J. Guy Woodward of Princeton, NJ, past president of the AES and honorary member, died on August 16, at the age of 85.

Woodward was born in Carleton, MI. He received a master’s of science degree and a doctorate in physics from Ohio State University. For more than 40 years he worked at RCA Laboratories as a member of the technical staff in Princeton. His research concentrated on electronic devices and recording systems. He received three RCA Laboratory Achievement Awards and shared in a special award for the team producing pioneering work in recording video on magnetic tape. His research led to seven patents and to more than 40 publications in technical journals. In 1982 he retired with the rank of fellow of the David Sarnoff Center.

A member of the IEEE, the Acoustical Society of America and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he received the Emile Berliner Award from the AES in 1963.

He was a member of the Old Guard of Princeton and of the Princeton United Methodist choir.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, two daughters, and two grandchildren.

Woodward also wrote poetry. The poem reprinted above was originally published in March 1945.

Franklin J. Miller, AES member, died of complications from diabetes on April 25, 2000. He was 56 years of age.

The absence of distortion, hum and noise is a hallmark of audio quality, and in that sense, Frank’s life work brought quality to everyday audio. He found his career path when he joined his junior high school stage crew and then started working part time in electronic parts stores, rental houses and repair shops. After studying at Los Angeles City College and Los Angeles State College he worked for Muzak and Newark Electronics.

In 1968 he founded Sescom Inc.

Frank was blessed with the vision to build a business that allowed him to do what he loved. He had a vast curiosity about audio and a memory that allowed him to synthesize his research reading into practical solutions. His first products improved communications between the cashier and the kitchen for the McDonald’s fast food chain. Though Sescom later built output transformers for Sony’s high-end tube microphones, Frank never lost his vision of improving everyone’s audio.

Cal Perkins remembers Frank as always willing and wanting to learn. Cal asked Sescom to quote and sample JBL on audio transformers. The result was a collaboration that developed products to exactly fit JBL’s performance needs and budget. Tascam’s Model 2 mixer, which introduced many musicians to affordable multitrack mixing, was based on a prototype Frank did for them. Sescom manufactured the optional micro-
Sidney S. Smith, AES life member, passed away on October 25, 2000, at the age of 77. The cause of death was pancreatic cancer. I considered him one of the greatest, most gifted and brilliant audio engineers that ever lived. He was a legend in his time.

Sidney got his start after World War II, working for the late Ed Miller at Radiocraftsmen in Chicago. Being an aspiring operatic tenor, however, drew him to New York where he got an engineering job at a fledgling company called the Marantz Company. Through his designs and brilliance, Marantz soon became the unrivaled premier company in the audio industry. His designs include the Models 2, 5, 8, 9, and 8B tube amplifiers. He also designed the Model 6 electronic crossover and the legendary Model 7C tube preamp. His premier accomplishment, however, was hiring and teaming up with Dick Sequerra to develop the world renowned Model 10B stereo tuner. Sidney followed this up with the solid state 7T preamp and the world’s first state-of-the-art solid state power amplifier, the Model 15, which today will still hold its own against modern products.

When Superscope purchased the Marantz Company and intended to move it to the West Coast, virtually none of the technical people at Marantz were willing to move west. Sidney left the company. Dick Sequerra followed shortly after, and they again teamed up to produce an incredible piece of audio gear, namely, The Sequerra Model One stereo tuner.

His later years were spent mainly relaxing and enjoying his grandchildren. He did, however, stay in touch with the audio world. To me he was the smartest of the smart, the brightest of the bright, and the best of the best. In addition, he was one of the nicest people one could hope to meet. Sidney was my mentor and best friend for 35 years. He may be gone, but his genius will live on forever.

James Bongiorno