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PEIRCE

PERSPECTIVES

The alumni newsletter from Peirce College®

ISSUE 21, WINTER 2015

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Celebrate Peirce's 150th Anniversary!

In 1865, Thomas May Peirce opened the doors to Union Business College at Eighth and Spring Garden Streets in Philadelphia. His mission was to provide returning Civil War soldiers with the education they needed to enter the business world. Three days later, the first women were enrolled. One hundred and fifty years later, Peirce College continues his mission of preparing students for the workforce.

and perseverance. We are so thankful for your continued support.

For our 150th anniversary, we've built our celebrations around the theme of "Many Years, One Purpose". That purpose continues to be helping our students get the degree they need to achieve the life they deserve. Events are scheduled throughout the year - including this year's Spring Reception



Peirce College - 150th Anniversary

It has been an amazing journey since our founding 150 years ago! In 2015, we honor the College's longstanding commitment to higher education and the many people who have helped make our success possible after all these years. As a member of our esteemed alumni, you have created a legacy for today's students and set an example of what you can achieve with hard work

on Monday, May 18 - and will culminate in a large birthday party in September. For a full calendar of events, please visit www.peirce.edu/150 or contact the Alumni Office at 215-670-9323. We hope you will join us as we celebrate this historic year!



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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.

Alumni Association President **Reggie Waller '04** was recently recognized by his employer, Vanguard, for having been with the company for 15 years. Reggie is a program manager in their Global Travel Services department which serves 4,500 Vanguard employees across U.S., U.K., Australia,

Hong Kong, Singapore, and Canada.

By day, **Charlotte Northeast**, an alumna from the Class of 2010, is a paralegal with the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. But at night, she assumes her other identity: an award-winning actress. In October, Charlotte was named a winner of a "Barrymore" award - the Philadelphia theater world's equivalent of the Oscar - as Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Play for her performance in the Lantern Theater Company's "Emma". Brava, Charlotte.

Felicia Roton '12 recently completed The Ride to Conquer Cancer, a 150 mile, three day journey to benefit Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center.

Felicia rode in honor of her Uncle Sal D'Amato, who succumbed to cancer in 2013.

Two recent alumni have started their graduate studies at local universities: **Cathy Arnold**, who graduated in June 2014, has begun her pursuit of a Masters of Public Administration degree at Widener University.

Kia Miller has entered La Salle University's Master of Science program for Human Capital Management.

Barry James '07 has been promoted at his employer, OSiSoft. He will now be the Global Internship Program Manager, with responsibility for talent development around the world.

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".

LinkedIn

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



www.peirce.edu • blog.peirce.edu

President's Note



James J. Mergiotti

This year, we celebrate the College's 150th anniversary. There are many activities underway at Peirce which will serve to commemorate and recognize Peirce's great impact on the students, communities, and businesses it has served for a century and a half. In the midst of all the excitement, I find

myself, more frequently than ever, reflecting on my favorite person in history, our founder, Dr. Thomas May Peirce.

I am continually awestruck by the greatness of Dr. Peirce. In my role as President, I feel his presence daily. He was a renowned educator by the age of 27, when he founded Peirce. He spoke about the "1% and 99%" in 1865 and committed to serving those who did not have access to the education and training needed to pursue careers in the business world. He frequently challenged the status quo, including opening all doors of Peirce to women at a time when colleges and universities denied access. Most notably, he was devoted unconditionally to his students and made many personal sacrifices to ensure their success.

Thomas May Peirce would be very proud of the Peirce of today. He would quickly recognize and appreciate the extraordinary faculty, staff and administrators who personify his vision daily. He would applaud the trustees for their exceptional stewardship. He would revel at an alumni base that represents his legacy so well. Most importantly, he would delight in our students' wonderful achievements.

As we embark on the College's 150th birthday, there is no better time to honor our great founder and offer thanks for the positive effect Peirce College had on your life. Please consider this a perfect opportunity to contribute financially or otherwise to continuing the College's formidable mission of equipping students to achieve their goals and succeed in the workplace.

New Trustees Announced

The College is fortunate to have committed individuals serving on our Board of Trustees who give of their time, talent, and treasure to enhance Peirce's mission. Peirce's four new Board members possess professional expertise in business, technology, and community development which are ideal for the continued development of the College. We thank the following new members of the Trustees for their willingness to serve the Peirce community:

Robert Grasso, Partner, Deloitte & Touche LLP

Sharmain Matlock-Turner, President and CEO, Urban Affairs Coalition

Gerardo Monroy, President, Colonial Penn Life Insurance Company

Ken Sickles, Vice President of Product and Strategy, 1WorldSync

Alumni Association News

Elections will be held in Spring 2015 for three-year terms on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. The 20 members of the Board work with the Peirce community to better connect alumni with one another and the College.

In addition, the Alumni Association annually recognizes individuals who are honored for their service to the College, achievements in their professions, and volunteerism in the community.

For a nomination for the Board elections, or for an application to nominate a fellow alum for an award, contact Rosemary Connors in the Office of Institutional Advancement by February 15 at alumni@peirce.edu or by calling 215-670-9323.

Peirce Partners with NATIONWIDE®

Peirce College Alumni Association and Nationwide partnered together in October 2013 to offer protection for what matters to Peirce Alumni. To date, over 85 Alumni members have JOINED THE NATION and are taking advantage of the exclusive discounts for select Nationwide products and services.

The purchase of these policies has also helped support the alumni association's objective of promoting growth, progress and general welfare of the Peirce alumni.

Help support your alumni association by calling Ferullo Insurance Agencies at 215-468-4116, Lenny Torrence at 215-476-7300, toll free at 877-921-998 or visit your local agent.



Alumni who are already Nationwide members can also take advantage of this discount by contacting their Nationwide agent and letting them know that they are a member of the Peirce College Alumni Association.

The Real World: Criminal Justice Programs at Peirce

Peirce's Criminal Justice Studies Program affords students studying for an associate or bachelor's degree the opportunity to learn, explore, and develop in an impactful and emerging profession. The Program Manager is Professor Bob Brzenchek, a dynamic veteran of the field who is committed to combining his passion for theory with a keen understanding of practical applications of learning in the real world.

The team of professionals Prof. Brzenchek has assembled to teach as adjuncts in the program underscores the commitment of the department to train students for maximum success in a practical, purposeful manner. The corps of instructors include Brian P. Haughton, who has spent over 26 years in the Criminal Justice System, and who is a 20-year veteran with the Philadelphia Police Department; Thomas Smith, the Emergency Management Director for Region 44 Emergency Management in Nebraska who manages emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and hazard mitigation activities; Fredda Maddox, an attorney with the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County; Eileen Carlin of the Burlington County Sheriff's Department; and Joseph O'Brien, a Retired Homicide Detective for the Philadelphia Police Department.

The Criminal Justice program also enhances learning for its students by introducing them to leaders in the field. Guest speakers on campus have included Tom Minton, Director of the Pennsylvania Department of Homeland Security; Sergeant Steve Iannone, Supervisor, Detective Squad at the NYPD Counterterrorism Division; and Bill Esposito, the

former Deputy Director of the FBI.

Prof. Brzenchek himself brings a wealth of experience to Peirce from both the public and private sectors. As a Navy Intelligence Specialist, as well as a police officer in Washington, DC, he worked with dozens of national agencies, governments, and international organizations. In the private sector since 2005, Prof. Brzenchek has also worked with organizations as diverse as Department of Human Services, Department of Defense, major corporations, ports, and public utilities on security matters, risk management, policy, and technologies.

Working with his fellow professors in educating the next generation of criminal justice professionals makes him intensely appreciate the responsibility of his position: "You don't get in the profession for money. You get in it for the love of making an impact on society. Criminal justice professionals - whether in the courts, law enforcement, or corrections - are the difference between social disorder and peace. So I expect students to take their education seriously."



Bob Brzenchek

PEIRCE ANNUAL FUND FORM

Our commitment to the success of our students is ensured with your generous gift to the Annual Fund. Any size donation is welcome and will help our students achieve. For more information, call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 215-670-9323 or visit www.peirce.edu/alumni.

Please complete this form and mail it to: Office of Institutional Advancement, Peirce College, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

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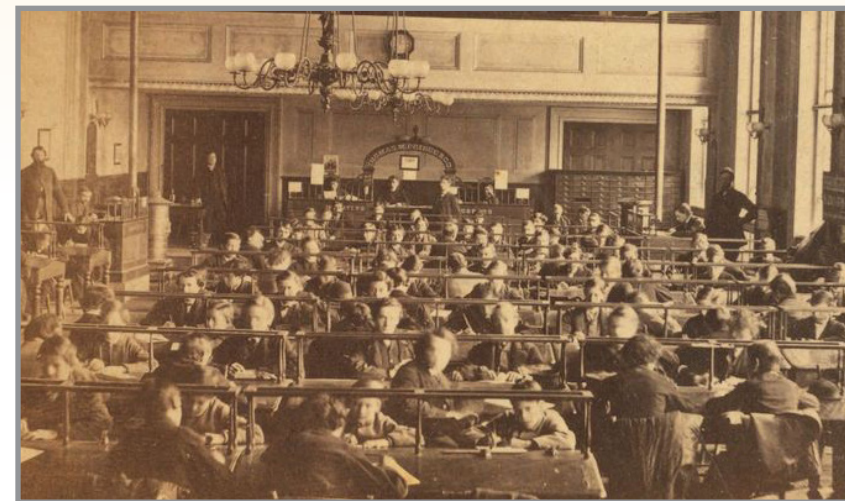
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An Amazing Journey: The First Fifty Years at Peirce



The Union Business College at 8th and Spring Garden Streets in Philadelphia

Throughout 2015, we will be taking a pictorial look at 150 years of Peirce history. In this first "family album", we focus on the first 50 years of the school's history, where the foundation was laid for generations of students. From the 569 students who attended in the first year; to the introduction of shorthand, stenography, and typewriting; to the medals won in 1900 at the Paris Universal Exhibition and Pan-American Exposition; to the introduction of its first secretarial course, 1865-1915 started the College on the path set forth by Dr. Thomas May Peirce for quality, practical education.



Students studying at Union Business College, circa 1876



Our founder, Thomas May Peirce



Pine Street entrance hall to Peirce, 1915



Peirce Exhibit at the Pan-American Exhibition, 1901

Student Profile: Right at Home: Tiffani Nazzario



Tiffani Nazzario

It was a homecoming for two out of three members of the Nazzario family who attended a Peirce on-campus Admissions Open House in the Spring of 2013. The Nazzario parents had attended when Peirce was a Junior College in the 1980s: dad Mark was a 1984 graduate of the Computer Data Processing program, and mom Margie earned a legal office assistant

associates degree in 1986. But the spotlight that day was on their daughter Tiffani, who was getting ready to graduate from Philadelphia's Neumann Goretti High School.

"At that open house, I can still remember how nervous I was," Tiffani recalls. "But on that day, I met and listened to many people. They made me feel right at home." A follow-up visit to campus connected her with Stephanie Donovan, Healthcare Administration program director. In the process of learning about the career options she could enjoy with a healthcare administration degree from Peirce, Tiffani knew she had found the place she wanted to grow personally and professionally: she became the third member of her family to choose Peirce.

Now in her second year at Peirce, she has become a fully engaged member of the Peirce family. Immersed in her health care studies, Tiffani is working diligently towards her career goal of a management position in a

hospital. Tiffani has impressed her Peirce professors and fellow students alike with her work ethic, positive attitude, and leadership qualities. She also visits her former high school as a College ambassador to share her insights into the benefits a Peirce education affords in the workplace.

In recognition of Tiffani's achievements in and out of the classroom, she was awarded the Alumni Association Scholarship for the 2014-15 academic year. And because her parents are Peirce graduates she also receives a 25% tuition discount. She appreciates her parents' role in guiding her to Peirce, the place where they found academic success 30+ years ago. Tiffani notes that "I can only hope to follow in their footsteps and be just as successful as they are. They have always preached to me about the importance of hard work and how it pays off. I am sincerely grateful to Peirce College for everything that they have done for me and my family."

The Ties That Bind: Peirce Greek Reunion

On October 19, Peirce held a reunion for 140 members of the school's Greek community. It was an unprecedented celebration of the ties that bind, Peirce-style. Brothers and sisters representing four decades of the Greek experience gathered at Galdo's Catering in South Philadelphia.

Old friends – some of whom had not seen each for decades – joyfully reconnected, swapped stories, and caught up with one another. College president Jim Mergiotti welcomed the guests and Peirce legend Ray Palzer '52 shared his heartfelt, funny memories of the Greek community. Add a cocktail reception, a festive meal, and dancing (there was *a lot* of dancing), and you had a very memorable experience for some very happy Peirce alumni.

"What a wonderful evening - we were all 19 years old again", Gene Fazzie '70 said of the reunion. Fazzie and his co-chair Carl Grozinski '69 worked with an active committee of their fellow Greeks for over a year to plan reunion. As they were leaving the Reunion, guests were abuzz with talk of not if, but when the next reunion will take place. Stay tuned!



Creating Opportunities: Peirce Job Fair

Among the almost 150 alumni and students who gathered for Peirce's most recent on-campus Job Fair, Christine (Tina) Clarke-Robinson was a woman with a mission. She was at the Fair to make meaningful connections with potential employers, as she looks to parlay a 25-year career in paralegal work into a new challenge in her professional life. Knowing that her Peirce education will stand her in good stead in this quest – she received her associate degree in 2012 and is just six classes away from her bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies – she spent the morning in fruitful conversations with several of the 41 employers in attendance.



Peirce student Tina Clarke-Robinson connects with Nationwide's John Ferullo at the Job Fair.

At the conclusion of her Job Fair visit, Tina reflected on the experience: "To have so many potential employers literally in front of me – it's a little overwhelming, in the best possible way. I would have never had access to this many companies and government agencies in such a personal setting had it not been for my association with Peirce. I really got the chance to take time and talk to the representatives in detail. I would hope that my story would be an encouragement for others regardless of what stage they are at in their careers... but be mindful, you have to take advantage of the opportunity to create opportunity for yourself. That's why I am here today."

Local recruiters attending the Fair included representatives Wells Fargo, Einstein Hospital, U.S Secret Service, Santander, Philadelphia Gas Works, Health Partners Plans, and many more. Robyn Dizes, Director of Career Development Services, noted that "we received excellent feedback from employers about how professional and prepared our job seekers were. Our goal was to provide students and alumni with employer 'face time'. The Job Fair was a huge success for all! Our Spring Job Fair is scheduled for Friday, May 29."

The Job Fair is but one of many ways that Career Development Services partners with alumni and students to promote career success.

If you are interested in learning how CDS can work with you, visit www.peirce.edu/CDS or call 215-670-9202.

Save The Date: Peirce College 150th Anniversary Events

All throughout 2015, Peirce will be observing our 150th anniversary with a host of events, celebrations, and social media opportunities that will bring our community together to mark this milestone.

Here are a few of the many ways to say "Happy Anniversary, Peirce!"

Visit www.peirce.edu/150 for details and for stories about our past, present and future.

Details will also be in the next edition of Peirce Perspectives.



Monday, March 30th
Facebook 150 Memories Contest

Tuesday, April 28th
Business Employer Panel

Monday, May 18th
Spring Reception

Friday, August 14th
Peirce Birthday Card Signing

Thursday, September 17th
Peirce Founder's Day Anniversary Event