

# Section Meetings

## Hollywood June 2005

With nearly 200 attendees, the meeting on June 14 was held at the Linwood Dunn Theater of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Ralph Sargent, Film Technology Co., Inc., and Richard May, Warner Bros., presented the program entitled, "Progress in Film Preservation." Sargent began with a film made for the SMPTE Film Conference held at Warner Bros.' Steven Ross Theater in 1999, entitled *Moving Images for the Future*. This served as a document of what was then current in photochemical and digital film restoration procedures, as well as a launching pad for the question, "What's changed in six years?"

In spite of the common public perception to the contrary, film is still the dominant archival medium for moving images, and 90% to 95% of headend archival/restoration work is performed in the photochemical domain. Sargent gave the reasons why this is the case: The time-proven physical robustness of the medium and the essential standards laid down by the founders of the SMPE, the forerunner of SMPTE; processes that have been given greater emphasis since 1999 and before were enumerated; the thoroughness of defect reporting and physical analysis of film originals to be used for element selection and restoration and that information's incorporation into the film's historical record (metadata); mechanical and operational printing equipment refinements; the use of a combination of very new and very old printing equipment to achieve specific results; and finally, the extensive use of telecine examination of newly produced film elements for flaw detection and correction. A benefit of telecine use is also the creation of 1-lite video elements for use during sound restoration.

John Polito, Audio Mechanics, then discussed the procedures involved in digital sound restoration. Polito reiterated the importance of a solid analysis of available sound elements for a production, followed by a discussion of the care that must be taken when making the transfer of selected elements to the digital domain. Various examples were played, which demonstrated the remarkable improvements that could be made when the work was performed by persons having aesthetic and technical knowledge of sound recording techniques appropriate to a given film's era. Finally, delivery media and their archiving were discussed with a heavy emphasis on the importance of saving original elements for the future.

Paul Chapman, Fotokem Industries, followed with a concise talk on various applications of digital scanning, manipulation, and recording-out techniques for restoration and archival applications. He discussed both the strengths and

weakness of digital treatments, as well as the somewhat "wild west" nature of various noninterchangeable data schemes currently in use. Chapman decried the short-term nature of current data software, storage devices, and media, and he also emphasized the need to preserve and protect a film's original elements.

Ralph Sargent returned to the podium to wrap up the discussions by reviewing why the SMPE/SMPTE was founded and the relevant elements of its bylaws, which made film the worldwide mechanism for top-quality moving-image interchange that it has been for the past 112 years. Sargent suggested that it was time for the digital world to adopt a similar approach for the digital archival medium, software, and equipment of the future.

The balance of the program was hosted by Ralph Sargent (for Grover Crisp, Sony Pictures Entertainment), Richard May (Warner Bros.), Barry Allen (Paramount), and Shawn Belston (20th Century Fox). Various clips were shown, which illustrated before-and-after photochemical and/or digital restorations, as well as comparison sequences using different film manufacturers' product. Silent clips were accompanied on the piano by Alan Stark, Film Technology Co., Inc. The program was brought to a rousing conclusion with the clip *June is Bustin' Out All Over*, from a digitally restored print of *Carousel*. Lively discussion followed.

—Ralph Sargent, Section Manager

## Hong Kong June 2005

Invited for the second time to set up a publicity booth at the Broadcast Asia 2005, the SMPTE Hong Kong Section took part in this important industry event for all manufacturers, researchers, developers, suppliers, market promoters, traders, engineers, and practitioners in television and sound broadcasting, digital and film media, production system integration, and consulting businesses.

This year's event was held on June 14 to 17 at the Singapore Expo Centre, which had six huge exposition halls filled with booths and counters of various sizes. It was estimated that nearly 60,000 visitors were attracted to the exhibition, seminars, and workshops.



(L-R) Section Managers Tony Lam, Percy Fung, and visitors from Hong Kong.



Tony Lam (wearing white shirt in the middle) attended the Director's Luncheon.

## San Francisco May 2005

Thirty-two people attended the Section meeting on May 19, hosted by Sportvision at their offices in Mountain View, CA. Ken Milnes, senior-vice president of engineering, along with several Sportvision engineers, discussed and demonstrated Sportvision technology providing virtual graphics effects for live sports. Sportvision was founded in 1998 to develop enhancements for live sports broadcasts, starting with the FoxTrax "glowing" hockey puck, which led to the yellow first-down line for

SMPTE's publicity booth, located next to those of IEEE, BIRTV, and IBC, was manned by Section Manager Tony Lam, the official representative attending the Exhibition. He was later joined by SMPTE Asia Pacific Governor K. L. Lam. During the exhibition, approximately 200 visitors stopped by the booth to make inquiries. The majority were from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, India, Taiwan, and China, with a few from Europe and North America. Most wanted to know about the mission and vision of SMPTE, and the services that it provides to members. About 120 membership forms were distributed. Some members and friends from the Hong Kong Section showed their support to the Section's publicity effort by visiting the SMPTE booth.

Tony Lam represented SMPTE on behalf of K. L. Lam, who had to leave early because of a prior engagement at the Director's Luncheon held on June 15. Directors of the organizing committee, together with delegates from all overseas partners of the event organizer, were given a warm welcome at the VIP Lounge in the Expo Hall by the chief executive of the Singapore Exhibition Services Pte Ltd. It was a very pleasant social gathering and a good networking platform for professionals in related fields to get to know each other and discuss possible collaborations.

Subsequent to the successful partnership experience in the last two years, the event organizer has already invited the Section to be one of the partners in Broadcast Asia 2006.

—Raymond Lai, Secretary/Treasurer

## Ohio June 2005

The Section meeting on June 14 was held in Cleveland at the studios of WKYC-TV/DT, as a joint effort with the local SBE Chapter 70. Guest speaker David Strachan, director of sales for Evertz Corp., gave attendees an overview of Evertz' new product lines. This included a live demonstration of the company's MVP unit, a multi-image display, and signal monitoring system capable of auto-sensing HD, SD, and analog signal formats. It can display an audio bar graph from either discrete or embedded audio sources and has many other monitoring capabilities and alarm settings. The meeting was followed by a tour of the ultramodern WKYC-TV/DT plant.

—Gene L. Batey, Secretary/Treasurer

NFL and college football, and effects for NASCAR, Major League Baseball, PGA (golf), NBA (basketball), MLS (soccer), and PBA (bowling).

Ever watch a football game on television and wonder how they get that yellow first-down line on the field? How does it stay in the same place on the field as the camera moves? Why is the line visible on the field, but not on the players? Ken Milnes explained these and other Sportvision technologies. His demonstrations included Pass Track for ESPN Sunday Night Football; K-Zone, and other effects for baseball; Virtual Caddy for golf; and effects for NASCAR, including tracking cars and providing live updates of race status on the internet. Topics included camera instrumentation and viewing geometry, image processing, keying, remote sensing, video insertion, and integration of workflow with live broadcasts.

Sportvision engineers demonstrated how the yellow first-down line is inserted in television broadcasts. Pan, tilt, zoom data is collected in near-realtime from the camera and transmitted to the Sportvision remote truck. The data provides full "knowledge" to the Sportvision system of the location and orientation of the football field in 3-D space, as well as what portion of the field the camera is viewing at any given moment. A Sportvision operator places the yellow line on the field each time the ball is spotted by a referee for a new first down. The Sportvision system then keeps the line in place within the 3-D space as the camera pans, tilts, and zooms during the game.

In addition to placing and maintaining the location of the line, the keying technology for drawing the line only on the field and not on the players or referees was also demonstrated. Sportvision has a quarter-sized football field painted on the floor of its lab, for use in testing. Attendees were able to stand on the "field" and see, on a large monitor, the line under their feet. The process of selecting which colors in the video to draw over was demonstrated.

Other Sportvision technologies were also discussed, including the challenges of deploying the glowing hockey puck when the company first started. Attendees will enjoy new popularity at parties as they explain how they get that yellow line on the football field!

—Kellie McKeown, Section Manager



Washington, D.C., Section Chair Karl Kuhn (c) and Secretary/Treasurer James Snyder (l) with Walt Banfield of Broadwing Media Services.

## Washington, D.C. June 2005

The Section meeting on June 16 was held at the Television Operations Center of Broadwing Media Services in Columbia, Maryland, where 22 SMPTE members and guests received an interesting presentation by Walt Banfield, director of media architecture for Broadwing. Banfield was introduced by newly-elected Section Chair Karl Kuhn, Tektronix, who also introduced the Section's new Secretary/Treasurer James Snyder, Intelsat, and the newly elected managers Thomas Hackett, CEI; David Weinberg, Tobias Audio; and Eric Wenocur, Lab Tech Systems.

Banfield described the arrangements for feeding video, audio, and data over fiber circuits owned by Broadwing, between 19 cities in the U.S., with a link to Intelsat in Washington, D.C., for international destinations. He explained the arrangements for Dynamic Synchronous Transfer Mode (DTM) communications technology, with various advantages compared to ATM, including the ability to handle both SDI, uncompressed and ASI compressed, standard-definition and high-definition signals at data rates up to 270 Mbits/sec over a fully digital transmission network, either point-to-point or point-to-multipoint. Layer 2 TDM-based architecture provides 100% quality-of-service with no cells, packets, or jitter and provides service interfaces for video and Ethernet, up to 1 Gbit/sec, and T1 on the same local access equipment. Banfield also covered some of the background on the development of the Broadwing network and plans for the future.

The presentation was followed by a tour of the technical operations center, which was conducted by Dan Hogan, who was responsible for much of the center's implementation. Many thanks are extended to Broadwing for their hospitality and refreshments.

—Graham Jones, Section Manager/Program Chair

## SMPTE Australia 2005 Conference & Exhibition July 19-21, 2005

The SMPTE Australia Section's Conference & Exhibition was once again a great success. The event was held again at the Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre in Darling Harbour—a world-class venue situated on the water's edge and in close proximity to the city.

The title of this year's conference was "Working Smarter—Better Technology, Better Business," referring to the broadcast industry's focus on the economics of making informed buying decisions in a highly-competitive global market. This three-day event not only included many sessions geared to a better understanding of the symbiosis between technology and business, but an exhibit hall with well over a hundred exhibitors, with products reflecting the latest in motion imaging technologies and services.



Australia Section Chair John Maizels (l) with SMPTE President Edward Hobson at the Australia Section's Conference & Exhibition in Sydney.



John Maizels (far left) and Ed Hobson (far right) greet students of the media degree courses at Charles Sturt University, located in Wagga Wagga, Australia.