

Vanderbilt University SPIE Student Chapter Annual Report (1048963)  
 May 22, 2013

1) Chapter Officers:

	Name	SPIE ID #	Email
President:	Isaac Pence	3299143	isaac.pence@vanderbilt.edu
Vice-President	Christine O'Brien	3298669	cobrie5@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jason Tucker-Schwartz	3384875	jason.tuckerschwartz@vanderbilt.edu
Secretary	Oscar Ayala	3246782	oscar.d.ayala@Vanderbilt.Edu

2) List of Current Student Chapter Members:

<b>Current Members</b>	
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>
Cayce	Johnathan
Pence	Isaac
O'Brien	Christine
Makowski	Alex
Ricks	Zane
Tucker-Schwartz	Jason
Caldwell	Brittany
Pheiffer	Thomas
Poole	Kristin
McCormack	Devin
Walsh	Alex
Ayala	Oscar
Gault	Melanie
Shah	Amy
Jarrett	Christopher
Jiao	Yang
Santoro	David
Garnett	Joy
Gaur	Girija
Xu	Zhoubing
<b>Alumni Members</b>	
Vargis	Elizabeth
Weiss	Sharon
Welch	Edward
Keller	Matthew
Duke	Austin
Patil	Chetan

3) Details of Chapter activities since last report:

During the past year, our chapter has had a change in leadership and during this turn-over, planned activities have somewhat lapsed. While large planned activities have been reduced, expanding the chapter has been a focus. Till now, the chapter has primarily been comprised of the members of 4 labs, all focused on biophotonics. Over the past year, the chapter has held weekly meetings to discuss member research with

fellow students and photonics mentors and expose the students to work beyond the scope of their own research. The group has participated in mentoring 5 undergraduate students performing photonics research, helping to familiarize these young students with research methods, the principles of biophotonics, and develop skills regarding analysis and publication. The chapter has also held social gatherings every other week over the past summer to unwind at the end of the week and meet with other researchers from around the Vanderbilt University campus at a regularly scheduled “fluids lab.”

The chapter did hold elections and appointed 4 members to the previously listed positions. The officers have been working together with the chapter sponsor to organize the chapter, participants, and plan for upcoming speaker events, as discussed below. Several chapter members have also participated in grant and publication writing courses, programming courses, and attended research symposia and guest lecture series to stay current with cutting-edge research in the biomedical fields.

Finally, the chapter and member labs have hosted corporate visits and demonstrations from several photonics vendors over the past year including Ocean Optics, Bayspec, and Coherent, to discuss technology, applications, and research goals.

#### 4) Details of planned activities for the future:

As previously mentioned, the VU student chapter has been primarily composed of members of 4 separate labs. One goal for this upcoming year is to expand the student chapter to include members from several other optics, photonics, laser, and imaging research labs from around campus. Compiling a list of PIs doing photonics research, we aim to build a community and foster an environment of collaboration of the numerous groups at our university. Not counting many of the medical imaging people within the Vanderbilt University Institute of Imaging Science, there are roughly 30 investigators working with lasers, optics, and biophotonics. By expanding our student chapter to be more comprehensive, we hope to encourage cooperation between researchers, improved networking, and sharing of resources.

Another plan for the upcoming year is to begin hosting a weekly Photonics seminar series. Over the past few months, we have obtained commitments from photonics companies to help co-sponsor this event. The aim is to bring in guest lectures every other month to share recent research advances with our chapter. The other meetings will allow researchers here at Vanderbilt University to share findings, including students, faculty, and medical personnel. The chapter plans to use the visiting lecturer funds to bring in an approved speaker to kick off the seminar series and is currently organizing the events for the upcoming months. The chapter will also utilize the chapter activity grant to bring in a guest regarding grant writing seminar or hands on training course in programming.

We are also interested in sending one of our officers to the Student Chapter Leadership conference, to see how other chapters are getting members involved and forming collaborations both within and outside of the research community.

#### 5) Financial Information

With the turnover in chapter management (graduation) the financial information regarding this chapter is not currently available to the officers. We are currently in the process of working with the university, chapter sponsor, and previous officers to find this information.

As no large events have been scheduled over the past year, there has been no spending of, or raising of funds for the chapter. Funds have not been received, but upcoming events are planned to increase activity and expand chapter involvement.

If you are able to aid us in finding this information regarding our chapter funds we would appreciate the help. An application for activity funds will be forthcoming for a meeting to expand the chapter.

Further questions can be directed to:

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