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Around the Puget Sound, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Zoom Meeting: Wednesday, September 23, 2020, 6:00pm (PDT, UTC-7)

Beyond the Flatscreen: How We Hosted an International Conference in Virtual Reality



**Matt Klassen and Lawrence Schwedler,
Co-Chairs, AVAR 2020**

**ZOOM MEETING 6:00PM PACIFIC DAYLIGHT TIME
WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2020**

This month's PNW Section meeting features a recap of the AES International Conference on Audio for Virtual and Augmented Reality, hosted last month in virtual reality using Altspace VR.

Join us either from the familiar comfort of Zoom, or *in virtual reality* itself via AltspaceVR! You don't even need VR gear (although it's a lot more fun if you do have it.) All you need is a Mac or Windows PC to run the free app in 2D mode. [CLICK HERE](#) for instructions on how to join the meeting in VR. We will be streaming live from VR to the Zoom meeting, so you're welcome to stay in Zoom and watch from there, if you prefer.

Matt and Lawrence will talk about the tech, the logistics, the conference, and the people but most importantly they'll discuss (and demonstrate, for those of you who choose to join us in AltspaceVR) the substantive difference between traditional videoconferencing and meeting in a 3D environment with audio distance attenuation and panning. We experienced a fundamental impact that difference has on real human interaction, and we hope to share it with you. Please refer to the instructions below to RSVP for the Zoom meeting, and for what you'll

need to do in order to join us in virtual reality. Ladies and gentlemen, customize your avatars!



THIS EVENT IS FREE, OPEN TO ALL, AND AES MEMBERSHIP IS NOT REQUIRED

[Register to Attend](#)

[PDF Printable poster](#)

About our Presenters

Matt Klassen, PhD

Dr. Matt Klassen earned his PhD in mathematics from the University of Arizona in 1993, specializing in number theory and algebraic geometry. Since joining DigiPen in 1999, his interests moved to mathematics relating to computer graphics and geometric modeling with particular emphasis on splines. He went on to develop special courses on quaternions with application to computer graphics and animation, and spline curves through the perspective of linear algebra. Some of this course work led to a paper: "Generalized Vandermonde Determinants and Splines," presented at a conference in honor of Peter Borwein, May 2008, at Simon Fraser University.

Klassen is an avid classical guitarist, studying and performing on this instrument since age 11. In 2019 he received another plucked instrument, built for him by luthier and friend John Rollins, a baroque replica of the "theorbo", a 14-stringed relative of the lute with an extended neck. Klassen has contributed to DigiPen Music Department recitals on both guitar and theorbo, and continues to be an active member of the Pacific Northwest guitar communities.

For a more complete view of Dr. Klassen's research and interests, download his bio. [bio. \(48k PDF\)](#)

Lawrence Schwedler

Lawrence Schwedler is a musician with twenty years of experience in the video game industry as a composer, sound designer, and audio director. In 1993 he graduated with a Master of Fine Arts degree in classical guitar performance and electronic music from the University of California at Los Angeles. He was a founding member of the Modern Arts Guitar Quartet, an avant-garde chamber ensemble which toured Europe, Mexico, Canada and the U.S.

From 1999 to 2012 he worked for Nintendo Software Technology as Audio Director, where he produced music and sound for fifteen game titles and received credit as co-author on two United States patents, one for interactive real time music composition and another for interactive wave table sound generation. In 2012 he left Nintendo to design and direct two new undergraduate degree programs in music and sound design at the DigiPen Institute of Technology in Redmond.

He lives in Sammamish, Washington with his wife, artist Randi Ganulin, accompanied from time to time by their son and daughter.

How to Join the Meeting in VR

For instructions for joining the meeting in VR, [CLICK HERE](#). You also need to register via the Eventbrite link.

Zoom Meetings

We started holding our meetings via Zoom beginning with the April 2020 meeting. Zoom has dramatically increased our reach, well beyond our Section's geographic area. Since doing this, we've had attendees from Canada, and as far away as Indonesia, and Australia. Zoom gives the ability to record our meetings, and those recordings will be posted in our past meetings [Archive](#).

[Register to Attend](#)

Register [here](#) through Eventbrite. When you register and when you enter the Zoom meeting, please use your real first and last names so we can get to know each other. You do NOT need to create an Eventbrite account to register. The Zoom URL will be given as soon as you register. Be sure to copy it down!

Tea* Time Topics



Former Chair Dan Mortensen started the custom of people introducing themselves at our meetings. The breadth and depth of your skills and interests led to Dan wanting a more in-depth kind of presentation but without the preparation needed for a full-on meeting.

The idea behind these events is that "Audio" is a big subject with many specialties, and at our meetings we all focus together on one subject. When we do our self-introductions as part of our meetings, it's ALWAYS fascinating to hear about the kinds of things our audience members do to manifest their love of audio.

Dan thought it would be fun to create an event where the meeting IS the audience members' descriptions of what you do, preferably with pictures/recordings/movies or whatever will help you convey to us what you're up to/interested in/want to learn more about.

Format

The TTT meetings take place each Saturday afternoon via Zoom, and will continue at least through the summer, if not beyond. If things open up and people start getting busy again, we'll adjust the schedule. We've been doing this for several weeks, and the topics have been varied and interesting. Dan has a forum page at **ProSoundWeb.com**, and it can be accessed at <https://forums.prosoundweb.com/index.php/topic,173780.0.html>

Registration to attend

You will need to register through [this Eventbrite link](#). When you register, please use your real first and last name. That link will have the rules that you need to obey to participate or attend.

Note that these Tea* Time Topics events are in addition to our normal 10 times/year (not in July or August) Section meetings and not a replacement for them.

Footnote: *This is Dan's normal time for tea. You may have whatever refreshments you wish, but if you get unruly/belligerent you'll be bounced without apology.

Greg Dixon

AES PNW 2020-2021 Section Chair

n.b. *The material presented at our meetings is the opinion of the presenter and not necessarily that of the Society. You are encouraged to conduct your own research and to form your own opinions before adopting the presented material as Truth.*

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