

Leonard Mott, MS, 1971



What influenced your decision to attend graduate school at OSC?

I worked at PerkinElmer (PE) from 1967-1968; there were good connections with OSC. My boss at PE, Morley Lipsett, was a good friend of professor Roland Shack. Professor Bob Noble was also a former PE employee.

Which classes did you find most enjoyable? Which ones did you find most difficult?

Dean McKenney's Thin-Film Optics class was the most enjoyable. Professor Nick Stavroudis's course in mathematical foundations of optics was the most difficult.

Was there an individual (professor, advisor, staff, friend, family member) who played a particularly important role in your education?

Professor Dean McKenney as my advisor; professor Francis Turner as a mentor.

What was your research while attending OSC?

Thin-Film Optics – Interference Filters.

What was the cost of rent in Tucson while you were in school?

My wife, Nancy, and I lived with our daughter at Christopher City (UA family housing). The rent was about \$100/month for a 2-bedroom, furnished unit, with all utilities included.

If you owned a car during graduate school, what year and model was it?

1957 Chevrolet station wagon.

What was your favorite restaurant/student hangout near campus?

Lou's in the lower level of the Student Union.

What did you do for fun during your time in graduate school?

Hiking and traveling around southern Arizona to enjoy the desert. Nancy and I both grew up in Connecticut!

At the time of your graduation, what were the most sought-after jobs/most popular industries/most popular companies?

Engineering and research in laser and laser applications were popular types of jobs. Aerospace companies offered great opportunities.

What was your first job after graduation?

Thin-Film process engineer for Optical Coating Laboratory, Inc. (OCLI).

What was the most significant world event during your time in graduate school. How were you affected by this event?

The Vietnam War and the ensuing protests.

What advice would you give to this year's graduating class?

Do your personal best in whatever job, appointment or position you find.