

For Immediate Release

**YEO's 1999 International University Answers
Young Entrepreneurs' Need for More Training in
Managing Fast Growth Businesses**

San Diego, CA - September 10, 1999 - Young entrepreneurs are accustomed to charting their own course and following their own instincts. But most young business owners acknowledge that education, training and skill-building can undeniably make the path to successful entrepreneurship much easier.

A focus and commitment to entrepreneurial education was the central theme of the 1999 YEO International University held recently in San Diego, California. More than 400 members of the Young Entrepreneurs' Organization (YEO) came from around the world to network with their peers and attend sessions, specifically geared toward such entrepreneurial topics as running your own company, finance and fast growth and technology in business.

Special keynote sessions were headlined by entrepreneur and humanitarian Peter Ueberoth and noted author of the "Chicken Soup for the Soul" series Mark Victor Hansen. The four-day program also featured a military leadership day. Attendees were led by Navy and Marine fighter pilots (the Afterburners) in a spirited exercise equating business to combat. To complete the event, presentations were made by Retired Captain Gerald Coffee, USN, downed by enemy fire and held as a POW for seven years in Vietnam, and Commander D. Michael Abrashoff, USN, who earned the distinguished honor of leading the best ship in the US Pacific fleet.

In a noteworthy session, local CEOs, drawn from the membership of the Young Presidents' Organization and the World Presidents' Organization, invited small groups of YEO attendees to their offices to share their stories, perspectives and challenges in running successful businesses.

Another highlight of the University was when eight-year-old, Taylor Marie Crabtree, founder of TayBear Company, a company that gives kids with cancer individually named and decorated teddy bears, became the youngest member in the

history of YEO. Crabtree's mentor, Amy Vavrunek, San Diego Chapter Learning Chair and Scott Corlett, president of the San Diego Chapter, presented her with an honorary membership.

"Young entrepreneurs have plenty of creativity and enthusiasm, but they especially need educational/networking events such as YEO's International University that help them develop the business and management skills that will sustain their businesses," said Milledge Hart, chairman/CEO of Granada Entertainment, Inc., and newly elected YEO international president. "This commitment to entrepreneurial learning will be YEO's chief focus in the coming year."

Providing young business owners with extensive opportunities to grow and learn through networking, idea exchange and educational events has long been central to YEO's mission. The largest global organization devoted to aiding young entrepreneurs, YEO, through its local chapters, has been at the forefront in offering members innovative and substantive entrepreneurial education and opportunities to network and exchange ideas with their peers worldwide. YEO's Gateways are learning programs sponsored by local chapters that draw experts from business, politics, science and academia to address a business, social and cultural issues. YEO Forums provide another opportunity for members to grow and learn. Forums are small, monthly meetings where members can exchange ideas confidentially and explore solutions to a wide range of business challenges.

"The YEO Forums provide members with a continuous outlet to network, exchange ideas and most importantly to learn from each other," notes Hart.