectual influence in his graduate studies, and his wife Helen opened their home and their hearts to generations of graduate students. This was certainly the case with Dr. Pang when he was a student. That her many contributions to the RLE and EPL community will be memorialized through this fund is a very fitting tribute to a woman who helped so many students thrive here at MIT and after graduation.”

—Jeffrey H. Shapiro,
Director of RLE, Julius A. Stratton
Professor of Electrical Engineering