



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 19, 1960

To Members of the Faculty:

I am happy to announce the appointment of Peter Elias as Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering effective July 1, 1960. Professor Elias will relieve Professor Jerome B. Wiesner who has served with distinction as Acting Head of that department during the past academic year and who wishes now to devote his energies to the development of the Research Laboratory of Electronics and the Center for Communication Sciences.

Professor Elias entered Swarthmore College in 1940 and transferred to M. I. T. as a junior in 1942. Upon graduating from M. I. T. in February 1944 with a bachelor's degree in Course XV, Professor Elias served in the Navy until his discharge in 1946. In 1946 he entered Graduate School and obtained his master of arts degree in 1948, his master of engineering science degree in 1949, and his doctor of philosophy degree in 1950, all from Harvard University. Professor Elias held a teaching fellowship at Harvard between 1948 and 1950, and from 1950 to 1953 he was a junior Fellow of the Society of Fellows. For the past seven years Professor Elias has been a member of the faculty of the Electrical Engineering Department and a member of the staff of the Research Laboratory of Electronics.

During the period February to June 1958, Professor Elias was Visiting Mackay Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley.

An authority in the field of information theory, Professor Elias has made many notable contributions to the field of predictive coding, reduction of probabilities in certain channels, the exploitation of the notion of "individual information," and methods of utilizing feedback to simplify coding.

He is a member of Sigma Xi, Eta Kappa Nu, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, and Commission VI of the International Scientific Radio Union. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Radio Engineers and has held many posts of responsibility on committees of this society. He is co-editor of the quarterly journal, INFORMATION AND CONTROL, first published in the spring of 1957.

Professor Elias has taken a very active interest in the educational programs in the Department of Electrical Engineering, having served in capacities as registration officer, teacher, and a member of the graduate and undergraduate educational policy committees.

Professor Elias married the former Marjorie Forbes on July 8, 1950. They have three children, Ellen, Paul and Daniel.

J.A. Stratton

Elias  
Appmt  
(Pres.  
Letter)