



Press release
28 May 2025

Katherine Koch awarded a Women in Optics Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Katherine Koch** has been awarded a 2025 Women in Optics Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for potential contributions to optics, photonics, or a related field.



Koch is a PhD student in physics at Wake Forest University, working in the Quantum Ultrafast Optics group under the supervision of Assistant Professor **Ajay Ram Srimath Kandada**. Koch's research investigates coherent many-body dynamics in low-dimensional metal halide perovskites using nonlinear spectroscopy. By uncovering structure-property relationships, particularly those that govern excitonic interactions and dephasing processes, her work supports the development of advanced optoelectronic and quantum materials. Outside the lab, Koch is deeply committed to physics education and community outreach. She actively works to make physics and optics engaging for young students, with the goal of inspiring the next generation of scientists.

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.

###

Media contact:

Daneet Steffens, Public Relations Manager

daneets@spie.org

[@spie.org](https://www.spie.org)