

Section Meetings

Florida/Caribbean

January 20 & 21, 1999

There were two meetings in the month of January. One was held on January 20th at WOFL, Channel 35 in Orlando, and the other on January 21st at WJXT-TV4 in Jacksonville. Combined attendance was approximately 50. Ralph Biesemeyer, Panasonic Broadcast Digital Systems Co., discussed the expanding role of nonlinear editors and file servers and their applications in today's newsroom. He also discussed Panasonic's approach to nonlinear editing for news applications, including the DVEDIT and NEWSBYTE products, and future uses of video server technology in the news environment. The major topic was the Panasonic DNA (DVCPRO News Automation) system which was unveiled at the SMPTE conference in October 1998.—William Hillier, (Section Manager) United Space Alliance

New York

January 20, 1999

The notion of using 1080P/24 for production has gained some significant support over the past few months. Judging by the turnout of more than 120 attendees at this month's section meeting, the New York community is also abuzz. David Niles and Colossalvision hosted the meeting. Presenters David Wiswell, Panasonic, and Hugo Gaggioni, Sony, both showed hypothetical hardware and process-flow models for 24P production, using their respective hardware and highlighting such techniques as the "single master transfer." With this technique, one 1080P/24 10-bit telecine transfer could subsequently be used to derive all other formats (NTSC, PAL, 720P, etc.). Panasonic's HDD5 and Sony's HDCAM tape recorders were also compared. Following the lectures, David Niles, John Dowdell (The Tape House), Hugo Gaggioni, and David Wiswell participated in a lively panel discussion moderated by Bill Miller, ABC.—Bill Topazio, (Secretary/Treasurer) Manhattan Transfer/Edit

Russia

October 14, 1998

Thirty-six people attended the October section meeting, which began with a discussion on the practical technological issues of digital video recording, led by A. Mkrtumov, VNIITR. S. Nemtsova, also from VNIITR, lectured on "Classification and Features of the Influence of Ecological Factors on Broadcasting."—Dr. V. Ershov, (Secretary/Treasurer) Cinema & Photo Res. Institute



New York Section meeting, January '99. From left to right: Hugo Gaggioni, Warren Singer, Section Chair, and David Wiswell.

Russia

November 5, 1998

More than 100 members and friends gathered at the NAT Second International Congress, VVC, Pavilion to listen to three guest speakers. A. Andreev, CTC, discussed "Digital Broadcasting Over Four Time Zones." A. Peregoudov, DIP Company, talked about the "Automation of Local Station in TV Networking," and E. Vinogradova, NIKFI, ended the meeting with a lecture on "Electronic Cinematography on TV."—Dr. V. Ershov, (Secretary/Treasurer) Cinema & Photo Res. Institute

Sacramento

December 16, 1998

Approximately 160 people attended the December meeting, held at the Colfax Theater. Sharon Calahan, Pixar Animation Studios, who had spoken three years ago, on computer generated animation, illustrated by the film *Toy Story*, was invited back to give an update. She agreed and brought her husband, Keith Olenick, to speak also.

Calahan has worked in the computer animation industry for over 14 years, where she specializes primarily in lighting. She is currently the director of photography for Pixar's fourth animated feature film. Calahan showcased one sequence as an example of the unique technology used in this film. Not surprisingly, the computer rendering power used had increased ten times since the last film. Calahan also worked as the creative lighting lead on *Toy Story*.

Keith Olenick also works at Pixar Animation Studios as a technical director. He is currently working on the shading team for Pixar's fourth animated feature film. He discussed the steps involved in modeling the characters for the film, and presented some examples. According to Olenick, the hardest challenges in creating the movie were the crowd scenes and creating realistic fire

effects. Olenick also worked as a senior member of the shading team on *A Bug's Life*, and a member of the rendering team on *Toy Story*.—William Carlquist, (Secretary/Treasurer) Tektronix, Grass Valley Productions

Toronto

January 17, 1999

Despite record snowfall, approximately 100 members gathered at the Global Studios, in Don Mills, to participate in a discussion which addressed the thesis that terrestrial digital transmitters are required to deliver HDTV in Canada.

SMPTE Past-President David George hosted the meeting and introduced the evening's three presenters. Stephen Pumple, IMMAD-ECVS, provided a review of the American DTV experience to date; Carol Darling, vice-president of engineering at WTN, talked about the political process and technical testing at CDTV; Lou Montana, Montana engineering, presented topics relating to DTV plant issues and emission; and Roger Keay, vice-president of technology, Rogers Communications, discussed distribution issues dealing with cable TV.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion on DTV and included broadcasters from every Canadian sector. Terry Snazel, ExpressVu, Bruce Cowan, CITY TV, Harvey Rogers, History/Showcase, and Rudi Linghor, CBC, all took the hotseat to represent a constituency of Canadian broadcasting. The meeting, which was broadcast to a North American audience via satellite, was set up by the Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto SMPTE Sections to help define a Canadian perspective on the path to digital transmission and high-definition. It brought together some of Canada's leading television engineers from all areas of the broadcast industry to review the current status and share ideas.—Bradley Fortner, (Promotions Advisor) Rogers Communications Centre, Ryerson Polytechnical University