



Message from the President

Robert B. Kisor

As I embark on my two-year term as SMPTE President, I think back on the events of last year and note the significant milestones reached by the Society in engineering standards, financial security, and Headquarters administration. As I focus on the future, I am energized by the challenge of continuing those trends while expanding our base of international membership and participation.

Last year's most significant event for the Society was the hiring of a new Executive Director, Kimberly Maki. Kimberly's transition into the job was almost instantaneous. In her first week, she participated in board meetings, committee meetings, and the Fall conference, meeting as many members and sponsors as possible. Another noteworthy development of last year was that the effect of our 2004 to 2005 cost controls and financial policies combined with the benefit of our IBC partnership led to the best financial results in many years. Engineering committees also continued to produce significant work with the publication of a core of MXF standards and 13 digital cinema standards that were accepted by ISO for international standardization.

The 2006 conferences continued to provide high-quality content. The year started with our second mutually successful joint conference with the Video Services Forum. Next, the NAB Digital Cinema Summit, jointly developed with the Entertainment Technology Center (ETC), was standing-room only. Then we joined with BKSTS to produce a successful HDTV seminar in London. The sessions produced for IBC were some of the best at the show. The Fall Conference included real demonstrations of 3-D technology, 3-D exhibition, and a day-long seminar on the history of SMP(T)E and motion picture technology that was both entertaining and educational.

This year will open with our third joint conference with VSF—the SMPTE Digital Content Connection & VSF Vidtrans 2007 Joint Conference, in Orlando, January 21-24. The six sessions and two mini-tutorials will cover all aspects of IPTV. We will also again co-produce the two-day Digital Cinema Summit at NAB with the ETC. This year will feature the bi-annual Australian SMPTE conference at Sydney's Darling Harbour, July 17-20, and we will again produce session content for IBC. The year will be capped off with the Fall Conference in New York, October, 24-27 at the Marriott Brooklyn Bridge, a new venue in a revitalized, exciting location.

Members will continue to see exciting developments from the Engineering committees. Work on new compression codecs, VC-2 and VC-3 has begun; the work of completing MXF standards continues; and DC28 will complete more of the standards in the digital cinema puzzle—just to name a few of the developments you can expect.

Finally, in 2007 we will continue to communicate the message that SMPTE is an organization with wide-ranging international representation, creating standards that are essential for the international exchange of content. The emphasis will be that we are a Society of individuals from 61 countries that has, for 90 years, created virtually all of the standards that are the bases for the international exchange of motion pictures, television, and other forms of image and sound content. The relevance of these standards is confirmed repeatedly by their formal, verbatim adoption as international standards by both ISO and ITU. We will continue to communicate the message that, although our standards may not have an international standards icon, they are of equal relevance and importance.