

PCOSE NEWSLETTER

Peabody Class of Sixty-Eight 3rd Quarter Newsletter 2025

57TH CLASS REUNION ISSUE

Our 57th year class reunion is a wrap!

Thirty-seven of our classmates reunited at the Holiday Inn Downtown Alexandria for three days of fun, food and camaraderie. We danced to the Oldies, shared life stories, enjoyed delicious food, honored our deceased classmates, and we worshipped together at St. Juliana Catholic Church with classmates Yvonne Young Lemons and Rosa Ashby Metoyer.

We thank God for the gift of this reunion. We pray for all our classmates, far and near, and we look forward to our next joyful time together. Enjoy these photographic highlights!



The committee: Linda Smith Green (Chair), Yvonne Young Lemons, Rosa Ashby Metoyer, Elaine Ford Provost

Saturday Group







Sonya quarters all grown up: James, Donald Ray, Mike, and Willie James







Left to right: Matthew Wilson; Joycelyn Harvey; Lionel Lyles; and Emma Jones Gray, Kathlyn Giles Stewart and Sherman Fulton

A BIT OF HISTORY



Keandra Coleman Ford

We are proud to once again Peabody's spotlight newest principal, Keandra Coleman Ford, in this newsletter. She is the 12th leader in a distinguished line of educators who stand on shoulders of J. B. Lafargue, the visionary whose determination, advocacy, and intellect gave rise to our alma mater.



Prof. J. B. Lafargue

It began as Peabody Normal and Industrial School in 1895 with Mr. Lafargue serving as principal for 42 years, followed by Mr. Iles, who led the school for another 35. Together, these two men shaped Peabody's destiny for its first 77 years, laying a foundation of excellence and purpose.

We honor their legacy and offer our heartfelt support to Mrs. Coleman Ford as she steps boldly into this role. Our desire is that she continues their legacy of championing students, nurturing their potential, and inspiring them to strive for their very best.

Mrs. Coleman Ford poses in front of the school's showcase which highlights both men. The sculpture of Mr. Iles was created by classmate Dr. Lionel D. Lyles and presented to the school by him during the PCOSE 50th class reunion in 2018.





in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime.

1 in 8 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime. In 2025, an estimated 316,950 women and 2,800 men will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, and an additional 59,080 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer will be diagnosed. Chances are, you know at least one person who has been personally affected by breast cancer.

But there is hope. When caught in its earliest, localized stages, **the 5-year relative survival rate is 99%.** Advances in <u>early detection</u> and <u>treatment</u> methods have significantly increased breast cancer survival rates in recent years, and there are currently over 4 million breast cancer survivors in the United States.

Mammogram 101 eBook

Are you prepared for your yearly mammogram?

We know that scheduling your <u>yearly mammogram</u> may be nerve-racking, but this important screening doesn't have to be painful or scary! The eBook *Mammogram 101* takes the guesswork out of the documents you'll need and the questions you should be asking your doctor at your next appointment. This eBook also includes a checklist of symptoms to provide your doctor in case you've experienced any abnormalities in your breasts since your last exam.

Please go to the following link and order your Mammogram 101 eBook: https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-facts/

Source: https://www.nationalbreastcancer.org/breast-cancer-facts/

Prepared by: Dr. Linda Green, DNP, MSN

This article appeared in Geography, the spring 2025 newsletter for the University of Colorado, Boulder. Lionel D Lyles (PhD 1977)

Published: 4/28/2025

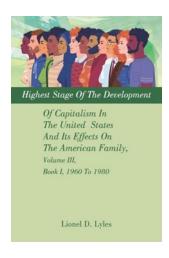
My name is Dr. Lionel D. Lyles. I graduated in August 1977 with my Doctoral Degree in Urban-Historical Geography with an emphasis on the evolutionary development of contemporary urban problems. My major Professors at the time were, namely, Theodore Myers, Melvin Albaum, Yuk Lee, and Nicholas Helburn.

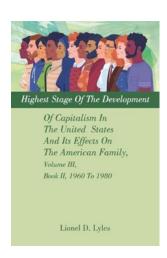
These Professors prepared me for the social, economic, political, judicial, and environmental (e.g., climate change) problems that the American Working Class People are facing today. From the moment I graduated, and my training taught me that the cause of all the mentioned categories in which problems exist cannot be understood without first conducting an exhaustive, scientific analysis of the American Capitalist System.

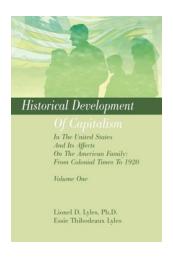
Thus, for the past 40 years, I researched and objectively examined this system using the dialectical method, from pre-colonial times to 1980 and the present. The central theme is if an American is a wage earner, then he or she belongs to the American Working Class; if an American is a wealthy, non-producer, who owns multiple million and billions of dollars, he or she belongs to the American Ruling Class. My work shows American Society is the product of an historical class struggle between these mentioned classes.

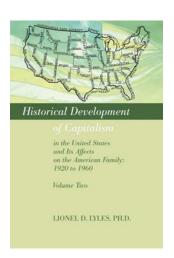
At this time-2025-the American Working Class is only aware of itself via trade unionism. This level of political awareness can only win the working class people a disproportionate increase in wages relative to the millions of dollars of surplus value they lose during the process of production.

To help American Working Class People realize their historical mission of change, it took me five years to research and write the following books:









PRAISE/PRAYER CORNER

SOMEBODY PRAYED FOR ME

By Kathlyn Giles Stewart

"Somebody Prayed for Me" is a well-known gospel song and poem. It reflects on how someone's prayers, often from someone unknown, can have a profound impact on one's life, providing comfort, guidance, and ultimately, a connection to faith. The song emphasizes the power of intercessory prayer and the belief that

prayers can be answered even when the person praying is not known to

the one receiving the benefit. The lyrics started off by saying:

Somebody prayed for me, Somebody prayed for me. Had me on their mind, They took the time and prayed for me. (I am so glad they prayed) (I'm so glad they prayed) I am so glad they prayed for me.

Dear Classmates,

It's been wonderful reuniting with many of you and forging relationships that lead to us coming full circle again at our up and coming Reunion. So, I wanted to share with you what it has meant to me. Having the opportunity to participate in our writing project in 2020 and now being a published writer along with other classmates, I find myself realizing my dreams to be a writer have motivated me to continue. I can't believe within my spirit I want to say something and share some things with others. We all have unique stories that our life and our families have imparted on us as legacies and memories of the times back then and when I was.... A kid. But what I discovered about our generation was the greatest power imparted on us by our families who themselves were still going through the pain and struggle of defining freedom for themselves and us after 100 years of bondage, was faith. Faith, the complete trust in God. Linked to their faith was this powerful act that they carried out in the home, place of worship, in schools and in the fields where they worked. The act of praying. I witnessed this act in the home of my grandmother and in the church that nurtured my relationship with God, Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church of Alexandria, Louisiana.

Many of the writings of my classmates reflected the faith and reverence of our parents that prayed for our success. I believe this is truly the wings that helped us get over.

Now I want to express that for many of us, our parents have transitioned, leaving us with the instructions God laid out for them found in James 5: 13-16 to "pray for one another." I know we are actively seeking prayer and even when we don't, the acknowledgment of our friends, classmates and family speak to us letting us know we are in their prayers. Knowing this, I want to acknowledge my classmate **Katherine Thomas** who has faithfully prayed for me every day. I have not acknowledged this on a consistent basis, but I want to let her know that her presence is felt everyday. My strength is renew and my troubles are few. I have joy in receiving her daily reminder that I am loved and prayed for. It's through her generous spirit that she takes the time to pray for me. **Thank you Katherine.** I know I am not the only one your prayers are helping, but I am glad I am on your prayer list. I am grateful. So let me end with this: I am spreading the good news.

Remember, Matthew 7:7-8, prayer works. So let us pray for one another. Our prayer list includes the following:

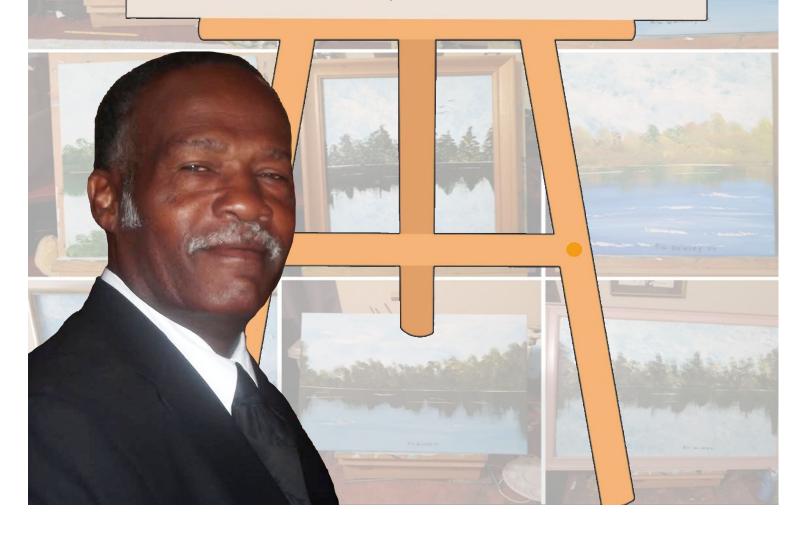
-Katherine Thomas, Michael Milton, Shirley Scarborough



Did you know that our classmate, Rig Quinney Jr.,

has been drawing since he was a very little boy and got lots of encouragement from Mr. Morris Taft Thomas, his art teacher at Jones Street? You can find him as well as his work at Art by Rig on Tik Tok and Facebook.

Check him out. He has an art show coming up on October 25th in Houston. If, while looking for him, you discover Rig Quinney III classic car aficionado, that is his son.



FUN FACT PEABODY PRINCIPALS

John B. LaFargue	1895-1937
D. F. Iles	1937-1972
Samuel McKay	1972-1981
James Cleveland	1981-1987
Clayton P. Williams	1987-1991
Dennis Frazier	1991-1998
Rita Touchton	1998-1999
Peggie Lee Davis	1999-2001
Lee Dotson	2001-2014
Jamie Hanagan	2014-2021
Dennis Stewart	2021-2024
Keandra Coleman-Ford	2025