

Section Meetings

Atlanta July 2016

The July Section meeting, which was presented by Rohit Sharma from Southern Eye Specialists, P.C., was titled “The Need for Blue Light Protection.” Sharma began by introducing a marriage: Good Video and Good Vision. He remarked on the similarity of the two industries. Lenses (vision-assisting), like today’s video, is sharper than ever before and continues to improve. Unfortunately, medical research has revealed a serious threat to long-term vision, which comes from a range of wavelengths near the end of the visible blue spectrum. Ironically, blue light at 470 μm and above is advantageous. These wavelengths help regulate the circadian rhythm of sleep, boost alertness, elevate moods, and minimize depression. In addition, they also help regulate and maintain memory, as well as improve cognitive functions.

The range of “bad” blue light is from 400 to 460 μm . These frequencies suppress the brain’s ability to produce melatonin, which, in turn, disrupts the circadian rhythm of sleep, increases the risk of depression, and causes “digital eye strain” (blurred vision, dry eyes, headaches, and neck and back pain). These frequencies also increase the risk for certain cancers and can cause permanent eye damage by damaging retinal cells. They can also cause premature age-related vision loss similar to that caused by macular degeneration. The list of devices that produce bad blue light is on the rise. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) and light-emitting diode (LED) lights, tablets, smartphones, monitors, and television sets all produce bad blue light, and the exposure of these sources to the general population is on the rise. Sharma offered solutions, some of which are now available; others are being developed and



Guest speaker Rohit Sharma (standing) addresses attendees at the Atlanta Section meeting in July.

will be available in the next few years. He cautioned that not all “solutions” currently offered perform as advertised.

—Richard Perin
Secretary/Treasurer

Washington, D.C. May 2016

The Washington, D.C., SMPTE Section once again hosted its popular “Bits By The Bay” (BBTB) Technical Conference, and once again, the two-day (25–26 May) event attracted a sell-out crowd of 157.

This year’s BBTB featured some two dozen presentations covering timely topics, such as transitioning to an all-IP broadcast environment, over-the-top delivery, cloud workflows, the U.S. spectrum auction, ATSC 3.0, consumer A/V interfaces, and more. Speakers at this year’s event included experts Wes Simpson, Telestream’s Matthew Rehrer, Sinclair Broadcast Group’s Lou Libin, Sony’s Hugo Gaggioni, Grass Valley’s Chuck Meyer, and SAM’s John Shike.

The 2016 BBTB also featured an address by SMPTE’s Executive Director, Barbara Lange, who traveled from the White Plains, New York, headquarters to help celebrate

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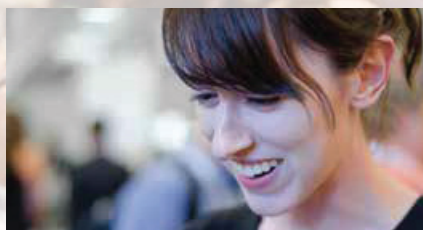
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SMPTE Executive Director Barbara Lange offered introductory remarks as the 2016 BBTB Technical Conference got under way.




BBTB attendees at the sell-out event.




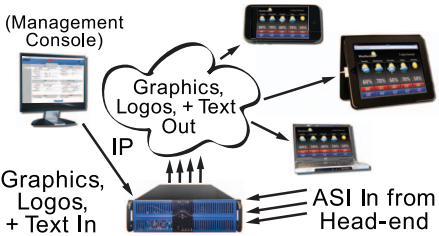
both the success of the regional conference and the 100th anniversary of the Society. SMPTE's Director of Education, Joel Welch, also made the journey to this small town on Maryland's Chesapeake Bay to participate in activities.

Special Events This Year

As always, BBTB conference activities include a number of events geared for networking and socializing among attendees, and in commemoration of our organization's



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Conference co-chairs Rick Singer (L) and Peter Wharton (R) join Barbara Lange on stage in preparation for a champagne toast to SMPTE's 100th birthday.



Gilbert Felix demonstrates the operation of Enco's automated captioning technology to attendees at the June Section meeting.

centennial, this year's BBTB featured a centennial cocktail reception, a special centennial gala dinner, and a champagne toast with Barbara Lange officiating. The technical conference also featured a special "Demo Zone," where new technologies were demonstrated by a number of manufacturers. Russ Hodge from 3 Roads Communications was also on hand during the conference to record recollections of some of the attendees as

part of SMPTE's ongoing centennial year oral history program.

The conference is entirely organized by Washington, D.C., Section members and volunteers, and despite its distance from Washington (about 40 miles) and a lack of public transportation, there has never been trouble in filling the meeting room of the host hotel and restaurant to capacity, with attendees journeying from as far away as New York and Atlanta to catch up on the latest developments in the world of television technology. The "Bits By The Bay" name was bestowed on the conference by the mayor of this small (5800) resort town, Bruce Wahl, who himself is a SMPTE member and has been a part of the program for a number of years.

The Washington, D.C., Section extends special thanks to the following sponsors who helped make this year's BBTB possible: Arista; Avid; Broadstream; Calrec; Clear-Com; Communications Engineering, Inc. (CEI); Comrex; Dejero; Digital Video Group; Diversified; Eagle Hill; Elemental; Ericsson; Evertz; Focusrite; Grass Valley; Harmonic; IHSE; Imagine Communications; Lawo; Legrand; Lienau AV Associates; LTN Global Communications; Mastech; PBS; Quantum; Snell Advanced Media (SAM); Sony; Tedral; Tektronix; Telestream; and Utah Scientific.

—James E. O'Neal
Section Manager



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Washington, D.C. June 2016

The Washington, D.C., Section's last meeting prior to observing a break for the summer months featured a presentation on automated captioning of live television productions by Gilbert Felix of Enco.

The June 2016 meeting was held in downtown Washington at the National Association of Broadcasters' headquarters and began at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments and time for networking and socializing among attendees.

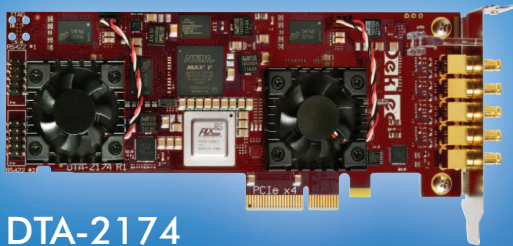
After a short business meeting, Section Chair Tom Hackett introduced the guest speaker, who began his presentation by describing the ever-increasing demand for closed captioning of video content to satisfy ADA requirements. He observed that this has been a complex and expensive process for broadcasters and others (e.g., organizers of large meetings and conferences) needing live captioning, generally involving sending program audio to an out-of-house captioning business where operators listen to the audio and manually

transcribe it into text files. These data are then returned to the television operation or conference center and encoded into captioning that is made available for the hearing impaired.

Felix explained that a product from his company, Enco, is able to provide such captioning without human intervention by utilizing voice recognition technology. He observed that Enco offered its first such product in 2006 and has been refining and expanding operational capabilities ever since, with the latest version accommodating about 16 languages and including a profanity filter to prevent stations from airing a text version of non-broadcast-worthy dialog. He noted that this automated technology is now being used by a number of live news and weather operations, shopping networks, originators of city council and other governmental meetings, and sports channels. Following his description of the captioning technology, Felix offered a demonstration of the system and fielded question from the attendees.

—James E. O'Neal
Section Manager

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