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– James J. Mergiotti, President and CEO
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– Susan Tracey AS ’86, BS ’09, Page 4

Dear Peirce Alumni:

Welcome to the new era of Peirce! Although my election as president was announced back in February, the magnitude of the honor to serve in this capacity at Peirce — with its vibrant history and venerable stature — continues to feel awesome. Since the announcement, I have met with many people from various constituencies to discuss Peirce’s past, present and future. This is something I will continue to do.

During the discussions, many have expressed excitement and anticipation about the College’s new era. Most notably, there is clear recognition that the College has never been better positioned for future achievements thanks to its strong educational quality, financial soundness, talented and committed employees, dedicated students and energized alumni base. It will take all those components and the entire community working in concert for Peirce to achieve its ultimate goal: continued career success for its students and graduates.

As valued alumni, we are very grateful for how well you represent Peirce. We are proud of you and want you to be equally proud of this wonderful institution, which continues to maximize opportunities for adult learners as it has for 144 years. In the new era, we are committed to creating more ways for you to stay connected with Peirce and consider the College a lifelong partner in supporting your educational and career goals.

It is truly a privilege to serve Peirce in my new role. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 888.GO PEIRCE, ext. 9494, or at president@peirce.edu, if you have any comments, questions or suggestions. I would be delighted to hear from you.

Sincerely,

James J. Mergiotti
President and Chief Executive Officer
Peirce celebrated its 144th commencement at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts in Philadelphia on June 15th, when nearly 500 students graduated.

Several alumni celebrating the 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th and 50th anniversaries of their graduation from Peirce attended a special reception with faculty, staff and trustees before the commencement ceremony. The event gave graduates an opportunity to reconnect with each other and the College. Campus tours of the newly renovated facilities were also offered to alumni and guests.

The commencement was the last as Peirce President and CEO for Arthur J. Lendo, Ph.D., who retired on June 30th after 18 years. Channel 6 (WPVI) anchor and journalism pioneer Lisa Thomas-Laury provided the keynote address.

Stay Connected: Continue to Grow with Peirce

Thank you for participating in our recent survey regarding continuing education. Peirce is exploring professional development classes and workshops that will enable working adults to refresh and/or update their skills and credentials, and stay competitive in today’s challenging economy and workplace.

The results of the survey will be finalized over the next few weeks. Peirce is considering a wide range of options, including seminars, workshops and in-depth, multiple-day programs.

“Education creates a platform for opportunities,” said Debra Schrammel, Dean, Academic Programs and Research. “This platform acts as a mechanism to open up opportunities in the workplace, such as obtaining a position and career advancement, as well as professional and personal development. We want Peirce alumni to know that we are here to help each of them. No matter where you are and what you are doing, you can return to Peirce College and continue your education.”

One of the initial steps is to pilot one or more workshops this fall. The workshops will be available to Peirce alumni at significantly discounted rates. The first — Electronic Legal Research and Legal Technology: Resources and Skill-Building Techniques for Paralegals — is scheduled for Oct. 16th.

Become an Ambassador

Did you know more than half of Peirce’s 2008-2009 incoming class knew someone who attended the College? Referrals are an important source of new students and we appreciate you sharing your Peirce experience with others.

As an ambassador of Peirce, we would like to reward you for your mentorship. Once your referred student enrolls successfully, we will send you a $100 Barnes & Noble gift card and a special-edition Peirce T-shirt. Plus, we’ll have his/her $50 application fee waived. To refer a friend today, visit www.peirce.edu/referrals.

Peirce Accreditation Update

Preparations for the College’s reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, Pa., 19104; 267-284-5000) are well underway with the formation of working groups. Over the next two years, these groups, composed of Peirce alumni, students, faculty and staff members, will undertake the research needed to reaffirm the College’s mission, goals and effectiveness.

Interested in participating in the reaccreditation process? Contact MSCHE Self-Study co-chairs: Edwin B. Miller, J.D., Assistant Dean and Professor, Legal Studies, at 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. 9291, or emiller@peirce.edu, and Debra Schrammel, Dean, Academic Programs and Research, at 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. 9270, or dsschrammel@peirce.edu.
Class of 1950 Reunites

Seeing old friends is enjoyable, especially when those friends are former classmates. On April 24th, at a special luncheon at the College, 11 Peirce graduates caught up on fond memories and the intervening years.

At the luncheon, President and CEO James J. Mergiotti welcomed the Class of 1950. “We are delighted to host you at the College on the 59th anniversary of your graduation from Peirce,” he said. “This is a class that has a great deal of Peirce pride and spirit, and has represented the College extremely well over the years.” Mr. Mergiotti recognized Marvin Rosenbaum ’50, for his leadership role in the event, and Trustee Fred Price ’64 offered a special toast.

When he left the army, alumnus Robert Mather ’50 was considering what to do. “Peirce had a three-year accounting course,” he said, “it was a lifesaver and helped me get started in business. I have good memories of Peirce.”

Janet Bond ’50 thought the event was very exciting. “Just being there with people that I had shared those years at Peirce was delightful,” she said. Ms. Bond took her personal resume with her to the class reunion. “I put it together at Peirce — it has a legal-size blue cover, my picture, the classes I took and what I did in high school and at Peirce.”

For Mr. Rosenbaum, “Peirce got me through at a time when I wanted to further my education while staying close to home,” he said. “Interestingly, three of us who graduated together — Frank Malkoch, Daniel Winters (who could not attend) and I — were honored in May 2001 by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants for having completed 40 years of membership in the Institute.”

In addition to Mr. Mather, Ms. Bond and Mr. Rosenbaum, other reunion attendees included Richard Boorse ’50, Joan Fratz ’50, Richard Gowen ’50, Ralph Herman ’50, Frank Malkoch ’50, Harry Nelson ’50, Charles Sines ’50, Edward Yost ’50 and Dr. Angelo DiAntonio, a professor at Peirce during the time the graduates were students.
One Graduate’s Perspective

As she was about to pick up her diploma during the June 15th Commencement, Susan Tracey AS ’86, BS ’09 realized how much sweeter it felt the second time around.

It had been 23 years since she last took that walk, when she received an associate degree in General Studies from Peirce. This time it was for her bachelor’s in Business Administration.

Ms. Tracey said she selected Peirce as a young person in 1984 because her great-grandmother was a graduate. In 2005, she returned to Peirce because she felt she had unfinished business to attend to. “In the current marketplace and especially in this economy, a bachelor’s degree is important just to be competitive,” she said. “I was at a very challenging point in my career because I had not stayed current with the business skills I needed to be competitive.”

As she transitioned from customer service to a marketing position at her company, Ms. Tracey found the classes at Peirce gave her a solid foundation for the new position. “Peirce’s business courses gave me a reality check and a perspective,” she said. “Peirce helped me understand and appreciate my career, my company and the industry in general.”

Although it took her almost four years to complete her studies, due to her professional demands, Ms. Tracey persevered. “The online program at Peirce is fabulous,” she emphasized. “Peirce’s library and database systems are excellent resources. The College is so responsive to the needs of working adults — it was such a positive experience.”