

# University of Delhi @ ANDC SPIE Student Chapter



The Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE), USA is an internationally renowned society that promotes an interdisciplinary approach to the science and application of light. On 06th August 2010, SPIE formally approved the establishment of a **University of Delhi at Acharya Narendra Dev College SPIE Student Chapter**. This chapter is exclusively established at ANDC with its membership open to the whole University of Delhi. With its establishment, AND college joined the elite group of institutions within India and abroad running such a Chapter. The Chapter is entitled to receive **Activity Grants, Officer Travel Grants, Visiting Lecturer Program and Collaborative Conference Grants** from the parent organization. Chapter members are entitled to free access of an online journal published by SPIE.

Using the Activity grant from SPIE, the Chapter holds advanced workshops in specialized areas of Photonics. The diverse topics that students and faculty have got exposure include 'Digital Holography', 'Thin Films and their Applications', 'LabVIEW and Data Acquisition' and 'Innovative Pedagogies for Modern Optics and Photonics'. Besides hands-on training, students also get to interact with many subject-experts as also opportunities to visit state-of-the-art laboratories doing high-end research in different areas.

The chapter provides members a platform to work on different projects giving them an opportunity to learn on how to approach any scientific problem and of referring to current research published in journals. Such activities of the chapter have enabled many members to participate in various National and International conferences in India and abroad, attend the winter-school on Bio-photonics and Bio-imaging at IISER Kolkata, and also publish research papers. Pratik Chakravarty and Phalguni Mathur got very special and glorious opportunities to represent the chapter and present papers at **SPIE Optics + Photonics 2011 and 2012**, respectively, in San Diego, California, USA whereas Mohammad Aiman Ali Raza, has attended Photonics West 2014 in San Francisco, USA. Travel and other expenses of these students were being borne by SPIE, USA ([http://spie.org/x1742.xml?chapter\\_id=1051713](http://spie.org/x1742.xml?chapter_id=1051713)).

That our student chapter is doing excellent work, was recognized, when it was selected to be one of the 25 organizations worldwide for **SPIE Education Outreach Grant** to promote optics and photonics-related education outreach projects. The chapter received a grant of USD 5000 for this purpose in 2011-12. Using a part of this grant, student members developed a low cost optical fiber kit to promote fiber optics at school level. They went to the schools with this kit and conducted the hands-on workshops for students of classes IX to XII. These workshops were conducted in 14 schools of Delhi where they also encouraged the school students to develop high quality models numbering 26. These models were later exhibited in an **OPTICS FAIR**, perhaps first of its kind in India, at Acharya Narendra Dev College in December 2012. Small tokens of appreciation were given to students and their teacher mentors in the form of telescopes.

ANDC SPIE student chapter not only gives exposure to its student members but also enables them to a good idea of research opportunities that would be available to them in future.

