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Submission of material to The P.E.O. Record is your consent to the right to edit and publish it either all or in part in the magazine or on the website. The content matter may or may not reflect the opinions of the Sisterhood. Complete submission guidelines appear on the “Members Only” section of P.E.O.’s official website, peointernational.org. The P.E.O. Record welcomes members’ submissions to the address on the inside front cover.
Our 140-year history proves P.E.O. always has had an expanding vision. One amazing component of this is our incredible philanthropic purpose. Charitable outreach, in the world of the Founders, was to take winter coal to an indigent family. Members have never been satisfied to

diminished. From simple beginnings of girlhood rivalry that nearly immediately reached for added dimension and vitality to others not part of the inner circle, to doing for others who weren’t even members, P.E.O.’s vision, in the words of Mary Allen Stafford, is “serving womanhood and humanity.” Today, it is our legacy and our challenge to continue moving forward. The theme for this biennium is “Expanding Our Vision.”

In moments of practicality (i.e., what we think will suffice) we might be tempted to neglect the vision. Yet P.E.O. has never been satisfied with just preserving the status quo. No, sisters work tirelessly in chapter life and in state, provincial, district and International structure to modify, adapt, renew. We know what we saw yesterday is often not today’s reality; we know change and differences are rampant all around us.

It would be easier to work, and even serve, without a vision. Without a vision, we aren’t bothered by “expectations.” However, from the beginning, that too was not the P.E.O. way. Ella Stewart, writing about P.E.O.’s origin for the 1887 Convention of Grand Chapter, held in Albia, Iowa, concluded by saying, “When I think of the past, look at the present, and dream of the future, I am filled with hope and ‘great expectations’ lure me onward. And I trust that our little effort, like the ripples on the lake, will widen and extend until they shall at last touch that shore whose bounds we cannot see.” Ella trusted us to widen and extend.

Today, it is our legacy and our challenge to continue moving forward. The theme for this biennium is “Expanding Our Vision.”

thinking sisters who seek the best and brightest star! Based upon the firm foundation of strong, value-added heritage, we envision horizons of potential.

Yes, P.E.O. has been a vision from the beginning. Through 140 years that vision has always expanded—never

EXPANDING OUR VISION

Humbly, I thank you for this opportunity to serve our sisterhood. Since age 18, a lifetime of P.E.O. benefits has brought me to this moment. I agree with Californian Dorothy Weller, Past President of Supreme Chapter, who was born about 10 miles down the road from where I now live in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, that “it is love, happiness and friendship that are the true blessings of service.” Thank you for sharing yours with me.

Thank you local chapter delegates; state, provincial and district presidents, organizers and past presidents; leadership team; and International Chapter officers for working so carefully this convention on our road map to the future. Decisions reached here and now will guide continuous forward advancement.

Moving ahead into this next biennium, we will face changes thrust upon us by today and tomorrow’s external environment over which we have no control; we will take calculated risks to find answers that are within our control; we will be pro-active; we will be confident. P.E.O. will continue to be what we have been since 1869—caring, thinking sisters who seek the best and brightest star! Based upon the firm foundation of strong, value-added heritage, we envision horizons of potential.
do philanthropically only what the Founders did. In the formative years, sisters exceeded their comfort zone by widening and extending educational and charitable help with loans, grants, awards, scholarships and a life-changing college impacting thousands and thousands of women and their families. And this vision continues to grow!

Yes today our collective vision must always be far-sighted. How? Is there a freshness and vigor today in our outlook? Absolutely!

In my opinion, we must see our beloved sisterhood in the context of all the frontiers of 2009. Beyond places and numbers, we must look to horizons of concepts and attitudes. More than anything, our challenge is to show the next generation of leaders that P.E.O. is a wise choice in quality living. I believe the single-most staggering statistic from the Noel-Levitz survey results is that only 6 percent of our total 2007 membership are under 40 years of age. One of my visions for this biennium is for us to positively increase this number. We can accomplish this by effectively showcasing the significant benefits of belonging to a sisterhood that effectively impacts the woman next door as well as the women across the world.

P.E.O. is rich! We are rich in values, tradition, creativity and potential! We believe in ourselves. We believe in our sisterhood. We know what individually and collectively we can do for women. We are proud of our fingerprints and footprints created for those following.

Embedded in our hearts and minds, each one of us has a vision of P.E.O. at its finest. We know that as we individually stand up for what is right, for what is good, for what is the more excellent way, we are of value to our chapters and communities. We know that as we connect with one another, we multiply that value. Joining hands with sisters in achieving critical goals for world peace and higher education for women, we will make a better world for ourselves and our families.

At a convention such as this, we focus on structure, the framework to best achieve our purposes. However, it is our purposes that make the vision, the ideas and ideals that offer meaning and energy to our organization. Achieving our purposes takes planning, commitment, patience and courage. Each one of us must be active participants, not passive observers. Just as we look for the horizon over the next hill, we all must continue toward the vision.

Looking ahead with vision is the key to unlocking continued growth and development. It creates excitement and momentum! Continued growth comes by sharing a broadening of focus and an expanding value appreciation.

Some paths to the horizon may be new or marginally tried. No one disagrees with a mandate to preserve our core purposes. What we must continue collectively to determine is how to adapt the methods—the delivery system of our core purposes—to be relevant to today and tomorrow’s women.

Is it easy to keep focused on the vision? We all know: of course not. With every step taken, it is much easier to watch where our feet are going than to look up to see the glorious view.

Yet, as long as we are true to the vision to serve the needs of today’s women, just as the Founders were true to serving the needs of the Original Seven, we must be willing to make the journey. The measure of true future success will be to exceed meeting the needs of the next generation of sisters.

The proof that we have vision lies in the fact that we are always reaching out for more than we have in our grasp. Our reach must continue to exceed our grasp.

In our initiation vows, each one of us pledged our responsibility to make and be that Sisterhood that will last longer than all of us.

Forward!

Thank you.
OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES...

During “For the Good of the Chapter” one of our young mothers shared a comment that was made by her first grade daughter, Caroline. “Mom, I got all of my spelling words right,” said Caroline, “and I can always remember how to spell ‘people’ because it begins with P.E.O.” We certainly have something to look forward to when we welcome our next generation of members!

Glenda Daven, ND, Pella, Iowa

“COLORFUL” P.E.O. WOMAN?

I loved the May-June Record’s cover photo of Jeanne Moersch’s gorgeous art quilt called “The Colorful P.E.O. Woman.” It’s hard to believe she conceived and completed a quilt in one week, and somehow found time to write a beautiful descriptive narrative in praise of the wide variety of wonderful women who comprise our sisterhood.

Yet, I wonder when we will truly become “colorful,” in the sense of our racial composition. Our P.E.O. Mission Statement defines us as a “diverse sisterhood that welcomes women of all races, religions and backgrounds.” But welcoming people and actively recruiting them are two different things, and among the dozens (hundreds?) of members pictured in each issue of The Record, I seldom see an example of racial diversity.

I’d like to challenge chapters to actively seek women who epitomize our core values and bring the wisdom and richness of different ethnicities to P.E.O. As we sang in Sunday school, “Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight!”

Carol Rothwell, MU, Lee’s Summit, Missouri

P.E.O.: WE SURE LIKE IT

It was with pride and understanding that I read the story of Winnie Woodmansee, AJ, Bismarck, North Dakota, in the July-August edition of The PEO Record. It is through Winnie that I heard of P.E.O. all my life. One of her daughters and I have been best friends for over 60 years despite attending different colleges and living as adults in different states. My friend, Pat, always said, “Mom is going to P.E.O. today. I don’t know what it means or what it does but my mom sure likes it.” Winnie was a surrogate mother to all of her children’s friends. It was through her I learned to bake, tell the truth, share and be nice to everybody. She raised her children in the loving principles of P.E.O. and her Christian beliefs. My mother joined P.E.O. later in her life and I was initiated two years ago. Each of us has had such rewarding experiences with our sisters and consider ourselves lucky to belong to such a supportive women’s organization with such high principals. Pat was right, we all “sure like it.”

Jennifer Sette Rova, AV, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

GRATITUDE FROM A COTTEY GRADUATE

When Helen Sangster, daughter of Barbara Sangster, FG, Bonner Springs, Kansas, graduated from Cottey College in the fall of 2008, she sent this thank you note to the members of Chapter FG and we wanted to share it.

My dear and wonderful P.E.O.s,

Although my time at Cottey has come to an end, I will forever be a Duck! Your chapter has given me the greatest gift anyone could receive, a wonderful education at the perfect school for me.

I learned so much about myself there and your chapter was a huge part of my experience. I learned that I wanted to be someone better than I was. I changed my major from advertising to teaching. I made friendships with young women from all over the world. From Chile to Bulgaria to Haiti to Texas, I met people I will never forget and that changed my life.

I am so lucky to have had the opportunities that you have introduced to me. Without the summer camps or weekend visits to Cottey you told me about, I don’t know where I would be. I know I wouldn’t be striving toward an education degree. I know I wouldn’t have my best friend, or even any of my art. The teachers pushed me all the time to be better, to reach higher, to become the kind of woman that I am now. The woman I am now is strong, smart and creative and most of all, I am proud of myself—of what I accomplished in two short years, of the confidence I gained and of the friends I’ve made.

I wouldn’t be where I am today without the help and loving support I was granted by my P.E.O.s (the best chapter in the world!)

My life has changed for the better and I hope you understand that I hold Chapter FG responsible for all of my wonderful experiences at Cottey College.

Thank you again,

Helen Sangster
Bonner Springs, Kansas

Betty Coleman
FG, Bonner Springs, Kansas

…I hold Chapter FG responsible for all of my wonderful experiences at Cottey College.
We have just completed our 69th Convention of International Chapter and now many of you who were there to enjoy the sights and sounds of this very special gathering of P.E.O.s are back home. After all the anticipation, it’s like a special holiday, a wedding or a longed-for vacation. All of a sudden, the special day itself has come to an end! But never fear! It’s not really over. You can have a very special souvenir of convention…the Convention DVD! For $15 you can relive your convention experience. Listen again to the inspiring speeches by our project recipients on Projects Night. Let your chapter hear them, too! Visit the display booths again. Hear candid comments from attendees….It’s all on the DVD!

If you are reporting to chapters, this will be a helpful memory refresher. And pick out some of the portions for a great chapter program later in the year!

Be sure to check out the website when you get home…you find the seminar handouts and the Daily Diary, written onsite during each day of convention.

And most important of all, you will find all of the amendments and the voting results right on the web.

Special thanks and good wishes to our immediate past International president, Barbara Andes, who let us know that “Together We Can.” That was evidenced at this convention. Her biennium set the stage for progressive change within the Sisterhood.

And a warm welcome to the newly installed president of International Chapter, Elizabeth Garrels! It was a special moment when she accepted the gavel from Barbara Andes at the conclusion of Convention. Her theme for this next biennium, “Expanding Our Vision,” sets a tone of forward movement for our sisterhood.

In this issue, the first of a “two-parter” on convention coverage, you will read Elizabeth’s acceptance speech and her biography.

Then, in our next issue, you’ll find Barbara Andes’ State of the Sisterhood, accounts of convention and tons of photos.

Turn to page 57 to see how chapters have made wonderful use of P.E.O. recognition signs! In To the Point this month, you will find the available sizes and prices for the recognition signs.

Again this year letters were sent to over 7,000 members who have gone inactive. The responses continue to tell us that we, in our local chapters, need to pay much more attention to our non-resident and non-participating members. We MUST send dues notices! And we MUST keep in touch with those members and their families. All too often, for instance, an elderly member’s family simply does not know when we pay dues, what the amount is or where they are to go. It is heart-wrenching to receive a reply from a family whose favorite aunt is suffering from dementia. “We didn’t know about the dues….She would be devastated to know that she is no longer considered a member of P.E.O. or not in good standing. It was so important to her.” Did you catch that? “no longer a member of P.E.O.??” This of course is not true, but that is what they are hearing from us! Both terms…“no longer a member” and “not in good standing” have such negative connotations. Let’s not say that. They are still members…they are inactive members…a situation we hope we can change! Drop them a note. Perhaps you can write the family and let them know that you notice that this chapter sister has not yet paid her dues for the year and wonder if she meant to go inactive. Explain to the family that sometimes there is confusion about this so you just wanted to check. Make the effort to let them know you care and that YOU have not forgotten HER. Send a note of thanks when they do send in the dues.

And when a sister does make the choice to go inactive be sure to write her or call her. Let her know that she will be missed and invite her to reinstate as soon as she feels that she can. Loving concern….let’s not just think it. Let’s do it!

Thanks for reading The Record…and the website!
Meet the President—

Elizabeth E. Garrels

Elizabeth Garrels, the new president of International Chapter, was born and raised in Osceola, Iowa. She was initiated into her mother’s Chapter K, Osceola, Iowa, in 1963. Liz graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, with a degree in history and social studies. Her husband Richard is also a graduate of Iowa Wesleyan College. The couple settled on a farm near Mount Pleasant and has lived in that same home since their marriage in 1967. Liz is associated with her husband in their family businesses.

Liz dimitted to Chapter Original A, where she is a past president, and then in 1983 became a charter member of her current chapter, NZ, Mount Pleasant. One of her strong P.E.O. interests is assisting on the joint chapters’ Iowa Wesleyan College Old Main Memory Rooms Committee. Additionally, she has served Iowa State Chapter in several capacities including the Board of Directors of the Iowa P.E.O. Project Fund, Inc.

Liz is a past president of Iowa State Chapter, having been a member of the executive board from 1990-1997. She was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the P.E.O. International Peace Scholarship Fund in 1997. At the Convention of International Chapter in Milwaukee, September 2001, Liz was elected to the executive board and has served in all four positions. In the 2007-2009 biennium Liz chaired the Special Committee for Membership Advancement.

Liz and Richard’s daughter Mary, Chapter OQ, Des Moines, Iowa, is an attorney shareholder with the Nyemaster Goode Law Firm. Mary and her husband Rob have two sons, Henry and Jack. The Garrels’ son John is a partner with Accenture in their Management Consulting practice. John and his wife Jennifer, Chapter IM, Barrington, Illinois, have three children, Blake, Colette Elizabeth and Corinne.

Liz is active in the United Methodist Church where she currently leads a women’s Bible study group; chairs the Friends of the Harlan-Lincoln House; serves as president of the Mount Pleasant Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Club; and is a member of Chapter DD of the T.T.T. Society. She is a past president of the international Pi Beta Phi Foundation board of trustees, former trustee of Iowa Wesleyan College as well as past president of its Alumni Association, former member of the Board of Directors of the Great River Area Education Agency, and she was also active in leadership with her children in 4-H, Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts.

In her free time Liz enjoys family activities, gardening, historical pursuits and collecting antique spoons.

Liz looks forward to serving the P.E.O. Sisterhood as president and sharing part of her P.E.O. viewpoint. She says, “When P.E.O. was conceptualized in 1869, it began as a support system for its members. These same basic premises of deep friendship and loyalty have sustained sisters for over 140 years. Today—if ever there were a time when women need a support system based upon faith, love, purity, justice and truth, it is now. If ever there were a time when women need reinforcement from like-minded sisters, it is now. I want to be counted as a member who stands firmly for P.E.O.’s strong values against the backdrop of a world often characterized by the acceptance of mediocre standards.

“As we utilize the perspective from P.E.O. history and tradition that relies upon enduring, measured worth, we can be sensitive and responsive to the very real challenges that lie before us.” ☺
WELCOME TO THOSE WHO HAVE ACCEPTED APPOINTMENTS TO SERVE ON THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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ELLEN KNOX, CK, Abilene, Texas, Special Committee for Membership Advancement
PAMELA KREGG, GM, Omaha, Nebraska, Special Committee for Membership Advancement
MARY SHORT, FL, San Antonio, Texas, Parliamentarian

We appreciate their commitment, talents and wisdom.

EXPANDING POINTS

Those around us are most attracted by what we do in seemingly small ways that evidences the “big picture” vision.
when as a newly elected chapter president, I was chosen as a delegate to the convention of Missouri State Chapter, I was told by our past presidents that now I would really know what P.E.O. was all about. And I did learn! Seven years on the state board widened my vision, and IPS trusteeship and 10 years serving on the executive board of International Chapter provided more information and knowledge about P.E.O. than I thought I would ever need.

Wrong! When I accepted the appointment of the Executive Board of International Chapter to begin the preparation of a new history of our great organization, I discovered a great body of information I had only skimmed. I needed to become better acquainted with the women whose intelligent perseverance had led us to our place in history. I needed a better sense of what happened when.

Days have been spent at our P.E.O. offices in Des Moines. Let me tell you my favorite things to do when I am there. You may question my good sense, but I have delighted in spending hours in the archives, reading presidential correspondence and, believe it if you will, reading old state proceedings! There is always time to concentrate on three large albums that hold the photographic portraits of all the presidents of the highest body of P.E.O.

Each time I have looked at each face in those albums, I have tried to think of the concerns of her day and how she worked to improve her office. One of my favorites is from my state. Mary D. Lawrence was the first woman who was admitted to the bar in Missouri. She was the only one of those pictured presidents who has written a message, and such a perfect message from a past president. It was that old line of poetry; “. . . The moving hand, having writ, moves on.”

I consider myself fortunate indeed to have been appointed as the most recent moving hand, writing, and then moving on. I have been following three other such history writers: Sarah Dewey, Winona Evans Reeves and Stella Clapp whose volumes reflect the development of P.E.O. during their age.

It was 1903, and the Sisterhood was 34 years old. Sarah Dewey, who chaired the committee that produced the first history, wrote that the permanence and rapid growth of the organization (or, in her words, “the order”) seemed phenomenal. The formal title of the first published volume was “The History of the P.E.O. Sisterhood,” but it is better known for its binding, the “white history.” Not really a history, it was instead a collection of the writings of past and present officers of the Sisterhood. The name of this highest body in P.E.O. had changed from Grand Chapter to Supreme Grand Chapter.

...we have been handed a glorious past. We now must create a worthy history, beginning in our own chapters.

The golden anniversary of P.E.O. was celebrated in 1919. The second history, authored by Winona Evans Reeves, was a modest presentation. Wartime paper shortages limited the publication to 3,000 copies of this small volume, and all copies were quickly sold.
In 1923, Supreme Chapter authorized the publication of a second edition of Volume I of “The Story of P.E.O.” In 1936 Winona Reeves once was again called upon to write Volume II of “The Story of P.E.O.”

Because P.E.O.’s growth had been phenomenal, tentative plans for a third volume of “The Story of P.E.O.” were mentioned at the 1957 convention. We had waited over 30 years to authorize the creation of our third history, the one nearly all of us should have read. To honor the centennial of the Sisterhood, Stella Clapp, a past president of Kansas State Chapter, was selected to write our history. She selected the title for her 1968 history from the Book of Proverbs, “Out of the Heart.”

So we’ve come almost 30 years, and it’s time to compose another history. This past president has spent hours and days in reading and research. She has initiated this new work and done it joyfully. However, it is obvious that some questions must remain unanswered, for we have always destroyed the old when revisions were made. This next history, P.E.O.’s, fourth history is indeed a work in progress, and should begin—at Mount Pleasant, Iowa, in 1869. But it must include all the moving hands that having written move on. That’s you and me!

I recently read the president’s page of John Kenny, the new president of Rotary International. I think what he writes is true of P.E.O.’s past and will be true of its future. He writes:

“In Scotland, we have a saying that I’m fond of quoting, ‘We must look beyond our own parish pump. It means that we must look beyond our own home and our own community. We must be aware that ours is only one community of one country, of the many communities.

“In every one of those communities, there is work to be done. We will not stand idly by; we will accept our responsibility. We can, and we must. For we know that our organization is only as great as its local clubs—and our clubs are only as great as the members with them. The future of Rotary is in your hands.”

My dear sisters, we have been handed a glorious past. We now must create a worthy history, beginning in our own chapters. The future of P.E.O. is in our hands! 

---

GREEN TIP

**Tricks to Treat the Environment**

- Recycle old clothing from home or thrift stores to make a Halloween costume.
- Reuse an old costume by swapping with a neighbor or friend.
- Donate used costumes to daycare centers or shelters.
- Send children out for Beggar’s Night with reusable buckets, canvas bags or pillow cases for candy collection.
- Save and reuse Halloween decorations year after year, or make your own decorations using recycled materials.
- Compost pumpkins, scarecrow straw and other organic material and use it as fertilizer for gardens.
- Teach children to dispose of candy wrappers properly rather than littering.
- Choose to hand out treats with minimal packaging, or forego candy and offer practical items like pencils, pens, erasers or coins.

*Source: EarthShare (www.earthshare.org)*
The 211 students selected to receive an International Peace Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year are representatives of 74 countries around the world. Forty-nine percent of these scholars are from Asia with 13 students from South Korea. One highly qualified South Korean student is Ji-In Seol, a first year student at Harvard’s Business School pursuing her MBA in international development, and an author by the age of 20. She wrote of her experiences as an overseas volunteer worker in Nepal and Thailand and her work establishing a global student organization. The purpose of the student organization is to address humanitarian and poverty issues on an international scale while acting on a local level to find concrete solutions. Academically she will focus her studies on poverty eradication, international development and social enterprise. In her future she sees herself working for the United Nations in the area of human rights for refugees.

The three main fields of study for IPS students are education, government and health-related degrees. Wiam Jasim of Iraq will receive her Ph.D. in mathematics in 2011. Wiam came to the U.S. because she deems it one of the best places in the world to pursue her goal of studying advanced mathematics. Upon her return to Iraq, she wishes to help establish research centers in mathematics on university campuses and organize seminars to expand the mathematical methodology. She believes that improving studies in applied mathematics will help serve Iraq society.

IPS students pursuing their advanced degrees are attending universities in 42 states, five Canadian provinces and Washington, D.C. Eliza Gheorghe is in the graduate program at Georgetown University, pursuing a master’s degree in security studies with a concentration in intelligence. At the core of her intellectual development, Eliza says lays a simple question: “Who guards us against the guardians?’” She continues to say, “The intelligence community must serve policy-makers and their political interest so as to provide them with a competitive advantage in their dealings with other countries, but it must do so while interfering as little as possible with the sphere of individual rights and liberties.” One of her professors writes that she views her as one of the next generation’s international leaders.

Learn more about the IPS students by visiting IPS “What’s New” on the P.E.O. website.

Clarification: An editorial change in the IPS article “The Power of Sharing” (May-June issue of The Record) resulted in incorrectly stating that IPS is available at the undergraduate level. This is not the case; IPS is only available at the undergraduate level to a select group of international women attending Cottey College.
Accounts from STAR Scholarship awards ceremonies continue to further enumerate the distinguishing characteristics of the recipients.

Janet Whitney-Brown, recommended by Chapter BB, Duncan, British Columbia, chose to wear her great grandmother's dress to her graduation banquet and dance. Perhaps it was enough that her great grandmother, Margaret Cochran, was a P.E.O. and Janet wanted to feel that connection for this important event, but Janet had a deeper understanding of the symbolism of the dress. She explains, “...It pertains to my understanding of how important education is. The money I saved in wearing a dress that I already owned, as well as forgoing other graduation excesses such as a limo, went towards building a high school in Lesotho in South Africa. Students around the world are our peers. The world needs our generation to be educated, because we will face global problems together.”

While not all STAR Scholarship recipients are valedictorians with 4.0 GPAs, all have found forums or ways to communicate their vision and values. In Spring Hill, Tennessee, valedictorian and STAR Scholarship recipient Kathy Kroeger gave a graduation speech that prompted the mother of a fellow graduate in that class to write a letter to the editor of her local newspaper, The Tennessean, about the impact of Kathy’s speech. With the permission of Alanna Johnson, mother of Kevin, who was soon to report to Marine Corps boot camp, we include the following excerpt from her June 5, 2009, letter.

It was standing room only and none of our entire family had a seat during the many commemorative speeches preceding Kathy’s, and we all felt a bit frustrated until Kathy came to the podium.

We have watched Kathy grow up, being an award-winning athlete as well as a focused student. She spoke of people who motivated her through her journey... [and] then began talking of heroes and what a real hero was. We had no idea where this was going until she named off the names of the graduating seniors who were not going to college but going in the military to serve.

She explained through tears to her fellow students that while they will be going to college, studying, enjoying spring break and everything college stands for, these young men will be training and fighting on the front lines for our right to go to college, to enjoy spring break in a peace-loving country. For our freedom. As she tried to speak she became emotional as well and every emotion that I had been holding back came tumbling out.

I couldn’t believe it when I heard her call Kevin’s name and she asked each of these students to stand to be acknowledged. As they stood, I was so proud of my son for being the person he is, and then to my surprise everyone in that arena stood and gave them a standing ovation. My husband and I were in absolute shock. That single moment became the absolute highlight of the evening for us as a family. Kevin couldn’t believe it. He said he was so happy to hear a classmate who ‘got it.’ And then to see over 4,000 people stand and acknowledge Kevin and his fellow classmates as heroes.

The 151 recipients have exhibited action, begun by their individual motivation and initiated by individual process, not group activity, and have had an impact on the local and, in many cases, the global community. Naturally, the ceremonies surrounding graduation served as important venues to highlight these outstanding young women, and often served as ways to allow them to indicate what STARs they truly are.
LOOKING BACK...
AND MOVING FORWARD

IT STARTED IN 2003. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR THAT BIENNIAL DETERMINED THAT THE TIME WAS RIGHT TO TAKE A LOOK AT OUR ORGANIZATION—AND HOW WE WERE PERCEIVED BY THOSE OUTSIDE OF OUR RANKS—TO ASSESS WHERE SOME ADJUSTMENTS MIGHT BE BENEFICIAL. THE BOARD—ALONG WITH CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANNE PETTYGROVE—SUBSEQUENTLY SPENT SEVERAL DAYS IN PLANNING SESSIONS TO EXAMINE OUR OUTWARD IMAGE AND TO SET A COURSE FOR THE FUTURE. AS A RESULT OF THIS PROCESS, THE DETERMINATION WAS MADE THAT IN ORDER TO GROW, P.E.O. MUST ENHANCE ITS IMAGE AND INCREASE ITS VISIBILITY.

2005—IT’S OK

In 2005, we celebrated that IT’S OK TO TALK ABOUT P.E.O. so that the world could learn about the great work our sisterhood does on behalf of women everywhere.

P.E.O. Record readers may recall the eye-catching banners and call-outs appearing in 2005 that proclaimed simply “It’s OK.” These messages were developed to serve as teasers for what was to come.

Upon arrival in Vancouver, delegates and guests at the 2005 Convention of International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood encountered more “It’s OK” announcements. From hotel room key holders to signs and placards, the message “It’s OK” appeared everywhere! Later the rest of the message was revealed: “It’s OK to Talk About P.E.O.” The September–October 2005 issue of the Record featured a story that explained:

“P.E.O. has been historically recognized as one of this nation’s pioneering societies for women. The problem is that not enough people know about us or the great work we do. By proclaiming that ‘It’s OK to Talk About P.E.O.,’ we are giving ourselves permission to talk about our mission, our projects and indeed our very organization!

“Friendship is still the cornerstone of our unique sisterhood, and P.E.O. continues to be a source of encouragement and support for women to realize their potential in whatever worthwhile endeavor they choose. But today, P.E.O. enters a new era.”

A new tagline, mission statement and “elevator speech” were revealed at the Vancouver convention, and a seven-minute video shown that assured sisters that it truly is OK to talk about P.E.O.

In 2007, we were inspired to GROW so that our sisterhood could reach out and help even more women reach for the stars.

Because the “It’s OK to Talk About P.E.O.” message and campaign was so enthusiastically embraced by our membership, in 2007, a sequel communiqué was unveiled: “OK...LET’S GROW!”

The GROW theme was actually an acronym for some of the goals of this past biennium:
GIVE. P.E.O. sisters will give with glad hearts—offering our time, talents and treasures for the reward of helping women reach for the stars.

RECRUIT. We will encourage talented sisters to step up to P.E.O. leadership and identify qualified and worthy project recipients.

OUTREACH. We will seek opportunities to reach out to our communities and enthusiastically share the impact P.E.O. is making in women’s lives.

WOMEN. We will help every P.E.O. sister reach her full potential so that our organization’s capacity to lift up and empower women worldwide will also grow.

The GROW message and objectives encouraged us to proactively seek opportunities to further our reach and influence.

Now, it’s 2009.

OK, WHAT’S NEXT?

Now, we take the neXt step in the journey.

In 2009, our mission of providing educational opportunities for women and supporting each other in sisterhood is more vital than ever. We’ve worked hard to help women reach their potential, but there is more yet to do. So this is a time for us to stop and ask ourselves, “OK…What’s Next?”

The “X” stands for EXPAND!

Knowing this, how can your chapter help P.E.O.’s star shine brighter today and beyond?

Set some EXPANSION GOALS for your chapter! Have a brainstorming session…see what your chapter can do in the next biennium to answer the question….What’s NeXt??!

Expand your giving to the projects. Expand your knowledge of the projects!

Expand your impact and influence in the community. Expand your chapter’s membership!

Read the Objects and Aims and determine to expand on each and every goal set there.

Work on these things and we will expand into the best we can be.

So…the question is: What’s NeXt for P.E.O.?

The answer is: It’s up to you! 😊
Elizabeth Gilliland graduated Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude from Brown University with a bachelor’s degree in Russian studies. She went on to earn her master’s degree at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont, which included a semester of graduate level study abroad in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Prior to her Ph.D. work, Elizabeth spent two years in the Peace Corps in Uzbekistan, teaching English as a full-year course at the university level at Bukhara State University. Second language writing and adolescent academic literacy is her Ph.D. focus. She hopes to be appointed a professor in a linguistics or TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) program at a research university.

The Presidential Scholar Award was established in 1995 by the P.E.O. Foundation. It is awarded in honor of the president of International Chapter during her second year in office.

Michelle Paquette graduated with distinction from the Honours Chemistry B.Sc. program at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Her doctoral research is funded by the prestigious Canadian NSERC Scholarship. Michelle studies photomagnetic materials and has developed a new class of hybrid materials in which magnetic, optical and conducting functionalities can be combined into one material, part of an evolving field of much interest as it relates to modern demands for data storage and processing. Her work has led to numerous publications and presentations including one at an international conference in Florence, Italy. Michelle plans to use her outstanding talents to lead a scientific research program in an industry-based environment.

This award was established from a legacy from Marian’s estate. Marian was initiated into Chapter AD, Cleveland, Ohio, in 1942 and later dimitted to AH and AF, both in Ohio. A 56-year member, she served as president of Ohio State Chapter from 1955-56.

Kathleen Sheehan’s main research interest is in the brain and behavior. She completed a Ph.D. in Medical Sciences at Oxford University, Oxford, England, and holds a B.Sc., from the University of St. Andrews, and a M.Sc. degree from Oxford, both in Neuroscience. During her Ph.D. studies she decided to pursue clinical medicine to complement her research. Once she completes her M.D. she plans to complete a residency in neurology/psychiatry, and to ultimately combine clinical practice and research to diagnose and treat patients with neurological and mental illnesses. Kathleen was a Rhodes Scholar and has an array of other prestigious awards, publications and presentations. She plans to pursue an academic career in medicine.

The Judith Wilson Named Scholar Award is made possible by contributions given in memory of Judith Wilson from Judith’s mother, Louise Wilson Noah, and sisters in the state of Michigan. Judy was a past state president of Michigan State Chapter from 1989-1990, and
chairman of the P.E.O. Scholar Awards Board of Trustees from 1995-1997. She was initiated into Chapter DM, Michigan, in 1973 and dimitted to Chapter BS, Michigan, in 1975.

**AMANDA WEINMANN**

Mary Margaret Bradley Named Scholar

M.D.

University of Minnesota

Chapter BN, Madison, South Dakota

Amanda Weinmann is a summa cum laude graduate of Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, with degrees in biophysics and engineering physics, and minors in mathematics and chemistry. She was also an NCAA athlete. Now in medical school, she has worked in the nuclear medicine laboratory at Mayo Clinic, with her work leading to major developments in their breast imaging research. Her work has resulted in a publication in a scientific journal and a patent. Upon completion of her medical education, Amanda sees herself working as a radiologist at an institution where she can continue to actively pursue research. Her background in physics and medical imaging will make her uniquely suited for a career in radiology and medical research.

This award was established in 2005 from a bequest from the estate of Mary Margaret (Peg) Bradley and her family. Peg was initiated into Chapter AZ, Wisconsin, in 1962 and later dimitted to Chapter EM, Melbourne, Florida, where she remained active until her death in 2003.

**AMY WINKLER**

Esther Garrett Edgerton Endowed Scholar

Ph.D. in Optical Sciences

University of Arizona

Chapter CS, Tucson, Arizona

Amy Winkler graduated summa cum laude from Southern Illinois University in electrical engineering, and has established herself as an outstanding scientist in her graduate program at the University of Arizona. Her research is focused on designing and adapting optical systems to image and detect disease, using optical coherence tomography. She is close to seeking a patent for an optical instrument that would allow diabetics to test for blood sugar without the pin prick, and is developing another non-destructive optical system for early detection of ovarian and colon cancers. Her goal is to have her own company, and her professor believes she will be “a true interdisciplinary engineer-scientist who will make a positive impact on human well-being.”

The Esther Garrett Edgerton Endowed P.E.O. Scholar Award was established in 1996 by a gift from Esther Garret Edgerton and her grandchildren. Esther was initiated into Chapter B, Needham, Massachusetts, in 1929 and dimitted to Chapter C, Belmont, Massachusetts, the following year. A devoted member for 73 years, Esther died in 2002.

**DEANNA N. GRIMSTEAD**

Ventura Neale Endowed Scholar

Ph.D. in Anthropology

The University of Arizona

Chapter AW, Tucson, Arizona

Deanna Grimstead earned a bachelor's degree with honors and a master's degree in anthropology from California State University at Chico. Her doctoral research specialty is zooarchaeology, the study of animals used by humans in prehistory, history and geochemistry study. Her dissertation research will explore human impacts on large game populations based on zooarchaeological and stable isotope evidence between A.D. 500 and 1250 in the Chaco Canyon site in Arizona. Deanna is a Jacob Javits Fellow and a former National Science Foundation IGERT Fellow. One of her community activity experiences was working as a volunteer fireman for several years while in graduate school. She would like to pursue postdoctoral study prior to accepting an academic position at a research university.

This fund was established in 2003 from the Ventura Neale Trust. Ventura was initiated into Chapter AE, Madison, Wisconsin, and later joined chapters in New York, Michigan and finally Chapter M, Miami, Florida, where she remained a devoted member until her death in 2003.
HEATHER BRANT HAYES
Carol A. Weese Named Scholar
Ph.D. in Bioengineering/Biomedical Engineering
The Georgia Institute of Technology
Chapter B, Atlanta, Georgia

Heather Hayes graduated first in her class summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor’s degree in biomedical engineering. She was awarded Vanderbilt’s Founder’s Medal for Outstanding Scholarship and has received several awards including a National Institutes of Health award and another from the National Science Foundation. Heather’s research focus is neuroengineering with specific emphasis on spinal control of movement. She hopes that this research one day will lead to neural-controlled prosthetics and rehabilitation devices for spinal cord injury and neuromuscular diseases. A postdoctoral position is next in her plan with a long-term goal to enter academia and lead a neuroengineering spinal cord research lab, as well as teach, mentor and inspire.

Chapter AF, District of Columbia, established this award to honor Carol Weese, a charter member of their chapter, who served as President of the District of Columbia from 2007-2008. Carol was initiated into her mother’s chapter, Q, Norfolk, Virginia, in 1980, and has also been a member of Chapter AP, Williamsburg, Virginia. A registered nurse, Carol has worked at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, since 1989.

CORY S. HOLDING
Carolyn E. Conway Endowed Scholar
Ph.D. in English/Writing Studies
University of Illinois
Chapter AB, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Cory Holding received a bachelor’s degree in English with high honors and a master’s degree of fine arts in writing from Penn State University. She was awarded membership in Phi Kappa Phi and Omicron Delta Kappa and was a Katey Lehman Fellow in Fiction Writing at Penn State four continuous years. Carolyn won the Robert J. and Katharine Carr Graduate Fiction Prize at the University of Illinois in 2007 and is currently serving as the Graduate Assistant Director of the Academic Writing Program at the university. Her research work focuses on feminist and materialist historiography, centered on British elocutionary rhetoric during the “long 18th century” (1650-1800). Cory plans to use her Scholar Award to fund her research work in libraries throughout the United Kingdom in the coming year.

This award was established in 1996 by Chapter U, Westfield, New Jersey, from the estate of Carolyn E. Conway. Carolyn was initiated into Chapter Z, New York, New York, in 1946, and she dimitted to Chapter U, New Jersey, in 1972, where she remained an active member until her death in 1994.

NATALIE MALEK JOHNSON
Betty Cook Karrh Endowed Scholar
Ph.D. in Toxicology
Texas A & M University
Chapter FT, Conroe, Texas

Natalie Johnson graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor of science degree in biology. Natalie’s Ph.D. studies in toxicology focus on food safety by assessing exposure and assisting in the development of sustainable detoxification strategies for food-borne and environmental contaminants in the international arena. She will spend research time in Ghana working with human aflatoxin disease which is spread through corn and peanuts. She is a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow and received several research travel awards from companies such as Pfizer and the Burdock Group. Natalie has numerous published articles and conference presentations and will pursue postdoctoral work in her quest toward a tenured professorship at a research university.

The Betty Cook Karrh Endowed Fund was established in 1997 by Bruce W. Karrh Sr. in memory of his wife Betty. Betty was a member of Chapter E, Wilmington, Delaware, for only two years before her death in 1997. Bruce wished to recognize her love for P.E.O. in her short time as a sister.
KATHRYN LADEWSKI
Elizabeth Kridler Meloy
Named Scholar
J.D.
University of Michigan
Chapter AA, Bowling Green, Ohio

Kathryn Ladewski is a Phi Beta Kappa honors graduate of Stanford University where she earned a bachelor of science in economics. Kathryn spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar in Santiago, Chile, to conduct research on the Chilean education voucher system, and spent time as a research associate at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, prior to enrolling in the University of Michigan Law School. She is a member of the Michigan Law Review, and received the Legal Practice Award for achieving excellence in legal research and writing. Kathryn spent the summer of 2008 as a legal intern in London at AIRE Center and will intern the summer of 2009 in Chicago with the U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division, where she would like to work following graduation. Her long-term goal is to be a federal judge.

Elizabeth Kridler Meloy was a lifelong member of P.E.O. as were her mother and sisters. She spent most of those years in Chapter AY, Toledo, Ohio. In establishing this award with a bequest from her estate, her son, George G. Kridler, and daughters, Barbara Kehn and Katharine Kunst, memorialize “her unwavering efforts and support for P.E.O. Scholar Awards during her busy and productive life.”

JOANNAH METZ
Mary Louise Remy Endowed Scholar
Ph.D. in Planetary Science
California Institute of Technology
Chapter QH, Arcadia, California

Joannah Metz graduated from the University of Illinois magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in engineering physics, astronomy and geology. She went on to earn her master of philosophy in polar studies as a Gates Scholar from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, and a master’s degree in planetary science from the California Institute of Technology. Her field of research and her life passion is the study of the planet Mars. Joannah has done summer intern and research work with NASA Ames Research Center, NASA Kennedy Space Center, Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and the Shell Oil Company. She is currently a team member on the Mars Exploration Rovers group and a member of the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter team. She hopes to be a future principal investigator on a Mars mission.

KATIE EKLUND
Mary Louise Remy Endowed Scholar
Ph.D. in Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology
University of California–Santa Barbara
Chapter FY, Omaha, Nebraska

Katie Eklund graduated from Valparaiso University with a bachelor’s degree in psychology, and a bachelor’s degree in social work with a minor in theology. She earned her master's degree in social work and a certificate in school social work from the University of Michigan. Her doctoral concentration is in school psychology with a focus on working with children and youth in the early identification and prevention of behavioral and emotional problems. As a child psychologist she looks forward to working with public and private schools and medical providers to design and implement a model of school-wide positive behavioral support programs and services.

The Mary Louise Remy Endowed P.E.O. Scholar Award was the first endowed award and was established through gifts from California State Chapter in honor of Mary Louise Remy who presided at the Convention of International Chapter in 1991, the year that Scholar Awards was adopted as the fifth project of the P.E.O. Sisterhood.
ERIN BAKER
Idagrace Guy Endowed Scholar
Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering
The University of Texas
Chapter CR, Austin, Texas

Erin Baker graduated from the University of Michigan in a five-year program that granted her both a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in biomedical engineering. The recipient of a National Science Foundation Fellowship, Erin is engaged in research that examines the interaction between internal cellular mechanical properties and the mechanical properties of the external cellular environment, the ability of cells to migrate, and cancer-related biochemical expression in breast cancer metastasis. She will seek a position as a principal investigator in an academic setting, national lab or industry, and in that role she hopes to affect science education policy.

The Idagrace Guy Endowed P.E.O. Scholar Award was established in 1997 by Arthur M. Guy in memory of his wife. Idagrace was initiated into Chapter AA, Evansville, Indiana, in 1961 and in 1970 dimitted to Chapter BY, Marquette, Michigan, where she remained an active member until her death in 1995.

KENDRA ERK
Jane G. Hines Endowed Scholar
Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering
Northwestern University
Chapter CV, Evanston, Illinois

Kendra Erk graduated with highest distinction from Purdue University with a bachelor of science in materials science and engineering. Through non-traditional analysis techniques, she is studying and quantifying the fracture and healing behavior of biologically friendly soft polymer gels that display good mechanical properties when exposed to different environmental conditions and deformation geometrics. The findings of her research have the potential to make significant contributions to engineering, chemical and biological fields with applications such as wound-dressing, drug delivery and tissue engineering. Kendra aspires to be a research professor and impact public policy in her field.

In 1996 Chapter EG, Kansas City, Missouri, established this fund through a bequest from Jane's estate. In 2004 it became the Jane. G. Hines Endowed P.E.O. Scholar Award. Jane was initiated into Chapter BD, Ashland, Nebraska, in 1934. In 1943 she dimitted into Chapter EG where she was a devoted member for more than 50 years.

Investing in Journeys to Remarkable

The P.E.O. Scholar Awards Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that 14 of the 85 scholars for 2009–2010 have been selected for the additional honor of being designated either Endowed or Named P.E.O. Scholars. The Scholar Awards Board of Trustees thanks the donors of these awards and extends congratulations to each of these 14 recipients. Although the amount of the scholar’s award of $15,000 remains the same, each of these women has received special recognition for her outstanding academic achievement and her proven potential to make a difference in her chosen field.

The Scholar Awards Trustees extends our thanks to all of you on behalf of the group of the 85 selected scholars for helping these outstanding women reach for the stars. We are pleased to note that due to the generosity of local chapters and individuals, the P.E.O. Scholar Awards project continues to grow.

The complete listing and biographies of all 2009-2010 scholars can be found on the Scholar Awards page on the P.E.O. International website at peointernational.org. Together with your support, P.E.O. Scholar Awards will continue to “Invest in Journeys to Remarkable.”

Thank you.

Diane Todd, Chairman
P.E.O. Scholar Awards Board of Trustees
You are cordially invited to

Be Part of It!

The Board of Trustees for the P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education proudly announces that the maximum PCE grant, effective October 1, 2009, has increased to $3,000!

Thank you, P.E.O.

PCE is funded by the generosity of our chapters and individuals. Your donations have made this exciting increase possible.

Each time you sponsor a worthy student and with every donation you give, you are getting involved with PCE.

During the last biennium we were able to award over $5,500,000 to more than 3,000 women who were completing their educational programs.

The PCE Board of Trustees is inviting every chapter and every P.E.O. to celebrate our success and Be Part of It.

RSVP—Applications are taken every day and everyone is invited to

Be Part of It.

PCE provides grants to deserving women with financial need.

Our students must:

★ Be sponsored by a P.E.O. chapter
★ Be a citizen of the United States or Canada
★ Be studying in the United States or Canada
★ Have at least 24 consecutive months as a non-student sometime in her adult life
★ Be within 24 consecutive months of completing her educational goal
★ Not be enrolled in a doctoral degree program, e.g., educational, law, medical or clinical
With great anticipation and excitement I announced to the delegates at the 2009 International Convention in San Diego that Cottey College is embarking on our first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign. The campaign will enable the College to transform the goals of our 2011 strategic plan into realities. It will enable us to increase the number of students and enhance faculty, programs and services to meet the challenge of our strategic plan to become a model for women’s education. Cottey’s campaign is aptly named “A Defining Moment: The Campaign for Cottey College.”

Now, I want to provide additional information. Cottey’s comprehensive campaign will be led by Barbara Andes, immediate past president of International Chapter, who has agreed to be the Campaign Chairman. As Campaign Chairman, Barbara Andes will be the Chief Executive Officer of the campaign working closely with the Cottey board of trustees, the College staff and a network of volunteers to ensure the success of the campaign. Barbara’s proven leadership, her dedication to women’s education and philanthropy, and her deep understanding of the missions of Cottey College and the P.E.O. Sisterhood ensure that she will guide the campaign to success. It was a defining moment for Cottey College when Barbara Andes said “yes” when asked to serve.

There have been many defining moments in the distinguished history of Cottey College. It was a defining moment when, in 1884, Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard said that women deserved the same education as men and with bold vision founded Cottey College. She worked for many years to ensure that Cottey modeled the best practices in women’s education.

It was a defining moment when, in 1927, the P.E.O. Sisterhood accepted the gift of Cottey College and took responsibility for it. Soon after accepting this responsibility, the economy sank into a deep depression. It was extremely difficult for P.E.O.s to honor their promise to Virginia Alice Cottey; yet they did stand firm, and the College, over time, flourished.

It is a defining moment when a young woman chooses to come to Cottey to begin her higher education. Her defining moment will come when she sees how the pieces of some intellectual puzzle fit together, sees how her skills and talent can solve some global problem, sees the direction for her life.

“A Defining Moment: The Campaign for Cottey College” is a $35 million campaign that will extend over a five-year period to make Cottey available and relevant to more young women from across the country and around the world. The campaign will allow us to achieve the goals of the 2011 strategic plan and the first phase of our campus master plan. There are five fundraising priorities:

- Scholarship endowment increased to keep Cottey affordable
- Faculty chairs to honor faculty and support their salaries for strong academic programs
- A new fine arts building to enhance Cottey’s excellent fine arts instruction
- Library enhancements to improve the intellectual heart of the campus
- Unrestricted funding to maintain excellence.
The campaign is an ambitious undertaking for Cottey. It will require the work and support of everyone who knows and cares about our College. Yet, I am confident that our efforts will be successful. The campaign has already gained 100 percent support from each member of the Cottey College Board of Trustees; 100 percent support from each member of the Executive Board of the P.E.O. Sisterhood; 100 percent support from each member of the executive board of the alumnae association, and 100 percent support from each member of the president’s administrative council. Most heartening of all, the graduating class, the freshman class, and the Golden Key Honorary Society made gifts to the College at the 125th commencement in May.

With the public announcement of the campaign in San Diego, an invitation has been extended to all of Cottey’s alumnae, friends and P.E.O. supporters to join the efforts to ensure Cottey’s future, to make this a defining moment for the future of the College. There is a role for every person who wishes to participate. The campaign needs volunteers as well as donors. Every gift, whether large or small, is important to reach our goal.

Cottey College is 125 years old. Virginia Alice Cottey opened the College on September 8, 1884, with 28 students. At our 125th anniversary, we are launching a comprehensive campaign to ensure future growth and excellence. More young women deserve to experience Cottey College—and we have the potential to make it possible. To do so, however, requires substantial resources to improve our infrastructure, develop our faculty, add and enhance programs and especially, make Cottey College even more affordable.

“A Defining Moment: The Campaign for Cottey College” will allow more women to realize their dreams and find their voices. With gifts large and small from the thousands of women in the P.E.O. Sisterhood, our alumnae and other friends of women’s education, more young women will benefit from this extraordinary experience—one that will shape their lives and ours.

“…What has been accomplished is only a premonition of that which is to come when with clearer vision, larger service, and concentrated effort there shall go forth from our halls hundreds instead of scores to make their contributions to the citizenship of the world.”—Virginia Alice Cottey Stockard

The time for “clearer vision, larger service, and concentrated effort” has come. Our leaders, our board and our faculty are committed to enrich and enhance the Cottey experience to make it available to more young women. Their careful planning and well-informed decisions have advanced the College and women’s education in response to an ever-changing world and the young women who are becoming learners, leaders and citizens on our campus.

| Scholarship Endowment | $10 million |
| Faculty Chairs | $3 million |
| Fine Arts Building | $9 million |
| Library Endowment | $3 million |
| Undesignated Funding | $10 million |
YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
with an Individual Gift to the P.E.O. Philanthropies

by Patricia L. Brolin-Ribi, P.E.O. Foundation Board of Trustees

During the next several months, many of you will be sitting down to write year-end checks to your favorite charities. As you do, you will consider annual appeals from non-profit organizations representing worthwhile causes from your hometowns and around the world. Your choice of donations reflects your desire to make a difference in today’s world by supporting causes in which you believe. It would be wonderful if you would add P.E.O. to your list!

We are pleased that a growing number of members are including a gift to the P.E.O. philanthropies in your annual year-end giving plans. When sending donations to the P.E.O. projects and Foundation, members understand that each individual donation increases the impact and effectiveness of our P.E.O. grants, scholarships, loans and awards. Each gift provides additional financial assistance to help deserving women pursue their educational goals. You receive a benefit, as well, in the form of a charitable deduction when donations are made to one of the projects or the Foundation.

Members recognize the profound difference their contributions make in the lives of the women they help, and by extension, their families and communities. P.E.O.s can be very proud that through our projects, we have provided over $190 million to help more than 80,000 women pursue their educational goals. That is in addition to P.E.O.’s ownership and ongoing support of Cottey College, with its more than 8,000 graduates, and P.E.O. Foundation’s distribution of millions of dollars annually through fund scholarships and in transfers to the projects. But mere numbers, as impressive as they are, do not tell the whole story. For that, we look to the recipients themselves. In The P.E.O. Record we find heartwarming accounts of how significant P.E.O. financial and moral support is to them. The real life impact of our philanthropies provides our members with a strong sense that one’s contribution IS meaningful.

These are challenging economic times. Now more than ever, it is essential to continue funding our projects and the Foundation in order to sustain and even increase the funds we provide women so they may pursue their educational goals. The need is great and every gift helps. In a continuing effort to encourage support for the women who benefit from our P.E.O. projects and the Foundation, we are expanding our vision by raising awareness of the opportunity members have to make individual donations to our P.E.O. philanthropies. We realize this approach is new, and our sisters are meeting economic challenges of their own. But we anticipate many of you will be excited by this option to provide much needed assistance for recipients at a critical time.

For members, friends and family who have given individual gifts in the past, please know how appreciative we are. We thank you and hope you will continue to help in this way. If you have not taken this opportunity, please consider joining with other P.E.O.s who make a difference by giving an annual gift to help increase educational opportunities for women. Each and every gift is greatly appreciated by P.E.O. and by the women who will benefit from your support for years to come.

Your tax deductible donation may be made by sending a check to the P.E.O. project of your choice or to the P.E.O. Foundation at the P.E.O. Executive Office, 3700 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312-2899 or online with a credit card at peointernational.org. THANK YOU!

Women Determine Families’ Charitable Support

A new study of American charitable givers by the Fidelity® Charitable Gift Fund found that women are playing a prominent role in their households and communities when it comes to philanthropy. Almost half of women surveyed say they have the decision-making role in their households for both how much money to donate to charity and which charities to support. Source: www.charitablegift.org/docs/Gender-Study-Executive-Summary.pdf
CHAPTER FI, LEWIS CENTER, OHIO
ORGANIZED: NOVEMBER 8, 2008
First row, from left: Kathy Fritchie, Carolyn Mullen, Jane Graebner, Anna Davis, Sarah Bohman Second row: Suzan Jervey, Marla Williams, Peggy Kissel, Jody Rowda, Kay Ferguson, Karen Holmes Third row: Ann Egan, Janet Shown, Amber Dursik, Anne Pasquale

CHAPTER NI, SMITHVILLE, MISSOURI
ORGANIZED: JANUARY 24, 2009
First row, from the left: Alison Fisher, Jennifer Naber, Karen Streiff, Marsha Vanderford, State Organizer Lee Curnow, Kathy Dibben, Sharyl Smith Second row: Roberta Sanderson, Vicki Tuxhorn, Nan Stepp, Florence Holmes, Martha Parks, Barbara Smart Third row: Jamie Champlin, Christine Deihl, Tori McLaughlin, Beth Lyman, Cheryl Hill, Margaret Parks

CHAPTER IU, PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA
ORGANIZED: JANUARY 31, 2009

CHAPTER IV, FORT MYERS, FLORIDA
ORGANIZED: FEBRUARY 14, 2009
First row, from the left: Betty Bainbridge, Bobbi Brown, Betty Boers, Mary McHarg, Joan Walton, Betty Lose, Betty Rinderle, Shirley Cook Second row: June Hamilton, Pat Broman, Betty Mueller, Linda Forcey, Jean Gilman, Patricia Myers, Mary Trettenero, State Organizer Lynn Lynch
These days whenever I pick up a newspaper, I see another story about one bank or another reducing lines of credit or increasing interest rates. We in P.E.O. are fortunate to have available to us the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund (ELF), which continues in good economic times and bad to provide opportunities for women, whether chapter members or not, to further their educational goals. Not only is the fund still supporting women, but the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund Board of Trustees announced at the San Diego Convention of International Chapter that the new maximum loan amount would be increased from $9,000 to $10,000 effective with Chapter Recommendation Forms received in the Des Moines office on or after October 1, 2009. The current interest rate remains at the same affordable 4 percent.

The women who established the P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund were indeed forward thinking. Not only did they provide a means for women to obtain money for education, but they also extended the use of the donations by establishing a loan fund rather than a grant or scholarship. As loans are repaid the fund is replenished and made available to other women.

The graphic on this page illustrates how various age groups are represented by ELF loan recipients from July 2008 to May 2009.

The most popular fields of study for this group of recipients were health, education, business and law. Our recipients come from all over the United States and Canada. In addition, 89 percent of recipients were pursuing either a bachelor’s or advanced degree; the others pursued associate, technical or commercial degrees or were enrolled in special courses.

Today the loan fund is strong and ready to help qualified women who need financial assistance to fulfill their educational goals. When the job market flounders, employees realize a golden opportunity to return to school in order to upgrade skills or change the focus of their careers. ELF is ready to assist those qualified women who need help to retool, revamp or redirect their life’s path as well as those who are just beginning their education.

This can only be done with the help of local chapters who find, sponsor and support applicants. The ELF Trustees do not find applicants—individual chapters do. ELF loans are more than just the dollar amount they provide; they represent the love, support and caring of the local chapter for a woman who is in need. With the increase in the maximum loan amount, the stage is set for each of you to reach out to qualified applicants.

Women are out there in need of financial assistance. Will your chapter find one of these women and assist her to achieve her educational goals?
Bed & Breakfast

The complete list of P.E.O. chapters offering Bed and Breakfast begins below. The listing is not to be used for circulation. These names are offered as a service to members and are not paid advertisements.

In all cases, the B&B program is offered by chapters as a means of fundraising for P.E.O. projects. Local chapters shall not sponsor for the P.E.O. B&B service anyone who conducts B&B as a personal business for profit. The program is available to P.E.O. members, their immediate families and friends when accompanied by a P.E.O. B&B guests may be asked to identify themselves with a current P.E.O. membership card. Prices are per person, per night, unless otherwise stated. Checks should be made to the P.E.O. chapter whose letters are included in this listing. Neither the guest nor the hostess may claim the amount charged for the B&B service as a contribution to one of the P.E.O. projects.

All B&B offerings are by reservation with the listed local contact who may or may not be the hostess. If cancellation is necessary, please let the hostess know as soon as possible. P.E.O. chapters and hostesses are responsible for the accuracy of their listing. International Chapter makes no warranties as to the facilities.

Local chapters participating in Bed and Breakfast are required to purchase liability insurance annually. International Chapter pays the major portion of the entire premium, and participating local chapters are asked to share in the remainder. The cost is $60 per chapter and $25 for each additional contact or area the chapter wishes to have in the listing.

The complete B&B listing is updated regularly on the P.E.O. website and is printed annually in the September-October P.E.O. Record. To be listed in 2010, chapters not currently participating may download forms and insurance guidelines from the members’ section of the website, complete them and return to the Executive Office with the correct insurance payment by June 1. Chapters discontinuing a B&B offering should notify the director of communications by the same date. Changes to the website listing may be sent to the director of communications and made at any time. Chapters may also submit forms and pay the entire annual insurance fee at any time during the year to be added to the website listing.

When participating in the P.E.O. Bed and Breakfast program, please remember you are a guest in a home—not a hotel. We want to ensure the continued success of this program which has generated many dollars for our P.E.O. projects and is a service of sister to sister.

Members may access the full Bed & Breakfast listing on the members website at https://members.peointernational.org/resource-library/listings-directories/bed-breakfast-listings
CHAPTER DT, MOUNT VERNON, IOWA

Organized: May 9, 1908  
Celebrated: May 14, 2008

First row, from the left: Lynda Hakken, Doris Newman, Dorothy Davis, Carol Dillard, Norma Poehlein  
Second row: Kristi Keast, Barb Shepley, Gretchen Beckhelm, Sheryl Peshek, Joyce Zenor, Joyce Bellamy, Karen Stewart, Mary Jane McWilliams, Carrie Nichols  
Third row: Jan Mussell, Wava Schmidt, Jeannette Kepler, Middie Morf, Betsy McWilliams, Sara Battingler, Maggie Noll  
Fourth row: Berta Ringold, Deanne LeVan, Corrine Drangenson, Cathy Boggs, Patsy Bradshaw, Sheri Nicol, Nannette Gunn, Deb Tuerler  
Fifth row: Linda Huber, Dodie Rilett, Darlene Boggs, Cathy Stoner, Becky Corbett, Melanie Wilch, Kathy Rice  
Sixth row: Sharon Peters, Carol Wozniak-Rebhuhn, Kay Graber, Paula Buck, Julie Noske, Lin Drumm, Nancy Reasland, Rita Swales, Nancy Mulford  
Seventh row: Margie Davies, Linda Halsey, Emily Smith, Babbs Moore, Joan Kirk (President, Iowa State Chapter), Diane Harrington, Judy Paul, Mary Jo Lessmeier, Ruth Miller  
Eighth row: Danielle Boggs, Paula Hedlund, Bonnie Wikstrom, Marian Kavka

CHAPTER I, LAWTON, OKLAHOMA

Organized: January 15, 1909  
Celebrated: February 9, 2009

First row, from the left: Darlene Kleyvas, Betty Aubrey, Sue Burpo, Rita Hill, Donna Littlefield  
Second row: Laura Ross, Beth Johnson, Dawn Aust, Josephine Raburn, Jane Godlove, Jeannine Aust, Betty Hartline, Judy Sherry, Sandy Joyner, Marsha Stadler, Bebe Reimer, Jennifer Erwin, Darlene Miller  
Third row: Carol Glick, Linda Neal, Cindy Sheppard, Pam Preston, Amanda Erwin

CHAPTER AZ, WAYNE, NEBRASKA

Organized: March 3, 1909  
Celebrated: March 21, 2009

First row, from the left: Jill Walling, Kristine Giese, Joan Carhart, Rae Kugler, Jean Griess, Joan Lage, Anne Hoeman, Lucille Peterson, Anette Rasmusson, Jill Sweetland  
Second row: Lauren Walton, Jolene Klein, Martha Brodersen, Tavia Wilts, Donna Liska, Monica Jensen, Stephanie Hansen  
Third row: Margaret McClelland, Gail Hochstein, Ginny Otte, Marilyn Carhart, Gerrie Christensen, Nana Peterson, Bonnie Lund, Marie Mohr, Pamela Matthes, Kim Bentjen, Heidi Armstrong

CHAPTER Y, FULLERTON, CALIFORNIA

Organized: March 5, 2009  
Celebrated: March 10, 2009

First row, from the left: Betsy McCormick, Doris Taylor, Jeanne Johnson, Marietta Smith, Carol Smith, Violet Johnson, Lorna Hitchcock, Barbara Ramsay  
Second row: Robyn Mathy, Ellen Ballard, Anne Warburton, Carolyn T. Johnson, Bea Peterson, Judith Helms, Shirley Wooldridge, Joyce MacKain, Betty Omalley  
Third row: Louise Shambleen, JoAnne Olson, Kathleen Osborn, Linda Jenkins, Carol Escapite, Nancy Carver, Jan Ballard, Martha Shaver  
Fourth row: Mary Reinhart, Lynda Ash, Donna Barnard, Anne Smith, Terry Brick, Nancy Holmes, Joyce Fellows, Sidney Lowrey, Gerene Bisesi, Mary Eselline, Judy Bailey
CLAIRE HUDSON
British Columbia
P.E.O.—A Patchwork of Star

Claire Hudson, AN, White Rock, British Columbia, was born in Chailey, Sussex, England, and as her father worked for external affairs, she lived in a number of countries during her childhood.

Claire married her husband Derek in 1968. He was a pilot with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and they traveled throughout Canada during his career. The couple’s son, Derek Jr., and daughter, Tracy, were born in Goose Bay, Labrador. Daughter Tracy Germaine and her husband Lloyd are chartered accountants and son Derek Jr. is an air traffic controller. Derek Jr. and his wife Cara have two adopted sons: Ashton, three, and Isaac, nine months old.

Claire held numerous accounting positions over the years, and ended her career as the office manager for a law firm. While in Alberta, she spent seven years as an appointed library board member and three as an elected school board trustee. Claire and Derek have been in Vancouver for 22 years and are both retired and loving it.

In her spare time, Claire enjoys traveling, sewing, word puzzles and reading. Her favorite activity is spending time with her two adorable grandsons.

JANET LITTERER
Connecticut
Weaving Patterns of Success for Women… Textured with Learning, Colored with Love

Janet Litterer attended her first P.E.O. gathering in 1972. Later that year she was initiated into Chapter CG, Oak Park, Illinois. She has also belonged to Chapters EW, Longwood, Florida; DD, Birmingham, Michigan; H, Fairfield, Connecticut; and her current chapter, AB, Fairfield.

Janet grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana. At Miami University she earned a bachelor of arts degree in French and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. In 1967 she married Joe Litterer of Louisville.

Joe’s career took them to Elmhurst, Illinois, where their two children were born and where Janet met the friend who would introduce her to P.E.O. The P.E.O. connection lent continuity in later moves to Florida, Michigan and finally to Connecticut.

In 1987 she returned to the work force full time as a French-English bilingual assistant. No longer available for daytime P.E.O. meetings, she requested permission to select a charter list for an evening chapter. Chapter AB was organized in 1994 with 20 members. Janet served in two of her favorite volunteer positions simultaneously from 1997 to 1999, as president of Chapter AB and as chair of the board of deacons of Greenfield Hill Congregational Church.

Janet works with her husband as director of marketing for his business-to-business market research company, ComSim. Daughter Juliet, AG, Fairfield, and son-in-law Ketan Majmudar have two children, Carter and Sona. Son Andrew, an auto technician, lives in Fairfield.
Among Janet’s favorite activities, in addition to interacting with grandchildren and taking day trips with her BIL, are reading self-help books, cooking for family celebrations, playing bridge with friends, practicing yoga and traveling to other countries.

E. FAYE GABRIEL
Idaho
Angel Wings and Starlit Things

E. Faye Gabriel was born on her grandfather’s homestead in Idaho; Idaho has been her home ever since, except for three years she spent in Denver, Colorado. Faye moved to Meridian, Idaho, in 1975 and was initiated into Chapter AD there in 1980.

After high school Faye attended Boise State University, Boise Business College and Mount Hood College of Mortuary Science in Gresham, Oregon. As only the second woman to have graduated from the mortuary science program at Mount Hood, Faye went on to become a licensed mortician in the state of Idaho. In 1985 she founded her own mortuary, Accent Funeral Home. In 1999 she sold the funeral home but still works there on request.

Faye met her husband Keith in China and they have been married four years. Faye’s family includes her two stepchildren, Craig Gabriel and Angie Fisher. Angie and her husband Anthony have one son, Alexander. Faye is also blessed to have her nieces, her mother, Audrey Lancaster, her sisters, RexAnn Burkhardt and Nancy Morris, and her brother, Gordon Lancaster.

Faye served as president of the Meridian Chamber of Commerce from 1988-89 and was a charter member of Soroptimists International of Meridian. She is also active in the Meridian United Methodist Church, where she has been a member since 1985. She is a member of the celebration choir, is a worship leader and is a lay chaplain.

In her free time, Faye enjoys writing (she has received honors for her personal writings and has had poetry published), traveling, golfing, attending Boise State University Bronco football and basketball games and doing various styles of tole painting.

Among Stars

Patricia (Patty) Balestrieri was born in Ontario, Oregon, and raised in Payette, Idaho. She was initiated into her mother’s chapter, C, Payette, Idaho, in 1978. In 1981 she dimitted into her current chapter, Y, District of Columbia.

Patty received her bachelor of science in nursing from Whitworth University, Spokane, Washington, and moved to Washington, D.C., to work for Senator James A. McClure (Idaho) prior to starting her nursing career. She currently works in the Pre-OP/PACU (Post Anesthesia Care Unit) at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, Falls Church, Virginia. From 1999 to 2001, Patty lived in Belgium where she connected with a P.E.O. group.

She has two daughters, Kathleen, a freshman at the University of Alabama, and Clara, a freshman in high school.

Patty was a docent at Washington National Cathedral from 2002 until 2005, and has been a member of Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church, Arlington, Virginia, since 1995, where she serves on the outreach committee and altar guild.

She enjoys good friends and family, traveling and classical music.

PATRICIA L. BALESTRIERI
District of Columbia
P.E.O. A Diamond Among Stars

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In her free time, Faye enjoys writing (she has received honors for her personal writings and has had poetry published), traveling, golfing, attending Boise State University Bronco football and basketball games and doing various styles of tole painting.
Marilyn Book was initiated into Chapter MJ, Fairfield, Illinois, in 1981. She has served as president, vice president, recording secretary and treasurer of her chapter. She served as chairman of the 2003 Illinois State Convention and treasurer of the 1989 Illinois State Convention.

Marilyn received her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Iowa State University and her master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. She taught mathematics at West Branch High School in West Branch, Iowa, before moving back to Illinois after college. She also taught mathematics at Fairfield Community High School (FCHS) before becoming the district’s technology coordinator. She coached girls’ volleyball and basketball for 21 years. Currently she is the athletic director/attendance officer at FCHS.

Marilyn enjoys golf, walking, reading, cross-stitch and Sudoku puzzles. She also plays the organ at the First United Methodist Church in Fairfield. Marilyn’s BIL Rick also teaches and coaches at FCHS. They have no children, but enjoy involvement with their nieces and nephews.

Marsha Rapp was born in Peru, Indiana. She lived on farms in the Gilead and Roann, Indiana, areas for 14 years and then moved to LaFontaine, Indiana. Her current residence, Thorntown, is where she and Don, her husband of 49 years, raised their family, so she now considers that her hometown. It was 1988 in Thorntown when Marsha was initiated into Chapter A.

A graduate of Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana, Marsha worked as a substitute teacher and stayed busy with various volunteer responsibilities with P.E.O. and with the Thorntown Public Library. She also served on several committees revolving around having children in school and taught decorative painting.

Marsha is the co-owner/office manager of Rapp Rental Properties, Frankfort, Indiana. She has been a member of the Clinton County Property Managers Association for 21 years, of Epsilon Sigma Alpha for 42 years and of the Society of Decorative Painters for 31 years.

Marsha and Don have three children. Christine lives in Raleigh, North Carolina. Douglas and his wife Lori live in Frankfort, Indiana, and have two children, Britleigh and Dillon. William and his wife Holly live in Frankfort, Indiana, and have two children, Kylie and Zachary.

In her free time Marsha enjoys reading, sewing, camping with family and friends, gardening and painting.

Karla Jo Farmer was born in Liberal, Kansas, grew up in Winfield and has lived in Fort Scott for the past 25 years. She is married to “Farmer Bob” and together they share five children: Christa and husband John; and sons Ryan, Quinton, Tanner and Duncan. They also enjoy three grandsons: Tucker, Hudson and Sutton.

In 1988, Karla Jo was initiated into her current chapter, CA, Fort Scott. She has served as treasurer, recording secretary, vice president and president. Prior to being elected to the
Kansas state executive board, she served on the Kansas Cottey College Scholarship Committee and on the Convention Advisory Committee.

Karla Jo attended Kansas University, received a bachelor of business administration from Southwestern College, Winfield, and holds a MBA from Pittsburg State University. She has worked as a commercial lines underwriter, owned a graphic design studio and is currently dean of finance and operations at Fort Scott Community College. Karla Jo and her husband enjoy traveling, entertaining, theater and are avid Jayhawk basketball fans.

SUSAN STANFORD
Kentucky
Giving the Gifts of P.E.O.

Louisville, Kentucky, is Susan Stanford’s hometown. While living in Caruthersville, Missouri, in 1997, she was initiated into Chapter GV. Later she was a member of Chapter B, Louisville, Kentucky, and Chapter M, Madisonville, Kentucky, before joining her current chapter, AL, Shelbyville.

Susan earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Kentucky in Lexington and a master’s degree in educational psychology from the University of Louisville. Susan worked as an elementary school counselor in Jefferson County, Kentucky, for 28 years. She is now retired and works part time for “Presbyterians Today,” the denominational magazine for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Susan and her husband Charles have one son, Brian. Brian and his wife, Vara, have two children—Lauren and Maddie.

Susan stays busy volunteering as an elder at Central Presbyterian Church. She enjoys singing in the choir, cross stitch, swimming, reading and participating in activities with her granddaughters.

LINDA BOUGHTON
Manitoba-Northwest Ontario
Let Your Star Shine to Light Our P.E.O. Journey

Linda Boughton has lived her whole life in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She was initiated into P.E.O. Chapter H in Winnipeg in 1978 and is now a member of Chapter V.

After graduating high school, Linda went on to Manitoba Teachers’ College. Later she attended the University of Manitoba where she earned a bachelor of education and then a post baccalaureate certificate in education. Linda taught for 31 years at 17 different schools.

Linda and Ken, her husband of 44 years, have three grown children—Curtis, Pamela and Kevin—and five grandchildren—Taylor, Troy, Emma, Carter and Sydney. Linda’s mother, Margaret, is 90 years young.

Volunteering for the high school Legacy Fund, United Church, United Way, Cancer Foundation, Heart Foundation and Manitoba’s Children’s Festival keeps Linda busy. In her free time she enjoys keeping fit, gardening, photography, swimming, water skiing, cross-country skiing and reading. Linda and her husband spend winters in Sarasota, Florida, where they have a cottage at Jessica Lake.

NANCY SCOTT
Michigan
Spiritual P.E.O.ple

Nancy Scott was born in Flint, Michigan, and has lived in different surrounding suburbs within 30 miles of Flint her entire life. She met her husband Dave in Fenton, Michigan, and that is where they married 19 years ago and where they still reside with their son, Cade, who is 17 years old. Nancy was first
introduced to P.E.O. while living in Fenton and was thrilled to become a charter initiate of Chapter EX in 1993.

After graduating high school, Nancy earned a Toolmaker Journeyman card by serving a four-year apprenticeship at A.C. Spark Plug, a division of General Motors. She retired in 2008, with 30 years of service as both a toolmaker and gage inspector and is now working part time as a teller at Dort Federal Credit Union.

Nancy has served on many committees over the years, both locally and nationally. She continues to be actively involved at Fenton United Methodist Church where she has served as a member and chair of the stewardship committee, a chair of the council on ministries and as a Stephen Minister. Nancy volunteered for the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance beginning in 1992 and is a former board member of the Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance Endowment Fund.

Nancy’s key focus is her family and her favorite pastime is being with them. Together Nancy and her family enjoy camping, boating, biking, fishing, swimming and sharing a big bucket of popcorn at the movies.

Merrell Thornton was born in New Jersey and spent her early childhood in Staten Island, New York, but she considers Oklahoma City the place where she grew up. Merrell graduated from Texas Woman’s University in Denton, Texas. She was initiated into her current chapter, Chapter G, Northfield, Minnesota, in 1978.

Merrell’s husband Bill is a retired college professor and the men’s track and field coach at Saint Olaf College. Thus, track and field and having the opportunity to work with many young men has been a very important part of their lives. Merrell worked in the financial aid office at Saint Olaf for 17 years. The couple has two grown sons and three grandchildren. Both of these families now live in the Northfield area.

Merrell is an active member of the United Methodist Church of Northfield. She has also served as coordinator and is currently president of Project Friendship, a local United Way agency. Merrell is a member of the steering committee for the American Red Cross blood drives in the Northfield area.

Merrell’s interests include knitting, reading, cooking and shade gardening with her husband.

Born in Fort Ord, California, Nancy McKeen grew up an “Army brat,” living around the United States, in the Panama Canal Zone and Naples, Italy, where she graduated from high school. After a year at the American College in Paris, she transferred to Colorado State University, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in communication disorders. Shortly after, she moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where she met and married her BIL, Tom. They have been married 28 years and have two children, Mark, 23 and Carrie, 20.

Introduced to P.E.O. by her mother-in-law, Marilyn McKeen (Chapter Eternal), Nancy was a charter initiate of Chapter CZ, Tempe, Arizona, in 1985. After Tom’s transfer to New York City with American Express in 1989, Nancy dimitted as a charter member to her current Chapter AU, Randolph in November 1991. One of Nancy’s proudest P.E.O. moments was initiating daughter Carrie into Chapter AU in March of 2008.

Nancy was employed for more than 22 years as a systems analyst and project manager in data processing. After a bank merger layoff she enjoyed two years of immersing herself in her children’s high school activities before returning to full-
time work just as she started her state board journey. She currently works as an administrative assistant for Belco Technologies Corporation. The company (of mostly male engineers) has been supportive of her P.E.O. service, giving her much-needed flexibility and even addressing her as “Madame President” since her installation in May. When her presidential year is over, Nancy looks forward to rekindling her interests in reading, cross-word puzzles, travel and time with friends.

Glynda is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and received her master of arts in teaching from Western New Mexico University. She taught elementary school in Texas and New Mexico before retiring.

Being a part of a group that organized the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Gallup and serving on their board of directors is especially gratifying. Other volunteer work includes reading with elementary students and house sitting at CARE 66, a homeless shelter. She is also an active member of the Methodist church. In her leisure time Glynda enjoys reading, cooking, gardening, her grandchildren and traveling.

Marilyn Angelo was initiated into Chapter BO, Binghamton, New York, in 1976. She was a charter dimit into Chapter CL, Binghamton in 2004. Marilyn comes from a P.E.O. family. Her grandmother was a member of Chapter F, Massapequa, New York. Her mother, Marion Angelo, was initiated into Chapter F and was a charter member of Chapters BO and CL, both Binghamton, New York. She served as president of New York State Chapter in 1988-89. Marilyn’s sister, Nancy Christin, is a member of ES, Shelbyville, Indiana.

Marilyn’s family consists of her parents, her brother and sister-in-law, her sister Nancy, and Nancy’s husband, son and daughter.

Marilyn is assistant director for administration at the small scale systems integration packaging center at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

She is a member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and also her local historical society and genealogical society. Her hobbies include genealogy, doll-house miniatures, gardening and spoiling her beagle, Chaos.

Marilyn received a bachelor’s degree in journalism and an MBA from the State University of New York at Binghamton. She has lived in Endwell, New York, since she was a child.
Linda Patterson was introduced to P.E.O. by her mother-in-law and initiated in 1987 into Chapter AF in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she is still a member. P.E.O. sisters abound throughout her husband’s family and Linda is a fifth generation member of the Sisterhood.

Born in Rochester, New York, Linda graduated from SUNY Brockport in 1968 and taught eighth grade English for several years. In 1970 she married her husband Tom and had two children, Michael and Sara. They moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1978 where she has lived ever since. Sadly, Tom died in January of 2000. Filling the void left by his passing, however, are her children, their spouses and four beautiful grandchildren—the heart of her life. Linda had the special privilege of initiating both her daughter, Sara Eloge, and daughter-in-law, Britta Patterson, into P.E.O.

School and church service has always been an active part of Linda’s life. She served on PTA boards, parents councils and numerous school committees for 17 years while her children were in school. As a member of her church she has served on various committees and taught Sunday school. Since 2006 she has served as an elder and member of the Christian education and pastoral relations committees.

P.E.O has provided many learning and enjoyable experiences over the years. Linda has served several chapter offices, was a member of the 1999 state convention committee and her most challenging role has been serving as a member of the state board since 2004. The greatest rewards gained from these experiences are all the friends made and the sisterly love Linda has received.

ROBERTA FAIR MOHAGEN
North Dakota
P.E.O. Makes My Heart Happy!

Minto, North Dakota, was where Roberta “Berta” Fair Mohagen grew up and graduated from high school. Armed with bachelors and masters degrees from the University of North Dakota (UND), she taught business education at the high school level for a number of years. She loved advising the cheerleaders! After earning a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota, Berta taught at UND for 10 years where her favorite thing was mentoring the student teachers.

Berta’s kids are all grown. Her sons Chris and Tom and daughter Jennie have given Berta five granddaughters to enjoy.

At First Presbyterian Church in Fargo, Berta has served as president of the town hall lecture series where she was privileged to meet the von Trapp grandchildren when they came to sing. Bible study fellowship is another anchor in her life.

Berta first learned about P.E.O. when she was awarded an ELF loan to support her graduate work. Thirteen years later she was initiated into Chapter Y, Fargo, where two of her college sorority sisters welcomed her. Two of the highlights of her P.E.O. “career” have been organizing the 51st chapter in North Dakota and initiating her mother-in-law and all three of her “real” sisters into P.E.O.

In her spare time, Berta enjoys golf, reading, bridge, volunteer work and jigsaw and crossword puzzles.
DIANE H Orr
Ohio
The Heart of Being Sisters is the Art of Being Friends

Currently a member of Chapter AG, Toledo, Ohio, Diane “Dee” Horr was initiated into Chapter BK, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, in 1963. Dee’s mother, Elaine Schoenleb, is a 61-year charter member of Chapter BK. Since 1970, Dee has been a member of Chapter CP, Dearborn, Michigan; Chapter S, Port Huron, Michigan; Chapter AA, South Bend, Indiana; and Chapter AA, Bowling Green, Ohio.

In Michigan Dee served on the State Amendments and Recommendation Committee and was a delegate to the 1991 Convention of International Chapter in Omaha.

A graduate of Ohio State University with a bachelor’s degree in English and a minor in sociology, Dee has worked in various occupations, including copy writer for retail advertising, radio commercials and newspaper classifieds. For the past 20 years she has worked as an administrative assistant to life insurance agents and a financial planner.

Active in Epworth United Methodist Church, Dee currently serves as communion steward and member of the administrative council. Her favorite volunteer job is with the Volunteer Trail Patrol in Toledo parks.

Dee’s brother in Phoenix provides her with a vacation haven, and her sons Douglas in New Jersey and David in Michigan make holidays and vacations a family affair. Her grandchildren, ages 12 to 21, bring love, pride and joy to her life.

REBECCA HUTCHENS
Oklahoma
Wish Upon a P.E.O. Star

Rebecca Hutchens was born and raised in Monett, Missouri. She received a bachelor’s degree in journalism and political science from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and a master of arts in journalism from the University of Maryland, College Park. After working on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., for five years, Rebecca earned a bachelor of science in accounting from the University of Maryland, University College, and then moved to Oklahoma to be closer to her family.

A certified public accountant, Rebecca is manager of tax and audit for Saint Francis Health System in Tulsa. She is counting down the days until retirement on October 1, 2010, after 23 years of service.

Rebecca was initiated into her mother’s chapter, KW, Monett, Missouri. She dimitted to Chapter L, Greenbelt, Maryland, and then to Chapter FZ, Tulsa, Oklahoma. While Rebecca served as organizer, Chapter FZ merged with Chapter GR, so she is now a member of Chapter FZ-GR, the only merged chapter in Oklahoma.

Having three older brothers, Rebecca says that her mother wanted a daughter to shop with, so she was born to shop. In addition to retail therapy, Rebecca enjoys “calling the Hogs” for the Arkansas Razorbacks and traveling, particularly on cruises or to Disney World. Rebecca has nine great-nieces and great-nephews who share her love for all things Disney.

Rebecca has been a participant in the American Heart Association Heart Walk for more than 20 years and a member of the supervisory committee of Saint Francis Employees Federal Credit Union for 10 years, currently serving as chairman for a fifth term. Prior to being elected to the Oklahoma State Chapter executive board, Rebecca served for 10 years on the board of the Eastern Oklahoma Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation and three years on the national audit subcommittee.
Janet Claire Erdeg was initiated into Chapter O, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, in 1983 and remains a member of Chapter O to this day.

Janet’s family has always been number one in her life. After earning her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Windsor and her bachelor of education from the University of Western Ontario, she left her hometown of Windsor, Ontario, when she and her “teenage sweetheart” Richard married and moved to make their home in Canada’s Capital City, Ottawa. Janet worked as a high school teacher and Richard for the federal government. Janet later retired from teaching to be a full time mother to her three sons: James, Michael and Andrew.

Janet’s 50-year career as a volunteer, begun at the YM-YWCA at age 11 and continuing to the present with P.E.O., was a natural outcome of her teaching and mothering ambitions. As her sons grew, she became involved in assisting in their education, interests and activities. She has volunteered her talents on no less than eight executive boards of various school, sports and community associations. Janet particularly enjoys reading, movies, travel, history and socializing with friends and family.

Patrice L. Smith spent her early life in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She received her bachelor’s degree in English from Albright College and has spent most of her working life in publishing, with short-term detours working in a quilt shop and as a pastry chef. Patrice now works as a freelance copyeditor and proofreader. In 1998, Patrice was initiated into Chapter AI, Swarthmore.

While volunteering with the Philadelphia Folk Festival, Patrice met her husband Maxwell. They recently celebrated their 30th anniversary. Their daughter Beth is a graduate of Moore College of Art and Design, the nation’s first and only women’s art college. Beth and her fiancé Chris will be married in September of 2009.

Patrice is an ordained elder and deacon and is an active member of her church. Her greatest joy comes from singing in the choir. For six years, she has co-chaired a shawl ministry group.

In her free time, Patrice loves raising orchids and is a student of ikebana (Japanese flower arranging). She enjoys the theater, the arts and taking cooking classes. Last but not least, Patrice and Maxwell love ballroom dancing.
Barbara Adams
South Carolina
Dancing with Our P.E.O. Stars

Barbara Adams is a first generation P.E.O. who grew up in Darlington, South Carolina. Her husband is a United Methodist Minister, and his work has taken them to many cities throughout South Carolina. It was in one of the parishes that a sister introduced her to P.E.O. In 1997, she was initiated into Chapter AA, Sumter, South Carolina. In 2001, she dimited to Chapter Y in North Augusta, South Carolina, where she and her husband reside.

In 1965, Barbara graduated from Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina, with a bachelor of science degree in business. She went on to earn a masters of early childhood education and did post-graduate work in reading at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Barbara taught for 30 years in the public schools of South Carolina and is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

Barbara is active in her church serving on numerous committees, teaching Sunday school and as a member of a women's circle. As her BIL is the senior minister, her responsibilities to the church and community are many.

In addition to her six adorable grandchildren and all that entails, gardening, cooking, reading and traveling are her favorite pastimes. Barbara is active in her garden club and is a Master Gardener. She and her husband have enjoyed traveling throughout the United States, to many countries and most recently to China in 2008.

Lisa Edwards
South Dakota
P.E.O.: Keepers of the Past, Light to the Future

Lisa Edwards was born, raised and still resides in Wessington Springs, South Dakota. As a little girl, Lisa would listen to her aunt and great-aunt excitedly talk about going to P.E.O. meetings and she knew she wanted to be a P.E.O. someday. She was initiated into Chapter D, Wessington Springs, in 1994.

Currently a direct sales consultant with Creative Memories, Lisa worked as a bookkeeper and bought and sold grain for a local grain elevator for 26 and a half years before retiring in 2006.

Lisa and her BIL Phillip have been married for 31 years. Their daughter Abbie is a member of Chapter CJ, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Abbie is married to Nick and the couple has two children, Dylan and Emma. Lisa and Philip’s son Grant is an English major in college.

Lisa played piano for the high school choir for 15 years; she has played for church services at the Methodist church for 25 years and is a member of the worship committee at her church. When her schedule allows, Lisa also participates in community choir. Besides playing piano, Lisa enjoys reading, scrapbooking, rubber stamping, sewing, quilting and she loves to babysit for her grandkids.
LINDA DAVIDSON
Texas

Become a Star for P.E.O.

Growing up in a P.E.O. family, Linda Davidson has been surrounded by P.E.O. love from the very beginning. Her mother, grandmother and two aunts were all P.E.O.s. Her great-aunt, Martha Lawson, was a past state president of Oklahoma. Linda was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and has lived in Denver, Colorado, Houston, Texas, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, Vienna, Virginia, and now resides in Tyler, Texas.

Linda was initiated into her mother’s chapter, CO, Houston, Texas, in 1973. She has also belonged to ED, Bartlesville, Oklahoma; AW, Fairfax, Virginia; and is now a member of Chapter BO, Tyler, Texas.

Bob and Joan Lawson, Linda’s parents, live in Nacogdoches, Texas. Joan is a 61-year member of P.E.O. and is in Chapter BO, Tyler, Texas. Linda’s brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Lola Lawson, live in Fort Worth.

Linda graduated in 1972 from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas, with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. She began her career with Gulf Oil Corporation in Houston. She worked through the end of her career at Phillips Petroleum Company in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, in various positions that included futures/options trader, federal lobbyist in Washington, D.C., manager of human resources, manager of public relations and manager of marketing.

Linda is an avid golfer, runner and hiker. She is also an artist, specializing in graphite, watercolor and oils.

LISA VICCHRILLI ANDERSON
Utah

P.E.O.: Sisters Nurturing Dreams

Lisa Vicchrilli Anderson was born and raised in Murray, Utah, and hasn’t lived more than seven miles from the house in which she was raised. She was initiated in 1996 into Chapter AC, Salt Lake City. She has a bachelor of science degree in speech and hearing science and a master’s degree in speech language pathology from the University of Utah. She is currently employed with Jordan School District, working with three- to five-year-olds with developmental delays.

Her husband Glenn is a third generation BIL. They have been married for 25 years and have two children. Timothy, 23, is a 2006 graduate of the University of Utah with a degree in mechanical engineering; Meredith, 20, is a member of the 2009 graduating class of Cottey College. Lisa’s mother-in-law, two sisters-in-law, aunt and cousin are all members of various P.E.O. chapters in Utah and Pennsylvania.

When not participating in P.E.O. activities, Lisa enjoys watching her beloved University of Utah football team—“GO UTES!” (or pretty much any football game—she’s a football junkie). She also enjoys reading, traveling, skiing the “greatest snow on earth” and spending time with her amazingly large, extended and noisy Italian family who love to gather to eat, talk and laugh.
MARIEE SOROOS  
Virginia

Starring P.E.O.

In 1966 Marg Soroos was initiated into Chapter BP, Indianola, Iowa, where her mother is still an active member. She has also been a member of Chapter KP, Iowa City, Iowa, from 1969 to 1977; and is presently a member of Chapter O, Alexandria, Virginia. She has been an active member of Chapter O since 1977.

After graduating from Simpson College with a bachelor of science in mathematics, Marg moved to Iowa City to attend graduate school, getting a certificate of physical therapy from the University of Iowa in 1969. While in Iowa City she met and married her husband Howard and had three children. Son Eric, his wife Rose and their two children Ben and Tim live in Langley, Washington. There is soon to be a third grandson in this family. Daughter Sarah also lives on the west coast and is a member of Chapter DQ, Seattle, Washington. Daughter Cynthia, now in Chapter Eternal, was a member of Chapter AE, Boston, Massachusetts.

Marg is newly retired after a 31-year career as a physical therapist for Fairfax County Public Schools where she enjoyed going to work every day to help children with developmental disabilities.

Marg is a member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church where she has played the handbells for the last 15 years and is a lay communion minister. She is also a long time member of the arts and drama committee for the church. Theater is her other area of passion. Marg works behind the scenes as a stage manager for the Little Theatre of Alexandria on a regular basis.

In her spare time Marg enjoys swimming, bike riding, baking bread and reading.

KAREN SCHUERMER  
Washington

Our Sisterhood…Stitched Together Through P.E.O.

Karen Schuermer was born to a P.E.O. mom in Pekin, Illinois. She has lived in many places including Ohio, Kentucky, South Carolina, Germany and Texas. She was initiated in 1991 into Chapter LJ, O’Fallon, Illinois, and is now a member of EW, Spokane, Washington.

Karen is a 1975 graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Home Economics, Lexington, Kentucky, with an undergraduate degree in early childhood education and post-graduate studies in human development and family relations. Right out of college Karen taught kindergarten and pre-school and created a daycare. She later worked for IBM and then sold real estate.

Eric, Karen’s BIL of 34 years, is in private dental practice after retiring as a colonel and dental officer in the Air Force. The couple has two children. Kate Heidergott, a third generation P.E.O. who is married to Andrew and mother of Ben, is a mastered degreed teacher. Son Tim works in finance in New York City.

Karen has volunteered for many organizations including Little Sigs and the Red Cross. She has been active in church groups and quilt guilds. She sang in the Air Force Heather tones and served as an officer on the Officer’s Wives Club board. Karen loves to quilt and sew. She also enjoys having lunch with friends, golfing, scrapbooking, gardening, reading, Mah Jongg and boating. Her greatest joy is taking care of grandson Ben and spending time with her family.
Laura Wahl was born in Fargo, North Dakota, where she graduated from North Dakota State University in 1965 with a bachelor of arts degree. It was not until 1990 that she was initiated into her present chapter, DX, Menomonie, Wisconsin, when the chapter was formed. Education for women has always been highly important to her and when told of the values of P.E.O., it seemed a perfect fit.

Laura has spent most of her married life in Menomonie. She and her BIL Jim have enjoyed 44 years of marriage. Jim is a semi-retired pharmacist. They have two married children: Steve and his wife Terri of Chanhassen, Minnesota; Nancy and her husband Craig, of Minneapolis, Minnesota; and five grandchildren—Jen, Alex, Brian, Greta and Otto. Laura and Jim have also hosted 11 exchange students who also have a special place in their hearts.

Besides her love for P.E.O., Laura volunteers as an installer of Lifeline for the Red Cedar Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary. She has been active in Saint Joseph Parish. She also loves to play bridge and enjoys the theater, arts and travel.

Rebecca (Becky) Lacina’s hometown is Media, Pennsylvania. Before settling in Wyoming, she also lived in Arizona, California, Washington and Montana. It was in Arizona in 1981 when she was initiated into Chapter AP, Scottsdale.

After graduating from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Becky was offered a position as administrative assistant to the chef of a five-star Scottsdale resort. Later she began her own catering business, A Matter of Thyme, which led to her present position as private chef for a dynamic employer. This position has created some exciting opportunities for her. She has cooked and catered many special events including a dinner for the Vice President of the United States.

Becky is a charter member of Chapter BE, Pinedale, Wyoming, which was organized from a scattering of P.E.O.s living in rural Wyoming towns. Organizing this chapter fueled a spark just waiting to be rekindled, and she has been personally involved in everything Chapter BE has achieved in the 11 years of its existence.

When she isn’t traveling for her job or for P.E.O., Becky enjoys cross-country skiing with her dogs, spending time on the beach and making Ukrainian pysanky eggs. She and her husband Rick live off the beaten path surrounded by serene woods and majestic mountains.
MARY MEINKING CHAMBERS, PA, Spirit Lake, Iowa, a graphic artist who studied at the University of Kansas, has authored two children's books, “Easy Origami” and “Not-Quite-So-Easy Origami.” Each book provides step-by-step folding instructions for 10 projects as well as fun facts about origami. Mary has always had a passion for arts and crafts and shared her origami expertise with her two children who are now college age. Mary has also had non-fiction work published in 12 children’s magazines and wrote the book “Cash Crop Cash Cow: the History of Tobacco and Smoking in America,” which was published in 2009.

GRACE D. NAPIER, EC, Greeley, Colorado, wrote her life story in her newest book, “Two Ends of a Leash: Unshackled.” Grace was born blind and began school when no special education programs existed for the blind. Initially, Grace was deeply misunderstood and ignored. In fact, she was even regarded as mentally retarded by a school principal. Grace’s parents became aware of a specialized education program and enrolled her in Miss Katharine Taylor’s new special education class where she flourished. Since then Grace spent her life learning and developed a long career teaching children and graduate students at three universities.

At age 17, Grace began using Seeing Eye dog guides and is currently working with her ninth dog, Esma. “Two Ends of a Leash: Unshackled” highlights Grace’s relationships with her Seeing Eye dogs. Grace dedicated the book to her teacher, Miss Taylor, and all nine of the loyal Seeing Eye dog guides she has worked with since 1940.

MARY ROSS SMITH, CM, Sedona, Arizona, authored the autobiography, “Soul Survivor,” detailing her youth growing up in and around the mortuary business as a fair-complexed African-American girl in the south during the 1950s and 60s. Her mother, Los Angeles’ first African-American female funeral director, was the high-profile owner of several funeral homes who left Mary’s father when Mary was still a young child. “Little Mary,” named after her mother, was left to live with her mother and one older sister, Ilona, after her parents divorced. Living with her mother and helping run the family funeral business, Mary was introduced to several famous entertainers of the time like Redd Foxx, Lou Rawls, Sam Cooke, Billy Preston and Johnny Cochran.

“Soul Survivor” depicts how her mother’s wild lifestyle and a chain of alcoholism and abuse frequently put Mary in life-threatening circumstances and treacherous situations with older men. The book also chronicles Mary’s family heritage and the history of the civil rights movement during that period.

SHARON ERVIN, AT, McAlester, Oklahoma, has written her eighth novel, “Aftermath,” a fictional, romantic suspense paperback that follows the life of a shaken newspaper reporter, 24-year-old Anna Fulenweider, six weeks after she has been rescued from a kidnapping. Still psychologically damaged from her abduction, Anna suddenly finds herself caught in the midst of a love triangle between her friend and coworker, Wesley Stemmons, a 32-year-old news photographer and his boyhood friend, Joe Marsh, a previous interview subject of Anna’s and creator of the tracking devices that helped save Anna from her kidnapper.

Sharon is a former newspaper reporter with a journalism degree from the University of Oklahoma. Sharon married her Beta pin mate, and after 45 years of marriage, she and her BIL have four grown children and nine grandchildren.
P.E.O. RECOGNITION SIGNS ANNOUNCE SISTERHOOD’S PRESENCE IN COMMUNITIES

Flowers and P.E.O. Recognition Sign Beautify Entrance to Rupert, Idaho

When Chapter BS, Rupert, Idaho, decided to take over the care of a planter box located at the main entrance into their town, they thought it would be a nice way to promote P.E.O—if the city would allow them to place a sign recognizing P.E.O. at the site. The chapter was given permission from the city to proceed. When Chapter P (the other chapter in Rupert) heard what Chapter BS was planning they offered to help with the project. All was going well until the chapters started looking for a custom-made P.E.O. sign—the signs available were all going to be too expensive. Melle Lee Warren, Chapter BS, recalls, “The day before we were to plant the flowers the May-June issue of The P.E.O. Record arrived and there was the article about the new P.E.O. recognition signs. It was perfect—exactly what we wanted—something discreet yet stating who we are and at a very reasonable price. We are delighted with the sign!”

P.E.O. Sign Welcomes Visitors to Iowa Community

Two years ago, Julienne Ferry, then president of Chapter AP, Harlan, Iowa, was approached by the chairman of Harlan’s welcome sign project. He wanted to know if the local P.E.O. chapters, AP and PD, would be interested in putting a P.E.O. logo on the new Harlan welcome sign. Julienne contacted then Iowa State P.E.O. president, Joan Kirk, and asked if they could put up a logo sign. The timing was right as P.E.O. had just launched the “It’s OK to Talk About P.E.O.” campaign. Joan presented the idea to International Chapter; International Chapter approved the project, commissioned a design and had a sign made. Harlan Chapters AP and PD are proud to display the P.E.O. logo on their town’s welcome sign!

P.E.O. recognition signs are now available in four sizes. See “To The Point” on page 65 in this issue of The Record for more details.
Nominated by P.E.O. Chapter GQ of Lawrence, Kansas, I was honored with a scholarship for the academic year 2006-07. During that year, I used my P.E.O. support to research in Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and to begin my dissertation in earnest. I also gave birth to my daughter, Sarah Blanche! Without the financial support of this organization, it would have been much more difficult to get a good start on writing.

Part of my dissertation research included the role of the Gabriela Mistral Society in promoting Central American women’s publishing and literacy in the 1930s. This society resonated to me of P.E.O., in that both organizations practice a cultural feminism that advanced women’s activity in society by promoting their continuous education. As I was being supported by one organization while writing about another, I felt a very personal and “lived” connection with this aspect of my research.

When I was invited to join Chapter GQ in January 2008, I was tremendously eager to join and to give back to the organization that funded such an important year of my doctoral program. Over the past year, I have served as GQ’s scholarship chair and have delighted in getting to know other sisters at meetings and socials. P.E.O. has extended my sense of community in Lawrence beyond the university campus and has underlined the impact on women’s lives that a small group of committed women can make.

Now that my degree is complete, I am leaving Kansas for Salt Lake City, where I will be an assistant professor of Spanish at the University of Utah. I look forward to getting to know a new group of P.E.O. sisters and to continue promoting women’s education and welfare both inside and outside of higher education.

Erin Finzer, GQ, Lawrence, Kansas

In 1990, as a single woman who had recently turned 45, whose children had left the nest, who had a high school diploma and who had worked in clerical positions for 20 years, I became inspired to become an interpreter for the deaf.

I enrolled at Front Range Community College in Westminster, Colorado, to pursue an associate’s degree in their interpreter education program. I began the program in September and between a financial aid package, work-study program and the proceeds of my retirement benefits I was able to complete my first year of what should have been a two year course. However, learning a second language was a bit more challenging than I expected. My two year course became a four year program.

Early in 1991 I began to work part time at Golden West Manor, a retirement community in my home town of Boulder. At that time the director of the facility, Nancy Brooks, was a P.E.O. in Chapter EY. I also sang in my church choir and one of my fellow altos, Fran Mitchell, was a P.E.O. in Chapter EY. I also had a friend, Carol Thompson, in Chapter EY. And finally, my daughter’s former third grade teacher, Mary Jane Hall, was president of Chapter EY.

These ladies got their heads together and proposed that I apply for a scholarship to help me finish my education. Well, not only was I awarded the scholarship that helped me graduate with my degree in 1994, but the chapter supported me with care packages for the last two years of school. In the fall I received a box filled with pens, notebook paper, highlighters, clever refrigerator magnets and decorative autumn leaves. In the spring, I received a spring basket. Sometimes I would receive fun foods to get me through exams. And always I knew that these ladies, most of whom I didn’t know personally, were supporting me and cheering for me.

Once I graduated in May 1994 and got settled as an educational interpreter in the Boulder Valley School District, it was only natural that I would want to become a part of this amazing sisterhood. I was initiated in early 1995 and have proudly held a variety of offices. But I’m most pleased when the name of a woman who is seeking to complete her education is brought before our chapter and I know I’m passing the P.E.O. torch.

Barb Cooper, EY, Boulder, Colorado
I am the current president of Chapter DW, Lake Worth, Florida. This is my second term serving. I was president in 2004-2006 after I was recording secretary and delegate to Convention.

In 1978 I was a happy ELF recipient which financially led me to my bachelor’s degree from Florida State University. My field of study in college was fashion merchandising. I was fortunate enough to be hired for the training program at Saks Fifth Avenue in Bal Harbor, Florida, and I had a wonderful 10 year career in management.

Since my days at Florida State, I have raised a family of two—daughter Linda, and son Rock, and I am married to a wonderful husband, Rock Sr. I ventured back into the work place after my son headed off to college and I am the owner of Happy Diversified Services (yes it is spelled correctly, after my maiden name Haapanen). I specialize in computer education and repair and I also do event planning.

I look back on my life and the organizations that helped me finance my way through college, and I am proud that P.E.O. was part of my education. I am proud to be a P.E.O!

Lyn Tate, DW, Lantana, Florida

As I neared the final stretch of my doctorate work in biomedical engineering, I received an email from my university with a list of scholarships that grad students could apply for. One in particular caught my attention: a P.E.O. Scholar Award. I had never heard of P.E.O., so I looked it up on the internet. What a wonderful mission the organization had! I seemed to fit the criteria, so I submitted an application. A phone call, an interview and a complete application package later I was selected as a Scholar Award recipient! The monetary part of the award was a tremendous financial gift, but the more unexpected reward came from my new relationship with Chapter BI of Yuma, Arizona—the wonderful group of women that sponsored me. They invited me to speak at the Yuma Founders’ Day, and I was able to meet with them at the Arizona State Convention in Tucson. The love, support and indescribable wonderfulness of the P.E.O.s carried me through the ups and downs of my final year of grad school. From cards and phone calls to hugs and home-cooked food in their hotel room at convention, the women of Chapter BI showed me that P.E.O. is even more than the philanthropic mission statement on its website. After completing my Ph.D. and accepting a faculty position in California, I have continued to live and work in Madison, Wisconsin. Several years later, my family and I moved to Manitowoc (my hometown) to be nearer to family. At some point my husband and I wrote a letter to the editor for the local newspaper and someone from Chapter EF read it and was thrilled to hear I was living in Manitowoc. I was invited to discuss my newspaper letter and my thesis research with the chapter at a social function. A couple months later I was offered the gift of membership into P.E.O. I accepted, of course, and have been delightedly received into a wonderful group of women that I cherish. I look forward to sharing the P.E.O. Sisterhood with many generations to come.

Kristen O’Halloran Cardinal, KA, San Luis Obispo, California

I was nominated by Chapter EF in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, for a P.E.O. Scholar Award. I really didn’t personally know the women in the chapter and had never before heard of P.E.O. They were very supportive and I was awarded the scholarship in 1999. After finishing my Ph.D. in bacteriology I continued to live and work in Madison, Wisconsin. Several years later, my family and I moved to Manitowoc (my hometown) to be nearer to family. At some point my husband and I wrote a letter to the editor for the local newspaper and someone from Chapter EF read it and was thrilled to hear I was living in Manitowoc. I was invited to discuss my newspaper letter and my thesis research with the chapter at a social function. A couple months later I was offered the gift of membership into P.E.O. I accepted, of course, and have been delightedly received into a wonderful group of women that I cherish. I look forward to sharing the P.E.O. Sisterhood with many generations to come.

Karin Lamberg Strazny, EF, Manitowoc, Wisconsin

NEXT QUESTION:
What is the best dish your BIL prepares?

Deadline is November 1, 2009. Answers will be printed in the January-February 2010 issue or on the website. Respond by mail to the address on the inside front cover or by email to bfrazier@peodsm.org.
**GUIDELINES:**
Ads are limited to those for fundraising projects for P.E.O. or for items and services directly relating to the organization, which are not available elsewhere. Payment shall be made to sponsoring chapter, not to an individual. Reader ads are available to members only and must include chapter identification. Send all information to mknec@peodsm.org three months preceding the month of issue.

**RATES AND BILLING:**
$5 per line, per insertion, to be billed after publication. Chapters running insertions for a year or longer may submit a digital photo to appear on the website with the information at an extra cost of $10 per year.

Members may view all Items for sale at https://members.peointernational.org/news-events/record/items-sale
FACEBOOK OR TWITTER

Sites such as Facebook or Twitter provide networking opportunities for P.E.O.s joining these groups. International Chapter recognizes that many groups have been started by individual members and/or chapters. While these groups provide networking with other P.E.O.s they were not started, nor are they monitored or supported by International Chapter.

Members who join any of these groups should be reminded that they must abide by Standing Rule #2 - Circularization and not use any of these groups for the purpose of promotion of International Chapter projects or circularizing opinion on any subject without the permission of the executive board of International Chapter. (See Constitution, SR #2 paragraphs 2 and 3).

There are various networking sites on the Internet and with the above caution members may join at their discretion. P.E.O. members still need to refer to the P.E.O. International Chapter Website for official information.

MEMBERSHIP LINK ON WEBSITE

Check out the new Membership link on International Chapter’s website menu. There you will find the explanation of duties, motivational updates and workable suggestions for local chapter membership committees. The “M” marks materials developed by the Special Committee for Membership Advancement.

RECOGNITION SIGNS

At members’ requests, to promote P.E.O. in our local communities, P.E.O. recognition signs are now available from the Supply Department. To order online, go to the member login section of the website and click on Special Items. Four sizes are available and all are postage paid: 12”x18” metal rectangular, $35; 18” x 24” metal rectangular, $55; 18” circular made of PVC, $55; 24” circular made of PVC, $80. (See article on page 57).

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Results of voting on amendments presented at the recent Convention of International Chapter in San Diego will be posted on the What’s New section of the website. Remember that any adopted changes for local chapters requiring revised materials and/or instructions will not be implemented until these are received in the 2010 winter mailing.

CARE ISSUE UPDATES

All updated project information and P.E.O. listings may be found on the members’ section of the website. Updates are made daily. The CARE issue is no longer printed.

The bed and breakfast listing is included in this issue as a pullout for ease of use. However, remember to check the website for daily updates.

THE P.E.O. RECORD ON TAPE

For information regarding The P.E.O. Record on tape, please contact Anne Vaeth, 11321 Craig, Overland Park, KS 66210.; akv@everestkc.net. This service for our visually impaired sisters is provided free of charge by Chapter DO, Kansas City, Missouri.

LARGER EMBLEM AND MILESTONE RECOGNITION PINS AVAILABLE

All emblems now ordered will come in the new larger size (see May-June 2009 P.E.O. Record, page 15). If you wish to replace your safety-back emblem with a button-back emblem or a larger emblem, return your original emblem to the Executive Office along with the $15 fee.

Check out the website under Online Jewelry Ordering to see the new milestone recognition pins which may be personalized with years of membership. These are ordered directly through Herff-Jones.

When presenting a new member her emblem, or a long-time member her milestone pin, check out the presentations now available. They are in the members’ section of the website under the president’s section of local chapter FORMS and also under the new Membership link.
Send completed form including your former address printed in the upper right corner (or give address at which magazine was last received) six weeks in advance of your move.

MAIL: Membership Dept., P.E.O. Executive Office 3700 Grand Ave., Des Moines, IA 50312-2899
FAX: The P. E.O. Record, 515-279-3554
CALL: 800-343-4921 (automated line available 24 hours a day. May not be available in all areas of Canada.)
EMAIL: membership@peodsm.org
WEB: peointernational.org (click on address change form)

Automatic Address Change: The P.E.O. Record may be mailed to two different addresses if the same seasonal address is used at the same time every year.

ADDRESS OR NAME CHANGE (please print)

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Leadership is a key component in a Cottey education. Mary Byram, Class of 2009, explains to a prospective student the four-level leadership certification program offered at Cottey College. The LEO program (Leadership, Experiences, Opportunity) is facilitated through the Helen and George Washburn Center for Women’s Leadership on campus. Last year, 76 students participated in the program and completed at least one level. To learn more about LEO, visit the Web page at: http://www.cottey.edu/home/academic/opportunities/LEO.html.