

Report of Activities of the SPIE Penn State Univ. Chapter (June through December 2007)

Justin Liou, *chapter president*

Name of Chapter

The Pennsylvania State University Student Chapter of the SPIE

Chapter Leadership

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| Dr. Andres Diaz | Chapter Faculty Advisor | adiaz@psu.edu |
| Justin Liou | <i>President</i> | liou@psu.edu |
| Eftihia Vlahos | <i>Vice-President</i> | euv104@psu.edu |
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| Peng Li | <i>Secretary</i> | pxl205@psu.edu |
| Michael Stinger | <i>Webmaster</i> | mvs115@psu.edu |

Member Count: 17 members (12/14/2007)

Abbreviated SPIE-PSU Expense/Income Report

| Description | Date | Amount |
|---|-----------------|----------|
| San Diego Trip | | |
| Total expenses | Aug 24~30, 2007 | \$6745 |
| Grants from SPIE | Sep. 2007 | (\$2300) |
| Grants from Penn State EE & COE | Oct. 2007 | (\$4500) |
| Gas reimbursement for Kent State Univ. Trip | Oct. 12, 2007 | \$40 |

Events from June 2007 ~ Dec 2007

The events of the Fall semester are listed here in chronological order. Officer-only (planning, &c.) meetings are not listed.

June and July: SPIE O+P 2007 San Diego preparation

Yes, it's SPIE Optics & Photonics in San Diego again. As usual, this conference is the biggest event for our chapter throughout the year. We started to prepare for this conference and exhibition from the beginning of the summer.

We conducted a survey to know the number of chapter members who would like to attend O+P 2007 and estimated the expenses of the trip. We also encouraged our chapter members to apply for the SPIE Student Research Travel Grant and to work jointly with our chapter to share all the cost and expenses as a whole. This way had been proved for years as the effective way to lower the total cost.

Thanks to SPIE Student Service, we were able to reserve hotel rooms on a discount rate plus one Chapter Officer Travel Grant subsidy and benefits which, as usual, were shared with

other chapter members and became a part of the incentive to attend the two-day student leadership day events in O+P 2007.

We also had the support of the Department Head of Electrical Engineering, Dr. Ken Jenkins, and of the College of Engineering. With their help, we were able to cover the rest of the travel expenses incurred by our members attending O+P.

Aug 26rd ~30th : SPIE Optics + Photonics 2007 in San Diego, CA

This year, a total of 7 graduate students and 2 post-doc attended the meeting (six from the EE Department, one from Engineering Science and one from Chemistry). We presented a total of 10 talks and posters (with a total of 14 students and post-docs from PSU as authors) in the areas of Photonic Devices, Optical Engineering, and Applications. Thanks to SPIE and Newport, four of our chapter members were honored with SPIE Student Research Excellence Travel Awards this year.

Most of us also attended the 2-day Student Leadership Workshop Session and had a lot of fun while participating in leadership training, learning from the experience of former student chapter leaders, and interacting with our peers.

We were also offered the chance to attend a networking luncheon with experts and leaders in the Optics and Photonics fields, and to attend several workshops on technical writing, technical presentations, and on optimizing résumés.

Our chapter also maintained a table at the Exhibition Hall, where we gave out information about our Penn State EE Department and the College of Engineering (brochures and other material) and showcased the research being done in our departments as well as the activities our chapter organized during the past year.

Oct 12th: Trip to Liquid Crystal Day at Kent State University

SPIE Kent State University Chapter invited our chapter to attend their one-day event, Liquid Crystal Day conference and exhibition at Kent State University, OH. Our chapter was able to organize the transportation for chapter members and made this learning trip safe and successful.

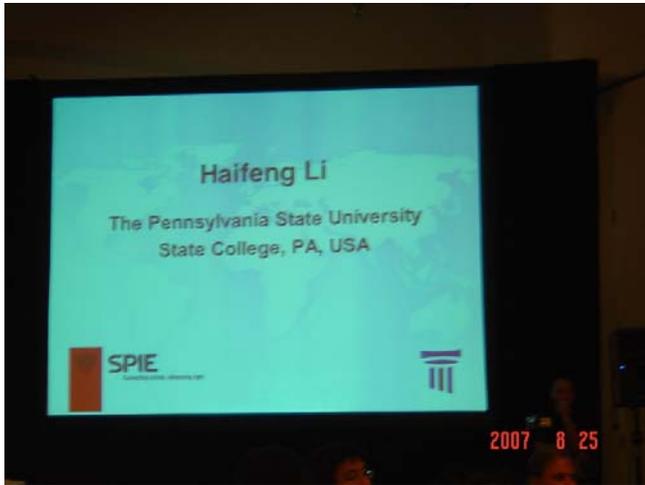
This all-day event included the conference, poster sessions, industry exhibitions, and lab tour. Since some of the members from our chapter are working on liquid crystal related research, this was a great opportunity to learn and discuss with the professors, students, and industry associates from the Liquid Crystal Center at Kent State University. The lab tour session was also very interesting and caught our attention.

Last but not least, during this event, member from these two SPIE student chapters had the opportunity to get to know each other and build friendships. We also discussed the possibility of future collaboration between the two student chapters.

Future:

In the Spring Semester we will be starting again our monthly invited-speaker series with talks by speakers from Penn State and invited speakers from outside. We are also exploring the possibility of offering to our chapter SPIE members short courses taught by our faculty and/or graduate students. We are also planning to have some social events geared to our chapter members. This could include another field trip or a group dinner. We should have more details in our next officer meeting.

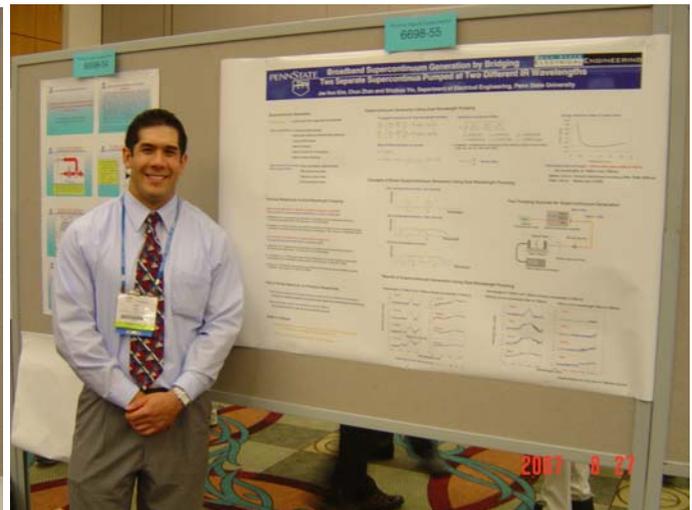
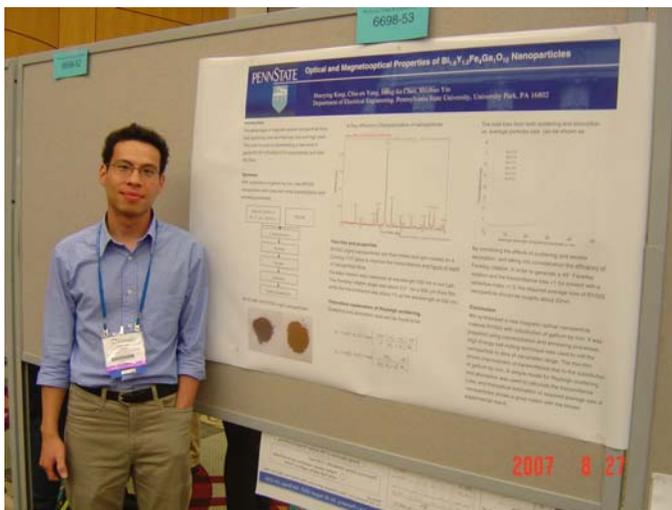
Some activity pictures:



Student Leadership Workshop Day - Haifeng Li is introducing our SPIE Penn State Chapter



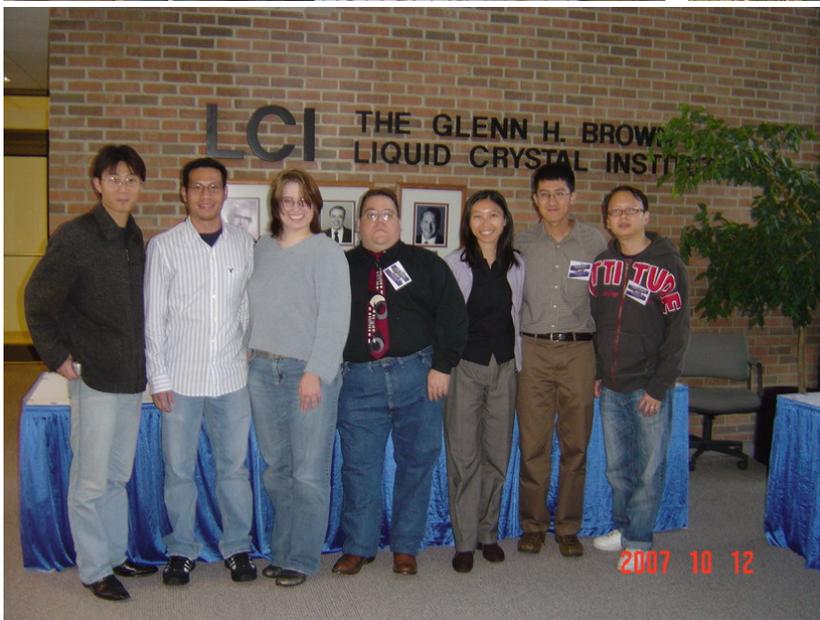
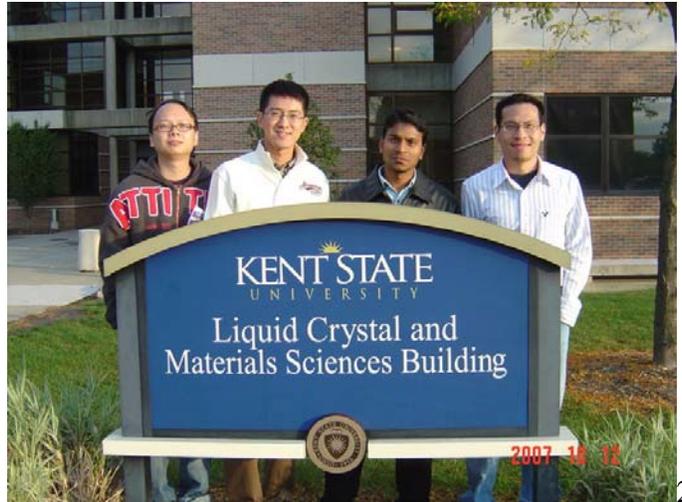
Student Leadership Workshop Day - Mike Stinger is contributing his ideas



Some of our poster presentations



Our Chapter table in the Exhibit Hall at San Diego Conference Center



Trip to "Liquid Crystal Day", Kent State University, OH