

# Section Meetings

## Detroit April 2003

Nineteen members and guests met at Macomb County Community College on April 15, to discuss the highlights of NAB. Dave Westerman, MCSI, reviewed the latest in high-definition recording devices, which included the new removable nontape media machines. Keith Larson, MMG, discussed the latest products by Avid Technologies; Bob Zeichner, Roscor Corp., reviewed new high-definition accessories for cameras; and Frank Maynard, WKBD-TV/WWJ-TV, informed attendees about the new frequency coordination policies. This was followed by a lively Q & A session in which students from Lansing Community College and Macomb Community College participated. John Filipkowski, from Macomb Community College, a second place winner at the statewide VICA competition, was also introduced. The meeting was followed by a short tour of the video teaching facility.—*Chris Hill, Section Manager*

## Detroit June 2003

Seventeen members and guests of the Detroit Section and SBE Chapter 82 enjoyed a discussion on recent developments in digital audio automation, presented by Gene Novacek, president of Enco Systems.

Novacek began with a demonstration of a direct push-button panel, which interfaces with the Enco digital audio delivery (DAD) system, allowing the user to instantaneously play back any pre-programmed audio clip stored in the DAD library. Recall can be local or remote via serial or network connection, and the multi-colored pushbuttons display changeable legend text and remaining time in the clip. The system is designed to give television audio operators easy access to thousands of audio clips.

Novacek also demonstrated a speech-based indexing and retrieval system for audio clips, which the company calls Phonetica. The system scans and indexes the phonemes in a spoken clip (which can either be stand-alone audio or audio which follows video), allowing a user to search for spoken words based on their sounds. Matching clips are displayed with a confidence factor and are available to be played or edited at the point where the requested word or phrase occurs.

Finally, a discussion on new uses for web-delivered metadata focused on a typical radio station's playlist. One application demonstrated the ability of audio



*Attendees discuss the highlights of NAB at the Detroit Section meeting in April.*

automation to transmit song titles and other station information to web users, who can also elect to receive information and promotional data via cellular short-messaging service.—*Frank Maynard, Membership Chair*

## Hollywood April 2003

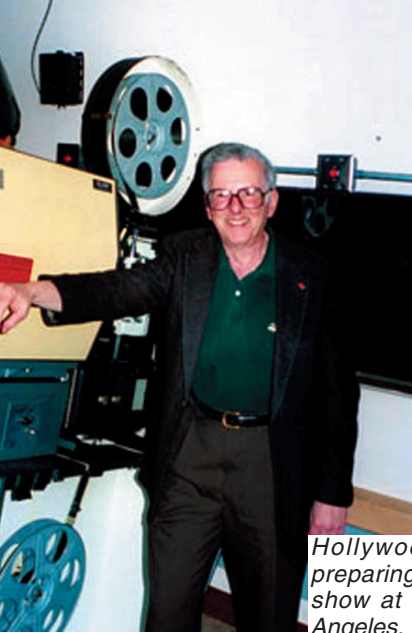
Richard Doherty, Panasonic Hollywood Labs (PHL), explained Blu-Ray disc technology to an enthusiastic audience of SMPTE members and industry technologists. Doherty discussed the role of PHL, which provides research for the technological needs of the entertainment industry. The facility is located on the campus of Universal Pictures



*Richard Doherty explains Blu-Ray disc technology to attendees at the Hollywood meeting in April.*

in Universal City. Doherty explained the progress in the consumer industry toward HDTV viewing capability and the need for a delivery system capable of high-definition video with various interactive options. After establishing the growth pattern of HD acceptance by the consumer industry, he gave the basic physics and technology behind Blu-Ray. He also delivered a detailed, but understandable, tutorial of the differences between Blu-Ray and standard-definition DVD in common use today. How HD capability can be reliably delivered on a media suitable for both professional and consumer use was an important point.

Doherty showed a slide presentation, which was followed by a visual demonstration of compression and image quality, using a DLP SXGA projection system. Mirrored split-screen footage from *The Mummy* was viewed at a variety of compression bit rate levels on a



D-5HD VTR, and the audience was able to compare original and compressed images.

The presentation was followed by a lengthy Q & A session, with topics ranging from content piracy protection to alternative compression and delivery systems.—*David Wiswell, Secretary/Treasurer*

*Hollywood Section Chair Dick May preparing for the annual short subjects show at the Gene Autry Museum, Los Angeles.*

## Hollywood May 2003

For the third consecutive year, the Hollywood Section presented a program on preserved short subjects. Selections ranged from 1933 to 1941, and included the first Popeye cartoon filmed in Technicolor. Entitled "Popeye Meets Sinbad the Sailor," this 15-min subject was printed from the original sequential separation negative by Crest National Film Lab. The other color short was "Carnival of Rhythm," made by Warner Bros. in 1941, filmed in three-strip Technicolor, with lab work by Cinetech.

The black-and-white shorts were copied from nitrate original negatives at the Library of Congress Laboratory in Dayton, OH. They included "Clyde McCoy and His Sugar Blues Orchestra;" "Double Talk," with Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy; "Dave Apollon and His Orchestra;" "Here Comes Flossie," with Shemp Howard and Ben Blue.

The audience of about 70 people thoroughly enjoyed the 80-minute program.—*Richard P. May, Section Chair*

## Napa Valley College April 2003

The ad campaign said "You Gotta Go!" and there we were. Once again SMPTE Student Chapter 11 made the annual sojourn across the Nevada desert to the NAB conference.

During the two-day excursion from April 7 to 8, students journeyed through the aisles of technical innovation to the tune of "I would walk ten thousand miles, then I would walk ten thousand more..." If nothing else could be said for the spectacular displays, there was much to talk about concerning the ample exercise, just to view the latest goods from industry favorites like Sony.

So over the bridge and past the trucks to Sony's house we went, stopping on the way to gawk at Panasonic's



*Scott Barella provides a primer for ASI at the Rocky Mountain meeting in June.*

HD mecca, Pan Am Sat/PSSI's sat map, the blue-suited motion man at the door, Apple's amphitheatre, Avid's posthouse palace, Thomson Grass Valley's cinematic sensation, and back to the SMPTE booth, where at eleven o'clock on April 8, some of the best talent Napa's Telecom department had to offer assembled for a group photo (see *May/June Journal*, p. 155).—*Faye Pilgrim, Secretary*

## Rocky Mountain June 2003

Starz Encore Group hosted an all-day technical conference on June 12, which provided insightful and informative presentations to over 90 attendees. Mike Babbitt, Dolby Laboratories, began with a description of the Dolby E transport stream, the DTV environment, and an acoustic demonstration of the capabilities of "Dial-Norm;" Scott Barella, Burst Group, gave a primer on the ASI signal construct; Matt Klein, Pinnacle Systems, provided a discussion on ASI, HD, and SD signal processing, storing, and playout in video servers; John McClusky, Tandberg Corp., discussed MPEG encoders for HD; and Mark Corl, Triveni Digital, gave an in-depth look at PSIP and the ATSC transmission scheme.

Thanks to Tom Mikkelsen and Starz Encore for hosting the sessions; and to the Burst Group, Pinnacle Systems, Dolby Laboratories, Triveni Digital, and Tandberg Corp. for their financial sponsorship.—*Rome Chelsi, Section Chair*

## San Francisco May 2003

The Section met on May 15 at the Round Table Pizza restaurant in Menlo Park, CA, to hear Candice H. Brown Elliott, founder, chair, and CTO of ClairVoyante Laboratories, Inc., present her work on the "The Art and Science of Pixels." Elliott has numerous patents covering her work in the field of pixel design, placement, and