

Spring Reception Welcomes Alumni



On May 23, Peirce President James J. Mergiotti welcomed hundreds of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the College to a reception under the tent that stretched the length of Carlisle Street on campus.

The agenda focused on the re-launch of the Alumni Association and featured the "world premiere" of the new Peirce brand video. Special networking sessions followed the formal program.

President Mergiotti emphasized the great progress Peirce has made over the last 12 months: new degree programs in Accounting, Human Resource Management, Health Information Technology, Healthcare Administration, and General Studies; a new Career Development Services



Center and renovated library; and re-establishment of the Office of Institutional Advancement.

Alumni Association Board President **Steve Wurtz '08** introduced the board of directors and outlined how the reinvigorated organization will be a resource for alumni to better connect with one another and the College. "Each of us has our own unique Peirce story, which is why I feel so passionately about giving back to Peirce and being part of the revitalization of the Alumni Association," he said. "But we cannot take this journey alone. We will only succeed with the active, engaged participation of you, our graduates."



PEIRCE COLLEGE TO PUBLISH 2011 ALUMNI DIRECTORY

Work has begun on the 2011 Peirce College Alumni Today, our first alumni directory in over a decade. Working in partnership with Harris Connect, alumni will be invited to update their profiles for inclusion in the directory. Please take a few moments to verify that we have accurate information. Thank you.

PEIRCE
is the college
that really works
for working
adults.
Even after
graduation.



Charisse R. Lillie

It was another memorable chapter in Peirce history as the Class of 2011 received their degrees on June 13. Peirce President James J. Mergioti welcomed 445 graduates, together with family members and friends, to The Kimmel Center in Philadelphia for an evening filled with exhilaration, pride and for many, relief.

Charisse R. Lillie, Vice President, Community Investment, Comcast Corporation, and President of the Comcast Foundation delivered the keynote address. She congratulated the graduates for the sacrifices they

and their families had made and spoke of how Peirce has prepared them to excel in these tough economic times. She talked about her personal journey and encouraged all attendees to continue to dream big and follow their passions.

The student speaker was Shandai Moore-Jenkins. Shandai is the founder of Chosen 300 Ministries, which provides humanitarian relief programs to the poor and less fortunate in the United States and several countries around the world.

Many personal stories were reflected in the graduate population, whose ages ranged from 18 to 61. Among the graduates were two mother and son duos—Clarice James and Keith Carney and Natalie Price and Philip Price. Peirce Idol winner Morraye Berrios sang the national anthem. There were 252 Business Administration, 114 Paralegal Studies and 79 Information Technology graduates, who received 276 bachelor's degrees, 150 associate degrees and 19 certificates.



President's Note

Gratitude for Engaged Alumni



James J. Mergioti

There have been many occasions in the past year which reminded me that one of the keys to achieving Peirce College's mission

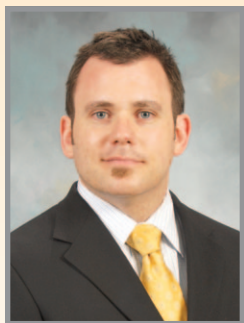
is having engaged alumni. That means alumni working together with students, faculty, staff, trustees, and partners/friends of the College toward the vision of making Peirce the first choice for career oriented, non-traditional college students seeking high quality teaching and service.

During the past several months, there have been numerous events in which alumni returned to speak or serve on panels that enhanced the education of our students. There have also been situations where alumni have tutored or mentored students; represented the College to prospects; and enhanced our outreach through community service.

The formation of the newly revitalized Alumni Association will create many more opportunities for alumni engagement.

On behalf of the College community, I offer special thanks to the many alumni who have given time so willingly in support of Peirce. It is gratifying to have an alumni base that is so committed to moving the College forward. Our plan is to broaden that base of participation in the future. It is one of the keys to Peirce's success.

FACULTY FOCUS: Brian Finnegan



Brian Finnegan

The best reason to pursue a career in Information Technology is because you like working with others to solve interesting,

important problems, says Brian Finnegan, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean for Information Technology and General Education at Peirce.

In the classroom, Professor Finnegan demonstrates how his lessons relate to the wider professional world. He says his goal is always to make class activities authentic, practical, challenging and—as much as possible—fun.

He compares Peirce to a gym: “The faculty and staff are similar to personal trainers. They can show you the way and motivate you, but without hard work, sacrifice and commitment on your part, you are not going to get the results you want. No matter how good the trainers are, if students don’t bring the effort, little will change...and if you don’t continue that effort after you graduate and for the rest of your life, your results will not endure.”

Professor Finnegan lives in West Philadelphia and serves on the Bucks County Technical High School Advisory Board and the Pennsylvania Governor’s School for Information, Science and Technology Advisory Board.

Peirce alumna **Joanna Otero-Cruz '07**, is Executive Director of Concilio, a Philadelphia-based non-profit serving the Latino community. Recently, she was featured in the *Philadelphia Business Journal's* “40 under 40 award” profiles.



Joanna Otero-Cruz

“I am honored to receive this prestigious award by the Journal and even more so in getting recognition for Peirce. It was difficult going back to school after almost 10 years but Peirce made it easy,” Joanna said.

She says she is motivated by her faith, personal beliefs, and core values, instilled in her from childhood. She credits her mother, who told her it doesn’t matter where you come from, as long as you are doing the right thing and giving

100 percent, you can stand with your head held high.

Her motto is to treat others as you would like them to treat you—fairly, with dignity and respect. Those same values also motivate her. “Doing the right thing is never easy. Always stay humble and keep to your core principles no matter what—if you do, you will always be successful. It is all about balance—remember to take care of yourself,” she said.

Joanna’s advice to the next generation is to think positively. “Anything is possible if you believe and commit to working hard and serving others. Remember, you are paving the way for those who come after you; therefore, make sure the path is one worth paving,” she added.

An active member of her local church, school and local recreational center, she says she thrives on working with neighbors and friends and participating in events for organizations such as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and the American Heart Association.



Give to the Peirce College Annual Fund

Because of the generosity of alumni like you, we are able to renew our commitment to the success of our students.

For more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. 9323, or visit www.peirce.edu/alumni.

Refer a New Student and Be Rewarded!

To refer someone you know, visit www.peirce.edu/referrals. Once he/she enrolls successfully, we will send you a \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card and a special edition Peirce T-shirt. Plus, we will waive the \$50 application fee.



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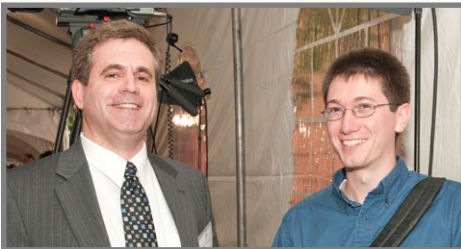
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PERSPECTIVES

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Spring Reception Photos