



**Press Clippings
September 2015
Print**



What's new on campus

As colleges and universities in the region start the new school year, they're touting changes, including new degrees, facilities, and campus organizations.

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

Looking toward the coming school year, The Inquirer asked colleges and universities in the region a simple question: What's new on campus? Schools are constantly changing, including adding new degrees and majors, constructing new dorms, dining halls, and classroom spaces, opening new campus clubs and student groups, and welcoming new presidents, provosts, and other senior administrators.

As the 2015–16 school year opens, here's a look at those changes, along with a snapshot of information, including tuition and faculty size. All information was provided by the schools, and may have been lightly edited for publication. Some information is not yet finalized, including enrollment and financial aid data, and the colleges were asked to give a best estimate.

Four-year colleges and universities in the region were invited to participate. The following schools did not submit information: Bryn Athyn College, Cairn University, Holy Family University, Ramapo College, and William Paterson University.



Peirce College

Peirce College



Peirce College

Location of main campus

Philadelphia, PA

Year founded

1865

Total enrollment

1,873

Undergraduates

1,793 (96%)



Graduates

80 (4%)

96%

Endowment

\$22 million

Operating budget

\$21 million

Full-time faculty

28

Adjunct faculty

Approx. 90

Price tag

\$14,784

Website

www.peirce.edu

What's new this year?

- Flexible class delivery – Students enrolled in four of Peirce's programs will be able to choose week-to-week whether to take their class in-person or online. The program will roll out campus-wide next fall.
- Intensive courses including winter session – This new option will allow students to complete a class in just three weeks. Nine courses will be available in the fall and another six in the new winter session.
- Financial counseling – This fall, Peirce will pilot an initiative with Clarifi, a nonprofit community resource dedicated to lifelong financial literacy. Approximately 100 students will be involved in the pilot in an effort to educate them on credit, borrowing and debt as they pay for their education and beyond.
- Suburban recruiting – Peirce is taking its mission of training adult learners to the suburbs, where, depending on the county, only 29 (Camden) to 46 (Montgomery) percent of residents 25 and older have a bachelor's degree.
- Master's degree in Healthcare Administration – Peirce's second master's program is expected to be launched this spring.

Expanding employer relations – Two new leadership positions were created this summer to expand Peirce's connections with the business community.



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Peirce College Board of Trustees Elects Barbara A. Prutzman Board Chair

8/31/15



Board Chair Barbara A. Prutzman

Peirce College Trustees have elected **Barbara A. Prutzman** as the new board chair of the 150-year-old nonprofit Philadelphia institution. **Keith Daviston, CPA**, and **David A. Silverman** were also newly elected to the board.

Prutzman, a trustee since 2008, is the CEO of BB&E Consulting, an information technology strategy and organizational design consultancy. She is an experienced corporate IT leader, with more than 20 years

in leadership positions at major companies including ARAMARK, Scott Paper Company and Univar.

“Peirce will benefit greatly from Barbara’s extensive experience and insightful perspectives as we move forward with our new strategic plan,” said Peirce College President and CEO **James J. Mergiotti**. “She embraces Peirce’s mission on a personal level and is firmly committed to our students and to the College’s continued success.”

“I am honored to serve as Board chair of such a high quality organization and to be involved in higher education at such a critical time,” said Prutzman. “For 150 years, Peirce has evolved in alignment with employers’ demands in the Philadelphia region. Consistent with that legacy, the Board’s focus is to work with the College’s leadership team as it executes an aggressive plan that provides students with customized paths to workplace relevant skills and credentials.”

A seasoned finance veteran with more than 25 years of both non-profit and for-profit experience, Daviston is currently Senior Executive Vice President and

Chief Financial Officer for the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA). He is also Board President for the Philadelphia Housing Authority Development Corporation, a non-profit subsidiary of the PHA. Previously, Daviston served as CFO of the Urban Affairs Coalition, and has worked for more than a decade in various management roles in the banking industry, including positions with MBNA and Bank of America. Additionally, Daviston attained the rank of Major (retired) in the Delaware National Guard.

Silverman is a partner at Curley, Hessinger & Johnsrud LLP in Philadelphia. Previously, he was general counsel and part of the senior management team of several of the region's top financial services companies, including Sovereign Bank and Meridian Mortgage Corporation. Silverman also serves on the board of directors for the Support Center for Child Advocates, has chaired and served on the Board of Directors of Opportunity House, and is a member of the Finance Committee of the Caron Foundation.

"Keith's financial leadership experience at both for-profit and non-profit organizations is extremely valuable for Peirce as we make investments to expand our reach and further differentiate the College in the marketplace through innovative course delivery and high quality student support services," explained Mergioti. "David greatly enhances our board with his firsthand knowledge of the legal employment landscape and outstanding business acumen. His network will assist us in building stronger ties to the region's legal community and serving its human capital needs

"The Peirce community could not be more elated with Barbara's election as board chair and the additions of Keith and David to a highly talented and engaged Board of Trustees," continued Mergioti. "We are very grateful for their decisions to join with us in successfully positioning Peirce to serve the Philadelphia region for another 150 years."

About Peirce College

In 2015, Peirce College celebrates 150 years dedicated to providing higher education to working adults. In celebration of this momentous occasion, Peirce is hosting a year-long series of events surrounding the theme, "Many Years, One Purpose." Peirce College offers bachelors and associate degree programs in the areas of Business, Healthcare, Information Technology, and Legal Studies, and a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership & Management. Located in the heart of Philadelphia, Peirce is a non-profit institution that specializes in serving the unique needs of working adults, many of whom work full time and are raising families. Peirce College is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, 3624 Market St. Philadelphia, PA 19104 (267-284-5000). Additionally select programs are accredited by The Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, the American Bar Association and the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information

Management Education.

For more information about Peirce College, call 888.467.3472, or visit www.Peirce.edu. Visit Peirce's blog, Peirce Connections, at <http://blog.Peirce.edu>. Become a fan of Peirce College on Facebook. Follow @PeirceCollege on Twitter. View the Peirce College YouTube Channel.



Access Points During the Papal Visit

Sept. 3, 5:30 p.m.



Pa. and N.J. alumni pay tops U.S. average

By Jonathan Lai, Inquirer Staff Writer

POSTED: September 16, 2015

Alumni of most colleges and universities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey earn more than the national average, according to new data released over the weekend by the U.S. Department of Education.

The data release, part of the White House "College Scorecard" initiative to make college statistics readily available online, includes information on the median earnings of students after 10 years and median federal debt of graduates.

Nationally, former students of either two- or four-year degree programs who received federal financial aid earn \$34,343 annually 10 years after graduating.

The federal data list 153 schools in Pennsylvania and New Jersey that primarily award bachelor's degrees. Of these, 134 have median alumni earnings above the national average.

Topping the list are three private schools: University of the Sciences (\$85,800), Stevens Institute of Technology (\$82,800), and the University of Pennsylvania (\$78,200). Stevens Institute of Technology is in Hoboken, N.J., while the two others are in Philadelphia.

Of the public colleges in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, New Jersey has some of the highest-paid alumni: New Jersey Institute of Technology (\$65,300), the College of New Jersey (\$56,800), and Rutgers University (\$54,800).

Several large universities with multiple campuses reported the same data for all of their campuses, so Rutgers University lists the same debt and earnings information for its New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden campuses. University of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania State University similarly duplicate information for their campuses.

Highest earnings among public Pennsylvania schools were at Pitt (\$48,200), Penn State (\$47,500), and Temple and West Chester Universities (both \$46,500).

The data include information on median federal debt load for those who complete their degrees, which is also expressed as monthly payments over 10 years.

For-profit schools' graduates have many of the highest federal debt loads.

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh's graduates have a median federal debt of \$40,022, according to the data. Strayer University and University of Phoenix are also listed at the top of the federal debt list, but the largely online for-profits list the same information for all locations across the country.

Peirce College, a private four-year college in Philadelphia, sees median federal debt of \$39,162.50, or \$434.78 in monthly payments.

Other four-year private and nonprofit schools that have alumni with large median debt loads are Lincoln University of Pennsylvania (\$33,830), Bloomfield College (\$31,000), Cheyney University of Pennsylvania (\$31,000), Cedar Crest College (\$30,575), and Albright College (\$28,910).

Of the 153 schools granting primarily bachelor's degrees, nine had federal debt less than \$20,000: Swarthmore College (19,000), Lancaster Bible College (\$18,750), New Jersey City University (\$18,000), Baptist Bible College & Seminary of Pennsylvania (\$16,288.50), Haverford College (\$13,852.50), Thomas Jefferson University (\$12,500), Thomas Edison State College (\$11,289.50), Princeton University (\$6,810), and Beth Medrash Govoha (\$5,500).

Kenney: Students need better job prep



Claudia Vargas, Inquirer Staff Writer
POSTED: September 17, 2015

Democratic mayoral nominee Jim Kenney wants to reduce the city's high rate of poverty by ensuring that Philadelphia's community college and adult learning institutions better prepare students for the job markets.

"I think in order to strengthen Philadelphia both socially and economically, we have to have a workforce that is trained and making a living wage in the 21st century," Kenney said during the Peirce College Thomas May Peirce Leadership Award breakfast Tuesday, where he was the award recipient. "While that obviously requires investing more in our public schools ... we need to invest in our adult learners."

Kenney, who faces Republican Melissa Murray Bailey in the November general election, highlighted two policy proposals regarding job training during the event,

attended by more than 100 people from the business, higher education, and public sectors.

If he is elected mayor, Kenney said, he will create a task force to identify the skills, certifications, and training sought by Philadelphia businesses. He would then give the report to postsecondary institutions such as Peirce College and Philadelphia Community College so they can appropriately tailor their curricula.

"We really need to look at what we are doing, how we are doing it, and looking forward to allowing people to meet their potential," he said.

Kenney also wants to increase the number of summer internships and apprenticeships offered by businesses and nonprofits in the city from 10,000 to 16,000.

The former city councilman said that people with internship experience are more likely to get a job interview and employment than those without such experience. He wants to meet his goal of 16,000 summer jobs by the end of his first term.

How will he do it?

"By force of personality," Kenney said, laughing. He added: "I think we have to look at who does what and who we can lean on in a good way to do more."

Kenney believes that adding jobs and training people for the right jobs will reduce the poverty level in Philadelphia.

"The thing that bothers me most about Philadelphia at the moment is we have a 26 percent poverty rate," he said. "It's embarrassing."

He wants to increase the number of industrial jobs, which can pay between \$35 and \$40 per hour. Kenney called them "living-wage jobs."

Peirce College, which specializes in providing an education to working adults, gave its annual award to Kenney because of the former city councilman's work in helping create an "inclusive and economically viable community" and being a champion of equality.

"Your deep commitment to workforce development and your vigorous embrace of the role education plays as a driver in creating a more prosperous Philadelphia is inspiring," Barbara A. Prutzman, Peirce College Board of Trustees chair, said as she gave Kenney the award.

Kenney calls for more job training, education to fight poverty

Sep 15, 2015, 12:32pm EDT

Democratic mayoral candidate [Jim Kenney](#) voiced his commitment Tuesday morning to obtaining more resources for local schooling – from early childhood to continuing adult education – and called for Philly's business community to provide more apprenticeships and job training to fight poverty.



Jim Kenney, the Democratic mayoral candidate, spoke at a Tuesday breakfast that was part... [more](#)

CLARA LEFTON

“The thing that bothers me the most about living in Philadelphia at the moment is that we’re in the 26 percent poverty rate. It’s embarrassing,” said Kenney during a keynote speech at [Peirce College's](#) Legacy of Leadership Executive Breakfast, where the politician received the Thomas May Peirce Leadership Award.

“So if I’m lucky enough to become mayor, I think in order to strengthen Philadelphia, both socially and economically,” he said, “we have to have a workforce that is trained to make a living wage in a 21st century.” If elected, Kenney plans to urge the private and nonprofit sector to offer more internships, apprenticeships, co-ops and on the job training programs for adults. He also spoke of creating a report within his first year that could be shared with post-secondary institutions to make sure they have the resources to tailor curriculums to employers needs.

The office of [Melissa Murray Bailey](#), the Republican nominee for city mayor, confirmed she would also work to increase employment opportunities in the city if elected. Her platform will focus on changing the tax structure as well as industrial era regulatory policies, in addition to creating family sustaining manufacturing jobs in the city.

“Melissa is committed to reducing the unemployment rate in Philadelphia to below the national average by 2020,” said [Tommy Kurek](#), Murray Bailey's policy director. “She is best equipped to tackle this problem on behalf of the people of

Philadelphia because she has created jobs and run successful businesses throughout the world.”

Kenney said he would push Harrisburg to follow the state’s constitutional responsibility to fully and adequately fund education, which in turn would lead to a better prepared workforce.

The two candidates face off in the Nov. 3 election.



Analysis of Crowds during the Papal Visit

Sept. 16, 5 p.m.





Peirce College Celebrates 150th Anniversary With a Street Party

Sept. 17, 11 p.m.



The Academe Blog

U.S. Higher Education News for September 16, 2015

Vargas, Claudia. "Kenney: Students Need Better Job Prep." *Philadelphia Inquirer* 16 Sep. 2015: B, 2.

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Colleges take advantage of Francis' visit to teach

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Melissa Wilde speaks on "How much does a pope matter?" at Penn. Her talk, scheduled for a minute, went over by about 10 seconds. (TRACIE VAN AUKEN/For The Inquirer)

By Susan Snyder, Inquirer Staff Writer

POSTED: September 25, 2015

How much does a pope matter?

Melissa Wilde can tell you in about 60 seconds.

And that's what the University of Pennsylvania associate professor of sociology did Wednesday, just before lunch hour, standing behind a lectern on leafy Locust Walk, in the heart of the Ivy League campus.

Her brief lecture, which drew an audience of about 100, is part of an ongoing series of outdoor one-minute lectures by professors in the College of Arts and Sciences - and in this case, just one example of how the area's colleges and universities are framing lessons around Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia this

weekend.

At Immaculata University, Elizabeth Faunce, an associate professor of economics and finance, is asking students to look into the visit's economic benefits and costs to the city and local businesses.

In a class on Christianity and media at St. Joseph's University, students will examine news coverage for "accuracy, stereotyping, and sensationalism." And students in Bob Brzenchek's introduction to criminal justice class at Peirce College have created a crisis action plan for the papal visit, looking at how to handle a terrorist attack and other emergencies.

Some projects will last all semester. Students in Daniel Bramer's world religions class at Holy Family University will explore a series of questions, such as, "What long-term effects do you foresee this visit producing?"

Other explorations are briefer, but none so brief as Wilde's lecture, which started at 11:55 a.m. and lasted maybe 70 seconds.

A pope, she told her audience - some who showed up deliberately, others who stumbled upon it - can "change the tone and tenor of the church through his statements."

He also can "speak infallibly" - meaning what he says is irrefutable - or "call a council" to make even greater lasting change, something the church has not done in about 50 years.

The last church council of dignitaries and theological experts, the Second Vatican Council, known popularly as Vatican II, led the Catholic Church to "modernize," she said, or, as Pope John XXIII said, "open the window."

"Today, it seems that Pope Francis once again is trying to open the windows," said Wilde, author of a book on Vatican II and an expert in how religious institutions react to cultural change.

"The question is, will Francis call a council and get some help? Or will he continue to try and open all of the windows by himself? The answer to that question will determine how much he matters to history."

The talk was just enough to whet Claire Reardon's appetite for more information, "which is good," she said.

"You can't do much more than that in 60 seconds," said the 18-year-old freshman from Chicago, who was on her way to lunch when she happened on Wilde's lecture.

Since Penn started the lectures in 2003, professors have opined on everything from the relationship between video games and Shakespeare to the heart rate of criminals. Audiences usually number about 50.

Why 60 seconds?

"You hear the word *lecture* and think, I don't have time for that," said Dennis DeTurck, a mathematician and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "So, 60-second lectures . . . we get people who will stop and listen."

Amanda Damon, 18, a freshman from Long Island who is used to 50-minute lectures, was impressed by how much was said in a minute.

"It's a good way to keep students interested," she said, "because people get bored after a while."

For Wilde, who has been at Penn since 2006, the concise talk was a worthwhile challenge.

"We are forced to take the knowledge we have and the skills we have," she said, "and say it in words that are understandable by the public" in a "bare-bones snippet."



Live coverage of the Pope in Philadelphia

Sept. 26-27



THE POPE IN PHILADELPHIA



THE POPE IN PHILADELPHIA



Advice for those retiring from law enforcement

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Robert Brzenchek, who branched out from law enforcement into work as a TV analyst, says building a nest egg is key to starting a second career. (CLEM MURRAY/Staff Photographer)

ERIN E. ARVEDLUND, *INQUIRER* STAFF WRITER

Robert Brzenchek, professor of criminal justice and program manager at Peirce College, is a retired naval intelligence and police officer who has made the transition to private security and will be doing expert commentary for NBC 10 during Pope Francis' visit to Philadelphia.

As a retired law enforcement officer, Brzenchek says there are good and bad ways to segue out of the profession and into a second career.

First, he recommends socking away funds for retirement while still working as a beat cop or detective.

"My salary wasn't great, only about \$42,000 as a police officer. But I tried to build a nest egg and not just live for today," something not everyone in law enforcement thinks about, he says. "Don't live paycheck to paycheck. . . . Try to fit in overtime or a second job."

Professionally, Brzenchek advises endless networking. While still a police officer in Washington, "I signed up to work extra black-tie events at embassies, the Virginia Gold Cup, anything where I knew I'd meet a defense contractor or a corporation where I might work overtime or a second job."

Many former lawmen and -women attend school during and after leaving the profession. While still a police officer, he finished his bachelor's degree and then earned a master's from American Military University. Then in 2010, he left the D.C. metropolitan force and moved back near home, joining the East Central Pennsylvania Task Force as a counterterrorism planning specialist.

That led to training others.

"In Luzerne County, where I'm from, there's a nuclear power plant, so we did all kinds of training around that," he says, as well as bomb detection and suicide prevention. The training "fueled the fire to get into the classroom and teach emergency management."

Today, he also serves on the board of Seraph, a private investigations, security-consulting, and training firm with headquarters in Tredyffrin. Founded in 1996 by Dale Yeager and Sam Sulliman, the company specializes in training and consulting for law enforcement.

To those leaving the field, Brzenchek recommends this: "Don't just jump into the first job after retirement that pays the most. Work at a defense contractor is feast or famine. Make sure you do your due diligence. Does this defense contractor or company have a long-term contract? Will it renew?"

Many of his students at Peirce College are older or entering second careers, he says.

"I teach a lot of career-changers in their 50s and 60s, many who have worked, say, for the city and want to get into criminal justice or forensic science. It's the *CSI* effect," he says, referring to the popular television show. "And by the way, there's no age limit to become a Philly cop."

Teaching is a natural for retired law enforcement officers, says Lisa Paris, who is in marketing at Peirce College. Her husband, Dennis Paris, worked in the Philadelphia Police Department as an undercover officer. After he retired, he went back to school, earning his bachelor's in marketing from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and an M.B.A. from Drexel's LeBow College of Business. He is now a marketing adjunct professor at Temple's Fox School of Business.

A study of law enforcement officers leaving the force for retirement found that the incidence of heart attacks was higher if retirees failed to create a regimen for

themselves, according to the Maurice T. Turner Institute of Police Science in Washington.

"You eat wrong, you don't sleep, then you lose your routine," Brzenchek says.

"There's also a higher rate of suicide when people leave the force."

As a result, the D.C. metro police created a policy whereby retirees had to continue coming in to the police academy for a year after retirement, and "the reintegration really helped, and heart-attack rates went down," he says. What's his advice for this security-intense papal-visit weekend? "Don't bring liquids, don't bring a purse, carry everything you need in a clear plastic bag." Forget bulky coolers and umbrellas. Those won't make it past the pat-downs and magnetometers.

"If it rains, it's going to get interesting," he adds with a chuckle. "Think of going to see the pope the same way you'd go through airport security. It's going to be that tight."

Brzenchek advised his parents not to come into the city from Wilkes-Barre, where they live.

That said, if you must travel to see the pope, "the best way to get around is PATCO or SEPTA mass transit," he says.

What worries him the most about the papal visit?

"A lone wolf," he says. "That's what keeps everyone up at night."

Philadelphia police, the Secret Service, the FBI, even the Vatican's Swiss Guard have been training for months ahead of the event. Some undercover agents and officers may be dressing as priests.

"There are going to be satellites trained all over the area, and cellphones may not work in the secure perimeter. We've never had a visit like this in Philadelphia," Brzenchek says.

"In Washington, D.C., and New York, these happen a lot. But not here."

On the Boards

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Barbara A. Prutzman

Peirce College trustees have elected **Barbara A. Prutzman** as new board chair of the 150-year-old nonprofit Philadelphia institution. Prutzman is CEO of BB&E Consulting. Named to the board were **Keith Daviston**, senior executive vice president and chief financial officer, Philadelphia Housing Authority, and **David A. Silverman**, a partner at Curley, Hessinger & Johnsrud L.L.P., Philadelphia.

Robert J. Morrison and **Mark Vevle** have been named to the board of the **Print Center**, a Philadelphia nonprofit founded in 1915 that has created opportunities for artists to make and exhibit their work, investigated new processes, and supported the

printed image in all its forms. Morrison is an advertising and communications professional and an art collector. Vevle owns the events producer Fluxus L.L.C.

The National Sleep Foundation, Washington, has named physician **Paul P. Doghramji**, of Collegeville Family Practice, to its board.

Steven K. Mignogna, a shareholder in the Haddonfield office of Archer & Greiner, has been appointed chair of the **Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee in the Litigation, Ethics and Malpractice Group** of the **American Bar Association's Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section**.

Armand J. Della Porta Jr., a shareholder in the Wilmington office of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin, has been appointed Atlantic regional director of the **Defense Research Institute**, a leading organization of defense attorneys and in-house counsel.

The National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia has elected the following board members: **Alec Ellison**, vice chairman of the global investment banking firm Jefferies L.L.C., chairman of the firm's Technology Investment Banking Group, and a member of the firm's executive committee; **Richard Rothschild**, senior vice president of investments at Wells Fargo Advisors; **Daniel Shapiro**, vice president of private wealth management at Goldman, Sachs & Co.; and **Shanin Specter**, a partner in the Philadelphia law firm Kline & Specter P.C.

- **Mike Zebe**