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Second Annual Liquid Crystal Day a Success

On April 22, Kent State University hosted Liquid Crystal Day, a symposium that brought together students, scientists and industrial professionals from different backgrounds and provided a platform for many intellectual and enlightening interactions. Liquid Crystal Day, held in the Liquid Crystal Institute's Samsung Auditorium, showcased the achievements in science and engineering of liquid crystal research at Kent State and the Northeast Ohio region.

Invited speakers included:

- **Tom Lubensky**, University of Pennsylvania, "*Theory of Liquid Crystalline Elastomers*"
- **Jonathan Selinger**, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, "*Quenched Disorder in Soft Materials: Helical Polymers and Liquid-Crystalline Elastomers*"

A student poster session took place from 1:30 -3 p.m. in which 32 students presented their poster to the crowd of around 150 people. Four outstanding papers were chosen from three categories, including:

- **(1-2 year Graduate Student) Christopher Bailey**, KSU Chemical Physics Interdisciplinary Program, "*Measurement of strain birefringence in isotropic and liquid crystal elastomers and ferrogels*"
- **(3+ year Graduate Student) Guangxan Liao**, KSU Chemical Physics Interdisciplinary Program, "*Thermotropic liquid crystalline properties of amphotropic branched glycolipids*"
- **(3+ year Graduate Student) Leela Joshi**, KSU Physics, "*Characterization of Polystyrene Thin Film Using High Resolution Synchrotron Radiation X-ray Reflectivity*"
- **(Post Graduate) Tibor Toth-Katona**, KSU Liquid Crystal Institute, "*Swelling Phenomena in Isotropic and Liquid Crystal Elastomers*"

Four companies provided an industrial exhibit on the 2nd floor atrium, including AlphaMicron, Hana Microdisplay Technologies, Kent Displays and LXD. This proved to be a great opportunity for students, faculty and staff to interact with the local liquid crystal industry.

Held in conjunction with the 40th anniversary celebration of the Liquid Crystal Institute, Liquid Crystal Day was officially dedicated to LCI Founder, **Emeritus Director and Professor Glenn H. Brown (1915-1995)**, who served as the director of Kent State's Liquid Crystal Institute from 1965-1983. His widow, Jessie Brown, was in attendance and accepted a lifetime achievement award in his honor. Brown was remembered for his outstanding contributions to the Liquid Crystal Institute.

Outstanding Scientific Achievement Awards were also presented to J. William Doane, Alfred Saupe, Adriaan de Vries, and Mary Neubert. Alumni Achievement Awards were presented to David Chung and Gregory Crawford.

For more information visit www.lcd.kent.edu .