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Xiaosheng Zhang Receives 2021 Corning Outstanding Student Paper Competition Grand Prize

Prize recipient's research presented at the Optical Fiber Communication Conference and Exhibition (OFC)

WASHINGTON – The OSA Foundation and Corning Incorporated (NYSE:GLW) announce the grand prize winner of the 2021 [Corning Outstanding Student Paper Competition](#). Xiaosheng Zhang, University of California, Berkeley, U.S. received a USD 1,500 grand prize and will present his research at the virtual Optical Fiber Communication Conference and Exhibition ([OFC](#)) on 11 June at 11:00 PDT (UTC – 07:00).

Xiaosheng Zhang was recognized for his innovation, research excellence, and overall presentation in optical communications. Two honorable mention awardees, Vinod Bajaj, Nokia Bell-Labs, Delft University of Technology, Germany and George Mourgias-Alexandris, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece each received USD 1,000.

Annually, the OSA Foundation and Corning present the Corning Outstanding Student Paper Competition prize to undergraduate or graduate students in optical communications and networking. Six finalists presented their papers at OFC.

“The prize supports the impressive work of emerging leaders in the photonics field,” said OSA Foundation Executive Director Chad Stark. “Our collaboration with Corning celebrates research and presentation excellence of these finalists and provides a unique opportunity to call attention to their achievements.”

“Corning welcomes the opportunity to salute these students for their outstanding work,” said Dr. Claudio Mazzali, senior vice president of technology, Corning Optical Communications. “They are helping our industry write the next chapter – helping create a future full of promise and opportunity.”

The 2021 Corning Outstanding Student Paper Competition finalists include:

- **Vinod Bajaj**, Nokia Bell Labs, Germany, and Delft University of Technology, Netherlands, presenting “54.5 Tb/s WDM Transmission over Field Deployed Fiber Enabled by Neural Network-Based Digital Pre-Distortion”
- **Marco Fernandes**, Instituto de Telecomunicações de Aveiro, Portugal, presenting “Single-Wavelength Terabit FSO Channel for Datacenter Interconnects Enabled by Adaptive PCS”
- **George Mourgias-Alexandris**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, presenting “A Silicon Photonic Coherent Neuron with 10GMAC/sec processing line-rate”
- **Ronit Sohanpal**, University College London, U.K., presenting “Parametric frequency comb generation using silicon core fiber”
- **Xiaosheng Zhang**, University of California, Berkeley, U.S., presenting “Large-scale Silicon Photonics Focal Plane Switch Array for Optical Beam Steering”
- **Qi Zhou**, Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S., presenting “Digital Predistortion Enhancement by Convolutional Neural Network for Probabilistic Shaped Discrete Multi-Tone Signal Transmission in Passive Optical Network”

More information about the Corning Outstanding Student Paper Competition, including how to apply, may be found [here](#).

About The OSA Foundation

The OSA Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation established by the Optical Society (OSA) in 2002 to carry out charitable activities that support the society's mission of promoting the generation, application, archiving and worldwide dissemination of knowledge in optics and photonics. The Foundation helps cultivate the next generation of leaders and innovators in the optics and photonics community as they move through advanced degree programs and become active members of research, engineering and business communities around the globe. The Foundation also works to secure OSA Awards and Honors program endowments. For more information, visit osa.org/foundation.

About Corning Incorporated

Corning (www.corning.com) is one of the world's leading innovators in materials science, with a 170-year track record of life-changing inventions. Corning applies its unparalleled expertise in glass science, ceramic science, and optical physics along with its deep manufacturing and engineering capabilities to develop category-defining products that transform industries and enhance people's lives. Corning succeeds through sustained investment in RD&E, a unique combination of material and process innovation, and deep, trust-based relationships with customers who are global leaders in their industries. Corning's capabilities are versatile and synergistic, which allows the company to evolve to meet changing market needs, while also helping our customers capture new opportunities in dynamic industries. Today, Corning's markets include optical communications, mobile consumer electronics, display, automotive, and life sciences.

Media Contact

mediarelations@osa.org