

## Washington, D.C. September 2018

**T**he Washington, D.C., Section continued a tradition of sorts by conducting its September meeting jointly with the George Mason University (GMU) Student Section. The program, which took place on 20 September, featured a look at some of the long history of video production switchers and digital video effects generation. The session was conducted at the school's Fairfax, Va., campus television facility and got under way at 7:00 p.m. with refreshments and a time for networking among attendees.

In the absence of the Section chair, Greg Smalfelt, who serves as the Section's outreach committee chair and liaison to the GMU Student Section, opened the proceedings by describing how SMPTE came into being and the benefits that come with membership in the organization. He also described the present-day functions and goals of the SMPTE organization, which include educational opportunities, with a membership composed of engineers, as well as content creators and others in the entertainment industry.

Smalfelt then presided over a short business meeting, which included the announcement of television job possibilities in Washington, D.C., and then

introduced the Section's program chair, Megan Wagoner, who described some of the future activities planned for the Section.

Next, Smalfelt introduced Mark Sharp and Tedd Tramaloni from Ross Video who provided the evening's program, "Production Switchers." The twosome tag teamed to trace video production switcher technology, innovations, and feature sets from the 1970s to the present, emphasizing the complexity of early production control equipment setups and interconnections and how this has been greatly simplified over the past



Greg Smalfelt.

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Section members and guests received a “show and tell” tour of a modern TV production truck following the formal meeting.

several decades by the integration of multiple functions into a single—and much more economical—smaller package.

A short question and answer session followed the presentation. Afterwards, the group was invited to tour a state-of-the-art remote video production vehicle that was parked outside of the school’s television studio building.

—James E. O’Neal,  
Section Manager

**SMPTE**

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