

Master Opticians in the Optical Fabrication Shop at the U of R and Their Influence on Us



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Laboratory for Laser Energetics
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PhD in Optics, U of R, 1975

This talk reviews what it means to be a master optician, the history the optics fabrication program and of these craftsmen at the University of Rochester.



2:30 pm, Monday, October 1, 2007
Sloan Auditorium
Goergen Building
Refreshments follow

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S. D. Jacobs

University of Rochester

This talk reviews what it means to be a master optician, the history the optics fabrication program and of these craftsmen at the University of Rochester, their perspectives on students and faculty at The Institute of Optics, my experiences with four of them from 1971 to the present time, their influence on Ph.D. student research, what they would never do, and something we hope they never learned about that we ultimately did with “their” optics (see graphic).

Steve Jacobs started as a freshman Optics major at the U of R in 1966. He knew he'd picked well in his sophomore year with his first Introduction to Optics course taught by W. Lewis Hyde. After receiving his Ph.D. in Optics in 1975 working with Ken Teegarden, he joined the Laboratory for Laser Energetics, where he is currently Senior Scientist and head of the Optical Technology Department. Here he supervises the activities of 35 FTE's in optics manufacturing (thin film coatings), materials technology, liquid crystal optics, laser damage testing, and the Optical Fabrication Shop. Dr. Jacobs is a Professor of Optics and Chemical Engineering, and he teaches graduate courses (and supervises Ph. D. thesis research) on Optics Manufacturing (Optics 443/MSc 471) and Liquid Crystals (ChE/MSc 447) in these two Departments and in the Materials Science Program. He is a Fellow of the SPIE (8/03) and the OSA (10/05). Since 1999 he has conducted an aggressive middle school outreach program through the Rochester Section of the OSA with the **Optics Suitcase**.