

A Letter from the Peirce College Alumni Association Board of Directors

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.*



Barry James

Happy Spring!

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, the changes all around us point to a time of transition – including at the College. Back in February 2017, Jim

Mergiotti announced his plans to retire as President and CEO. Shortly thereafter, the College's Board of Trustees began an extensive search for his successor. After much consultation with students, alumni, staff and faculty – including key insights from Alumni Association Board Vice President Karl Fritz as a member of the Search Advisory Panel – the Board unanimously selected Mary Ellen Caro, Ed.D as the College's newest president & CEO. She is the first woman to hold this position in Peirce history!

Dr. Caro is extraordinarily qualified to lead Peirce into the future, as she has a background in both business and higher education through her experiences as a key leader at AT&T and Thomas Edison State University. She understands how unique the Peirce community is and is excited to build on the legacy of the past 153 years. Dr. Caro's first day at the College was April 16th and, as President of the Alumni Association, I am very pleased to welcome her as the newest member of our community!

Consequently, previous President & CEO Jim Mergiotti's last day with Peirce was April 13th. As such, I'd like to take this moment

to say thank you to President Mergiotti. We are thankful for his commitment to the Peirce College community. We are thankful for his enthusiastic encouragement of alumni success. And we are thankful for his endless advocacy and championship of adult learners. We are forever thankful to Jim, as we affectionately called him, for his leadership of Peirce College.

I have very fond memories of Jim, as I'm sure many of you do. Whether you shook his hand in the hallway before class, sat down with him for a private mentoring session, or you were provided a warm welcome at an event you attended (and then realized he sat next to you in the crowd), he fully embodied the welcoming and supportive spirit of Peirce College and made sure that you felt at home.

As one season comes to a close and another begins, I am sure I speak for many in our alumni community as I express my heartfelt gratitude to President Jim Mergiotti and welcome Dr. Mary Ellen Caro.

This new era of Peirce College is an exciting one. While we can look in our rearview mirror with fondness, let's look ahead with optimism and enthusiasm for what yet another season will bring.

Sincerely,



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

Edwin B. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund Update

Thanks to all who contributed to the Professor Edwin B. Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund match challenge. Because of your generosity, we were able to raise more than \$185,000!

This scholarship fund was generously created by retired professor Glenn Barnes, J.D.; current professors Cynthia Gentile, J.D. and Ivy Kempf, J.D.; and Ruth Shaber, M.D., founder and president of the Tara Foundation, to honor Professor Miller's outstanding legacy.

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. His groundbreaking 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. The first scholarship recipients will be announced in the new academic year. Stay tuned for details!



Funders of the Edwin B Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund, L-R: Dr. Ruth Shaber, Glenn Barnes, J.D., Ivy Kempf, J.D., and Cynthia Gentile, J.D.

Urban League Tech Jobs Program Kick Off

On March 19th, in partnership with the Urban League of Philadelphia, Peirce College launched a Tech Jobs Workforce Development Program at our Center City campus. As the education and training partner of the Urban League for this initiative, our collective goal was to connect underemployed and unemployed adults with technology-based training and employment opportunities—at no cost to participants. A total of fourteen adult learners received nine weeks of instruction and training in preparation for the CompTIA A+ certification. These skills are an important foundation for building a career in networking and security.

Like so many of our Peirce students who walked through our doors for the first time in search of something greater for themselves and their loved ones, our program participants also exemplified the very embodiment of the Peirce story

and mission. They were resolute and determined to secure a credential leading to a career path. In fact, several participants expressed interest in enrolling at Peirce to obtain an associate or bachelor's degree.

While this was the first cohort at Peirce College, it certainly will not be the last. Peirce is currently a key player in building the City of Philadelphia's workforce development strategy, *Fueling Philadelphia's Talent Engine*. Peirce is working with the City to develop additional workforce development programs and trainings that will support existing Peirce students and residents of the City and region at large.

To learn more about our workforce development strategy, please contact Malik Brown at mrbrown4@peirce.edu.

Stay Connected with Peirce

Connect with us on your favorite social media sites to stay up to date about College news, events, career advice, and more!

Facebook:

Peirce College: facebook.com/PeirceCollege

Peirce College Alumni Association: facebook.com/PeirceAlumni

Twitter: [@PeirceCollege](https://twitter.com/PeirceCollege)

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/school/peirce-college

Instagram: [@peirce_college](https://instagram.com/peirce_college)

From High School Sweethearts to Peirce College Graduates – Meet Carolyn and Jim Stuart

Since our founding, Peirce has had thousands of students graduate from the College and each of them carries a unique Peirce story that is woven in our institution's fabric. Recently, we caught up with two alums who attended Peirce in 1963 and invited them to share their stories with us. And not only did they graduate together, they're also happily married! It's a Peirce College love story we just had to share.

Carolyn (Booz) and Jim Stuart, sweethearts of the class of 1965, first met in 7th grade and eventually started dating toward the end of their high school career.

As graduation approached, they both planned to continue their education and knew exactly where to go – Peirce! Carolyn and Jim learned about the College from friends and family members who had previously attended, and what they learned then about Peirce still holds true today: Peirce enjoyed a great market reputation, and was cost-efficient. After deciding on Peirce, they found yet another positive aspect for their newest journey – they could commute

together by train. Each day, these two love birds took the train in and out of Philadelphia—a ride that afforded them time together and added to their evolving love story.



Carolyn and Jim Stuart

Carolyn pursued a Medical Secretary degree (similar to our current Healthcare Administration program) during her time at Peirce and Jim

entered into the Business Management program (similar to our current Business Administration degree). Following graduation, both entered the workforce in their respective fields. Jim took over the family business, where he was able to grow and expand in his new role. He credits his success with the strong foundation he gained at Peirce—accounting, math and business courses strengthened his ability to work and lead. He said, “My degree made me think. It made me see all the ins and outs of business that I wouldn't have thought of without it.”

Carolyn entered the medical field working in a local hospital's community health education department. She remained there for 25 years as a patient advocate. Following this role, she worked at a local cardiologist's office for 8 years in an administrative role. She said, “Medical Terminology is one class that was extremely helpful when I moved into my career. The professors were always very thorough in what they taught and extremely encouraging. You always got a great overall experience.”

After graduating and finding jobs, armed with academic and professional success, Jim and Carolyn decided to tackle their greatest joint endeavor—marriage! They tied the knot in October 1965 – just a few months following their college graduation!

Now, as alumni and newlyweds for more than 52 years, Jim and Carolyn look back on some of their fondest Peirce memories. Jim said, “One of my favorite Peirce memories is the camaraderie I shared with all the other guys. It was so easy to make friends and there were no prejudices! We were all Peirce students together and we had fun with it!”

Carolyn agreed that making friends was her favorite memory, sharing, “You'd sit around waiting for your next class or studying and you always had friends surrounding you.”



Class photos from the 1965 special graduation issue of the Peircetonian, featuring Carolyn and Jim Stuart.

Carolyn and Jim invited many Peirce friends to their wedding and Carolyn even had one of her closest classmates as her maid of honor.

Carolyn and Jim finally returned to visit Peirce during the fall of 2017 as parents of two and grandparents of three. Their family tree wasn't the only thing that had changed - Peirce had expanded immensely since they last stopped by. They were able to tour the school, reminisce on their memories and see how Peirce had advanced and grown since their graduation. Their visit was yet another reminder of the many lives Peirce has impacted and the extent to which our institution is not just a place of learning. For many, like Jim and Carolyn, Peirce was a place where lifelong relationships were cultivated and flourished.

We are grateful to Carolyn and Jim for stopping by to visit and for taking the time to share with us just a few pages of their amazing and ever-present love story.

Connecting to opportunity through CDS

Originally, Jahlil Watson thought he wanted to be a kindergarten teacher – until he discovered human resources. Once he knew that working in HR would allow him to build relationships with people, he started looking for opportunities.



Last October, he noticed an email from Peirce’s Career Development Services about HR jobs and internships. “It was just what I wanted,” he said. “CDS does a great job of matching students with careers.”

He was especially interested in a paid

internship at OSISOft, a global firm with Center City offices. Peirce’s Alumni Association president, Barry James, works for OSISOft and posted the job.

When Jahlil submitted his resume to CDS, “we did a mock interview, which definitely prepared me,” he noted. “I wasn’t nervous, which put me in the best position to interview.” OSISOft agreed. They quickly offered Jahlil the internship.

As OSISOft’s Staffing Coordinator, Jahlil recruits software engineers for product support and software development, working with technical staff to assess candidates.

This experience has allowed Jahlil to build his resume and his professional skills. He said, “I’ve been able to grow here. I’m independent and reliable. My managers are confident in me.”

Barry agrees. “It couldn’t have worked out better,” he shared. “Jahlil made a great impression on our VP of HR, so it’s possible we can keep him after the internship.”

What advice does Jahlil have for other Peirce students and alums? “Talk to people! You can’t be quiet in HR, so build your communication skills. And whoever wants to find a job should reach out to CDS. I did, and I found a company I love.” To learn more about CDS, email [cgs@peirce.edu](mailto:cds@peirce.edu).

MLK Day of Service 2018 Recap

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service 2018

On Saturday, January 13, 2018, the Peirce College community—students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the College, came together to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy through a day of service. Partnering with Thomas May Peirce Elementary School, our volunteers rolled up their sleeves and invested their time, talent, and Peirce enthusiasm. They painted, decluttered spaces, cleaned classrooms, and tidied the school’s library.

At a time when our nation grapples, daily, with discourse that reveals profound, historic disconnects, it is sometimes challenging to find common ground—to remember that what connects us is significantly greater than what divides us. As our volunteers—from varied neighborhoods, backgrounds, and perspectives—came together for Philadelphia’s 23rd Annual Day of Service, they served as great reminders of the power of service.



Women in Leadership In Review – A Night Filled With Encouragement, Diversity and Conversation

In celebration of National Women’s History Month, the College was honored to host some of Philadelphia’s top executive women to participate in Peirce’s 8th Annual Women in Leadership panel on Thursday, March 29. Participants leaned into the theme *Advancing the Work of Inclusion and Equity*, offering perspectives gleaned from their respective leadership journeys.

More than 100 community members actively engaged in an interactive, courageous, and candid conversation. Our diverse and knowledgeable panelists included:

- **Folasade “Sade” Olanipekun-Lewis**, Regional Director for Government and Airport Affairs with American Airlines
- **Rochelle “Chellie” Cameron**, Chief Executive Officer for the Philadelphia International Airport and Northeast Philadelphia Airport
- **Romona Riscoe Benson**, Director of PECO Corporate Relations
- **Dr. Monique Howard**, Executive Director of Women Organized Against Rape

Additionally, **Carol Wilson Pandza**, Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer, AmeriHealth Caritas, moderated the conversation. Collectively, these women energized, inspired, and enlightened audience members.



L-R: Carol Wilson Pandza, Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis, Dr. Mary Ellen Caro, James J. Mergioti, Uva C. Coles, Rochelle Cameron, Dr. Monique Howard

Mentoring of women by women was a highly discussed topic. Chellie Cameron underscored that leaders who have the ability to inspire and promote women need to do so because, as she put it, “women out there are ready.”

Dr. Monique Howard agreed with Chellie’s take on mentoring, urging the women in the audience to embrace their value whether they feel ready or not. “Sometimes you are not

invited to the table, but you know the table is for you. Take YOUR seat!”

The panelists challenged the audience to not only push themselves to find growth and opportunity in the workforce, but to bring with them other women and people from underrepresented groups who may not have found a door to advancement. The panel also opened up about the importance of creating space for a diverse and inclusive workforce that considers various experiences, backgrounds, races, genders, and perspectives.



L-R: Folasade Olanipekun-Lewis and Romona Riscoe Benson

Chellie Cameron and Sade Olanipekun-Lewis spoke directly to their experience as former coworkers. Chellie developed a leadership team, which Sade was a part of, which was intentionally diverse. This dream team was not easy to form, but the results were tremendous and changed the organization for the better.

The panel also discussed perseverance. As Romona Riscoe Benson put it, “We must celebrate our accomplishments. And at the same time, we have to keep pushing.” She encouraged the audience to be proud of every milestone, but never to lose sight of the goal. Carol Wilson Pandza agreed and also highlighted the importance of failure. “Go for it. And if you don’t get it, handle it well. People will watch how you handle what you don’t get more closely than what you do get.”



As a closing point and a call to action, Sade Olanipekun-Lewis emphasized, “Our collective job is to help all of us achieve our higher purpose.”

Based on the audience’s enthusiastic applause and the Twitter flurry that followed, it was clear that the room wholeheartedly agreed with Sade’s wisdom and that of each panelist.

A Call for Service–Vote in the Alumni Association Board Elections

Elections are now open for new representatives to the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Alumni board members work with the Peirce community to better connect alumni with one another and the College. Appointment terms will start in July 2018 and last for three years.

The names of the candidates for the Alumni Board are listed below. Please vote for up to seven candidates using the ballot also found below, or simply visit peirce.edu/AlumniElection to cast your vote.

Antar Bush '14 is the education director of STD Prevention Education in the Philadelphia Department of Health and is also an adjunct professor at the West Chester University School of Social Work. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Peirce in 2014, and then continued to West Chester University where he earned master's degrees in Clinical Social Work in 2016 and Public Health in 2017. He lives in Philadelphia.

Stephanie Estriplet '15 & '17 is an auditor for Marsha Brown Enterprises. She has earned two degrees from Peirce: an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration in 2015 and a bachelor's degree in Accounting in 2017. Stephanie is multi lingual, speaking four languages: Creole, French, English and Spanish. She resides in Philadelphia.

Bishan Huang '14 is the chief executive officer of the Asian American Cultural Exchange Association. He graduated from Peirce in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and then continued to the University of Pennsylvania where he earned a master's degree in Education in 2016. He has previously served as an Alumni Association volunteer and is fueled with a desire to help Peirce alumni. Bishan resides in Bensalem, PA.

Steven Hackney '10 works in legal assistance at the Social Security Administration and has held various leadership roles in more than 20 years with the U.S. Army Reserves. He earned a bachelor's degree in Paralegal Studies in 2010 from Peirce and is looking forward to utilizing his advisory skills for the benefit of Peirce and its alumni. Steven lives in Philadelphia.

Robin Linton-Turner '16 is on her way to earning two degrees from Peirce College: an associate degree in Business Administration in 2016 and her bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2018. She has worked as a staff assistant in the U.S. House of Representatives for 13 years. Robins lives in Collingdale, PA.

Steven Rodriguez '06, '07 & '15 is chief compliance officer at The No Notes Show LLC and a security operations specialist at Harcum College. He has earned three degrees from Peirce: a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership & Management in 2016 and both bachelor's and associate degrees in 2007 and 2006, respectively. He is active in many Peirce alumni functions, serving as a current Alumni Association Board member, Chairman of the Admissions Committee, Undergraduate Award Scholarship Committee member, and former mentor. Steve resides in Yeadon, PA.

Isaiah Sutton '17 is a home health aide with Compassionate Support Home Health Care Agency and Vital Support Home Health Care Agency. He graduated from Peirce in 2017 with an Associate in Science in Business Administration. Previously a mentee in Peirce's Mentor Program, Isaiah would like to "pay it forward" by helping other Peirce students. He is active as an administrator at his church and lives in Philadelphia.

Malana Williams '17 is a mass tort paralegal at Kline & Spector in Philadelphia. She graduated from Peirce with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2017. She was a member of the Delta Mu Delta Honor Society and Who's Who in America. Malana lives in Philadelphia.

Every person who has demonstrated a willingness to support and serve the College in any way – with time, talent and treasure – is to be commended. As you think about serving the College in whatever capacity you can, please also consider making an investment in the College's mission and its students by contributing to the Peirce College Annual Fund. Any level of participation is appreciated.

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. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

The Peirce College Alumni Association Board of Directors

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD ELECTION BALLOT

Please select up to seven nominees for a three-year term on the Peirce College Alumni Association Board. You can vote by completing this ballot and mailing it to the Office of Institutional Advancement, Peirce College, 1420 Pine Street, Philadelphia, PA 19012 by May 30, 2018. You may also vote online at peirce.edu/AlumniElection.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antar T. Bush '14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Isaiah Sutton '17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bishan Huang '14 | <input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Estriplet '15 & '17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steven Rodriguez '06, '07 & '15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Robin Linton-Turner '16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steven Hackney '10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Malana Williams '17 |

Your Name: _____ Class Year: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

A Resilient Advocate and Hero – Meet Gabriel Grove

Gabriel Grove, a 2015 Peirce alumna, has faced some of life's toughest challenges. But with a resilient and driven spirit, she has achieved more than she ever imagined. In 2006, Gabriel was living in a homeless shelter with her children when she took a look around. In the midst of dealing with her own challenges, she could not help but notice how much larger the issue now affecting her family really was. "I realized we all need to do more to help and bring light to homelessness in Philadelphia," explained Gabriel. "Before the shelter, I was not aware of the extent of homelessness, especially with women and children."

Even while she was busy caring for herself and her family, Gabriel still found time to make a plan to help those around her. First, however, Gabriel knew she needed to help herself and her loved ones. She would begin with achieving a lifelong goal—degree attainment. "I knew earning my degree was needed; having experience was no longer enough. If I wanted to move forward in my career, I needed to check this off my to-do list." After taking classes at a variety of colleges, Gabriel enrolled at Peirce in 2014, after hearing about the flexibility Peirce offered and the 25% tuition discount she received thanks to Peirce's corporate partnership with Independence Blue Cross, her employer at the time.

"Peirce allowed me to complete my degree in a timely manner," Gabriel shared. "It truly is the college that really works for working adults and that is what I needed." In 2015, Gabriel accomplished her goal and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Integrated Leadership (now called Organizational Leadership). Next, Gabriel set out on her next mission: changing the world. In July 2017, Gabriel was finally able to set her dreams into action. She opened her very own non-profit, For Her Sake Foundation, Inc., (forhersake.org) where

she collects essential toiletries—from toothpaste to soap—and donates them to local women's shelters.

Gabriel often self-funds these supplies to increase the number of people she serves. Less than a year since starting her organization, Gabriel has already been able to donate to nine shelters in the Philadelphia area. Gabriel said, "We sometimes take the small things for granted. These women living in shelters have to make tough choices every day. They need to decide whether to spend their small sums of money on toiletries for themselves and their children or to allocate the money to medicine or other necessities." She added, "I want to help alleviate these hard decisions as best as I can."

As Gabriel's non-profit continues to grow, she has even bigger hopes and dreams for the future. "My end goal is to open my own women's shelter in Philadelphia," she said. "This is just the start!" In addition to this work, Gabriel has also found a way to give back to the college that helped her earn the degree she always wanted. Just recently, Gabriel partnered with Peirce to launch the Gabriel Grove Scholarship Awards. The first book scholarship will be awarded to a woman in the Information Technology field, as Gabriel would like to encourage more gender diversity in the industry. The second book scholarship will be awarded to a woman looking to earn her master's degree in Healthcare Administration at Peirce. Gabriel is also earning her master's and wants to ensure other women are not constrained by financial barriers as they pursue their goals. "Education is my passion," said Gabriel. "I wanted to give back to Peirce students so they could follow their dreams like I did." Peirce College is grateful for Gabriel's generosity and is proud of her accomplishments. Gabriel embodies the resilience, drive, and dedication emblematic of Peirce students. She is a great example of what happens when students are #PoweredbyPeirce!



Gabriel Grove, a 2015 Peirce alumna.

Departed Friends...

It is with deepest sympathies that we share news of several Peirce alumni who have passed on.

Guy V. Hoover, Class of 1935, passed at the young age of 103. Mr. Hoover not only generously supported Peirce College but was active in his church and accounting professional affiliations. Mr. Hoover worked as an accountant for 42 years at the former Chambersburg Engineering Company.

Other Friends of Peirce who have recently transitioned include:

- Dorothy A. Ade, Class of 1946
- Melvin A. Dodd, Class of 1976
- Olive (Priestly) Irwin, Class of 1938
- Sarah C. (Zahnd) Moyer, Class of 1952
- Bradley R. Wendt, Class of 1970
- Kathleen A. Worthington, Class of 1965

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



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Don't forget! You can make a donation to Peirce while you shop online! Visit smile.amazon.com, select Peirce College as your charity of choice, and a percentage of your Amazon purchase will be donated to Peirce.

Know someone who would make a great Peirce student? Refer them to the College and you could receive a free Peirce gift, if they enroll!



PEIRCE

PERSPECTIVES

*The alumni newsletter
from Peirce College*



YOU'RE INVITED!

Spring Reception & Alumni Awards

May 14, 2018

Peirce College, Room 51

Registration: 5:30 p.m.

Program and Awards Ceremony: 6 p.m.

Each year, Peirce formally acknowledges alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in their service to the College. We also recognize an individual who has attained success in their profession coupled with civic, cultural or charitable activities. This year, we will honor these two notable Peirce community members with the Distinguished Alumni Award and the Distinguished Service Award, at our Annual Spring Alumni Reception. Join us for an evening of fellowship, networking, and celebration.

Tickets are available for \$25 at peirce.edu/AlumniAwards2018.