

## Section Meetings

### Nashville

June 24, 1999

With 12 in attendance, the June meeting was held at WDCN-TV in Nashville. Titled "Various Options for Digital Conversion," the program took the form of a free-flowing discussion of various options for processing archival material in preparation for digital broadcast. Areas such as noise reduction, image-motion stabilization (both from the aspect of camera shake and gate weave in the case of film material) and aspect ratio format conversion to 16:9 were covered.

Although it was a small group, the 2 1/2 hr discussion was very lively and a lot of very useful information was shared.—William C. Spencer, Section Chair

### New York

June 23, 1999

The June meeting, held at ABC's broadcast center in Manhattan, was titled "NEC's DiskCam—Optical Disk Recording Format for Electronic Newsgathering."

Several manufacturers are currently working on optical recording products stemming from an initiative by NHK. NEC is in the forefront of this technology and introduced the first viable product for broadcast use, a dockable camcorder, at NAB99. John Leahy, NEC, spoke on features of DiskCam and the technology behind the product. The inherently nonlinear, robust recording can present a viable alternative to digital and analog tape-based acquisition systems. A significant breakthrough, it provides the potential for the entire news process to be nonlinear, from acquisition through editing to archive. Many broadcasters view this as the future for ENG. Leahy described the



At the New York Section meeting in June, Mike Strein, ABC, and John Leahy, NEC.

recording process that allows MPEG-compressed video and audio data to be recorded on the media and provided a camcorder and studio player for demonstration.

Steve Pierce, Vibrant Technologies, presented a short paper on nonlinear editing and video networking. Vibrant, one of the editing companies working closely with NEC, provided a system for the demonstration. A lively Q & A session demonstrated the interest this technology is generating.—Mike Strein, Program Manager

### Pasadena City 1999 Progress Report

During the first semester of 1999 our student chapter held four successful noon meetings with an attendance ranging from 19 to 25. We had to cancel our fifth meet-

ing (March 23) after announcements were made, due to a last minute work assignment involving our guest speaker.

Over the years, losing a guest speaker has not been an ongoing problem. We have used backup videotape to substitute, when we had notice of a guest cancellation, but the March 23 cancellation happened with no time to prepare a backup. Our students continue to attend the Hollywood Section evening meetings, and I anticipate very good attendance for our upcoming meetings.

Thanks to Headquarters for providing the SMPTE Student Membership paper, and to David George for granting permission to photocopy his October '98 President's Message for distribution to students. These are valuable tools to use as a means of introducing SMPTE to our students.—Gerald Finn, Advisor

## News

### Eastman House to Receive IDA Film Preservation Award

George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film will receive the coveted 1999 International Documentary Association (IDA) Preservation and Scholarship Award.

"George Eastman House has restored and preserved an extraordinary number of motion pictures and still images that are irreplaceable records of our art and

history," said IDA President David Haugland. "This unique organization has also extended its influence around the world by operating the L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation. This recognition is a symbol of our appreciation to the many dedicated individuals who have contributed to the success of George Eastman House during the past five decades."

The IDA Film Preservation Award is presented annually to an individual or

organization, either for making notable contributions to preserving motion picture for future generations of historians and fans, or for enhancing the education of individuals in the industry and the general public about the importance of film preservation.

George Eastman House was founded in Rochester, New York, in 1949, as a photography museum and film restoration and preservation center. It was named in honor of George Eastman, who founded