

## Brian Hooker, PhD, 1974

### What influenced your decision to attend graduate school at OSC?

After living in upper New York State for four years while in the Air Force, I knew that I wanted to study optics in the desert Southwest. Attending the new OSC program (it was 1968) in a different part of the country, away from the 'Eastern establishment,' was intoxicating.

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

Roland Shack and Jack Gaskill were key figures in my education—Roland for his intellectual capacity and Jack for his fun-loving personality.

### What was your research while attending OSC?

Most of my work had something to do with understanding the image quality of optical systems.

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

After a year in married student housing (Christopher City), my wife, Anne, and I bought a small house. Our realtor was Mike DeBell, another OSC graduate student who sold real estate on the side. The cost of the house was \$23,000—less than the cost of most cars today.

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

1968 Volvo station wagon. The 'British Racing Green' paint rapidly changed to a dull black under the Tucson sun.

### What was your favorite restaurant/student hangout near campus?

Who could afford to eat out?! 😊

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

Lots of hiking and camping. We escaped the summer heat with trips to San Diego, California.

### What was your first job after graduation?

IBM in Boulder, Colorado.

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

There was much social unrest and turmoil, including the Vietnam War, the Kent State shootings, political assassinations (Kennedy and King), and Woodstock. Focusing on a graduate program gave some refuge from the problems of the day.

