Cal Poly Hosts Graphic Arts Educators Conference

by: Malcolm Keif

Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo, Calif. hosted the International Graphic Arts Education Association (IGAEA) annual conference this summer, bringing together more than 80 educators to network, learn about the latest trends in graphic communications education and generally upgrade their skills. The conference took place over five days from July 30 to August 3, 2006 and included a number of general sessions as well as pre-press, press, and digital media breakout sessions. The general sessions were conducted by author David Blatner, Adobe Principal Scientist Jim King, and Sappi’s Daniel Dejan.

Cal Poly professor Malcolm Keif conducted a hands-on session on digital platemaking for flexography. Malcolm demonstrated flexo workflows using Esko’s Scope workflow. He discussed various plating technologies, from analog plating to inkjet and carbon mask plates, to direct laser ablation. Plates were processed using Dupont’s Cyrel FAST system. Each attendee was provided handouts and a set of preprocessed and processed carbon mask plates made on an Esko CDI Spark.

Bettylyn Krafft, Director of the Phoenix Challenge attended the IGAEA conference. Krafft commented, “It was a great opportunity to connect with educators who teach flexography, as well as those who are just getting into flexo. It was truly a great chance to reach those outside of the Phoenix Challenge network.”

The International Graphic Arts Education Association is the leading organization devoted to graphic communication education and is comprised of over 450 educator and corporate members. In addition to the annual conference, the organization hosts regional conferences, publishes a scholarly journal and various other publications throughout the year. The next IGAEA conference will be held July 22-26, 2007 at Rochester Institute of Technology. For more information about IGAEA, visit www.igaea.org.

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