

# News

**A Call for Papers** has been issued for the Annual International Workshop of HDTV and the Evolution of Television. The workshop will be held at the Grand Hotel in Taipei, Taiwan, November 15 to 17, 1995. Submissions are sought on the following subjects: program content generation, storage and archiving, protection of copyright, user identification, coding and multiplexing, delivery, receiver technology, technical aspects of delivery services, technologies supporting interactivity, and emerging technologies. Anyone interested in presenting a paper should send a two-page abstract, by April 30, 1995, to Frances Su, Chiao Tung University, Center for Professional Advancements, 1001 Ta Hsueh Rd., Hsinchu, Taiwan, Fax: +886-35-72-14-31.

**Sony Electronics, Inc.**, has announced that it will unveil a digital end-to-end television system architecture at the 1995 National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) convention this April in Las Vegas. The comprehensive approach integrates a high-

speed digital video network with a distributed server architecture and hybrid storage technology. It incorporates digital field acquisition, rapid data transfer into a plant's disk-based input server, workstations for nonlinear editing, shared access to audio/video files, and a storage approach using both disk and tape.

**JVC Professional Products** has announced new appointments in its marketing and product development departments.

**Jerry Cohen**, formerly manager of JVC's camera and teleproduction products, will now serve as product marketing manager. In this position he will manage marketing activities that include supervision of product managers, coordination of product advertising campaigns, market research and planning, and dealer relations.

**Neil Neubert** will assume the role of manager of advanced technologies. The former product manager of VCRs will now oversee the research and development of new technologies and products.

**Thomas M. Jordan** has been appointed vice-president of sales and marketing for Leitch, Inc. Prior to joining Leitch, Jordan spent 12 years in the Tektronix Television Division; he has also held positions in the broadcast divisions at RCA, Harris, and General Electric.



**Michael Guess** has been named product manager of Dynatech Video Group's Production Business Unit, which includes Alpha Image, Quanta, Color Graphics, EMC, and Cable Products. His key responsibilities will be to coordinate, oversee, and target opportunities related to the production, post-production, and broadcasting industries.



## Section Meetings

**Detroit, November 8, 1994** — Twenty-six members and guests attended the November meeting, held at WJBK-TV. Speaker Tom Stefani presented a tutorial on computer-based on-line editing and animation output, in which he made the point that keeping knowledgeable about current trends in desktop video editing is very difficult because of the large number of systems becoming available. He added that all of these systems are on different computer platforms, each with its own complex software. Difficulties continue because new features are always being added to the software, and the integration of third-party software creates further problems. Stefani concluded the meeting with detailed descriptions of some of the available systems. After the question-and-answer period, there was a demonstration of Pinnacle's Alladin Media printer, a black box partial editing system minus the controller which, through a cable, plugs into a PC. — Harold Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

**Florida/Caribbean, November 9, 1994** — Donald J. Lenihan, BTS-Broadcast Television Systems, presented an informative discussion on digital disk recording

for the 23 members and guests who attended the November meeting, held at WESH-TV, Orlando, Fla. Where videotape recorders had previously been the only alternative for long recordings or access to large quantities of material, Lenihan asserted that "BTS now moves a generation beyond by combining the best of VTRs, disk recorders, and the newest high-speed data technology" into a new product called Media Pool. Media Pool is a multichannel video server using arrays of 10-Gbyte hard drives for a maximum of 420 Gbytes of storage; this provides up to 160 hours of uncompressed tapeless video and audio recording that is completely lossless. It was constructed with RAID level 3 architecture, "hot swappable" hard drives, and a solid mechanical design. — Charles L. Carter III (Secretary/Treasurer), Westinghouse E-O Systems

**Hollywood, September 13, 1994** — Approximately 150 people were on hand for the September meeting, held at the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum. David Richards, Action Capture, began the meeting with a discussion of the need to standardize an increased area of film scanned for television and decrease the

overscan in receivers. Tak Miyagishima, Panavision, presented illustrations of the ground glass markings developed for the 16:9 film frame now being used for television by Warner Brothers and Universal. David Kenig, Panavision, showed a similar ground glass design being used for the Super 16 format that is now becoming more popular for TV origination.

In his presentation, Tim DeLuca, Universal Studios, showed two video clips from the television series "Law and Order," which is shot in 35mm film. The first clip was the standard 4:3 transfer that is being broadcast in today's market. The second clip showed the same scene, but in a letterboxed 16:9 transfer intended for widescreen television; this version had additional picture content at the sides.

A "behind the camera" perspective came from Randy Robinson, Society of Operating Cameramen, who made the point that the combination 16:9/4:3 frame being used is not working. The main problem is the additional width of the 16:9 frame, which in practical use is often not protected due to time constraints and set design. Robinson advocated a common top and sidelines approach for the two aspect ratios, in which the bottom of the



*The speakers at Hollywood's September meeting: (back row, L-R) Lou Levinson, Randy Robinson, Tim DeLuca, Birney Dayton; (front row, L-R) Tak Miyagishima, David Kenig, Steven Poster.*

frame is allowed to vary. This would have less impact on the composition.

Steven Poster, American Society of Cinematographers, presented the concerns of the ASC regarding advanced television. The three points he stressed were that the artist's composition should be preserved, that any future standard should be based on progressive rather than interlaced scanning, and that the aspect ratio should be 2:1. The final speaker, Birney Dayton, NVision, discussed the work of the committee that established the standards for HDTV, including the rationale behind the 16:9 frame, the factors influencing CRT design, and why an aspect ratio wider than that chosen is impractical.

The meeting concluded with a panel discussion, and Lou Levinson, Universal Studios, joined the other speakers for a question-and-answer period. — David Richards (Arrangements Chair), Action Capture

**Hollywood, December 10, 1994** — The Walt Disney Studios hosted a special holiday screening of the 1955 animated classic *Lady and the Tramp*; some 375 members and guests were in attendance. The fully restored answer print was struck by YCM Labs of Burbank, which also created the new liquid gate contact printed successive exposure (S/E) master positive (directly from the S/E negative). The restoration of the movie was supervised by the Buena Vista Visual Effects Library Restoration Program. The rarely seen 1.33:1 version was showcased at this screening in the studio's Main Theater. While *Lady and the Tramp* is celebrated as the industry's first animated CinemaScope feature, it was also shot in a conventional "flat" 1.33:1 format (not pan-scan) to ensure that high-quality prints would still be available to theaters not equipped with CinemaScope. The CinemaScope version, along with its origi-

nal stereo mix, is presently undergoing an identical restoration. — Robert Kisor (Chair), Paramount Pictures

**Montreal/Quebec, November 30, 1994**

— The November meeting, held at the headquarters of the National Film Board of Canada, featured speaker Stuart Hurst, Panasonic Broadcast; 50 people attended. Hurst provided the audience with the latest developments in the fields of video digital signal processing in cameras and the current and future use of existing noncompressed digital video recorders. This presentation proved very useful to the attendees, many of whom are currently evaluating the impact of these technologies on the planning of the development of their facilities. — Yvan Ouellet (Chair), Miranda Technologies, Inc.

**Pasadena City College, October 11, 1994**

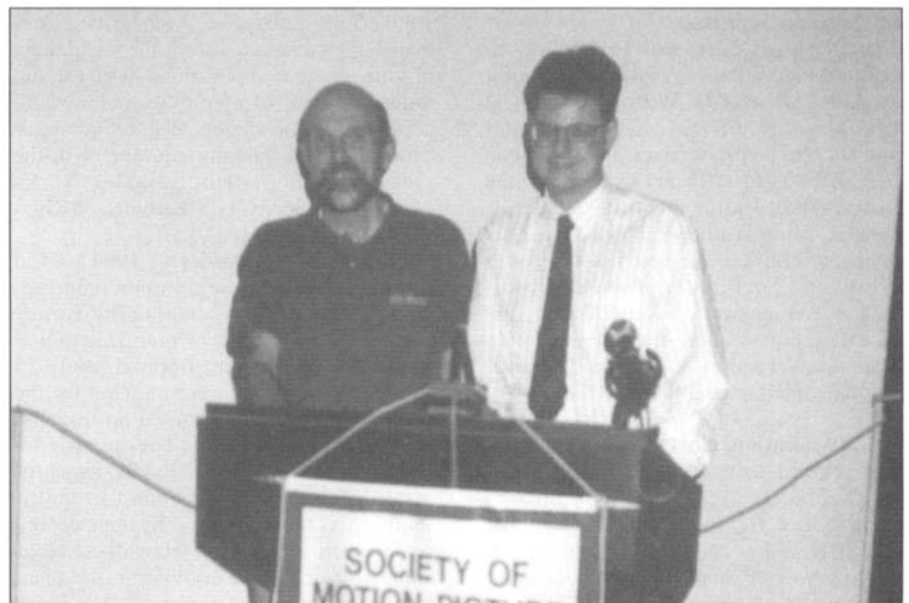
— Some 39 people were on hand to listen to guest speaker Jason A. Garcia, Encore Video, Inc. The former Pasadena City College student described the highly advanced Hollywood facility where he has recently begun working; several editing bays are used to transfer film to digital tape, mainly for network programming. Networks can store programs at the facility and access them as needed for broadcasting. — Adam S. Farrar (Chair)

**Pasadena City College, October 25, 1994**

— Guest speaker Leotis Haynes, ABC-TV, highlighted, for his 32-member audience, the details of his career since leaving Pasadena City College. He explained that when he began to work for ABC some 20 years ago, editing was done using splicing techniques. One of the many things he enjoys about the industry is the potential for growth in new areas. Haynes told attendees that he is currently involved in live directing; he credits his experience in editing for giving him the timing and precision needed to direct cameras and create a fluid program. — Adam S. Farrar (Chair)

**Rochester, November 8, 1994**

— The November meeting, held at Eastman Kodak Co., featured a technical and practical description of Kodak's new Eastman EXR 200T film 5287. John Brewer, Eastman Kodak, presented a paper entitled "A New Choice: A Medium-Speed Camera Negative Film With a Different Look," which reviewed the technical features of this new product. Don Strine, Eastman Kodak, described practical experiences gained by using this new film stock in the production of a short music video and from technical testing.



*Don Strine (L) and John Brewer at the Rochester meeting in November.*



*Bernard Lamborelle addresses Sacramento Section members at the October meeting.*

Eastman EXR 200T film 5287 features lower overall contrast and additional reduction in toe contrast, providing a significant increase in underexposure latitude and reproduction of shadow details. The program included projection of several 35mm prints that illustrated the unique characteristics of this new stock. — Walter C. Snyder II (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

**Rocky Mountain, September 20, 1994** — Almost 70 people from the SMPTE, the Society of Cable Television Engineers (SCTE), and the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) came to the National Cable Television Institute for the first joint meeting of these organizations. The half-day seminar, entitled "An Overview of Changing Regulation and Technology in Telecommunications," featured three guest speakers. Michael O. Wirth, professor at the University of Denver and consultant with Gatseos and Associates, Inc., spoke on the Cable Act of 1992 and its effect on the cable and broadcasting industries. James A. Chiddix, Time Warner Cable, outlined his company's full-service network project in Orlando, Fla. Finally, Leo E. Cirbo, Federal Communications Commission, discussed his organization's current regulatory issues. — Laszlo I. Varga (Chair), Pannonia International Films

**Rocky Mountain, November 16, 1994** — The second joint venture among the SMPTE, the SCTE, and the SBE boasted 61 attendees. Held again at the National Cable Television Institute, the topic of the meeting was "Compression: Theory and Practice of the State of the Art." The three guest speakers were Richard Strauss, Sony

Corp., who discussed digital beta videotape format and its compression technology; Bill Nash, Telecommunications Co., Inc., whose presentation, "Technical Readiness and Digital Network Evaluation," included digital compression delivery systems and its technology in uplink and downlink transmission and transmission via coax and fiber optics; and Philip Livingston, Panasonic Broadcast, who explained compression technologies presently used in the industry. — Laszlo I. Varga (Chair), Pannonia International Films

**Russian, October 20, 1994** — Some 65 people turned out for the October meeting, which featured Joseph D. Barsky, Kinotechika Enterprise. Among the issues that Barsky addressed were the technology of video system applications to visual and objective control of movie making and perspectives for similar technology applications of film making equipment in the area of film distribution. — N. V. Alekseyeva (Secretary/Treasurer), NIKFI

**Sacramento, September 7, 1994** — Cal Image hosted the September meeting, which featured a presentation by Birney Dayton, NVision, on synchronizing digital audio in a video plant. Approximately 25 members and guests were on hand for the presentation, which provided an in-depth look at the relationships between digital audio sample rates and the video synchronization/sampling rates found in multi-standard video facilities. System design issues were discussed, as well as techniques for driving everything in the plant from a common reference. — Jay Kuca (Chair), Grass Valley Group

**Sacramento, October 19, 1994** — The October meeting, held at The Grass Valley Group, was attended by 39 members and guests. Bernard Lamborelle, Matrox Electronic Systems, presented a brief tutorial on video compression and discussed both linear and nonlinear editing techniques. He then demonstrated some of the capabilities of the Matrox Studio desktop video production system. The meeting concluded with an informal question-and-answer session. — Jay Kuca (Chair), Grass Valley Group

**San Francisco, November 17, 1994** — Thirty-five members came to the November meeting, held at Pacific Telesys (PacBell), San Ramon, Calif. That company's Richard Mizer presented "On-Ramps to the Information Superhighway." He explained that the range of dial-up bandwidths either currently or soon to be available from the Baby Bells include T-1, the 1.5 Mbit/sec service for teleconferencing; MPEG-2, full-motion video at 6 Mbits/sec expected to be available near the second quarter of 1995; and DS-3, the 45 Mbit/sec service that many television broadcasters currently use for full-motion D-2 quality video. Attendees were then treated to a tour of the HDVS labs and the behind-the-scenes development work being tested by this Western Bell Operating Co. — Charles Hintz (Secretary/Treasurer), KTVU Partnership, Inc./Fox

## Obituaries

**Elwood Siegel**, a Life Member who joined the Society in 1948, has passed away. Among the companies that Siegel worked for during his career were Elwood Siegel Co., Los Angeles, Calif. and Murphy-Lillis Productions, New York City. Most recently, he served as a consultant, director, and co-producer at Telic Productions in New York.

**Leonard J. Staskiewicz** has died at the age of 51. A former sales engineer for Sony Corp., Staskiewicz was serving as national key accounts manager for BTS-Broadcast Television Systems at the time of his death. He has been a member of the Society since 1980.

**Richard M. Brown** passed away on July 20, 1994, at the age of 70. Brown, a member of the Society since 1970, was president of Packy Brown Co. at the time of his death; prior positions he held included vice-president of sales at Orange Coast Video and broadcast engineer at Video Systems Network.