1. OVERVIEW

The University of Southampton Optics and Photonics Society

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 Thiliparapu
1st Year Representative: Mr. Pablo Cancelli Abad
Social Officer: Ms. Vinita Mittal
Lightwave Director: Mr. Matthew T. Rousen

OSA Chapter Advisor: Prof. Nikolay Zheludev
SPIE Chapter Advisor: Prof. John Wilson

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. Balaaj Srikanth, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- Apr, 2015: Mr. Ernesto Barrera, CEO, PhotonTransfer
- Jul, 2015: Dr. Himanshu Patel, Scientist, CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Institute

Representation at international conferences, seminars, and workshops:
- Jan-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:
- November: 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 (Inspire event for women)
- Laboratory tours

Fairs and Exhibitions:
- Solent Skills Festival
- Southampton Science and Engineering Day
- Bringing Research to Life fair

Overseas Visits and Outreach:
- IYL Opening Ceremony, Paris
- OFC 2015, Los Angeles
- SPIE Optics Outreach Games, San Diego

Because Light Matters workshop for Primary 4 and 5 students, Singapore

Publicity:
- Academic articles [1-3] ETOP 2015
- Press [4]
- Department newsletter [5, 6]
- Department website
- Videos [6]
- Blog articles [7]
- Facebook posts
- Tweets

REFERENCES
6. OLC, YouTube, Sep 1 (2015) [Video file].