



Barbara H. Lange

Closing a Great Year— Opening to a Bright New Century!

As we close out this centennial year, it is time to reflect on where we are and where we are going. It has been a very busy year as your Society was feted in so many places, by so many people, recognizing and appreciating the wonderfulness of this organization.

We officially kicked off the centennial year in Australia back in July 2015 during the Australia Section's Biennial Conference and Exhibition. Considering that Australia is the Section nearest to the international dateline, it seemed even more appropriate that we start our celebratory year there. By the time we rang in the new year in January, we already had plans for local celebrations at Sections around the world, starting with the centennial lapel pins, which you received in the mail. I am thrilled each time I see it on someone's jacket, knowing they care to wear it.

I was delighted to participate in so many celebrations this year, including the Washington, D.C., Section's "Bits by the Bay" conference; the EBU Technical Assembly; the Toronto Bootcamp event; the New York Section's support of the June Standards meetings; the SET conference in Brazil; the Venice Film Festival; IBC; the Italy Section's annual event, this year held in Vatican City; the Hong Kong Section's annual seminar; and finally the Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition and the Centennial Gala in Hollywood. Added to this



(L–R) Barbara Lange, Peter Symes, and Past SMPTE President Wendy Aylsworth receive an Emmy award on behalf of SMPTE at the 2014 NATAS awards ceremony.

were the special accolades—like the recognition from the Academy in February (even being briefly televised!) and ringing the closing bell of the NASDAQ stock exchange in July!

Throughout this year, it has been gratifying to meet so many members who love SMPTE and what we do. There are those who joined as students many years ago and feel a deep appreciation and devotion to the organization that helped shape their lives and careers, and the new members who may have joined in the past few years, feeling the pull of the important technical work that enables this industry to tick. We have a greater responsibility to carry this organization thoughtfully into the future. Given the rich heritage, it is critical that we ensure a long and sustainable life to come.

As we close this year, we are also saying good-bye to our dear friend and colleague, Peter Symes, who

will be retiring at the end of the year after a lifetime living the SMPTE dream! Truly, I think he would agree that his life has been defined greatly by this organization that he joined so many years ago when he worked at the BBC. Over the years, Peter has been the consummate SMPTE member, whether it was founding a new Section (Sacramento), participating on the Board, or leading the standards development process as a staff person. Peter's dedication and enthusiasm are literally contagious, and I will personally miss him. Peter introduced me to this industry back in early 2010 when I started at SMPTE. A total neophyte, I learned much of what I know from Peter. I am forever grateful to him for what he has given me, as well as being just a good person to communicate with, to travel with, to have a beer with, and so much more. Happy Retirement, Peter! We will miss you.

