

For immediate release
May 3, 2010

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Peace Students Explore Career Opportunities

During Queen of Peace's annual Career Day on April 14, over 60 professionals, including 30 Peace alumnae, ranging from engineers, to professors, to marketing executives, to healthcare workers shared their time, educational backgrounds and expertise with Peace students. In addition to perusing the tables and asking representatives questions at the Career Fair, Peace students also enjoyed career panel discussions on fine arts, education, health, law, business, the sciences and community service.

Throughout the panel discussions, the presenters spoke to the importance of education and pursuing the career of each student's choice. An overarching focus of the day centered on students seeking out their passions and building their skill sets by collaborating with others.

During a discussion panel presentation on fine arts, Kristen Amato, class of '93, discussed how shortly after receiving a degree in Chemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she realized that she wanted to pursue her love of making jewelry.

"I stumbled upon making jewelry for myself, had no connections and things just started to grow," Amato said. "I built a website, started working with some store owners and now work with over 200 stores, including Macy's, in seven countries."

Amato currently works with celebrities such as Eva Longoria and her designs have been featured in People Magazine and US Weekly. Her company, K.Amato, is based in Lincoln Park.

Alumna Cassie Wolgamott '01, a theater/stage manager, spoke about the importance of having academic interests, as well as interests in extra-curricular clubs and activities.

“I was very lucky to know what I wanted to do,” said Wolgamott, who is currently working as a backstage manager for Million Dollar Quartet at the Apollo Theater after graduating from Illinois State University with a degree in Theatre Stage Management. “The best advice I can offer is to do as much as you can while you are at Peace.”

In a community service panel, April Wiencek ‘94, a supervisor of recreation for the Chicago Park District and a catering business entrepreneur discussed the importance of being flexible in today’s job market.

“It’s not uncommon to have five or six different career paths that tie into the same area,” Wiencek told Peace students. “Even at your age, it’s important to go out there and know how to volunteer and how to give back. These are the people who have an edge on jobs because they have the connections and met people they might not have otherwise come across.”

Photo caption:



Peace juniors (left to right) Amanda Haynes, Vanessa Almaguer, Ella Zuniga and Marie Bongiorno visit with Peace alum Colleen Klus ‘03, a returned Peace Corps volunteer and teacher who lived in Namibia, Africa for two years, at Peace’s annual Career Fair on April 14.

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