



2021 NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Nov. 30, 1956

Primary Connections:

- Corning: 1991-2018;
Corporate Fellow, 2007-18
- GE Plastics: Research and
Development Scientist, 1982-
91

Education:

- University of Chicago: Dreyfus
Summer Scholar in Chemistry,
1977
- Northern Illinois University:
B.S., Organic Chemistry, 1978
- Massachusetts Institute of
Technology: Ph.D., Inorganic
Chemistry, 1982

Key Memberships/Awards:

- National Academy of
Engineering: Member, 2018
- American Chemical Society:
Heroes of Chemistry Award
(also presented to Ming-Jun Li
and Pushkar Tandon), 2017
- R&D 100 Award: ClearCurve®
optical fiber, 2008
- Time magazine: ClearCurve®
optical fiber was cited as one
of the Best Inventions of 2007

10 Things You Need to Know About

Dana Bookbinder

Inventor of Bend-Insensitive Optical Fiber

U.S. PATENT NOS. 7,450,806; 7,903,917; 8,385,701

1. Bookbinder was born in 1956 in Providence, Rhode Island.
2. Early in life, Bookbinder had an insatiable curiosity about how things worked. As a child, he would go to local junkyards to take apart old TVs, radios, cars, etc., bring them home and reassemble them, sometimes into something new.
3. Also as a child, Bookbinder used to watch water boil and wonder how the bubbles formed and disappeared.
4. Due to moving for his father's jobs, he attended 12 different schools in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Illinois where he met many new people with innovative and different ideas.
5. Bookbinder notes the importance of mentors in his life who taught him the fun of discovery and creativity, and the positive impact of science. He has been a mentor to many others throughout his career.
6. At GE Plastics, he developed modifications of Lexan® polycarbonate, which is used worldwide in the production of compact discs (CDs).
7. He created and produced a chemistry magic show for more than 30 years, inspiring children and their parents through the wonders of science.
8. He says, "Making connections to people and other ideas is fundamental to making new inventions."
9. He loves to read biographies, learning how notable people approached and solved problems in many different ways.
10. Bookbinder holds more than 200 U.S. patents.