

# Section Meetings

## Atlanta December 12, 1995

The 1996 Summer Olympics was the topic for the December meeting, which was held at the Panasonic Regional Headquarters in Atlanta. Among the 36 attendees were representatives of Technical Industries, which has the contract to build the International Broadcasting Center, and Clark Atlanta University, which has a program to train those students who will be providing extra television support at the athletics venues.

The first speaker, Larry Van Camp, Panasonic, outlined his company's role as the prime contractor for production facilities at all the main venues. He was followed by Emmett O'Donnell, Scientific Atlanta, who described the SCARLET Network, a collaboration among BellSouth, Panasonic, and Scientific Atlanta, designed to distribute video among the venues. Basically a 60-channel private cable network providing full-venue coverage at every site, SCARLET includes data to provide text for scores as well as LAN connectivity to IBM for a results feed. Uncompressed camera images will be transmitted via BellSouth SONET to the International Broadcasting Center. Scientific Atlanta will encode the video to MPEG-2, then redistribute via the network for display at the venues.

Jim McGinnis, Panasonic, followed with a description of the Panasonic tape technology supporting the Olympics. D-3 and D-5 will be widely used, and DVCPRO is finding more applications. — Kathleen Wood (Secretary/Treasurer), Grass Valley/Tektronix

## Detroit December 12, 1995

The meeting at the EDS Virtual Reality Center in Detroit began in an auditorium with an interactive computer-controlled 24 x 6 ft screen capable of rear projection stereographic presentations and 3-D sound. Liquid crystal glasses, developed by Stereo Graphics Corp., were used to view 3-D images of automobile interiors, medical presentations of the heart and eye, and the interiors of several manufacturing facilities. The 3-D effects were realistic without giving any exaggerated presence.

The audience was then divided into groups and rotated through two different virtual reality demonstrations. One was in an interactive environment called CAVE, which used rear projection on an 8-ft cubicle screen in order to immerse the viewer inside a car. The glasses located participants in the driver's position so that the 3-D dashboard could be seen while looking

through the windshield and maintaining proper perspective.

Another group was in an area where the computer screen represented a scene in a kitchen. By putting on glasses and an active glove, the user was transported into the kitchen, able to open cupboards and drawers or go into other rooms. Each person had an opportunity to wear the glasses and be involved in each of the demonstrations. — Harold L. Miller (Secretary/Treasurer), Harold Miller Associates

## Pasadena City College October 10, 1995

The speaker for this meeting was former Pasadena City College student Matt Battaglia, Wexler Video, Inc. Battaglia told his 27-member audience that he met his current employer at an evening meeting of the Hollywood section of SMPTE. When he started with the company, he was the eleventh employee; the company currently has a staff of 41. He has worked in such positions as shop technician, system specialist, and shop manager, and now he holds the title of special event engineer. Wexler Video started by specializing in renting well-maintained equipment for production shoots and expanded to renting post-production editing equipment and eventually sales. Five years ago, the company occupied a 5,000-sq. ft. space; now it is moving into a 40,000-sq. ft. facility.

Battaglia's discussion focused on the point of view camera used in moto-cross racing. Explaining that the Steadicam device and optics with gyro linkages were quite different from the POV camera, he described the development of the current helmet-mounted system, which allows an observer to get a rider's view of an event. In the early development stages, the point of view camera evolved from being mounted on the motorcycle to being placed on the chest of the rider to the current 11-oz package consisting of a helmet-mounted camera and a transmitter no larger than a pack of cigarettes. Although the range of the transmitter differs depending on the terrain, and heavy jarring has been causing problems in keeping the system running, spectators are able to obtain a vantage point never experienced before. — John E. Lopez (Student Chairperson)

## Pasadena City College October 24, 1995

The second October meeting also featured a former Pasadena City College student employed by Wexler Video, Inc. Stephen

## SMPTE SECTION CALENDAR

### Hollywood

For further information contact Secretary/Treasurer Gail Ringer, Ringer Video Services, (818) 954-8621, fax: (818) 954-8431

- Wednesday, March 13: "Telecine Practices — The Creative Practices"
- Wednesday, April 10: "The AMPAS Technical Awards"
- May: date and topic to follow
- June: date and topic to follow

### New England

For further information contact Secretary/Treasurer Paul Beck, Emerson College, (617) 578-8800

- Wednesday, March 20, 1996: "PEGs! MPEG, JPEG, and Other Compression Technologies"
- Wednesday, April 17, 1996: "What's Up at NAB?"
- May (date to follow): "Film Processing and X-Fer"

### Toronto

For further information contact Stephen Pumble, IMMAD: (905) 470-2545, ext. 225, fax: (905) 470-2559.

- Tuesday, March 5, 1996: "Direct-to-Home Technology (DTH)"
- Tuesday, April 9, 1996: topic to follow
- Tuesday, May 14, 1996: Annual NAB Wrap-Up
- Tuesday, June 11, 1996: topic to follow. Last meeting for the year.

To publicize your Section events, please send announcements to SMPTE Headquarters, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607, tel: (914) 761-1100, fax: (914) 761-1100. Information must be received by the 15th of the second month preceding issue date (e.g., November 15th for January issue).

Lucas, quality control manager and lead camera engineer, began by detailing his career path after studying at Pasadena City College. He urged the students to obtain as much educational experience as possible and to continue to stay current once they

enter the work force by attending SMPTE meetings.

Lucas brought with him a current generation of the Ikegami CCD camera, which he used as a model for explaining the history of ENG cameras. Using different significant worldwide events as examples, he described how technological advancements aid in reporting. He concluded his report with a look into a possible future of electronic news gathering using significantly different approaches, ranging from Panasonic's laptop edit system to Ikegami's digital system, that could change the way news camera people cover an event. — John E. Lopez (Student Chairperson)

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

Mickey Rodriguez, Sunset Post, Inc., explained the process of transferring material originally shot on film to videotape. With the numerous stages involved, including multiple checks for quality assurance, it is not unusual to take a week or more to transfer a full-length feature film. Following color correction of the film in a frame-by-frame process, copies are made in various formats of videotape in PAL and NTSC. Additionally, copies are made in different aspect ratios including letterboxed, full-frame, and 16:9. — John E. Lopez (Student Chairperson)

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

The final meeting of the fall semester featured guest speaker and former Pasadena City College student Homero Chavez, Performance Post, Inc. Chavez, who was hired while he was finishing his studies,

## **SMPTE to Host Tutorial at NAB '96**

The San Francisco Section, in conjunction with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), will be presenting a half-day, two-part tutorial at the Las Vegas Convention Center on Saturday, April 13, 1996, during the NAB's 74th Annual Convention. "Tying Together Pieces in the Digital Plant" will cover such areas as RG-59U, SMPTE 259M, FibreChannel, and IEEE P-1394 FIREWIRE.

The first part of the tutorial, entitled "Audio in the BitStream(s)," will feature two speakers from NVision, Inc.: Birney Dayton, president, and Chuck

Meyer, vice-president of engineering. The second half of the event, "Where FibreChannel Fits," will have a panel of engineers from Tektronix, Inc.

The tutorial is suggested for such television and radio broadcast engineering professionals chief engineers and technical directors, as well as executive-level engineers and consultants. For additional information, call (800) 342-2460 or (202) 775-4970. Please note that space is limited to 150 people and registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

told his audience of 21 students that Performance Post has five edit bays, two of which on-line, one off-line, and two Avid nonlinear. He explained that it is vital that people have a thorough understanding of the waveform monitor and vectorscope and the NTSC process. He urged students looking for entry jobs to make pay secondary and to align themselves with a top-quality facility to ensure future success. — John E. Lopez (Student Chairperson)

### **Rochester December 12, 1995**

The Rochester Section celebrated the holiday season by presenting Family Film Night. Fifty-three Rochester Section members, friends, and their families enjoyed Universal's film *Babe* at the Sony Theater in Webster, N.Y. — Walter C. Snyder II (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak

### **Sacramento December 16, 1995**

Approximately 200 members and guests met for the third annual December meeting at the Colfax Theater in Colfax, Calif. The program consisted of a presentation by Sharon Calahan, Pixar, who served as the lighting supervisor for the new Disney film *Toy Story*, the world's first computer-animated feature film. She talked about her involvement with the making of the film and illustrated her talk with slides. The theater's owner, Wendell Jacob, graciously opened his theater again this year for the Saturday meeting, showing the entire film. In appreciation for his active participation in the Section's December meetings, he was awarded with a plaque, presented by Section Chair Dennis Brunnenmeyer, Cedar Ridge Systems. — Keith Y. Reynolds (Secretary/Treasurer), Grass Valley Group

### **Sacramento January 10, 1996**

Approximately 25 members and guests met at Flessing and Flessing in Auburn, Calif., for a program on integrated services digital network (ISDN). Craig Almagur, Pacific Bell, described the ISDN dial-up system, which includes video conferencing, voiceover transmission, high-speed fax, multiple telephone capabilities, and data file transmission.

Following a question-and-answer period, a live demonstration of video and white board teleconferencing by dial-up ISDN was given, taking place between the Flessing and Flessing facility and Tripp Communications, Walnut Creek, Calif. Video and audio quality were both quite good, and the demonstration was enjoyed by all. — Keith Reynolds (Secretary/Treasurer), Grass Valley Group



Sacramento Section Chair Dennis Brunnenmeyer (left) with Wendell Jacob and Sharon Calahan at the December meeting.