



## 1. OVERVIEW

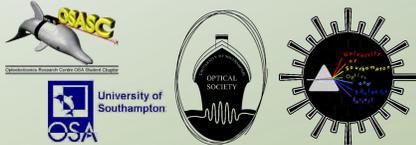
The Optics and Photonics Society (OPSoc) consists of postgraduate students from multiple departments within the University of Southampton, all with a common interest: light. It combines the university's OSA and SPIE student chapters into a society that benefits all members. Most students are members of both the OSA and SPIE. OPSoc seeks to enhance the student experience by providing opportunities for professional development and networking through events falling under three main arms, namely, *academic*, *social*, and *outreach*. Special activities are also organized occasionally.

## 2. HISTORY

The society traces its roots back to 1994 with the establishment of the first ever international OSA student chapter, by research students at the university's Optoelectronics Research Centre (ORC) and the School of Physics and Astronomy. The impetus arose from the goal of increasing the involvement of students in the activities of the OSA and promoting greater interaction between students and the wider optics community.

Subsequent developments:

- 2011: Establishment of an SPIE student chapter
- 2011: Establishment of an EPS Young Minds Section
- 2015: Rebranding into Optics and Photonics Society



## 3. 2014/2015 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Mr. Nicholas H. L. Wong  
Vice President: Mr. Martin Nunez Velazquez  
Treasurer: Ms. Amy Tong  
Secretary & Charity Officer: Mr. Naresh Kumar Thipparapu  
1st Year Representative: Mr. Rex Bannerman  
Education Officer: Mr. Pablo Cencillo Abad  
Social Officer: Ms. Vinita Mittal  
Lightwave Director: Mr. Matthew T. Posner

OSA Chapter Advisor: Prof. Nikolay Zheludev  
SPIE Chapter Advisor: Prof. Johan Nilsson



## 4. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

OPSoc Seminar Series: Talks by invited academic and industry speakers

- Jan, 2015: Mr. Stephen G. Anderson, Industry & Market Strategist, SPIE
- Feb, 2015: Dr. Balaji Srinivasan, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- Apr, 2015: Mr. Ernesto Barrera, CEO, PhotonTransfer
- Jul, 2015: Dr. Mrinmay Pal, Scientist, CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Institute



Representation at international conferences, seminars, and workshops:

- Jun-Jul, 2015:
  - Education and Training in Optics and Photonics (ETOP 2015), Bordeaux, France
  - Photonics Global Student Conference (PGSC 2015), Singapore
  - IYL 2015 Seminar at the National University of Singapore
- Aug, 2015:
  - Siegman International School on Lasers: 2015, Amberg, Germany
  - SPIE Optics + Photonics Student Chapter Leadership Workshop, San Diego, CA, USA



Department facilitation and support:

- 2nd Year talks
- Study Photonics Open Days
- New student inductions
- Laboratory tours for industry visits



## 5. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Cultural/Recreational:

- Welcome lunch for new students
- Arctic BBQ
- International Food Festival
- Bonfire Night trip
- Coffee & Cake
- Pub quizzes
- Movie nights
- Pub crawls
- Go Karting



Charity:

- Movember
- Nepal Earthquake Aid Cake Sale - £433.65 raised for British Red Cross Nepal Earthquake Appeal



## 6. OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Established in 1998, our *Lightwave Roadshow* is an outreach program that endeavors to teach young students about light and get them interested in optics and science from an early age. This is, to some extent, with the aim of addressing the global shortage in STEM professionals.

Classes:

Primary school visits    Secondary school visits    On-campus classes    Laboratory tours (*Inspire* event for women)



Fairs and Exhibitions:

Solent Skills Festival    Southampton Science and Engineering Day    Bringing Research to Life fair



"From Google to Glass" lecture by Prof. Sir David Payne

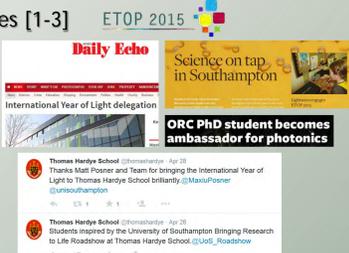
Overseas Visits and Outreach:

IYL Opening Ceremony, Paris    OFC 2015, Los Angeles    Because Light Matters workshop for Primary 4 and 5 students, Singapore    SPIE Optics Outreach Games, San Diego



Publicity:

- Academic articles [1-3]
- Press [4]
- Department newsletter [5]
- Department website
- Videos [6]
- Blog articles [7]
- Facebook posts
- Tweets



IYL 2015 Poster Competition [8]:



## 7. SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Outreach at IYL 2015 Opening Ceremony, Paris



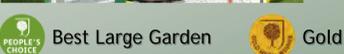
With two 6th Form students as Lightwave ambassadors

Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show, Tatton Park



"Reflecting Photonics"

ORC-sponsored garden designed by gardeners Helen Elks-Smith and Kate Hart



## REFERENCES

1. E. Bricchi et al., in *Proc. SPIE, ETOP*, paper ETuF6 (2003).
2. H. D. Foreman et al., in *Proc. SPIE, ETOP*, 140-148, paper ETOP035 (2005).
3. N. H. L. Wong et al., in *Proc. SPIE, ETOP*, paper 979 (2015).
4. *Southern Daily Echo*, Jan 19 (2015) [Online].
5. D. Standen, Ed., *Light Times*, no. 2 (2015).
6. ORC. *YouTube*, Sep 1 (2015) [Video file].
7. N. H. L. Wong, *Spectroverse* (2015). [Online].
8. L. McIntyre, Dorchester: The Thomas Hardy School (2015).

## SPONSORS

