



Richard Sanders
1951–2009

On August 3 the AES community lost a dear friend and colleague when Rich Sanders died from a brain tumor.

He was a professor of music at the University of Colorado Denver, head of the National Center for Media Forensics, and president of Salt Pro Audio LLC. He engineered over 100 album projects and composed music for commercials and soundtracks of all styles.

As an audio forensics expert witness, he testified and consulted in numerous cases throughout the U.S., including the Oklahoma Bombing trial, the Jon Benet Ramsey case, the Kobe Bryant case, and the Columbine shooting case. He was a member of the American College of Forensic Examiners.

Rich was papers cochair at the AES 26th International Conference *Audio Forensics in the Digital Age* in 2005 and chair of the 33rd International Conference *Audio Forensics—Theory & Practice* in 2008. He was helping to plan the third AES forensics conference, June 17–19, 2010 in Hillerød, Denmark. He was also chair of the AES Technical Committee on Audio Forensics. He had served as chair and treasurer of the Colorado AES Section.

A practicing touring musician as well as an avid sportsman, Rich graduated with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from the General Motors Institute in Flint, Mich., in 1974, and received his M.S. degree in electrical engineering from CU Boulder in 1975.

His work at the National Center for Media Forensics included real-time voice identification involving biometrics for voice-only applications (such as tracking a convict's phone use in jail or when impersonators access bank or private information over the phone or computer) as well as in combination with other biometrics such as facial recognition and fingerprints, among others. He was working on creating a series of Electric Network Frequency (ENF) databases to cover all of North America.

Rich was born in Flint, Michigan in 1951. He married Ann Marie Powers in 1997. In addition to his wife, Ann, he is survived by his daughter Sarah, son Jeffery, step-son Andrew, and seven grandchildren. Upon the family's request, memorial gifts can be made to The Rich Sanders Memorial Fund to support the work of the National Center for Media Forensics. Gifts can be sent to: The CU Foundation, 225 E. 16th Ave., Suite 900, Denver CO 80203 USA.

Ann Sanders