



OPTICS

Cool Carats

GLOWING REPORT: A diamond with a diameter roughly a thousandth the size of a human hair floats in free space, trapped by a laser in a Wilmot Hall lab. Part of a series of experiments led by Nick Vamivakas, assistant professor of optics, and Levi Neukich, a PhD student in physics, the work resulted in the first measurement of photoluminescence in a specially selected kind of nano-sized diamond often used in such experiments. The research may represent a new optical approach to measuring friction in materials at the scale of microns, work that may have implications for developments in computing and communications technologies. See a video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPHJyaUDIVI.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM FENSTER

