Purdue Bells students Moya Zhu and Karen You enjoy sightseeing in Edinburgh, Scotland.
Dear Friends,

Last year, PMO students logged some serious miles and performed around the state of Indiana, the United States and the globe! Heart & Soul, University Choir and the Purdue Bells performed in front of audiences around Indianapolis as part of their fall break tour. The Purduettes toured southwest Florida and impressed crowds around the state as part of their spring break tour. In May, the Purdue Bells and the Purdue Varsity Glee Club embarked on a two-week international tour of England and Scotland, performing in historic venues like the Lincoln Cathedral and St. James’s Church Piccadilly.

Your gifts to PMO helped make all of these trips possible!

Thanks to you, PMO is able to provide performances, travel opportunities, leadership experience and lifelong memories for talented students who are studying everything but music.

Some other ways that PMO utilized gift funds this year include:

- Preseason “camps” for the Purduettes, Glee Club and Purdue Bells at Camp Tecumseh in Brookston, Indiana. We are thankful for the donor support that made it possible to take three ensembles to camp for the first time this year!
- Scholarships for 168 PMO students, totaling more than $350,000. Thanks to you, every single student who applied for a scholarship received some aid.
- Updates in security systems and safety measures at Bailey Hall, a building paid for entirely with donated funds.
- Purchases of sheet music, instruments and sound equipment.

As university appropriations account for just 25 percent of our annual budget, we rely on your continued support for the operation of this program. I am incredibly grateful for your generosity and the impact that it makes on the lives of our students.

Hail Purdue,

William E. Griffel
Albert P. Stewart Director of Purdue Musical Organizations

Jack Calhoun Director of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: Shaffer Leaves PMO “Better Than He Found It”

As a proud grandson of World War II veterans, Bryce Shaffer is grateful for the life-changing opportunities he received during his time performing with the Purdue Varsity Glee Club, such as singing at the Normandy American Cemetery on Memorial Day in 2013.

“My college experience would have been drastically different without my time in PMO,” Shaffer says. “Along with PMO scholarships that allowed me to focus on my schoolwork and not be burdened by financial issues, getting to travel abroad and do things like perform in the Notre Dame Cathedral was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

A 2014 alumnus of the College of Liberal Arts, Shaffer is a passionate advocate for endowing the arts at Purdue. In addition to his annual donations on Purdue Day of Giving, Shaffer recently established a planned gift to PMO. Shaffer’s example shows that one can never be too young (or too old!) to consider a planned gift endowment.

“I wanted to give back to ensure that the current and future students will get to have the same life-changing opportunities that I had,” Shaffer says. “Making a planned gift ensures that I am helping PMO the best way I can in a way that works with my life as I grow in my career. I am able to give towards my endowment each year until it is fulfilled, making it easier for me to build those donations into my budget as a young professional.”

PMO is grateful to young alumni like Bryce Shaffer who support our program and continue to provide opportunities for our students!
Thanks to all of the PMO students, parents, alumni and supporters for helping PMO “take giant leaps” on the sixth annual Purdue Day of Giving!

In just 24 hours on April 24, PMO raised more than $107,000 from a record 1,197 gifts. The enthusiasm from our alumni, donors and parents helped PMO win an additional $16,261 in bonus money from participation challenges alone. Altogether, Purdue University raised a total of $41.6 million from donors in every state and 60 different countries, and set the record for the most successful 24-hour fundraising campaign in higher education for the fifth straight year.

PMO would like to specially thank the students’ parents, who helped us jump up the leaderboard from ninth to fourth place during the 8-9 p.m. giving challenge. The PMO “young alumni” also stepped up during the 9-10 p.m. giving challenge to help PMO win the young alumni challenge hour for the first time, secure third place overall in most individual donations and win PMO an additional $8,000 in bonus money!

The PMO students and staff are ever grateful for the support from alumni, parents and friends. We look forward to sharing how your donations continue to grant student opportunities throughout the year. Keep your eyes peeled during the 86th annual Purdue Christmas Show to see how your generosity on last year’s Purdue Day of Giving has already impacted our PMO students!

PMO Takes “Giant Leaps” on Purdue Day of Giving!

Calling All PMO Alumni! PMO is seeking submissions for the Outstanding PMO Alumni Award. If you know a PMO alum who deserves to be recognized, submit your nomination for the award at purdue.edu/pmo/about/alumni.
Bustling cobblestone streets filled with beautiful bagpipe serenades and authentic Scottish tartans were enjoyed by nearly 150 travelers who embarked on the Purdue Bells and Purdue Varsity Glee Club’s two-week performance tour of the United Kingdom this past May. The 69 singers, 23 ringers and 41 PMO supporters immersed themselves in the local culture while exploring England and Scotland.

For students like Brittney Dial, a public relations major ringing with the Purdue Bells, the experiences gained abroad will last long after the trip’s conclusion. A sophomore from Brownsburg, Indiana, Dial befriended fellow handbell ringers in Glasgow, Scotland, and has remained pen pals with them since the tour concluded last spring.

“I am forever grateful for the opportunities that PMO supporters provide for me,” Dial says. “I am so excited to be returning to ring with the Purdue Bells again this year!”

While abroad, students in the Glee Club and Purdue Bells had the opportunity to perform in a variety of venues, including the historic Lincoln Cathedral and St. James’s Church Piccadilly. Both ensembles joined together to perform collaboration concerts featuring sacred songs such as “Let All the World in Every Corner Sing.” The Purdue Bells had the unique privilege of performing an original composition of “Amazing Grace,” under the direction of Malcolm C. Wilson at the Dunblane Cathedral in Edinburgh, Scotland.

While sailing down the picturesque Loch Lomond, the Glee Club performed the beautiful ballad of the same name to the immense enjoyment of the guests on board. Visits to cultural and historical landmarks such as the Edinburgh Castle, the Tower of London and Buckingham Palace topped the list of students’ favorite activities throughout the tour.

PMO would like to thank the generous alumni and supporters who made this trip possible by subsidizing costs and providing these incredible travel opportunities for our students!
Purdue Bells to Celebrate 40 Years of Ringing Radiantly

OCTOBER 11, 2019

Founded in 1979, the Purdue Bells have served as ambassadors for the University for four decades. As the only instrumental ensemble in PMO, this talented handbell choir has represented Purdue on illustrious stages around the world.

The Purdue Bells’ 40th anniversary is quickly approaching this fall, and PMO invites all Bells alumni, friends and family members to attend the Celebration Dinner on Oct. 11, during Homecoming weekend. Registration is now available online at: giving.purdue.edu/PurdueBells40.

If you are a Purdue Bells alum but did not receive the invitation and would like to update your contact information, please contact PMO at (765) 494-3941.

We hope you will join us for this momentous occasion in PMO history!
Last fall, six members of University Choir boarded the Purdue jet, flew to Port Canaveral and experienced a “bucket list” opportunity: performing at the commissioning ceremony for the USS Indiana. The nuclear-powered submarine is the third Navy ship named after the state and is considered one of the most powerful warships on Earth.

Under the direction of the University Choir Assistant Director Jake Stensberg, the six students selected to perform were members of the Chamber Choir specialty ensemble. During the commissioning ceremony, the students performed a variety of patriotic songs, including “The Star-Spangled Banner,” the “Navy Hymn” and “Back Home Again in Indiana.”

Upon receiving a special invitation from the office of Purdue President Mitch Daniels, PMO was the only Indiana university musical organization selected to participate in the commissioning ceremony. PMO is grateful for the incredible opportunity for our students to represent Purdue, Indiana and the United States of America.

A live stream video of the Commissioning Ceremony is available to view at: ussindiana.org.
Congratulations to PMO Business Manager Marietta Taylor on receiving the Purdue University Bravo Award! The Bravo Award seeks to highlight the excellence found across all areas and job functions at Purdue by recognizing extraordinary achievements in every department. This award recognizes employees who go above and beyond their regular work responsibilities for the benefit of the University. After four years of serving as PMO Business Manager, Taylor has accepted a new position and will be moving on from her time at Purdue. She will always be a valued member of our extended PMO family. Reflecting on her time at Purdue, Taylor is grateful for her connections with students and says they were her favorite part about working for PMO. “PMO students are so full of life,” Taylor says. “I admire their energy. Each year the talent bar is set higher, and this year is no exception. These students are simply amazing.” PMO is grateful for Marietta Taylor’s dedication to our students and program. Please join us in thanking her for her years of dedicated service to PMO and wishing her well in her new position!

PMO STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Taylor Receives Bravo Award

Join Us for the 86th Annual Purdue Christmas Show this December

Mark your calendars for the 86th annual Purdue Christmas Show on Dec. 7-8! Tickets for this year’s show are already on sale. Visit purdue.edu/PMO to reserve your seats today!
Your PMO Staff

Serving Students, Alumni and Donors

Beth McCuskey, Ed.D.
Vice Provost for Student Life

Katherine Sermersheim, Ph.D.
Dean of Students

William E. Griffel
Albert P. Stewart Director of Purdue Musical Organizations
Jack Calhoun Director of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club

Rhonda Blacklock
Director, Purdue Bells and Heart & Soul

Chrissy Crawley
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Kim Delks
Account Clerk

Scott Hines
Assistant Director, Purdue Varsity Glee Club

Rachel Mirkin
Scheduling & Events Coordinator

Jacob Stensberg
Assistant Director, Purduettes and University Choir
Director, All-Campus & Community Chorale and PMO Kids Choir

Jeff Vallier
Director, Purduettes, University Choir and Recruitment

Kris Webster
Administrative Assistant

Colton Withers
Associate Director, Donor & Alumni Relations and Operations

Register now for the Purdue Bells 40th Anniversary Celebration! For more information and to register, visit giving.purdue.edu/PurdueBells40.