



Press release

Swiontek awarded SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 16 June 2015 – Stephen E. Swiontek 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.



Swiontek is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics at the Pennsylvania State University (USA) under advising from Dr. Akhlesh Lakhtakia. Swiontek has published nearly a dozen peer-reviewed papers on topics such as thin-film-fabrication techniques, sculptured thin films, surface plasmonics, optical sensing through multiplasmonics, and biomimicry. His main focus of study is fabricating optical sensors which employ surface multiplasmonics to simultaneously sense multiple biological, chemical, and biochemical analytes in aqueous solutions.

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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