



Pasadena City College students, following the September 14 meeting.

College student, was introduced.

Lopez began his presentation by stating that Walt Disney's first animation was not Mickey Mouse in *Steamboat Willie* in 1928, but Oswald the Lucky Rabbit. Using the chalkboard, Lopez drew a block diagram of the structure of Disney and gave an overview of the various divisions and subdivisions. He explained that to an outsider,

what seems like related areas, might, in fact be handled by different parts of the company. As an example, he pointed out that feature animation is handled by a different division than television cartoon animation. Many were unaware of the many different divisions of Disney. The meeting was adjourned after a Q and A session.—Gerald Finn, Faculty Advisor

Sacramento

October 27, 1999

The October meeting was held at the Grass Valley Group facility in Nevada City, CA. Allen Garber, Tektronix, gave a very interesting presentation on the development of the telecommunications system and its ability to transmit realtime video signals.

Garber explained the various levels of telecommunications transmission lines from the domestic single-line phone connection, DS0, to the high speed OC192. The types of transmission lines were tied into the various compression formats available for the transmission of video signals in realtime. These covered the highly compressed H261 teleconferencing format, H320, MPEG 2, and uncompressed component digital and HDTV formats.

The meeting concluded with information on distance limitations for different formats, and a brief description of the various protocols used at each level, including IP and ATM.—Mike Betts, Secretary/Treasurer

News

Xytech Opens International Office to Meet Increasing Demands

In order to address the increased need for facility management systems internationally, Xytech Systems International has announced the opening of its new international office headquartered in London, England.

Trends toward consolidation have led stronger facilities to acquire competitors in an effort to gain market share, resulting in high demand for multisite, currency, and language support. Government sponsored facilities are also penetrating the market with increased needs for better resource management.

"Our decision to open an international office drives from our dedication of being a total solutions provider world-wide," said Roger Kleckner, Xytech's president. "As we address the burgeoning growth of the European market, we expect that international sales will account for 50% of Xytech's revenue over the next few years."

Xytech's new office will accommodate an international sales and distribution staff focused on positioning the company's products to the European community, which constitutes the world's largest production/post-production market to Los Angeles.



Ken Michel (left) is presented Engineering Emmy from Rick Hollowbush (center) and Phil Steyaert (right)

NATAS Awards to Dolby Laboratories and Videotek

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences has awarded Dolby Laboratories an Emmy for outstanding technological achievement in the development of Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) technology.

The Emmy-award winning technology, Dolby Digital, is a form of digital audio coding that enables consumers to hear the same 5.1 channel surround sound at home as in movie theaters. Specifically, it

allows formats such as DVD and digital television broadcasts (DTV) to provide high-quality, multichannel audio without sacrificing picture quality.

Ken Michel Recognized for Videotek's VTM-200

After receiving an Emmy for its VTM-200 multifunction on-screen monitor, Videotek presented the award to ABC-TV's Ken Michel for his active involvement in the product's development.

The VTM-200, recognized as an achievement exhibiting a high level of engineering and important to the progress of the industry, was conceived in collaboration with both Videotek's engineering group and ABC-TV to find a better way of monitoring television signals. This product is groundbreaking in test and measurement in that it presents a simultaneous display of picture, waveform, vector, and audio on a single SVGA monitor. As a result of this technology, up to 75% savings can be achieved over traditional test equipment.

Michel, a member of SMPTE, received the Emmy from Phil Steyaert, president of Videotek, and Rick Hollowbush, vice-president of technical services.

Leitch Names Tom Jordan Senior VP of Strategic Relations

Leitch Technology Corp. has announced the promotion of Thomas M. Jordan to the position of Senior Vice-President, Strategic Relations, responsible for ensuring Leitch's involvement in key industry forums and events as well as establishing strategic corporate relations opportunities.

Jordan joined Leitch in 1994 as vice-president of sales and marketing for the U.S. In that role, he established the U.S. division's first field-based professional sales force, reorganized and enhanced the U.S. inside sales organization, and established new policies and procedures that enhanced the sales process and raised the company's industry profile.

Jordan is a long-standing member of SMPTE, having held the position of

Eastern Region Governor when he joined Leitch. Since then, he has been the Society's National Secretary/Treasurer and is currently the Conference Vice-President and a member of the executive committee. Jordan was recently elevated to Fellow, for his contributions to the television industry and the Society.

ATSC Issues New Satellite Transmission Standard for DTV Distribution

The Advanced Television Systems Committee has approved a new technical standard for the transmission of digital television signals over satellite transponders. This standard was created to encourage the production of standardized satellite transmission and receiving equipment for use by digital television networks and broadcast stations. Benefits are expected to include better DTV signal interoperability between networks and broadcast stations and broad competition in the supply of professional DTV satellite transmission and receiving equipment.

The standard, "Modulation and Coding Requirements for Digital TV Applications Over Satellite," is intended for contribution and distribution applications. It describes techniques for the modulation and error-correction coding of ATSC DTV bitstreams to be transmitted via satellite and permits a DTV service provider to select from a range of modulation techniques, including QPSK, 8PSK, and 16QAM. The new ATSC standard also allows a range of Forward Error Correction (FEC) techniques to be selected for various applications.

Film Schools Offered Previsualization Technology

Kodak and Panavision, Inc., have formed a joint initiative to offer university film students free access to the Kodak PreView system, the advanced digital previsualization technology developed for cinematographers.

In this effort, the Kodak PreView system and training materials will be incorporated into the Panavision/Kodak University Outreach Program, which currently provides students with hands-on instruction, using contemporary cameras, lenses, and Kodak film.

"This is a relatively new creative tool," said Panavision's Kelly Simpson. "Cinematographers and other filmmakers are inventing applications for PreView while designing looks for commercials and narrative film. It gives them total freedom to experiment. It's important for PreView to be in the hands of film students because they are the filmmakers of tomorrow. It's to the benefit of our industry to support them with the cutting-edge tools that are available to professionals today."

The Kodak PreView system consists of a digital camera, software loaded on a laptop computer with a color monitor, and a thermal printer. Cinematographers have typically used this system to determine the proper photographic look of a scene or project, as well as on-location scouts, costume and makeup tests, and for continuity during production.

Calendar

SMPTE Activities

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—34th SMPTE Advanced Motion Imaging Conference. *February 3-5, 2000.*

PASADENA, CA—142nd Technical Conference & Exhibition. *October 18-21, 2000.*

For more information on these and other SMPTE activities contact SMPTE Headquarters: (914) 761-1100; fax: (914) 761-3115.

JANUARY

2000 International CES, Las Vegas, NV. Info: 2500 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201; tel: (703) 907-7600; fax: (703) 907-7602; website: www.CESweb.org. *January 6-9, 2000.*

NATPE 2000, New Orleans, LA. Info: National Association of Television Program Executives, 2425 Olympic Blvd., Suite 550E, Santa Monica, CA 90404; tel: (310) 453-4440; fax: (310) 453-5258; website: www.natpe.org. *January 24-27, 2000.*

FEBRUARY

National Engineers Week, Washington, DC. Info: National Engineers Week Headquarters, 1420 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314; tel: (703) 684-2852; website: www.eweek.org. *February 20-26, 2000.*

APRIL

NAB2000, Las Vegas, NV. Info: (800) 342-2460; website: www.nab.org/conventions. *April 8-13, 2000.*

JUNE

2000 International Conference on Consumer Electronics, Los Angeles, CA. Info: Diane D. Williams, Conference Coordinator, 67 Raspberry Patch Dr., Rochester, NY 14612; tel: (716) 392-3862; fax: (716) 392-4397; e-mail: d.williams@ieec.org. *June 13-15, 2000.*

JULY

XIXth Congress of the International Society for Photogrammetry, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Info: c/o ITC, Saskia Tempelman, P.O. Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede, The Netherlands; tel: +31 53 48 74 358; fax: +31 53 48 74 335; e-mail: isprs@itc.nl; website: www.itc.nl/~isprs. *July 16-23, 2000.*