SPIE University of Ottawa Chapter Annual Report 2012

Executive Committee:

Majid Naji: President
Altaf Khetani: Vicepresident
Robert Radziwilowicz: Secretary
Mina Rafi Nazari: Communication representative

Dr. Trevor J. Hall: FacultyAdvisor of the Chapter

- The new board of the SPIE Chapter started their mandate on January 2012.

- The board members met every month to achieve our vision of “creating a research and entrepreneurship network and platform for our students at the University of Ottawa” along with “more effective and interactive communication with our members, Uottawa students”, as well as discussing and planing our near future events and activities.

- We also had a joint SPIE board and the electrical engineering graduate association (EEGA) workshop on June 25th, 2012. In our board workshop we shared our ideas and visions regarding SPIE chapter future activities and approaches, our joint events and collaborations with Uottawa associations. We also did strength-deployment-inventory (SDI) test, to position our personal abilities in a team work situation. Some materials and subjects of the SPIE leadership workshop in the photonics Europe 2012 were also presented.

- The board members started to work to achive a common goal of introducing optics and photonics to Uottawa students, encouraging them to join the SPIE and SPIE chapter as well as helping optics/photonics students to present their projects to others especially in public and finding job in the local/international markets as well as providing a friendly and dynamic atmosphere for them; to fullfill our vision stratagies the following approaches were done and considered:
I. Past events

a. **Information session Feb. 29th, 2012**: for all engineering graduate students at the University of Ottawa as a joint event with electrical engineering graduate association. The winter info session was held in Feb. 29th, 2012. On that session, the SPIE organization and its supports as well as our chapter and its vision, events and supports were presented to all attendees. At the next other related Uottawa associations, clubs and unions were introduced to graduate students.

b. **Joint movie night events on Jul. 25th, 2012**: our summer movie night was a joint event with SPIE and EEGA. The aim was to provide a platform for graduate students and our members to network, to get acquainted with each other and entertain as well as introducing SPIE and our chapter. we decided to have at least one movie night each semester. The event was started with a presentation about SPIE and EEGA as well as receiving attendee’s feedback regarding the future activities, after serving a light food the movie Kung Fu Panda 2. (The movie was selected based on student’s votes) was screened.

c. **Entrepreneurship workshop on Dec 8th 2011**: The workshop was held to introduce local optics/photonics related and start-up companies to students. In such workshops, usually the company representative presents the company, its products as well as some hints regarding starting up a business. Workshop dealt with on “Issues of transition from academic environment to business environment with emphasis on understanding nature of sales-related tasks and projects”. Presented and facilitated by: Trevor Wilkins, Entrepreneur and CEO at Holis Associates.

d. **National instrumentation (NI) Labview introduction webcasting events**: Graduate students of Elect. Eng. department were invited to the chapte’s four lived webcast series of the NI introduction. The interested students attended the event to watch the webcasts and have a discussion later. (June-July 2012)

e. **Venus transit public event on June 5th 2012**: To have a small lecture about the Venus transit and observing the Venus transit, a public event was organized by the chapter at the University of Ottawa. We had a small lecture and discussion about the Venus and Venus transit and its history in the conference room of the department of Elect. Eng., then by using two small amateur telescopes the
transition of the Venus was observed and shown to the interesting students at the campus of the University.

II. Future events

a. **Summer Social BBQ** on August 25th 2012 for SPIE chapter members and electrical engineering Students in the Moneys Bay park, near Uottawa. It will be a joint event between EEGA and SPIE chapter. All graduate students of Elect. Eng. and our members were invited to this social event; we are going to serve BBQ and playing some team activities and entertainments.

b. **Fall information session** on September 2012 for all graduate students of the faculty of engineering.

c. **Elevator pitch and networking workshop** on October 2012. Having a workshop for our members, regarding doing elevator pitch to present their research projects and their products as well as some hints to do better networking.
d. **One day student for student conference** on November 2012. SPIE chapter and EECA are going to organize a student conference by inviting all optics and photonics graduate students at the Uottawa to present their researches in a series of short talks, 5 to 10 minutes, to the other students. The aim of this conference is enhancing the abilities of students to present their research works as well as presenting their projects to the other graduate students, looking for future collaborations, knowledge exchanges and networks.

e. Fall session movie night and social gathering to be determined.

### III. Promoting chapter

a. Having a close collaboration with the electrical engineering graduate association (EECA) at the University of Ottawa and other associations to have share events and programs.

b. Updating our website, http://spie.site.uottawa.ca/desktop.html, making it more interactive and user-friendly as well as posting all new events and local jobs.

c. Creating a new Facebook page to invite students to join us, announcing our events, Ottawa related events and job posts as well as sharing photos of each event.

d. Designing and printing SPIE chapter flyers and distribute them in all optics and photonics related workshops and seminars in Uottawa, introducing SPIE and Uottawa SPIE chapter.

e. We also visited optics/photonics labs in Uottawa, distributed flyers among students, encouraging them to join SPIE, our FB and visiting our website as well as attending chapter’s events.
IV. Finances

a. $30 paid for printing flyers on March 2012.
b. $100 paid for SPIE-EEGA board workshop on June 25th. ($95 for food, and $~5 for printing the tests.)
c. All costs of winter information session and social movie night (July 25th) were paid by EEGA.
d. The estimated cost for social BBQ will be $400-500; SPIE chapter is going to pay half of the cost.
e. For organizing fall information session the required budget will be around $200; half of it will be paid by EEGA.
f. For elevator pitch and networking workshop, on October 2012 the required budget will be $200 (food, drinks, gift to lecturer and printing required materials.)
g. For one day student for student conference the estimated cost will be around $800-$1000. This amount will be paid by both SPIE chapter and EEGA. We are going to explore other resources as well as departments of Elect. Eng. and CUPE2626 financial aids resources.

List of members (as of July 2012):

1) Katherine Bock
2) Yasser Chiniforooshan
3) Kais Dridi
4) Luis Gurrieri
5) Altaf Khetani
6) Majid Naji
7) Hamdam Nikkhah
8) Robert Radziwilowicz
9) Mina Rafi Nazari
10) Erika Revesz
11) Brett Smith