From Conquest to Computers

*A range of inventors keeps one professor assistant on the run*

In addition to teaching, Paul Nelson has been an active historian of the field of technology. A member of the faculty at MIT since 1982, Nelson has also been involved in the history of science and technology, and has written extensively on the subject. His research focuses on the development of engineering and technology in the United States. Nelson's latest project is a biography of Charles Babbage, the pioneer of the modern computer. Nelson has also been involved in the history of computer science, and has written about the role of computers in the development of modern technology. Nelson's work has been published in a number of journals, including the *Journal of the History of Ideas* and the *Annals of Science*. His research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Nelson is also the author of several books on the history of technology, including *The Invention of the Computer*.