



Ninety-Nines

Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929

Special Scholarship Issue 2021



Ninety-Nines *Inspiring Women Pilots Since 1929*

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Page 5: Back row from left: AEMSF Trustees Madeleine Monaco, Jacque Boyd, Joy Parker-Blackwood, Jenny Beatty. Front row: Charlene Falkenberg, and Peggy Doyle.

Christina Williams held a well-paying job as an automation engineer.

She always wanted to fly and fell in love with aviation after her discovery flight. She connected with The 99s, earned her private pilot certificate and now is the First Airline Academy AEMSF Scholarship Recipient.



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On The Cover

Justine Blanchet, a member of the French Section, is shown flying a Hatz Biplane.

Having a passion for aerobatics, she serves as an inspiration and mentor to the 13 members of the French Section, four of whom are student pilots.

Photo by Hervé Depreaux



Special Scholarship Issue

Volume 46, Number 4

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Flying Away to New Adventures

Although I've been a writer and editor since my high school and college days, I never imagined being publisher and editor of a flying magazine. My friend, Ninety-Nine Bobbi Roe, brought me along as editor when she became publisher, and here I am still, finishing my 100th issue of *The Ninety-Nines magazine*. Sadly though, it's time to retire.

I am at loss for words except to thank you for welcoming me and sharing your amazing stories. They will comprise an inspiring and everlasting history of your organization and aviation.

Please know I am thankful for your help, inspiration and friendship during these many years. I will miss you, but I have copies of all *The Ninety-Nines* magazines to look back on and remember you fondly.

Fly High,
~Danielle Clarneaux



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Amelia Earhart winners were announced for 2021. They join many AE scholarship winners over the years, including Cici Stratford, left, a 1985 recipient.

This year, the Trust was able to award 22 Scholarships totaling \$184,693.

Beth White is not only a pilot but also an Education Design Coach at Big Picture Learning. The program encourages schools to support individual education programs that are meaningful to the students. Beth is also a talented artist with a focus on aviation-themed paintings.



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The 99s Mission Statement

The Ninety-Nines® International Organization of Women Pilots® promotes advancement of aviation through education, scholarships, and mutual support while honoring our unique history and sharing our passion for flight.

Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund Celebrates 80th Anniversary



By Dorothy Berthelet, AEMS F Trustee and Fund Historian, Eastern Ontario Chapter

2021 MARKS THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY

of the awarding of the first Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship. That first scholarship, a \$150 award toward an instrument rating, went to Patricia Thomas Gladney. Eighty years later, the Fund has been fortunate to award scholarships to over 1,100 members of the Organization from the United States, Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, Nepal, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, Russia, and South Africa.

Discussion began about how best to memorialize Amelia Earhart in 1939 when Ruth Nichols was named Chair of the Amelia Earhart Memorial Fund Committee. "One of the best methods of assisting women in attaining equal opportunity with men is to furnish them with, as far as possible, equal flight training and experience," said Ruth.

The Committee, along with input from the membership, developed an application. Ruth then went to the National Aeronautic Association, a close partner of The Ninety-Nines. At an NAA meeting on January 10, 1940, she used an example to show how women felt about the need to support the funding of the scholarship: "I am a woman pilot. I have to earn my own living. How can I train myself for a job in aviation? I'll do anything to start, including some starving, if only I can establish myself in the profession. I want to Fly!"

She went on to say that inquiries such as this were being received from all sections of the country. Inquiries to the Scholarship Trustees today are eerily similar, except that they are worldwide sources.

In 1940, Alma Harwood, appointed as the first Scholarship Fund Chair, announced a \$4,000 fundraising goal with the intent to eventually use the estimated annual interest of \$240 to fund one scholarship every other year. This scholarship was originally focused on "blind flying," thus an Instrument Rating qualification for members with a minimum of 200 certified solo hours who are wage earners, with the condition that the rating is retained for a minimum of three years. After discussion, the application range was extended to other advanced training. Sections and Chapters were challenged to raise funds in any way they deemed fit.

Outside judges rated the 19 applications received in 1941. Patricia Thomas Gladney was announced in Albuquerque as the

first scholarship winner, funded by President Betty Gillies and Alma Harwood, allowing more time for the Fund to grow from other funds raised. At this point in 1941, \$2,500 had been raised.

The Trustees wisely created a strong Resolutions document outlining how the Fund would be governed. Clear rules about investments were defined, including the split between stock, bonds, cash, and minimum ratings. Eventually, the formula for the annual budgetary ceiling for the scholarship was changed from being interest-only based to instead focusing on a formula of 5 percent of a 3-year average of the calendar-year investment fund balance, thus ensuring that this Fund would remain indefinitely ongoing into the future.

These wise decisions have resulted in the fact that today, 80 years later, the scholarship has grown from the initial \$2,500 to over \$6 million. The Fund moved from one award being presented in 1941 to including awards for ab-initio pilot licenses and an average of 60 scholarships/awards being given out annually.

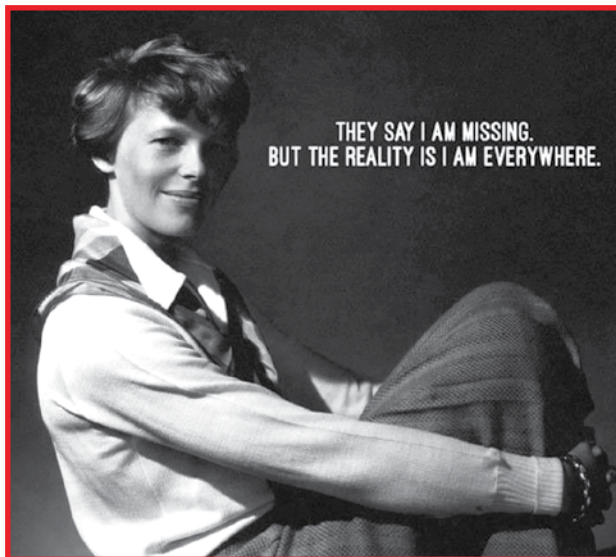
Contributions to the Fund have come largely from our membership, and that's one of the things that makes it unique to The Ninety-Nines. There are 28 Perpetual Scholarships set up to honor or memorialize members.

Another unique quality is that no specific scholarship is offered, but members can apply for the ratings and certifications necessary to their career advancement.

The Fund has awarded 118 Instrument ratings, 81 Commercial certificates, 210 Certificated Flight Instructor, 133 Multi-Engine, 54 Type, 10 Vicki Cruse Emergency Maneuver training, and 67 ATP ratings.

There have also been awards from the Maule family to obtain a Tailwheel endorsement, the Vicki Cruse Memorial Scholarship in Emergency Maneuvers, various specialty training courses including mountain flying, agricultural pilot training, aviation fire-fighting certification, and helicopter training courses.

Seventy Academic training awards have been made for aviation-related bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, and doctoral studies, and 306 student pilot awards were presented for private pilot certificates, awarding over one million dollars. In addition, the combined value of all 817 advanced flight training, research, and academic awards exceeds \$12,000,000.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Celebrating Aviation Dreams Come True

This special issue of our magazine is a celebration of the bond we, as Ninety-Nines, share with each other, as demonstrated in helping our members achieve their aviation dreams. Since 1941, 80 years ago when we gave our very first scholarship, we have made a tangible difference in the lives of our members.

Our scholarships have an immediate, as well as long-term, impact on the recipients and open up a world of possibilities. Upon winning a scholarship, each recipient realizes that we recognize her potential and we are willing to invest in her future. In return, the recipient is given a unique opportunity to be able to “pay it forward” later in life.

Our scholarships have a long-term impact on our donors, too. In giving, we are rewarded. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, “Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.” In giving to support our scholarships, we become a part of each recipient’s journey, and we are able to leave a legacy for years to come.

That’s what this special issue is about — a celebration of planting seeds that will flourish in the future and a celebration of those who have received our scholarships and of those who have made these scholarships possible.

That’s definitely worth celebrating!



Corbi Bulluck
International President

Honoring the 80th Anniversary of the First AEMS F Award

On this 80th anniversary of the first Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship in 1941, the many 99s who have served as Trustees of this Fund (a job many think of as the “*best*” position in The 99s) decided to honor the wisdom and forethought of the founders of The Fund. Each year, the Forest of Friendship honors outstanding aviation persons and groups. This year, the AEMS F will be honored by the dedication of a new bench to be placed in the lovely Forest.

The founders of the Fund, many of whom served as the first Trustees, shared a common goal: to provide scholarships and/or grants for educational advancement in aviation or aerospace for members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc. The Trustees, past and present, have successfully followed that dictate for 80 years.



Back row from left: Madeleine Monaco, Jacque Boyd, Joy Parker-Blackwood, Jenny Beatty. Front row: Charlene Falkenberg, Peggy Doyle.



From back, Mearl Frame, Debby Cunningham, Dorothy Berthelet, Peggy Doyle, and Carol Rayburn.

Who are these Trustees? Every Trustee must be a member of the Organization, which means we all have the commonality of being licensed pilots. Through the years, the Trustees have included commercial pilots, flight instructors, Ph.D.s, former WASP, FAA administration, Designated Pilot Examiners, owners of flight schools and aviation-related businesses, air racers, glider pilots, helicopter pilots, and balloon pilots.

This varied background has enabled the Trust to carry on a common mission of serving the members of The Ninety-Nines, Inc. in the best way possible.

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The True Magic of Scholarships

By Donna Miller, Colorado Chapter

Congratulations on your scholarship! You have earned a huge opportunity, and your life is about to change in a major way.

When I received the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship for my multi-engine rating, I had no idea what a launchpad that experience would become. At the time, I didn't have the money to get the rating on my own, but without it there was no way I'd be qualified for my first flying job.

I am forever grateful to The Ninety-Nines for jump-starting the airline career that has allowed me to live my passion. When I run into my fellow scholarship recipients, although we have taken wildly different paths, I see similar gratitude for the true gift that a scholarship has been for all of us.

What I have learned since I first applied for a scholarship is how much work by so many people it takes to make these life-changing gifts available. I've seen Chapters parking cars in the summer sun at airshows and donating their proceeds to the Scholarship Fund. Pancake breakfasts, 99s logo clothing and bags and silent auctions help the program. Proceeds from aviation-themed quilts, potholders and placemats painstakingly sewn by creative women who have skills far beyond those needed for the aircraft they fly are donated to the cause.

Individuals and Chapters work for years to contribute to the scholarship fund. There are

anonymous donors who share their gifts, others who honor aspiring pilots in their wills, and those who write a check to pay it forward. Think of how many volunteer members it must take to read and evaluate the packets, and others who manage the funds and distribute the awards. It is mind boggling to think of the work that goes on behind the scenes to make the scholarships available.

I hope that when you receive your award, you thank those who wrote letters on your behalf. I hope you write thank-you notes to everyone who had a hand in your success and truly take a moment to feel the gratitude for the amazing gift you have been given. It may take a while, but when you can, support the many efforts

each Chapter and Section contributes to sustain the scholarship program. Purchase gifts for your flying friends from The 99s Chapters that give their hard earned talent and money that helped give you a leg up. It is up to us all to support one another. When we support a fledgling pilot, we create stronger Chapters and Sections, not to mention making new friends. Our Ninety-Nines legacy continues to grow and branch out to new countries and new horizons.

So, congratulations to the new Amelia Earhart Scholarship recipients! Your hard work has paid off. This incredible gift also comes with an opportunity to pay it forward.

Welcome to the sisterhood.



Donna Miller shows her love of flying.

**What I have learned
since I first applied
for a scholarship is
how much work by
so many people it
takes to make these
life changing gifts
available.**

Six Secrets to a Top-Notch Scholarship Application

By Jenny Beatty, AEMSF Scholarship Recipient, AEMSF Past Trustee, Life Member, Wisconsin Chapter

Being in the happy position of giving away money is more difficult than it sounds because some applicants make it difficult to give them money. I know this all too well, having made mistakes and been a scholarship loser. . . and a scholarship winner, screener, interviewer, and judge. So let me share the experts' six secrets to a top-notch scholarship application.

#1: *Glide Past the Velvet Rope*

To get into that trendy new bar, you need the bouncer to lift the velvet rope. To sign onto Facebook and Instagram, you must enter your password. And if you want a scholarship, your application must get past the screeners and gatekeepers. Simple, right? Yet applicants make costly missteps, like not meeting eligibility requirements, not including required documents or photocopies, and not meeting deadlines.

#2: *Spell Check Is Your Friend*

Completing a scholarship application on a computer or typewriter produces the best-looking result. Use the Spell Check function of your word processing software and ask an English-savvy friend to review it with a critical eye. Hand-written applications, mistakes in spelling and grammar, and crossed out or scribbled words are not viewed favorably. Photocopies or scans of licenses and certificates must be clear and legible.

#3: *Aim for the Goal*

A key to winning at soccer is to shoot lots of shots at goal. Likewise, applying for multiple scholarships may increase your chances of getting one. However, a shotgun approach is not advised. Please don't tell the International Society of Women Airline Pilots that you want to be an airline pilot, while telling the Whirly-Girls that you need their support to become a helicopter pilot.

And don't shoot for the goal until you are in range of it. We see applicants skipping steps in the logical progression or requesting training for which they are not yet qualified.

Rebecca Hempel, two-time winner of The 99s Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship and current scholarship volunteer, says, "The statement of a goal often seems just thrown in, rather than the logical result of a series of steps laid out in a well thought-out-plan. Often there is no plan, part of a plan, or an unrealistic plan."

If you haven't narrowed down your career options yet, don't just say what you think we want to hear. Instead, target scholarships designed to assist people who are starting out, still exploring options, or don't fit into well-defined categories.

#4: *Tell Me About Yourself*

The personal essay is the most critical component of your application, and the way we can get a sense of who you are. Some applicants err by telling all about themselves, while others err by not telling enough. Tone is important — there's a fine line between 'I need financial help' and whining about lack of money.

A past scholarship winner and current judge describes a common error in her first attempt at an essay: "I had written a biography — nothing that related who I was to where I was headed and how the scholarship could help." She also recommends writing

a different essay for each scholarship: "You as an individual have a different relationship to each opportunity."

Go easy on Amelia Earhart and the romance of flight. Rebecca says, "I think it would be better use of space if some of that waxing eloquent on 'why I wanted to fly' were left out. Everyone thinks their story is original."

Last but not least, follow instructions. A one-page essay means one page, not three.

"When creating your aviation resume, remember there is a difference between dual and duel. Just went through a very short stack of resumes, and three candidates apparently have a significant amount of blood on their hands."



#5: *I Highly Recommend . . .*

. . . That you solicit new letters of recommendation. "We just don't get good letters that address all the required points," Rebecca says. "Applicants need to make it clear to the people who write a testimony to their character what that means."

You can suggest a topic to each letter-writer, such as balancing school and a job, good job performance, teamwork, or volunteerism. A spiritual leader or work manager may be a good judge of your character. A flight instructor is a better judge of your pilot skill.

The letters must be relevant and current, and preferably tailored for the specific scholarship, rather than generic. Please don't include letters written decades ago or fake recommendations that you wrote yourself.

#6: *Avoid the Heartbreakers*

Receiving an application before the deadline — but with insufficient time to request a missing document. Getting the perfect application from the perfect applicant — past the deadline. Running out of qualified scholarship applicants — leaving scholarship monies unused.

Others have made these blunders, but you won't, right? Because now you know the secrets to winning applications, and you don't want to give us any reason not to give you scholarship money.

Meet Christina Williams



The First Airline Academy AEMSF Scholarship Recipient

By Linda Mathias, AEMSF Trustee, Hampton Roads Chapter

Imagine having a master's degree in electrical engineering and holding a well-paying job as an automation engineer at a large international corporation. Then, one day you decide to take a discovery flight and fall in love with aviation. Your long-held desire to fly can now become a reality with your full-time job and good salary.

Christina Williams is a small-town girl from Virginia with a lot of ambition. She knew she wanted to fly even before her first flight as a teenager on a trip to Brazil to attend the Lions Clubs International Youth Exchange Program.

Now was the time to finally get started.

Christina's primary flight instructor was a member of The 99s Hampton Roads Chapter and introduced her to the group. She immediately joined in February 2018. Earning the private pilot certificate took two years and whetted her appetite for an aviation career. She enjoyed engineering, but each flying lesson pulled her closer to that huge leap into a new direction. She considered the military but was nearing the maximum age for pilot training and was not encouraged by the recruiters. She talked with commercial pilots she met at the local airport and started to research the possibility of flying for an airline.

The major airlines were beginning to look for ways to combat

the pilot shortage they saw coming. Large numbers of pilots would be retiring in the next decade, and they would need about 10,000 new hires. Ab initio training seemed to be the general consensus for meeting those goals.

Christina's favorite airline was Southwest because she admired their compassion, the fun-loving attitude and liked how they didn't take themselves too seriously. She found their Destination 225° Cadet program and applied. The program cost was daunting at almost \$100,000, not including housing and living expenses. She made the tough decision, if accepted, to devote her entire savings and take out loans to pay for the rest. She applied and was accepted. The training, conducted at Falcon Field in Mesa, Arizona, by CAE Oxford Academy, began in June 2020 after a three-month pandemic delay.

The program includes private, instrument, commercial ASEL, commercial AMEL, flight instructor airplane, and flight instructor instrument certificates to be completed in 56 weeks. Upon completion of the training, she will work as an instructor for CAE with an option to transfer to a corporate partner when she reaches 750 hours.

Christina had to repeat the private pilot syllabus because the program makes no allowance for students with prior flight

experience. The private pilot training was no hurdle for her, and Christina doesn't regret redoing that portion of the program because it made the transition easier.

Her class started with 16 students but dropped to 13 in the first segment of training. She appreciates the student-instructor ratio of four to one and excellent aircraft availability, something she didn't have in her first training experience. She has adjusted to the extremely busy training environment at the second busiest airport in the country that on some days supports as many as 1,500 operations per day. Her days start early and end late five days per week; days off are dependent on the instructor's schedule.

By mid-May 2021, she earned the private, instrument, commercial SEL, and MEL certificates. Christina is currently training for the airplane and instrument flight instructor certificates and will probably have completed them by the time you read this article.

She applied for several flight scholarships during her short time in aviation but wasn't discouraged when her name wasn't on the winner lists. She continued to apply for funding and finally hit the jackpot when she applied for the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship. The \$20,000 scholarship is paid to Christina in four increments relating to completing her instrument rating, two

commercial tests, and her flight instructor certificate.

"I am eternally thankful to have been selected as an Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship winner and would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Trustees for your continued support towards students who need it most," says Christina. "My decision to leave an established career was not an easy financial choice to make, but I knew I had to do everything possible to make it happen. With the continued support from my family, friends, and The Ninety-Nines, I was able to make this leap possible.

"I want to be an example to others that it is never too late to transition to a career in aviation. Had I been introduced to the idea of becoming a pilot at a younger age, my life may have been completely different. There simply are not enough female pilot role models for younger girls, and I plan to do my part to change that!

"Being selected as a scholarship recipient means the world to me. This scholarship has granted me the opportunity to pursue the career of my dreams as a commercial pilot, a fulfilling career rooted in excitement, adventure, and life-long learning. Your support has helped alleviate much of the financial burden I face with the high cost of an ab initio flight program. Thank you again to The Ninety-Nines for your continued support and immense generosity in helping me achieve my dream of becoming a commercial pilot!"



Destination 225°

A Program of Southwest Airlines®

Opposite page: Christina Williams ready to go on a multi-engine lesson.

Above, she looks forward to being a graduate of Destination 225°.

Right, Christina as an engineer at Stihl Inc.

AEMSF Awards 22 2021 Scholarships

By Peggy Doyle, AEMSF Trustee, Old Dominion Chapter

It was a very difficult year for everyone but especially for all Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship applicants as they worked to get their prerequisites done by the Scholarship deadline.

With the help of their Chapters and Sections, they were successful in submitting their completed applications despite the many obstacles the pandemic put in their way. We were most impressed with the high quality of the applications and only wish there had been enough money in the Fund to award more.

We received 51 applications representing a total of \$459,995 and were able to award 22 Scholarships totaling \$184,693. The amount the Trustees have to work with depends on the market and earnings from the principal in the Fund in the prior year and includes any donated amounts specifically earmarked for the current year.

Our winners represented seven Sections and 19 Chapters. The Scholarships include one Vicki Cruse Memorial Emergency Maneuver Training Award, one Kitty Houghton Award, 17 Flight Training Awards, and three Academic Awards. The Academic Awards covered training for Bachelor of Science Aviation Flight, Masters in Aeronautical Science, and Aerospace Engineering. The Fligh2t Training Awards included five Instrument Ratings; one CFI; two CFIs including one CFII Helicopter; two Commercial Multi-Engine Add On Ratings; one Commercial Rating; two Multi-Engine Ratings; and one CE-525 Type Rating. Our winners represent 99s from around the world, including Canada, Guatemala, Nepal, Peru, Russia, and South Africa.

We want to recognize and thank our Chapter and Section AE Chairs, our Governors, and all members who willingly volunteer their time and talent to diligently assist in the evaluation process



Sarah Bottom, IFR
Bay Cities Chapter
Southwest Section

I'm so grateful and honored to receive an AEMSF Scholarship for my instrument rating. Growing up in Alaska sparked my dream to make a difference through aviation. I'm on track to realize that dream by joining the Alaska Air National Guard as a KC-135 pilot. My other flight goals are to be a role model and leader in The Ninety-Nines, to succeed in advanced flight training, and to fly as a commercial pilot. I aim to realize these goals so that one day I can mentor and inspire others like the women who have mentored and inspired me thus far.

Shantal Bustamante (Peru), IFR
San Fernando Valley Chapter
Southwest Section

I am a private pilot and proud to represent women and Latinos in aviation. I have a bachelor's degree in international business but always had a fascination with airplanes, so I became a flight attendant. The job made me fall in love with aviation and inspired me to learn how to fly an airplane. This scholarship will allow me to obtain my instrument rating while advancing towards my goal of returning to the airlines as a commercial pilot and proving to the world that women also belong in the flight deck.



Olivia Corriveau, Flight Instructor
Montreal Chapter
East Canada Section

I decided to embark on my aviation journey in 2018 after graduating from McGill University with a Bachelor of Science. I recently completed the Airline Transport Pilot Licence (ATP(A)) program in Montreal. Now, thanks to The 99s and its incredible generosity, I get to work on my instructor rating! I am eager to obtain this new qualification and start instructing in Montreal. This will allow me to share my passion for aviation, and hopefully see more women involved in the field. Outside of aviation, I am passionate about sports, namely tennis, soccer, volleyball, running, and cycling!



Shanna Crawford, IFR
San Gabriel Valley Chapter
Southwest Section

I discovered the amazing world of aviation when I became a flight attendant at United Airlines. I returned to school and earned a Commercial Flight degree, joined my local Chapter of The Ninety-Nines and was elected Treasurer, earned my private pilot certificate and tailwheel endorsement, and competed in my first aerobatic competition. Now I am preparing for my commercial pilot check ride and will be starting my instrument training in June. It is an incredible honor to have been selected as a 2021 Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship recipient, which will propel me towards my goal of captain at United.

Meredith Datena, Commercial
Multi-Engine Add-on
Columbia Cascade Chapter
Northwest Section

In 2016 on summer break from college, I got my private pilot certificate after two weeks of training. Last year, after graduating from college with a degree in health sciences, I worked line service at Gorge Winds Aviation. Within the year, I earned my instrument, commercial, CFI, and CFII. I am incredibly proud and thankful to be a winner of the AE scholarship. Since winning this scholarship, already I have flown every day in the Cessna 310, which has exceeded my expectations. Both powerful and delicate, it is the coolest plane I have flown so far.





Ashlie Gimbel
CE-525 Type Rating
Phoenix Chapter, Southwest Section

The passion to fly airplanes has run through my family for three generations. I am grateful for my long flight attendant career at Southwest Airlines but decided to make my dream of flying the plane a reality! I am so proud to be a member of the Phoenix Chapter. It is an amazing group of women that inspires and encourages each other. This past year I earned my CFI, CFII, MEI and secured a corporate pilot position. The CE-525 PIC type rating will further propel me towards my goal of finishing my airline career as a pilot.

Hannah Gwiramwendo
Kitty Haughton Award, Private
African Section

From childhood, I have aspired to be pilot. However, my mother's death, walking long distances to school, and lacking basic necessities were barriers to my goal. Upon completing secondary school, I studied Animal Science because my family could not afford to fund my aviation studies. I tried to secure international aviation scholarships but failed. Therefore, I relocated to South Africa to work as a Stores Assistant in order to raise funds for my aviation studies. But the money raised was not enough to complete my flight lessons. My pilot dream seemed impossible, but with the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship I received, my childhood dream will be fulfilled.



Geny Haase (Guatemala),
Commercial
San Fernando Valley Chapter
Southwest Section

I am thrilled and grateful to receive the AEMSFS scholarship. This will enable me to obtain my commercial certificate, a big step closer to my goal of becoming a professional pilot. I have been involved in aviation for many years. I obtained an A.S. in Aviation and Transportation from Glendale Community College and a B.S. in Aeronautics with a minor in Aviation Safety from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. My passion for aviation has allowed me to meet a variety of aviation professionals, including amazing and inspiring women pilots from The 99s and the opportunity to volunteer with the local Aviation Explorers.



Bretlyn Marr, Academic–B.S.
Aerospace Engineering
Carolinas Chapter
Southeast Section

I am a junior studying aerospace engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. I received my private pilot certificate in 2017 and have been flying ever since! When I am not flying or studying, my hobbies include reading, cooking, art, music and working on my 1988 Mustang GT. I am so grateful for all the support I have been given by my mentors in The 99s and my friends and family because I see my childhood dream coming to pass.



Rachel Meitler, Academic B.S.
Aviation Flight
Antelope Valley Chapter
Southwest Section

In August 2019, I took my first introductory flight with Young Eagles. And I was hooked! Almost exactly one year later, I obtained my private pilot certificate just in time to begin a university part 141 program to pursue a bachelor's degree in aviation science, flight. I recently obtained my instrument rating and will soon begin commercial. I plan to graduate summer or fall of 2022. I am so honored and thankful to be a recipient of the AE memorial academic scholarship! And I'm so grateful for The 99s organization and especially the amazing women in my Antelope Valley Chapter who have supported me along the way!



Valeriya Mordvinova (Russia)
Multi-Engine
Eastern Ontario Chapter
East Canada Section

I have been flying for three years while working full-time as an economist and currently hold a CPL. After completing my multi-engine rating, I will continue onwards to a group 1 instrument rating and an instructor rating. The multi-engine rating will get me closer to my long-term goal of airline flying and also improve my qualifications and experience as a future instructor, as I look forward to sharing my passion for flying in this role. It is a huge honour for me to receive the AEMSF Scholarship, and I am very grateful to The Ninety-Nines.





Leah Murphy
Academic M.S. Aeronautics
Spaceport Chapter
Southeast Section

It is an absolute honor to be selected as a recipient of the AEMSF Academic Scholarship. I am a certified helicopter flight instructor currently flying in Florida, USA. My passion for academia and aviation has grown concurrently, and I intend to use my graduate degree to further my fellow Ninety-Nines in the industry. Serving on the coordination team for the PPLI, I am excited to share this achievement with the organization.

Sofia Nosratabadi (Russia)
IFR, Orange County Chapter
Southwest Section

I came to the U.S. from Russia. I studied Political Science and then went to law school, but I always secretly wanted to be a pilot, starting with listening to my mom read an airport storybook at bedtime. When I grew up, I graduated to listening to the mesmerizing pilot talk on LiveATC Radio, which had the added allure of being incomprehensible — until one day I started talking like that too, thanks to Sunrise Aviation. The school recently made me into a private pilot and an instrument student. Eventually, I want to become a cargo pilot and try a transatlantic crossing.



Mindy Nye
CFII Helicopter, Aloha Chapter
Southwest Section

From the first day I took the controls in a helicopter, it was clear to me that I would become a pilot. In 2019, I obtained my helicopter commercial certificate and instrument rating. After volunteering at a children's hospital, I then realized that my two different worlds of flight training and volunteering with children seemed to be related and connected to a bigger picture in my life. This led me to pursue a career as an EMS pilot. Thus, it is with extreme gratitude that I accept the Amelia Earhart scholarship award for the Helicopter CFII rating. Thank you.



Kelli O'Donnell, CFI
Florida Suncoast Chapter
Southeast Section

My flying has received continued support from The 99s. I am proud to now be a recipient of the Amelia Earhart Scholarship. In the future, I plan to combine my passion for sea and sky by forming my own aerial marine biology business utilizing seaplanes. My instrument rating is a vital stepping stone to my business plan so that I will be a safer pilot and not have a restriction on my commercial flights. As a single parent who has been able to steadily accomplish my goals, I hope to inspire, continue my involvement, and mentor other women pilots.



Rebecca Peric, Vicki Cruse EMT
British Columbia Coast Chapter
West Canada Section

My flying career started with paragliding, where I fell in love with flying in the mountains. In 2020, I completed my commercial pilot license and started working as the jump pilot for Whistler Skydiving in the beautiful mountains of British Columbia. I am beyond honored to be a recipient of the Vicki Cruse Scholarship, which will allow me to continue with more flight training to increase my knowledge and capabilities as a pilot in and out of the mountains. I am forever grateful to The 99s, especially my British Columbia Coast Chapter for their support, motivation, and mentorship.



Lorin Ponton, Commercial
Sutter Buttes Chapter
Southwest Section

I am a junior studying aerospace engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. I received my private pilot certificate in 2017 and have been flying ever since. I am so grateful for the support I have been given by my mentors in The 99s and my friends and family because I see my childhood dream coming to pass. I am honored and grateful that the AEMSF trustees and judges believe in my vision and awarded me this scholarship to use to complete my commercial certificate. I am one step closer to reaching my goals of becoming a corporate pilot and flight instructor. My long term dream is to create a program that allows students to build kit airplanes and learn to fly for low cost.





Anna Scott
Commercial Multi-Engine Add-on
Granite Mountain Chapter
Southwest Section

I am a sophomore at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona, where I work as a Dispatcher and Campus Academic Mentor. I will be using this scholarship for my commercial multi-engine add-on rating and plan to become an instructor shortly after on my way to the airlines. My involvements include Membership and Social Media Chair of the Granite Mountain Ninety-Nines, a co-pilot and organizer for the school's participation in the ARC Women's Air Derby, and member of the Golden Eagles Flight Team, where I was recently nominated to serve as Chief Pilot during the 2021-2022 school year.

Rashmila Shrestha
Multi-Engine
Nepal Section

I always dreamed of becoming an inspiring figure. Watching an Indian-based series, *Airlines*, where the main character is a female pilot, I finally realized what I wanted to be. I feel blessed and honored to receive this AE scholarship. I can now earn my multi-engine rating and apply to one of the airlines in Nepal and work towards being a captain. Being an active member of The 99s, I look forward to setting an example and being a role model for girls, showing them they can achieve any goals they set for themselves.



Kristen Stimpert
CFI II
Santa Rosa Chapter
Southwest Section

My love of aviation came from my mom, who started working for United Airlines in 1967. For my whole life I dreamed of becoming a pilot but never thought it could become a reality. After losing everything in the 2017 California wildfires, my life was put into perspective, and I realized I didn't want to waste another day not pursuing this dream of becoming a pilot. Currently I work as a CFI and am on the board for my local 99s Chapter, acting as an ambassador for future female aviators. This scholarship will be put towards obtaining my CFII.

Soyla Tostado
Commercial Multi-Engine Add-on
Long Beach Chapter
Southwest Section

Hello aviators! My name is Soyla Flor Tostado. I was born in San Diego and raised in Los Angeles, California. I was first exposed to aviation when I was hired as a Delta flight attendant in 2015. After a Discovery Flight in 2018, my love for travel and adventure married perfectly with aviation. Since then, my aviation journey has soared thanks to The Ninety-Nines, especially my Chapter for believing in me. Becoming a Ninety-Nine has allowed me to dream bigger, push harder and expand my beliefs on what's possible in aviation.

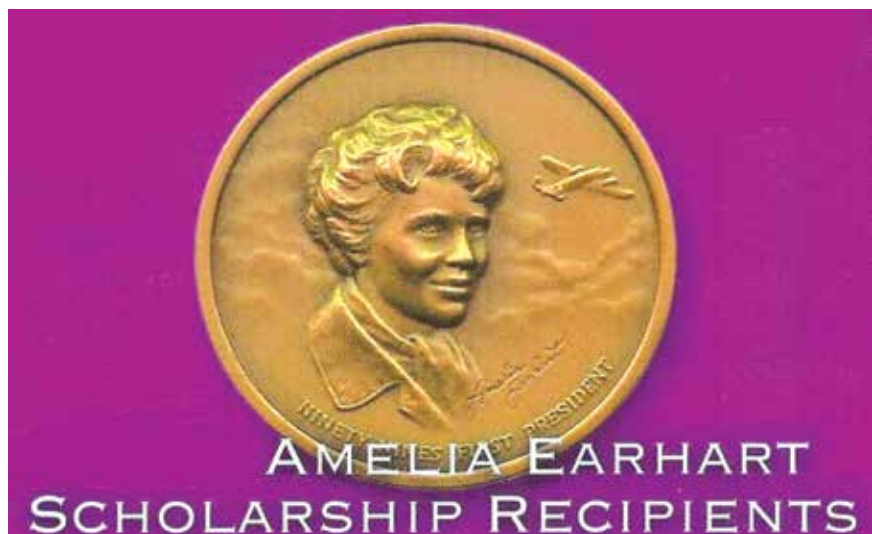


Colleen Wright
Flight Instructor
Paradise Coast Chapter
Southeast Section

I am so proud to be an Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship winner. My flight training began in earnest in August 2019 after returning from AirVenture. I had been interested in flying for years, but children and work didn't allow for much free time to pursue the dream. After earning my private certificate at age 60 (that's right, you are not too old), I went right into my instrument training and then commercial. After I earn my flight instructor certificate, I plan to open or work for a flight school that will encourage both mature and young potential aviators.



**When the award
is successfully
completed, each
Scholarship
Recipient receives
an AE Medallion,
engraved with their
name, year of award
and type of award.**



AEMSF Specialty Scholarships Memorialize Two Ninety-Nines

The Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund offers two “specialty” scholarships. Both are funded through a process established in 1979 for significant donations in honor of or to memorialize an individual or a group. At the present time the Perpetual scholarship donation is \$50,000 and is invested directly into The Fund.

Catherine (Kitty) Houghton Memorial Scholarship

Kitty Houghton devoted her life to helping people improve their life situation and their community. She served in the Peace Corps in one of the first groups to go to Nepal. While stationed in West Africa while with the Foreign Service, Kitty learned to fly. In 1996, living in Ottawa, Canada, she joined The Ninety-Nines.

Following her retirement, she settled in California serving as Marin Chapter’s Membership Chair and as liaison with The Ninety-Nines for foreign Ninety-Nines. Kitty’s family and friends established this perpetual scholarship to carry on her international outreach with women pilots.

This scholarship is to encourage women pilots in emerging economy countries who have demonstrated an interest in and enthusiasm for flying. It is for education in flight training or a related field of aviation study that will directly or indirectly bring improved health and education to the people of her country. This scholarship is offered to a member from a country defined as a country with an emerging economy. Since inception, this scholarship has been awarded twice.

Vicki Cruse Memorial Scholarship for Emergency Maneuver Training

Ventura County Ninety-Nines member and National Aerobatic Champion pilot Vicki Cruse perished in 2009 while representing the United States in the World Aerobatic Competition in the United Kingdom. To honor her memory and celebrate her

accomplishments, her Chapter, with significant matching funding contribution from Lightspeed Aviation and the Lee H Cruse Trust, raised funds for this perpetual scholarship. Vicki was devoted to educating pilots about the safety benefits of emergency maneuver and unusual attitude training. Her devotion to flying and safety inspired those who knew her to preserve her memory with this scholarship.

Since its inception, this scholarship has been awarded 10 times to winners in Australia, Canada, and the United States. The awardee this year is Rebecca Peric, Vicki Cruse EMT, BC Coast.



Photo above:
Kitty Houghton devoted her life to helping people improve their life situation and their community.

Photo left:
The Vicki Cruse Memorial Scholarship honors Vicki, who perished in the 2009 World Aerobatic Competition.

Research Scholar Grants

The Amelia Earhart Scholarship Fund decided to establish the Amelia Earhart Research Scholar Grant to expand the scholarship funds honoring Amelia Earhart. The RSG was the brainchild of Trustees Jean Pearson (former WASP) and Dora Dougherty Strother McKeown (former WASP and Head of Human Factors Engineering for Bell Helicopter).

The Research Scholar Grant provides scholars within The Ninety-Nines, Inc. organization with the opportunity to make contributions to the total fund of information about women in aviation.

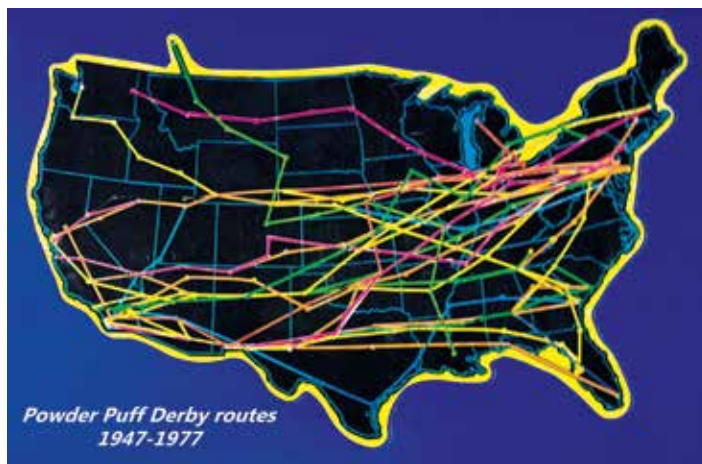
The Grant supports research on topics relating to women in aviation and aerospace. This research program will strive to alleviate some of the gaps in our knowledge of women in aviation. Numerous applications have been made through the years. Eighteen awards have been made.

The following 13 finished grants, along with any accompanying materials, are housed in the 99s Museum of Women Pilots. Some are available digitally.

1978 Niekamp, Dorothy Rinehart	~ Annotated Bibliography Women in Aviation
1983 Render, Shirley	~ Canadian Women Pilots
1984 Vail, Gayle	~ Correlation of Pilot Error & Social-Psychological Factors
1985 Kopp, Claire	~ Spatial Orientation
1986 Crockett, Anita	~ Motion Sickness and the Female Pilot
1989 Niekamp, Dorothy Rinehart	~ Annotated Bibliography Women in Aviation (Updated)
1994 Boyd, Jacqueline Breeden	~ Pregnancy Issues & The Female Pilot
2000 Van Newkirk, Carolyn	~ Historical Study of the Women's Air Race Classic
2001 Illig, Petra	~ Research by Martha Ackman (author & non-99) for Mercury 13 Interviews
2006 Dickson, Marilyn	~ Vi Milstead Historical Study
2012 Roe, Roberta (Bobbi)	~ Digitize 99s News
2014 Loeffler, Peggy	~ History of New England Women Pilots
2017 Schultz, Barbara	~ Examination of the Glenn Buffington Collection
2020 Jahn, Gretchen	~ Preserving the History of Women's Air Racing (In Progress)



An artist's concept of the All Women's Transcontinental Air Race perpetual trophy drawn for the cover of the 1974 Powder Puff Derby Commemorative Album.



Powder Puff Derby race routes are charted from 1947 to 1977. The multi-route map is embossed on the back cover of the book, "Powder Puff Derby: The Record" published in 1985.



Peggy Loeffler, 2014 RSG winner, received the Combs-Gates Award from the National Aviation Hall of Fame based on her Ninety-Nines research grant work with the New England Air Museum.



News Flash!

12 Student Pilots Selected To Receive First Wings Awards

This spring, the AEMS Trust was able to award 12 student pilot scholarships. The First Wings Awards for student pilots, renamed from The Fly Now Award to alleviate confusion between it and other programs within the organization, is a progressive scholarship of up to \$6,000 towards an initial pilot certificate.

Our spring 2021 winners are from 11 different Chapters, representing seven different Sections in four countries. Winners originated worldwide, including Canada, Colombia, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. First Wings payments are based on specific flight training milestone achievements. This scholarship is awarded each spring and fall and reimburses winners for these milestones: Written exam \$500, long cross country solo \$2,500, solo \$2,000, and private certificate earned \$1,000.

For the Spring 2021 cycle, the AEMS Trustees received 40 applications requesting a total of \$168,000 in training, and we were able to give 12 First Wings Awards totaling \$54,500. Originally, the scholarship was not milestone-based and began in 2001 as the 'New Pilot Award' of \$1,500, which was increased to \$2,000 in 2012. In 2013, the award was renamed 'Fly Now' and was worth up to \$3,000 based on specific milestone completion. Soon after, the award amount was doubled, increasing the value to the current \$6,000. Since the inception of the AEMS student pilot scholarship, 396 student pilot Ninety-Nines have been awarded \$1,050,000 in-flight training funding to help them achieve pilot certification.

Our grassroots approach within the organization begins at the Chapter level. Student pilot Mentors play a particularly crucial role in the success of this unique program, but it is also rewarding for the Mentors.

Longtime Mentor Cecelia Stratford of San Fernando Valley Chapter notes, "Flying is one of the most exciting and rewarding things in our lives. Part of the joy of aviation is sharing and learning new things. For me, one of the most satisfying experiences in aviation has been being a Mentor and shepherding others to and through the process of becoming a pilot."

While not necessarily from the same Chapter as the applicant, the Mentors help provide guidance and support. "My flight training experience was a long and difficult road, intertwined with numerous personal challenges and life changes," says Jessica Phinney, Connecticut Chapter. "I could not be more thankful for the people I have met and my connections through The Ninety-Nines. The Ninety-Nines have been an integral part of my flight training experience, and I would never have been able to complete my training if not for the support of my 99s Mentor Glenna Blackwell, and my CFI Peggy Loeffler, who always believed in me, even when I didn't believe in myself."

Award winner Kelli O'Donnell of Florida Suncoast Chapter also highlighted the importance of her mentor to her successful check ride, "I couldn't have done this without my Mentor Kim Elsholz. She gave me the push I needed to focus and get this certificate finished!" Once again, the Trustees would like to extend a special thank-you to the Mentors of our winners.

Olivia Adams, Las Vegas Chapter Southwest Section, Mentor Chelsea Bowles

Igrew up in the Northwest of England and moved to the USA at the age of 16. Growing up, I spent the majority of my time dancing and traveling the United Kingdom performing. Since a young age, it has been my goal to obtain my pilot certificate. Every year on my birthday, I would ask my parents to take me to the airport to watch the airplanes. I have always dreamed of being a part of the NTSB to ensure our skies are as safe as possible. I love to spend my time outdoors being as adventurous as possible. I enjoy hiking, skiing, camping, and anything that involves a challenge!



***Diana Aguilar, Spaceport Chapter
Southeast Section, Mentor Isabel Garnett***

I was born and raised in Cali, Colombia, and moved to the United States in 2008. In the search for my ideal career, I did a discovery flight. I knew right there and then that flying was what I was looking to do for the rest of my life. My goal in aviation is to become a cargo pilot and fly large aircraft around the world. Also, I want to be involved in the effort to increase diversity in aviation. As an Afro Latina, I am honored to represent The Ninety-Nines and be part of the new generation of pilots.



***Amanda Alderete, San Antonio Chapter
South Central Section, Mentor Cheryl Mora***

I'm a traditional guardsman with the Air National-Fighter Wing Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland as a Maintenance Data Analyst on the F-16. Because of my constant exposure and love for airplanes I became enamored with aviation and took action to start flight training. Once I found out I was awarded the scholarship, I immediately scheduled for several cross-countries followed by a checkride. I never gave up. Through discipline and fortitude, I received my Private Pilot Certificate 11 days after receiving the scholarship. My dream is to become a commercial airline pilot. I am truly grateful for the scholarship opportunity.



***Athena Chang, Bay Cities Chapter
Southwest Section, Mentor Mona Madry-Adams***

I am a sophomore student and Air Force ROTC cadet at Stanford University studying mechanical engineering. My dream is to become a fighter pilot, graduate from Test Pilot School, and become the first female of Chinese-American origin to go to space. I'm currently working towards my private pilot certificate in a Van's RV-12iS, and upon graduating college and commissioning, I hope to be selected for the Air Force's Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training (ENJJPT) Program, a specialized NATO combat training program. In my free time, I love to ski, backpack, scuba dive, and play ice hockey and piano.



***Kyra Duncan, Orange County Chapter
Southwest Section
Mentor Diane Titterington-Machado***

I'm currently finishing my first year as a full-time student at Orange Coast College working towards an associates degree in Aviation Sciences program and my private pilot certificate. After OCC, I will transfer to a four-year university to obtain my bachelor's degree. I am currently an assistant coach for my alma mater's girls' lacrosse program, where I was formerly a two-year captain, as well as a girls' cross country team captain. With four generations of pilots before me — all men — I am following in my family's footsteps and forging my own flight path at the same time. My career goal is to become a commercial pilot flying international routes for a 121 carrier, while also raising a family.





***Melanie Georger, Western New York Chapter
New York-New Jersey Section, Mentor Lisa Hotung***

For as long as I can remember, I have wanted to become a professional pilot. I recently graduated from the University at Buffalo, New York, with a degree in Aerospace Engineering, and I am currently working toward my private pilot certificate. In my undergraduate studies, I contributed to my university's nanosatellite laboratory, AIAA Design, Build, Fly team, and also conducted my own undergraduate research regarding aircraft winglets. Since graduating, I have begun working as a System Engineer at Raytheon Technologies on the System Integration and Test team. My dream is to become a civilian test pilot, helping to contribute to the greater fields of aerospace and aviation.



***Jae Grossi, Bay Cities Chapter
Southwest Section, Mentor Rebecca Erb***

I grew up as an avid adventurer enamored with air travel but wasn't able to envision myself as a pilot until I met some members of The Ninety-Nines. I joined the Bay Cities Chapter and began my private pilot flight training in June of 2020. My background includes teaching English abroad, tutoring romance languages, instructing yoga and meditation, and working with the Contra Costa County emergency preparedness and medical volunteer management programs. After my Private Pilot Certificate, I plan to complete my Instrument, Commercial, and CFI ratings and apply my love of learning and teaching by helping others pursue their aviation dreams.



***Cassandra Hamilton, First Canadian Chapter
East Canada Section, Mentor Uno Jo***

I took my first flight when I was finishing up my master's degree in Archaeology. I was immediately hooked and shifted gears to work on my private pilot. After years of having my eyes firmly on the ground, it's now time to look towards the skies. My goal is to start a career in aviation. Once I obtain my PPL, I'd like to complete an Instrument Rating, my CPL, and a Tailwheel Endorsement. I would like to give a big thank you to the AEMSF First Wings Award for bringing me one step closer to starting a new career.



***Kimberly Hill, Lake Erie Chapter
North Central Section, Mentor Donna Benz***

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, I am a life-long learner, adventurer, and I fly with American Winds at Akron Fulton Airport. I am extremely grateful and honored to be a recipient of the First Wings Award and member of the Lake Erie Chapter. As an educator and mother of two daughters, living my dreams and accomplishing all my bucket list goals that include aviator at the top, I am eager and thrilled to progress toward becoming a commercial pilot, as well as fulfilling my mission to empower and accelerate girls and women in aviation.

Busiswe Manana, African Section
Mentor Ivana Alvares-Marshall

I am an Operations Administrator within the private security sector in which I focus solely on executive protection. I am a short story author of fiction, small business entrepreneur, and one of the few avgeeks to have hailed from my small township. My upbringing breeds a resilient and positive attitude that has aided me in the financial adversities encountered in my pilot training. I am currently flying the PA28-161 Piper Cherokee at Ufly Academy and aspire to complete my Commercial Pilot license together with a Multi-Engine rating.



Kacy Thompson, Kentucky Bluegrass Chapter
North Central Section, Mentor Terri Donner

I knew I wanted to be pilot since I was young. It was not a familiar way of life in my community. I love to travel and always considered myself a global citizen. I appreciate The Ninety-Nines and the First Wings Award being a significant part of my beginning steps towards being the best international commercial pilot I know. I want to inspire others who look like me, to be their highest-self and bring others up with them. I want to thank all of those who came before that have made this opportunity possible



Amanda Willson, Colorado Chapter
South Central Section, Mentor June Stewart

I am thrilled to be a First Wings Award recipient! I am currently a student pilot training at Rocky Mountain Flight School in Broomfield, Colorado, and work in the maintenance control division for a large private jet charter company. Honoring my father who recently passed has been my motivation to go after my dreams and never look back. After completing my Private Pilot certificate, I plan to acquire my Tail-Wheel endorsement in Alaska, Instrument rating, Multi-Engine and Commercial certificate with the dream of one day flying air medical transportation.



Congratulations
First Wings Winners!
May You Fly High and Go Far



Amanda Willson, a F2irst Wings Scholarship recipient.

Growth Through Scholarships

Chapters and Sections Can Help Members Fly Higher

*By Minnetta Gardinier, Iowa Chapter
and Martha Phillips, Ventura County Chapter*

In addition to the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund awards and scholarships, the many Chapters and Sections also provide significant opportunities for helping members get where they need to go. They also provide the help that the AEMSFS can't because of the structure dictated by the Trust. To find these additional opportunities, go to the website www.ninety-nines.org and look at the pull-down menu under the Scholarships heading. You'll find AE Memorial Scholarships, then the Scholarship Registry, Scholarship Summary, and then Section and Chapter Scholarships.

The Scholarship Registry lists four scholarships at this time. Each lists qualifications and requirements, plus the amount of the award. Read the summaries and directions carefully to check for eligibility.

The Scholarship Summary is simply that, a summary of the three sections outlined on the website.

The essence comes in the next section with Chapter and Section Scholarships. There are 39 Chapters and Sections listed, some with multiple scholarships. Check your eligibility before applying. And as with any scholarship application, read the directions carefully and follow them exactly.

For example, the Eastern New England Chapter recognizes a longstanding, contributing Chapter member by naming a scholarship in her honor and then awarding the scholarship to an aspiring pilot. They awarded the Linda Moody Honorary

Scholarship to Carlos Tamayo. He noted that his mother has worked tirelessly to support her family and has provided unwavering support for his goal to become a pilot. Because of this award, he is closing in on that goal now.

An instance of utilizing a member other than a Ninety-Nine as a scholarship sponsor is illustrated with the Jane Berg Tailwheel Scholarship. Minnetta Gardinier saw an ad in GA News by Craig Blumer offering the inaugural Jane Berg Tailwheel Scholarship. At the time, she wondered if there was a connection to her Iowa Chapter's Jane Berg. She heard from Craig, who had gotten wind of

The 99s Scholarship Registry and was interested in how he might promote this opportunity to women pilots.

"Jane Berg was one of the many of my flight instructors and supervisors I've had over the years. The time she invested in me helped me to achieve my aviation goals and end up where I am today." And yes, Jane Berg is the Iowa Chapter member who instructed and served as Chief Pilot at the Indian Hills Community College aviation program in Ottumwa, Iowa.

Jane Berg noted, "It allows individuals the opportunity to advance their aviation skills by obtaining this endorsement that is not readily available everywhere." She assisted with the final scholar selection, and Jen Gouailhadou, Houston Chapter, was the first awardee of this new scholarship.

Martha Phillips, Ventura County Chapter, sums up the



strength of Chapter and Section scholarships. The Ventura County Chapter has utilized scholarship opportunities to promote and build membership very successfully. In fact, when the AEMSF changed from the New Pilot Award to the Fly Now Award, the Trustees asked the Ventura County Chapter for help because their system with the initial pilot awards was so successful. How do they do it? Here are some tips specific to their Chapter. These tips can easily be adapted.

“Early efforts were to sell items of interest to 99s and other pilots. It must be admitted that the Chapter has a champion fundraiser in member Susan Leibeler. She came up with the ideas for the annual Pilot Proficiency Classes (ticketed events with premier speakers), along with the Silent Auction and prize drawings that are held during the Wings Over Camarillo annual air show. In addition, member Carolyn Brown developed the Chapter’s Pancake Breakfast offered at this same air show. The members gladly take on the multiple tasks so that the scholarships can be made available to female student pilots and others who need help to obtain their advanced ratings.

These initiatives have not just helped grow our Chapter. They have diversified our activities, raised our visibility, and strengthened our aviation community overall. Supporting the next generation sustains The 99s and aviation.” Visit their website at www.vc99s.org.

If there’s one thing that should be taken away from all these opportunities, whether it’s at the International level or the Chapter and Section level, it’s that we need to talk to each other and share the successful approaches and ideas. There are lots of ways to get where we need to go.



Carlos Tamayo is the recipient of the Linda Moody Scholarship given by the Eastern New England Chapter.



Kate Scott received Ventura County Chapter’s Try Something New Scholarship.



Jen Gouailhadou, Houston Chapter, was awarded the inaugural Jane Berg Tailwheel Scholarship.

Past Winners Then & Now

Since 1941, the Amelia Earhart Memorial Scholarship Fund has awarded 817 flight training, academic, and research scholar grants. In 2001, the Trust included student pilot members in awards for initial ratings, with the New Pilot, Fly Now, and First Wings award programs, adding 306 to our group. The 1,123 individuals receiving these scholarships and awards represent 24 countries.

The illustrious group of “past winners” includes Mercury 13 representatives Jean Hixson (1948, M.S. in aviation) and Janet Dietrich (1952, IFR), along with Jill McCormick (1964, ATP), who was a WASP, Class 43-W-5. Several past award winners are deceased, including Candi Chamberlin Kubeck. She was the Captain of ValuJet Flight 592 that crashed into the Everglades in 1996. The stories

of each and every “past-winner” of these scholarships and awards add to our rich history.

For many years, the scholarship luncheon or banquet celebrations included a Parade of Past Winners. The winners were able to share their “then-and-now” stories. That practice was discontinued and replaced by recognition through a PowerPoint presentation that plays during the banquet or luncheon. When given the opportunity, past winners are proud to share.

Here are just a few randomly chosen representatives of the 146 responses received for this special issue of the *Ninety-Nines magazine*. Some will bring tears to your ears and others laughter to your heart. Enjoy!

—Jacque Boyd



1960s

1965 – Carol Rayburn, CFII. “The scholarship helped qualify me to be the Chief FI for the Part 141 school and Chief Pilot for the air taxi certificate. I continued many different types of flying in the industry until 1974, working in Montana, Idaho, Arizona and California before being hired as an FAA aviation safety inspector. I worked as an ASI for six years and eventually got into FAA Flight Standards Service management positions. I ran for the AEMSF Trust because I wanted to “Pay Back” by volunteering to help others reach their dreams with scholarship assistance.”



1970s

1978 – Dorothy Niekamp (Deceased). First Research Scholar Grant She was awarded the first RSG for her work in developing an annotated bibliography of women pilots. She was awarded another grant in 1989 for an update to her work. The bibliography is housed in the 99s Museum of Women Pilots.



1980s

1986 – Cathy Fraser, PA-31 Type-rating. “In 1986, I was working as a flight instructor and was in line to move into the charter department as a cargo pilot on the PA-31 Navajo. I was told that I would be bypassed by a male instructor, since I was getting married and “did not need the job.” I completed my training alongside the male instructor who had been leap-frogged ahead of me, and we both got into the cargo department. I gained enough flying hours to apply for the airlines and was hired as a second officer on the B-727. I have been with Air Canada for 33 years and am currently a Captain on the B-787 Dreamliner.”



1990s

1992 – Lisa Cotham, CFI Multi-Engine. “I first applied for a scholarship in 1991 but didn’t get one. I applied again in 1992, by which time I was ready for the Multi-Engine Instructor rating. Jobs were hard to come by for a low-time commercial pilot, so I interviewed for the director position at an aviation museum. A few years later, I was hired into the Baton Rouge, Louisiana, FSDO in 1997 as its first AST. I now have 24 years with the FAA and am the second-longest tenured employee in my office.” Lisa has served The 99s as an International Director and currently as Chair of the Museum of Women Pilots.



2000s

2008 – Lori Probst, Commercial. “I have flown nearly 300 Young Eagles, provide an aviation summer school course for elementary and middle school students in my district, teach aeronautics within my curriculum as a STEM educator, and serve on the WI DOT K12 aeronautics group as an educator/aviator.”



2010s

2013 – Emily Crombez, Vicki Cruse EMT. “Following the completion of the Emergency Maneuver training scholarship, I was the first Canadian woman to fly the CL-415 waterbomber/superscooper. The training complemented aerial firefighting immeasurably as we continually operated near the flight envelope during waterbombing activities. After three seasons of flying the CL-415, I transitioned to the airlines, where I fly a Boeing 787 for Air Canada.”

See the adjacent page for the past winners.



1969 Marti Rogers, CFI Multi-Engine



1979 Janice Pelletti CFI Multi-Engine.



Patricia Rockwell, CFI II



2009 Suzanne Collins, IFR



Jen Gouailhardou, Jane Berg Tailwheel Scholarship



2018 Veronica Trujillo, Multi-Commercial



The AEMSFS Builds A Relationship with International Sections

By Linda Mae Hivert, AEMSFS Trustee, Reno Area Chapter

While the world gets smaller in personal and business relations, it seems only natural that 99s find support from each other in aviation. The growing number of International Section members confirms that rationale.

There are various means of applying for an AEMSFS Scholarship or award that may be confusing to 99s in Sections outside of North America, while seemingly obvious here in the U.S. Potential applicants need a place to get help other than from their own Section members.

The AEMSFS has had great help from Carol Munch, currently serving on the International Membership Committee, and the late Kitty Houghton before her. They were both instrumental in growing the involvement of the Nepal Section from its infancy to an exceptionally active group today.

The AEMSFS Trustees are in the process of developing an International Liaison from the Trust. The Liaison will help to explain the country's aviation regulations in terms of Trust application requirements.

Although English is the accepted international language and known by members, there are specific Trust language terms that may not be familiar in other countries. The AE Trust Liaison would be a consultant to assist the Section AE Chair in guiding applicants through the application process.

Since the inception of the AEMSFS initial rating awards

program, there have been 30 non-U.S. awards in the New Pilot, Fly Now, and First Wings category. One award each from the British, Arabian, Australian, and African Sections. East Canadian Section submitted 19, West Canada 5, and France 2. This makes it evident there is a desperate need for more AEMSFS Trust interaction with non-U.S. Sections. As an example, New Zealand Section member Alice McIlroy-Foster was awarded a Fly Now scholarship in October 2020 and finished her Private Pilot License in mid-December the same year. The work that African Section Governor Ivana Alvares-Marshall has done is extraordinary, and the Section is 27-members-strong.

Two Sections outside North America became dormant for several years. When several local Ninety-Nines wanted to have their own Section again, it was necessary to create a new Charter. The plan for the International AE liaison is to work with the Chair of the Members, International Contacts Committee to keep track of floundering International Sections.

As the AEMSFS continues to build relationships with Sections outside of North America, Ninety-Nines become more familiar with other cultures. For the most part, as both women and pilots, we realize many of our basic values and ambitions are similar.

The greater understanding between international women pilots promotes the camaraderie that we experience and are proud of, as Ninety-Nines.



*Clara Martin, French Section,
2017 Fly Now Winner.*



*Gwen Bradbury, Arabian Section,
2018 Fly Now Winner*



*Alice McIlroy-Foster, New Zealand
Section, 2020 Fly Now Winner*

Navigation Checkpoints for Chapter AEMSF Scholarship Chairs — Please Save

by Lori Parker, Southwest Section, AE Co-Chair, Ventura County Chapter
Ceci Stratford, Southwest Section AE Co-Chair, AE Winner 1985, San Fernando Valley Chapter

We are fortunate as Ninety-Nines to have such a robust Scholarship program. From flight training to research scholarships, The 99s provides opportunities for financial support in pursuit of members' aviation goals. A critical part of this process is the Chapter AEMSF Scholarship Chair. So, this article is for you.

Certainly, the competition is tough. However, those applicants with a clear, viable plan, attention to detail, and significant contributions to the success of The 99s, who have sincere support from the Chapter AE Chair, soar to the top of the judges' list. So, whether you are the Scholarship Chair or a potential applicant, our goal is to provide an initial flight plan for those who truly intend to submit a winning application.

I just volunteered to be my Chapter's AEMSF Chair. What do I need to know to get started?

Select a Team

Work with your Chapter Chair to appoint a scholarship team. Two to three people with different talents are ideal, no matter the size of your Chapter. Include someone with interpersonal skills who can connect with members and encourage them to apply for AE Scholarships. Also have someone who is a good writer to assist with the recommendation letter. Don't worry, you don't need to be an English teacher. You can also ask others outside of your Chapter to join your committee.

• Read the Online General Requirements and Instructions:

Read instructions for both applicants *and* AE Scholarship Chairs. Details are easy to miss!

• Create a Chapter AEMSF Chair email if you don't already have one:

Have an email address that stays with the position. For example: VC99s_AEchair@gmail.com. Ensure your team and the Board have the password. Confirm that this contact information is also on the International website.

• Start Early! Get the word out. Get prepared.

Pass on scholarship information to membership well before applications are due to you. Utilize emails, texts, newsletters, general meetings and in-person meetings to let members know about the many 99s scholarship opportunities.

Have access to a quality printer/scanner and PDF software. Scan your letter of recommendation and signature page into her application so the final version is one PDF.

How do I know who is interested?

Talk with members of your Chapter. You may be surprised who may want to apply for what scholarship. Some members may be reluctant to apply without your encouragement. You can also be a huge help in guiding them to actively participate in Chapter activities that support a powerful application.

Watch The 99s Scholarship webinar. Ceci and Dottie share tips for presenting exceptional applications: <https://www.ninety-nines.org/webinars.htm>

Know your quota.

Refer to The 99s website for current information on how many applications you may submit.

Provide guidance.

Start before she turns in her application. Some parts of the applications are tricky. Review the guidelines in advance with your applicant(s) and help them complete their application properly and write a compelling essay. (Contact your AEMSF Section Chair with any questions.)

I understand that meeting with the potential applicants in advance is important. What are some discussion topics?

Prepare early. Make sure she reads the instructions and watches the scholarship webinar. Encourage her to submit her application to you early so you have plenty of time to review.

Let them know you are not their mother. Remind applicants to read instructions carefully and check spelling, grammar and punctuation before sending to you. Encourage friends or family members to evaluate the essay.

Remind them to remove instruction pages before sending the completed application to you.

More is not better. If the application doesn't ask for it, don't provide it.

Neatness counts: Straight and easy to read scans are important. Why should the judges consider a messy or hard to read application?

The personal recommendation letter is very important. Encourage the applicant to choose the writer wisely.

What suggestions do you have for the applicant for writing her essay?

Don't recycle. Customize each essay to the specific award. If she has applied previously, the essay should be fresh!

Use "Grammarly." This or similar apps help, but don't depend on it.

Answer all the questions! Questions can change from year to year so always review before starting.

Ask her: Why should they choose you?

What happens if? What is the plan if she doesn't win?

State goals clearly — short and long term and a plan to reach them.

Describe financial need. The applicant does not need to be poor; however, it is important to clarify why financial support

Continued on the following page...

is needed. Know exactly how much is needed for the certificate/goal, how much money is currently available, and how much more is needed.

Limit fluff (“When I look at the clouds...”)

How will The 99s and aviation community benefit? The law of reciprocity should be a part of the plan. What will the applicant do to give back to the aviation community?

Review the application multiple times. Have others review.

When I receive Chapter member applications, what are the next steps?

Review applications as soon as possible after receiving. Actively assist applicant in revising the essay (or any part of the application) as necessary. It is critically important to present a well-crafted application.

If the applicant needs to make revisions, email the application in its entirety. If something is changed, make sure they send back the entire application, not just the page changed. This way you always have the latest version.

Secure Chapter support. Ensure Chapter members are in favor of these applicant(s) receiving an award in preparation of your letter of recommendation.

Complete the AE Chair portions of the application. Sign the 99s Certification and write a thoughtful recommendation letter for each applicant, answering all the questions.

Remember to check:

- 99s Membership Requirements met
- Specific goal stated and plan to achieve it
- Financial need established
- Medical appropriate for Rating/Certificate sought
- Flight currency noted and highlighted for Rating/Certificate sought
- Flight Time appropriate for Rating/Certificate sought
- All combined into one complete PDF file

Forward PDF applications to Section Scholarship Chair(s) on or before the deadline. Forward qualified First Wings applications via PDF directly to AMESF Trustees.

Keep a copy: Maintain file(s) of applications sent forward.

Notify the applicant you have submitted her application. If required, remind her to update the Trustees with required info by the due date.

How do I evaluate the applicant's personal recommendation letter?

Confirm the letter:



- Addresses every question. Questions can change every year so don't recycle a letter of recommendation.

- Speaks to the applicant's character outside of aviation

- Is not written by a 99 or family member

- Is addressed to Trustees and Judges, and is dated and signed by the writer. This should not be a generic letter.

How important is my letter of recommendation? What tips do you have for writing that?

- Put your heart and soul into writing her recommendation letter. If you believe in your applicant, it should be clear in your writing.

- Thoughtfully answer ALL the questions in order. (If helpful, list the questions and provide your answers under the questions.)

- Confirm that financial support requested is appropriate for the area. This may mean you have to make some phone calls or check online.

- Consider a second set of eyes. Work with your team to confirm the letter effectively represents your applicant.

What are the most common errors you see?

- Part III. Ensure the flight instructor completes Part III correctly and completely. Often they rush and miss critical information.

- Part VI. Missing headers on each document page as requested in general instructions.

- Incorrect math. Cross check multiplication and addition in both Part III and logbooks.

- Poor copies. Dark copies of the pilot certificate & log books. Crooked scans. (Yes, automatic scanners sometimes don't scan straight.)

- Essays and Letters don't cover the required topics and/or contain spelling/grammatical errors.

Only the best applications move forward to the judges. Make the effort count by having attention to detail.

What additional tips do you have?

- Periodically review the scholarship information on The 99s International website. Check online for scholarship changes, updates, and due dates on AE and First Wings Awards.

- Include AEMSf scholarship information in your newsletter and other communications within your chapter to keep the momentum flowing.

- Connect with other Chapter AEMSf Chairs and Section Chairs to share ideas.

- If the applicant doesn't win, encourage her to execute her back-up plan and apply again!

**Remember, you, the Chapter AEMSf Chair,
are a vital crew member in the success of your applicants.**

99s Perpetual Scholarships

By Dorothy Berthelet, Eastern Ontario Chapter

In 1979, the first Perpetual scholarship was created to memorialize Jane Zieber Kelley, an accomplished aerobatics competitor and judge who died after an aerobatic competition in Arizona.

Since then, 27 additional perpetual scholarships have been set up to recognize many amazing individuals:

- **Five past Ninety-Nines Presidents**, including Kay Brick, 1950-51; Alice Hammond, 1951-53; Geraldine Mickelsen, 1953-55; Ruth Deerman, 1963-65; and Thon Griffith, 1978-80.
- **Two original Charter members**, Fay Gillis Wells and Achsa Donnels.
- **Two Chapters**, Minnesota and Ventura County.
- **One Section**, North Central.
- **Many air racers**, including Virginia “Gini” Richardson, Darlene “Dottie” Sanders, and Thelma Cull.
- **Past winners giving back to the Scholarship Fund**, including Jenny Beatty and Aileen Watkins.
- **Past Scholarship Trustees**, including Lygie Hagan, Alice Hammond and Bonnie Seymour. In addition, many other accomplished women involved in aviation, including Betty DeWitt, Wittmer, Marion Barnick, Evelyn Bryan Johnson, Mary Kelly, Christine Winzer, Lisa Netsch, Libby Kaiser, Helma DeFronzo, Vicki Cruse and Kitty Houghton.
- **Perpetual scholarships** can be established to honor individuals with a donation of \$50,000.

99s Perpetual Scholarship Honorees

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Jane Zieber Kelley | 15. Albuquerque-El Paso Ruth Deerman |
| 2. Gerda Ruhnke | 16. Past Winners |
| 3. Geraldine Mickelsen | 17. Fay Gillis Wells |
| 4. Alice Hammond | 18. North Central Section |
| 5. Lygie Hagan | 19. Achsa Donnels |
| 6. Kay Brick | 20. Christine Winzer |
| 7. Betty DeWitt Wittmer | 21. Ventura County 99s |
| 8. Virginia Richardson | 22. Lisa Netsch |
| 9. Dottie Sanders | 23. Libby Kaiser |
| 10. Milton & Bonnie Seymour | 24. Helma DeFronzo |
| 11. Marion Barnick | 25. Vicki Cruse EMT |
| 12. Evelyn Bryan Johnson | 26. Thon Griffith |
| 13. Mary Kelly | 27. Kitty Houghton |
| 14. Minnesota Chapter | 28. Thelma Cull |

See a selection of photos on the next page.

99s Perpetual Honorees



**Achsa
Donnels**



**Faye Gillis
Wells**



**Ruth
Deerman**



**Thon
Griffith**



**Evelyn Bryan
Johnson**



**Kay
Brick**



**Geraldine
Mickelsen**



**Virginia
Richardson**



**Dottie
Sanders**



**Bonnie
Seymour**



**Marion
Barnick**



**Alice
Hammond**