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Step into a Season of Thanksgiving...As You Are!

GOOD NEWS:

"Good News" focuses on our graduates' personal and professional accomplishments. To submit your Good News, email alumni@peirce.edu or mail it to the 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.

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



Uva Coles

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of participating in an academic conference where Dr. Hite, Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia, shared a new initiative. All students in early grade levels now receive cognitive assessments that can identify "gifted" children earlier in their academic journey. A student who happened to be a recent immigrant and non-native English speaker garnered the highest score. Dr. Hite mentioned that this broad-based approach to the assessment was not the norm. Previously, select students were identified based on more narrow criteria and provided the test accordingly. Given this child's limited English fluency, had the earlier assessment parameters been in place, it is likely that she would not have been tested and her cognitive gifts would have been left undiscovered.

This story has stayed with me for several reasons. First, as the mother of two young boys, I am always excited when I learn that our children's schools continue to evolve to better meet their academic needs. It is what every parent hopes for and what every child deserves. Second, as a practitioner who happens to work in an institution that values the diversity — age, race, gender, identity, religion, sexual orientation, nationality, experience, background, and perspective of our students — I am thankful that, at Peirce, we understand that educational access is a gift that should be afforded to all. In doing so, we must also be thoughtful about the varied needs and talents our students may present. Meeting them where they are often means we must be intentional about creating equitable programs, policies, and support systems that truly enable them to meet their respective goals and inherent potential. At Peirce, we believe in doing this well.

The story stayed with me for a final reason. I am an immigrant and English learner as well. Though I have been in this country for several decades and have made it my home, I recall my early transition into an American school. Academically, I did well in my native language but the drastic language change was challenging. As a first generation-college student (as are over 65% of Peirce students), my parents were smart, resilient, and loving supports. However, guiding me through the maze of a foreign school system was challenging for them. I would figure out much of it on my own which helped me build my tenacity muscle — a competency I also see in Peirce students. But like them, I was not exempt from needing some help. For me, it would eventually present itself through the generosity of my teachers. They helped me navigate — guiding, supporting, challenging, and cheering me on. They became my academic GPS until I graduated.

At Peirce, as our students cross the Kimmel stage every June, I see that same degree of passion, support, and purpose in our faculty and staff. Every student — no matter their age, background, experience, native language, or story — is supported toward degree attainment. Every student, like the young girl in Dr. Hite's story, is given an opportunity to come to class in the fullness of her identity. In this season of thanksgiving and holiday cheer, I am thankful for that child's story and for every Peirce alum with a similar story of guidance, opportunity, and perseverance. A story of coming to Peirce and, as we have been doing for over 152 years, being met precisely where, and as, they fully are.

With gratitude,



Uva Coles
Vice President, Institutional Advancement &
Strategic Partnerships

A Letter from The Peirce College Alumni Association Board of Directors' President



Barry James

Greetings!

If you are anything like me, you probably have many stories about your academic journey at Peirce — the credential you earned that helped shape your career, the instructors who became your mentors, the classmates who became your friends, and the memories that still remain with you. Whether you graduated decades ago or crossed the commencement stage

at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts this past June, you carry a part of your Peirce experience with you daily. I know I do.

In my role as President of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, I also carry with me a deep sense of connection with the College's mission and its work. It is this connection that has fueled my desire to support the College in any way I can — with my time, talent, and treasure.

Today, I am writing to ask that you consider your Peirce story and join me in investing in the College's mission and students by contributing to the **Peirce College Annual Fund**. Any amount is appreciated — \$25, \$50, a generous \$100 or even more. Your participation at **any** level is what's most important. For your convenience, a postage-paid business reply envelope is

included in this publication, or you can visit peirce.edu/donate to make a more immediate gift online.

The majority of Peirce students are working adult learners, juggling multiple priorities (including financial ones) while demonstrating the tenacity and hard work needed to complete a rigorous, career-oriented academic program. More than 70% of Peirce students rely on some form of financial support from the College to make their degree a reality. Our collective investment in Peirce is an investment in each of these students, their goals, and their future.

My fellow Alumni Association board members and I have been busy partnering with each other and with Peirce's staff to ensure we lock arms and help the College continue to achieve its mission. As this work continues, I will keep you posted on opportunities to join us, whether it is by volunteering at student events, lending us your brainpower

in an advisory capacity, or coming out to show your Peirce pride at one of our alumni-based activities. However you decide to participate, know that your investments — time, talent, and treasure — are most appreciated. With your support, current Peirce students will make similar memories to those you and I hold near and dear.

Sincerely,

Barry James, '83 & '07
President, Peirce College
Alumni Association Board
of Directors



2017 Peirce College Alumni Board of Directors: Back row (L to R): David G. Veit '61, Annette Stokes '89, Barry James '83 & '07, Steven Amster '10 & '16, Noel Abejo '85, and Eileen Fox '76. Front row (L to R): Shandai Moore-Jenkins '11, Michael Kaufman '72, Babette Pace '06, Linda M. Lammendola '79, and Kurt T. Schaefer, Sr. '60.



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Peirce Talks: Students and Alumni Share Compelling Stories of Partnership

This May, Peirce held its seventh annual spring event titled Peirce Talks. Welcoming nearly 150 attendees with hors d'oeuvres, refreshments, and the palpable Peirce College spirit, Peirce Talks was a creative approach to the annual gathering of the Peirce community.

Patterned after TED Talks, the popular motivational speakers' platform, Peirce Talks provided a stage for Peirce's students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends to share compelling stories about the transformative impact of a Peirce education. Speakers included Benet Morando '17, Tymecka McCaskill '16, Tara Brodie '17, Emma Leigh Morando-Young '16, and Anthony Young '17.

Each was accompanied by a Peirce partner who provided support in the classroom and in their career paths.

The presentations were followed by the highlight of the evening – the annual awards, which honor the work and exemplary service of Peirce alumni, as identified and voted on by members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. This year's recipients were staples of Peirce pride: Dorothy (Dottie) Forvour '63 and Babette Pace '07. Dottie received the Distinguished Service Award for her untiring volunteerism to Peirce for more than 50 years. Babette accepted the Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of her professional accomplishments in the legal community and her continued service to Peirce College.

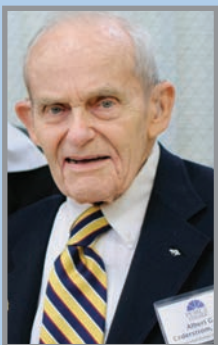
Alumni Association Board of Directors President, Barry James '83 and '07, presented the awards to this year's recipients and also shared his views about the impact of their service on current students and the College at large. "Each of us once served by the Peirce mission understands it is our job to support students as they partner with



Pictured L to R: Barry James, Dorothy (Dottie) Forvour and Babette Pace.

families, instructors, and employers to arrive at their goals," Barry reminded the audience. "Tonight we will honor two alumnae who have done just that."

Departed Friends...



Albert G. Cederstrom, Jr. '43

One of Peirce's faithful supporters, Albert G. Cederstrom, Jr. '43, passed away in Spring, 2017.

Mr. Cederstrom received the Peirce College Alumni Association's 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of the impact he had on Peirce, his community, and his profession over the years. In addition to serving on Peirce's Alumni Association Board of Directors, he was a generous donor and a dedicated volunteer for decades.

At the time of his award, Mr. Cederstrom made a \$50,000 gift to the College to start the Albert G. Cederstrom and

Emilie I. Cederstrom Memorial Fund for Human Resource Management. In 1996, he was also honored as a member of Peirce's Wall of Fame.

Other Friends of Peirce who have recently transitioned include:

- Janet Andrews-Moulder, Class of 1943
- Monica Ellis-Howerton, Class of 2012
- Thomas Gallagher, Class of 1971
- Gloria Mitchell-Piper, Class of 2012
- Elizabeth Reilly Semeraro, Class of 1948

The Peirce College Community offers condolences to all who loved them and called them friends.

Peirce College and Comcast Partnership Launch

By: **Malik Brown, Associate Vice President, Workforce Solutions and Community Impact**

As we welcomed our students to another academic year this past September, we also launched a groundbreaking partnership with Comcast's Internet Essentials, becoming the only Philadelphia-area four-year college to offer eligible students low-cost Internet service and access to affordable computers through the program.

Access to the Internet Essentials program is now available for all eligible Peirce students. As digital access often presents an obstacle to enrollment and graduation for

to enroll in Internet Essentials and purchase a computer on the spot. But the highlight of the night was the raffle for 10 free laptops provided by Comcast. The energy, excitement, and impact were palpable and invigorating!



Malik Brown

The Peirce/Comcast partnership is yet another example of the College's pioneering spirit and commitment to multi-generational impact. More than 152 years of education and workforce alignment have afforded us a few lessons along the way. One of the most important lessons is that when we think about the role of education in a larger way, we can lift students, communities, our city, and the region. By supporting our students holistically, we can also have an impact on their children and families. In my work as Associate Vice President, Workforce Solutions and Community Impact, it is my job to identify resources that not only support our students but that also have a multiplier effect in their homes, their communities, and the spaces where they work. This kind of big picture thinking has always been top of mind with every Peirce innovation — from online delivery, to Peirce Fit®, to Competency Based Education, and more. It's the kind of big picture thinking Thomas May Peirce had in mind when he opened our doors. And it's the kind of big picture thinking that will help us open our doors in an even wider, more inclusive and workforce-aligned way for years to come.



Tom Karinhak, Comcast Cable Executive and Peirce Trustee

many, this partnership will ensure students have the tools they need to successfully complete their degrees and prepare them to navigate work environments that are increasingly becoming more technologically advanced. Peirce students who rely on mobile phones to complete their coursework now have the opportunity for in-home Internet and computer access for their entire families.

For the event launch, Peirce students, faculty and staff were joined by Comcast Cable Executive Vice President and Peirce Trustee Tom Karinhak and other members of the Comcast leadership team. In addition to celebrating the partnership kick-off, students were able



Nine of the ten student laptop raffle winners along with Comcast's Nick Jimenez and Tom Karinhak (Peirce Trustee); and Peirce's Uva Coles, Malik Brown and President Jim Mergiotti.

Honoring Professor Edwin B. Miller, J.D.

On Wednesday, July 26, 2017, four generous members of the Peirce community joined together to honor the legacy and memory of the late Professor Edwin B. Miller, who led the College's paralegal program to its prominent place in the Philadelphia-area legal community.

Retired Peirce professor Glenn Barnes, J.D.; Dr. Ruth Shaber, founder and president of the Tara Health Foundation; and current Peirce professors Cynthia Gentile, J.D. and Ivy Kempf, J.D. created the Edwin B. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund as a way to carry on the work of Miller, Chair of the Legal Studies Program, who passed away suddenly in December, 2016.

For more than 16 years, Edwin B. Miller, J.D., Professor and Assistant Dean, Legal Studies, diligently served the Peirce College learning community. He was a staunch advocate of students, an inspiring colleague, and an extraordinary mentor and educator. While we continue to mourn this tremendous loss, his groundbreaking



Babbette Pace '06 and Ed Miller.

work within the legal field and profound impact at Peirce College will now continue through the Edwin B. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The fund will provide assistance to students in Peirce's Legal Studies programs who, in addition to having financial need, have completed at least 12 credits, hold a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5, and exemplify the virtues of commitment, scholarship, and compassion emblematic of Professor Miller's work.

Our esteemed donor group has pledged to match contributions made to the Edwin B. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund through Dec. 31, 2017, on a 4-to-1 basis, up to a maximum contribution of \$160,000. This match challenge is a most generous one and means that if the College can raise \$40,000 by December 31, 2017, \$200,000 in endowed scholarship funds will be available for eligible students.

With more than 18,000 Peirce College graduates, we could easily meet this goal! **If you were impacted by Professor Miller or know someone who was, please consider making a gift to the Miller Scholarship by Dec. 31, 2017.** For your convenience, a postage-paid business reply envelope is included in this publication. Alternatively, you can visit peirce.edu/Miller to make your gift online.

We thank you, in advance, for participating in this initiative to honor Professor Miller's legacy.



Pictured L to R: Dr. Ruth Shaber, Glenn Barnes, J.D., Ivy Kempf, J.D., and Cynthia Gentile, J.D.



Professor Miller diligently led various student and alumni functions to promote excellence in the legal community.



Ed Miller's commitment to our students' academic and professional growth extended beyond the classroom.

Peirce and its Partners Reimagine Education

On Friday, October 6th, Peirce College held its annual Executive Leadership Breakfast and hosted many of the region's most innovative and engaged leaders. This year, the theme was "Education Reimagined: Connecting Workforce, Equity, and Community Impact." More than 100 cross-sector leaders came together and discussed the role of education in building stronger citizens, communities, and economies. This was certainly a tall order, but Peirce assembled just the right combination of experts to drive this important conversation.

Now in its third year, this fundraiser also served as a platform for Peirce to share its academic innovations, workforce training capabilities, and overarching institutional progress. The event aimed to raise funds, friends, and Peirce's visibility — and was successful on all accounts.

A panel discussion featured Jim Mergiotti, Peirce College President & CEO; Dr. William Hite, Philadelphia School District Superintendent; Dalila Wilson-Scott, Senior Vice President of Community Investment, Comcast NBCUniversal; and Carol Wilson Pandza, Senior Vice President & Chief Human Resources Officer, AmeriHealth Caritas. Each panelist provided a unique perspective on the critical importance of aligning education with the

region's workforce needs and doing so with a spirit of partnership and a focus on equity.

The event also included the presentation of Peirce's first Diversity, Inclusion and Equity awards. Kelley Cornish, Senior Vice President & Head of U.S. Diversity and Inclusion at TD Bank, and Nolan Atkinson, Jr., the City of Philadelphia's first Chief Diversity and Inclusion

Officer, were inaugural award recipients. As 70% of Peirce students are women, 70% are African American, and, on average, are 34-years young, diversity, inclusion and equity are of critical importance to the College.

This focus isn't new. Peirce College has been steadfast in reimagining education using an inclusive and workforce-relevant lens since opening its doors to returning war veterans 152 years ago. The College continued to



Pictured L to R: Dr. William Hite, Carol Wilson Pandza, Jim Mergiotti, and Dalila Wilson-Scott.

reimagine education when it became one of the first institutions of higher education in the country to open its doors to women. Today, Peirce recognizes that in order to continue doing this work well, it is important that thought leaders across sectors are invited to Peirce's table to inform, learn from, and support the College's work and mission. The Executive Leadership Breakfast was just that — an invitation to remarkable educators, equity-focused employers, community-impact funders,



More than 100 cross-sector leaders convened to discuss the role of education in building stronger citizens, communities, and economies.

and workforce-aligned training practitioners to come to the table and discuss how education can be a catalyst for regional growth and economic prosperity.

Peirce exceeded its fundraising goal for the breakfast — securing more than \$50,000 from sponsors and individuals, including a generous \$15,000 gift from Comcast NBCUniversal. Moreover, the event demonstrated the power of partnership, collaboration, and imagination, all hallmarks that are well embedded in Peirce College's history.

Peirce and its Partners Reimagine Education

Peirce College is grateful for the relationships forged with the regional leaders who invested in our efforts to “Reimagine Education.”

Sponsor levels included:

PRESENTING SPONSOR \$15,000

PRESIDENT’S SPONSOR \$10,000

FEATURED SPONSOR \$5,000



COLLABORATING SPONSOR \$2,500



CONTRIBUTING SPONSOR \$1,000



Congratulations to our 2017 City of Philadelphia Mayor’s Scholarship Winners!

Hardworking, diligent and inspiring – three characteristics that describe the two recipients of this year’s City of Philadelphia Mayor’s Scholarship.

After completing comprehensive applications and rigorous interviews, Gregory D. Wright, Jr. and Elizabeth McSorley became the 2017 scholarship winners. In September, we celebrated their accomplishment at an on campus reception honoring their academic rigor and professional excellence.

Gregory D. Wright, Jr. is a current Peirce student studying Criminal Justice. His perseverance has already paid off. While pursuing his degree, Gregory has also been able to pursue his dream of going directly into the criminal justice field. “Because of Peirce, I was able to apply to the Philadelphia Police Department and was accepted into that program as a Philadelphia police recruit.”

Elizabeth McSorley has just entered her first session in the Business Administration program with a concentration in Management. She always wanted to head back to



school and complete her degree, but as a mother of two children and a full-time employee for the Philadelphia Court System, she wasn’t sure if she could juggle so many priorities at once. Peirce College had precisely what Elizabeth needed. Today, she is proving that with the right supports, it is possible to be fully present at home, at work, and in the classroom.

Gregory and Elizabeth may have taken completely different paths to college, but they met at Peirce College – the intersection of personal drive and institutional supports. As working adults, once they made the decision to return to school, they simply needed an environment specifically designed to meet their needs and goals.

We applaud this year’s City of Philadelphia Mayor’s Scholarship recipients and wish them much success as they travel their respective paths to degree completion. Based on what they have already accomplished, we cannot wait to see them at commencement – the ultimate finish line. To learn more about Gregory and Elizabeth, read their story at Peirce’s blog at peirce.edu/winners.

Don't forget!

You can make a donation to Peirce while you shop for the holidays! Visit smile.amazon.com, select Peirce College as your charity of choice and a percentage of your Amazon purchase will be donated to Peirce. Happy holidays!



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PEIRCE

PERSPECTIVES

*The alumni newsletter
from Peirce College®*



Presidential Search Update

Efforts to identify Peirce's next president continue to progress. Here's what has happened since President Mergiotti's retirement announcement this past spring.

The first phase of the presidential search process included an organizational assessment to determine the required characteristics of the next President. The next phase was to select a firm with extensive experience in executive searches for higher education institutions. Isaacson Miller was selected and, since being tapped for the role, the firm met with relevant stakeholders to develop the position attributes and job description.

Currently, a nationwide search has been launched and the position has been shared with relevant sources. For more detailed information about the Presidential Search, visit www.peirce.edu/search.

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Elaine Harte Hewitt '76 was named President Elect of the Woman's Council of Education of Southern New Jersey. This is a national nonprofit organization focusing on networking, education and giving back to local charities. Elaine has been in the real estate industry for over 35 years and is currently working at Century 21 Rauh & Johns, in Washington Township, New Jersey.