

John Mason Receives 2005 Ken Mason Award

The recipient of the Inter Society's 2005 Ken Mason Award is none other than Ken's son, John Mason, former SMPTE President and 20-year veteran of Eastman Kodak. What makes the award doubly, if not triply interesting is that the Inter Society was founded by Ken Mason, who was a Kodak VP at the time, and also a former SMPTE President.

The Ken Mason Award is given annually by the Inter Society for the Enhancement of Theatrical Presentation, which, since its inception in 1978, has been a place for trade organizations to discuss issues and tackle problems confronting the industry. At the time of its inception, the group consisted of 5 charter member trade organizations, Kodak, and Dolby. Today, the Inter-Society numbers 41 corporate, trade organization, and individual members, and continues to flourish.

"John Mason has been one of our hardest working and dedicated Past Presidents, and is most deserving of this honor," said Inter Society Executive Director Terri Westhafer. "Our heartfelt thanks and sincere congratulations go to John!"

John Mason is Director of Kodak's Student Film Program. He is a former President of both the Inter-Society and SMPTE, and is currently the President of the SMPTE Foundation, a strategic, long-range structure formed to allow SMPTE to focus on the immediate and near-term state of motion imaging, so that the Foundation can focus on the long-term investment in the art and science of motion imaging.

Mason is the industry vice-president of the University Film and Video Foundation (UFVF) and has served on the Boards of Directors of the International Documentary Association (IDA), the Ft.

Lauderdale International Film Festival, and Cine. He is a member of the Dean's Advisory Board at UCLA and maintains a long-standing associate membership in the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC).

Telesat Selected as Global Host for HDTV Codec Inter Testing

Telesat has been selected by the World Broadcasting Union's International Satellite Operations Group (WBU-ISOG) as the host site for critical tests to ensure the global interoperability of codecs used for high-definition television (HDTV) video transmissions. Telesat will work with WBU-ISOG representatives in partnership with Communication Research Centre Canada (CRC) and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC).

The tests will involve trials to investigate the interoperability of HDTV codecs—the technology used for the compression and decompression of HDTV signals. The high-quality codecs operate at rates between 20 and 100 Mbits/sec, and are used nationally and internationally for satellite links between studios and other venues.

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ITU Standard Brings Interworking to Critical Networking Components

A new standard approved by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) provides interworking between two dominant technologies in next generation networks (NGN). Ethernet and MPLS (multiprotocol label switching) are critical components of the evolving broadband architecture. The standard—ITU-T Recommendation Y.1415—is expected to help further Ethernet's push towards becoming a carrier class service delivery technology, and aid MPLS' move towards

playing a bigger role in NGN.

The ability to offer Ethernet services means that carriers are able to offer considerably improved flexibility to customers through a much simpler and lower cost interface. It allows users to specify exactly how much bandwidth they want between the 10 Mbit/sec and 1 Gbit/sec range currently offered. MPLS will add the quality of service (QoS) requirements that service providers demand to the Ethernet package. The standard also provides reduced operation complexity and improved scalability for carriers.

Request for Information on Sources of Lip Sync Errors, Measurement, and Correction

There is an increasing awareness, both in broadcasting engineering circles and in the viewing audience, that audio-video synchronization errors in broadcasting, usually seen as problems with lip-sync, are occurring more frequently than they used to, and often with greater magnitude. The Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers S22 Committee on Television Systems Technology has formed an Ad Hoc Group on Lip Sync Issues to review all aspects of this problem and make recommendations for solutions.

SMPTE is therefore issuing this Request for Information from interested companies or individuals, particularly relating to the following areas:

- Sources of differential audio-video delay in television production, post-production, and distribution
- Audio-video delay issues through professional MPEG encoding and decoding systems
- Differential audio-video delay arising in consumer receiver, decoding, and display devices
- Out-of-service methods of measuring differential audio-video delay
- In-service (during program) methods of measuring differential audio-video delay
- Devices for correcting differential audio-video delay at different points in the broadcast chain

It is noted that there is an ATSC Implementation Subcommittee Finding: "Relative Timing of Sound and Vision for Broadcast Operations" (see www.atsc.org/standards/is_191.pdf). There is also an ITU recommendation: ITU-R BT.1359-1, "Relative Timing of Sound and Vision for Broadcasting" (available from www.itu.int/publications/bookshop/index.html). These references are provided for information only, and it is noted that some broadcasters have adopted target tolerances for synchronization errors that are smaller than those indicated by the ATSC and ITU.

SMPTE is particularly interested in hearing from manufacturers with practical solutions or proposals for measurement and correction of audio-video synchronization errors, and those willing to participate in development of related standards. Responses should be sent in the first instance, and as soon as possible, to the ad hoc group chair, Graham Jones of NAB at:

E-mail: gjones@nab.org

Tel: 202-429 5345

Mail: NAB, 1771 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036



SMPTE Offers Joint Membership with BKSTS

SMPTE announces that it will be offering joint membership with the British Kinematograph Sound and Television Society (BKSTS) to members of both organizations.

As a way of strengthening ties of shared aims between the two organizations, the two Societies will offer a Joint BKSTS/SMPTE membership package to their individual members, conferring all applying benefits to those members who take advantage of the dual membership program. This joint package will offer a 15% discount on the combined membership dues of both organizations.

“Highlighting the commonalities between BKSTS and SMPTE,” says Edward Hobson, SMPTE’s President, “and forging a stronger relationship between the two organizations, the offer to members of both Societies of a joint membership makes a lot of sense.”

The SMPTE/BKSTS Joint Membership program is available on both sides of the Atlantic, with members

who join BKSTS being offered SMPTE membership, and vice-versa. Those who want to take advantage of the Joint Membership will be able to do so when becoming members of either Society, or renewing their current membership.

“The Societies are very complementary in what they do,” says Lawrence Read, uniquely qualified to comment on the subject as he sits on SMPTE’s Board of Governors and is the BKSTS’ Past President. “We also already have an Agreement of Cooperation between the two organizations, covering the selling of merchandise, access to conferences and exhibitions, and the reproduction of published articles in each others journals.”

Membership information about both organizations can be found on their websites at www.smpte.org, and www.bksts.com. To apply for SMPTE/BKSTS Joint Membership right now, please see the SMPTE Membership Application on page 172.

Historical Search

There are many long-standing members in the motion picture and television industries who have yet to document their important contributions to our industry. This is an appeal to identify these members and request that they place their work on record with the Society. These “old-timers” and “pioneers” need to be encouraged to choose one of several methods to contribute to the historical records of the Society. One method to accomplish this is to be interviewed in front of a video or motion picture camera or audio recording device.

The presentation can be located in the person’s home, a video or film studio, before a local SMPTE Section, at a national conference or any other suitable venue. Another means is to submit a paper to the SMPTE Archival Papers and Historical Committee for placement in the *Journal*. The Committee is asking SMPTE members for help in identifying old-timers and pioneers and other long-standing members who have contributed to the technology and development of our industries. Each person so identified will be contacted by committee members to explore means by which they can share the historical aspects of their expertise with the SMPTE membership. All presentations, in whatever form, will be placed in the SMPTE Archives. We will try to enlist the SMPTE Section closest to the expert person’s venue for help with this project, especially for on-camera interviews.

Please submit your referrals to Ed Schuller, Chair, Archival Papers and Historical Committee, by phone or fax, to (516) 676-3895 or via e-mail to seaviews@att.net.