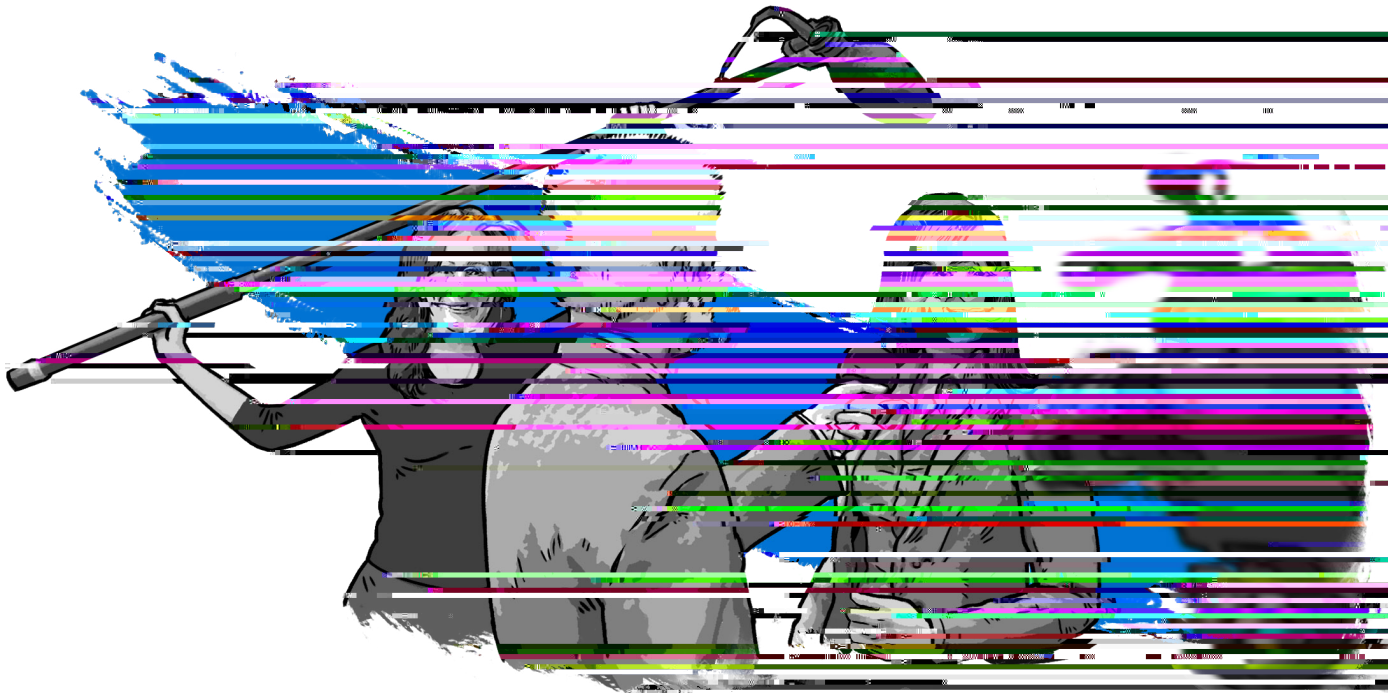


INTRODUCTION

APL's Communications Department is not yet a year old as of this writing. While it is too early to tell where we might be in another , years, the story of our founding and current trajectory might be interesting for future historians.

Less than a decade ago, APL (reasonably) called itself the stealth lab. There were many good and honorable reasons for this status. Much of our work was and is classified. Beyond that, much of our work shouldn't be discussed in detail widely. But that's not really why we were the stealth lab.

Our stealth came not from an intent to conceal



unforeseen and hopefully exciting ways. At a minimum, the way in which we carry out this mission will undoubtedly change. Communications tools and techniques have been changing dramatically over the past two decades, and it doesn't look as though the pace of change will level off anytime soon, especially given the COVID-19 pandemic.

FEATURES

Thinking about what should be reflected in an article about the founding of APL's Communications Department, this last point about COVID-19 is an important one. While we did not form the department because of COVID-19—the memo establishing the department came a mere 10 months before the





was all but lost to humanity for decades because of his inability to communicate well. Mendel's challenge is made all the more difficult today because of the cacophony of modern and future communications platforms. The partnerships of technical experts and communications experts will be essential to elevating Laboratory discoveries and developments so that those discoveries might have global impact.

CONCLUSION

APL's Communications Department is still in its early days, and it is far too soon to tell what it will be like at the ten