

News

New York Section Sponsors All-Day Tutorial

An international group of experts in computer imaging, film, video, and vision shared their knowledge at an all-day tutorial on March 5. The event, organized by SMPTE's New York Section, was called "Pixels, Pictures, and Perception: The Differences and Similarities Between Computer Imagery, Film, and Video."

The day began with a demonstration by Gerald Marks, PullTime 3-D Video, of his company's fully-compatible 3-D video. Marks, an internationally recognized expert on the Pulfrich Illusion, broadcast and cablecast nationwide, answered audience questions and provided a tour of his facilities for some of those in attendance.

Engineering consultant and writer Mark Schubin then presented an introductory lecture on the perception of 2-D imagery. Incorporating some unusual visual (and in one case, oral) aids, Schubin was able to let participants "see" holes in their visual systems, video "glitches" caused by pretzels, and the skins of their palms "growing" from the center outward. He also identified important environmental differences between desktop computing, movies, and television.

In two separate sessions, Charles Poynton, Sun Microsystems, examined the physical characteristics of resolution, gamma, color, and pixels. He displayed actual microphotographs of individual film, print, and video pixels as well as theoretical computer pixels and explained how they are different and why those differences need to be taken into account when converting between different visual media.

John Watkinson, author of *The Art of Digital Video*, flew in just to attend the tutorial. In his two sessions, he explained sampling theory and its relationship to computer imagery, video, and film. Also included in the presentation was HDTV, interlace and progressive scanning, and motion compensation for such processes as conversion between film and video and between different world standards of video.

Completing the roster of presenters was Thor Olsen, Management Graphics. In two sessions on film recording of electronic imagery, Olsen, whose work has made possible such movies as *Jurassic Park*, explained the differences between sharpness and resolution. He also dramatically illustrated how appropriate filtering, which might seem to blur information, can actually increase the perceived visual content of an image.

"Media and Communications" is the subject of the all-day meeting to be hosted by the SMPTE Washington, D.C. Section. In a true learning and definition-based interactive program, there will be eight papers presented on the many aspects and formats of multimedia, from film to audio, using tutorials to attempt to define this emerging and dynamic field. Demonstrations of use and access will also be given. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 1994, (one day after the IEEE Broadcast Symposium), at the NASA Headquarters Auditorium, Washington, D.C. A preliminary program will be published in July and an official program will be available in August.

UCLA Extension is offering five computer science short courses this summer, including two new programs on digital transmission for multimedia and multimedia compression. "Digital Transmission for Multimedia and the Information Superhighway" (August 8-10) covers the fundamental techniques for digital transmission from first principles to applications and implementations. In "Multimedia Compression: Applications and Standards" (August 10-12), the basic principles and algorithms underlying standards for multimedia applications will be discussed and current and evolving multimedia compression standards will be described in detail. The instructor is Jerry Gibson, Texas A&M Univ.

Also offered this summer is "UNIX Kernel Internals," (July 18-22), presenting a broad overview of how the UNIX kernel provides its basic services. Marshall Kirk McKusick, a member of the editorial board of UNIX Review Magazine, will be the instructor.

Stanley Lippman, AT&T Bell Laboratories, will be teaching "Object-Oriented Programming and Design Under the C++ Object Model" (August 15-18), which will provide in-depth coverage of the entire C++ language, including the latest extensions and modifications voted on by the ANSI/ISO C++ committee. The quarter ends with "Software Safety: Principles and Practice" (August 22-24). Dev Raheja, system software consultant and Univ. of Maryland adjunct professor, is the lecturer.

For further information, including a brochure detailing all summer quarter engineering short courses, write UCLA Extension, Engineering Short Courses, 10995 LeConte Ave., Ste. 542, Los Angeles, CA 90024, (310) 825-1047; Fax: (310) 206-2815.

Headquarters Staff Sees New Faces

Nancy Urbanowicz has joined the Headquarters staff as the Director of Marketing and Communications and Associate Executive Director.

Nancy brings 14 years of experience in all aspects of not-for-profit and association management, the last nine of which were spent in senior-level positions at a national engineering society headquartered in Chicago. She has an M.A. in communications from the Univ. of Ill.

"I look forward to assisting the Society in its promotional efforts and in its enhancement of member services, particularly in the newest area of digital motion imaging," said Nancy.

"The Executive Committee, at its October and February meetings, stressed the need for the Headquarters to form a department devoted to the marketing of all the Society's services and products," says Executive Director Lynette Robinson. "Nancy comes to us with the credentials to provide the strategy, vision, and focused direction to move the Society toward its goals and mission. We all welcome her and look forward to working with her."

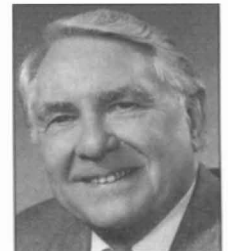
Among Nancy's new responsibilities are the promotion of the Society and its services to members. She will also serve as the Headquarters press contact.

Aileen Moroney is the new assistant editor of the *SMPTE Journal*. Aileen, who holds a B.A. in communications from the State University of New York's College at Geneseo, has four years of editorial experience ranging from writing and editing to production and desktop publishing.

Aileen serves as the Editorial Dept.'s primary writer; she prepares the "News and Departments" section for the *Journal* as well as writes all stories pertaining to SMPTE conferences. She also copyedits technical papers for publication.

William H. Smith, chairman of Allied Film and Video, is the fourth recipient of the U.S. International Film and Video Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award, presented on June 2, 1994, at the Chicago Marriott Hotel. The festival is devoted exclusively to the selection and recognition of outstanding sponsored business, television, and industrial film and videotape productions.

Smith, an SMPTE member since 1953 and Society Fellow since 1972, founded



Allied Film and Video in 1960 and has guided the organization to its present position as a leading professional video post-production and videocassette and film duplication service.

Smith has served on SMPTE's Board of Governors and as Chairman of the Committee on Education, Industrial and Consumer Technology. The Society recognized his contributions to the audiovisual industry with a Presidential Proclamation in 1985.

Robert M. Allen has been appointed vice-president in charge of production operations at Disney-MGM Studios. He had served since 1987 as director of film and tape production. Allen will continue to oversee the operation of the Disney-MGM

Studios facilities and production groups while developing new business opportunities for the Florida studios.

Daniel Castles was appointed president of Grass Valley Group, Inc., a subsidiary of Tektronix. He also continues as vice-president of Tektronix. Previously, Castles served as vice-president and general manager of Tektronix's Television Div. and chief operating officer at Grass Valley. Castles joined Tektronix in 1978 in the finance department and has held positions as controller

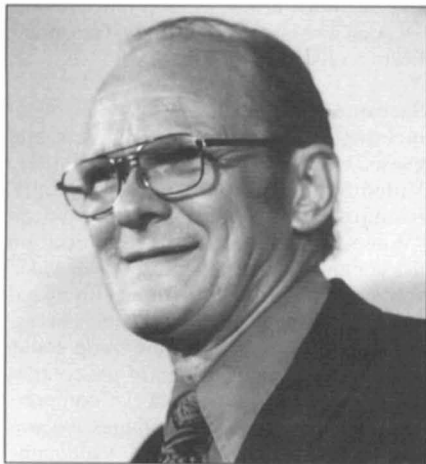


and manufacturing manager. He became general manager of the Television Div. in 1988.

Jesse T. (Tom) Ellington, Consolidated Film Industries, has retired as chairman of the executive committee. He joined CFI as president in 1977; his previous positions include senior assistant postmaster general, chairman of the Capital Investment Committee of the U.S. Postal Service, and senior vice-president of Young & Rubicam. Ellington has been a Society Fellow since 1982.



Obituaries



Byron L. Friend

Byron L. Friend

Veteran motion-picture producer Byron L. Friend died March 26, 1994, at his home in Winterset, Iowa. He was 75.

Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, in 1919, Friend attended Coyne Radio & Electrical School and the Lewis Institute of Technology. In 1935, he joined the Merchant Marine and served as a Communications Officer on the S.S. *James A. Wetmore* during World War II. He rose to the rank of First Lieutenant and was awarded several medals for his contributions to the war effort. He left the Maritime Service in 1945.

Friend began his motion-picture career in Chicago; he was a maintenance engi-

neer at ABC-TV and then became a video engineer at NBC-TV. In 1952, he founded Telecine Film Studios, Inc., in Park Ridge, Ill. As president of that company, he produced a variety of educational, corporate, and public service films.

Considered an industry pioneer, Friend was behind such advances as the first multicamera motion-picture productions in the Midwest. He was also the first to produce a motion-picture series for television in color (*Zoo Parade*). A frequent lecturer at high schools and universities, Friend taught the first film course on production techniques at Northwestern University.

Friend played a very active role in SMPTE since joining in 1955. On the national level, he was a member of the Sustaining Member Committee and was the 1978 recipient of the SMPTE Membership Award Plaque.

He also served his Chicago Section in a variety of positions, including Manager, Secretary/Treasurer, Membership Chairman, and Section Chairman. In addition, Friend is responsible for founding the Chicago Section All-Day Tutorial Seminar, held every spring.

To honor his contribution to the industry, the SMPTE elected him a Fellow of the Society in 1981; he became a Life Fellow in 1984.

Friend is survived by his wife June of Winterset, Iowa; a son, David H. Friend of S. Barrington, Ill.; a daughter, Sandra Friend of Highland, Calif.; his sister, Vera Doren of Seal Beach, Calif.; three grandchildren and one stepgrandson.

Richard W. Rodgers

Richard W. Rodgers died in his sleep on April 24, 1994. He was 63.

After graduating from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in 1961, Rodgers joined the CBS Television Network as a project engineer. He served as a manager of applications engineering for CMX Co. and then formed his own consulting firm, R. W. Rodgers and Associates, in Los Angeles in 1971.

Rodgers joined ABC Television in Los Angeles in 1977. Among the several positions he held there was head of engineering for the international broadcast center for the 1984 Summer Olympic Games, for which he received the 1984 Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement.

At the time of his death, Rodgers was a senior associate at Brooks/Fleming Associates. He is survived by his wife Janet and his son Paul.

George J. Mitchell

George J. Mitchell also passed away on March 26, 1994, at the age of 75. He was the producer, vice-president, and owner of Centurion Films Co. in San Diego, Calif.

Mitchell was the author of numerous technical articles on cinematography, and the producer of a short film dealing with the history and development of the cine camera.

A 1942 graduate of the Citadel, Mitchell served in the U.S. Army for 25 years and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.