And the Winners Are ...

The results are in for OPN's 2008 After Image Photo Contest. We received a record 43 submissions this year. The quality and variety of photos that you sent us was, once again, excellent.

A special thanks to our judges: **François Busque**, a Ph.D. candidate at L'École Polytechnique de Montreal; **Robert Jopson**, a member of the technical staff at Bell Laboratories; **Rongguang Liang**, a senior principal research scientist with Carestream Health; and **Stephen R. Wilk**, a senior optical engineer at Cognex Corporation. The judges were asked to assess the quality of the submissions based on their visual appeal, relevance to optics and technical merit.

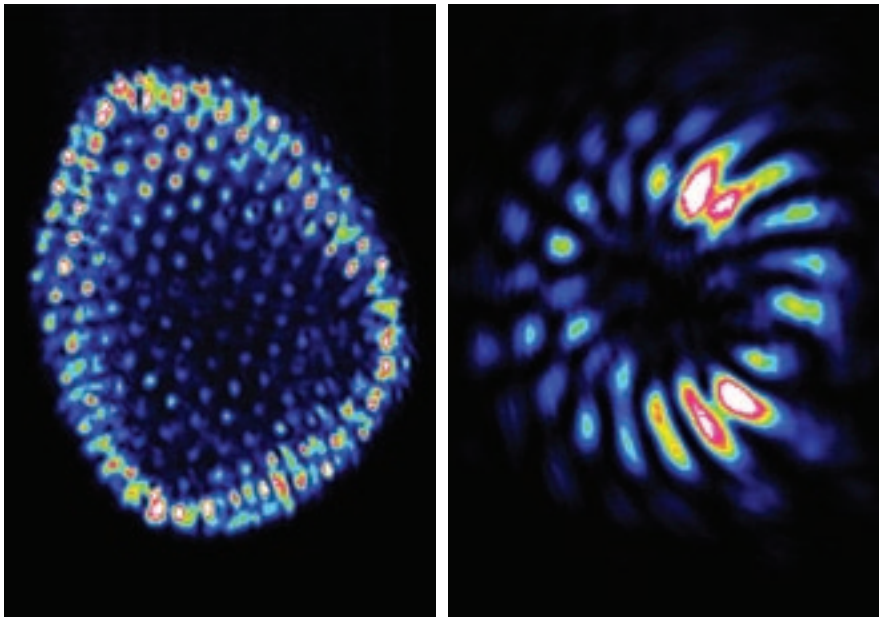
Congratulations to our well-deserving winners. You truly captured the art and science of this field. Even if you didn't win, don't lose heart—you may still see your image pop up on the 2009 OPN calendar, which will be distributed with our December issue. To view a gallery of this year's submissions, please visit **www.osa-opn.org**.

First Place

Osvaldo Buccafusca, *Avago Technologies*

Fort Collins, Colo., U.S.A.

By placing the polarized light from a monitor and the camera close to the Brewster's angle, the photographer made the reflected image sensitive to phase delays in the plastic lenses, producing a nice colored pattern. Contest judge Steve Wilk called the image "simple and elegant."



Second Place

Ray-Kuang Lee

National Tsing-Hua University

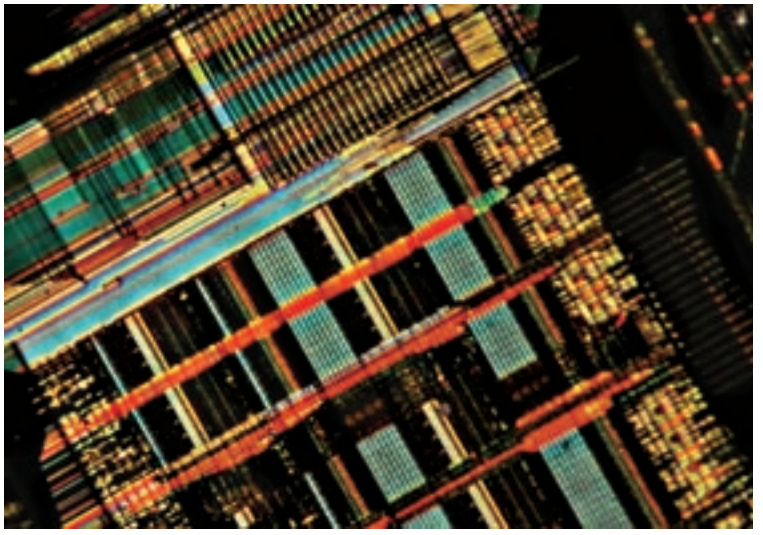
Hsinchu, Taiwan

Our judges were blown away by these two near-field images, which we treated as a single submission for the purposes of this contest. The image on the left shows chaotic mode lasing in a vertical cavity surface emitting laser (VCSEL); the one on the right is of rotating traveling-wave modes in a VCSEL.

Third Place

Osvaldo Buccafusca, *Avago Technologies*
Fort Collins, Colo., U.S.A.

When illuminated with grazing white light, a semiconductor chip behaves as a diffraction grating. Variations in the features' size and illumination angle produce various colors along the chip.



Honorable Mention

Richard Crisp, *Tessera Technologies*
San Jose, Calif., U.S.A.

This image of the Messier 8 Emission Nebula was taken in emission lines of sulfur, hydrogen and oxygen through a 7.1" apochromatic refractor with a 6.1-megapixel cooled CCD camera.

Honorable Mention

Samuel Pellicori, *Brooks Institute*
Santa Barbara, Calif., U.S.A.

The photographer captured thin-film layer edge shadowing and a conchoidal fracture in a glass substrate by phase contrast microscopy. According to contest judge Ron Liang, "The image is simple with very good contrast and visual appeal, and it was taken with a very good knowledge of optics."