

Connect with the Alumni Association · Faculty Focus:  
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Opportunity at Peirce · Alumni Profile: Dr. Deborah Willis, and more...

## Connect with the Alumni Association

Whether you first walked through the doors of 1420 Pine Street and into the Peirce School, Peirce Junior College, or Peirce College, the Alumni Association is developing programs and services recognizing your lifelong connection with Peirce.

The Alumni Association is working to bring Peirce people together for their professional and personal development. Check out the variety of ways the members of the Peirce alumni family are staying connected.

**Social Events:** The Alumni Association's first social occasion of the year was a wine tasting hosted at the College in July. Other events planned include a series of receptions in the suburbs, which began in Wayne, PA on November 18; quarterly happy hours in downtown Philadelphia starting December 1; and of course, the annual Spring Reception.

**Career Events:** On October 5, over 60 alumni and students were on hand for Career Development Services (CDS)'s "Mocktails" - a networking reception. Participants enjoyed specialty non-alcoholic cocktails like the "Peirce-tini"

while carrying on the important business of sharpening networking skills. Other fall workshops included a resume clinic and a virtual open house. While CDS programs for alumni are often offered on campus, others are available both onsite and online.



Alumni Association Board Member Greg Broomer '03 networks at "Mocktails" Reception

**Professional Affinity Events:** The Paralegal Student Association held a networking event on November 15 to which alumni were invited. A keynote address by Daniel Siegel, Esq. focused on advances in the legal technology arena. The Information Technology Student

Association is planning a networking event for IT professionals in the spring.

**Service Opportunities:** Alumni joined in October's "Philly Cares Day", an annual city-wide community service event, working on various projects to enhance the Roberto Clemente Middle School in Philadelphia. Alumni also have been sharing their experiences while encouraging prospective students by speaking at Admissions Open Houses held both on and off campus.

A calendar of events with details is on the back page, or check the website at [www.peirce.edu/alumni](http://www.peirce.edu/alumni). For more information, email [alumni@peirce.edu](mailto:alumni@peirce.edu) or call 215.670.9323.

### Alumni Board Elections

Elections will be held in Spring 2012 for two-year terms on the Alumni Association Board. Members work with the Peirce community to better connect alumni with one another and the College. For a self-nomination package, contact Rosemary Connors by 12/8 at [alumni@peirce.edu](mailto:alumni@peirce.edu) or call 215.670.9003.

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



## FACULTY FOCUS: Brandi Brice

The new Peirce College Criminal Justice Associate Degree program approaches the study of

**Brandi Brice** Criminal Justice from both a practical and theoretical perspective. Brandi Brice, Assistant Professor, Legal Studies, is uniquely qualified to lead this initiative.

Before joining the Legal Studies faculty in March, she had served as both an Assistant City Solicitor and an Assistant District Attorney for the City of Philadelphia. Professor Brice earned her undergraduate, law degree and masters in Taxation from Temple and has also taught as an adjunct with the University of Phoenix. She currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors of the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Professor Brice knows that Peirce's working adult population will be well served by the new program, stressing its practicality and applicability. "Students will benefit from the expanding criminal justice industry in this area, and the need for people to come into these new jobs with new ideas", she notes. The multitude of career options for those pursuing this new degree include law enforcement, corrections officer, probation and parole supervision, private security, and jobs that fall under the law enforcement umbrella like investigative work.

The first classes offered - Introduction to Criminal Justice and Criminal Court Systems - will start in January 2012. In addition to developing the curriculum, Professor Brice also looks forward to helping students gain valuable experience through internships, as well as develop their business networks: she stands by belief in the idea that "it's what you know AND who you know" that allows you to succeed professionally.

## Open the Doors of Opportunity at Peirce Give to the Annual Fund

Peirce has been in the business of transforming lives personally and professionally since we first opened our doors in 1865. We continue to support the goals of our current students in this tradition, as we live out our vision of being the college that really works for working adults.

To do all which we must do for our learning community, we rely on the continued financial support of our graduates through the Peirce College Annual Fund. Your support of the Fund directly enhances the quality of student life by providing dollars that enable us to increase financial aid availability, purchase instructional equipment, and build library resources.

Your donation, no matter what the size, is important - it give us the critical flexibility we need to focus on the day-to-day demands of educational enhancement. Remember, if you donate before December 31, you will maximize your charitable tax-deductable benefits for 2011.

For details and to give online, visit the Peirce website at [www.peirce.edu/](http://www.peirce.edu/) alumni. You can also mail a check to Peirce College, Office of Institutional Advancement, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

For more information, contact 215.670.9323. Thank you in advance for your generosity in giving our students the opportunities they deserve.



## President's Note State of the College

**James J. Mergiotti**

The editor asked me to provide a state of the College in 190 words. There are so many good things happening at Peirce these days that is a real challenge. So, wasting no words, here are the highlights:

**Enrollment Growth** - In the first fall session, we are serving 135 more students than we did at the same time last year. We have had 395 new students join us so far in 2011 compared with 356 at the same time last year.

**Program Expansion** - The College's new health care programs are well populated and the inaugural class of the new criminal justice program is taking shape. A new Student Success Seminar was also launched in September.

**Institutional Accreditation** - The Middle States Commission on Higher Education recently conducted its decennial site visit and reaffirmed the College's institutional accreditation.

**Renovations** - Renovations of the College's facilities were completed in their entirety this past summer.

**Alumni Association** - The new Peirce Alumni Association is fully operational. The association is hosting events to engage alumni and actively participating in the College's Admissions and Career Development activities.

Thanks to a highly dedicated community, the College continues to make significant progress in many areas.

# 2011 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

*The continued generosity of our alumni and friends is a source of deep pride and enormous gratitude among the Peirce College community. Your support has made the dream of attending Peirce College a reality for countless numbers of students, who otherwise would be unable to accept Peirce's offer of admission. The Honor Roll of Donors lists all donors who made a contribution between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. The Honor Roll recognizes alumni, friends, corporations and foundations by giving level. Every effort has been made to ensure the roster is complete and accurate.*

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## Take Advantage of the Walker Center

*The Walker Center for Academic Excellence (WCAE) provides a wide range of support services to students, but did you know that it offers benefits for graduates as well? WCAE Program Supervisor Kareem Calliste tells more.*

When I was asked to write an article for *Peirce Perspectives*, I thought about the message I wanted to share with every Peirce College alum who reads this and believe it can be summed up with two words: "Take advantage."

For instance, all Peirce College alumni can take advantage of numerous WCAE services, well after they have graduated. Alumni can attend any of the numerous workshops we offer throughout the year on academic and/or personal enrichment, as well as our workshops that focus on technology skills such as Microsoft Excel 2007 or PowerPoint 2007.

Our workshops are beneficial to alumni who may be continuing their education, or simply want to enhance their skills in a particular area.

You are welcome to come to the Walker Center and use our computers for your professional needs (there is a small charge for printing).



To take advantage of our programs and services, visit [www.peirce.edu](http://www.peirce.edu) and go to the Walker Center "quicklink", or email us at [WCAE@peirce.edu](mailto:WCAE@peirce.edu) or call 215.670.9251.

*Walker Center Supervisor Kareem Calliste works to promote students' academic excellence*

## Dr. Deborah Willis: Creating a Vision



*Dr. Deborah Willis*

Dr. Deborah Willis' journey as an internationally-renowned author, academic, historian, curator, and art photographer has taken her literally around

the world - but she can trace the beginning of her professional path right to Peirce.

When she started her studies here in the 1960s, it was at the urging of her father, a Philadelphia police officer, who believed business studies would ensure her future employment success. While he had set his sights on his daughter getting a job at City Hall after graduation, Deborah Willis' vision was to take her much further.

Dr. Willis, the chair of the Department of Photography and Imaging at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, acknowledges that Peirce provided the foundation for the rest of her career: "What I got from the Peirce experience was a community; people who helped me develop ideas." She says she learned how to process information as well as develop writing and researching skills. However, let it not be said she spent all of her time in the classroom - she fondly remembers joining with her fellow athletic boosters in cheering Peirce teams at sporting events.

After Peirce, Dr. Willis went on to earn degrees from the Philadelphia College of Art (now University of the Arts), The City University of New York, Pratt Institute, and George Mason University.

During her career, she has received both Guggenheim and MacArthur Fellowships in recognition of her accomplishments.

She has been named among the 100 Most Important People in Photography by *American Photography Magazine*, and her photographic work has been exhibited around the world. A prolific author, Dr. Willis' most recent publications include *Posing Beauty: African American Images from the 1890s to the Present*; *Michelle Obama: The First Lady in Photographs*; and *Black Venus 2010: They Called Her "Hottentot"*.

In reflecting on her experience here in light of the stellar career she has enjoyed, Dr. Deborah Willis believes that "Peirce gives you the opportunity to create opportunities. That's what happened for me."



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## Become a Fan on Facebook

Join the Peirce College Alumni Association on Facebook and “like” our page to learn the latest news from your Alumni Association. Our Facebook page will be spotlighting our alumni and upcoming events, as well as hosting fun photos and facts about Peirce from throughout the years. Don’t forget to “like” the Peirce College main page, too.



# PEIRCE PERSPECTIVES

The alumni newsletter  
from Peirce College®



## Calendar of Events

The Peirce College Alumni Association invites you to join with your fellow alumni at the following events.

**Tuesday, November 29**  
**Microsoft PowerPoint 2007**  
**sponsored by the Walker Center**

59 College Hall  
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM – Free  
RSVP to [wcae@peirce.edu](mailto:wcae@peirce.edu)

**Thursday, December 1**  
**Philadelphia Happy Hour**

Fox and Hound  
1501 Spruce Street, Philadelphia  
5:30 PM to 7:30 PM –  
Cash Bar, Free Snacks  
RSVP to [alumni@peirce.edu](mailto:alumni@peirce.edu)  
or call 215-670-9323

**Monday, December 5**  
**Uncle Sam Wants You!**  
**How to Apply for a Government**  
**Job sponsored by Career**  
**Development Services**

69 College Hall  
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM – Free  
RSVP to [CDS@peirce.edu](mailto:CDS@peirce.edu)  
by 11/30/11



## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and express gratitude to those who play a part in our lives.

Thank you for being part of the Peirce family and supporting the College in fulfilling its mission of transforming lives. We are privileged to have you represent Peirce in your community, workplace, and the world.

On behalf of the Faculty, Staff, and Administration of Peirce College, I wish you and yours the very best this Holiday Season!

President James J. Mergiotti