

## News

### ASC Promotes Digital Projection Standards

The American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) has issued a proclamation calling for full participation of the creative community in the development of universal standards for digital projection systems.

"We welcome and support all efforts to improve the quality, accuracy, and efficiency of the presentation of motion pictures to the public," said ASC President Victor J. Kemper. "However, we believe that the authors of film, whose work is at risk, including directors, production designers, and cinematographers, must fully participate in the development of standards for digital projection theaters."

Kemper said that just as engineers are needed to establish technical standards for distributing and projecting motion pictures in digital format, the creative community should define artistic parameters to ensure that the public experiences movies as they are meant to be seen.

SMPTE has organized a committee, consisting of engineers and scientists, working on the development of recommended technical standards for projecting digital images on theatrical screens. The ASC resolution calls for standards that require resolution and color fidelity to be at least equal to the best quality of film images projected in laboratory and industry screenings. It also calls for projecting all motion pictures in their original aspect ratios, and projecting all images in the original height of the frame without letter-boxing them into narrower fields.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to set standards which can enhance the movie-going experience for the public," said Kemper. "The ASC is extending its hand and offering to cooperate with the SMPTE."

### AMIA Offers Kodak Fellowship in Film Preservation Studies

The Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) and Kodak have announced an annual fellowship program for students interested in film preservation and archiving. The Fellowship, sponsored by Kodak, is valued at \$10,000. It includes an academic scholarship, a six-week summer internship at Cinesite and other restoration and preservation facilities in Hollywood, and registration to the annual AMIA conference.

"Our goal is to encourage outstanding students to seek careers in this important field of endeavor," said Rick Utley, who heads the film restoration and preservation



(L-R) Blaine Baker (1991-92), Maurice L. French (1989-90), M. Carlos Kennedy (1987-88), Harold J. Eady (1985-86), and Robert M. Smith (1970-80).

### Former SMPTE Presidents Reunion

Several former Presidents of the Society and some special guests, got together on April 13-16 for a reunion in Sarasota, FL. Former President Harold Eady and his wife Dorothy, who live in Sarasota, organized several events associated with the area, which included the John

Ringling Art and Circus Museums, the Mote Marine Aquarium (a scientific research laboratory on marine life), and Selby Botanical Gardens. The group enjoyed the time together for fellowship and many memories of their SMPTE years.

department for Cinesite. "We have the technology and know-how needed to ensure that motion pictures created by past and current filmmakers are preserved for posterity. We need to attract talented and dedicated people to specialize in this important field of endeavor."

The summer internship will incorporate transportation and housing, and will also pay an hourly wage to offset any other expenses. In addition, Kodak will work with the winner throughout the year and assist his or her learning institution by providing research, educational resources, on-campus speakers, literature, and technical information.

### IBC2000 Special Award for Disney's Toy Story 2

The International Broadcasting Convention (IBC) Special Award for 2000 will be presented to Buena Vista International for its digital cinema screenings of the movie *Toy Story 2*. The award will be presented during IBC2000 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on Sunday, September 10 at IBC's Awards Show—the Sunday Spectacular.

"These all-digital commercial screenings mark a further milestone in the history of cinema exhibition," said IBC President John Wilson, "and we at IBC are delighted to congratulate Disney's distribution arm, Buena Vista International, for taking the lead in rolling out this great technology."

*Toy Story 2*, a Disney/Pixar production, made history by becoming the first major motion picture to get a commercial release simultaneously in both digital and film formats.

### Knighthood for Compact Disc Pioneer

Kees A. Schouhamer Immink, a SMPTE Fellow, has been named Knight in the Order of Oranje-Nassau by Beatrix, Queen of the Netherlands, on the occasion of the Queen's birthday. The royal accolade was given for services to the engineering arts and sciences.



The great success of the Compact Disc Audio Digital System owes much to the work of Immink whose coding methods revolutionized data storage. The coding system he developed in the late 1970s is now used in most systems for digital video, audio, and data recording, such as CD-Rom, CD-I, Minidisc, CD-Video, and DVD. He has also made significant contributions to LaserVision videodisc, DAT, digital compact cassette (DCC) and digital video recorder (DV). Immink has been granted 40 U.S. patents mainly in the area of digital recording, and has written numer-

ous papers in the field of coding techniques for optical and magnetic recorders.

Immink is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) and also holds fellowships of the IEEE, AES, and IEE. He has received wide recognition for contributions to the digital audio and video revolution, among others the IEEE Edison Medal, Masaru Ibuka Consumer Electronics Award, the AES Gold Medal, and the Poniatoff Gold Medal awarded by SMPTE.

### Philips Sets up Digital Broadcast Switcher Training

Earlier this year it was announced that Panasonic, the official system integrator and supplier for the Sydney Olympic Broadcasting Organization (SOBO), had selected Philips Digital Networks to supply digital broadcast switchers from their DD35 and DD10 series, to fulfill various critical applications at the forthcoming Olympic Games.

To ensure that broadcast technical directors and operators are familiar with the extensive features and functionality of the DD series of switchers, Philips has established a series of training courses that provide direct practical experience. Participants from all over the world and many user groups will attend familiarization sessions at locations in Sydney's International Broadcasting Centre and in Japan, Belgium, the U.K., Finland, and Spain.

### Xytech Web Browser Provides Worldwide Access to Facility Information

Xytech Systems has developed a web browser module, the latest addition to its Enterprise facility management system. Launching as the lead product in the company's new business-to-business Internet campaign, the web module allows Xytech's clients, which include film companies, broadcast studios, production houses, and satellite facilities, to access facility information over the Internet from anywhere in the world. The module was designed to surpass geographical constraints in a facility's profit maximization and resource utilization. Fully integrated into the network of the "home" facility, the system increases efficiency for all projects by providing personnel with 24-hour access to this information. After logging on to the Internet, traveling employees can look up information such as studio and production schedules, location information, and available equipment.

### Tandberg Launches IP Video Transport Solutions

Tandberg Television has introduced key elements of its IP (Internet Protocol) distribution architecture. IP is the de facto network standard for data, and major telecommunications companies worldwide are increasingly using IP protocols to initiate

new backbone services. This opens up new distribution alternatives for broadcasters, as IP will also support video transport as well as voice traffic. Anticipating this new choice for broadcasters, Tandberg has developed and integrated a packet-over-Sonet network interface (POS-NIC) with the TT6000 MediaLink MPEG-2 processing and media interface unit. This combination allows broadcasters to interface with the telecommunications backbone network.

### VES 2000 to be Held in July

The industry trade organization, Visual Effects Society (VES), has announced its line-up for the upcoming "VES 2000: A Festival of Visual Effects." This year's event to be held on July 14-16 at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Leonard H. Goldenson Theatre in No. Hollywood, CA, will feature presentations and discussions about the visual effects produced by the award-winning VFX teams from some of the current outstanding visual effects film and television productions.

Speakers include visual effects professionals from ILM, Sony Pictures, Imageworks, The Secret Lab, and Mill Film, who will discuss such motion pictures as *Gladiator*, *U-571*, *Hollow Man*, and *Dinosaur*, as well as the Emmy-winning television programs, "Gulliver's Travels," "The Odyssey," and "Merlin."

## Calendar

### SMPTE ACTIVITIES

NEW ORLEANS, LA—Siggraph, Morial Convention Center, SMPTE Booth #1944. *July 23-28, 2000.*

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS—IBC Convention. *September 8-12, 2000.*

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

WASHINGTON, DC—35th Advanced Motion Imaging Conference. *February 8-10, 2001.*

NEW YORK, NY—143rd Technical Conference & Exhibition. *November 4-7, 2001.*

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

### JULY

VES 2000: A Festival of Visual Effects, North Hollywood, CA. Info: Visual Effects Society, 2308 Broadway, Santa Monica, CA 90404; tel: (310) 315-6055; fax: (310) 828-6893; e-mail: [visual.effects.society@worldnet.att.net](mailto:visual.effects.society@worldnet.att.net); website: [www.visual-effects-society.org](http://www.visual-effects-society.org). *July 14-16, 2000.*

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](mailto:isprs@itc.nl); website: [www.itc.nl/~isprs](http://www.itc.nl/~isprs). *July 16-23, 2000.*

### AUGUST

Microdisplay 2000, Boulder, CO. Info: The United Engineering Foundation, Three

Park Ave., 27th Fl., New York, NY 10016; tel: (212) 591-7836; fax: (212) 591-7441; e-mail: [engfnd@aol.com](mailto:engfnd@aol.com); website: [www.engfnd.org](http://www.engfnd.org). *August 7-9, 2000.*

### SEPTEMBER

IBC2000, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Info: International Broadcasting Convention, Aldwych House, 81 Aldwych, London WC2B 4EL, U.K.; tel: +44 (0) 171 611 7500; fax: +44 (0) 171 611 7530; e-mail: [show@ibc.org](mailto:show@ibc.org); website: [www.ibc.org](http://www.ibc.org). *September 8-12, 2000.*

The BKSTS and Visual Effects Society's Visual Effects Conference, South Bank, London, U.K. Info: John Graham, BKSTS, 63-71 Victoria House, Vernon Pl., London, WC1B 4DA; tel: 020 7242 8400; fax: 020 7405 3560; e-mail: [movimage@bksts.demon.co.uk](mailto:movimage@bksts.demon.co.uk). *September 22-24, 2000.*