

celebrating OUR *Alumni* community

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PCAA mission statement

The purpose of the Pillar College Alumni Association is to gather a community of transformational leaders and graduates of Pillar College who provide financial support, volunteerism, and ambassadorship ensuring the continued growth of the mission.

MESSAGE

from PRESIDENT
DAVID E. SCHROEDER



Dear Pillar College Alumni,

In a couple of weeks, a very strange 2020 will end. It was supposed to be a year of 20-20 vision, but we were all blind-sided by the Corona pandemic virus. Since mid-March, everyone globally has been trying to navigate uncharted waters. It seems like the government has been the blind leading the blind.

By God's grace, my colleagues at Pillar College have been resilient, diligent, determined, and focused in assuring that Pillar College would come through this season "not somehow, but triumphantly." As a college, we are stronger spiritually, academically, and financially than we were in mid-March when we had to abruptly alter our game-plan.

On December 3, I was able to report to the Executive Committee of our Board of Trustees that we have successfully migrated to an online learning platform, that we have new or renovated facilities in Paterson, Plainfield and Newark, that we have signed a lease for an instructional site in Jersey City, and that we anticipate ending the year strong. To God be the glory!

All this is part of Pillar College's new vision, "Windmills of Change." While the windmills of change are blessing the college, other winds continue to blow briskly around the world. We can barely remember what the old normal was like, and, yet, many fear what the new normal might be. Usually, the spirit of most people lifts as we head into the holidays, but this year the prospect of accelerated Corona cases seems to be dampening the joy of many. We watch local and global statistics of new cases and deaths and submit to a victim mentality, wondering will I or my loved ones get it?

For others, the looming transition in government is an omen of judgment on the nation, and they expect the worst. Have we forgotten this part of the Christmas message?

*The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined. ...
... For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - Isaiah 9:2, 6*

Or this:

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" -

Luke 2:10-14

My wish for you this Christmas is: Don't let either the pandemic or government transition be the Grinch that steals your Christmas joy. Instead, focus on the "great light," the Child who was born, and the government that is on His shoulder. Focus on the *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.*

Sincerely,

Dr. David E. Schroeder

PILLAR COLLEGE IN THE NEWS

Pillar College will host a Virtual Benefit Concert.

We would love for our Alumni to join together with our students, faculty, and staff to sing praise to our Lord. This event is scheduled for the Spring:
Thursday, March 25, 2021, from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm via ZOOM.

Admission is only \$20, however additional donations are gladly accepted, as proceeds will benefit the Pillar College Student Fund.

To purchase tickets, please go to:

<https://pillarcollegevirtualconcert.eventbrite.com>

Open to Alumni Only (OTAO) Fireside Chats! Coming SOON!

We are excited to announce "**Alumni Chats**"! **Fireside chats - coming in January 2021.** Are you feeling lost, confused, stuck, and frustrated about your life? Do you know you SHOULD be doing something, but you don't know what to do? How great would it feel if 2021 was the year you finally got the freedom, joy, and happiness you really want? If you want to make that happen, the single most important step you can take right now is to learn what it REALLY takes to live a life of freedom and happiness.

Stay tuned for more information on our upcoming chats. You'll be able to register and claim your FREE space SOON!

United in Praise, Shelly L. Bel

Alumni SPOTLIGHT

Crystal White - Class of 2012



Crystal "Renee" White, graduated from Pillar College in 2012 with a BA in Biblical Studies. She chooses Pillar College during a dark time in her life. She was moving aimlessly in a direction in which she thought God called her. She needed to identify who she was and what was her God-given purpose. And so, her time spent at Pillar College helped her to identify who she was in God, revived her relationship with God and intentionally follow the will of God. When she graduated she was prepared and

equipped to lead in ministry, serve in the community, and to handle the Biblical text appropriately. After graduating from Pillar College, Crystal matriculated through New Brunswick Theological Seminary with her Master of Divinity and Princeton Theological Seminary with her Master of Theology, as well as receiving four units in Pastoral Education from JFK Hospital in Edison. She now serves as an Ordained Associate Minister at the New Hope Baptist Church in Metuchen, NJ. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, as a team member with Power of Gospel, she traveled monthly to Edna Mahan Correctional Facility for Women in Clinton, NJ, to minister preaching and teaching.



Crystal shared her best college memory, as the relationships that were established at Pillar with students and Professors. She made mention of Professor JoAnne Noel and Professor Keith Brewer, as influencing her the most, and described Pillar in three words: Light, Lead, & Life.

Rev. White has had the opportunity to travel to India for a Preaching Class and was appointed to preach to an Indian congregation. Currently, she serves as the team leader for the Outreach Ministry and Co-Leader of the Images of Sisterhood at New Hope Baptist Church in Metuchen, NJ.

CONTRIBUTOR'S SECTION



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How to navigate the holiday

It would be an understatement to say that 2020 is a dark year and predictions by our scientific community and State legislators are even more ominous. During this holiday season, many will be affected by what is commonly called the Holiday Blues or Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) and non-seasonal depression that is

exacerbated by psycho-socio-economic stressors. However, for many others, the holiday season has traditionally brought feelings of joy and goodwill; and the anticipation of the New Year filled with new beginnings offered a buffer against whatever challenges we faced in the current year. But with the advent of COVID-19 and its deleterious effects, many are becoming more and more despondent, with feelings of hopelessness and helplessness. This current environment is especially egregious as we are left without the social connections and support of families and loved ones who themselves are struggling to cope during these times. The first sign of healing is the desire to change the way you are feeling: that desire to feel better and get back to some level of normalcy is the first step towards mental health and wellness, and offers hope. The words of Tony Kirwan rings true; “we only have two choices: Do nothing or do something. I wish to challenge us with the assurance that either choice should work towards your good.

There comes a time when doing nothing is good. It may be the time of sitting still after exhaustion or planning the time to be alone from busyness or distress. I long for these times: times I call my “me time” or “my alone time” where I sit still and define my “doing nothing” as my period of inactivity. The purpose of the “DO NOTHING” period is to recharge and renew your thoughts, your energy and your resolve. What are ways to use your “me” time? Like me, you may choose to sit still and meditate while listening to the quietness, or the natural sounds around, the sound of your favorite music, or the sound of your breathing. Decide what works best for you. The idea is to find some time when you become the priority and self-care is included on your list of things that must be done. Learn to enjoy your own company and revel in a luxury spa bath and some other activity that targets body, soul and spirit. Examples of such activities include journaling, counting your blessings and start a grateful log, plan some activities that you may undertake when things return to some normalcy, and plan some activities for yourself and the family. This may be something as simple as a virtual tour of holiday getaways or a family drive-around to enjoy the Christmas and other festive decorations on display within your community.

Let this season cause us to reflect on the love we share for each other and let us emerge from this pandemic with the resolve to love, encourage, validate and respect each other.

Finally, as we draw closer to the holiday, let us be reminded of the reason for the holiday season. The profound message is that God sent his Only Begotten Son to earth so that we can be reconciled to our Heavenly Father. We are living in the period of understanding that there is a time to every purpose under the sun (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8). Meditate on his promise to always be with us and have confidence that things will get better. After all, you have endured many tests in the past and you prevailed.



Library Services

At the Pillar Library, alumni may borrow books, CD's, DVDs, and other materials, use reference and make use of public access computers and wireless access.

**Vinell Spied, Associate Dean
of Information Resources**
Phone: 973-803-5000 ext. 1140
Email: vspied@pillar.edu

Career Services

Alumni are afforded access to job listings, resume and interview assistance, and related job search support.

Ingrid I. Ortiz | Career Services
Phone: 973-803-5000 ext. 1029
Email: IOrtiz@pillar.edu



GET INVOLVED

Pillar College Alumni Association Application Support:

<https://pillar.edu/alumni>

Pillar College Covid-19 Student Relief Fund Visit the Pillar College:

<https://pillar.edu/giving>

Alumni Association

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Benefits of Becoming part of the PC Alumni Association

Pillar College Car Decal and Alumni Chord • PC Tumbler • PC Alumni Grant of \$500 to offer a friend or family member • PC, Alumni Grant of \$1200, when you join a Graduate program • A free course to use as professional development

