

# Section Meetings

**Detroit, February 18, 1992** — Brad Evans, City Signal, Inc., opened the meeting with a description of the company's recently completed fiber-optic ring around the greater Grand Rapids area in Michigan. He described the technology that allows the voice, data, and broadcast-quality video services to share the fiber-optic ring network, and outlined the fiber system under construction in the Detroit area, which uses three rings and state-of-the-art technology. Zee Shams, American Lightwave Systems, Inc., then gave a detailed description of the technology behind the equipment that is used in the Grand Rapids and Detroit area fiber networks. A question-and-answer session followed the presentations. The meeting concluded with Eugene Wilczak, WJBK-TV, giving the 48-person audience a tour of the station's facilities. — Helge Blucher (Secretary/Treasurer), Pro-Vision, Inc.

**Italy, February 13, 1992** — The meeting was organized to acquaint SMPTE members with CSELT, a company that conducts research in the telecommunications field and does work with CCIT, CCIR, ISO, and IEC on standardization. The meeting attracted 82 people who heard four presentations: "Optical Technology for the Wideband Transmission of Numerical Data," by A. Moncalvo, CSELT; "Radio Technology for the Wideband Transmission of Numerical Data," by M. Cominetti, RAI; "State of the Art in Multimedia Consumer Application," by M. Tronconi; and "Ways to Modify Multimedia Data," by P. Marchisio, CSELT. The session concluded with a question-and-

answer session where attendees focused their attention on MPEG and IPEG standards. After a luncheon, there was a tour of CSELT's laboratories where attendees saw the practical applications of the morning's presentations. — Angelo D'Alessio (Secretary/Treasurer), BTS Broadcast Television Systems.

**Pasadena City College, December 10, 1991** — The NewTek Video Toaster was described by guest speaker Jay Martin. Martin gave a videotaped demonstration of the product and then discussed its 4-channel input capabilities, digital video effects, frame storage, character generator, and chroma effects. He said that the output of the system is compatible with RS-170A.

After a question-and-answer period, Martin showed a music video with animation and a live video by Todd Rundgren, entitled "I Want to Change Myself." He noted that creating similar videos without the Video Toaster would have been a much more costly endeavor. — Jerry Finn (Faculty Advisor), Pasadena City College.

**Pasadena City College, January 14, 1992** — Pam Ower, Sunset Post, described the structure of her company — which has 69 employees, 4 telecine bays, and 3 on-line edit bays — and discussed the equipment used. She illustrated different career paths for people in this editing, mastering, and telecine house. During her presentation, she emphasized the importance of enjoying your job, doing your best, and taking pride in your company.

A former student at Pasadena City College (PCC), Ower stressed the importance

of networking and actively taking advantage of every opportunity to learn, including attending SMPTE section meetings and staying after hours to use new equipment and acquire techniques. She said that from the outside the industry looks very large, but on the inside it is a group of people who share common roots and associates. As an example, she explained that she was hired at Sunset Post by Terry Stephenson, a former PCC student, with whom she had worked closely. — Jerry Finn (Faculty Advisor), Pasadena City College.

**Rocky Mountain, February 20, 1992** — The meeting was held at the Ampex Colorado Springs Manufacturing Facility. Jim Buffum, operations manager, reported on how the facility's efforts over the past three years led to its receiving the "World-Class-A Manufacturing Award," which was presented on January 14, 1992. The award cited the facility for excellence in four areas: planning and control, data management, performance measurement, and continuous improvement.

Marty Stein, senior product manager, presented a design consideration and marketplace target for the Ampex ADO-500 system. Future plans for incorporating technology from the computer industry into video product designs were also discussed. Following a brief tour of the facility, the 35 members and guests viewed a demonstration of a 2-channel ADO-500, and were invited to get hands-on experience with the product. Stein was available to answer questions during the meeting and demonstration period. — Vern Gazvoda (Active Member), Ampex Corp.



Angelo D'Alessio (left), BTS Broadcast Television Systems, and Erasmo Lionetti, RAI - Radiotelevisione Italiana, at the Italian Section's February meeting.



Over 80 people attended the Italian Section's February meeting, where they became acquainted with the work of CSELT.