Florida State University. During the time he held this position, 1962–67, the department grew both in size and standing. The faculty increased from 16 to 32, and the number of graduate students rose from 40 to over a hundred.

His research activity continued unabated despite his administrative responsibilities. Plyler again designed a spectrometer with resolution equalled by few in the world. It was built in the departmental shop and became the nucleus of his infrared laboratory, from which came 14 papers by him and his students between 1965 and 1972, and a stream of well trained physicists. He was appointed emeritus professor in 1970.

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Pierre-Michel Duffieux

Pierre-Michel Duffieux, who introduced Fourier techniques to the field of image formation in optics, died 3 June.

Duffieux was born near Bordeaux in 1891. A man of imagination, he became interested in theoretical physics at the lycée when hearing lectures by Pierre Duhem. He entered the Ecole Normale Supérieure in 1912 and, during World War I, he used a periodic signal to check the insulation of freezing equipment—an idea inspired directly by the original work of Fourier on the seasonal propagation of heat in the Earth's soil.

In 1920 Duffieux became assistant to Charles Fabry in Marseille and presented his thesis on band spectra. He earned his doctorate in 1925 and worked thereafter on interference spectroscopy. He was later professor at the Universities of Rennes and Besançon.

During World War II he wrote a very original book, *l'Intégrale de Fourier et ses Applications à l'Optique*. In it he pointed out the convolution relation between object and diffraction pattern to produce the image, the notion of spatial frequency, the notion of transfer function and its expression as the autocorrelation function of the pupilar amplitude, and the existence of a cut-off frequency in incoherent illumination.

Thus Duffieux had been at the origin of the development of modern techniques for the study of optical images, which replaced the old idea of resolving power. He was also brilliant in many other fields, including philosophy and music—all those who met him will remember his original views and stimulating discussions.

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