



Press release
28 May 2025

Yuheng Chen awarded Optical Design and Engineering Scholarship by SPIE

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Yuheng Chen** has been awarded the 2025 Optical Design and Engineering Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to optics, photonics, or a related field.



Yuheng Chen is a PhD candidate at Purdue University's Elmore Family School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, where he contributes to the groundbreaking photonics research in the joint research group of Professors **Vladimir M. Shalaev**, **Alexandra Boltasseva**, and **Alexander V. Kildishev**. Chen is also leading the affiliated NanoML team, comprised of ~10 Purdue postgraduate and undergraduate researchers. His research focuses on the meeting point of AI, physics, and nanotechnology, including AI-driven inverse design in photonic and quantum devices, generative machine-learning-model photonic applications exploration, and nanodevice electromagnetic simulation.

This month, the Society is awarding \$323,000 in scholarships to 74 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 2025 scholarship press releases as they become available, please visit the [2025 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, we have invested more than \$25 million in 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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