



Press release
24 May 2024

Matthew Werneken awarded the SPIE D.J. Lovell Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Matthew Werneken** has been awarded the 2024 SPIE D.J. Lovell Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to optics, photonics, or a related field.



Werneken is a recent graduate in mechanical engineering from Columbia University (USA), where he is completing a second bachelor's degree in astrophysics before pursuing a PhD in astrophysical instrumentation. He is a founder of the student team developing LIONESS, a CubeSat funded for launch by NASA, which incorporates a condensed integral-field unit spectrograph design based on the Circumgalactic Hydrogen-Alpha Spectrograph (CHaS) of **Professor David Schiminovich's** Astronomy and Instrumentation Lab. He has also worked on the FIREBall-2 UV Balloon collaboration, studies young stellar object variability in the Large Magellanic Cloud, and hopes to lead future space-based missions in optical astronomy instrumentation.

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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