

Section Meetings

Atlanta, September 23, 1993 — The September meeting, which focused on "The Future of Digital Post-Production," took place at the Premiere Gallery at CNN Center. The session featured strong participation from the 22 members and guests. Interactive discussions ranged from installation and conversion concerns to the driving force of 16:9 and the question of the perceived quality in finished work.

The discussion also embraced the implementation of HDTV in Europe. Ralph Cronimier, BTS Germany, provided a European point of view on the theme of the meeting, while Ken Parker, a freelance editor, gave a presentation entitled "How Digital Technology is Used in Commercial Production."

The audience felt very strongly about keeping the high quality of the finished product, but questioned the features of the delivery systems, such as off air, cable, DBS, and fiber, which transport the programs to the home. The consensus of the attendees was that broadcasters and manufacturers are not influencing each other but the consumer is driving the marketplace. The same forces tend toward HDTV and higher quality from digital.

Mike Woody, BTS, was the host of the meeting, which also featured interactive demonstrations of his company's digital cameras, switchers, and edit controllers. — James F. McKechnie (Secretary/Treasurer), CNN/Headline News.

Australia South, September 29, 1993 — Philip Stevens, Siemens Australia, Inc., gave a talk on MPEG2. The event was a continuation of the September meeting, which also focused on data compression. Stevens is involved in a project in which Siemens Ltd., Monash University, and Telecom Research Laboratories are working on MPEG2 as part of a worldwide MPEG2 consultative committee.

Stevens' presentation was complete with illustrations and examples of compression from a D-1 digital tape replay, which was conveyed into the theater by serial digital means and displayed on a Sony precision monitor.

The replay showed the original material uncompressed and then compressed the data rates at 7.5, 4, and 1.5 Mbits/sec. The 7.5-Mbit rate was virtually indistinguishable from the original, but most of the 34 members and guests expressed surprise over the good quality that was

achieved at the 4 and 1.5-Mbit rates. — Geoff Baxter (Secretary/Treasurer), Selcom.

Chicago, September 30, 1993 — The meeting consisted of demonstrations of a variety of lighting configurations offered by DeSisti Lighting. Lighting techniques were also discussed. — Jeff Conway (Secretary/Treasurer), Intelligent Resources

Detroit, September 14, 1993 — The meeting, which was held at the studios of WJBK-TV, was attended by approximately 28 members and guests. The meeting was to have been a semi-technical discussion on liquid crystal, how it differs from other flat-panel displays, and its possible uses in HDTV. However, the featured speaker was unable to attend due to illness. Two members of the Detroit section agreed, at the last minute, to fill in. John F. X. Browne, John F. X. Browne and Associates, gave a short discussion and review of the standards proposals and problems relating to the transmission of an HDTV signal. He also discussed the time table the FCC established to choose that standard. Fred Remley, University of Michigan, reviewed the studio side of the HDTV system. He briefly reviewed proposals on scan rates and various digital video compression schemes and touched on the differences between the computer and TV industry's

definition of video quality. — Gene Wilczak (Secretary/Treasurer), WJBK-TV.

Houston, September 22, 1993 — The September meeting offered a demonstration of a high-quality duplex teleconference with a speaker and demonstrator located in the Vyvx master control in Tulsa, Okla., while the 35 members and guests sat in the facilities of Total View Inc. (TVI), located in downtown Houston.

Eric Cain, TVI, and Terry Mehr, Vyvx, explained the system's history and organization in Houston, while interacting with Patrick Bowling, who was at Vyvx's master control in Tulsa. Cain discussed and demonstrated the switching capabilities and techniques of the Vyvx system. Images from up to 126 sources were simultaneously displayed on the screen without any of the degradation that is often caused by satellite rebroadcasting. Since the signal was carried totally on fiber, there was no delay in audio or video and it was completely secure from any other viewer.

The system is often used by filmmakers to preview dailies instantaneously from the lab without having the film or a tape dub shipped. The dailies can be used by special-effects people to align shots and sequences by viewing them on location. —Robert Musburger (Chairman), University of Houston.



Eric Cain explaining the operation of the Vyvx fiber-optic system to the Houston Section.



Houston Section members and guests watching and listening to Patrick Bowling, who was located in Tulsa, during a demonstration of an interactive teleconferencing system.



Evan Krachman discussing lens technology at the New York Section's June meeting.



New York Section Chairman Neal Pilzer (left) and Bret Lukezic at the New York Section's June meeting.

New York, June 10, 1993 — Approximately 65 people attended the June meeting, which was held at Nikon House. Evan Krachman, Nikon, gave an overview of broadcast lens technology, which was illustrated by a slide presentation that showed the factory, machinery, and technology used in optical and mechanical lens manufacture. The audience learned that Nikon is the only broadcast lens manufacturer that makes its own glass. The company's new 19x18mm lens was on hand for inspection.

During the second part of the program, Bret Lukezic, Sony, discussed the considerations that become necessary in optics when 16x9 aspect ratios are offered in cameras along with the standard 4x3 ratio. A 16x9 conversion from 4x3 is now offered through CCD block replacement in the BVP 90 camera using the same camera processing circuits. Overhead transparencies were used to illustrate pixel placement and shape change to rectangle, which is attributed to the change in image diagonal. — Walter Druker (Manager), Broadcast Store.

Pasadena City College, September 21, 1993 — Former Student Chairperson Aileen Braun, now a senior at the U.S.C. Film School, was the guest speaker. Braun is enrolled in Class 480, which represents the culminate film project for the degree.

Braun began her presentation by detailing the duties of a Student Chairperson, and urged people to get involved in the student SMPTE sections. She then discussed the classes she has taken and how they prepared her for her current studies.

For a current Class 480 film project, Braun is serving as the associate director, where her duties are comprehensive. During the next few weeks she will be shooting on location in Hollywood and Los Angeles. At the close of the meeting Braun invited members of the chapter to work as extras on her project. — Gerald Finn (Faculty Advisor), Pasadena City College.

Pasadena City College, September 28, 1993 — Gary Meeker, a former student at the college, was the guest speaker. He discussed the courses he took and his subsequent career path to his current camera/audio/lighting position with KCOP-TV in Hollywood.

During his first 18 months at the station he had to have an additional full-time job so that he could work as an intern without pay to learn more about his craft. He values that experience as he received hands-on training.

Meeker noted that he has spent a number of years working on a per-diem basis. He described the different policies of union and non-union facilities. During

this period he purchased air time on a radio station and syndicated a program. This has led to an additional career doing voice-over work for "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" and "The Untouchables."

Last year, while working per diem with KCOP-TV, he served as a cameraman for "John Williams at the Bowl," which was nominated for a Prime Time Emmy for Outstanding TV/Camera/Video for a Mini Series or Special. Meeker explained the significance and history of the award and described the stages from how the program was submitted for the Emmy to the exciting evening of the Emmy Award presentations.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Meeker invited student member Derek Shaw to spend a day with him at KCOP-TV. — Gerald Finn (Faculty Advisor), Pasadena City College.

Philadelphia, September 14, 1993 — Mark P. Overington, Avid Technology Inc., gave a slide overview of the state of digital based, nonlinear, tapeless editing technology. He discussed his company's involvement with the development of the technology, particularly as the driving force behind the "Open Media Framework (OMF)," a basic specification for software programs and data that will enable cross-platform utilization of media. Using the OMF interchange format, end users will be able to exchange program elements between compliant platforms.

Overington then discussed the company's digital news gathering system, Newscutter, and the Airplay playback system. Based upon their product line of nonlinear editors, the system provides a means of assembling news stories and broadcasting them directly to air without recording the finished segment to tape. All playback is direct from disks, reducing pre-roll time and enabling last-minute story changes. In the ultimate system, video will be recorded directly from cam-



From left: Dan Reardon, RAVA; Vincent and Kathleen Slavin, Rochester Section; and Jeremy Haft and Jonathan Schwartz of Syracuse University, who were winners in the fiction category, at the 1993 Student Film Festival in Rochester.

era to disk utilizing JPEG technology with an average compression ratio of 10:1. The camera-to-disk technology is expected to be developed during 1994. The system claims subjective performance similar to standard Betacam. The 25 members and guests were shown a videotape that demonstrated how the two systems have been implemented at ITN in the U.K.

The meeting concluded with a lively discussion on the broadcaster's willingness to accept current image quality in light of the continuing effort toward improving delivered image quality. — Kenneth Herr (Secretary/Treasurer), Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

Rochester, September 14, 1993 — The finalists' screening of the 1993 Student Film and Video Festival, held at Rochester Institute of Technology, attracted an attendance of over 60 people. This annual

event, which is organized jointly by Vincent and Kathleen Slavin of the Rochester Section, and Dan Reardon of the Rochester Audiovisual Association (RAVA), attracted 31 entries from all over New York state, an increase of 82% over 1992. A panel of 13 judges selected the 10 winners in the categories of experimental, nonfiction, animation, and fiction film and video. The standard of work was very high. A dinner for the winners was held afterwards at Chi-Chi's Mexican Restaurant. — Alan Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

San Francisco, August 19, 1993 — The meeting was held at Hewlett-Packard's television facility in Palo Alto, Calif. with the purpose of introducing the company's new teleproduction/post-production plant, referred to as hpTV.

Stu Casteel, chief engineer, provided the 66 members and guests with a history



Stu Casteel addressing the SMPTE San Francisco Section's August meeting.

of the facility, which was damaged beyond repair during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

As a result, all the salvaged equipment was moved to five separate locations spread across three counties. Remodeling of the building, which was CAD designed as a state-of-the-art production center, was recently completed.

The facility is used for many forms of television, including distant learning with a "virtual classroom" and "document the speaker," which can be uplinked to North America and Europe. A tour of the studios and equipment areas completed the meeting.— Richard LeForge (Secretary/Treasurer), Consultant.

Toronto, September 14, 1993 — Over 120 people attended the September meeting, which was held jointly with the Canadian Society of Cinematographers. The event took place at Ryerson

Polytechnic University's Rogers Communications Centre.

Alan Keil, Ikegami, presented a paper that detailed digital processing as applied to the new generation HL-57 digital camera. Using a tutorial approach, he walked the audience through NTSC digital camera processing basics, including TBCs, DVEs, and VTRs. He pointed out that because digital cameras came near the end of the digital time line, the products benefitted from such developments as ASIC chips and economies in power and weight reduction that allow digital cameras to compete with their analog counterparts. A demonstration of the HL-57 highlighted some of the unique procedures afforded by digital processing, which allows the camera adjustments that were never before possible in an analog-based camera.

Peter Allies, senior CTV Network cameraman during the 1992 Barcelona

Olympics, gave the second presentation. He noted that in six weeks he was required to shoot the material to produce 18 5-min. mini-documentaries on Spain and its people. He shot 10 30-min. tapes per day; his only warning was that the power consumption of a digital camera required him to use good battery-management skills. Allies explained how the digital technology behind his Panasonic camera and its D-3 PAL recorder allowed him to shoot remarkable once-in-a-lifetime pictures in 95° heat and often at night with +9 to +18 sensitivity. All of his shooting was with available light, sometimes with a four-stop difference between shadow detail and the sun and once using only a 20-W light bulb in an underground room. He credited the digital technology with allowing him to accurately shoot what he could see, no matter what the conditions. — Ed Holmes (Manager), Global Television Network.

News

The SMPTE Australia North Section will hold conferences in 1994 and 1995 in order to make the Australian conference alternate with Broadcast Asia, which is held every two years.

SMPTE Australia North Chairman Chris Minahan, CMOS Engineering, noted that both shows had previously been held during the same years, which created added financial pressure on the industry. "The 1995 exhibition is intended to be a scaled-down event to get us on the odd year," he said. "From that point on, there'll be SMPTE in Australia then Broadcast Asia in Singapore the following year." The next SMPTE Australian exhibition and conference will take place in Sydney at the Darling Harbour Conference and Convention Center from July 5 to 8, 1994.

For more information, contact Expertise Events, Suite 28, Level 4, 22 Darley Rd., Manly, N.S.W. 2095, Australia, Fax: 61-2-977-0336.

The 1994 SMPTE European Conference will overlap with Photokina — World Fair Imaging, Sound, and Professional Media. Photokina will be held September 22 to 27, 1994, in Cologne. The conference will feature an equipment exhibit offering a full international range of goods in the field of pho-

tography, video, and hi-fi equipment, as well as products centering on photo finishing, specialists labs, and photography studio equipment.

The SMPTE European Conference will provide a forum for worldwide experts to discuss new developments in motion picture and television technology.

Several short courses on computers and information systems will be offered as part of the 1994 UCLA Extension program. From January 10 to 14, a session entitled *Data, Speech, Image, and Video Compression: Principles, Applications, and Standards*, will cover the fundamental principles, techniques, and algorithms used in current and proposed applications, including a detailed discussion of existing and developing standards for speech, audio, facsimile images, video, and HDTV.

From January 18 to 21, *CD-ROM Development Workshop: From Multimedia Publishing to Data Archival* will address the development of CD-ROM applications, provide CD-ROM technology aspects, and emphasize the steps required to create a useful application.

Virtual Interface Technology (Virtual Reality) will be held from March 14 to 16. The course will serve as an introduction to the field of virtual interface technology

and its applications. The lectures will cover the development of virtual interface technology over the past 25 years; explore research findings from various government, academic, and industry programs; and present state-of-the-art applications. For more information, contact Dept. of Engineering, Information Systems, and Technical Management, UCLA Extension, 10995 Le Conte Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024-2883.

Melville J. Berry Jr. has been appointed to the position of sales and technical support manager for Microtime's Compositum Real-Time Digital Compositor product line. Operating from the Chicago office, Berry will provide direct sales



and application support to regional sales managers as well as assist customers and prospects nationwide. Berry previously worked for Digital F/X from 1990 to 1993. Prior to that he was with BTS, where he established field services in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, in addition to working overseas to promote international sales of the company's video switchers.