

MESSAGE FROM THE SECTIONS VICE-PRESIDENT

FUNG FAI LAM

Sections are the building blocks of the Society and their importance to its existence cannot be overemphasized. The Sections Vice-President is responsible for the coordination and administration of the Sections to ensure that their activities conform to the purpose set forth in the constitution; approving and monitoring Sections' budget with the Financial Vice-President; aiding and assisting Sections by interpreting the Society's policy; representing the Sections on the Board of Governors; appointing the Educational Director, Director of International Sections, and Student Chapter Chairperson; serving as the chairperson of the Citation for Outstanding Service to the Society Award Committee; and aiding in the formation of new Sections.

Section Activities

Since 1916, the Society has grown from 24 to about 10,000 members worldwide due to the untiring efforts of thousands of SMPTE volunteer officers. Members in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Australia, and Asia are organized into 27 Sections: Atlanta, Australia, Chicago, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Detroit, Florida/Caribbean, Germany, Hollywood, Hong Kong, Houston, Italy, Montreal/Quebec, Nashville, New England, New York, Nordic, Ohio, Ottawa, Pacific/Northwest, Philadelphia, Rochester, Rocky Mountain, Russia, Sacramento, San Francisco, Toronto, and Washington, DC. Each Section holds four to twelve local meetings a year. As mentioned in Executive Vice-President John Mason's article in the September 1999 issue of the *Journal*, almost 70% of members have not attended a conference in the last year; however, the local Section meetings provide opportunities for members to get together with others to exchange ideas and hold discussions with some of the top men in their fields. Most meetings include high-quality technical papers with demonstrations covering the latest motion imaging and related technologies. The opportunity for touring facilities is also appreciated by the members. Many full-day technical seminars have been organized by local Section officers to acquaint members with new in-depth technologies, not yet available in general institutions, but desperately needed.



The success of a Section's operation depends on the enthusiasm, resources, integrity, and dedication of the local Section officers. Most of the Sections have already set up websites, communicating with members in the modern way. Each year, requests are sent to all Section Chairs to submit nominations for the next year's Section officers; propose the budget for the following year; and nominate an individual for the Citation for Outstanding Service to the Society Award. This Citation recognizes individuals for dedicated service to the Society (at Section or national level) over a sustained period. The Citation Committee, which is chaired by the Sections Vice-President, is comprised of the Engineering Vice-President, Editorial Vice-President, Conference Vice-President, and the Director of International Sections. Angelo D'Alessio, the Director of International Sections, stationed in Italy, currently serves as liaison with the Sections in Europe. Over

the years we have been very fortunate to have financial support from the industry and knowledge from experts in specific fields, for Section programs.

Education

This Society has created an effective lifelong learning culture for our members through publications, the annual Technical Conference and Exhibitions, all-day seminars, the annual Advanced Motion Imaging Conferences, the annual Film Conferences, mini-conferences, local full-day technical seminars, and Section meetings, which are effective vehicles for our members to keep themselves abreast with the new development of technologies. A number of special seminars ranging in length from a few hours to two full days have been held at locations such as broadcasting facilities and sustaining members' premises; most offer certificates of completion.

Due to the disparate locations and environments of our Sections, sharing training materials is one solution in addressing the imbalance of available resources available. David Corley, Educational Director for the past four years, has worked admirably with the Educational Advisory Committee in trying to improve our educational issues, such as compiling a Glossary and Power Point presentations in CD-ROM format for distribution. The Society strives to offer "lifelong learners" the opportunity to master new skills, meet new challenges, and gain knowledge.

Student Chapters

Since I was elected Sections Vice-President, Student Chapters have steadily increased from 16 to over 24. With the initiative of Michael Pietrowski of Mashpee Middle/High School, the Society amended the bylaws to include admitting high school students as student members. The Hong Kong Section has

successfully recruited more student members through the recent promotion campaigns in post-secondary institutions. Presently, Gerald Finn is the Chairperson of the Student Chapters, reporting to the Educational Director. David Corley and Gerald Finn are extremely anxious to foster the growth of these chapters, urging the Governors and Section Chairpersons to appoint a dedicated person in each Section to be responsible for student issues. Student Chapters receive the meeting notices of the Section in which they are located and are encouraged to attend the Section meetings. The Student Fair program, held during the annual Technical Conference and Exhibition in California, offers students a valuable opportunity to widen their horizons in the motion imaging industry. The suspended Student Scholarship program will soon be revived by the introduction of the Lou Wolf Scholarship Award. There is tremendous potential for the growth of student membership in the future.

Conclusion

After serving the Society since 1978 in positions ranging from Membership Chair of the Toronto Section, Secretary/Treasurer, Section Chair, Canadian Governor, Educational Director, and Sections Vice-President, I will retire effective January 1, 2000. I beseech your continuous support to my successor, René Villeneuve, a very experienced and competent veteran of the Society. I will however, continue my volunteer services as Deputy Provincial Commissioner of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Honorary Aide-de-Camp to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and a few other charities. Lastly, I must take this precious opportunity to express my warmest and heartfelt appreciation for your indispensable, generous, and esteemed support, especially Sony of Canada Ltd. Best wishes to all.

—*Fung Fai Lam*