



Press release

Finch awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 21 May 2015 – Michael Francis Finch 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.



Finch is currently a PhD student in electrical engineering at Florida Institute of Technology (USA) and advised by Dr. Brian A. Lail. Finch's research interests lie in coupling of optical metamaterial with phonon resonances which has applications in molecular detection. He also has research interest in Free Space Optical Communication through work at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC). Finch's awards include two time Honorable Mention in the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program in 2014 and 2013, A 2013 John Mather Nobel Scholar, and third recipient of the Michael Pate Optical Sciences Memorial Scholarship in 2013.

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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