65. Faculty Honors

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One of the timeless traditions of The Institute of Optics is the international recognition of the stature of its faculty, a stature which has been recognized by countless awards over the years. A number of those awards are mentioned in earlier essays in this volume. In the current essay we will limit ourselves to cataloging some of the accomplishments and honors received by current twenty-five full-time and five adjunct faculty members. Of the full-time faculty members, sixteen hold their principal appointments in the Institute, while nine have joint appointments with their primary appointments in other departments in the University. Of the twenty-five full-time members, seven hold endowed professorships.

Two faculty members edit important series of books: Emil Wolf, whose series *Progress in Optics* will soon reach fifty volumes, and Brian Thompson, who is an editor of series published by SPIE and Marcel Decker that list more than 175 and eighty volumes, respectively. Other faculty have also edited a number of conference proceedings and compilations so that the total is well over three hundred volumes. In addition, the faculty have written a number of popular textbooks and monographs, including: *Principles of Optics* by M. Born and E. Wolf; *Lasers* by P. W. Milonni and J. H. Eberly; *Nonlinear Optics,* and *Radiometry and the Detection of Optical Radiation* by R. W. Boyd; *Semiconductor Lasers, Nonlinear Fiber Optics,* and *Fiber-Optic Communication*

The faculty also serve as current or past editors, topical editors, associate editors, and members of the editorial boards of some twenty journals. One was founding editor of a popular optics journal. Publications include at least four citation classics—papers which have been cited in more than five hundred other refereed publications. When Optics Letters recently published the list of the most cited papers in the twenty-five-year history of the journal, two papers authored by current faculty members were among the top ten.

Fourteen of the faculty members are fellows of the Optical Society of America, four are fellows of SPIE, seven are fellows of the American Physical Society, and nine are fellows of various other professional societies around the world. Faculty members have served as presidents of both the Optical Society of America and SPIE. Notably in the current rotation for the president of the Optical Society of America, Michael Morris, who was until recently on the faculty, is past president; Peter Knight, who was a postdoctoral fellow in quantum optics, is president; and Susan Houde-Walter is president-elect. This brings to eight the number of faculty members or former faculty members who have served as president of the Optical Society of America.

The faculty have received too many awards and medals to list individually, including most of the top prizes of SPIE and the Optical Society of America. Notably, two faculty members have won the Rudolf Kingslake Award of SPIE, which itself was named for a former faculty member. One current faculty member, M. Parker Givens, has an endowed
chair named in his honor. The chair was generously endowed by alumnus James Wyant and his family.

Many of the faculty serve and have served on various governmental advisory committees, and one, Duncan Moore, served for three years as associate director for technology in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) during the Clinton administration. Professor Moore is now chief executive officer of the Infotonics Technology Center Inc. The center, structured as a consortium of industry and universities, is formed by Eastman Kodak Co., Corning, Inc., and Xerox Corp. as a not-for-profit corporation to operate New York State’s Center of Excellence in Photonics and Microsystems.

The University has recognized the accomplishments of the faculty with various prizes including two graduate education awards, two undergraduate teaching excellence awards, two School of Engineering and Applied Science lifetime achievement awards, and two University mentor Awards.

Professor Eberly is a foreign member of the National Academy of Science of Poland, and Professor Moore is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. Three different faculty members have been awarded a total of nine honorary doctorates.

The faculty have scores of patents, and Professor Jacobs and Professor Williams have won the prestigious R&D 100 award for their patents; others have won the Rochester Engineer of the Year award and the National Engineering Award.

Several years ago the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle carried Professor Dennis Hall’s quip that the faculty of the Institute were “just 12 guys out to save the universe.” If their qualifications do not quite match up with the requirements for that job, they would seem to match up well to the task of continuing the tradition of excellence set out by the founders in 1929.