Leading role of the faculty of sciences and engineering of Laval University in the development of curricula in optics/photonics for industry

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The Leading Role of the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering of Laval University in the Development of Curricula in Optics/Photonics for Industry.

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ABSTRACT

Sometime ago, the Government of Quebec decided that a zone comprising Quebec City will become an Optics City. In Fact, this decision is based on long tradition of Optics that Laval University with the Defence Research Establishment of Valcartier (The Optics arm of the Canadian Defence Research Network) maintained for years despite the fact that Optics was not well seen as Research Domain.

The Optics City zone in which we can find the ‘Groupe d’optique photonique Québec’ (GOPQ- The Quebec City Optics Cluster) has decided that their first priority is to fulfill the needs of Optics/Photonics Specialists. As we know, this need is seen all over the world and every places where Optics/Photonics want to be done, wants to find or train this type of Specialists. The Faculty of Science and Engineering was appointed as the main player to organize such training in collaboration with a Network of College where Technicians are trained.

Keywords: Optics Program, Physics, Physics Engineering, Optics Engineering, Optics Education, Technicians.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Everyone who is interested by Optics knows the long way Researchers have done to bring this field where it is nowadays. This exclusion or non-inclusion of Optics has been seen all over the world. Some countries did understand faster than others.
In Canada, Optics was seen as somewhat ridiculous and no other universities than Laval pick up this field and supported it.

Laval University will be celebrating in 2002, its 150th anniversary under the English regime, will also be celebrating its 340th anniversary under the French Regime because French established it in 1663. Although Laval was established before most of the North American Universities, the development of Sciences started only in 1910. The Faculty of Sciences was founded in 1937 and the Department of Physics just after.

The Department and the Faculty were quite lucky that from the beginning, someone under the guidance of Prof. Franco Rasetti, founding Chairman of the Department of Physics, decided to develop Optics as a research domain. Prof. Albéric Boivin devoted his career to do research and training in Optics. He has been instrumental in the formation of the first research team (LOH) having Optics as a theme, he participated in the formation of LROL and was supervisor of many Master and Doctorate Thesis.

The Faculty of Sciences was named Faculty of Sciences and Engineering in 1985 to show the importance of having under a unified roof both pure and applied sciences. In 1989, Researchers grouped together researchers interested in Optical Sciences and Engineering to form the Center for Optics, Photonics and Lasers (COPL).

Recently, officially on 6th March 2001, the Department of Physics was renamed Department of Physics, Engineering Physics and Optics and took over not only the program of Physics but also the Program of Engineering Physics as well as the new program in Optics/Photonics.

**IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCHERS IN OPTICS IN CANADA**

As said before, Laval University through his Department of Physics was the only University where it was possible to study this field at undergraduate and graduate level. At about the time that was established the Department of Physics and the Faculty of Sciences, the Government of Canada decided to build its Arms Development Research Center in the vicinity of Quebec City. This research center was right at its beginning involved in vision research, tele-detection and all research related to light. National Research Council of Canada, located in Ottawa, was mainly looking at standards, spectroscopic tools.
Researchers of all those three labs were, to use a modern word, networking. At this time, most of the Canadian Specialist in Optics working in Governmental Labs, Universities and Companies have been trained in Laval University.

The disclosure of the TEA-CO₂ Laser around 1970 was an important milestone for Canada and for Quebec City. In effect, researchers of the DREV-Defence Research Establishment of Valcartier (City located in the Suburban of Quebec City) succeeded under the guidance of Dr. Jacques Beaulieu, to build this high power laser. In his team, there was researcher of Laval University.

The importance of this development in the laser area and the number of Researchers and Specialists in Optics trained at Laval University was so evident that the Government of Canada decided, in 1985, to establish an Institute of Optics (a branch of the National Research Council of Canada) in Quebec City. Politics changed the status of this decision and instead of that Institute, an Industrial Research Center granted by both Quebec and Canadian Governments was started. It was named National Optics Institute (Nowaday, it is know as INO for Institut national d’optique).

Gentec, Inc received the mandate from the DREV to develop and commercialize the CO₂-TEA Laser, Bomem (a start-up from DREV) begun, INO (National Optics Institute) was created, DREV continue his development, COPL was formed and a new company EXFO (created by two students of Laval University, one after a Master in Physics and the other after his B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering) was started. All that happens due to researchers working in Quebec City area.

A non-profit organisation was created in 1998 during an SPIE meeting. Presidents of Companies seated together and after a talk of the President of the Tucson Cluster in Optics, They decided to start the ‘Groupe d’optique-Photonique Québec’ translated in English as the Quebec Optics Photonics Cluster.

**QUEBEC CITY IS AN OPTICS CITY**

All the development cited in the previous section convinced the Government of Quebec to declare Quebec City, the Optics City linked with founds to help Research and Development and the Start-up of new High-Tech Industries.

Prior to that or in the same period, many Small and Medium Size Entreprises started. The synergy running between Research Laboratories, Governmental Laboratories which was helping the development of start-ups, the collaboration between companies and
founds becoming available thanks to Quebec Government Policy helps to create many new companies working in Optics or related to Optics.

As it was the case all over the world, Companies, Governmental Laboratories and Universities were looking to find candidates to be recruited as researchers, managers, scientists, technicians and for their department of sales and services. The situation was such that Companies were fighting to get the available candidates, they were even taking undergraduate students.

The Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering of Laval University worked out a project in collaboration with all Colleges who wanted to train technicians that permit to create an unique counter, supported by the organisation of the Optics City, where companies will be able to address their requests for training their own technicians, their own engineers that were not trained to work in the field of Optical Sciences and Engineering. This unique counter will also works programs that will fulfill the industrial needs.

**ROLE OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING**

Consequently, the Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering, Pierre Moreau, the Vice-Dean for Education, Richard Poulin, the Director of the Center for Optics, Photonics and Lasers, Réal Vallée, the Chairmen of the Department of Physics, Engineering Physics and Optics, Roger A. Lessard, and of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Paul Fortier, the Président of the Optics City, Régis Labeaume, the President of the Cluster in Optics, Michel Bédard plus René Beaulieu, representing the CEGEP La Pocatière and some delegates from other institutions build up a very large program that will answer requests coming not only from Québec City but from all the Province of Québec and from the Canada.

A sub-committee made an extensive review of all available programs for training technicians, engineers and scientists who might be used to fulfill the needs. An other sub-committee from the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering did work on a short program that will help to reorient the career of Mechanical, Electronic, Electrical, Computer and Chemical Engineers and to give them some basic knowledge in Optics/Photonics. This program can also be used by Scientist as Chemists, Biochemists and Biologists.
TECHNICIANS

At CEGEP La Pocatière, students receive a practical and theoretical formation all along their 3 years of college.

Outside Math, Chemistry and Physics, someone who wants to become a Photonics Technician must take courses which are designated as mandatory for a Photonics Technician.

The 3 year course is made of 6 terms of 15 weeks during which the students are following 28 hours courses per week.

To be specialized in Optics/Photonics, the Photonics Technician has taken courses on Geometrical Optics, on Instrumental Optics, Optical Fibers, Lasers, Sources and Detectors, Application to infrared. The technician knows the Vacuum techniques and got basic knowledge of Photometry and Radiometry.

Although training in industry is not mandatory since they get many labs all along their formation, most of the students passing by CEGEP La Pocatière decided to do some months in Industry prior to graduate.

Program at CEGEP La Pocatière:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy and rationality</td>
<td>( 60 Hours)</td>
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<td>Writing and Literature</td>
<td>( 60 Hours)</td>
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<td>Sports</td>
<td>( 30 Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematical Models 1</td>
<td>( 75 Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is a Technologist?</td>
<td>( 45 Hours)</td>
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<td>Technology of Electricity</td>
<td>(105 Hours)</td>
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<td>Computer as a tool</td>
<td>( 60 Hours)</td>
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<th>2nd session</th>
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<tr>
<td>Human Being</td>
<td>( 45 Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature and Imagination</td>
<td>( 60 Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>( 45 Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematical Models 11</td>
<td>( 75 Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design and construction of</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Control System</td>
<td>(105 Hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circuits</td>
<td>(105 Hours)</td>
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3rd session: Quebec Literature (60 Hours)
          English for Programming (45 Hours)
          Technical Drawing (60 Hours)
          Signal Processing (75 Hours)
          Technics of Technical Physics Technology (75 Hours)
          Sports (75 Hours)

4th session: Public communication (60 Hours)
            Administration (75 Hours)
            Matter and Heat (75 Hours)
            Optical Instruments (60 Hours)
            Technics of Vacuum (75 Hours)

5th session: Philosophy (45 Hours)
             Projects I (90 Hours)
             Sensors (75 Hours)
             Physical Optics (60 Hours)
             Materials and Photonics Devices (60 Hours)
             Waves and Acoustics (60 Hours)

6th session: Data Processing (75 Hours)
             Projects II (90 Hours)
             Automatisation (75 Hours)
             Physical Optics (60 Hours)
             Optical Fibers (60 Hours)
             Lasers (45 Hours)

There is also a re-orientation program form Technician who were not in this Optics-Photonics branch. This program was designed to be given in parallel with the previous one in 1500 Hours; 67 weeks @ 25 Hours per week.

CEGEP Limoilou and François-Xavier Garneau which were not having a specific program in that field, decided to designed courses that will be taken in industry. They, in collaboration with CEGEP La Pocatière, develop complementary courses that can be thought during the working hours on the working sites.
SCIENTIFIC DEGREE IN OPTICS AND PHOTONICS

1-Sciences Degree in Physics (Optics specialization)

In the Province of Québec, the first year that we can find in most of the country, has been transferred to CEGEP. So, to compare with others, one must see our three years of training as being made of one or two courses of the 2nd year and the courses of the 3rd and 4th year.

Bachelor degree in Sciences (B.Sc. (Physics) with Specialization in Optics)

Length: 6 terms (90 credits)

Mandatory courses: 75 credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHY-10484</td>
<td>Introduction to Astrophysics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY-10485</td>
<td>Mathematical Physics I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY-10486</td>
<td>Mathematical Physics II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY-10489</td>
<td>Classical Mechanics I</td>
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<td>GML-21452</td>
<td>Material Sciences</td>
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<td>PHY-10493</td>
<td>Quantum Physics</td>
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<td>PHY-18757</td>
<td>Electromagnetism</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY-10491</td>
<td>Waves and Linear Systems</td>
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<td>PHY-20921</td>
<td>Experimental Physics I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY-10492</td>
<td>Classical Mechanics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY-10501</td>
<td>Electromagnetic Waves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEL-19962</td>
<td>Signals Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY-20922</td>
<td>Experimental Physics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFT-17582</td>
<td>Algorithm and programming</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY-10502</td>
<td>Optics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHM-10099</td>
<td>Physical Chemistry I (Thermodynamics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY-17322</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY-20923</td>
<td>Experimental Physics III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY-20924</td>
<td>Experimental Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY-10508</td>
<td>Statistics Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHY-18760</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY-17323</td>
<td>Solid State Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAT-18996</td>
<td>Numerical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHY-20925</td>
<td>Experimental Physics V</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Optional courses: 15 credits
PHY-20912 Photons and Lasers
GPH-21587 Introduction to Optical Design
GPH-21029 Lasers and Applications
GPH-2135 Optical Waveguides
GPH-14306 Instrumental Optics
GEL-17982 Optical Communications
PHY-10527 Project I
PHY-21465 Practicing in Physics

2- Engineering Degree in Physics

Physics engineering was completely remodeled and it was made up of a compulsory core plus optional specialization. Of course, one of those specialization was Optics and it contained a mandatory course for Physics Engineers, Instrumental Optics and courses like Guided Optics, Optics for Communications, Physical Optics, Advanced Optics.

Bachelor Degree in Applied Sciences or Engineering (B.Eng(Physics) Specialization in Photonics and Telecommunication): Length 8 terms (120 credits)

Mandatory courses: 105 credits
GLG-17523 Earth Geophysics
PHY-17033 Physics Engineering Practice
PHY-10485 Mathematical Physics I
PHY-10486 Mathematical Physics II
GMC-10284 Technical thermodynamics
IFT-20545 Computing for Engineer
PHY-10487 Mathematical Physics III
PHY-10491 Waves and Linear systems
PHY-18757 Electromagnetism
MAT-18996 Numerical Analysis for Engineer
COM-21573 Engineering Design and Communication
GMC-10302 Techniques of Mechanics II
GIF-10279 Logic Circuits
GMC-10292 Mechanics of fluids I
GML-10463 Materials for Engineer
PHY-10501 Electromagnetic Waves
PHY-10493 Quantum Physics
GPH-14306 Instrumental Optics
GEL-16132 Circuits
GMN-16209 Health and Security for Engineer
One language course
STT-20694 Probability for Engineers
GMC-20708 Thermal transfer
GMC-10301 Material Resistance I
GPH-14308 Atomic and Nuclear Physics
GPH-16103 Laboratory of instrumentation
PHY-17323 Solid state Physics
GMC-17694 Modeling and analysis in CAO
GPH-18756 Advanced Laboratories
GPH-17443 Project I
GPH-17444 Project II
ECN-15452 Economic Analysis and Engineering
SOC-17707 Sociology of technological innovation
GMC-10282 Drawing for Engineer or GPH-20391 Stage Physics Engineering

Specialization courses for Photonics and Telecommunications: 15 credits
Take one of the following courses: 3 credits
GEL-19962 Signal analysis
GPH-21334 Element of photonics

Take other credits among the following courses¹:
GEL-10280 Digital Communications
GEL-16120 Communication Systems
GEL-17982 Optical Communications
GPH-21029 Lasers et applications
GPH-21335 Optical Waveguides
GPH-21587 Introduction to Optical Design

3- Engineering Degree in Electrical Engineering

In recent years and mainly due to the fact that 5 faculty members of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering joined the 12 faculty members of the Department of Physics to form the Center for Optics, Photonics and Lasers, Electrical Engineering did add some courses related to Optics like one on Optics Materials, Diode lasers and applications.
4- Optics Flavor to the other Engineering Programs

Laval University, after the survey mentioned at the beginning of this section decided to create a Certificate that will permit to Mechanical Engineers, Electrical Engineers, Computer Engineers, Chemical Engineers, Chemists, Biochemists and Biologists to take two full intensive sessions on Optics. This will permit to the Scientists and Engineers employed in the Optics related industries to communicate more easily with Physicists and Physics Engineers.

**Certificate in Optics/Photonics (30 credits)**

**Basic and common courses** (15 credits)
- GEL-22009 Electromagnetism
- PHY-22010 Fiber Optics
- PHY-22011 Lasers
- PHY-22012 Wave Optics
- PHY-22013 Classical Optics

**Specialization in Optics** (15 credits)
- GEL-22014 Optoelectronics
- PHY-22015 Diffractive and Fourier Optics
- PHY-22016 Optical Design
- PHY-22017 Opto-Mechanics
- PHY-22021 Instrumental Optics

Or

**Specialization Optical Communications (15 credits)**
- GEL-22014 Optoelectronics
- GEL-22018 Optical Communications Systems
- GEL-22019 Optical Communications Networks
- GEL-22020 Industry of Telecommunications
- GEL-xxxx Optional Course to be defined

**REVIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING**

As we have seen in this paper the role of the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering of Laval University was of primary importance in the development of Optics in Québec and in Canada starting from its establishment in 1937.
Laval University has granted a large number of Bachelor degrees in Physics and Engineering Physics and we must admit that an important part of those Physicists and Physical Engineers play a role in the development of Optics in Quebec as well as in Canada.

From the 1st Professor in Optics in 1944 to the 17 Professors doing presently research in the Center for Optics, Photonics and Lasers and lecturing in the Department of Physics, Engineering Physics and Optics and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University Laval has delivered more that 250 M.Sc. and 150 D.Sc. or Ph.D.

Laval University had trained most of the scientific working in Optics in Canada until 1990. Some of those 500 graduates who received diploma from Laval University can be found in Canada, France, Belgium, Brazil, China, Columbia, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, United States of America, Iran, Iraq, some African Counties, etc.

At the undergraduate level, the Creation of the Optics City by the Government of Quebec and the conferences made by the members of the recruiting committee of the Faculty of Sciences and Engineering permitted the inscription of 100 new students in the program of Engineering Physics and 50 new students in the program of Honours in Physics. Being limited due to the number of Professors in the Departments of Physics, Engineering Physics and Optics and Engineering Physics and Optics and of Electrical and Computer Engineering, we had to restrict ourselves to 90 graduates students at Master and Ph.D. levels.

Reference:


2. Definition of a credit at Laval University:
   1 credit = 1 hour of lecture during 15 weeks plus 2 hours of personal work.