The ranks of Peirce alumni increased as the College conferred 487 bachelor's and associate degrees at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia this June. At Commencement, Major General Jessica L. Wright, Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, delivered the keynote address after a special performance by the Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale.

The top-ranking military leader in the state, Major General Wright is responsible for 20,000 Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guardsmen and women, along with veterans' homes, a school for veterans' children and programs for the 1.3 million veterans in the state.

Noting that Peirce has “dynamically affected the lives of thousands of students,” General Wright encouraged the graduates to apply their skills “and make a difference in our nation.”

Among the Class of 2008 are 18 military personnel, first responders and family members who benefited from the College’s Protect & Serve® Grant program. Some graduating class highlights:

- 305 received degrees in Business Administration; 92 in Information Technology; and 90 in Paralegal Studies.
- Nine Comcast Corporation employees earned degrees through Peirce’s on site Corporate College program.
- Twin brothers and a mother/son duo graduated together.

Feel the excitement of Commencement captured in the photos on this page.
SHARE YOUR PEIRCE PRIDE

Isn’t it interesting how many people you meet know someone who studied at Peirce? Referrals are an important source of new students. Through the Peirce College Referral Program, alumni are encouraged to share their Peirce pride in a very tangible way and be rewarded for their efforts.

Use the enclosed Referral Card to give the gift of education to someone you know. In doing so, Peirce will waive the student’s $50 application fee. As a token of our thanks, referrers will receive a $100 Barnes&Noble gift card and special-edition T-shirt. For more details, call 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. 9000.

On May 16, graduates of the Class of 1948, along with their spouses and former instructor, Dr. Angelo DiAntonio, joined members of the faculty, staff and administration for a luncheon reunion on campus. At the event, President Arthur J. Lendo, Ph.D., welcomed the graduates back to Peirce, and noted many recent facilities enhancements and alumni dedications that have taken place. Trustee Fred Price ’64 offered a special toast in honor of the class’ 60th anniversary. During the program, Clem Piscitelli ’48 and Ray Palzer ’52 were recognized for their leadership in organizing the event.

A highlight of the afternoon was the sharing of stories among the honored guests led by Mr. Piscitelli. Many discussed how Peirce provided a foundation for their personal and professional achievements. “I owe my success to Peirce,” said Anthony Kuzma ’48.

The class members present shared the following:

Charles Fodor ’48 was hired “on the spot” by Dun & Bradstreet, where he had a “wonderful” sales career.

Raymond Knipe ’48 retired as vice president of benefits and compensation for SmithKline Beecham, forerunner of GlaxoSmithKline.

Mr. Kuzma was placed by Peirce at Moore Business Products, where he worked prior to starting his own business.

Paul Lindoerfer ’48 taught at Peirce and served on its board, and, after a long tenure at RCA, retired as director of logistics.

Richard Ludwick ’48, like many in his class, attended Peirce on the GI Bill. He owned and operated an automobile dealership for 51 years.

Sy Perlmutter ’48 had a lengthy sales career in home furnishings.

Mr. Piscitelli established his own accounting and tax practice, which he still operates today. He has also served many community organizations. His wife Liz (Miller) Piscitelli ’48 is also a member of the class of 1948.

Frank Vitale ’48 is a Chartered Life Underwriter and is still active in the insurance industry.

Peirce Honors Alumni with Newly Dedicated Spaces

Peirce College recently dedicated areas on campus to three of its generous alumni.

The West Atrium in Alumni Hall honors James C. Newborn ’25 who owned a successful electrical contracting company in the Royersford, Pa., area.

Also in Alumni Hall, the East Atrium is dedicated to Edna M. Thompson ’32. Miss Thompson had a 50-year career at Girard Trust Company as an investment analyst.

The Vera D. Bruestle ’34 Student Enrollment Center, located in College Hall, is named for Miss Bruestle who retired from a successful 25-year career with Scott Paper Company and spent 20 years working for the Curtis Institute of Music.

Back row, left to right: Messrs. Ludwick, Fodor; Dr. DiAntonio; Messrs. Knipe, Vitale

Front row, left to right: Messrs. Lindoerfer, Palzer, Piscitelli, Perlmutter; Dr. Lendo

Not pictured: Mr. Kuzma, Mrs. Piscitelli
Faculty Focus: Gail DiGiacomo

Professor of Accounting and Finance Gail DiGiacomo, Ed.D., beloved by both her students and colleagues, began her teaching career at Peirce College in 1978. Since then, she has seen the College develop in many ways while remaining true to its mission. She believes a Peirce education continues to “ensure that each student acquires the knowledge and skills expected in the workplace.” According to Dr. DiGiacomo, Peirce has many strengths, including “consistent high standards, quality instruction and a sense of community.”

Dr. DiGiacomo notes that new academic programs at Peirce “encourage critical thinking, problem solving, leadership and communication, and provide courses to enhance the global perspective.” These skills improve career potential for future Peirce alumni.

In her teachings, Dr. DiGiacomo places a strong emphasis on ethical behavior. She says, “Ethics is everybody’s business…it is not just required for the business world.”

Over the years, many Peirce students have found that Dr. DiGiacomo embodies traits she tries to instill in her students: professionalism, self-confidence, self-respect and integrity.

Peirce Perspectives salutes Dr. DiGiacomo for her 30 years of service and inspiration.

Business Networking Event Connects Alumni with Students

More than 40 Business Administration alumni, current students and faculty members gathered recently for the fourth annual Business Networking Reception, entitled “Reaching your Maximum Potential and Much More.”

The event was tailor-made for alumnus and keynote speaker Reggie Waller ’04, founder and President of RWJ Consulting Group, LLC, a coaching practice that focuses on professional and personal development for its clients. In his remarks, he instructed students and alumni on how to build a personal plan for success. He suggested that attendees have a plan that includes short-term goals: “Break your goals into 90 days. If you try to make it all at once, it’s not going to happen.” He also advised them to connect with people from their social networks to help them succeed. “Share your goals with other people. When you let other people know your goals, they will be there to support you,” he noted.

“Events like this help connect current students with our alumni and provide an opportunity for them to share their experiences,” said Marie Gould, Ph.D., Business Administration faculty chair, who oversaw the coordination of the event led by Leola Bennett, Ed.D., and Michael Bentil, D.B.A., associate professors of Business Administration.

For Business Administration alumna Wynne Maynor ’08, the event helped her recall the strong support she received from Peirce faculty members and reinforced her love of Peirce: “I always brag about Peirce teachers and students!”

Did you Know?

- The Career Services Department offers ongoing help and support to any graduate, no matter what your commencement year. In addition to free workshops on topics like resume writing and interviewing skills, Peirce College alumni can participate in the “ResumeXchange” program, where employers post job listings. For more information, visit www.PeirceResumeXchange.com, contact Career Services at 215-670-9251 or email CDS@peirce.edu.
- According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Peirce College was #1 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in awarding paralegal bachelor’s degrees for 2006-07.
- You can enroll in Peirce’s newest course: Spanish! Offered in Sessions 2 and 5, this course covers writing, reading and conversational skills. There are no prerequisites for this class. To learn more, call 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. 9000.
One Graduate’s Perspective...

Robin Evans AS ’99, BS ’03 regards her Peirce education as the key to her career and financial advancement. A Dean’s List and award-winning graduate, she has recently returned to Peirce to earn another degree, this time in Information Technology.

I first learned about Peirce College when my mother, Shirley Evans Felder ’76, attended; she earned an associate degree in Administrative Accountancy. Soon after her graduation, I started my career at First Pennsylvania Bank, later CoreStates, where I worked for 16 years. While there, I found out about the Peirce Corporate College Program offered at CoreStates. Knowing the positive experience my mother had at Peirce, I was encouraged to enroll. Through the Program, I was able to achieve my AS in Business Administration by taking classes at my workplace.

I credit my Peirce education for helping me secure my first career moves, which were with the Philadelphia Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc., in 1999 and the Institute for Scientific Information (now known as Thomson Reuters) in 2001. Thanks to the increase in salary my associate degree gave me, I was able to afford to go back to Peirce for my bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

While attending Peirce for the second time, my oldest daughter, Quiana Covin ’02, became interested in its Paralegal Studies program. It was a truly unique experience to attend class and study together at Peirce.

Today, I’m working toward a bachelor’s degree in IT, with the hopes of someday teaching technology to children and senior citizens. I have received my Help Desk certification and I’m close to becoming a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. I’m excited to finish my degree and embark on the next phase of my career!

Robin Evans AS ’99, BS ’03 Darby, Pa.

Take a look at Peirce!

Call the Alumni Hotline at 215-670-9037 to arrange a guided tour of the renovated Peirce campus at 1420 Pine Street in Philadelphia. We look forward to seeing you.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE PEIRCE PERSPECTIVES ONLINE ALUMNINEWS@PEIRCE.EDU

What PEIRCE PERSPECTIVES can you share with us? Email ALUMNINEWS@PEIRCE.EDU or call 215-670-9037

Peirce Family Connections

Like many Peirce students, Frederica Basiura ’08, Santiago Cruz ’98 and Tanika Owens ’09 learned about Peirce College from relatives and friends who have had a wonderful Peirce experience. Read their stories below.

“My daughter was my mentor,” announces Ms. Basiura, speaking of Peirce employee and graduate Frederica Flippen ’07, who encouraged her to complete her associate degree at Peirce. “She told me ‘You can do this—it’s your time!’” Mother and daughter are both members of the business honor society Delta Mu Delta. Ms. Basiura plans to complete her bachelor’s degree in 2009.

Mr. Cruz is currently pursuing his bachelor’s degree in IT because his wife, alumna Joanna Otero-Cruz ’08, urged him to complete his degree. “Originally, I got Joanna to go to Peirce because I had earned my associate degree there,” comments Mr. Cruz.

Current Paralegal Studies student Ms. Owens plans to graduate in 2009, but traces her Peirce roots to her grandmother, Jacqueline Showell ’89. Her cousin Janine Knox is also currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree at Peirce. “Both encouraged me to study at Peirce—and my little brother will be starting in September in the IT program,” she says.