In 1965, W. Lewis Hyde, a man of wide human interest, was appointed as the third Director of the Institute. He was a graduate of Harvard and had been on the faculty of The Institute of Optics for two years. Previously, he had been the Director of Development of the American Optical Company’s J. W. Fecker Division at Pittsburgh. Here at the University, he had been serving as Associate Dean of the College of Engineering, and was a member of two subcommittees of the University Senate: The Library Advisory Committee, and the Subcommittee on Graduate Studies. The university community as a whole began to hear of The Institute of Optics as never before.

Hyde’s own professional interest was in high-precision instrument design, an interest not represented on the faculty since the time of Gustave Fassin in the early days of the Institute. Hyde gave a very popular course with a great array of specimens for discussion.

While he was Director, Hyde made a number of appointments to the faculty, including P. J. Sands of Tasmania; J. M. Forsyth who later won the Lomb Medal of the Optical Society awarded to a young scientist under 30; and M. Creuzburg from Germany. He also made the first appointment of a new kind of Administrative Assistant, a member of the staff who would relieve the Director and other faculty members of much organizational
work. Mrs. Susan Raup was the first such appointment; she was followed in due course by Karen Strand, and the present incumbent David Child.

In 1966 Hyde organized the first International Lens Design Conference for which Mrs. Raup was able to do much of the detail work and later assembled a major publication on the proceedings of the conference. A large number attended the conference from foreign countries. Stimulated by its success, this conference has been followed by three others at five-year intervals, organized by the Optical Society of America.

In 1968 Hyde resigned to become Provost of the Bronx campus of New York University.