

A Welcome to Incoming Optics Students from the Director



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to The Institute of Optics, to join the training for the next generation of leaders in the field. Approximately half of all optics degrees awarded nationwide have been awarded by our institute since its founding in 1929 as the first optics department in the country. Optics and Photonics play an essential role in the development of cutting edge science, technology, innovations, and applications in critical areas such as health care, renewable energy, cyber-security, communications, imaging, and defense. There is no question that you are entering the field of Optics at a very exciting time.

Graduate students, be sure to check in with Graduate Program Coordinator Kari Brick, and undergraduate students, see Undergraduate Program Manager Dan Smith upon arrival. They will provide information, advise and guide you throughout your educational quest. All of our faculty and staff are dedicated to helping you succeed in your studies as you transition from a student to a skilled professional in the field of Optics.

I encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities available to you through The Institute of Optics during your studies here. Seek out professors during office hours, and use your time wisely. When our unique Industrial Associates meetings are held each spring and fall, I strongly encourage you to participate.

This program will challenge you, but I believe you will enjoy some of the most exhilarating times of your life here. And we are all thrilled to be part of your journey. I invite you to stop by my office, so that I may personally welcome you to this optics family. I wish you all the best in your academic and future professional endeavors.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Xi-Cheng Zhang'.

Xi-Cheng Zhang
M. Parker Givens Professor and Director
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