



Press release

Cheng awarded SPIE John Kiel Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 21 May 2015 – Weibo Cheng has been awarded the 2015 John Kiel Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics for his potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics or related field.



Cheng is a PhD candidate at the College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona (USA). His research, advised by Professor Pavel Polynkin, focuses on the fundamental aspects of femtosecond laser micromachining. Using a few-cycle optical pump-probe system, Cheng investigates ultrafast ionization dynamics involved in the volumetric and surface laser ablation of materials. Another direction of his research is the development of new regimes of laser machining using spatially and temporally shaped femtosecond laser pulses. His work is an integral part of a multi-university Basic Research Initiative on Ultrashort-Pulse Laser Processing of Materials supported by the US Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

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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