



Press release
24 May 2024

Pedro Dinis Ornelas awarded the John Kiel Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Pedro Dinis Ornelas** has been awarded the 2024 John Kiel Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to the fields of optics and optical engineering.



Ornelas is a PhD student at the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) working in the Structured Light Laboratory under the supervision of **Professor Andrew Forbes**. His current focus is in the area of quantum structured light where he investigates the novel topological features embedded within entangled states and verifies their invariance to noisy environments. He aims to use these non-local topological features as resources for future quantum communication protocols and technologies. In addition to his research, Ornelas actively enjoys attending and organizing outreach events aimed at inspiring young students to pursue careers in 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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