

Section Meetings

Chicago December 10, 1996

The December meeting was a joint effort with the Chicago chapter of the SBE, which over 50 people attended in order to participate in an open discussion of monitor scan sizing. The Chicago community had adopted a scan sizing practice for consistent viewing of material often exchanged between production, post-production, distribution, and broadcast facilities, but over the past year monitor manufacturers have introduced new products that don't provide optimum performance at the adopted scan size. Therefore, the purpose of the meeting was to develop a new community practice for sizing that would yield the best possible compromise among those facilities using both new and existing monitors. Central Region Governor Don Adydan, Post Effects, began the discussion by reviewing the SMPTE Recommended Practice on this matter, which had been used as a guideline. Various manufacturers provided their input to help the attendees sort the technical issues.

In addition to adopting a new practice, the discussion also focused on how engineers can verify that the monitors actually conform to it. Reference test signal generators were provided as an example of the tools available to perform this setup. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Chicago January 14, 1997

The January meeting, held jointly with the Chicago SBE, was held at the Bellcore Training and Education Center and was attended by 55 people. The purpose of the

meeting was to provide a preview of the Chicago SMPTE/SBE All-Day Meeting, which will be a tutorial held March 1 and hosted by Bellcore. Attendees were first treated to a tour of the Bellcore training labs. Then that company's Craig Waldvogel gave a description of local area networks (LANs), discussing the two common topologies: CSMA/CD and token ring. Protocols and the OSI model led to a discussion of wide area networks (WANs), which were defined as LANs that become connected through the use of the public telephone system. Then Jerry Allanbach, also of Bellcore, examined the asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), a modern, high-speed, packetized approach to LANs and WANs. Several applications for ATM were mentioned, such as video-on-demand and videoconferencing; these take advantage of the higher speed and the more cost-effective use of bandwidth. The meeting concluded with a discussion of fiber-optic principles as applied to telecommunications, as well as LEDs versus lasers. — Steve Robinson (Secretary/Treasurer), Serial Scene

Detroit December 14, 1996

The December meeting began with Detroit Section Test Materials Advisor Harold Miller, Harold Miller Associates, demonstrating SMPTE's videocassette for receiver/monitor setup. Then John F. X. Browne, John F. X. Browne & Associates and chair of the AFCCE Committee on Advanced Television Systems, gave the Section an update on where things stand with DTV. He began with a brief review of the committee since it was formed in 1981, and continued through the history of advanced



John F. X. Browne discussed DTV at the December meeting in Detroit.

SECTION CALENDAR

Atlanta

For further information contact Section Secretary/Treasurer Dick Perin, Sony Electronics Inc., Norcross, GA 30071; tel: (770) 263-9888; fax: (770) 441-8870

March 8, 1997: All-day educational symposium, on MPEG-2 video compression, uncompressed AES/EBU digital audio, AC3 audio compression, and Musicam audio compression.

Hong Kong

For further information contact Section Chair Kwok-Luen Lam, Wharf Cable Ltd., 5/F Wharf Cable Tower, 9 Hoi Shing Rd., Tsuen Wan, N.T., Hong Kong, tel: +852-211-24511, fax: +852-211-28764, e-mail: kl@hk.super.net

Dates for future meetings:

May 1997: Digital Compression
May 1997: DVD
August 1997: VOD/IMS
November 1997: MPEG-2

Toronto

For further information contact Promotions Adviser Brad Fortner, Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnic University, tel: (416) 237-0625, fax: (416) 979-5203, e-mail: bfortner@acs.ryerson.ca

Dates for future meetings:

March 11, 1997: The Making of CD-ROMs
April 15, 1997: Digital Effects in Film
May 13, 1997: TBA
June 10, 1997: Film and Video Archiving

Future SMPTE Toronto Events:

May 14 to 15: The Multimedia Experience

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) 761-3115, e-mail: edit@smpte.org. Information must be received by the 15th of the second month preceding issue date (e.g., March 15th for May issue).

television to describe the agreement recently reached between the broadcast, computer, and movie industries. Browne has been largely involved in the transmission and frequency allocation aspects of DTV, and he reviewed the allotment procedure used by the FCC to develop the various versions of the proposed table of allotments. He explained why existing stations have received widely differing facilities assignments and outlined the AFCCE proposal to revisit the planning factors used in the allotment procedure, including the assumption of upgraded receiving

equipment at the fringes. Browne concluded by stating that allocation problems should be fixed now, before assignments are made and facilities are built. Questions from the audience followed. — Frank Maynard (Secretary/Treasurer), WKBD-TV

**Hollywood
January 14, 1997**

About 160 people came to the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum for a panel discussion about film cleaning. The meeting was moderated by Paul Law, Consolidated Film Industries, with panelists Jonathan Banks, RTI/Lipsner-Smith Co.; Ed Kurz, Eastman Kodak Co.; Ron Stein, Magnasonics; and Rod Lane, San Labs. The panel reviewed the cleaning solution problems and possible new chemicals to replace 1.1.1 trichloroethane. The industry experts still feel that immersion cleaning systems using 1.1.1 trichloroethane or perchloroethane provide the best results for most applications. It was also agreed that some of the environmentally friendly systems provide good results. The panel had many questions from the audience, which indicated a great interest in the community on this subject. — Alan A. Hart (Chair), Modern VideoFilm

**Mashpee
December 16, 1996**

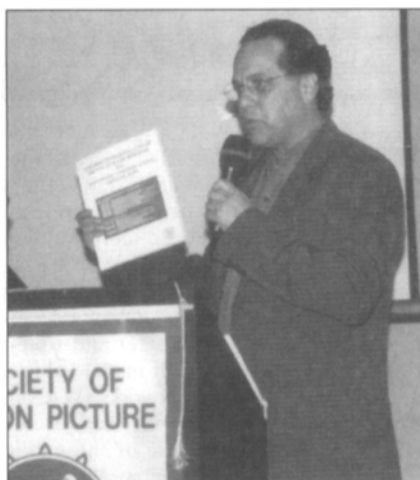
Approximately 22 members attended the meeting, held at the NYNEX Technical Center in Taunton, Mass. While there, members learned how fiber-optic cabling is accomplished, as well as how the technology has advanced over the past 10 years. Other points of discussion were how the center performs in keeping phone lines and the other services it offers. The students then saw a demonstration of NYNEX distance learning. — Thomas Holmes, Secretary

**Nashville
December 12, 1996**

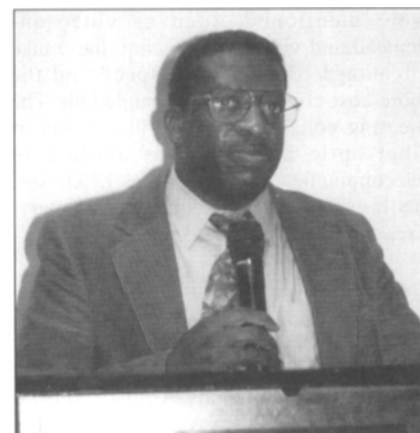
Kathy Mazza, Eastman Kodak Co., addressed the 15-member audience, introducing them to her company's Vision Color negative motion picture films. — Tom Hoffman (Secretary/Treasurer) MPL Film & Video

**New York
October 22, 1996**

The October meeting was held at Image Penn Studios in New York City. The meeting opened with comments from Mark Hyman, SMPTE Staff Engineer, on the requirements for participating in SMPTE technology committees. Then Gregg Ferguson, Ferguson Engineering Services,



SMPTE Staff Engineer Mark Hyman explained the requirements for participating in SMPTE's Technology Committees.

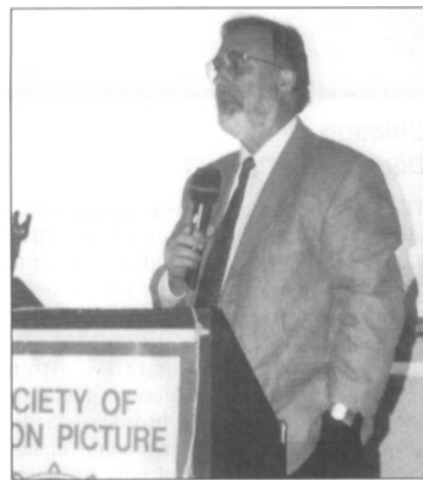


Speaker Larry Thomas in New York in December.

followed with a tutorial on power quality and harmonics. The meeting concluded with a short presentation from New York Section Chair John Martin. The Image Group, concerning cost savings in television studios. In the past few years, as cameras have become more sensitive, the majority of the lights have been dimmed to well below 50%. This reduces the power factor dramatically and causes extremely high neutral current and buzz. Tamping a 1K down to 500 W will improve power factors, lower neutral current, and save a lot of money. — Walter Druker (Manager), Broadcast Store

**New York
December 11, 1996**

The subject of the December meeting at NBC was the current state of the art in nonlinear editing systems and technical quality control. This was a joint meeting held with the New York chapter of the ITS; approximately 150 people were in attendance. Larry Thomas, HBO, gave a presentation on his company's TQC



Gregg Ferguson presented a tutorial on power quality and harmonics for the New York Section in November.



The New York December meeting also featured a presentation by Steve Rutt.

process and discussed its standards for broadcast video material. Then Steve Rutt, RVI, showed a selection of test material that was passed through AVID, Data Translations, Scitex, and Tektronix Profile equipment, comparing it with the original unprocessed material. Similar tests had been conducted several years ago by ITS, with significant degradation as the video was processed. The result of tests on the latest generation of nonlinear equipment showed much of the systems had improved; current equipment produced minimal artifacts and was generally acknowledged as acceptable for broadcast by the attendees. — Rich Torpey (Manager), NBC

**Pasadena City College
November 12, 1996**

The speaker at the first November meeting was Leslie Gudel, a former Pasadena City College student and currently a Los Angeles sportscaster. Gudel told her audience that she first got started in her field as an intern at The Press Box, where she met



Leslie Gudel, third from left, was the guest speaker at the first November meeting held at Pasadena City College.



Guest speaker Richard Quinones (left) poses with Pasadena City College Chapter Chair Candace Brown.



From left to right, the speakers at Rochester's December meeting: Dave Balonek, Mark Murphy, Mike Holodnick, Larry Letteney, and Don Campbell.

her mentor and boss Allen Massengill. Her first job in sports reporting was in Pocatello, Idaho. Gudel stressed the importance of hard work and sacrifice, telling the students to "go where the job takes you ... it all leads to an inevitable payoff." For future journalists and to all students interested in production, she suggested getting involved in internships, claiming that they are the best way to learn. — Candace Brown, Student Chair

Pasadena City College November 12, 1996

Guest speaker Richard Quinones outlined the path of his career for his audience, beginning with his start in the telecommunications department of Pasadena City College and ending as a director and producer for Disney and founder of his own production company. Quinones discussed the long hours and the satisfaction of seeing the finished product. He explained what he liked to see when interviewing a perspective employee, as well as definite "don'ts" when being interviewed. He stressed the importance of being yourself and to really love the path that you choose. — Candace Brown, Student Chair

Rochester November 12, 1996

The November meeting was held at the Frontier Corp.'s Rochester office and was attended by 42 people. Speakers from Frontier's Rochester Telephone subsidiary, gave a technical overview of the rapidly expanding technologies used to carry video and data over wire and fiber-optic "phone" lines. A report was given about Rochester Telephone's recent trial with frame relay and ATM technologies used to link area hospitals, schools, and businesses for the distribution of data, video, images, and sound. Rochester Telephone representatives also reviewed the current status of ISDN and SONET technologies, which many area businesses are considering to meet networking needs. — Walter C. Snyder II (Chair), Eastman Kodak

Sacramento October 16, 1996

The subject of the October meeting was "What is MPEG?" and speaker Peter Symes, Tektronix, Grass Valley Products, looked at what compression is exactly, as well as the difference between lossless

compression and subjectively lossless compression. Symes gave an overview of the various technologies available for compression and how they are combined into complete compression systems such as MPEG. — William Carlquist (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix, Grass Valley Products

Sacramento November 19, 1996

Jay Kuca, Aaron Tonissen, and Bob Miller, Sierra Video Systems, were on hand to discuss the Mirage Digital Compositing System, a high-performance digital chroma keyer. The presentation consisted of an overview of the Mirage system, a demonstration of its capabilities, and a detailed discussion of the design philosophies behind the system. A question-and-answer session followed the program. — William Carlquist (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix, Grass Valley Products

Sacramento December 14, 1996

Eighty people came to the Colfax Theater, Colfax, Calif., to hear Keith Lissak, Lightworks, speak on the effects of technology and how it has changed the way Hollywood produces entertainment. The shortening of the post-production time frame while allowing more artistic control is a well-known benefit of nonlinear editing systems. An interesting point Lissak made is that with the new methods, the assistant editor — who used to spend hours watching "over the shoulder" and learning the craft — now spends the night digitizing the dailies and sleeps during the day, missing out on the valuable lessons of the art. This raised the question: where will tomorrow's editors get their experience? The talk was followed by a screening of the new Disney live-action remake of *101 Dalmatians*, edited on the Lightworks system. — William Carlquist (Secretary/Treasurer), Tektronix, Grass Valley Products

Toronto December 10, 1996

The December meeting was held at Ryerson's Rogers Communications Centre and focused on the digital versatile disc (DVD), once referred to as digital video disc. The four speakers for this event were Jim Morrison, Imagineering Ltd.; Lindsay Takashima, Toshiba of Canada Ltd.; Stuart Hurst, Panasonic of Canada; and Doug Mielke, KAO Infosystems. Morrison focused his presentation on the format war and digital duplication issues that occurred during the incubation phase of DVD. These issues, which have been the cause of much of the confusion about DVD, have for the most part had been set-

tl'd within the last few months.

Takashima looked at DVD's potential. The 4.7-Gbyte capacity of a single-sided, single-layer disc represents the equivalent of seven standard CDs, and when used to its maximum capacity, DVD will be equivalent to 28 CDs. This additional data capacity has led to some new and interesting enhancements that can be accomplished with DVD.

Hurst's presentation included an explanation of how DVDs are manufactured and the laser system employed in a DVD drive. As a consumer hardware company, Panasonic (along with Toshiba and a number of other manufacturers) will be providing DVD hardware, such as players and drives, into that marketplace. Panasonic

will be introducing other DVD products, including an authoring system and DVD disc replication hardware, to other markets.

Finally, Mielke concentrated on the concerns of producing, distributing, and authoring material for DVD. He focused on the process of gathering assets and what the authoring processes involve. He touched on the importance of how processing power can be directed to certain parts of a moving image during an MPEG conversion. If used correctly it can reduce motion artifacts and the data rates stored on the DVD disc, allowing producers to include more data on the disc. — Brad Fortner (Promotions Adviser), Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnic University

News

SMPTE President Named to IMMAD's Board of Directors

SMPTE President David L. George, IMMAD Broadcast Services, has been named to that company's Board of Directors. George has been involved in television broadcast engineering and management since



1961, holding such positions as chief engineer and assistant general manager, Newfoundland Broadcasting Company; director of engineering and company director, Global Communications, Ltd.; and president and vice-chairman, Imagineering, Ltd. Most recently he served as president and CEO of George Consulting Group, Ltd., providing consulting services to IMMAD.

George joined the Society in 1974 and was elected to Fellowship in 1988. He has held many leadership positions, including Editorial Vice-President and Executive Vice-President. His work with the Toronto Section was recognized with the Citation for Outstanding Service to the Society in 1989. He is also a member of the Electrical Engineering Faculty Advisory Committee of Ryerson Polytechnic University and the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists.

Atlanta Section Planning All-Day Symposium

An all-day educational symposium is being planned by the Society's Atlanta Section. This event, scheduled for Saturday, March 8, will include such topics as MPEG-2 video compression, uncompressed AES/EBU digital audio, AC3 audio compression, and Musicam audio compression.

For more information, contact Secretary/Treasurer Dick Perin, Sony Electronics Inc., Norcross, GA 30071; tel: (770) 263-9888, fax: (770)-441-8870.

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), an SMPTE Sustaining Member, has announced that Ellen Hancock, Apple Computer, Inc., will present the keynote address at the 1997 NAB MultiMedia World Conference, which is being held concurrently with NAB '97 at the Las Vegas Convention Center and Sands Expo Center, Las Vegas, Nev., April 5 to 10, 1997. Hancock's speech is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, at the Sands Expo Center.

For more information regarding NAB '97 and NAB MultiMedia World, contact the NAB's fax-on-demand service at (310) 216-1847, or access the organization's Web site at <http://www.nab.org>.

Rick Utley has been named vice-president and chief operating officer of FPC, Inc., a Kodak subsidiary. Utley, who has more than 30 years of operations and management experience at MGM Laboratories, Technicolor Laboratories, and the PROTEK film preservation vault operated by FPC, will be responsible for operations at FPC headquarters in Los Angeles as well as its facilities in Mountain City, Tenn., and Milan, Italy.

"Digital Video Technology" is a short course providing an intensive overview of the state of the art in studio-quality digital video being offered by the UCLA Extension from April 2 to 4. Intended for computer system designers, engineers, programmers, and/or technicians, it emphasizes ways to use digital video technology to bring smooth motion and accurate color to computing. For those involved in the television industry, this course should impart an

understanding of digital images in computing to facilitate the application of video systems, equipment, and techniques to the rapidly expanding area of multimedia. Charles Poynton, Poynton Vector Corp., is the program's coordinator and lecturer, and he is being joined by lecturer Robin Wilson, DiviCom. For more information about this program, contact Short Courses, Department of Engineering, Information Systems and Technical Management, UCLA Extension, 10995 LeConte Ave., Ste. 542, Los Angeles, CA 90024, tel: (310) 825-1047, fax: (310) 206-2815, e-mail: mhenness@unex.ucla.edu.

The CIE 2nd Expert Symposium on Colour Standards for Imaging Technology will be held November 20 to 21, 1997, in Scottsdale, Ariz., following the IS&T/SID Fifth Color Imaging Conference. Representatives from the CIE, ISO, IEC, and ITU Technical Committees will report on the progress of their work, followed by individual contributions (papers and posters) and round table discussions. The purpose of this meeting will be to inform users of imaging technologies on new standard methods and practices and provide the international organizations with feedback from members of the imaging technology fields.

Authors are invited to submit two-page extended abstracts of their proposed contributions in English, no later than May 31, 1997, to CIE Central Bureau, Kegelgasse 27, A-1030 Vienna, Austria, or e-mail: ciecb@ping.at (do not send abstracts via fax). Authors will be notified of acceptance of their abstracts by July 1, 1997. Instructions for preparing of camera-ready copy of papers will be forwarded to accepted authors. Final camera-ready copy is due at the Symposium.

For further information, contact the CIE Central Bureau at the above address.