



Press release

Hanson awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 26 May 2015 – Cynthia Hanson has been awarded a 2015 Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics for her potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics or related field.



Hanson is pursuing her PhD in Biological Engineering at Utah State University (USA). Her research, supervised by Dr. Elizabeth Vargis, involves detecting and identifying bacteria using Raman spectroscopy in conjunction with dielectrophoresis. Hanson helped to establish the biomedical photonics lab (see www.vargislab.com) and build an in-house Raman microscope system. She was instrumental in forming the Utah State University's SPIE student chapter and now serves as the chapter's president. Outside of academics, she enjoys crossfit, hiking, and chess.

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.

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