

Production Framing Seminars Held in Las Vegas

The Commercial Framing Series at the National Conference in Las Vegas in late January drew an enthusiastic response from production framers from across the U.S. and abroad.

The three-part series was highlighted by Production Efficiency: Creating a State of the Art Facility, a full-day seminar led by Jim Parrie, Ph.D., CPF, who owns Millennial Technologies & Consulting International, a consulting firm to high volume framers, retail chains, and manufacturers throughout the world.

A fully functioning production cell in the classroom allowed attendees to study real world examples and ask questions about specific situations, theories, systems, and equipment.

The lecture included an analysis of lean manufacturing, just-in-time production, and workflow analysis. The effects of software and automation on production efficiency was also covered, as was ways to achieve good production flow when manufacturing for multiple markets or product lines and how to assess choke points, flow blockages, and waste reduction.

Staffing issues regarding manufacturing cells and cross-training were also covered among ideas that can help shed hundreds of man-hours from payroll, increase quality, and provide for a happier staff.

“It was a long course and very well organized, therefore very effective,” says

Chloe Cannon of A Gallery Frames, Inc., in Salt Lake City, UT. “The instruction was extremely thorough and the information was universal, so it could apply to large or small scale establishments.”

Production Equipment: An Inside Look focused on the exploration of the latest equipment used in cutting and joining operations by production framers.

■ The use of advanced technology in cutting and joining with Cassese equipment, including new saws and the different levels of automation being used

today, was covered by Clay Simpson of Active Sales.

■ Justin Convey of ITW AMP covered such items as how to use the proper V-nails for specific mouldings and how to achieve tight miters as well as a memory program multi-channel underpinner that uses five different-sized nails.

■ Robert and Eric Pistorius of Pistorius Machine Co. discussed how to understand equipment needs and implement the latest cutting and joining technology, including features of state-of-the-art saws and underpinners.

Production Methods: Practical Solutions offered ideas on how to use technology, procedures, and supplies to boost a production facility's bottom line.

■ Chris Heffter of Wizard covered the use of CMCs in a “hub and spoke” centralized fulfillment operation and how to integrate CMCs into production floor layouts and equipment networking. Mike Anglesey of Eclipse covered efficient mat cutting systems for production framers, including cutting large orders and production efficiency procedures.

■ Aimee Eichert of Art Materials Service presented ways to improve productivity through workstation design. She detailed how setting up well-designed workstations for

production framing allows optimum materials processing, reduces fatigue, and protects tools.

■ Joe Nevers and Jeff King of SpecialtySoft presented a step-by-step plan for using software to take a production framing operation to the next level. They covered such details as what metrics need to

be in place for a volume framer to calculate profitability and what details are needed before growing a business.

■ Ken Levitt of Frameware explored different types of hanging devices and solutions used in production framing, including those suited to each type of moulding. He also presented creative solutions for ordering and using hangers and wire and security hardware.

“In many ways this series reassured me that our factory is headed in the right direction to achieve maximum production levels,” says Fred Schneider of County Frame Corporation, Holtsville, NY. ■



Jim Parrie covered a full range of issues pertaining to production framing efficiency and used a functioning production cell in the classroom to illustrate many of his points.