



Press release  
28 May 2025

## Victoria Usachev awarded a Women in Optics Scholarship

BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA — **Victoria Usachev** 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.



Usachev recently graduated from the University of Rochester (USA), with a bachelor's in optical engineering. She plans on pursuing a master's in optics at the university's Institute of Optics after interning at Northrop Grumman this summer. Usachev has worked in Professor **Thomas Brown's** lab, studying holographic metrology, and is currently in Professor **Julie Bentley's** design group where she is focusing on designing zoom lenses. She is very grateful for this scholarship and for everyone who has helped her get where she is.

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](http://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](http://www.spie.org).

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