

## **And The Winner Is...**

The Heartland Chapter's annual awards galas were held on Saturday, July 13, 2013 to honor the work of television and media professionals in 11 DMAs. In Denver, the awards were presented at the Seawell Grand Ballroom at the Denver Center for Performing Arts complex while a simultaneous presentation occurred at the University of Central Oklahoma's Nigh Center in Edmond. Over 500 attendees participated in recognizing exceptional work in 100 categories, from News and Promotions to Student Achievement.

This year, three outstanding nominees were inducted into the Silver Circle: Cynthia Hessin with Rocky Mountain PBS, Ken Siemek with KOLN/KGIN in Lincoln, and Adele Arakawa with KUSA in Denver.

Congratulations to all the nominees and Emmy recipients! And a special thank you to all of our board members, volunteers and interns who put on fantastic show. For a complete list of awardees, [click here for a pdf](#). Or go to [our website](#) for more information.

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## **In Memory of Bill Thrash**

We mourn the loss of [William C. "Bill" Thrash](#), a pioneer of Oklahoma broadcasting and OETA station manager and program director, who lost his long battle with cancer on July 15. He was 73. Thrash's television career spanned more than half a century, during which he received numerous honors and awards, including being inducted into the Silver and Gold Circles.

Bill began his television career in 1955 while still in high school, starting as a cameraman. He was incredibly passionate about his state, producing and managing award-winning programs for Oklahoma's centennial. Behind-the-scenes, Thrash loved to travel with his wife, Billie, an accomplished musical theater producer and director. He was an exceptional jazz pianist, and was known for his dry wit and knowledge of classic films and television.

The OETA Foundation is establishing a William C. "Bill" Thrash Memorial Scholarship to be awarded annually to the most deserving student majoring in Broadcast Television at one of Oklahoma's colleges and universities. All donations made in his name and honor will be in support of that scholarship. This new scholarship program will be designed to perpetuate his legacy.

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## **Next Steps for a Living Legend**

After 41 years at KWTW in Oklahoma City, chief meteorologist and Silver Circle Inductee, Gary England, is leaving his post to become vice president for corporate relations and weather development for Griffin Communications.

England joined the CBS affiliate in 1972, and it wasn't long before he was a nationally recognized leader in the field. He is often credited as being the first on-air meteorologist to alert his viewers of a possible tornado using commercial Doppler weather radar. His impressive contributions include helping with the invention of the First Warning map graphic, commonly used to show ongoing weather alerts without interrupting regular programming.

In a recent New York Times piece, England is called [Tornado Alley's most famous weatherman](#). This living legend has also been a guest on Comedy Central's [Colbert Report](#) – he even made a cameo appearance in the 1996 Blockbuster, "[Twister](#)."

Congratulations, Gary! Best of luck in your future endeavors.

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### **Join the Conversation!**

Stay in the loop! [Like us on Facebook](#) and [follow us on Twitter](#) so you have instant access to the latest information. Our pages join a network of talented individuals that share the same interests and passions. Post your photos, articles or questions to our wall. Become a fan of the Heartland Chapter EMMY Awards today!

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### **Hot off the Press**

Former NATAS board member Michael J. Spencer has released a new book, "Hollywood of the Rockies, which chronicles the filmmaking industry that flourished in the Rocky Mountains between 1895 and 1915 west of New York but east of Hollywood. Using rare photos and contemporary accounts, Spencer explores the little-known history of motion pictures in our region. Check it out on [Amazon](#).

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### **Emmys on Display**

Big news in Washinton D.C. – the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences have formed a new partnership. This past summer, the museum added priceless artifacts to their "[culture collection](#)" that reflect the contributions of daytime television programming to national entertainment.

In addition to documenting classic programs like Jeopardy and Barney, the museum also asked Susan Lucci for memorabilia related to the Emmys. The soap opera star had been nominated a record 18 times for a Daytime Emmy until she was finally awarded one in 1999. Lucci presented the museum with her "lucky" Emmy gown and shoes as well as an original script from "All My Children."

The museum hopes to expand its collection over the next three years in order to better tell the story of daytime television in American culture.