In 1977 Nicholas George, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Applied Physics at Caltech, was appointed the fifth Director of The Institute of Optics. He has had considerable experience in scientific industry and at the National Bureau of Standards.

A professor of electrical engineering! It was to be expected that the conservatives would raise their eyebrows, but the progressives immediately realized that indeed it was an appointment in the right direction: The new technologies demand a happy marriage between classical optics and electronics, no matter whether one regards the electronic age as moving into the field of optics or vice versa.

The Institute of Optics was in the process of moving from its long out-grown quarters on the fourth floor of Bausch & Lomb Hall into the five-story Space Science Center, so that Nicholas George was able to place the very considerable equipment from his California laboratories directly into the new quarters. He also brought with him four graduate students as research assistants, all of whom earned their Ph.D.s, both at Caltech and at The Institute of Optics.

Nicholas George was barely settled when he was confronted with the plans for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration and the National Meeting of the Optical Society of America. However, these interruptions did serve to introduce him to many of the optical scientists in the Rochester area.

In an interview article for Optics News published in the summer of 1979, only 18 months after his arrival in Rochester, Nicholas George, the electrical engineer, was able to say: “The Institute of Optics is a beautifully balanced scholarly community, with dynamic young faculty, elder statesmen, and the essential ingredient of a lively inquisitive group of top-ranked scientists—all built around the single focus of optics. This closeness of interest is unique among educational institutions and fosters a most beneficial cooperation and kindred spirit among the faculty. . . . My own specialization has been in electro-magnetic theory and linear systems, and these disciplines fit
very comfortably in optics. In fact, for a potential student who may be reading this article, I would like to emphasize that he would do well in our graduate program if he comes from a school with good training in the basic sciences or electrical engineering and mathematics.

Nicholas George appointed the following members of the faculty: R. W. Boyd, J. C. Dainty, M. G. Raymer, D. G. Hall, M. C. Lea, and G. M. Morris. He also renewed the joint appointments of E. Wolf, L. Mandel, and J. H. Eberly from physics, and E. W. Marchand retired from Eastman Kodak Company. He revived the publication of *IMAGE* newsletter, originally started as *I. O. N.* by R. E. Hopkins. He formalized and greatly extended the Industrial Associates program started by Brian Thompson. They now meet twice a year for two days. Papers are presented by faculty members and graduate students, and the Associates have the opportunity to visit the laboratories and talk with the students.

In 1981, Nicholas George resigned from the Directorship to give full time to teaching and research. In 1986 he led the effort that later resulted in a five-year award supported by the U.S. Army Research Office for a new University of Rochester Center for opto-electronic systems research, which he will direct.

No one will ever forget Nicholas George’s electrically driven rotating spit for roasting beef and pork at the annual picnics of The Institute of Optics.