

Life After Provosting!

In case the rumor mill has reached you that I am retiring, it is true! However, before you read further, I want to assure you that I am not retiring as Editor of Optical Engineering—at least not yet. At the moment, I am committed to being your Editor through the end of 1995. What's more, the editorial office in Rochester will remain at the university, and specifically, at 692 Mount Hope Avenue, which is also our residence—a university residence that we will continue to live in. The Patrick Barry House at 692 Mount Hope Avenue is a landmark house built by Patrick Barry in 1857. Patrick Barry was a very successful nurseryman in partnership with George Ellwanger. This Victorian mansion was designed by the English architect Gervais Wheeler and was retained in the family until it was given to the university in the late 1950s under the condition that it would be used as a single-family residence for a university official. Illustrated

here is a pen and ink sketch of the house by Lisa Krauss executed in the 1970s. It really is an interesting house with an excellent arboretum, which is also a legacy of the Barry's, and extensive rose and perennial gardens that my wife and I have added.

Well, back to the start of this editorial. On 1 July 1994, I became Provost Emeritus and Distinguished University Professor. In addition, I will retain my position as professor of optics. However, I will not be full time at the university, but will continue my editorial work on *Optical Engineering*, the SPIE Milestone Series, and the Optical Engineering Book Series that I edit for Marcel Dekker. I will also continue to be responsible for the University of Rochester Press and the Link Foundation Fellowship programs.

So there is life after provosting! I recognize that many of the readers of these editorials may not know what a provost is. The provost at an American university is usually the chief academic officer of the institution to whom the deans of all the schools and colleges report. So my job has been the second



The Patrick Barry House

officer of the university, who acts for the president during the president's absence, the chief operating officer of the university, and the chief academic officer. It is, and has been, a satisfying and rewarding position that I have occupied for the last 10 years.

A dictionary will inform you that there are many other meanings of the word *provost*, including the head of a cathedral; the chief magistrate or mayor of a Scottish town; the officer in charge of a royal establishment such as a mint; the steward or bailiff of a feudal manor; a fencer of lower rank than a master of arms; and the keeper of a prison. I have not officially filled any of those positions but....

The word in many dictionaries immediately before provost is provolone and, in at least one dictionary I consulted, alongside the word provost was a picture of a big cheese! Who says editors of dictionaries do not have a sense of humor.

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