

## VACLAV VITEK

Vaclav Vitek, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, was born in Olomouc in 1940. He studied physics and mathematics at the Charles University in Prague where he graduated in 1962. He received his Ph.D. (at this time called Candidate of Sciences) in 1966 at the Institute of Physics of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences.

In 1967 he went as a post-doctoral Fellow to the Department of Materials at Oxford University, England. After the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia he decided to remain in the United Kingdom and stayed until 1975 at Oxford as a Research Associate at the Department of Materials and Research Fellow of the Wolfson College. In 1975 he became the Principal Research Officer at the Central Electricity Research Laboratories, Leatherhead, England. During this time he acquired the British nationality by naturalization.

In 1978 he was invited to become a Full Professor at the University of Pennsylvania where he remains until today. During this time he also held several visiting professorships: Theoretical Physics Division, AERE, Harwell, U. K. (1985); Department of Applied Physics, University of Groningen, Netherlands (1985/86); Department of Physics, Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Switzerland (1989); Max-Planck-Institut für Metallforschung, Stuttgart, Germany (1992/93); Korean Institute of Science and Technology, Taejon, Korea (2003); Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea (2004). He became a naturalized US citizen in 1984.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (London), the ASM International and The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society. At the same time he is a member of the American Physical Society and Materials Research Society.

He presented numerous invited lectures at international conferences, universities and research establishments, published over two hundred original papers in peer reviewed journals, close to fifty invited papers and reviews and more than hundred papers in various conference proceedings. He also edited three books dealing with atomic level studies of defects in materials and is a member of editorial boards of several international journals in the field of Materials Science.

For his contributions to the science of materials he was honored by the following awards: Pfeil Medal of The Metals Society (London) in 1982, Alexander von Humboldt Senior Scientist Award (Germany) in 1991, NEDO Research Award (Japan) in 1992, Acta Metallurgica Gold Medal in 1996, Honorary Doctorate of the Technical University of Brno in 1999, Ernst Mach Medal in Physical Sciences awarded by the Czech Academy of Sciences in 1999. In 2006 he was elected to the American National Academy of Engineering.

More details about his professional interests can be found at the following websites: <http://www.seas.upenn.edu/mse/fac/vitek.html> and <http://www.lrsm.upenn.edu/~vitek/>  
e-mail: [vitek@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:vitek@seas.upenn.edu)