

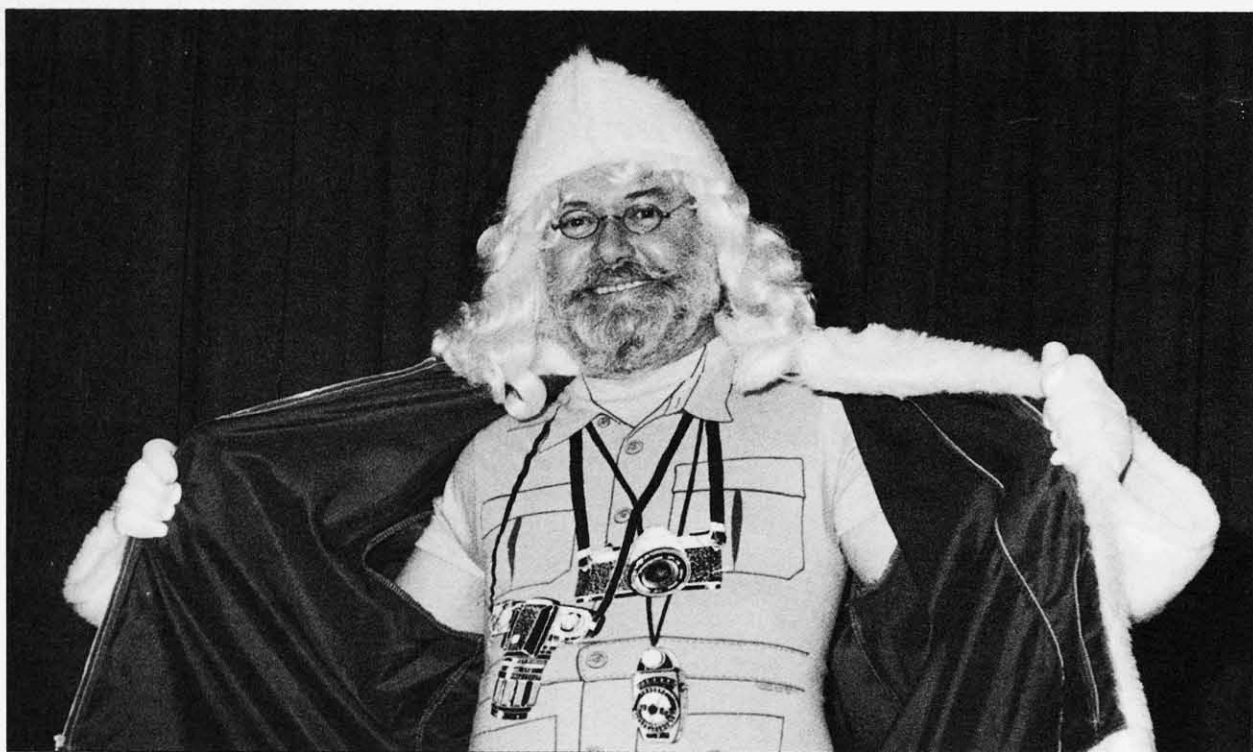


RLE

undercurrents

Volume 3, Number 1 • December 1989

A Newsletter for the RLE Community at MIT



Santa Claus, alias RLE Senior Photographer John F. Cook, in a "flash." (Photo by Sarah Cook)

FOCUS ON . . . JOHN COOK

Senior Photographer John F. Cook is a highly creative professional with a good sense of humor. During his 27 years of service at RLE, John has been called upon to take many unusual photographs. In 1975, Professor George Bekefi of the Plasma Physics Group asked him to photograph the Versator II Project. Professor Bekefi's instructions were very specific: the photo must be taken from above. The Versator equipment, however, abutted the ceiling. The solution: researcher Ed Fitzgerald removed panels from the suspended ceiling. Then John, while precariously hanging from the panel support grid, aimed the camera between his knees. On another occasion, in order to achieve the perspective of an aerial photo, John photographed a subject from a suspended concrete bucket hanging from a crane.

John has always enjoyed tinkering with chemicals and equipment. When he was twelve, his parents gave him a Kodak photographic kit, and his love for the craft was born. After graduation from Foxboro High School, where he was Photography Editor of the yearbook, John worked in the Photographic Department of the Foxboro

Company. In 1957, he enlisted in the Army, and served as a photographer in the Signal Corps until 1960. Before coming to RLE in 1962, John was an industrial photographer at Draper Laboratory.

John has prepared many exhibits over the years, including presentations on computer graphics, MIT in retrospect, student work at the MIT Center for Advanced Visual Design, and RLE's 25th anniversary (all of which were displayed in MIT's endless corridor). More recently, he has created displays for RLE's 40th anniversary, the RLE Headquarters reception area, and the RLE Computer Facility. John is also an important contributor to RLE's two newsletters, *currents* and *undercurrents*.

Each Christmas, resplendent in Santa's finery, John presides over RLE's holiday party, and bestows humorous gifts along with witty advice. After the presentations, he is whisked away in a home-made sleigh by his faithful reindeer Rudolph to spread Christmas cheer throughout the Institute.

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HERE AND THERE

RLE Director **Professor Jonathan Allen** will be on sabbatical from January 1 through June 30, 1990. Professor Allen will pursue his research interests in speech processing and integrated circuit design at Cambridge University in England. This will be a return visit to Cambridge University for Professor Allen, who was a Henry Fellow of mathematics there in 1957.

Congratulations to Project Technician **D. Keith North** of the Speech Communication Group, who received the James N. Murphy award for sustained contribution to MIT community life at the annual Awards Convocation on May 15, 1989. Keith, a Florida native and '54 MIT alumnus, has worked at RLE since 1955. He was nominated by nineteen current and former students, faculty, and staff members of the RLE Speech Communication Group. The annual Murphy award is presented to employees whose spirit and loyalty exemplify the inspired and dedicated service of James N. Murphy.



Professor Jonathan Allen



D. Keith North

Xiao Dong Pang and his wife Jane Ren are proud parents of Robert Ren-Pang, born on July 28, 1989, at New England Memorial Hospital. "Bobby" weighed in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces. Dr. Pang is a Research Scientist with the Sensory Communication Group.



Edward Fitzgerald



George H. Leach

Edward Fitzgerald, Sponsored Research Technical Staff with the Plasma Physics Group, received a certificate in digital electronics and BASIC programming from the Lowell Institute School at its recent 84th graduation ceremonies.

IN MEMORIAM

George H. Leach died on May 27, 1989, at the age of 66, of Lou Gehrig's disease. George, who was Senior Technician at RLE's Tube Lab, had retired in June 1988, after 28 years of service at RLE. He is survived by a daughter, Catherine A. Leach of Westwood, and a son, Thomas W. Leach of North Attleboro. Donations in George's memory can be made to: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis-Muscular Dystrophy Association (ALS-MDA), 450 Washington Street, Plaza Level 2, Dedham, MA 02026.



Comparing notes on the various Headquarters projects are (from left): RLE Computer Facility Manager David W. Foss, Administrative Assistant Maureen C. Howard, Administrative Officer Donna M. Ticchi, Technical Illustrator Robert Priest, and Administrative Assistant Dorothy A. Fleischer.

HARD AT WORK IN HEADQUARTERS

Headquarters staff have been hard at work on a mainframe-based personnel database that contains detailed on-line information on over 800 current and former RLE faculty, staff, and students. Reports generated from IBM's Structured Query Language (SQL) database will enable Headquarters to publish an annual staff directory and to produce management reports. Another new project at Headquarters involves the publication of RLE's first services and procedures manual since 1963. This new manual will describe the many services available in RLE and how to access them. Both publications will be produced with IBM's Generalized Markup Language (GML). Look for your copies of the staff directory and the manual during the holiday season.

COMINGS AND GOINGS . . .

RLE is pleased to welcome the following staff who have joined the Lab since June 1989:



Part-time Senior Secretary **Mary C. Aldridge** began work with Professors Hermann Haus and James Fujimoto in the Optics Group on October 30, 1989. Mary holds a bachelor's degree in theater and speech from Mount Holyoke College. As a published author of fiction, she has received a 1989 Artists Foundation Fellowship. Mary previously worked at the MIT Press.



Giampiero Sciuotto, a native of Italy, is acting Systems Manager for the Digital Signal Processing Group while Giovanni Aliberti is on leave. Giampiero began work at RLE on June 15, 1989, and reports to Professor Alan Oppenheim. Previously, he was a programmer with the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, and holds a master's degree in physics from the University of Genoa.



Mary S. Greene joined the Headquarters Communications Group on July 5, 1989, as Publications Assistant. Before coming to RLE, Mary was Office Manager at the American Association of Variable Star Observers in Cambridge. Mary holds an associate's degree from Westbrook Junior College. Her supervisor is RLE Communications Officer Barbara Passero.



Kit-Wah Lai, a Hong Kong native, is Secretary for Professor Jin Au Kong in the Electromagnetics Group. Kit-Wah holds a certificate from the Standard College of Language and Commerce. Before joining RLE on August 7, 1989, Kit-Wah completed a training program at Boston's Chinatown Occupational Training Center.



Dr. Melanie L. Mattbies began work on June 15, 1989, as a Technical Assistant in the Speech Communication Group under the supervision of Senior Research Scientist Dr. Joseph Perkell. Melanie holds a doctorate in hearing science from the University of Illinois at Champaign, and was previously a Visiting Assistant Research Professor there.



Headquarters welcomed **Jeanne M. Prisbylla** as Financial Assistant to RLE Fiscal Officer Donald F. Duffy on November 6, 1989. A Pennsylvania native, Jeanne holds a bachelor's degree in English Writing from the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to RLE, she worked in MIT's Biology Department.



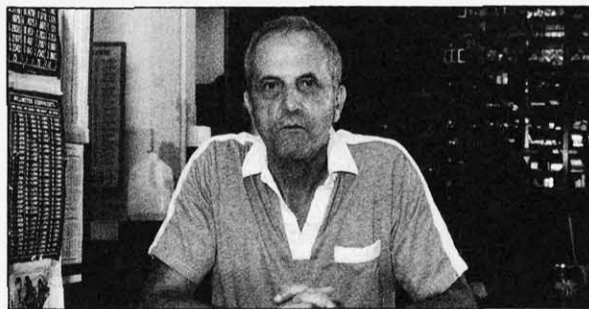
Susan M. Ross, who speaks fluent Spanish and Portuguese, was a bilingual teacher in California before joining RLE on August 15, 1989. As Senior Staff Assistant, Susan works for Professors William Siebert, William Peake, and Thomas Weiss in the Auditory Physiology Group. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Irvine.

... in Materials and Fabrications

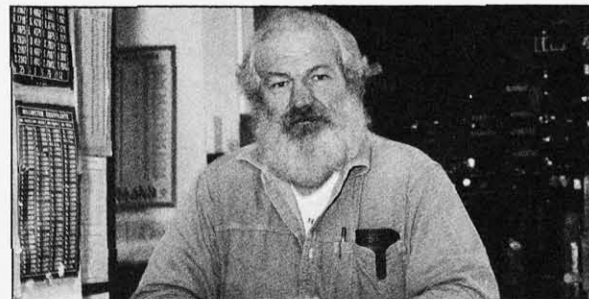


Research Specialist **Stephen C. Shepard** (right) joined the Materials and Fabrication Group on November 9, 1989. Steve will provide technical assistance at the group's new facility for epitaxial thin-film growth of compound semiconductors under the direction of Professor Leslie Kolodziejski. He holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Framingham State College, and worked at the Adams-Russell Company's semiconductor center in Burlington before coming to RLE. (In the background, **Professor Kolodziejski** and graduate student **Dana I. Lee** discuss the group's new display on chemical beam epitaxy in Building 13.)

... in the Tool Crib



David Taylor, Senior Stock Clerk in the RLE Tool Crib, retired on September 30, 1989, after almost ten years of dedicated service at the Lab. Dave recently purchased a home in the Plymouth Commons retirement community in Plymouth, Massachusetts. After a trip to Florida, he plans to keep active by swimming at the local YMCA and working parttime.



Bruce Russell joined RLE on November 6, 1989, as Senior Stock Clerk in the Tool Crib, under the direction of RLE Facilities Officer Gerry F. Power. Bruce brings twelve years of MIT experience to the job. Before coming to RLE, Bruce was a senior technician with MIT's Department of Materials Science and Engineering, and had served in the U. S. Navy. The RLE Tool Crib is located in 38-031, and Bruce's extension is 3-2546.

UNITED WAY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND CAMPAIGNS



RLE fundraisers (from left): Barbara Passero, Mary Ziegler, Rita McKinnon, and Mary Greene of the Headquarters Communications Group.

This fall, **Mary Ziegler**, **Rita McKinnon**, and **Barbara Passero** of the Headquarters Communications Group were RLE's solicitors for the United Way. The MIT Community Service Fund campaign will be held this spring, with **Mary Greene** as RLE's solicitor. A heartfelt thanks to all who gave to the United Way. (And for those of you who haven't given yet--there's still time!)

Cook *Continued from page 1*

John's wife Elaine is a former RLEer. They met at RLE when she worked for the late Professor Emeritus George G. Harvey, a former RLE Associate Director. John and Elaine were married in 1966, and live in Lexington. They have two daughters, Sarah, a freshman at Syracuse University, and Jamie, a fifth grader at the Bridge School. John operates his own photography business, and has a darkroom at home. Outside of his photographic interests, John's hobbies include swimming and collecting vintage movie videos. (He currently has over 200 titles.)

RLE PHOTO LAB SERVICES Through the RLE Photo Lab (Building 20-201, x3-2556), Senior Photographer John F. Cook provides studio and on-location photographs of research experiments, hardware, artwork, drawings, schematics, and scientific recordings for publications, conferences, public relations, or news events. He also furnishes portraits of the natural or studio variety.



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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