



Press release

Varanytsia awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 17 June 2015 – Andrii Varanytsia has been awarded a 2015 Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics for his potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics or related field.



Varanytsia is pursuing a PhD degree in Chemical Physics in the Liquid Crystal Institute at Kent State University (USA) under the supervision of Professor Liang-Chy Chien. His research focuses on development of advanced polymer liquid crystal composite materials for optical applications and on fundamental properties of mirrorless lasing form 1D photonic bandgap liquid crystal films. Varanytsia was able to achieve a sub millisecond optical response of liquid crystals with full modulation of transmitted light which will be useful for ultra-fast displays of next generation.

In 2015 SPIE awarded \$353,000 in education and travel scholarships to 126 outstanding individuals, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Award-winning applicants were evaluated, selected and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, Chaired by SPIE volunteer Cristina

Solano.

Through 2014, SPIE has distributed over \$4.5 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education and to the next generation of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view press releases of the scholarship recipients as they become available go to <http://spie.org/x1737.xml>. Contact scholarships@spie.org if you have any questions. Learn more at <http://spie.org/scholarships>.

[SPIE is the international society for optics and photonics](#), a not-for-profit organization founded in 1955 to advance light-based technologies. The Society serves nearly 264,000 constituents from approximately 166 countries, offering conferences, continuing education, books, journals, and a digital library in support of interdisciplinary information exchange, professional networking, and patent precedent. SPIE provided more than \$4 million in support of education and outreach programs in 2014.

###

Media contact:

Stacey Crockett

Media Relations Coordinator, SPIE

+1 360-676-3290

staceyc@spie.org