Alumni Play Key Role in Establishing Peirce’s Future

This is a very exciting time for Peirce College. We have begun a collaborative strategic planning process to set the direction for creating a new era at Peirce.

Alumni are actively participating in many aspects of the process. Several were interviewed during the first phase to help identify the key strategic issues. A representative group of alumni attended a stakeholders’ conference along with faculty, staff, administrators, students, trustees and external constituents where the issues were categorized and defined as charges. Many are now serving on work groups to perform the research and analysis necessary to support developing a multi-year strategic agenda for the institution.

“The level of enthusiasm and engagement by alumni has been extraordinary,” said President James J. Mergiotti. “As valued members of the College community, their help in defining the future direction of Peirce is very important.”

“One of the key areas we are exploring is how Peirce can establish a strong alumni relations component to support our mission and new directions,” President Mergiotti added. “And who better to advise us than our graduates?”

“I am honored and excited to be participating in the planning process,” said Reggie Waller ’04. “It will position Peirce for ongoing success, increased growth and new opportunities.”

Peirce Committed to Quality

Just as the strategic planning initiative at Peirce focuses on “doing the right things,” the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Self-Study process deals with the details of “doing things right” within the institution.

In October, the Self-Study work groups composed of Peirce alumni, students, faculty and staff submitted their initial research findings to the MSCHE reaccreditation co-chairs for review. Going forward, the groups’ findings will help shape the final report reaffirming the College’s mission, goals and effectiveness.

“The commitment and dedication from the work groups has been tremendous,” said Edwin B. Miller, Professor and Assistant Dean, Legal Studies, and Self-Study co-chair. “It is exactly what we need for this process.”

For more information and updates on the Self Study at Peirce, please visit www.peirce.edu/MiddleStates.
Happy Holidays to Our Alumni

Over the last few months, the College has started taking steps to reconnect with the many individuals and organizations that are important to the future of our institution.

Alumni are, and will be, at the center of many of those initiatives. The goal is for alumni to have a lifelong relationship with Peirce for learning and career support.

Please feel free to visit the College at any time and to offer your questions, comments and recommendations directly to me at president@peirce.edu. Your presence on campus and perspectives are always welcome.

On behalf of the Peirce community, may you and your families have a happy and healthy holiday season.

James J. Mergiotti
President and Chief Executive Officer

Think Peirce for Your Next Business or Personal Event

Peirce College now offers select areas of the campus for events such as receptions, conferences and corporate training sessions.

Nearly $14 million in capital improvements have been made to the campus in recent years. The beautiful 19th century façade remains, while the facilities are technologically and functionally state-of-the-art, and very much 21st century.

Banquet rooms can comfortably accommodate groups of up to 120 people, meeting rooms hold groups up to 180 and individual classrooms can seat up to 40. Two open atriums and an attractive outdoor, secured courtyard are also available. All rooms are ADA-accessible.

If you are interested — or know someone who is — contact 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. RENT (7368), or email rentals@peirce.edu, for rates and more information.

J. Linford Snyder ’33
Courtyard, Alumni Hall

Join Us for an Evening to Remember on November 19th

The Peirce College Alumni Open House on Thursday, November 19, 2009, is an event you will not want to miss. It promises to be an evening to catch up with fellow classmates and old friends, or people you may not have seen for years. It will be an excellent opportunity to make new contacts too, so you can expand your network.

During the event, enjoy a tour of our completely renovated campus and see the College’s many changes. And we invite you to meet the Peirce team — many faces you will remember and some that may be new.

Join us at the Peirce campus at 1420 Pine Street from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres, wine, beer and other beverages will be served. Free parking close to campus will also be provided.

So come share an evening of fun, food and conversation. Relive the past as you look to the future. Join us for an evening to remember!

To R.S.V.P., call 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. 9494.

Did You Know?

Interested in brushing up on a course you previously took for credit? Course audits are excellent opportunities for alumni to refresh their skills. You can audit courses you have taken for only $200. Full tuition rates apply for courses not taken before for credit. To learn more, call 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. 9380.

Special thanks to Bill Kirkwood ’71 for suggesting we communicate more about our course audits.
Faculty Focus: Robyn Edelstein

Mention Professor Robyn Edelstein’s name around Peirce and you will undoubtedly see a smile and hear how she made a difference in someone’s life. She has been described as hip and vibrant — an educator who does the maximum to support her students’ success.

Currently Professor of General Education, she joined Peirce nearly 15 years ago. “Robyn’s talent for motivating students to go where they never dreamed is exceptional,” said Dr. Patricia A. Rucker, Senior Vice President, Academic Advancement and Provost. “In fact, Professor Edelstein has motivated students to not only write but to also publish and present their work. She engages and motivates her students from the first day of class. The high level of trust they have in her encourages them to do things they have not considered before.”

For Professor Edelstein, “It has been very enjoyable,” she said. “Over the years I have established some wonderful bonds at Peirce. It is an intimate school, and the faculty is very accessible — we encourage open communications with our students. Peirce’s personal approach sets us apart from other institutions.”

In Memoriam: Thomas Rambert, “Mr. Customer Service”

From 1969 to 1992, the welcoming face of Tom Rambert was a familiar sight to students as they entered the lobby at Peirce. A strong, reliable representative of the College for nearly 24 years, he watched over many of the on campus students.

Initially hired as Supervisor of Maintenance, Mr. Rambert was promoted to Supervisor of Security, and was the first employee to hold the title (although unofficially) of Customer Service Representative.

In 2008, he was honored during the College’s Wall of Fame ceremony and is one of only 36 who are members. Mr. Rambert passed away on August 21, 2009. He is survived by his son Thomas Jr., daughter-in-law Tanya and grandsons Thomas III, Tyrone and Tyrek. He was 80 years old.

Keeping an Edge to Stay Ahead

“The paralegal workshop was a great confidence builder. I gained the knowledge of new techniques as well as refreshed my existing research skills.”

– Doreen Ziccardi ’08, Paralegal

“I’d highly recommend the meeting facilitation workshop. “I learned how to creatively engage my employees during presentations — a necessary skill for all effective leaders.”

– Tracey Freeman,
Business Administration Student

Those were only two of the very positive comments we received from participants of last month’s continuing education workshops: Electronic Legal Research and Legal Technology: Resource and Skill-building Techniques for Paralegals and Taking Care of Business: Managing and Facilitating Successful Meetings.

The workshops were pilot programs — the first step in delivering wider-ranging professional development classes — which are scheduled to be launched in Spring 2010.

“These are excellent opportunities for students and alumni to brush up on their skills and increase their knowledge in areas that will help them in the workplace,” said Dr. Patricia A. Rucker, Senior Vice President, Academic Advancement and Provost. “It is in keeping with our focus on quality, career-oriented education and vision for Peirce to provide lifelong learning for our graduates.”

Perfect for working adults, the workshops are fast, focused and highly affordable, and feature hands-on instruction from experienced leaders in the fields of Business, Information Technology and Law. Workshop attendees gain valuable industry insights that they can apply in the workplace the very next day.

Both pilot workshops were held at Peirce’s Center City Philadelphia campus. Future programs can also be hosted at company locations or delivered online.

Check out www.peirce.edu/edge or call 888.GO.PEIRCE, ext. 9000, for workshop information.
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Contact us today to receive this newsletter electronically.

Thank you for your support of the Peirce College Annual Fund!

One Graduate’s Perspective

From a very young age, **Kahreem Cunningham ’02** had the entrepreneurial spirit. Recently, he and some friends wanted to open not just any business — an interactive aquarium. “We believed kids and even adults would enjoy interacting with creatures that were perhaps unusual and off limits,” he said.

On August 15, 2009, *Waters of the World* opened in Martha’s Vineyard, MA. As company vice president, Mr. Cunningham — together with two partners from his boyhood days — saw his dream come true. “We crossed many hurdles, but, through our faith, we stayed strong together and, with the help of family and friends, we made it,” he said.

Mr. Cunningham, who graduated with a bachelor’s in Business Administration, pointed to his experiences at Peirce as helping him establish the venture. “The strategic business skills enabled me to determine our target market and identify the most effective way to market our business,” he said. “The one-on-one attention from the professors made me feel good about coming to class every day — I was not just another student in a big college.” From them, he learned to “stay focused and never give up, no matter how hard things become.”

A Philadelphia native, Mr. Cunningham and his partners plan to sponsor trips from the city to give back to the community, and to let kids know: “if you put your mind to it, you can achieve your goals.”

Check out *Waters of the World* at [www.watersoftheworld.org](http://www.watersoftheworld.org).