



**For immediate release**

## **Yan awarded an SPIE Scholarship in Optics and Photonics**



BELLINGHAM, Washington, USA – June 14, 2012 – Jin Yan has been awarded a 2012 Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics for her potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics or related field.

Yan received her BS from Zhejiang University, China, and is a fourth-year PhD candidate at the College of Optics and Photonics, University of Central Florida. Her research focuses on device physics and applications of blue phase liquid crystals. "Blue phase liquid crystals exhibit several revolutionary features, such as sub-millisecond response time, no need for surface alignment layers, isotropic dark state, etc. Therefore, it holds great potential for next-generation display and photonics applications", said Yan. She has 17 journal publications and a couple conference papers, including several invited talks. She is also the president of SID student chapter at UCF.

SPIE awarded \$350,000 in scholarships to 140 outstanding individuals, based on their potential contribution to optics and photonics, or a related discipline. Award-winning applicants were evaluated, selected and approved by the SPIE Scholarship Committee, Chaired by SPIE volunteer Marta de la Fuente.

To date, SPIE has distributed over \$3.3 million dollars in individual scholarships. This ambitious effort reflects the Society's commitment to education and to the next generation of optical scientists and engineers around the world.

SPIE scholarships are open to full- and part-time students studying anywhere in the world. All scholarship applications are judged on their own merit based on the experience and education level of the individual student.

To view photos and descriptions of the Scholarship Recipients go to <http://spie.org/x1737.xml>. Contact [scholarships@spie.org](mailto:scholarships@spie.org) if you have any questions. Learn more at <http://spie.org/scholarships>.

**SPIE** is the international society for optics and photonics, a not-for-profit organization founded in 1955 to advance light-based technologies. The Society serves nearly 225,000 constituents from approximately 150 countries, offering conferences, continuing education, books, journals, and a digital library in support of interdisciplinary information exchange, professional growth, and patent precedent. SPIE provided over \$2.7 million in support of education and outreach programs in 2011.

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