

Obituaries

John L. Baptista

The Society is mourning the death of former Board member John L. Baptista. Baptista died of cardiac arrest on December 13, 1995, at the age of 57.

Before beginning a career in the engineering industry that would span 31 years, Baptista served in the U.S. Air Force for five years (1956-1961) as an intelligence analyst. Later on, from 1967 to 1973, he was an intelligence officer for the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Shortly after graduating from the University of Massachusetts in 1964 with a B.S. in chemistry, Baptista joined Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y., where he worked in both the research laboratory and the Photographic Technology Division. During his tenure at Kodak, he played an active role in the development of motion-picture films and processes that are now used throughout the industry. He was instrumental in the design of Eastman Color Print Film 5384, as well as in the establishment of Kodak's industry-standard key coding of motion-picture film.

Baptista left Kodak in 1978, when he took the position of technical director at Technicolor Laboratories. While there, he was involved with processing and color quality controls at the Technicolor Labs in New York, London, Rome, and N. Hollywood. His work resulted in the optimization of silver recovery and greater efficiency in color use.

Five years later, he became the director of processing technology for MGM Laboratories, Inc., where he supervised all technical and engineering activities. He was a participant in the creation of innovative chemical and mechanical techniques which helped his company process record amounts of footage. Other improvements he oversaw included the expansion of the



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laboratory's capacity. In 1985, he was promoted to vice-president of engineering and technical services.

In 1987, Baptista joined Consolidated Film Industries (CFI), Inc., as vice-president of engineering and technical services. In that capacity, he was responsible for engineering, equipment development, maintenance, and quality control. Baptista was still with CFI at the time of his death.

John Baptista has been a major presence in the Society since he joined in 1970. He was very active in his local Section activities (Rochester and Hollywood). On the national level, he worked on several Conference program committees, most recently the 136th SMPTE Technical Conference in Los Angeles in 1994; he was Program Chair for the 1989 Technical Conference. A former member of the SMPTE Board of Governors, Baptista was the Engineering Director, Motion Pictures, for the 1988-1989 term and subsequently

assumed the role of Editorial Director, Motion Pictures (1990-1992). On the engineering side, he participated in a number of film and laboratory technology committees.

In addition to his numerous Society activities, Baptista also served on the boards of the ACVL and the Technical Council of the Motion Picture and Television Industry. He was a fellow of the BKSTS as well as the SMPTE and a member of the Technical Steering Committee for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS).

The industry advancements in which Baptista played such a vital part did not go unrecognized. In 1986, AMPAS honored him with two awards: the Scientific & Engineering Award for the design and engineering of a continuous-feed printer, and the Technical Achievement Award for the design and installation of a computerized silver recovery operation. That same year, the SMPTE presented him with the Technicolor/Herbert T. Kalmus Gold Medal Award in recognition of his "significant contributions to the development of the Eastman Color Print-II Film Process System." The Society had elected him to Fellow status three years earlier.

Baptista is survived by his wife of 35 years, Doris; four daughters, Katrina, Judy, Susan, and Mary Beth; and his father, Antone.

SMPTE just learned that **William G. Payne** passed away on June 25, 1995, at the age of 48. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Payne received his bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University in 1970 and completed his master's degree at Louisiana Tech University in 1977. A member of the SMPTE since 1980, Payne was president of WGP Micromedia at the time of his death.

Books, Booklets, Brochures

Digital Image and Audio Communications: Toward a Global Information Infrastructure by Mark I. Krivocheev, Russian Radio Research Institute, and SMPTE President Stanley N. Baron, NBC, examines the convergence of imaging and audio services in the broadcasting, telecommunications, and computer industries. The book includes an overview of the critical developments in digital wired and wireless communications over the past two decades, with an emphasis on the

role of the ITU in establishing a framework for global information exchange. The authors provide a generic model of a digital communications system — what it is, how it works, why it is important, and where it is headed.

Ample information is also provided about the technology needed to meet the ever-increasing demands for higher-quality, more complex information systems, where mobility, interactivity, and interconnectivity are vital. Among the

topics covered are protocols, packets, and headers; video and audio compression; single carrier systems and coded orthogonal frequency division modulation (COFDM); high-definition television (HDTV) and stereoscopic television; image, sound, and data service multiplex; and the MPEG-2-based transport.

The 304-page hardcover is \$42.95 and is published by Van Nostrand Reinhold, 115 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10003.