Chen honored with SPIE Educator Award

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – 14 June 2012 – Wei R. Chen, University of Central Oklahoma, Oklahoma, USA is the 2012 Educator Award winner in recognition of his efforts to teach students not only the textbook subjects but also how to think and how to approach real-life problems; for inspiring students to be life-long learners; for encouraging students to contribute to society; and for promoting interdisciplinary learning in biomedical optics through research in laser cancer treatment.

“Dr. Chen also employs an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research because he fully understands that advancements in science and technology have broken down the boundaries of different fields,” said Lihong Wang, Washington University in St Louis. “The establishment of the biomedical engineering program and the development of laser immunotherapy for cancer treatment are two prominent examples of Dr. Chen’s efforts in interdisciplinary teaching and research.”

Chen is an SPIE Fellow, and serves on the SPIE Education Committee. He is chair of the Biophotonics and Immune Responses conference at SPIE Photonics West, and serves on the organizing committee for the SPIE BiOS symposium. Chen has taught more than 20 different courses in engineering and physics, and has won numerous regional, state, and national awards for education.

The Educator Award is given annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to optics education by an SPIE instructor or an educator in the field. An honorarium of $2,000.00 will be presented.

For more information on this year’s recipient and past winners, visit http://spie.org/x3069.xml.

SPIE presents several yearly awards that recognize outstanding individual and team technical accomplishments and meritorious service to the Society. SPIE urges you to nominate a colleague for his or her outstanding achievements. Nominations may be made through October 1 of any given year and are considered active for three years from the submission date. Visit SPIE.org/x1164.xml for instructions and nomination forms.

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 225,000 constituents from approximately 150 countries, offering conferences, continuing education, books, journals, and a digital library in support of interdisciplinary information exchange, professional growth, and patent precedent. SPIE provided over $2.7 million in support of education and outreach programs in 2011.

# # # #
Media contact:
Stacey Crockett, Media Relations Coordinator
+1 360 685 5458
staceyc@spie.org