

Samelian plans to stay at WVLA for up to two years, her ambition is to be a network anchor. She guesses her next jump will be to an anchor-reporter position: "It is rare for a reporter to jump to a full-time anchor chair." Right now she wants to glean everything she can: "When I've gleaned it all I will move on to bigger things."

Samelian suggestion to her BECA classmates and other students to: "Do not hold back and go for it with full force." She says some of her classmates seem too satisfied with being a production assistant in the Bay Area. Samelian believes it is easy to be seduced waiting for opportunity to strike while working in a low level position. San Francisco is a large market offering limited opportunity for the unseasoned. She counsels: "Take the risk ...go out and have the experience. Learn from the bottom up."

Gold & Silver Circle Profiles



GOLD & SILVER CIRCLE PROFILES

by Kevin Wing



This month, as we honor and recognize the 2014 inductees of our Chapter's *Gold & Silver Circle*, I thought it was time to remember someone who was one of the first inductees of our *Silver Circle*, and a legendary one at that.

Her name was **Lucille Bliss** (SC'90, GS'02), and in the truest sense of the word, she was definitely a television pioneer in San Francisco. And, the San Francisco/Northern California Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recognized her accomplishments and her 25-plus years in the industry in 1989, when she was inducted into the distinguished *Silver Circle*. Lucille was also a member of the first class of *Gold Circle* inductees in 2002.

Bay Area television was still in its infancy when Bliss arrived on the scene. She performed on many local and network radio programs based out of San Francisco. Eventually, she moved to Hollywood, where she worked with **Walt Disney**, providing the voice for one of *Cinderella's* wicked stepsisters. In later years, she was featured in Tom & Jerry and Droopy cartoons.

Lucille Theresa Bliss was born in New York City in 1916. Bliss, who died in 2012, was known for her legendary voice for most of her 96 years.

She provided the voice of the title character on *Crusader Rabbit*, the first animated cartoon series produced in the pioneering days of television.

The show debuted in October 1950, and revolved around the adventures of a plucky little rabbit and his faithful pal, "Rags the Tiger", voiced by the late **Vern Louden** (SC '89), and their nemesis, "Dudley Nightshade", voiced by the late **Russ Coughlan** (SC '86). In later years, Louden became a longtime director at KRON and KPIX; Coughlan became an anchor and the vice president and general manager of KGO-TV.

The five-minute *Crusader Rabbit* segments aired weekdays from 6:40-6:45 p.m. on