Become a Fan on Facebook

Join the Peirce College Alumni Association on Facebook and “like” our page to learn the latest from your Alumni Association. Our Facebook page will be spotlighting our alumni and upcoming events, as well as featuring fun facts and photos of Peirce from throughout the years.

LinkedIn Works!

Join the Peirce group on LinkedIn, the free online professional networking site. To find out how you can benefit by making the connection, visit www.linkedin.com and search for “Peirce College Alumni Association”.

Under One Tent: Spring Reception Brings Together the Peirce Community

This year’s Spring Reception brought over 500 guests to campus on May 20 for an evening of social camaraderie, professional networking, and reconnecting with the school. In addition to the main party held under the tent on Carlisle Street, attendees also gathered in College Hall to meet up at program-specific receptions.

The Distinguished Student Award was presented to Myrna Coleman ’13.

Good News

“Good News!” focuses on our graduates’ personal and professional accomplishments. To submit your “Good News”, email alumni@peirce.edu or send it to Office of Institutional Advancement, Peirce College, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. You can also post news anytime on the Peirce College Alumni Association Facebook page.

Congratulations to Nate Bandy ’07 on his new job with Science Application International Corporation’s Tri-Care Beneficiary Benefit Service, where he will be assisting military personnel with their health benefits. Nate has been an active alumni volunteer with the Career Development Services office and at Admissions Open Houses.

Doreen Ziccardi ’08 sat for the national advanced paralegal certification exam offered by NFPA (National Federation of Paralegal Associations). She passed that demanding exam and earned the coveted credential of R.P. (Registered Paralegal). Doreen is a Peirce alumni mentor and a member of the Paralegal Advisory Board.

Spring was full of graduations for Peirce alumni who have gone on to earn graduate degrees. Alumna and Peirce staff member Natalie Price ’11 was conferred her master’s degree in Criminal Justice at St. Joseph’s University and alumus R. Christopher Campbell ’08 completed his law degree at Widener University. Alumni Association Board member Glenda Custalow ’10 received her master’s degree in Health Care Administration/Health Education and a post-master certificate in Health Ethics from St. Joseph’s in May. Congratulations to these three and all of our alumni who have gone to further their education.

Thomas J. Foga ’52 posthumously received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. Foga, who passed away in February, served as a volunteer on Peirce’s Board of Trustees for 30 years, serving as Chairman of the Trustees for three years of that tenure.

The Distinguished Student Award was presented to Myrna Coleman ’13.

Ms. Coleman is a member of Peirce’s inaugural class of Parent University and graduated in June with her associate degree in general studies.

Throughout seven decades, Distinguished Service Award winner Raymond L. Palzer ’52 has been a leader at Peirce as a student, employee, and volunteer. He took the opportunity of his acceptance speech to offer his perspective on the College’s future: "Everyone here this evening has a role to play in the next chapters of the Peirce story… and help our terrific students get the education they deserve.”

The alumni newsletter from Peirce College®

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President’s Note

As I write this, we are just a couple of weeks removed from concluding Peirce’s fiscal year (FY) 2012-13 which ended on June 30th. Although already deeply engaged in the new fiscal year, the pride of last year’s accomplishments still remains strong.

FY 2012-13 will always be etched in history as the year Peirce received approval to offer graduate level programs, just as FY 2013-14 will forever be remembered as the year we welcomed our first graduate level class. Despite that monumental achievement, several more goals were achieved during the past year.

A new mentoring program which pairs current students and alumni was piloted with great success. The first Peirce Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health Care Administration (HCA) classes graduated. The College’s HIT program earned accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

For the fourth consecutive year, Peirce was named to the Best Places to Work list in The Philadelphia Inquirer. Additionally, a new Diversity and Inclusion program was launched.

Peirce’s visibility continued to rise during the past year. Peirce people were actively serving our mission and contributing to other education based initiatives throughout the region.

Most importantly, the College taught and served nearly 2,800 students in FY 2012-13. That’s a substantial number of learners who enjoyed the benefits of the Peirce Experience as they pursued their educational goals.

Thanks to a devoted group of faculty and staff, an active alumni base, and an engaged group of partners representing employers and the regional community, Peirce’s FY 2012-13 was very successful. Fortunately, through the increasing power of those collaborations, the outlook for the College in FY 2013-14 and beyond looks even brighter.

New Alumni Celebrate Commencement

On Monday, June 10, Peirce’s 148th Commencement was held at the Kimmel Center’s Verizon Hall. The College community celebrated the graduation of 426 students, and Lisa J. Nutter, President of Philadelphia Academies, Inc. and Philadelphia’s First Lady, delivered the keynote address.

Here are some facts about our most recent alumni:

- Peirce College’s 2013 graduating class was 72 percent female.
- Thirty-two percent of our graduates range from ages 31 to 40, 29 percent range from ages 22 to 30, and 25 percent range from ages 41 to 50.
- In addition, 56 of Peirce’s graduates are 51 years old or older, proving it’s never too late to continue your education.
- The class of 2013 also included Peirce’s inaugural graduating classes from the Healthcare Administration program and the Health Information Technology degree program.

Congratulations to all of our new graduates on completing your degree – welcome to the Alumni Association!

Welcome to the Graduate Program: Brian Gerard ’10

Among the students in the College’s inaugural Masters of Science in Organizational Leadership & Management program is Brian Gerard ’10, whose career path is an exemplar of the benefits of a Peirce education. Brian first came here as a student in 2005 while employed as a technology specialist at Cardinal Dougherty High School in Philadelphia. Not only did he achieve his associate and bachelor’s degrees in business while at Peirce, earning multiple Dean’s List and President’s List recognitions, but Brian also became a member of the College’s information technology staff in 2009. Recently promoted to Network Administrator at Peirce, Brian has decided that the master’s program will be of value not only with his new position, but also will help enhance his future career options.

Brian chose Peirce for his graduate degree because of the program’s focus on developing leadership skillssets through group interaction, because he knows that teams are the building blocks of all well-run organizations. Brian looks forward to the interface with his classmates: “the ability to learn from others and react to their knowledge will be great.” He is confident that what he will achieve academically in the program, bolstered by the guidance of his professors and the real-world experience of his fellow students, will complement the increased responsibilities he is taking on in his career path.

As he commences the pursuit of his third degree from Peirce, we wish good luck to Brian and to all his fellow students who will start their graduate studies in September.

Faculty Focus: Carol J. Sherman

Even though she is usually the one in front of the classroom, leading classes as a professor in Peirce’s legal studies division, Carol J. Sherman is spending the 2013 summer semester on “the other side of the fence.” Professor Sherman has been taking a sabbatical from campus to review, dissect, and interpret the complex and ever-changing world of legal technology. She is exploring the wealth of cutting-edge resources which paralegal professionals utilize to carry out their multi-faceted responsibilities.

The mission of her legal technology sabbatical is to ensure that Peirce College Legal Studies students stay current with technological changes in the courtroom and the law firm, and understand how such changes have impacted statutory and case law. During her time away, she has embarked on an intensive study of electronic discovery, case management software, document management software, trial software, new legal research databases, as well as other technologies employed in the courtroom. In her discovery process, she is blending self-directed study, meetings with leading corporations in the field, and a host of conversations with legal professionals, including lawyers, judges, and paralegals.

Professor Sherman’s efforts in this regard are in keeping with her reputation at Peirce as someone who loves the law and has a passion for conveying information to budding paralegal professionals. She came to Peirce in 2005 after a multi-faceted career as a litigator in private practice, and as a deputy managing attorney of a legal aid clinic. Not only does she work diligently in the classroom, but she has also been an active presence representing Peirce to the many professional paralegal and bar associations in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. In 2010, she was given the College’s highest honor for a faculty member, the Hamilton Award for Academic Intelligence and Integrity.

In particular, her work as faculty advisor for the Peirce Paralegal Student Association (PSA) brings together the many facets of her professional experience. Through the PSA and the events the group sponsors, students come together to learn from one another and professionals in the field, including a very engaged cadre of Peirce paralegal alumni. “It’s been a joy for me to see students learn from alumni,” Professor Sherman observes. “It gives students confidence to see the wealth of professional achievements and how far alumni have come in their careers.”

She also noted many of the individuals she has spoken with during her summer sabbatical are Peirce graduates, who have been very generous in sharing their time and professional expertise with her. This has been no surprise to Professor Sherman, given the level of alumni engagement in the ongoing vitality of the College’s paralegal program: “Peirce is lucky to have a vibrant, dedicated, and thoughtful group of alumni, people who compel us to do our best and be on the cutting edge of what students need to be successful.”
Spotlight: Elsarra Elamin ’13

Every Peirce student has a unique story that brought them here and inspired them to earn their college degree. International student Elsarra Elamin made her journey from war-torn Sudan to Philadelphia by following a path which involved sacrifice and hard work. Her determination to succeed has led her to a series of great accomplishments, including her recent graduation from Peirce.

It was the particular dream of Elsarra’s late father to see his family achieve a better quality of life than was experienced by his and previous generations in Africa. After moving to the United States, Elsarra made good on her father’s great wish. While studying at Peirce, Elsarra received the honor of Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and became a member of the Delta Mu Delta International Honor Society in Business. She regards being awarded the College’s Business and Ahmed Omar ’03 Accounting Scholarships as the most memorable experience of her time at Peirce: these awards enabled her to continue her studies with the professors and fellow students who made such an impact on her.

On June 10, she graduated from Peirce with dual bachelor’s degrees - one in Business Administration with a concentration in Management (cum laude) and one in Accounting (magna cum laude). At Commencement, she won the Raymond L. Falzer Leadership Award, and was chosen as the class’s graduation speaker. In her address, Elsarra reflected on what that evening represented for the young G.I. was discharged from the Army late in 1945 and reunited with his family. The servicemen arrived at the camp. The time Mr. Morrone and his fellow servicemen arrived at the camp. The only 21,000 had survived by the time Mr. Morrone and his fellow servicemen arrived at the camp. The memory of his encounters with the men and women who had suffered so brutally at the hands of the Nazis are seared into his memory. Elsarra Elamin made her way to Peirce College from the Army late in 1945 and reunited with her family in South Philadelphia on Christmas Eve. Upon returning home, he was determined to resume his education and learn more about the world he had encountered during his time overseas: he began his studies at Peirce in 1946. He remembers his schoolmates in the Class of 1948 with great fondness, and has particular appreciation for the influence of his accounting professor, Dr. Angelo E. DiAntonio.

After graduation, Mr. Morrone went on to a successful career as a real estate and insurance broker; he is now retired and lives in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. Even though retired, Anthony Morrone is still active: almost 70 years after the conclusion of the war, he is doing his part to make sure people never forget about the atrocities of the Holocaust. At age 88, he gives speeches to groups of adults and schoolchildren throughout the Delaware Valley about his experiences during the war and his role in liberating Buchenwald. He says he will go on talking to audiences for as long as he can, mainly because of the three words which continue to inspire him to share his unique perspective on this pivotal moment in history: “I Was There.”

Benefits Galore: Making Charitable Gift Annuities Work For You

You’ve probably heard that a charitable gift annuity is a gift full of benefits galore! It is a gift to Peirce, no doubt about that - but it can and does provide so many benefits to you.

What is a charitable gift annuity? You transfer cash or marketable securities to Peirce and in exchange, during each and every year for the rest of your life, you will receive a fixed, guaranteed, regular annuity payment. Your payment will arrive at the frequency you select - annually, semi-annually, or quarterly - and be paid out automatically into your bank account or sent to you as a check. It is money you can count on - you’ll know the exact amount and when to expect the payments.

The payout rates for gift annuities are those recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities (ACGA). These rates help ensure that the gift annuity is a good deal for the donor and that it will provide a significant long-term benefit to Peirce.

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Your gift will provide you the satisfaction of knowing that you’re supporting Peirce and the significant mission we have undertaken of educating our non-traditional student community. If you are interested in finding out more, we can prepare a personalized gift annuity illustration for you, with no obligation. If you decide that a charitable gift annuity will work, we’ll do our part to make the process go smoothly. Contact Chuck Wright, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at 215-670-9323 or cwright@peirce.edu to start a conversation which can benefit both Peirce and you. You can also visit our website at peirce.plannedgiving.org.
Totally Organized: Janet Taylor ’86

Even as a youngster, Janet Taylor was always totally organized—friends even remarked on the organization of my toys.” The good habits she developed in childhood became the wellspring of her future career. For almost 20 years, Janet has built a business as a personal organizer and lifestyle architect, working with clients to identify issues and develop concrete tools so they can better thrive in their personal and professional lives.

After graduating with a degree from Peirce in 1986 in what was then the fashion merchandising program, Janet was enjoying a successful career in retail until an untimely layoff made her re-assess her vocational path. In 1994, she focused her skills and passions on starting her own business in the then-developing field of personal organizing. From the start, Janet embraced the challenge of helping people with what came naturally to her: a talent in developing organizational habits to enable individuals to think better, be more efficient, and feel happier.

Although one-on-one consulting with individuals is still the centerpiece of her practice, Janet’s business now has expanded to include corporate and government clients. Her audience has also grown exponentially through frequent media appearances, speaking engagements, and authorship of eight books. She maintains a robust presence on social media, dispensing her expertise through a weekly podcast, a blog, and an e-newsletter (all of which can be referenced at www.janetmtaylor.com).

Janet’s biggest piece of wisdom to those facing their own organizational challenges: “80% of the things we have in our possession we never reference again. If you can look around your space, and you can throw out one thing—how about a phone book?—you can begin to liberate yourself from your ‘stuff’.”

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Two new members of the Peirce College Board of Trustees were elected at the June 10 meeting: Marc D. Ammaturo and Scott Douglas Smith ’76.

Mr. Ammaturo is Managing Director at PFM Asset Management LLC, which provides investment advice and portfolio management for government and not-for-profit organizations, corporations, pension funds, and other institutions. Mr. Smith, a 1976 graduate of Peirce, is Managing Partner at Clinton Rubin LLC, a management and technology consulting firm which he co-founded six years ago.

Women in Leadership Initiative

Peirce hosted its annual Women in Leadership (WIL) event on April 16, giving 94 individuals the chance to interact with local leaders in business, education, and industry. It was an opportunity for the audience—which was comprised of students, alumni, and members of the community—to be affirmed, empowered, and educated on leadership as an attainable competency for personal, professional, and global impact and success.

Some of the Philadelphia region’s most-esteemed, well-established, executive women participated on the speaker panel, representing organizations such as Comcast, TD Bank, and the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and South Jersey. They provided candid insight about the impact of gender on leadership and their professional and personal journeys to success. Following a facilitated discussion hosted by Sara Lomax Reese, President/General Manager, WURD 900 AM Radio, the panel opened the floor to address audience questions.

This year’s program was sponsored by TD Bank, who provided substantial financial support to the development, marketing, and implementation of the program and allowed us to open the event to a larger community. Everyone in attendance received a TD Bank “gift bag” which included a copy of the bestselling book by Sheryl Sandberg, Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead. The new partnership with TD Bank also enabled two women—one student, one alumna—to be recognized as “Peirce College Emerging Leaders” in acknowledgement of their achievements in career advancement.

In its third year, the Women in Leadership program has developed into a dynamic and growing membership of women with diverse backgrounds and careers who meet to share their knowledge and experience. For more information about future CDS programs, visit the website at www.peirce.edu/cds.

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Alumni Association Board of Directors

Congratulations to the newly elected members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, who will join with current members to better connect alumni with one another and the College.

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Elsarra’s new journey includes finding a great first job in the Philadelphia area in her chosen field of accounting and beginning to pursue an MBA in the not too distant future. She also hopes to use her Peirce experience as a platform to impact the community through mentoring and coaching young people. We look forward to her following her accomplishments as Elsarra Elamin becomes a lifelong member of the Peirce alumni network.

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Peirce’s visibility continued to rise during the past year. Peirce people were actively serving our mission and contributing to other education based initiatives throughout the region.

Most importantly, the College taught and served nearly 2,800 students in FY 2012-13. That’s a substantial number of learners who enjoyed the benefits of the Peirce Experience as they pursued their educational goals.

Thanks to a devoted group of faculty and staff, an active alumni base, and an engaged group of partners representing employers and the regional community, Peirce’s FY 2012-13 was very successful. Fortunately, through the increasing power of those collaborations, the outlook for the College in FY 2013-14 and beyond looks even brighter.

New Alumni Celebrate Commencement

On Monday, June 10, Peirce’s 148th Commencement was held at the Kimmel Center’s Verizon Hall. The College community celebrated the graduation of 426 students, and Lisa J. Nutter, President of Philadelphia Academies, Inc. and Philadelphia’s First Lady, delivered the keynote address.

Here are some facts about our most recent alumni:

- Peirce College’s 2013 graduating class was 72 percent female.
- Thirty-two percent of our graduates range from ages 31 to 40, 29 percent range from ages 22 to 30, and 25 percent range from ages 41 to 50.
- In addition, 56 of Peirce’s graduates are 51 years old or older, proving it’s never too late to continue your education.
- The class of 2013 also included Peirce’s inaugural graduating classes from the Healthcare Administration program and the Health Information Technology degree program.

Congratulations to all of our new graduates on completing your degree – welcome to the Alumni Association!

Welcome to the Graduate Program: Brian Gerard ’10

Among the students in the College’s inaugural Masters of Science in Organizational Leadership & Management program is Brian Gerard ’10, whose career path is an exemplar of the benefits of a Peirce education. Brian first came here as a student in 2005 while employed as a technology specialist at Cardinal Dougherty High School in Philadelphia. Not only did he achieve his associate and bachelor’s degrees in business while at Peirce, earning multiple Dean’s List and President’s List recognitions, but Brian also became a member of the College’s information technology staff in 2009. Recently promoted to Network Administrator at Peirce, Brian has decided that the master’s program will be of value not only with his new position, but also will help enhance his future career options. Brian chose Peirce for his graduate degree because of the program’s focus on developing leadership skills through group interaction, and because he knows that teams are the building blocks of all well-run organizations. Brian looks forward to the interface with his classmates: “the ability to learn from others and react to their knowledge will be great.” He is confident that what he will achieve academically in the program, bolstered by the guidance of his professors and the real-world experience of his fellow students, will complement the increased responsibilities he is taking on in his career.

As he commences the pursuit of his third degree from Peirce, we wish good luck to Brian and to all his fellow students who will start their graduate studies in September.

Faculty Focus: Carol J. Sherman

Professor Sherman’s efforts in this regard are in keeping with her reputation at Peirce as someone who loves the law and has a passion for conveying information to budding paralegal professionals. She came to Peirce in 2005 after a multi-faceted career as a litigator in private practice, and as a deputy managing attorney of a legal aid clinic. Not only does she work diligently in the courtroom, but she has also been an active presence representing Peirce to the many professional paralegal and bar associations in Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs. In 2010, she was given the College’s highest honor for a faculty member, the Hamilton Award for Academic Integrity and Intelligence. Carol J. Sherman

Even though she is usually the one in front of the classroom, leading classes as a professor in Peirce’s legal studies division, Carol J. Sherman is spending the 2013 summer semester on “the other side of the fence.” Professor Sherman has been taking a sabbatical from campus to review, dissect, and interpret the complex and ever-changing world of legal technology. She is exploring the wealth of cutting-edge resources which paralegal professionals utilize to carry out their multi-faceted responsibilities.

The mission of her legal technology sabbatical is to ensure that Peirce College Legal Studies students stay current with technological changes in the courtroom and the law firm, and understand how such changes have impacted statutory and case law. During her time away, she has embarked on an intensive study of electronic discovery, case management software, document management software, trial software, new legal research databases, as well as other technologies employed in the courtroom. In her discovery process, she is blending self-directed study, meetings with leading corporations in the field, and a host of conversations with legal professionals, including lawyers, judges, and paralegals.

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In particular, her work as faculty advisor for the Peirce Paralegal Student Association (PSA) brings together the many facets of her professional experience. Through the PSA and the events the group sponsors, students come together to learn from one another and professionals in the field, including a very engaged cadre of Peirce paralegal alumni. “It’s been a joy for me to see students learn from alumni,” Professor Sherman observes. “It gives students confidence to see the wealth of professional achievements and how far alumni have come in their careers.” She also noted many of the individuals she has spoken with during her summer sabbatical are Peirce graduates, who have been very generous in sharing their time and professional expertise with her. This has been no surprise to Professor Sherman, given the level of alumni engagement in the ongoing vitality of the College’s paralegal program: “Peirce is lucky to have a vibrant, dedicated, and thoughtful group of alumni, people who compel us to do our best and be on the cutting edge of what students need to be successful.”
**Good News**

“Good News!” focuses on our graduates’ personal and professional accomplishments. To submit your “Good News”, email alumni@peirce.edu or send it to Office of Institutional Advancement, Peirce College, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102. You can also post news anytime on the Peirce College Alumni Association Facebook page.

Congratulations to Nate Bandy ’07 on his new job with Science Application International Corporation’s Tri-Care Beneficiary Benefit Service, where he will be assisting military personnel with their health benefits. Nate has been an active alumni volunteer with the Career Development Services office and at Admissions Open Houses.

Doreen Ziccardi ‘08 sat for the national advanced paralegal certification exam offered by NFPA (National Federation of Paralegal Associations). She passed that demanding exam and earned the coveted credential of R.P. (Registered Paralegal). Doreen is a Peirce alumni mentor and a member of the Paralegal Advisory Board.

Spring was full of graduations for Peirce alumni who have gone on to earn graduate degrees. Alumna and Peirce staff member Natalie Price ’11 was conferred her master’s degree in Criminal Justice at St. Joseph’s University and alumnus R. Christopher Campbell ’08 completed his law degree at Widener University. Alumni Association Board member Glenda Gustafson '10 received her master’s degree in Health Care Administration/Health Education and a post-master certificate in Health Ethics from St. Joseph’s in May. Congratulations to these three and all of our alumni who have gone to further their education.

This year’s Spring Reception brought over 500 guests to campus on May 20 for an evening of social camaraderie, professional networking, and reconnecting with the school. In addition to the main party held under the tent on Carlisle Street, attendees also gathered in College Hall to meet up at program-specific receptions.

A highlight of this year’s Spring Reception was the awards ceremony, during which three individuals were honored for service to the College, achievements in their professions, and volunteerism in the community.

Thomas J. Foga ‘52 posthumously received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. Foga, who passed away in February, served as a volunteer on Peirce’s Board of Trustees for 30 years, serving as Chairman of the Trustees for three years of that tenure. The Distinguished Student Award was presented to Myrna Coleman ’13. Ms. Coleman is a member of Peirce’s inaugural class of Parent University and graduated in June with her associate degree in general studies.

Throughout seven decades, Distinguished Service Award winner Raymond L. Palzer ’52 has been a leader at Peirce as a student, employee, and volunteer. He took the opportunity of his acceptance speech to offer his perspective on the College’s future: “Everyone here this evening has a role to play in the next chapters of the Peirce story… and help our terrific students get the education they deserve.”

**LinkedIn Works!**

Join the Peirce group on LinkedIn, the free online professional networking site. To find out how you can benefit by making the connection, visit www.linkedin.com and search for “Peirce College Alumni Association”.

President Jim Mergiotti, Ray Palzer ’52, and Alumni Association President Steve Wurtz ’08