

31st Motion Imaging Conference in New York a Resounding Success



Some 650 people came to New York in early February for the 31st SMPTE Motion Imaging Conference, which over a three-day period (February 6 to 8) featured four technical sessions with nearly 30 papers presentations, two very successful Saturday seminars, and a full slate of social events.

"I was excited to be back in New York and be a part of the very successful conference which had been organized largely by the New York members and the New York Section of the Society, with the help of the Headquarters staff," said SMPTE President David George, IMMAD Broadcast Services. "The quality and

caliber of the people involved was reflected in the conference program and associated seminars, all of which were well attended and all of which found a ready and interested audience. Obviously, SMPTE was meeting a need with its Advanced Motion Imaging Conference, and its success in New York is indicative of how well the Society continues to discharge its information mandate."

Program Chair Darcy Antonellis concurs. "This year's Winter Conference held in New York was very successful. Broadcasting and film professionals enjoyed three days of stimulating and, at times, controversial viewpoints on the latest in digital technologies," she said.

Technical Sessions

The four papers sessions, held Thursday and Friday, February 6 and 7, were very well attended and informative. The technical program kicked off with "Nonlinear Editing: Technical and Operational Issues," chaired by Bob Turner, Bob Turner Post Production Services. Following an introduction from Antonellis and her Program Co-Chair Mark Schubin, consultant, attendees were treated to such papers as "Unconnected Islands for Video Editing is a Thing of the Past" by Chris Stakutis, Mercury Computer Systems, Inc.; "Crossing the Line: Bridging Traditional and Digital Post-Production Processes" by Michael E. Phillips,



From left to right, SMPTE President David George and Program Co-Chairs Mark Schubin and Darcy Antonellis welcomed conference attendees during the Opening Session.



The four Session Chairs were, from left to right, Bob Turner, Editorial Vice-President Robert B. Kisor, Robert Seidel, and Charles Pantuso.



All of the technical sessions were extremely well attended.

Avid Technology, Inc.; "The Current Limitations of Personal Computers in Replacing Traditional Video Production Equipment" by Steve Hartford, Play, Inc.; "NLE System Design Using Mathematically Lossless Motion — JPEG" by Janet Matey and Alain Legault, Matrox Electronic Systems Ltd.; "Worlds Collide — The Integration of 'Black Box' Effects Technology into Nonlinear Editing Systems" by Pete Challenger, Scitex Digital Video, Inc.; "Microsoft ActiveMovie: A New Media Architecture" by Amit Chatterjee, Microsoft Corp., and Andrew Maltz, Digital Media Technologies, Inc.; "DV Format and IEEE-1394 — Higher Quality, Lower Cost Nonlinear Video Editing" by Bertel Schmitt, Adaptec, Inc; and "On-Line: Creativity to New Levels in Editing" by Stephane Blondin, Discreet Logic.

The second session was held Thursday afternoon, following the Get-Together Reception and Luncheon. Under the guidance of Editorial Vice-President Robert Kisor, Paramount Pictures, the following papers were presented: "High-Speed Internet Access Using Cable Modems with Telephone Return" by Jonathan Fellows, General Instruments; "Fibre Channel Network Offers Gigabit-

Speed for Broadcast Facility" by Terry Anderson, Ancor Communications, Inc.; "A Visual Compositing Syntax for Ancillary Data Broadcasting" by Craig Birkmaier, PCube Labs; "MPEG-2 Practical Choices in Implementing a Compression Standard" by Bruce Penney, Tektronix, Inc.; "Networking Nonlinear Editing Systems — Workgroup Challenges and Solutions," by Paul Yarmolich, Scitex Digital Video, Inc.; "Increasing Aggregate Performance and Access Time of Large Video Format Files and High-Performance Connection to Large Distributed Storage Capacity Through Fibre Channel" by Bent Stoevhave and Kumar Malavalli, Brocade Communications Systems, Inc.; and "Issues to be Considered — The Implementation of a Digital Distribution System by the Commercial Broadcast Networks" by Brent L. Stranathan, CBS.

The Friday morning session operated under the title "Storage Technologies Using Compression" and was chaired by Robert Seidel, CBS, Inc. The seven papers presented were "Digital Video Servers for the Television Industry — Potential Applications/Features to Consider" by Robert J. Blackburn, IBM Corp.; "Practical Applications of Server Technology" by Mark

LeValley, KDFW/KDFI-TV (Dallas); "Advances in Server Technology" by Christopher D. Bennett, Hewlett-Packard Co.; "Multichannel Video Management — Integrating Videotape, Video Server, and Compression" by Michael Guess, Odetics Broadcast; "Concept Design for End-to-End Digital Video in Support to DoD and Intelligence Collection Systems" by Stephen Long, TASC, Inc; "Mysteries of Video Disk Arrays" by Charles F. McConathy, ProMax Systems, Inc.; and "A Portable Field Editing System for Electronic News Gathering (ENG)" by C. Golson, K. Yamamura, T. Kondo, and M. McGrath, Sony Electronics.

The technical program concluded Friday afternoon with "Advanced Television," chaired by Charles Pantuso, HDVision. The papers given in this session included "Development of an SMPTE Standard for the Digital Interface Between the ATV Transport Multiplexer and the VSB Transmitter" by Raymond C. Hauge, Zenith Electronics Corp., and Bernard J. Lechner, consultant; "Crystal Image: Bridging the Gap Between Cinematography and Digital Image Processing" by Marty Ollstein, Tiffen Manufacturing Corp.; "Cost versus Quality in ATV Receivers" by Gary Demos, DemoGraFX; "HDTV Camcorder — and the March to Marketplace Reality" by Laurence J. Thorpe, Sony Electronics Business and Professional Group; "Digital HDTV: Why Bits are Not Just Bits" by Charles A. Poynton, Poynton Vector Corp.; "A Report on the Technology Test of Advanced Video Service — MPEG-2" by Richard A. Mizer, NUKO Information Systems; "525-Line Progressive Scan Digital Broadcasting System Via Satellite" by J. Urano, H. Sakaguchi, and S. Tamura, Nippon Television

Technical Session Authors



From left to right, President David L. George, IMMAD Broadcast Services; Michael E. Phillips, Avid Technology, Inc.; Steve Hartford, Play, Inc., Alain Legault, Matrox Electronic Systems Ltd.; Pete Challinger, Scitex Digital Video, Inc.; and Andrew Maltz, Digital Media Technologies, Inc.



From left to right, Berkel Schmitt, Adaptec, Inc.; Stephane Blondin, Discreet Logic; Jonathan Fellows, General Instruments; Terry Anderson, Ancor Communications, Inc.; Craig Birkmaier, PCube Labs; and Bruce Penney, Tektronix, Inc.



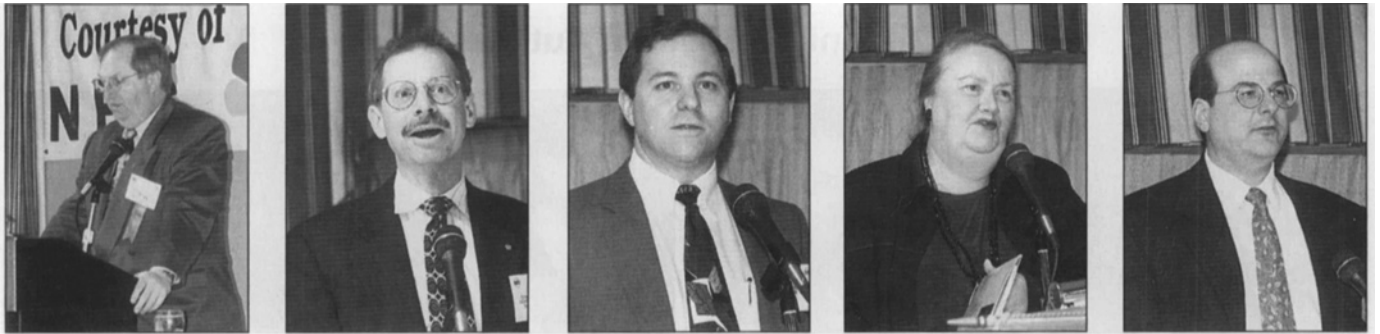
From left to right, Paul Yarmolich, Scitex Digital Video, Inc.; Kumar Malavalli, Brocade Communications Systems, Inc.; Brent L. Stranathan, CBS, Inc.; Robert J. Blackburn, IBM Corp.; Mark LeValley, KDFW/KDFI-TV (Dallas); and Christopher D. Bennett, Hewlett-Packard Co.



From left to right, Michael Guess, Odetics Broadcast; Steven Long, TASC, Inc.; Charles F. McConathy, ProMax Systems, Inc.; Richard Pierceall, Sony; Marty Ollstein, Tiffen Manufacturing Corp.; and Bernard J. Lechner, consultant



From left to right, Gary Demos, DemoGraFX; Laurence J. Thorpe, Sony Electronics Business and Professional Group; Richard A. Mizer, NUKO Information Systems; J. Urano, Nippon Television Network Corp. (Tokyo); Steve Mahrer, Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems Co.; and Chris Stakutis, Mercury Computer Systems, Inc.



Left to right, speakers at the Get-Together Luncheon included SMPTE President David George, Conference Vice-President Edward Hobson, General Arrangements Chair Ken Fuller, Patricia Reed Scott, and Engineering Vice-President Bill Miller.



Program Co-Chairs Mark Schubin and Darcy Antonellis at the Get-Together Luncheon.



SMPTE President David George presents Fred Remley with the Society Citation at the Luncheon.



The Get-Together Luncheon was held in the Irving Berlin Hall of the Crowne Plaza.



Fred Remley gives a few words of acceptance for his Society Citation.

Network Corp.; and "Production-Quality HDTV Recording on D-5 Using Advanced JPEG Compression" by Steve Mahrer, Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems Co.

Saturday Seminars
"Shooting on Film"

Two very successful seminars were held on Saturday, February 8. The first, "Shooting on Film, Editing Nonlinear, Completing on Film and Video: What Procedures are Available to the Filmmaker?" was chaired by Linda Young, DuArt Film & Video and boasted an attendance of nearly 350 people.

This comprehensive seminar covered the important procedures the

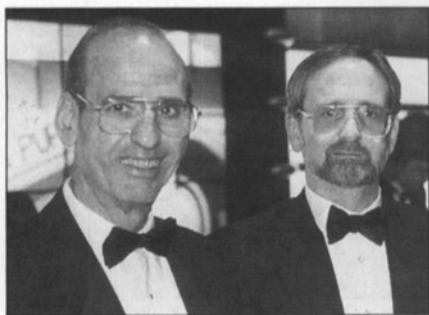
filmmaker has to follow when shooting on film, making video dailies only, performing nonlinear editing, and completing on film or video. Considering the filmmaker's budget, the value of making limited film dailies when completing on film were also examined. Don Donigi, Domenic Rom, and Tim Spitzer, Du Art Film & Video, joined Young in walking attendees through the video dailies and film and video post-production process.

Steve Hamilton, Spin Cycle Post, then looked at the planning, preparation, syncing, and editing of audio in a nonlinear digital environment. To help the cinematographer understand how to evaluate video dailies, a film and

video projection demonstration compared film and video dailies made from different Eastman color negative camera films in both 35mm and 16mm, shot at different exposures. A panel discussion featuring all of the speakers ended the seminar.

"A Technical Introduction to Digital Video"

The second seminar, "A Technical Introduction to Digital Video," was first presented to Motion Imaging Conference attendees last year in Seattle. This year's seminar, once again given by Charles Poynton, Poynton Vector Corp., had an attendance of some 150 people.



Charles Steinberg (left) and Lawrence Kaplan, Sony.



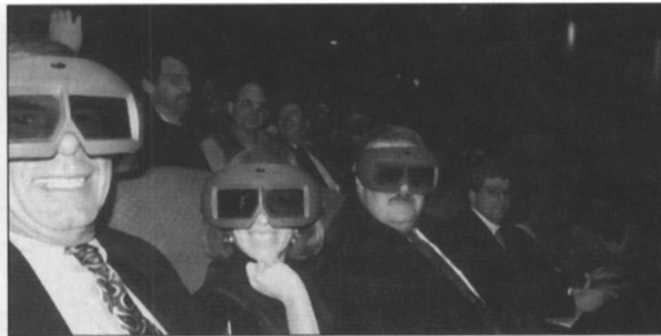
The Evening Reception was sponsored by Sony and held at the Sony Theater.



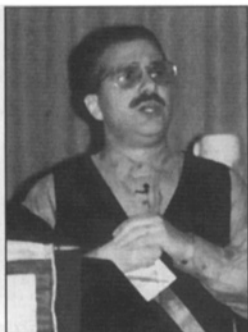
Conference Vice-President Ed Hobson poses with Neil Pilzer.



The reception was preceded by cocktails at the Crowne Plaza.



Those who attended the Reception were treated to a showing of L5, a 3-D Imax film.



From left to right, the speakers at the Saturday Film Seminar were Steve Hamilton, Don Donigi, Domenic Rom, Timothy Spitzer, and Seminar Chair Linda Young.



Seminar concluded with a panel discussion featuring all of the speakers.



Some 350 people attended the "Shooting on Film" seminar.

The seminar, based on Poynton's book of the same name, was designed for computer system designers, engineers, programmers, or technicians who were interested in learning how to use digital video technology to bring smooth motion and accurate color to applications. Television professionals

were exposed to digital images in computing, which can be applied to video systems, equipment, and techniques used in the emerging world of multimedia systems. Among the topics covered were basic principles, raster images in computing, filtering and sampling, image digitization and

reconstruction, luminance and lightness, gamma, color science for video, broadcast standards, component video color coding, composite NTSC and PAL, and electrical and mechanical interfaces. All attendees received a copy of the book, which is also available from SMPTE Headquarters.



From left to right, Editorial Vice-President Robert Kisor, Program Co-Chair Mark Schubin, and Board of Editors Chair LeRoy DeMarsh.



From left to right, Financial Vice-President Neil Feldman, Ed DiGiulio, Gavin Schutz, and Peter Owen.



Board of Editors Chair LeRoy DeMarsh (left) with Richard Stumpf.



Executive Director Fred Motts (left) with SMPTE President David George.



Former SMPTE Presidents Bob Smith (left) and Irwin Young, both of DuArt.



New York Section Manager Ed Schuller poses with his wife.



Financial Vice-President Neil Feldman (left) with Editorial Vice-President Robert Kisor.



Sections Vice-President Fung Lam (left) and Fred Remley.



SMPTE Director of Marketing John Izzo (left) and Staff Engineer Mark Hyman.

Social Events

As usual, attendees were also given a choice of social events in which to network with colleagues or catch up with old friends. The first of these, the Get-Together Luncheon and Reception was held at the Irving Berlin Hall in the Crowne Plaza on Thursday, February 6. The featured speaker was Patricia Reed Scott, with the Mayor's Office of Film and Television.

The SMPTE Evening Reception on Thursday, February 6, was held at the Sony Theater at Lincoln Center. The event, which was preceded by a cocktail party at the Crowne Plaza, included a showing of *L5*, an IMAX 3-D film.

A Partners Program was provided for those who accompanied conference registrants. Among the activities were lunch at the Festival Cafe at Rocke-

feller Plaza, a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, an exclusive continental breakfast at Macy's in Herald Square, and a fashion show.

Sponsors

The Society would like to gratefully acknowledge the sponsors that made the 31st SMPTE Advance Imaging Conference possible: CBS, Inc.; Dolby Laboratories; DuArt Film & Video, Hewlett-Packard Co.; Leitch, Inc.; NBC, Inc.; Odetics Broadcast; Panasonic; Philips BTS; Quantel; RTI/Lipsner-Smith; Sony Electronics; and Tektronix, Grass Valley Products.

Magazine Displays

A number of popular trade magazines were displayed and made available for those entering the conference.

In addition to the *SMPTE Journal*, registrants were able to pick up copies of *Advanced Imaging; Broadcasting & Cable; Broadcast Engineering; Broadcast & Technology; CSC News; Digital Magic Magazine; Filmcrew Magazine; Film & Video; Hollywood Reporter; In-Sync; Location Update; Mac World; Markee Magazine; Me!dea Magazine; Millimeter; Post; Private Cable/Wireless Cable; Screen, Sight & Sound; Television Broadcast; TV Technology; Video Age; Variety's On-Production; and Videography.*

Photo Credit

Thanks to Walter Drucker, Broadcast Store, for most of the photographs appearing in this article.

— Aileen Moroney