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President's Message

Ralph Hogan, BTS President



The 2019 NAB Show is now in the history books. There was quite a bit going on this year, but drones were noticeably absent. Of course, there were a few displays, but nothing compared to the last two or three years. ATSC 3.0 was the buzz, but unfortunately ATSC 3.0 tuners were nowhere to be found on the show floor. At least I did not see anything that

is currently available in the United States. Maybe we will have something announced from the major TV manufacturers at CES 2020. Several manufacturers had private showings of prototype tuners in various hotels around Las Vegas.

I had the pleasure to address four participants in the National Association of Broadcasters Educational Foundation now (National Association of Broadcasters Leadership Foundation) Technology Apprenticeship Program (TAP) and five participants in the PILOT Technology Internship Grant (TIG) program. The Technology Apprenticeship Program (TAP) is a six-month program for recent college grads with an interest in broadcast technology/engineering. The program gives students a one-of-a-kind educational experience through paid, hands-on training at a radio or television station and exposure to the latest technology and advances in the industry. More information can be found at <http://www.nabef.org/tap/>. The NAB PILOT internship program is new this year. It places scholarship winners into operating broadcast facilities for eight weeks to work alongside the engineering team and experience firsthand what broadcast engineering is about. The scholarship covers the salary of the individual and the station provides the training.

The TAP and TIG participants get a deep dive into broadcasting by attending the NAB Show during their training. They arrive on Friday before the show and are fully immersed from Saturday morning until they leave on the following Wednesday. They hear from industry leaders, attend sessions at the Broadcast Engineering and IT Conference (BEITC), tour a local broadcast station, have a quick "broadcast technology 101" tutorial taught by Cavell, Mertz and Associates, attend several VIP receptions with the opportunity to network with industry leaders, and learn about some of the latest advances in broadcasting. This is an invaluable opportunity for students just getting out of school. All of the participants compete to be part of the annual

TAP program, and once selected, they spend a year learning about leadership and engineering. The placement of these young graduates has been low. The industry should take note that these are some of the best and brightest young professionals who are enthusiastic and will form the next generation of broadcasters. There are many unfilled positions at stations and we all hear that no one is applying. I would challenge every hiring manager to create a program where entry level programs are created to encourage these young people to apply and have an opportunity to become broadcast professionals.

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From The Editor

The 2019 NAB Show, expanding our coverage, and the BMSB

By James E. O'Neal, Editor-in-Chief,
BTS Life Member



I've just returned from a whirlwind week in Las Vegas at this year's NAB Show. As usual, it was "all stops out," and just like everyone else who attended, I'm still nursing sore feet and trying to overcome some serious sleep deprivation. However, as anyone who has ever attended this very important showing of new technology and presentation of new ideas in the broad-

casting arena, this is the "nature of the beast," and just another facet of the event that—over the years—you associate with the NAB Show. (My first show was in 1977, and the take-home feelings of both exhilaration and bodily fatigue are all part of this wonderful and very special coming together of people and technology each spring.)

It was very rewarding to see so many BTS people involved with the 2019 NAB Show, not only those who staffed booths, but especially those Society members who went the extra mile to assist in the educational portion of the show with some very timely and informative presentations. I also have to offer special commendations to those who were recognized for their contributions to broadcast engineering in the form of some impressive awards. Topping the list in this latter category were the husband and wife team of Gary and Cindy Cavell, who, respectively, received the 2019 NAB Radio Engineering Achievement Award and 2019 NAB Television Engineering Achievement Award. Congratulations Gary and Cindy; well earned and well deserved!

Aside from mingling with all of the wonderful people who help to make the NAB Show what it is, what were some of the other take-aways at this year's event? In my opinion, topping the list would be the expanding presence of ATSC 3.0. It seemed as if everywhere I turned there was a reminder about our new DTV transmission standard. This ranged from a full-day Saturday off-site presentation on the Physical Layer that was organized by the BTS, numerous BEITC presentations on various aspects of 3.0, several press conferences with news about ATSC 3.0 rollouts and related information, and a very visible physical presence in the exhibit halls in the form of showings of 3.0 gear in manufacturer's booths, a large information center in the Central Hall concourse, and an even larger presentation stage in the North hall. If you

had any doubts about the arrival of this new era of television broadcasting, the 2019 NAB Show went a long way towards dispelling them. Also, if you didn't make it to this year's show, you missed out on a lot!

Even though the eyes of the world's broadcasters were focused on Las Vegas during April 6-11; broadcast-related news is being made in other parts of the world too. One such event taking place a few weeks prior to the NAB Show was the 2019 DVB World conference that was held this year in Dublin, Ireland. In an effort to make our **Broadcast Technology** publication more global, your editor was there to provide in-depth reporting about the event, making this the first time we've done so. Look for expanded coverage of other industry events too in the months ahead. Also, with this issue of BT, we're launching a new international radio column which will feature news about the DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) digital radio broadcasting technology in use in many parts of the world. This has happened through the efforts of BTS member Peter Siebert, who is the head of technology at the DVB (Digital Video Broadcasting) organization. We've received criticism in the past for publishing more television-related articles than radio, and I've been trying to better balance the situation, but up until now, no one has stepped up to the plate to help make this happen. I would love to publish even more content from the radio community; so if you have suggestions, or would like to contribute a regular radio-related column, please contact me.

Thank you Peter for reaching out to the DRM organization on our behalf, and thanks to everyone else who contributed to this issue of **Broadcast Technology**.

I would like to remind our members about the upcoming June 5-7 IEEE International Symposium on Broadband Multimedia Systems and Broadcasting (BMSB), which will be held this year on Jeju Island, Korea. I've attended and covered a number of these annual events, and they are very worthwhile and productive. I'm certain that this year's conference will be no exception, so if you haven't made your plans to attend you need to do so now, as the first week of June will be upon us before you know it. Full conference details are available at <https://www.bmsb2019.org/main.do>.

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