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## Liquid Crystals Today

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## Demonstrates Liquid Crystals

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# Liquid Crystals in Education

## Astronaut Demonstrates Liquid Crystals

**H**elen Sharman, the UK's first astronaut, now turns her talents to promoting science to general audiences of the public and school children. A recent lecture focused on magnetism, and Helen wanted to demonstrate magnetic field effects on liquid crystals. Thanks to Peter Palffy-Muhoray and Tamas Kosa from the Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University, a simple but spectacular demonstration of magnetic influences on liquid crystals was devised. This is described in detail in the previous article. Helen Sharman is a chemistry graduate from Sheffield University and became Britain's first astronaut as part of the Anglo/Soviet Juno Mission to the Mir space station in May 1991. She now acts as an ambassador for science, and in 1995 was appointed as a Visiting Fellow at the Royal Institution of Great Britain.



*Helen Sharman demonstrates the optical response of liquid crystals to magnetic fields.*

*Inset: Astronaut Helen, member of the Juno Space Mission 1991.*

### Assistant Professor in Liquid Crystals

Applications are invited to fill a tenure-track position in the Department of Chemistry to begin August 1996. The preferred candidate will be expected to establish a vigorous and funded research programme in the area of liquid crystals. Candidates with research interests which complement existing liquid crystal research programmes in the Chemistry Department and the Liquid Crystal Institute are preferred. Research specialties in polymeric liquid crystal, liquid crystal-polymer interactions, liquid crystal alignment or lyotropic liquid crystals are particularly desirable. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to collaborate with members of the Liquid Crystal Institute and to participate in the NSF Science Technology Center for Advanced Liquid Crystalline Optical Materials (ALCOM). Candidates

should have a PhD degree and postdoctoral experience. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, description of research plans and a one page description of teaching interests along with three letters of recommendation to:

**Dr Julia Fulghum,  
Chair of Search Committee,  
Department of Chemistry,  
Kent State University,  
PO Box 5190, Kent, OH 44242-0001, USA,  
fax: (216) 672 3816.**

*Applications should be received by 18 March, 1996 to receive full consideration. Kent State University is an Equal opportunity, Affirmative Action Employer.*

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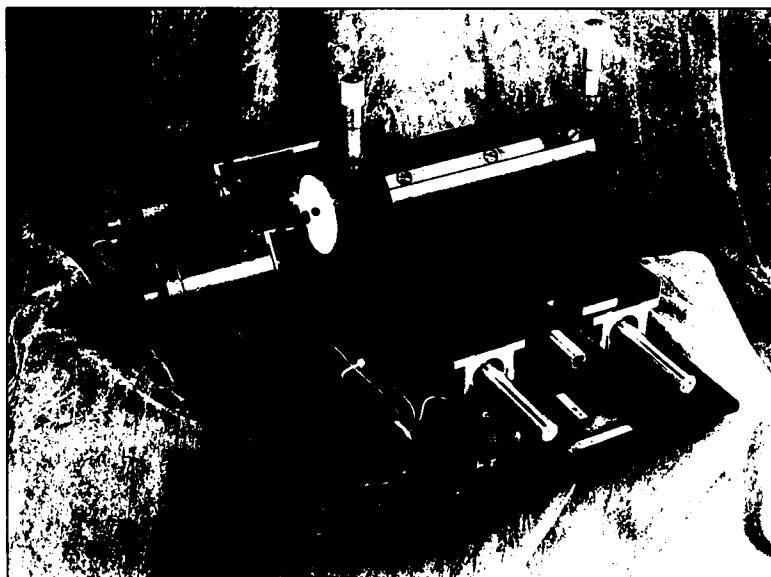
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