The University of Rochester is the birthplace of modern optics. The Institute of Optics was established here in 1929, founded by a grant from Kodak and Bausch and Lomb, and today its reputation as a leader in optics research and innovation continues to thrive. Educational and research opportunities span optical physics, applied optics, and optical engineering.

Faculty and staff create a challenging and rewarding educational experience through rigorous academic instruction, laboratory exercises, informal events, internships, summer jobs, and networking opportunities. With bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees available, students excel in this environment—one that fosters collaboration, innovation, and discovery. Many receive multiple job offers after graduation and take positions in academia, industry, and government agencies.

As an academic department within the University’s Edmund A. Hajim School of Engineering & Applied Sciences, the institute resides in the Wilmot Building and shares space in the Robert B. Goergen Hall for Biomedical Engineering and Optics, a hub for scientific research and exploration.

For decades, the institute has also offered the Optics Summer School, a collection of short courses ranging from fundamentals to advanced topics in optical science and engineering.

Continuing a Legacy
Success is longstanding at the institute. In 1974, it created the revolutionary Industrial Associates Program. Currently, more than 30 companies are members, with each playing a critical role in the overall operation of the institute and in making discoveries that define the industry and modern science.

Points of Pride
Industry Influence
Since the Optical Society of America was founded in 1916, 25 percent of its presidents were either alumni of the institute or were on its faculty when elected. Also, the institute has granted more than 2,400 degrees in optics, approximately half of all degrees ever awarded in the field.

“Rochester’s optics program teaches problem solving, teamwork, and how to wrestle with and understand advanced concepts. It also underscores how important networking is. These are skills that will serve me well, regardless of where the future ends up taking me.”

Aaron Michalko ’14
optics major and member of Rochester’s a cappella group the Midnight Ramblers
Entrepreneurial Spirit
Over the last 50 years, more than 150 companies have been created by the institute's faculty, staff, and alumni.

Distinguished Faculty
Google Scholar has listed three books by institute faculty as among the 12 most-cited books ever in physics: Principles of Optics by Professors Max Born and Emil Wolf, Nonlinear Fiber Optics by Professor Govind Agrawal, and Nonlinear Optics by Professor Robert Boyd.

Inspiring Leadership
Over the years, a few names have become synonymous with the optics industry and the leadership at Rochester.

Professor Robert Hopkins joined Rochester in 1939 and is known as the "father of optical engineering." Through his groundbreaking work, Hopkins encouraged an entrepreneurial spirit that has been very much alive throughout the institute's history.

Emil Wolf is the Marie C. Wilson and Joseph C. Wilson Professor of Optical Physics and professor of optics and has served on Rochester's faculty for 50 years. He is highly regarded throughout the world as an intellectual giant in the field of optics and as an extraordinary educator.

Duncan Moore is the vice provost for entrepreneurship, the Rudolf and Hilda Kingslake Professor in Optical Engineering, professor of biomedical engineering, and professor of business administration in the William E. Simon School of Business. He is frequently recognized for his outstanding record of research, teaching, and leadership across academia, business, and government.

Transformational Gifts
In 2012, James C. Wyant '67 (MS), '69 (PhD), a member of the University's Board of Trustees and of the Hajim School Dean's Advisory Committee, created the Dr. James C. Wyant Professorship in Optics to support the development of knowledge in an increasingly global optics community. An optical scientist long associated with Rochester, Wyant is currently professor and former dean of the University of Arizona’s College of Optics. He also cofounded 4D Technology Corporation and has been a visiting professor at the Institute of Optics since 1983. Wyant previously endowed the M. Parker Givens Professorship in Optics in honor of his former professor. Givens passed away in January 2013 at the age of 96.

Faculty
Endowed positions are another priority. They help attract and retain faculty of exceptional talent and are the most prestigious and visible honors at the University. Investing in an endowed professorship gives donors the satisfaction of knowing their names will be forever linked to excellence in teaching and research.

How You Can Help
Gifts to the institute will enrich the educational opportunities here, support research activities, and nurture the curious and creative spirit that fosters innovation and discovery in optics. Consider any of the following funding opportunities:

Students
Supporting students is one of the highest priorities at Rochester. Fund an undergraduate scholarship or a graduate fellowship as these are of vital importance to the institute. They draw the most qualified students, allow them to pursue research projects, and strengthen the institute overall.

Learn, Discover, Heal, Create—And Make the World Ever Better
www.optics.rochester.edu

For more information on giving opportunities, please contact
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