



Press release
24 May 2024

Joseph W. Haefner awarded an SPIE Optics and Photonics Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Joseph W. Haefner** has been awarded a 2024 Optics and Photonics Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to optics, photonics, or a related field.



Haefner is a third year PhD student at the University of Central Florida's College of Optics and Photonics (CREOL), studying thin-film lithium niobate for high-speed communication applications. He has authored two proceedings at SPIE Photonics West. "While completing my PhD, I also serve as an engineer for the United States Air Force," noted Haefner. "Previously I was afforded the opportunity to share my love of science as an instructor at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA). I continue to share my passion for integrated photonics amongst my colleagues and look forward to returning to USAFA as a professor of physics."

This month, the Society is awarding \$303,000 in scholarships to 72 outstanding SPIE Student Members, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Successful applicants were evaluated, selected, and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, chaired by **SPIE Senior Member Brian Primeau**.

Since this program began in 1978, SPIE has distributed more than \$7.5 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education as well as to the future generations of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

To view other 2024 scholarship press releases as they become available, please visit the [2024 Scholarship Recipients page](#) or learn more about [SPIE scholarships](#) on spie.org.

SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, brings engineers, scientists, students, and business professionals together to advance light-based science and technology. The Society, founded in 1955, connects and engages with our global constituency through industry-leading conferences and exhibitions; publications of conference proceedings, books, and journals in the SPIE Digital Library; and career-building opportunities. Over the past five years, SPIE has contributed more than \$24 million to the international optics community through our advocacy and support, including scholarships, educational resources, travel grants, endowed gifts, and public-policy development. www.spie.org.

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