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# PEIRCE

## PERSPECTIVES

The alumni newsletter from Peirce College®

ISSUE 20, SEPTEMBER 2014  
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### It's Going to Be All Right

Glenda Custalow '10 Partners with Peirce for Career Success

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](http://www.linkedin.com) and search for "Peirce College Alumni Association".



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



[www.peirce.edu](http://www.peirce.edu) • [blog.peirce.edu](http://blog.peirce.edu)

Glenda Custalow '10 forges her path through life with heart, intelligence, and persistence - especially persistence. She returned to college in 2006 at Peirce as a nontraditional student, and graduated with both her associate (2009) and bachelor (2010) degrees in business administration, concentration in management. Not content to rest on these academic laurels, she next entered a master's degree in health care administration at St. Joseph's University, graduating in 2013. She is currently pursuing her doctoral studies in public health at Temple University.

As Glenda was developing a sense of achievement and mastery in the classroom, she also had a growing realization that her career had stalled. At the point she decided to start a job search that would enable her to use her education and experience in a more satisfying way, she had been working for the same employer for 12 years. Glenda made the choice to seek out a new professional opportunity - and realized she needed help.

Peirce Career Development Services (CDS) was one of her staunchest allies throughout her job search. A faithful attendee at CDS workshops and seminars, Glenda appreciated the insights and strategies which she obtained at each of these programs, noting "you think you know things, but you don't." She credits Vice President of Student Services Uva Coles and CDS

career counselor Ed Hill as important sources of guidance and support. Ed's encouragement was of particular value during the homestretch of her job search: "I thank him for giving me motivation when I needed it to continue my quest."

In July 2014, her efforts finally paid off, and she started a new position as a manager for a major dental corporation in the Philadelphia area.



Glenda Custalow '10

Although Glenda was steadfast, things did not come together as quickly as she had hoped: it took her five years of sending out cover letters and resumes, completing online applications, networking, and going on interviews to find the right job.

However, Glenda is characteristically upbeat about the span of time it took to land that right job.

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# PEIRCE

## PERSPECTIVES

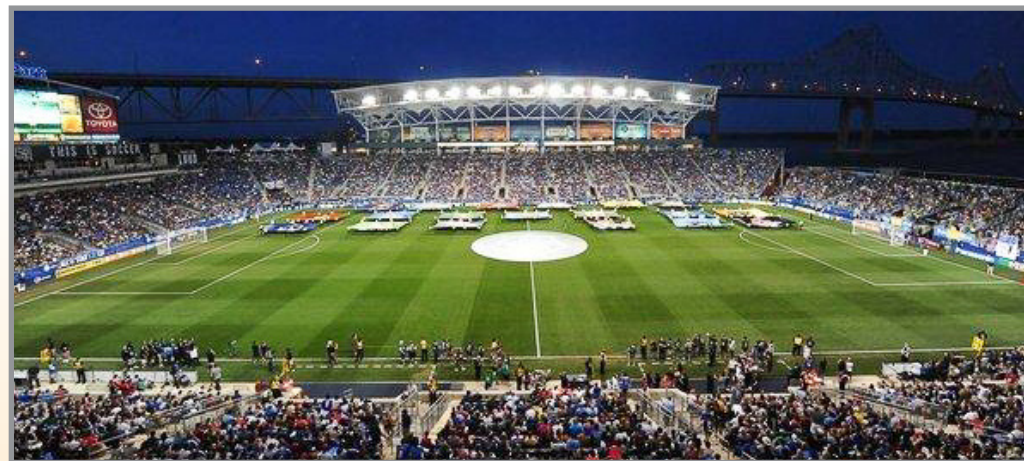
The alumni newsletter from Peirce College®

### GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOAL!

#### Peirce Night at the Philadelphia Union

Was your soccer fever not satisfied by the World Cup? Have you been looking for a reason to check out a Philadelphia Union soccer game? Want a great chance to have a fun evening with your fellow members of the Peirce community? Welcome to Peirce Night at the Philadelphia Union!

On Saturday, October 11 at 7 PM, alumni, students, faculty and staff are invited to join together at PPL Park, where the hometown Union will play the Columbus Crew. We will have a special section for our group - wear your Peirce orange and cheer on the home team. Tickets are \$25 a person,



and can be purchased online at <http://peirceunion.eventbrite.com>.

We have a limited amount of tickets available, so don't delay!

## President's Note



**James J. Mergiotti**

Since Peirce students typically must attend to significant personal and professional responsibilities while pursuing their educational goals, earning their degrees is an extraordinary achievement. Unlike traditional college students, who are able to focus purely on themselves and their studies, most Peirce students

have families, jobs, and community obligations that demand their time and attention while they are in school. They must possess life management skills as well as grit and determination to make it to the Kimmel Center stage and receive their diplomas. They also need a great deal of support from loved ones and, very notably, from the Peirce community.

Many of our students would not be able to earn college degrees if not for Peirce. The faculty's expertise in working with non-traditional students; the outstanding student support services; the friendly, nurturing atmosphere; the high quality staff; and the unwavering dedication to student success combine to provide the best opportunity for adult learners juggling many priorities to fulfill their educational dreams. We tell our students "You can do this" and

then we tell ourselves "We won't let them fail."

One of the most powerful aspects of Peirce is the legacy of student success our alumni create. Many alumni, having thrived because of their Peirce experience, pay it forward by assisting students as they navigate through college while balancing the various aspects of life. Alumni assistance takes many forms from mentoring to making financial contributions that provide students with the necessary financial wherewithal to complete their programs. For those who are already part of that legacy stream, many thanks for using your power to strengthen others. For those looking to participate in the future, please contact us. We would love to build more capacity so Peirce can be an even greater force for student success.

## New Programs for Success

Peirce is proud to announce the launch of three new bachelor's degree programs. Our Criminal Justice Studies, Legal Studies in Business, and Technology Management programs will begin classes with Session 1 of the 2014-15 school year. These programs allow students to earn their bachelor's degree and gain skills that are in-demand by today's employers. And best of all, students may be able to transfer some or all of their college credits earned at other institutions!

Do you have a friend or family member who would make a great Peirce student? Give them the motivation they need to get back on their way with one of the following programs.

### **Legal Studies in Business (LSB) bachelor's degree completion program**

Two for one is always a good deal, and the LSB program offers students multiple career paths with one degree. Graduates can choose to pursue a legal or business career, with coursework designed to make them valuable and marketable in today's legal/business environment. For more information, visit [www.peirce.edu/degree-completion](http://www.peirce.edu/degree-completion).

### **Technology Management (TMGT) bachelor's degree completion program**

Careers for computer and information systems managers are expected to grow by 18% nationally over the next 10 years. Our TMGT degree meets this demand with a program that integrates Information Technology (IT) and Business. We keep students in touch with the tech, while offering a balance of business management and data systems skills that today's employers demand from their IT managers. For more information, visit [www.peirce.edu/degree-completion](http://www.peirce.edu/degree-completion).

### **Criminal Justice Studies (CJS) bachelor's degree program**

This expanded program helps students develop the credentials to succeed and advance in the exciting and rewarding field of criminal justice. Areas of study include: law enforcement, correctional systems, criminal investigation, private security, juvenile justice, judicial administration, and more. Learn more at [www.peirce.edu/criminal-justice](http://www.peirce.edu/criminal-justice).

**If you have any questions, please contact us at 888.467.3472, ext. 9000, or at [info@peirce.edu](mailto:info@peirce.edu).**

## Faculty Focus: Transforming Students: Sebastien Bacle

One afternoon this summer, an electrical transformer blew up around the corner from Peirce, knocking out power in the building and causing classes to be cancelled for the evening. Sebastien Bacle, a mathematics instructor at the College, knew that that his students were at a critical juncture in their developmental math class and was concerned they would be worried about the missed session.

So that afternoon, Sebastien moved his base of operations from his dark office to the College's lobby - the spot in the building with the most natural light - and proceeded to individually call each of the 20 students in his class. "I told them not to panic," he later recounted, and reassured students about their ability to complete deadlines and fulfill the requirements of the demanding course.

This story is at the core of Sebastien Bacle's tenure at Peirce: he possesses a calm, calculated commitment to service-oriented instruction. When he first encounters them, many of his students have not taken a math class for decades, and have no small amount of anxiety at returning to the subject.

It is therefore a good thing they have a teacher such as Sebastien. Most of the developmental math classes Sebastien



**Sebastien Bacle**

instructs are on a 15-week cycle, which allows him the opportunity over several months to critically analyze what students are learning, as well as why they are and aren't doing well. He tutors students in-person and online, delving into the ways each

person learns so he can help them develop good study skills. While he allows that math is hard work - "you can't fake it, you have to own your mistakes" - he knows that it is a critical tool in everyone's life. He takes every opportunity to relate students' learning in the classroom to the majors they are pursuing: for example, for criminal justice majors, he will describe how the City of Philadelphia is a proponent of data-driven policing.

Sebastien is a resident of the Queen Village neighborhood of Philadelphia where he lives with his wife and daughter, and enjoys the proximity of his home and workplace. A graduate of both Magill University and the University of Maryland, he appreciates Peirce's size and orientation towards personal service for its learning community. "Peirce is so great because it is small... you get to know the people here. It's refreshing."

His commitment to his work is born of a natural enthusiasm for his subject: as Sebastien Bacle says, "when a student says 'I learned something, I am able to do this' - well, that's what I live for."

## GOOD NEWS

"Good News!" focuses on our graduates' personal and professional accomplishments. To submit your "Good News", email [alumni@peirce.edu](mailto: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.

**Kurt Schaefer '60** was named the 2014 Exemplary Volunteer by the Lions Club of Springfield (Pa). In honor of this recognition, Kurt was honored with a place on the Springfield Volunteer Memorial Wall during the township's recent Fourth of July celebration.

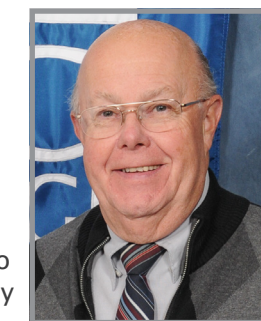
Fiber artist **Alicia Ruley-Nock '03** was featured in the *News of Delaware County* in an interview about her business, Sew Divine ([www.sewdivine.com](http://www.sewdivine.com)).

**Joanna Otero-Cruz '08** was named by KYW Newsradio as one of the winners of their 2014 Women's Achievement Award.

**Kelly Marianno '10** is the new president of Covenant Toastmasters in Philadelphia. An empowerment speaker since 2009, he is the owner of IMPAKT LLC, a consulting company which works with small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Graduates from our Legal Studies Division are going on to seek advanced academic degrees.

**Christina Nguyen '11** has been accepted to Suffolk University Law School in Boston, and she will be starting her J.D. pursuit in September. **Ashley Marie Arntz '13** will be starting her master's degree studies in Widener University's Public Administration program in August.



**Kurt Schaefer**

## 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](http://www.peirce.edu/alumni).

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

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other\$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make check payable to "Peirce College")

My gift is for (check one):

- Unrestricted Annual Fund  Angelo E. DiAntonio Accounting Award  
 Alumni Scholarship Fund  Raymond L. Palzer Scholarship '52 Fund

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You can double or triple your gift if your company is a "Matching Gift" company. Please include your company's form if they match - ask your HR department if you do not know.

- My company's matching gift form is enclosed.

## New Alumni Celebrate Commencement



Commencement 2014

On Monday, June 9, Peirce's 149th Commencement was held at the Kimmel Center's Verizon Hall.

The College community celebrated the graduation of 346 students, including five graduates in our new Associate in Science in Criminal Justice Studies and four in our new Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management. Sharmain Matlock-Turner, President and CEO of the Urban Affairs Coalition, delivered the keynote address.



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



## Student Profile: Always On the Move: Eucie Cruz



Eucie Cruz

Most Peirce students who juggle three jobs, take 12 credits a semester, and manage to maintain a 3.86 GPA would be justifiably thrilled with their accomplishments. Most students are not Eucie Cruz. The two A minuses and one B plus among the As on her transcript do not sit well with her. Eucie, a paralegal major in her second year of studies, admits

she is hard on herself, but she also proudly asserts "No one has to push me - I push myself. I'm old school."

A native of Guyana, Eucie worked in her home country as a legal typist in a bank where she prepared and filed mortgages. The quick pace and constant demands of the work fit in well with her temperament and interests, and she grew to love the law. After relocating to the US, she decided that she was going to pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer, and returned to college to earn a degree.

Peirce's paralegal program offered her the academic training she was looking for along with flexibility in determining her class schedule. She works six days a week, including an overnight job loading trucks for UPS. Eucie may not get a lot of rest - "I generally sleep three and a half hours a day because I am always on the move" - but she does get a great amount of satisfaction in knowing how she is seriously pursuing her studies: "I am thirsty for education."

Professor Ed Miller, head of Peirce's legal studies program, speaks with admiration about Eucie's tenacity and her obvious passion for the law. "Eucie Cruz is a wealth of talent, 'the real deal'. I genuinely look forward to seeing where her path takes her."

Eucie already has some clear ideas about where her professional journeys will lead. She hopes to one day work in the District Attorney's office, and to also use her training to help the homeless. Eucie feels a particular sense of responsibility to give back because there are so many people helping to support her college studies. Already the recipient of six scholarships during her relatively short time at Peirce, she thinks that "having a group of people who are willing to consider and invest in my future, without personally knowing me, tells me they are angels amongst us." Drive and determination abounds in Eucie Cruz, a Peirce student for whom great success undoubtedly lies ahead.

## Glenda Custalow

(continue from page 1)

Her hard-won words of wisdom for those who are also looking for their next great professional opportunity: "Don't give up! If this experience has taught me anything, it's patience. And that eventually, it's all going to be all right."

For Glenda, getting to "all right" took time, personal determination, and the kind of assistance CDS can offer alumni. Whether in active job search or just contemplating their next great career opportunity, she encourages her fellow graduates to keep their spirits up, reach out to others for help, and take to heart the biggest lesson she

learned through this process: "things are given to us when we are ready for them."

If you are interested in learning how CDS can work with you for career success, visit [www.peirce.edu/CDS](http://www.peirce.edu/CDS) or call 215-670-9202. CDS will be sponsoring a Salary Negotiations workshop on September 23, an HR panel for Paralegals on October 9, and a Job Fair on November 14. Workshops and training will be held throughout the school year - a schedule is on the website.

## Spotlight on the Alumni Association

Congratulations to the newly-elected members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, who will work with the other members of the Board to develop programs and services for graduates of the College.

Returning to the Board will be Giovanna Bevilacqua '81; Dottie Forvour '63; Ray Palzer '52; Joe Tamney '70; Reggie Waller '04; and Jo-Ann Williams '04. They will be joined by newly elected

members Nate Bandy '07; Linda Lammendola '79; Steven Rodriguez '07; David Veit '61; and Karen E. Wheeler '12.

At the June 9 Annual Meeting of the Association, a new Executive Committee was elected.

Congratulations to Reggie Waller '04, the new President; Barry James '07, Vice President; and Karl Fritz '06, Secretary.



Alumni Association Board of Directors

## A Note from Reggie Waller President, Alumni Association



Reggie Waller

Hello!

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the final weeks of summer 2014. It is with great excitement and enthusiasm that I begin my term as President of the Alumni Association. I would like to thank the Alumni Board of Directors for their vote of confidence in selecting me for this position, and I

look forward to providing outstanding leadership for our college during my term.

Recently, I had the chance to spend a day on campus with Jim Mergiotti and members of the College's senior leadership. Jim shared his vision for Peirce and discussed his plans on how to best position us for continued success. I look forward to working with the Alumni Board on how we can best serve the College and our students, and build an alumni program that is of benefit and relevance to our graduates.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts or ideas about how we can strengthen the Alumni Association, as well as increase the impact of Peirce in your personal and professional networks. Best wishes and I look forward to having the opportunity of meeting you soon. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Reggie Waller '04  
alumni@peirce.edu

## Thank You, Steve Wurtz

Steve Wurtz '08 first became President of the Alumni Association in 2010, soon after the Association was revitalized by the College. Steve's vision, work ethic, and good humor enabled him to effectively re-establish the organization, leading his fellow volunteers in better connecting alumni with one another and the College.

While Steve has decided to step off the Board to devote his volunteer energies to a leadership position within his church community, his impact will continue to be felt in the organization he helped rejuvenate. Thank you, Steve, for your leadership and your commitment to Peirce.



Steve Wurtz

## Spring Reception

This year's Spring Reception celebrated hundreds of guests returning to campus on May 19 for an evening of social camaraderie, professional networking, and reconnecting with the school.

At the reception, Frank Brodsky '53 received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Recognized for



Frank Brodsky

many achievements throughout almost 60 years in the financial services industry, he has also done extensive work with the Jewish community in the Philadelphia area and abroad, and has served

Peirce as a volunteer mentor and speaker.

Clement P. "Clem" Piscitelli '48 was also presented with the Distinguished Service Award that evening. A World War II veteran who attended Peirce on the G.I. Bill, Clem has been a respected leader for decades in his community, professional association, and our alumni network.



Clem Piscitelli and family

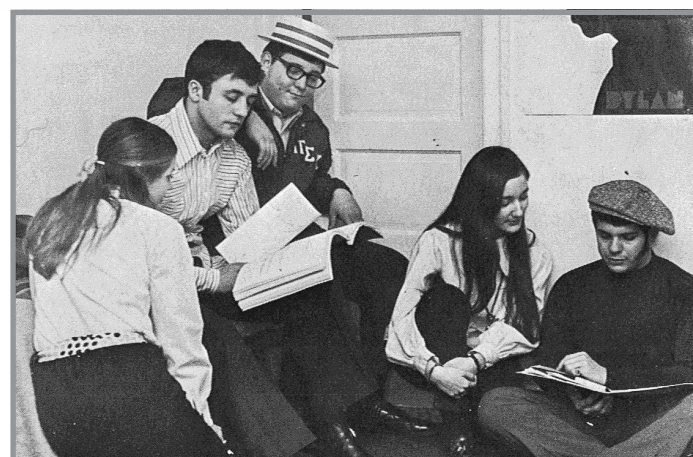
## Peirce Greek Reunion

Greeks. There will be a buffet and open bar, and of course, a DJ to spin the records you remember dancing to during your Peirce years.

To order tickets, which are \$60 per person, please visit the website at <https://peircegreekreunion.eventbrite.com> or send a check made out to "Peirce College" to Rosemary Connors, Peirce College, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102 by October 4. Be sure to check out the "Peirce Greek Reunion" group on Facebook for sharing memories and getting updates about the Reunion.



For any questions, call the Peirce Alumni Office at 215-670-9323 or email [alumni@peirce.edu](mailto:alumni@peirce.edu).



Were you a member of Peirce's social fraternities and sororities? You are invited to get together for a truly special event - a Peirce Greek Reunion - on Sunday, October 19 from 3:00 to 7:00 PM at Galdo's Catering & Entertainment, 20th and Moyamensing Avenue in South Philadelphia.

Brothers and sisters from the Peirce Greek community will have an opportunity to catch up with old friends and remember the great times you had at Peirce. An enthusiastic committee of more than 20 volunteers has been planning a memorable get together for their fellow