Richard Lepkowicz
Scientific Consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton (Present)
Assistant Professor, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Postdoctoral Fellow, Naval Research Laboratory
Graduate Research Assistant, CREOL – Nonlinear Optics Group

Abstract:
The OSA Student Chapter is honored to host Dr. Richard Lepkowicz as part of its CREOL Alumni Series. Dr. Lepkowicz will provide an overview of his career since receiving his doctorate from CREOL in 2004. Having spent time in a government research lab, academia, and consulting, he offers a unique perspective on career paths available to CREOL students upon graduation. Dr. Lepkowicz will give insight on challenges encountered in each of these fields and advice on how to best leverage a CREOL education and succeed in these diverse professional settings.

Biography:
Dr. Lepkowicz has over 12 years of research experience in optical sciences/engineering in academia and government laboratories with proven expertise in the areas of optical design, image chain analysis, optical fabrication, assembly, and characterization methods, nonlinear optical materials and experimental methods, and numerical and analytical beam propagation methods. He has thirteen publications in peer-reviewed journals with a cumulative h-index of 9 and seven years of direct experience managing advanced scientific programs as both a performer and Scientific and Engineering Technical Assistant (SETA) for government agencies including DARPA, AFRL, ARIC, DTRA, DHS, ACS, and NSF. As a scientific consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, he primarily provides scientific and strategic support across multiple disciplines for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency’s (DARPA) Defense Sciences Office. Previously, Dr. Lepkowicz held a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Department of Physics and Optical Engineering at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology where he developed a research program in the study and development of optical materials and structures. In his four years at Rose-Hulman, Dr. Lepkowicz garnered funding from five different government and non-profit agencies and supervised over 20 undergraduates and 1 Master’s thesis. At the Naval Research Laboratory, Dr. Lepkowicz worked on polymeric materials for both photonic switching applications and optical imaging systems. This work included the design, fabrication, and testing of the first switchable nonlinear photonic crystal fabricated through a co-extrusion process.

For additional information:
Tony Klee
President of OSA chapter
acklee@creol.ucf.edu