

### — *New Scholarship* — *Created by JDS Uniphase*

JDS Uniphase/Electro Optic Products group, like other fast growing Photonics employers nationwide, is impacted by a critical shortage of technicians trained in the field. To help support-promising students, the company has created a new scholarship program with Three Rivers. The scholarship provides tuition, fees, books and required supplies to each of the recipients. Students will also work at one of the company's Bloomfield locations during the summer, which will provide real world industrial experience to complement college coursework.

The Scholarship is open to any new or continuing full-time student in the Photonics Engineering Technology Program at Three Rivers Community College. One new Scholarship will be awarded each semester, and the award will continue as long as the student maintains a good academic record, makes steady progress toward the degree, and has satisfactory work performance reviews at JSDU/EPD.

JDS Uniphase is a market leader in the design, development, manufacture, and distribution of advanced fiberoptic products for the telecommunications and cable television industries. The Electro-Optics Products Division (JDSU/EPD) is the largest and fastest growing of Connecticut's Photonics firms.

### *First JDS Uniphase Scholarship Awarded*

JDS Uniphase, Bloomfield, CT has announced its first Connecticut Photonics scholarship award to Peter DuBaldo of Manchester. DuBaldo, a 1999 graduate of East Catholic High School, is a first year student in the Photonics Engineering Technology program at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. In the future, JDSU expects to award a new scholarship each semester to a Three Rivers Photonics student.

*Congratulations  
& Good Luck  
Y2K  
Photonics  
Graduates*



Jason Patch and Shawn Percy make adjustments to a Mach-Zehnder interferometer as part of the Advanced Laser Topics course.

### *NEW TRCC Project Oriented Course Produces Interesting Results*

The October meeting of the Photonics Engineering Technology Advisory Committee approved a new course, **Advanced Laser Topics**, which requires students to complete an independent research project. Although the course is not required of currently enrolled students, several seniors chose to take the course as an elective.

Among the projects were modifications to the "store bought" Michelson interferometer experiment to measure the index of refraction of air at varying pressures, a Schlieren system, and a Mach-Zehnder interferometer which was used to measure the thickness of a glass flat. One student chose an exercise in LabView programming as his project, which was presented to the group along with an introduction to the concept of virtual instruments.

*For more information about the  
Photonics Engineering Technology  
Associate Degree Program or other related  
courses at*

*Three Rivers Community College  
Contact: Professor Judy Donnelly  
at (860) 885-2353*

*or e-mail: donnelly\_jud@sirus.comnet.edu*

**NEWS FLASH!**

**NSF Awards Grant for optics education**

The National Science Foundation has awarded a grant totaling nearly half a million dollars to the New England Board of Higher Education to fund an Advanced Technology Education project in Photonics education. The project is under the direction of Judy Donnelly, Three Rivers Photonics Engineering Technology Program Coordinator. Fenna Hanes of the New England Board of Higher Education and John Swienton of Melles Griot, and Three Rivers Adjunct Faculty member, are the co-principal investigators.

The goal of the new program is to increase the number of institutions in New England offering courses and programs in optics and thus to increase the number of optics technicians being educated in New England. This will be accomplished through a series of workshops for middle and high school teachers and guidance counselors and college faculty. The first workshop is scheduled to be held at Three Rivers in November of 2000. Teachers attending a weeklong workshop in summer of 2001 will also receive optics equipment to be used in their classrooms.

***Photonics Engineering Technology Program Changes Approved***

Two program changes were approved at the October meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee, which will become effective for new students entering Photonics Engineering Technology in Fall, 2000. The Laser Safety course has been reduced from one credit to one-half credit to allow the creation of a new three credit course in Advanced Laser Topics. Students will be required to take either Advanced Laser Topics or a Cooperative Work Experience in Photonics.

**SPIE Student Chapter Has Active Year**

Approximately 30 students plus a handful of faculty and staff attended Photonics East in Boston in September, 1999. This proved to be a great activity to get the academic year started, since students had the opportunity to see Photonics at work, and to get in the mood to begin a year of dedicated study. A second fall semester bus trip, co-sponsored by the student chapter of SME, brought 25 students and their faculty advisors to Trumpf, Inc. in Farmington, CT. The students toured the facility in groups, whose primary interest was either lasers or manufacturing.

The spring semester featured two speakers and two additional field trips. Frank Leard, SPIE New England chapter, talked about recent developments in flat panel displays. Frank brought his usual assortment of SPIE New England t-shirts, which were well received by the group. Dr. Chandra Roychoudhuri, Director of the University of Connecticut Photonics Research Center, also spoke to the group about with a presentaion on the applications of high power diode lasers in manufacturing. Spring trips included a second joint venture with the SME student chapter to JDS Uniphase's Electro Optic Product Division (Bloomfield, CT) and a trip to Fiber Fest, the New England fiber optic trade show.

***New SPIE Officers***

At the final meeting of the year, SPIE elected officers for the 2000-2001 academic year:

President	Walt Dempsey
Vice President	Norm Fortin
Secretary	Dave Woodhall
Treasurer	Ed Reynolds

**PHOTONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**



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