

## Section Meetings

### Chicago March 28, 1995

The March meeting was held at the Museum of Broadcast Communications and was attended by 20 members and guests. Dino Virella, Enertes, discussed and demonstrated Emotion's Creative Partner, an application that allows multiple sites to collaborate over networks by using MPEG and JPEG compression schemes to efficiently transfer large media content files. The software incorporates annotation tools that effectively create a virtual studio environment. The target markets for this product include advertising agencies, post-production facilities, and multimedia authors who require remote site collaboration. After the presentation, a lively conversation between Virella and the audience explored the specific ways current users are utilizing the software. Attendees were then treated to a tour of the museum. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

### Detroit February 14, 1995

The February meeting, held at the Technicolor Video facility, Livonia, Mich., was preceded by a Dutch treat dinner at the Macaroni Restaurant in Livonia. Paul Scott, Buena Vista Operations, then addressed the audience of 29 with "Real Time in Cassette and High-Speed Duplication." He discussed the evolution of the professional duplicator to its current record-only format and the effect that Autoloaders had on speeding up changeovers during cassette duplication. Although both types of duplication (magnetic and thermal) were mentioned, Scott concentrated mostly on the magnetic process. Also explored were the improvements that have occurred in the processes.

An equipment display illustrated the evolution of video duplication equipment from the Sony 3/4-in. SL5200 VCR and the Panasonic NV8200 to the NV6800 and 6840 with autochangers. High-speed equipment from the early Panasonic in cassette magnetic field duplicator and the Sony Sprinter were also shown. The meeting concluded with a tour of the facility. — Harold Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

### Detroit March 14, 1995

Twenty-two people were on hand for the March meeting, held at the Sandy Corp., Troy, Mich. Detroit Section Manager Mark Anzicek, ZenTech Designs, presented "A New Technologies Overview: Are



Members of the Houston Section visit the newly remodeled KHOU-TV building at the March meeting.

We Facing Magnetic Video's Last Stand?" After giving a brief outline of each of the current disc formats, including the optical disc, CD-ROM, minidisc, MPEG-1, MPEG-2, CDI, and DVD, he discussed the compression algorithms used and the apparent limitations and lack of compatibility that currently exist in these formats. Anzicek went on to suggest that the special processes have not been used to any degree with tape; with even small amounts of compression, tape could be very competitive. A question and answer period followed the meeting. — Harold Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

### Hollywood March 8, 1995

This meeting was held at the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles, with some 75 members and guests present. The speakers, John Hardin, Pacific Bell, and John Peoples, Vyvx, reviewed the fiber-optic connection between Pacific Telephone and Vyvx. The two companies provided a microwave link from the meeting location to the Pacific Telephone hub, allowing the meeting to be transmitted from an audience camera through long distance loops to Tulsa. Members of the audience participated in the conversation by using the switching center to activate the feeds. Discussions were held concerning the compatibility of the current equipment and the direction equipment may take in the future. The speakers provided a glossary of terms as well as an interconnect phone book for all members of the audience. After the meeting adjourned, many members of the audience gathered with the

speakers to discuss fiber connections. — Alan A. Hart (Manager), Modern Video-film

### Houston March 15, 1995

David Carr, KHOU-TV, welcomed over 55 members and guests to the first fully digital television station in Houston. In describing the component serial digital plant, Carr stated that five project goals guided the design of the new facility: (1) to create a technically advanced environment that could pave the way to high-definition television, (2) to provide automation and signal routing capable of supporting a multichannel output capability, (3) to provide dual studios and production control rooms that could support simultaneous news and production events, (4) to provide operational reliability with uninterruptable power and redundant air conditioning, and (5) to provide adequate space for future expansion.

As they walked through the facility, attendees were able to see the practical implementation of these concepts. Digitized audio from a Studer workstation is combined with component digital video from a Quantel workstation and routed to a digital videocassette recorders residing in a Sony library management system. Automation controls all air presentation events as well as network recordings; presentation material remains in the digital domain until it enters the studio transmitter microwave input. Total studio timing is monitored and adjusted from a central Leitch panel in the technical operations center. — Andy Anderson (Secretary/Treasurer), KUHT-TV University of Houston



*Napa Valley College students assisted in the recording of the all-day seminar at the Television Conference in San Francisco last February.*

### **Napa Valley College February 9, 1995**

Thirteen students participating in the Telecommunications Technology Program at Napa Valley College eagerly received hands-on training at the 1995 SMPTE Advanced Television and Electronic Imaging Conference, taking their places behind cameras and video recorders for the all-day seminar held at the Westin St. Francis Hotel. Arriving at the hotel at 8 a.m., the students were directed to the ballroom, where they prepared information binders for the guests. Once the seminar began, they were able to use their frame and focus techniques to record the guest speakers while they discussed technological views and directions for advanced television. — Dave Parker (Secretary/Treasurer)

### **Napa Valley College March 24, 1995**

Fifteen students from Napa Valley College were treated to a tour of KPIX Channel 5, San Francisco, by that station's Steven Garavanta. The tour included both radio and television facilities; among the highlights were the main television studio, the post-production suite, and the tape room. Other pieces of the television puzzle that the students were able to get a glimpse of were the teleprompters, robotic cameras, and D-3 machines. — Shane Ingwersen (President)

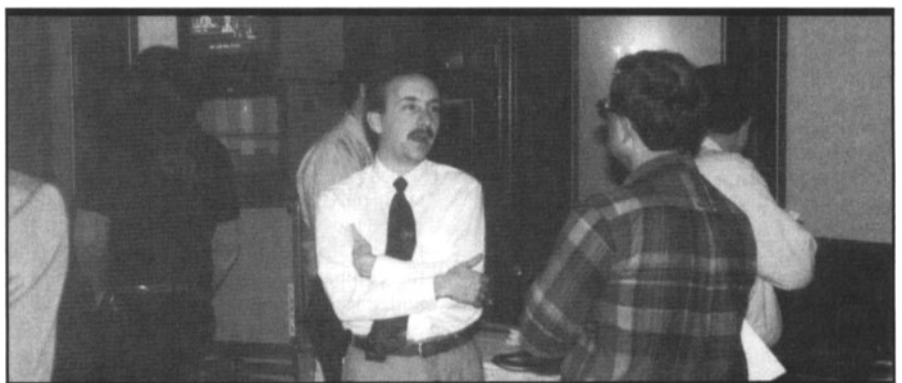
### **New England February 23, 1995**

The February meeting, attended by over 50 members, was divided into two parts. The first was a tutorial entitled "Serial Digital Television Systems," given by Leitch, Inc. The speaker was that company's Michel Proulx, who educated the attendees in all aspects of digital video. He began with the most basic concepts and then extended his presentation into more complex areas of transmission, monitoring, routing, and format conversion issues.

The second half of the meeting was an open house at Pisces Productions, hosted by Section Manager Robert Peirce and his associate, Mark Fish. Multiple guided tours were conducted through this new all-digital post-production facility located in downtown Boston. Staff members were available to answer questions for the members and guests as they examined the many digital workstations, the digital video recorder room, the digital audio suites, and the all-digital graphics and paint workstations; all of these are connected via a custom ethernet. — Paul Beck, (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College; Robert Peirce (Manager), Pisces Productions

### **Pasadena City College February 14, 1995**

Forty-two were in attendance when Benj Sinskul, Encore Video, gave a detailed description of his company's facilities, which currently has 40 Avid systems for nonlinear editing. He stressed the importance of computer literacy as he explained how the nonlinear editing process differed from previous methods. He also urged his audience to be true to their principles by saying, "If you're not happy or proud of what you are doing...don't do it!" — Gerald Finn (Faculty Adviser), Pasadena City College



*Michel Proulx presented a half-day seminar tutorial on digital video basics at New England's February meeting.*

### **Pasadena City College February 28, 1995**

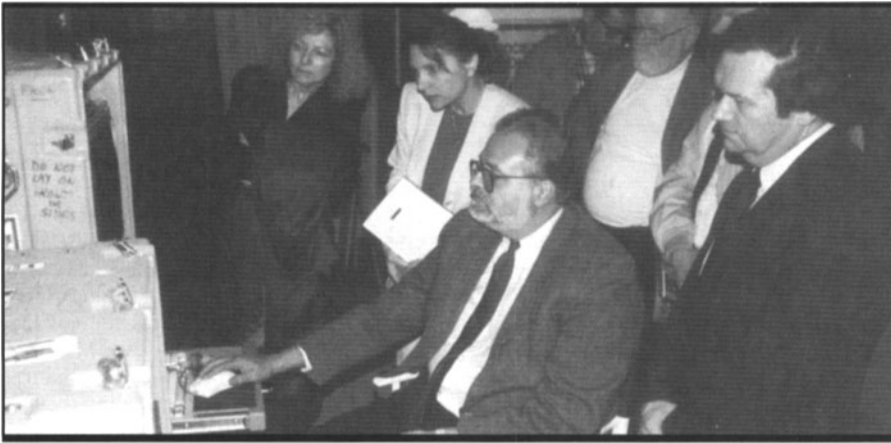
Leotis Haynes, NBC-TV, a guest speaker familiar to Pasadena City College meetings, addressed the 43-member audience about a day in the shoot of the ABC-TV morning show "Mike & Maty." His explanation included the roles and responsibilities of various positions, the evolution of network productions from the first use of in-house crews to the current practice of daily hires, and union involvement. — Gerald Finn (Faculty Adviser), Pasadena City College

### **Rochester March 14, 1995**

The March meeting, held at WROC-TV, featured a description of an application of digital computer technology for storing, organizing, and replaying real-time television segments. Richard Hajdu, Dynatech Video Group, gave a presentation entitled "Digistore: The PC-Based Multichannel Tapeless Commercial Insertion Device," which included an overview of the device's technology and a hands-on demonstration. Compared to other technologies, digital computer disk drive storage of video can improve efficiency and reduce capitalization costs in some applications requiring shot playback. — Walter C. Snyder II (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

### **Rocky Mountain February 16, 1995**

Mark Ostlund, BTS, provided for the 32 attendees an informative presentation covering issues related to bandwidth, equipment configuration, and scalability. Scalability is a key issue among chapter members because applications ranging from programming distribution to short form editing demand varying amounts of storage and access to material. A key element in post-production is the ability to edit both audio and video material. Ostlund described how material is handled independently to provide implementation similar to editing videotape. In addition, the RAID design



*Richard Hajdu, at the controls, describes the operation of the Digistore to Rochester members at the March meeting.*



*Toronto's March seminars received a great deal of positive feedback.*

permits such applications as VTR emulation to cart machine operations to be achieved. — Rome Chelsi (Manager), consultant

**Russia  
February 22, 1995**

Mikhail G. Gordon addressed the 53 members and guests who attended the February meeting, held at NIKFI. Gordon explained that, in the digital photographic process, the number of elements is limited by geometric sizes of the film used for recording. The analytic model of a photographic audio recording channel was constructed using sequential Gauss approximations. — N. V. Alekseeva (Secretary/Treasurer), NIKFI

**Sacramento  
March 20, 1995**

Twenty-five members and guests were present at the McGeorge School of Law auditorium to listen to a presentation by Steve Orland, Castle Rock Operations at DirecTV. He explained that programming is delivered to the Broadcast Center from domestic satellites, fiber-optic land lines, and videotape. Most satellite-received programming is immediately digitized,

encrypted, and retransmitted by two high-power satellites. Currently MPEG-1+++ is used for compression, but DirecTV will begin using MPEG-2 later this summer. Pay-per-view movies are available on the system and can be viewed at different start times approximately one-half hour apart on different channels. 16 x 9 television will be available to DirecTV customers when 16 x 9 receivers are more readily available and when an HDTV standard is finalized. Orland concluded with a 10-min videotape tour of the Castle Rock facility. — Keith Y. Reynolds (Secretary/Treasurer), Grass Valley Group

**San Francisco  
March 23, 1995**

The March meeting took place in the board room at KQED-TV, San Francisco's PBS station. After a brief display of compression artifacts, David Wiswell, Panasonic, presented "No Compromise Component," addressing the CCIR-601 component digital video standard, 8-bit quantizing ambiguities, and the 18-MHz processing within the D-5 VTR. While a 60-dB SNR can be maintained in the 4 x 3 aspect ratio of current NTSC, an 8-bit 16 x 9 ATV standard is also in final development for the D-5 trans-

port. Wiswell concluded with a brief introduction to the 6mm digital format. — Charles Hintz (Secretary/Treasurer), KTVU-Fox

**Toronto  
March 10-11, 1995**

Two successful two-day technical seminars were held for the Toronto area production community; one was located at the CBC's Canadian Broadcasting Centre, the other at the Labbat Communication (TSN) Broadcast Centre. The curriculum was designed to enhance the technical skills and understanding required for the system design, use, and repair of technical production equipment. The objective of the first seminar, entitled "Digital Principles," was for all to gain a basic understanding and familiarity with digital television technology. The second seminar, "Equipment Evaluation and Alignment," continued this theme by dealing with practical technical issues. Presenters at the two seminars were all experienced advisors in their respective fields from Canada and the U.S.

In order to maintain a casual and positive environment, registration for the seminars was limited to about 40, with preference given to SMPTE members. The strong support of these events has led to the formation of an educational committee, charged with organizing future seminars on a biannual basis. This committee is headed by SMPTE Educational Director and Canadian Region Governor Fung Fai Lam, Sony of Canada, and Toronto Section Manager Fred Benedikt, CBC Toronto. — Fung Fai Lam (Governor), Sony of Canada

**Washington, D.C.  
March 23, 1995**

PBS headquarters in Alexandria, Va., was the site of the March meeting; 85 members and guests attended. The evening began with "PBS Digital Plant Design," presented by David Horowitz, Horowitz Television Technology. PBS is in the final stages of a project converting to an all-digital origination facility, and Horowitz explained the many challenges that existed and how they were resolved. The GI DigiCipher satellite compression system was adopted so that signals could be delivered to member stations. Horowitz was followed by David Burroughs, PBS National Broadcast Datacast, who spoke on the new point-to-multipoint data broadcasting services offered by PBS to commercial clients. Using the vertical blanking interval together with the implementation of MPEG-compliant DigiCipher II, data delivery can be conducted from the network origination point to all 260 PBS stations nationwide. The meeting concluded with Bruce Miller, PBS, and his staff conducting tours of the facility. — Carole Ann Chambers (Program Coordinator), Advanced Television Test Center