Section Meetings

Detroit, November 12, 1991 – Fifty members and guests attended a joint SMPTE/AES meeting at WDIV Studio B, where they were treated to an entertaining and informative presentation on stereo surround sound for television. Section Chairman Henry Root, Hy-James, Inc., opened the meeting with an explanation of the history and the basic principles of surround sound. He demonstrated the equipment, provided by Hy-James, Inc., and WDIV, that was brought in specifically for the meeting.

Walter Rodman, WDIV, described the remote setup for the *Go for the Works* telecast of the Detroit/Windsor Freedom Festival fireworks. A short video showed the camera placements for the event, and Rodman discussed the problems and solutions related to producing such a technically advanced production. Root explained the microphone placement and mixing and monitoring procedures for the surround sound events. Jim Herbert, WDIV, then described the station's first live broadcast test utilizing surround sound, which was a telecast of a Detroit Tigers game.

A short segment of the comedy jam preceding the fireworks was shown, and Herbert detailed the sound design for both events. A Betacam SP tape recording of the *Go for the Works* telecast, complete with surround sound, was played for the audience. After the demonstration, Root played samples of prerecorded programming utilizing the surround sound system. – Helge Blucher (Secretary/Treasurer), Pro-Vision, Inc.

Houston, November 13, 1991 – The Macintosh-based Avid system – which provides nonlinear video editing, multitrack audio editing, and multicamera input in one package – was demonstrated and the technical aspects explained. The 80 members and guests heard presentations from Mike Matras and Jim Curtis, who noted that the system depends on the storage of the raw footage on phase-change optical discs with unlimited storage. Both audio and video are stored on the same side of the disc, allowing instant access. Up to 2 hr of video and audio may be stored on each reusable disc utilizing the JPEG compression system. The meeting, which was held at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Hospital, concluded with a tour of the hospital's media facilities. – Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

New England, November 14, 1991 – The meeting, which took place at Target Productions, was held in conjunction with the SBE Boston Chapter.

David Fibush, Tektronix, Inc., gave the opening presentation, which focused on the basics of the digital television theory. He provided clarifications on the issues of digital transmission, connectors, and reliable techniques for testing and verifying digital video signals.

The second speaker was Colin Ritchie of Alpha Image, who discussed the purpose of device interconnection serially; conversion between digital formats; and forming, transmission, and routing of serial digital signals. He also spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of digital signal processing.

At the close of the meeting, outgoing Chairman Brian Lay, who is moving to Seattle to work at KING-TV, was presented with a desk clock and other small gifts in honor of his distinguished service to the New England Section. Secretary/Treasurer Edward Dextraze will serve out the balance of Lay's term as Chairman, and Manager Paul Beck will be Acting Secretary. – Paul R. Beck (Section Manager), Emerson College.

Pasadena City College, November 12, 1991 – Because the scheduled guest speaker was forced to cancel, the section viewed several available videotapes. The first tape, which featured the Gyrozoom lens, was provided by the Schwem Lens Co. It demonstrated numerous applications with the gyro circuits on and off. The lens is optically stabilized and designed for ENG applications. Student members and guests learned how to mount and use this product, which is different than a conventional lens.

The second and third videotapes were provided by Ultimatte Corp., and they concentrated on the System 5 and 6 image compositing devices. The systems' ability to provide extremely fine detail, transparencies, and shadows was featured. – Gerald Finn (Student Chapter Advisor), Pasadena City College.

Pasadena City College, November 26, 1991 – Tom McKenney, Tom McKenney Production Services, described how he achieved his goal of becoming a producer of corporate videos. After leaving Pasadena City College over a year ago, he took a job as a limousine driver. His first job in the video field came from one of his customers who invited McKenney to produce a low-budget tape for a country club. He sold 35 tapes and this led to other jobs.

He showed examples of his work, which included a tape that was produced with a $10,000 budget and dealt with the topic of safety. He explained how he budgeted the project in the preparation stages and how – because he was concerned with the quality of the production and his relations with the cast, crew, and customer – he went over his projections and still remained within the budget. He also shared the valuable lessons he learned with each project, urging the 36-person audience to treat everyone as a resource, maintain integrity, think in terms of a team process, and remember that this is a business. – Gerald Finn (Student Chapter Advisor), Pasadena City College.

Robert Anderson (left), Media/Media, discussing the Video Toaster with San Francisco Section members during the November meeting.

San Francisco, November 19, 1991 – Ninety members and guests attended the November meeting to hear a presentation by Robert Anderson, Media/Media, who discussed the NewTek Video Toaster. He stated that the product is an entire television studio, full of video gear, compacted into a desktop-size box. He aired videotape demonstrations showing the unit's ability to tumble and spin up to four live sources, add titles, and do 3-D animation and paint effects. Other video products designed to work with the Video Toaster are starting to appear, including low-cost TBCs and rendering/animation packages. A lively question-and-answer session concluded the meeting. – Vernon L. Kipping (Chairman), Consultant.

Toronto, November 12, 1991 – The meeting began with a presentation by Linda Jackson, AutoGraphix Inc., entitled "Imaging from Computers to Film." She explained the range of computer graphics technologies that are available to the user for preparation of materials for both film and print media. She then described the color separation process and the means by which modern graphics systems deliver output to these presentation systems.

She also discussed the electronics and software required to create graphics and pointed out how developments in both hardware and software have facilitated work on personal computers. Through demonstrations, she showed the effect of varying resolution on resultant outputs. She outlined the resolution requirements of displays, citing the need to reach resolution in excess of 8000 lines for modern, large-format presentations. Her remarks were concluded with a graphic demonstration of artistic materials prepared through various graphics platforms, showing the relative merits of each technology.

The second presentation, "Computer Graphic Animation and Live Action," was presented by Harold Harris, Topix Computer Graphics and Animation Inc. Harris addressed the artistic and technical requirements of producing computer animation for live action. He described the methods that Topix uses to create computer graphics animation and gave a step-by-step description of the initial aspects of development, the work carried out by third parties, the wire frame models, and the rendering process required to complete the work. He noted the special requirements of the mathematics in software needed to produce reflected and retracted surfaces to achieve realistic perspective. The presentation ended with a videotape of the state-of-the-art computer graphics animation that Harris collected and narrated himself to provide the audience with a future perspective of the trends of the industry. – Peter Laidlaw (Secretary/Treasurer), Imagineering Ltd.

News

A Call for Papers for SMPTE '92 – The 5th International Conference & Exposition of the SMPTE Australian Section, was announced by Conference Chairman Derek Wilson. The event, which is entitled "New Horizons – Creative Production and Global Distribution," will take place in Sydney from August 31 to September 3, 1992.

Interested authors are invited to submit papers addressing over 30 subject areas relating to broadcasting, production and post-production, and film. Broadcast session topics will include pay television for Australia, broadband ISDN applications for television, personal computer applications in television, interactive television, TV automation in Australia, and new display technology. Three HDTV sessions will fall under this umbrella: world standards update, digital HDTV, and consumer HDTV products.

Topics for production and post-production sessions will include magnetic recording and tape technology, film-to-tape transfers, tape-to-film transfers, computer graphics and animation, digital effects systems, PCs in production and post-production, nonlinear editing, audio systems and equipment, lighting for TV productions, and multimedia.

Papers for the film sessions are being sought from industry members involved in the design and application of technology associated with laboratory development, cinema, film stock technology, film bar codes in Australia, electronic intermediate systems, Super 16 in Australia, and film camera development.

In addition, papers relating to video image compression techniques are being sought for sessions on HDTV broadcasting, VTR recording, personal computer applications, teleconferencing, and still image storage. For more information, contact Papers Program Chairman David Edgar, AAV Australia, 180 Bank St., South Melbourne, Victoria 3205, Australia.

A Call for Papers has been issued for the Inter-Society Color Council's (ISCC) Annual Meeting. The event will take place June 21–24, 1992, at the Nassau Inn in Princeton, N.J.

On Monday, June 22, Interest Group I, Spectrophotometry and Colorimetry will hold a papers and discussion session on Problems in Color Measurements for Recipe Predictions. Authors who would like to make a 10 to 15-min presentation describing what they believe needs to be done to make computer color matching an ideal industrial tool are invited to send a title and abstract to Dr. JoAnn Zwinkels, National Research Council, Institute for National Measurement Standards, Ottawa, Ont. K1A OR6, Canada.

Also on Monday, Interest Group II, Appearance, Vision, and Modeling, will hold a papers and discussion session entitled Recent Advances in Color Appearance Specification. The session will consist of papers on the topic of color appearance specification. Submissions may include experimental data on chromatic adaptation or color appearance, discussion of empirical or theoretical models for predicting color appearance, tests of color appearance models, and descriptions of applications in which appearance models have been successfully applied or are required but not yet applied. To be considered, send a title and abstract to Dr. Mark D. Fairchild, RIT Munsell Color Science Laboratory, P.O. Box 9887, Rochester, NY 14623-0887.

A Posters Papers session, which is intended to provide a vehicle to share state-of-the-art color information in written form, will also be held. The topics for this session are completely open. Each contribution should represent original work of a noncommercial nature that is suitable for presentation without the presence of the author. Interested parties should send titles and abstracts to Paula J. Alessi, Eastman Kodak Co., 1700 Dewey Ave., Rochester, NY 14650-1925. The deadline for all entries is March 15, 1992.

Kevin Bohn joined B & B Systems as video systems engineer. He will manage the installation of systems designed and delivered by the company. His responsibilities include project management, design, CAD documentation, installations, supervision, testing, and training. Bohn previously served as production engineer for WTVG Channel 13.

Nathan Simmons has also been named video systems engineer. His responsibilities include all phases of project management from design and documentation to installations, supervision, testing, and training. Most recently, he was an on-line editor at Fox Broadcasting Network.