

SVC Foundation News

The Helen and Rolf Illsley Scholarship Fund

The SVC Foundation is proud to announce the creation of a \$50,000 grant given by the Helen and Rolf Illsley Endowed Scholarship Fund. This fund will provide an annual scholarship of the same title to a deserving student in the field of vacuum coating.

Rolf Illsley, co-founder of Optical Coating Laboratory, Inc., (OCLI) in 1948, was President and Chairman of the Board of OCLI until his retirement in 1991. Helen joined the company in 1963, as Rolf's assistant, and remained with the company until 1989, when Helen and Rolf married. OCLI was purchased by JDS Uniphase in 2000.

OCLI has made tremendous contributions to the vacuum coating industry. OCLI's key products and technology include durable far infrared coatings for military and aerospace applications, durable high efficiency antireflective coatings (HEA) and durable first surface aluminum mirrors and the technology to produce both in large quantities in the MAC (Multilayer Automatic Coater) using evaporation, and, later, in large sputtering machines. In 1969, OCLI received an Academy Award for anti-reflection coatings on movie camera lenses. The development of specialized roll-coating equipment allowed OCLI to create a range of unique products based on thin-film interference, the largest being produced in quantities of many tons per year as anti-counterfeiting color-shifting ink pigment for paper currency. A computer search shows OCLI had an astounding 140 patents issued between 1976 and 2005.

Rolf was born in Cleveland, OH, and grew up in Western Michigan. He then went on to study agricultural economics and engineering at Michigan State University. Rolf then joined the Navy in World War II and served in the South Pacific as an engineering officer for a Landing Ship Medium Group. Rolf applied his university studies briefly in China after World War II working for the United Nations. He and several others, including his brother, founded OCLI in Washington, DC, in 1948 and later moved the company to Santa Rosa, CA, in 1951.

Key to OCLI's growth was Rolf's vision and willingness to take bold risks. On at least three occasions, OCLI invested more than ½ of its net worth in R&D and capital investment to build new, unique coating technologies. These bold risks insured OCLI's longevity enabling it to become a publically traded company. At its peak, OCLI had more than 1,800 employees and about 80 coating machines at its headquarters in Santa Rosa, CA and at a subsidiary in Hillend, Scotland. It should be noted that many ideas pursued by the company also failed, but Rolf never lost his nerve or his willingness to take calculated risks. It is extraordinary Rolf was able to start his own company, grow it, take it public, and then successfully manage it as a public company.

With more than 200 engineers and scientists working at any given time in the 1980's and 1990's, OCLI holds a long and highly honored list of employees who greatly contributed to the optical coating industry. Many of OCLI's employees also went on to make significant contributions in other vacuum coating related industries. The Helen and Rolf Illsley fund is a reflection of Rolf's commitment to helping the vacuum coating industry continue to grow. Rolf and Helen live in San Rafael, CA, and enjoy flying both as a hobby and as a business.



Rolf and Helen Illsley

The Bernard Henry AIMCAL and SVC Scholarship Fund

AIMCAL and the Society of Vacuum Coaters have overwhelmingly and enthusiastically agreed, using the capabilities of the Society of Vacuum Coaters Foundation, to establish The Bernard Henry AIMCAL and SVC Scholarship Fund in honor of the late Bernard Henry.

These scholarships are open to students world wide to attend qualified institutions of higher learning. By combining SVC and AIMCAL donations into a designated fund, it is hoped that sufficient donations (\$50,000) may be received to create an endowed scholarship fund in Bernard Henry's memory. If less than this is donated, scholarships will continue to be awarded, but will not be endowed. Contact Jim Seeser or John Fenn if you would like to make a contribution to the Bernard Henry AIMCAL and SVC Scholarship Fund. Donations to the fund should be addressed to the Society of Vacuum Coaters Foundation, 8100 M-4 Wyoming Blvd. NE #243, Albuquerque, NM 87113 USA and should specify the Bernard Henry AIMCAL-SVC Scholarship Fund. Generous funding commitments have been received already from several organizations including AIMCAL, Amcore Flexibles, CAMVAC, and Celpast Metallized Products.

About Bernard Henry. After receiving a first degree in Materials Science and doctorate on the microscopy of semiconductor materials, both while attending Imperial College in London, UK, Bernard moved to Oxford University in 1995. He worked on high performance cements and then on textured superconducting materials, but the major contributions for which he will be remembered as a scientist really started with his work on flexible gas barrier materials. Bernard immersed himself in the question "what really determines the permeation barrier properties of polymer/inorganic composites?" Characteristically, he was unwilling to follow the path others had taken, being much more interested in designing new research strategies - requiring measurements in laboratories on 3 continents. The key ideas that came from this work - the importance of micron-scale defects, the role of chemical modifications in improving permeation properties, and practical solutions to old problems on how to fabricate new and better materials - have all greatly contributed to a better understanding of transparent permeation barriers. From 2000, Bernard began work on polymer solar cells where he focused interest on transparent conducting materials like TiO₂ and ZnO. Bernard also maintained a very active interest in the thin film barrier field, and in 2006 he became the project manager for the production-scale web coater facility in the Oxford Materials Department. While at the Oxford Materials Department, Bernard combined his long-standing interest in the science of thin films with the development of new commercial materials.

To those of us who collaborated with Bernard as a busy scientist, may be surprised to learn he also held a huge commitment to sport and also to organizing events for young people. Bernard made friends all over the world both as a scientist and a sportsman, and we will remember him as a genuinely nice man with huge personal dignity who we were proud to know.

This biographical sketch has been contributed by Dr Hazel Assender, Department of Materials, Oxford University, United Kingdom



Bernard Henry

SVC Foundation Scholarship Program...

because technical education is the driving force behind the innovations that improve our lives.

Each year, the SVC Foundation awards several scholarships in amounts ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 to outstanding undergraduate or graduate students.

If you are studying *or working* in vacuum coating technology or a related field, you could qualify for a scholarship from the Society of Vacuum Coaters Foundation. Past awardees are eligible to apply again.

Deadline for application is January 31.

Applications are available at www.svc.org/SF/SVCFoundationSchol.html



Society of Vacuum Coaters Foundation, Inc.

8100 M-4 Wyoming Blvd. NE #243, Albuquerque, NM 87113 USA

E-mail: svcfoundation@svc.org

Web Site: www.svc.org/SF/SVCFoundationSchol.html

SVC Foundation Scholarship Application Deadline

Scholarship Applications for 2008 are due
January 31, 2008.

Information and forms may be found at
<http://www.svc.org/SF/SVCFoundationSchol.html>
or by contacting Paolo Raugei at praugei@comcast.net

Further information on any of these topics can be obtained
by emailing any board member.

The Society of Vacuum Coaters Foundation (SVCF) is a nonprofit corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Third Techcon 5K Fun Run And Walk

Come and join us for the 3rd Annual Society of Vacuum Coaters Foundation 5K Fun Run and Walk during the SVC TechCon in Chicago on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 6:00 a.m.

This year the run will take us along the Chicago River to the Lake Shore for – with a little luck – a beautiful sunrise right over Lake Michigan. As in the years before, the 5K Run is a fundraiser for the Society of Vacuum Coaters Foundation, aiming at providing scholarships to students and workers advancing their knowledge in the area of Vacuum Coating Technology. As usual we are looking for companies and private individuals to sponsor the T-Shirts that are so proudly worn by the runners and walkers. For more information please contact Wolfgang Decker at w.decker@vastfilm.com.

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