

# THE POINT



THE CLUB  
AT  
STAGE



## Announcing the ROWLAND SCHOOL OF BUSINESS at Point Park University





Dear alumni and friends,

Another spring commencement season is behind us, and summer is on the horizon. It's the time of year when we spend time reflecting on past accomplishments, and look forward with anticipation toward the future.

As always, we have a number of initiatives in the works that we are excited to share with you – now and in the months to come. For example, this spring we were very happy to announce the naming of the Rowland

School of Business at Point Park University. The Rowland School honors the family of the late George and Kathleen White, the University's largest benefactors to date, who were among Point Park's most devoted friends and neighbors.

The Whites' friendship and advocacy continues to guide and inspire Point Park. They believed that the University's academic excellence, and close proximity to the many corporations, sports franchises and cultural organizations in the Downtown neighborhood and surrounding region, makes the University well-positioned to lead business education in Pittsburgh. With many exciting initiatives now underway in the Rowland School of Business, including a new co-op program, we are committed to building and expanding on that vision.

We also marked a number of milestones in the past year, including the 50th anniversary of Point Park's independently run student newspaper, The Globe. Last March, the University welcomed alumni and former student journalists from the past five decades back to campus for a celebration. We're proud that the tradition of excellence continues in new initiatives such as the Center for Media Innovation, which has just completed its first year as an incubator and state-of-the-art

studio space that enables students and faculty to collaborate with media professionals. In another very important milestone, at commencement, we celebrated with the first class of doctoral students to receive a Ph.D. from Point Park.

And, of course, we continue to watch, with great anticipation, the development of one of the University's most ambitious and innovative projects: the new Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park. This creative crossroads will offer many cultural and interdisciplinary opportunities for students and faculty across the entire University, as well as our Downtown neighbors and arts patrons. We'll continue to share our Playhouse progress.

On your next visit to Downtown Pittsburgh, please stop by and say hello. We would love to show you what's happening on our dynamic, urban campus.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan  
President



**ON THE COVER:**  
A mosaic of faculty, alumni and students in the newly named Rowland School of Business at Point Park University.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**2** News and Views

**8** Open Seating

A look at construction of the main stage theater in the new Pittsburgh Playhouse, which continues to take shape in Downtown Pittsburgh.

**10** Announcing the Rowland School of Business

The newly named Rowland School of Business honors the family of the late George and Kathleen White, the University's largest benefactors to date.

**14** All Business

A conversation with Steve Tanzilli, J.D., dean of the Rowland School of Business at Point Park University.

**18** Star Explorer

Professor Brendan Mullan, Ph.D., a National Geographic Emerging Explorer, shares the excitement of astrophysics and more with students.

**20** Around The Globe

Alumni and students gather on campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Point Park's independently run student newspaper.

**24** Alumni Connection

**25** Class Notes

**30** Home Court Advantage

Scholar-athlete Ja'Nia McPhatter, a leader in women's basketball and in the classroom, is aiming for medical school after her graduation.

### TALK TO US!

The Point wants to hear from you. Send your comments and suggestions to:

Managing Editor  
Marketing and Communications  
Point Park University  
201 Wood Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Phone: 412-392-6108 Fax: 412-392-6185  
Email: [thepoint@pointpark.edu](mailto:thepoint@pointpark.edu)

President  
Paul Hennigan, Ed.D.

Vice President of  
External Affairs  
Mariann Geyer

Managing Editor  
Cheryl Valyo

Managing Director,  
Communications and  
Client Services

Nancy Commella

Managing Director,  
University Marketing and  
Public Relations

Lou Corsaro

Graphic Designer  
Judy Sporka

Manager of Printing  
Services

Don Pastorius

Director of Online  
Communications  
Keith Kuzmovich

Web Services Manager  
Stephen Shanahan

Writers  
Amanda Dabbs

Linda Fletcher

Gina Puppo

Kevin Taylor

Barbara Vilanova

Photographers

John Altdorfer

Dean Beattie

Glenn Cook

Gracey Evans

Sam Reynolds

Martha Rial

Sam Robinson

Christopher Rolinson

The Point is published by the Department of Marketing and Communications, Point Park University, 201 Wood Street Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of published information. Please visit our web site at [www.pointpark.edu](http://www.pointpark.edu) for current information regarding University programs, departments, alumni activities and events.

#### Nondiscrimination, Equal Opportunity and Diversity Initiatives

This policy affirms Point Park University's commitment to nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and the pursuit of diversity. Point Park University does not discriminate on the basis of: sex, race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, age (40 years and over), ancestry, individuals with disabilities, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, height, weight, genetic information, marital status, caregiver status or familial status, in the administration of any of its educational programs, activities or with respect to employment or admission to the University's educational programs and activities.

This policy is in accord with local, state and federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Pittsburgh Human Relations Act. Inquiries regarding these regulations and policies, or complaints of discrimination, should be referred to the vice president of human resources, phone number 412-392-3952. Inquiries regarding Title IX and the Title IX regulations should also be referred to the Title IX coordinator or to the deputy Title IX coordinators: the associate provost, the vice president of human resources or the vice president of student affairs.

## COMMENCEMENT 2017

### Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, Pittsburgh police chief deliver addresses at Point Park graduation ceremonies

**Martha Rial**, winner of a Pulitzer Prize for her photographs documenting the lives of Burundian and Rwandan survivors of genocide, was the featured Commencement speaker at Point Park's main commencement ceremony at PPG Paints Arena on April 29. Rial also received an honorary degree. **Scott E. Schubert**, a Point Park graduate who is chief of the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, delivered the keynote address at the 2017 Hooding and Degree Conferral on the same day. The Honorable **Tom Corbett** and **Susan Corbett**, former first lady of the Commonwealth, received honorary doctorate degrees at the Hooding ceremony.

Schubert is a 24-year veteran of the Pittsburgh Police. He earned a bachelor's degree in Law Enforcement and master's degree in Criminal Justice at Point Park, where he serves as a part-time professor. "We take great pride in developing the Pittsburgh region's future leaders," said Paul Hennigan, president of Point Park. "There is no better example than Scott, who started as a patrolman and has spent more than two decades steadily rising to the top."

Tom Corbett has spent much of his adult life serving the state of Pennsylvania, beginning with 13 years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. He served as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania and as the state's Attorney General before being elected governor in 2010.

Susan Corbett has been a supporter of the arts and the nonprofit community for nearly three decades. She has served numerous organizations, including the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Library and the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts. She is currently on the Board of Directors for the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

288 students received graduate degrees from across 14 master's programs offered at the University. In addition, 17 students received Doctor of Education degrees in Leadership and Administration. **Darlene Marnich**, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Education, served as Grand Marshal for the Hooding ceremonies.

### Dedication and perseverance

Martha Rial, who delivered the main commencement address to the bachelor's degree recipients, won the 1998 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography while at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. In 1996, the newspaper sent her to Burundi and Rwanda, where civil war left nearly one million people dead over three years. Her work has earned the Scripps Howard Foundation Award for Photojournalism, a National Headliner Award and the Distinguished Visual Award from the Pennsylvania Associated Press Managing Editors. She also was named Pennsylvania News Photographer of the Year.

"Throughout her career, Martha has had the dedication and perseverance to go wherever the best stories took her, whether it was the mountains of Haiti or African villages devastated

by genocide," President Hennigan said. "Hearing from someone like Martha, who has been relentless in her pursuit of excellence, is the best way to send our graduates off into the real world." Rial's recent endeavors include the Marcellus Shale Documentary Project, a traveling exhibition of photographs chronicling the impact of shale gas drilling in Pennsylvania, and "In Uganda, A School to Call Home," a solo exhibit at Gallery 937 featuring the empowerment of children in Uganda.

### Celebration of student success

683 students received bachelor's degrees in: (School of Arts and Sciences) Criminal Justice/Intelligence, Education, Humanities, English and Natural Sciences; (School of Business) Accounting, Business/Business Management, Economics, Human Resources, Information Technology, Organizational Leadership, Public Administration, and Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management; (School of Communication) Broadcast Production, Broadcasting, Journalism/Mass Communication, Multimedia, Photography, and PR and Advertising; and (Conservatory of Performing Arts) Animation, Cinema, Screenwriting, Dance, and Theatre Arts/Production.

**Helen Fallon**, professor of Journalism and director of the University Honors Program, served as the Grand Marshal for Commencement.



**Professional Advancement**

**Rosemary Martinelli**, a part-time professor in the School of Communication, recently authored the chapter "The Final Page of the Small Business Plan: Five Tools to Make Goodwill a Good Strategy," in *Recalculating: 97 Experts on Driving Small Business Growth*. Martinelli says: "It is all about how small businesses can be engaged in the community. In addition to my broadcast and communication background, I spent many years as the director of strategic corporate philanthropy and community engagement programs."

**Kristin DeLuca** has joined the Office of Development and Alumni Relations as director of development and institutional partnerships. With more than 14 years of experience in the political, nonprofit and higher education sectors, DeLuca is dedicated to sharing student narratives and

connecting donors with high impact giving opportunities. A graduate of Chatham University (B.A., political science) and the University of Pittsburgh (M.Ed. in higher education management), she is working to complete a Ph.D. in social and comparative analysis in education.

**Jeffrey Besong**, assistant vice president of public safety and chief of police, has been named as a finalist for Campus Safety Director of the Year. According to Campus Safety magazine, Besong's notable achievements include: leadership of the creation of Point Park's Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Confront and Evacuate (ALICE) training institute; supervision of the upgrade of a University-wide security camera system; and the establishment of SafeZone, which provides training to faculty, staff and students on becoming allies of the LGBTQ community.

**Susan Stowe**, professor of dance, served as a judge for the Classical Ballet Competition conducted by the National Society of Arts and Letters, Pittsburgh Chapter, hosted by Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre last March. Twelve dancers between the ages of 16 and 21 performed classical ballet variations, which were adjudicated for artistry, style, technical skill, and musicality. The first place chapter finalist will compete in the National Competition for a First Prize award of \$12,000. Stowe was joined by fellow judges Nola Nolen, assistant professor of dance, Slippery Rock University; Rene Polanco, Dance Department coordinator, CAPA High School; and Lindsay LaFrankie, director, Ballet Academy of Pittsburgh.

**Tatyana Dumova**, Ph.D., professor of multimedia in the School of Communication, has been accepted to join the

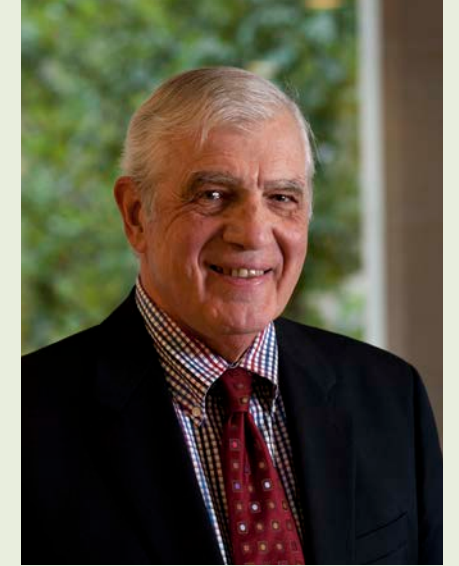
Fulbright Specialist roster for a three-year tenure. Fulbright Specialists conduct seminars at higher education institutions and serve as expert consultants on issues such as curriculum development, assessment, faculty training and instruction in more than 150 countries. Dumova also served as an international grant review expert for the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) on issues of quality and integrity in scientific research.

**Brent Dean Robbins**, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology and chair of the Department of Humanities and Human Sciences, served as co-author and guest editor of the March 2017 special issue of the Journal of Humanistic Psychology, which focused on alternatives to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) approach to psychiatric diagnosis. For the past six years, Robbins has taken a leading role in the organization of public commentary on criticisms of the DSM-5 through his work with the Society of Humanistic Psychology.

**Angela Isaac**, Ph.D., professor of economics and finance, and **Nelson Chipman**, M.F.A., executive director of Point Park Online, have created a course called The Money Thing, which educates and encourages students to make smart financial decisions during and after college. The course, which fulfills the "Succeed in Business" requirement in the University's core curriculum, is offered both on campus and online. Isaac teaches the business management course, along with School of Business Instructors **Joseph DeFazio**, CRPC, Ph.D., associate financial planner for Pittsburgh Financial Planners, and **David Diehl**, M.B.A., vice president and corporate and institutional banking risk manager for PNC.

**M.Ed. in Athletic Coaching**

In today's competitive world of amateur sports, coaches play an integral role in the development of student athletes, starting as young as elementary school and often spanning all the way to college. However, as most coaches know, not all student athletes will play in high school or college, and just a small fraction ever become professional. Being a good coach to all students, at all levels, is a critical skill that is now the focus of a unique, fully online master's degree program at Point Park set to launch in the fall of 2017. "Coaching, both good and bad, can make headlines," says **Darlene Marnich**, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Education. "A lot is expected but very little has been offered in the way of educating and training men and women who want to be coaches." There is, according to Marnich, an "art and science" behind coaching and that approach is what informs the new Master of Education in athletic coaching, which emphasizes teaching, mentoring and skill building. The Master of Education in athletic coaching program is framed by the National Standards for Sports Coaches, established by the Society of Health and Physical Educators. It includes how to effectively communicate to stakeholders, safety and emergency response, ethical decision-making, administering a coaching program, and practical applications in the development of athletes' skills. The program's fully online format offers flexibility for working professionals. For Pennsylvania teachers, the graduate program will fulfill the 24 post-baccalaureate credits needed for an Instructional II certificate. Graduates will be prepared for coaching opportunities in such settings as K-12 public or private schools, colleges and universities, travel or club teams and professional sports teams. Learn more: [PointPark.edu/athleticcoaching](http://PointPark.edu/athleticcoaching).



**Fond Farewell**

**John Kudlac**, Ph.D., one of the University's longest serving faculty members, retired at the end of the spring semester after 52 years of service to Point Park. During Kudlac's tenure, he served as associate dean for advising services, executive officer for enrollment management, associate director of admissions, chair of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology department, professor of earth sciences and engineering technology, and graduate program director of the MSEM and MSES programs. Under his leadership as chair of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology, the department received its first ABET Accreditation for the Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Technology programs in 1986. The University held a retirement celebration for Kudlac on campus last April.

**Grant Illuminates Playhouse**

Duquesne Light Company and DQE Communications are showing support for the cultural and educational enhancement of Downtown Pittsburgh with a \$50,000 gift toward the construction of Point Park's new Pittsburgh Playhouse. The money will go to the exterior illumination of the public space in the project, which will highlight the walkways and showcase three historic facades that are being meticulously restored and reas-

Point Park University is **STRONGER BECAUSE OF YOU.**

Whether you volunteer your time or make a financial gift, you are making an impact on students' lives.

You can also help to secure your future at the same time by making a planned gift.

**Benefits of a Planned Gift:**

- Increase the impact of your giving
- Receive greater tax savings
- Preserve wealth for you and your family
- Continue helping students for years to come

**QUESTIONS?**  
Kristin DeLuca  
Director of Development and Institutional Partnerships  
412-392-4777 | [kdeluca@pointpark.edu](mailto:kdeluca@pointpark.edu)

Learn more: [PlannedGiving.PointPark.edu](http://PlannedGiving.PointPark.edu)

**POINT PARK UNIVERSITY**



## Creative Nonfiction Conference

Creative nonfiction — and the art, craft and business behind it — is the subject of the 2017 Creative Nonfiction Writers' Conference, May 26-27, at Point Park's Center for Media Innovation. Authors, agents, book publishers and editors from renowned magazines including Esquire, Harper's, New Yorker, Paris Review, Creative Nonfiction and The New York Times Magazine are among the presenters. The annual conference, a collaboration this year with Point Park's Department of Literary Arts and Center for Media Innovation, is led by The Creative Nonfiction Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in Pittsburgh by American writer and literary innovator **Lee Gutkind**. Gutkind has been recognized by Vanity Fair as "the Godfather behind creative nonfiction." This conference provides opportunities for writers of all levels to meet individually with literary agents, get advice from publishing professionals, hear what different kinds of editors are looking for and learn to hone their skills in inspiring small group sessions. Conference attendees can also network with writers from across the country who are passionate about the writing process. "We are fortunate to have this conference on our campus. Creative nonfiction is a vast subject, and it has its tentacles firmly established in Point Park's literary arts, journalism and cinema departments, as well as other areas. This conference helps bring these fields all together," said **Chris Girman**, Ph.D., J.D., assistant professor in the Department of Literary Arts. For more information, visit: <http://bit.ly/2pIKKw9>, and follow #cnfwc17 on social media.

sembled in their original form. "We are honored to add Duquesne Light Company and DQE Communications to the list of partners who have shown tremendous support for this project," said President **Paul Hennigan**. "Duquesne Light has a long, storied history of serving people in the Pittsburgh region through charitable

donations and support for dozens of organizations and educational institutions." Duquesne Light's gift is part of \$42 million in gifts and pledges the Playhouse project has received to date, the largest and most successful capital campaign in Point Park's history. The University previously announced a \$74 million cam-

paign for the project. "With partners like Duquesne Light and DQE Communications, we have made tremendous progress, but our work is not done," Hennigan said. "We welcome others in the community to be a part of a project that will become the heartbeat of Downtown Pittsburgh."

## Combatting Sexual Violence

More than 60 college students throughout the Pittsburgh region attended the 2017 Student Summit "Looking Forward — Combatting Sexual Violence On Campus" hosted at Point Park on March 25. Point Park M.A. in clinical-community psychology graduate students **Chelsea Chase** and **Kylie Lichtenstein** organized the event in collaboration with Pittsburgh Action Against Rape. "A summit with multiple universities seemed like the best way to not only provide education on this important topic, but also to create a place to gain tools to be agents of change," explained Chase, who is from Lake Shore High School in Angola, N.Y. Chase interns for PAAR and will begin Point Park's Psy.D. in clinical-community psychology program this fall. Featured speakers at the all-day summit included students and administrators from Point Park, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh, Robert Morris University and Seton Hill University. They addressed topics ranging from social change and consent in sexual relationships to bystander interventions and how men can be allies to women in the fight against sexual violence. Additionally, a local artist presented her advocacy organization,

Looking for a  
flexible, convenient  
online program?  
[Online.PointPark.edu](http://Online.PointPark.edu)

Stamped, and their film, "Every Two Minutes." Assistant Professor and Director of the M.A. in Clinical-Community Psychology program **Sarah Schulz**, Ph.D., LSW, discussed street harassment issues on college campuses, using the results from the University's latest campus climate survey. "Sexual violence on college campuses is a problem facing all college students. The great thing about this summit was that it brought together students and administrators from a number of universities to speak about the unique issues facing their campuses," Schulz said.



## At the Inauguration

School of Communication majors representing The Globe, U-View and WPPJ reported on the inauguration of President Donald J. Trump on Jan. 20 in Washington, D.C. The aspiring journalists who covered the ceremonies in the nation's capital included **Vincent Ferrainola, Josh Croup, Julianne Griffith, Chloe Jakiela, Robert Bertha, Emily Bennett, Sam Morrison, Alexander Popichak, Blaine King, Casey Hoolahan, Gracey Evans and Alexander Grubbs**. "We were rubbing elbows with reporters from around the world. We were right there with the professionals reporting for our



## Behind the Scenes with the Cavs

Alumnus **Fred McLeod** (COM 1974) — play-by-play announcer for the Cleveland Cavaliers — invited Point Park students to Quicken Loans Arena for a behind-the-scenes tour before the Feb. 15 game against the Indiana Pacers. **Mark Mazzagatti**, group event specialist for the Cavaliers, gave 12 students in Point Park's Pittsburgh Center for Sports Media and Marketing a firsthand look at in-game entertainment production equipment, the Cavaliers' front office and private suites, as well as introduced them to staff members preparing for the game. "It was such a cool experience to see how a control room operates for a basketball game," said **Blaine King**, a senior broadcast reporting major. "We've seen how a control room operates in a hockey format, so it was cool to see how they compare." After the tour, the students met one-on-one with McLeod. "Even though it's a lot of work, I immerse myself in the work," said McLeod. "It's fun and I never have a bad day at work. No one's going to outwork me." Before he left, McLeod had one request for the group. "Can you root for Cleveland just once?" asked McLeod. "Just for one night, be a Cavaliers fan."

audience in Pittsburgh and I felt like I belonged there as a journalist. The overall atmosphere and energy surrounding the day was incomparable and I will never forget this experience," said Croup, a junior broadcast reporting major. "Overall, my experience in D.C. was an unforgettable and exponentially helpful journey into the world of journalism. My classes at Point Park have helped me hone my

interviewing and recording skills which were put to the test at the inauguration. I want to thank Point Park for making this trip a reality for students," said Ferrainola, a senior broadcast production and media management major. Pictured is Morrison, a reporter with WPPJ, taking a photo of Trump supporters as they entered the National Mall. Photo by Gracey Evans.

## OPEN SEATING

Point Park University's new Pittsburgh Playhouse continues to take shape on a 1.6 acre parcel in Downtown Pittsburgh. Here's a view inside the main stage theater, situated along Forbes Avenue across from the Tower at PNC Plaza. The new Playhouse will be a 24/7 operation, with three different academic theatre spaces, a large scene shop, sound stage, prop shop, costume shop and café. The community will be able to watch artistic productions in the making, from large windows on Forbes and Fourth Avenues and from windows and stage doors inside. Photo by Christopher Rolinson.



# THE ROWLAND SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AT POINT PARK UNIVERSITY



## The newly named Rowland School of Business honors the family of the late George and Kathleen White, the University's largest benefactors to date

Point Park has announced the naming of its School of Business to the Rowland School of Business, honoring the family of the late George and Kathleen White, the University's largest benefactors to date.

The formal announcement was made on campus on April 18, with academic leaders, administrators, faculty, students, and corporate and community partners in attendance.

The naming of the Rowland School of Business at Point Park University culminates the Whites' legacy of support and giving, which was established in 2014 with a more than \$15 million bequest and the single largest gift in the University's history.

"George and Kathleen's dedication and advocacy for Point Park University continues to be an inspiration to all," said Paul Hennigan, Ed.D., president.

"Their generous gift — the \$5 million endowment to the Rowland School of Business — will help support our continuing efforts to provide innovative, experiential learning opportunities for our business students. Indeed, we anticipate that the Rowland School of Business will be a national leader in business education," Hennigan added.

### Rowland White, a role model for his family

George White's grandfather Rowland grew up in the late 1800s and became the owner of a small hardware store in Berea, Ohio. Although George never knew his grandfather,

Rowland was recognized in the family as a role model for hard work, perseverance and business know-how.

His grandfather's legacy had a lasting impact on George, as he grew up to become a scientist, businessman and urban visionary. He earned several degrees, including a doctorate, and spent most of his career in industrial engineering.

After two decades with Xerox Corp. in product development and engineering, he transitioned to a career in higher education, with Harvard University and then the University of Pittsburgh Applied Research Center.

The latter position brought him and his wife Kathleen, a math and science graduate of Purdue University and a talented investor, to Pittsburgh.

"They loved the city's warm and friendly people and quickly adopted Downtown Pittsburgh as their home," said Carol White Shogren, George White's older sister. Both George and Kathleen served as Trustees of the University.

### New vision, new energy

The importance the Whites placed on a business education continues to be a driving force at the Rowland School of Business said its newly appointed dean, Stephen Tanzilli, J.D. "The Whites believed we were well-positioned to be leading business educators by leveraging our proximity to corporations, nonprofits and sports franchises, many of which are located in



Kathleen and George White. Photo by Tom Bell.



*“The Whites’ advocacy for business, finance and accounting education is a foundation we take very seriously and continue to build on today.”*

— Dean Stephen Tanzilli, J.D.



Downtown Pittsburgh,” Tanzilli said. “The Whites’ advocacy for business, finance and accounting education is a foundation we take very seriously and continue to build on today.”

In his role as dean of the Rowland School of Business, Tanzilli will have broad oversight of all academic programs, including informational technology, management and accounting as well as the sports, arts and entertainment management program which includes such innovative learning efforts as a dedicated classroom at Stage AE on Pittsburgh’s North Shore and the Pioneer Records label.

Along with these programs, the Rowland School of Business will continue to leverage the Whites’ advocacy for accounting, particularly with regard to expanding diversity in the field. In

2011, a \$1 million bequest by the White family established the George Rowland White Endowed Professor of Accounting and Finance and the Urban Accounting Initiative.

Both were catalysts for the University’s annual hosting of an Accounting Career Awareness Program each summer, in conjunction with the National Association of Black Accountants, where minority high school students attend classes on careers in accounting and business, personal development and college preparation as well as meet and learn from mentors in those fields.

### Innovative and experiential learning

One of the signature programs of the Rowland School of Business will be expanding its cooperative education effort. The

cooperative education, or co-op, program emphasizes innovative and experiential learning that enables students to gain real-world, full-time, paid work experience while at the same time earning college credit.

“Our co-op program gives students a unique opportunity to dive into a real-world work environment and at the same time earn credit toward their degree,” Tanzilli said. The University is working with some 40 corporate partners to date and plans to expand the co-op program are well underway. Tanzilli added: “Reaction to the opportunities the program offers has been overwhelmingly positive.”

Business student Amber Mole, a junior who is participating in the new co-op program by working at the international accounting

firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, welcomed the attendees at the announcement event on April 18. “At Point Park, I have strived to build my professional [expertise] by utilizing my time in the classroom and through career development, and by serving in student leadership positions,” said Mole.

“Taking advantage of these resources early in my college career has opened the door for networking, internship and scholarship opportunities,” including the co-op at PricewaterhouseCoopers, she added. “I am excited for the co-op opportunity, and excited for the Rowland School of Business.

“I am proud to be a Point Park Pioneer.” ❖



# All Business

Stephen Tanzilli, J.D. leads academic innovation as dean of the Rowland School of Business

In his role as dean of the Rowland School of Business, Stephen Tanzilli, J.D. has broad oversight of all academic programs, including information technology, management and accounting as well as the Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management (SAEM) program, which includes such innovative learning efforts as a dedicated classroom at Stage AE on Pittsburgh's North Shore and Pioneer Records. Specializing in sports management, Tanzilli is the co-founder of the SAEM program, in which he served as a professor and chair. He also ran his own sports talent agency, Sports Legends Group, a full-service marketing, finance and law firm for professional athletes. He has worked with players from the Pittsburgh Steelers and other high profile clients. His background includes 12 years of experience with 141 Worldwide Sports and Entertainment, where he worked closely with clients such as Coca-Cola, 84 Lumber, Sunoco, TOPPS, ESPN, and Kraft Foods. Tanzilli has also worked with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Johnston Steel Baseball Club, International Sports Marketing and Communicator Sports Marketing. The Point talked with him about the Rowland School of Business:

## ***What is the vision for the Rowland School of Business?***

**ST:** Our vision is to connect our students with the marketplace, and connect the marketplace with our students. We work very hard to provide quality opportunities for our students, in the classroom, and through internships and our new cooperative education (co-op) program. We want to engage the Pittsburgh marketplace – to have industry professionals come into our classrooms, interact with students, and at the end of the day, provide students with the practical skills they need to be employable. We want our school to be seen as the innovative place for business. That is, anything that is new and emerging in the world of business [can be found at]

the Rowland School, which is in the heart of the city. We are Pittsburgh's Downtown business school.

## ***Tell us more about opportunities for students to gain practical experience.***

**ST:** Practical experience is so important. We know that students who have internships, and gain work experience while in college, have an exponentially greater chance of securing employment upon graduation. I want to leverage our Downtown Pittsburgh location, to go out and build bridges between the corporate community and our students, so that the curriculum that we provide is offering the up-to-date learning that students need.

## ***What is the new cooperative education program all about?***

**ST:** We are the first in the region to have a cooperative (co-op) program that touches all disciplines in the Rowland School of Business. We have had a very robust internship program for a number of years. When we went out and talked with business professionals, they said, 'We love Point Park business students, but one of the challenges with an internship is the fact that it's an inconsistent schedule. Is there a way that we can have students work for our company on a much more consistent basis, to provide more substance?' So, we decided that now is the time to establish a co-op program. In the co-op program, a student works full-time, during which they are paid a reasonable wage, and they receive six academic credits for their work. It is crucial, for a student's employability, that they be able to put on their resume that they have worked in business [while a student]. So, it's a mutually beneficial program for students and for the Pittsburgh business community.

## ***What are the benefits to businesses?***

**ST:** Well, we have a terrific group of students, very eager and willing to work hard for companies. We also have incredible faculty who are working in [business] and bringing those skills into our classrooms. Another major factor is the adaptability of our curriculum, which is continually assessed. I look forward to getting out into the marketplace and sharing with [professionals] what our curriculum offers, and in turn making sure that what we are teaching is what is actually needed in the workplace. I tell students, 'your curriculum when you walk in the door freshman year may not be exactly the same when you graduate.' And that's a good thing, because we are always assessing the curriculum, with our students and alumni, and we are constantly engaging with the business community to make sure what we are teaching in the classroom provides the skills that students need when they graduate.

## ***Describe the faculty and staff of the Rowland School of Business.***

**ST:** I've been affiliated with Point Park for more than 13 years, and one of the things that I am most proud of is our faculty, who are very industry-focused, as well as our incredible staff. They are there to support students, and to make sure that each student has the support that they need to get to graduation and into the workplace. Having industry-focused faculty really helps ensure that our curriculum, our students and our staff are all on the same page – that we are student-focused.

## ***How has the curriculum been adapted to serve students?***

**ST:** One important academic initiative is a career preparation course that all students will be required to take. It covers

such areas as the importance of resumes, cover letters, interviews and more. When we talk with business professionals, they've told us that college students, in general, need to develop basic skills for success in the job interview process. So, we have been working very hard to help students develop those skills. Another new class, to be added this fall, is a financial management course that will be required at the sophomore level. It will cover such topics as the importance of savings, credit and much more. Many of our students will go on to work in such areas as sales, or serve as a consultant, or start their own business. And understanding how to do that, from a legal and financial standpoint, is very important. We are listening to students and we are listening to industry, and as a result have added these types of classes to our curriculum.

## ***Tell us about Pioneer Records.***

**ST:** One example of our innovative programs is Pioneer Records. Over the years, our students have told us that they would love to have their own record label. In our Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management (SAEM) program, we focus on the business side of the industry. Our students said, 'you talk about labels and about the importance of representing artists, and we've seen some contracts, but it would really be great if we could have our own label!' They wanted to actually manage, promote and sell bands. So, three years ago, we started Pioneer Records. We have space at a recording studio, right across from PPG Paints Arena. Our students go out and sign a band, promote the band, put on a CD release party, and handle all of the intellectual property for that band. It's been an incredible learning experience. This is the kind of innovative initiative that we plan to spread throughout the entire Rowland School of Business. ❖



POINT EXTRA See a video with more conversation with Steve Tanzilli, dean of the Rowland School of Business, at: [PointPark.edu/ThePoint](http://PointPark.edu/ThePoint).

## Head Over Heels

Dance major Kaitlyn Downs, a freshman in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, took time out from a busy class and rehearsal schedule to practice a few dance moves near the fountain in Point State Park, just a short distance from the University's Downtown campus. A native of North Carolina, Downs says she has fallen in love with her new neighborhood, the city of Pittsburgh. Photo by Glenn Cook. See more of his work, including Point Park dancers and other performing artists photographed in non-traditional settings, at: <http://glenncook.virb.com/>.



# STAR EXPLORER

by Barbara Vilanova



Professor Brendan Mullan at the Allegheny Observatory in Pittsburgh. Photo by John Altdorfer.

## Professor Brendan Mullan, a National Geographic Emerging Explorer, shares the excitement of astrophysics and more with students

As an internationally respected astrophysicist, astrobiologist and science educator, assistant professor of physics Brendan Mullan, Ph.D., didn't come to Point Park with the idea that he'd turn every student into a fan of physics, but rather that he might incorporate scientific thinking into their daily lives.

"In this rapidly changing world, the most important skills in your professional life are to know how to ask questions, troubleshoot problems, and argue with quantifiable evidence and conviction. My task is not to teach physics for future physicists, but key physics-related skills for everyone," he says.

Growing up in Buffalo, New York, Mullan's science role models included Bill Nye and Carl Sagan, prominent science communicators he saw on TV. "They taught me that science was for everyone, that it was in essence a keen curiosity about the world around us and how we fit in and interact with it."

### Inquiry-based education

Mullan received his bachelor of arts in astronomy-physics at Colgate University and both his M.S. and Ph.D. in astronomy and astrophysics from Penn State. He settled in Pittsburgh three years ago to direct the Buhl Planetarium over at Carnegie Science Center and went on to co-found The Wrinkled Brain Project, a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit that develops teaching tools to promote inquiry-based education worldwide, where he is also director of science. In addition, Mullan won the 2012 nationwide "FameLab" science communication competition and was named an "Emerging Explorer" by National Geographic in 2013.

In spite of the national recognition and exciting start-up opportunity, Mullan found he missed teaching and academia.

"When the position opened up at Point Park, it was perfect timing," he explains. "I've got an unusual situation in that the courses I teach are not for physics majors in particular, but all are requisite courses for other disciplines like biology or engineering. Similarly, the general science 'core' courses I teach are not meant for any science-specific training, but to round out students' educations while they're here. In that sense, my job is not like other physics professors at other universities."

A big believer in learning to think rather than just memorizing, Mullan often tells his students, "You just can't get by these days by just memorizing information and spitting it back out. We have computers for that. However, for all their processing speed and

storage capacity, computers still need people to tell them what to do, so I like to think I prepare my students to think and not be replaced by machines someday."

### Entrepreneurial spirit

As a scientific entrepreneur himself, Mullan found Point Park's entrepreneurial spirit a big plus when it came to the opportunity to teach here. "As a smaller institution, we're able to be more nimble and flexible than many larger schools. Unlike other universities that have to cater to specific disciplines, we cater to our students and what they need for their careers," he explains.

From a teaching perspective, Mullan says, "I can try out new techniques and different approaches that I might not have the opportunity to at other schools," he says. In fact, Mullan spent last summer designing a new 21st century physical science lab based on education theory, where physics and some other NSET courses will be taught. "I recently received word that we're going to build it. This time next year, we'll have a completely new approach to our labs and classroom, a hands-on, collaborative learning experience not many students have seen before."

Looking ahead, Mullan sees the future of scientific teaching at Point Park to be a hybrid learning environment. He points out that since Point Park's student body includes those straight from high school, others working full-time, some living on campus and others commuting from long distances, so he believes, "The best approach to teaching physics will be a mix of an online learning and a uniquely on-campus experience. With the right kind of individual guidance, much of the content side of physics (knowledge) can be experienced out of the classroom while the classroom can be more reserved for the experimental and rigorous application of physical concepts (skills)."

According to Mullan, stitching all these pieces together is more representative of how science actually works and helps develop more sophisticated thinking skills. Five to 10 years from now, he predicts, "I wouldn't be surprised if our curriculum consisted of a personalized, guided online component, and an in-person integrated experimenting/skills workshop.

"It seems to be the best of both worlds." ❖



# Around The Globe

Alumni celebrate the 50th anniversary of Point Park's independently run student newspaper



Alumni and students joined together on campus to celebrate The Globe on March 18. Photos by Dean Beattie.

Dozens of former student journalists joined together on campus on March 18 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Globe, Point Park's independently run student newspaper. They shared memories and took a look back through the years at five decades of student newsgathering, opinion pieces, photography and more in The Globe.

Susan Trulove (COM 1968), who served as the first editor of The Globe and was among those who returned to campus for the celebration, introduced the inaugural issue with the following words when it rolled off the presses in February 1967: "Our stage will be as large as our title, Globe, implies and as intimate as its namesake."

According to Trulove, who went on to spend three decades as a science writer at Virginia Tech and is now retired and living in Virginia, her fondest memories included "sitting around in the basement (there was only one building), talking about the stories and doing the layout. [It was] a wonderful experience. We never had a problem with having enough to fill it. People seemed to

like to write for it. The support of the student council was very much appreciated."

## Camaraderie endures

Attendee and former reporter and assistant editor Taitia Shelov (Hager) (COM 1989) said, "[I remember] the camaraderie and late nights spent cutting and pasting and trying to come up with headlines of the right length, since this was back before the days when everything was digital. We'd be so punch-drunk tired by then, we'd be laughing the whole time."

Attendee Melissa Mezgec (Holovanisin) (COM 1997), who served as chief copy editor, lifestyles editor, advertising assistant, and writer, recalled, "Working in The Globe office in the evenings after classes; ordering pizza at night and eating it in The Globe newsroom while cramming to get the publication out the next day; riding to the South Side with the editor-in-chief to drop off the final edition on CD for printing; and sifting through (hardcopy) newspapers of past years in 'the morgue'

Back then nothing was archived electronically - everything had to be pulled manually."

## Friends, teachers, family

Many former Globe staffers who were unable to attend the celebration also shared memories, including Brooke Keane (COM '06), who served as copy editor, features editor, news editor, and editor-in-chief. "The members of The Globe staff were my friends, my teachers, my family. I was, and remain, immensely proud of the work I did on The Globe. [It] was the best part of my time at Point Park and I'm so happy to help celebrate 50 years of quality journalism on Point Park's campus."


## The Globe at 50

The 2016-2017 staff of The Globe, including current editor-in-chief Alexander Popichak and editor emeritus Joshua Croup, saluted the 50th anniversary with a collection of features, including interviews with former editors and journalism faculty. Read the

newspaper's 50th anniversary package at: <http://ppuglobe.com/category/globe50>.

## Support the next generation

The support of the Point Park community is needed to establish a lasting legacy of The Globe's milestone. Together, the extended Globe family and generations of appreciative readers can create The Globe Legacy Scholarship, an endowed fund that will annually support the education of a deserving sophomore, junior or senior working at The Globe. Join Point Park in celebrating the last 50 years while building a legacy for the next 50, by contacting Kristin Deluca, director of development & institutional partnerships, at [kdeluca@pointpark.edu](mailto:kdeluca@pointpark.edu) or 412-392-4777. Gifts of all sizes, from \$10 to \$1,000+, will help to establish a legacy for future generations of Globe staff. ❖



POINT EXTRA For more comments and memories shared by the journalists of The Globe, past and present, visit [PointPark.edu/ThePoint](http://PointPark.edu/ThePoint).

# FACES OF IMPACT

A campus celebration honors the contributions of faculty, staff, alumni and friends who provide scholarship support for students

# GIFTS AT WORK



Point Park students joined together with faculty, staff, alumni, friends and donors for the University's Faces of Impact celebration on March 21.

President Paul Hennigan and his wife Colleen hosted the evening reception and program, which was designed to express appreciation to Point Park's many volunteers and donors and connect them with the students who directly benefit from their support.

Provost John Pearson spoke to attendees and said that the important academic initiatives and programs being implemented would not be possible without the ongoing support of alumni and friends.

## Positive impact

Blaine King, a School of Communication senior who graduates in spring 2017 with a degree in broadcast reporting, introduced himself and welcomed the guests saying, "I am just one of many Point Park students who has been impacted by your contributions to the University."

"This evening is a great way to celebrate the impact that you have on the growing Point Park community," he told those gathered for the program. "On behalf of all of Point Park students, I wish to thank all of the donors and volunteers in the room who have had an impact on students like me – we continue to succeed because of you, and we hope to pay it forward to the students who come after us."

King has benefitted from such opportunities as the Margy Snyder Scholarship and the Myron Cope Scholarship in the School of Communication. He has served as president of the United Student Government, as news and sports director of U-View (Point Park's television station), and as a leader in many other student activities.

## Success stories

King then introduced a video that featured other student scholarship recipients, many of whom would have been unable to attend Point Park without scholarship support. The video also featured commentary from faculty such as Andrew Conte, an investigative journalist and director of the new Center for Media Innovation.

After the video, and remarks by President Hennigan and University Provost John Pearson, King closed the program by saying, "It's an honor for me to speak on behalf of the student body and to be able to thank you for your commitment to the Point Park community. As you can see, there are many ways to make an impact. Collectively, the people in this room are making a lasting, positive contribution to our community.

"Your involvement helps not just the students in this room, but will have a ripple effect on future generations of students. [I encourage] other students to get involved also, because we will all become alumni like the great people in this room. Then we [ourselves] will be able to make an impact on the Point Park community, and those future generations of students." ❖

# ALUMNI CONNECTION



Dear alumni and friends,

I have always thought that one of the most difficult virtues to appreciate is "patience."

"Patience is the calm acceptance that things can happen in a different order than the one you have in mind," wrote science fiction author David G. Allen.

Patience is something everyone always seemed to have in stride when I graduated in May 2009, and I was always in a rush to create order and structure for myself.

In the months following my own graduation from Point Park, I decided to change my career path and seek an entirely different life than the one I had imagined for myself in all of those years making plans from dreams staring at the plasterwork in my room in Lawrence Hall.

Long story short, nothing went as planned.

But I am just as grateful for the plans that never came to fruition because a new, unexpected plan came in place. I had my heart set on moving to Washington, D.C., but then met my husband after a Point Park event. I was convinced that I'd be an investigative reporter, but my writing prowess is now in the form of crafting individualized plans for teenagers with disabilities.

My greatest wish for the class of 2017 – doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate students alike – is that you embrace the peaceful understanding that life isn't necessarily a series of well-calculated moves on a chessboard. It is paying attention, it is engaging yourself, it is having the wisdom to determine when it is time speak up or time to simply listen.

As I write this final letter as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, I realize that the person I am today could not have been if it wasn't for the faculty, staff and opportunities I had at Point Park. While my degree is in journalism and mass communications, my mastery is in problem solving, working amongst a team, listening for the sake of listening, and valuing the chaos. Because it is from chaos that important decisions are made for the future, all skills I gained at Point Park. I know the president-elect of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Jamie Inferrera '10 feels similarly, and I look forward to seeing the Board of Directors thrive under her leadership for the next three years. Jamie's term begins on September 1, 2017.

My journey after graduation took me far from the path I thought I'd follow as a freshman. Where has your Point Park journey taken you since your commencement? Share your story with us by commenting on the Point Park Alumni Facebook page, downloading the Point Park Alumni App on your smart device, or attending a local or regional event.

May you recall your time at Point Park as fondly as I do, and continue to build new memories as alumni.

Best,

**Carrie Potter-Murray** (COM '09)  
President, Point Park Alumni Association

# CLASS NOTES

## 1980s

**Taitia Hager Shelow** (COM 1989) writes that she "is happy to be back in the 'Burgh after a brief move to Michigan." Shelow accepted a position as a marketing specialist for Central Blood Bank in Greentree, Pa. last February. She earned her degree in journalism and communications at Point Park in 1989.

**Lisa McIntyre (Klassen)** (COM 1988) has been promoted to vice president of automotive for the Pittsburgh-West Virginia region

at iHeart Media. She earned her degree in journalism at Point Park in 1988.

**Todd Tomasic** (BUS 1983) writes to share some good health news: "On April 7, I celebrated the 20 year anniversary of my liver transplant!" Tomasic graduated from Point Park's School of Business in 1983.

**Wendy Hess** (COM 1989) marked 10 years' employment with The Salvation Army

last March. Her son, **Vinnie Veitz**, completed his freshman year in Point Park's Cinema Arts program as a cinema production major. Hess earned her degree in journalism at Point Park in 1989.

## 1990s

**Phillip W. Brath**, P.E. (A&S 1992), has joined Barton & Loguidice (B&L), a sustainable planning and design group, as a senior managing engineer in the firm's Camp Hill, Pa. office. Brath previously was a senior engineer/project manager with another Mid-Atlantic firm where he was involved with wastewater treatment and land development as well as stormwater and erosion control projects. With over 25 years of planning, engineering and management experience, Brath will manage public and private sector planning and design projects for the Camp Hill office. His background includes water and wastewater plant and equipment design, municipal consulting and engineering, land development reviews and planning, as well as experience in design, sales, and costing, manufacturing, installation, and service of manufactured equipment, controls, instrumentation and systems, including profit/loss and budgeting responsibility at project and operational levels. He is a leading regulatory specialist for NPDES and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). Brath is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Pennsylvania. Brath is a member of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan Management Team. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association. He is a graduate of Thiel College, with a B.A. in physics, and earned his B.S. in civil engineering technology at Point Park.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Rev. Jean Mairs McLean** (A&S 1983) of Pittsburgh, Pa. and Naples, Fla., passed away on March 9 at the age of 86. She was the beloved wife of the late Dr. **Albert McLean**, an academic dean of Point Park College, who passed away in 2014. In addition to other church postings, Rev. McLean served as an assistant pastor at Hiland Presbyterian Church where she was ordained by Pittsburgh Presbytery in 1985. She also worked within the Presbytery in various roles for the Committee on Aging. In Naples, she served as an associate chaplain for Hospice of Naples. She was a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (Masters of Divinity, 1983), Point Park College (bachelor of arts in psychology) and Mt. Holyoke College (bachelor of arts in religion). In the 1960s, Jean and her family were charter members of All Souls Presbyterian Church, the first integrated church in Lexington, Ky. She and Dr. McLean also participated in Dr. Martin Luther King's March on Frankfort. In Lexington and Pittsburgh, she was active in the League of Women Voters. Jean was a devoted mother to her three children, Dr. **Stuart McLean** (A&S 1983) and his wife **Diane McLean** (A&S 1986), Cameron McLean and his wife Kathy, and Janet

Mickens. She is also survived by her loving grandchildren, Ian, Collin, Matthew and his wife Dianna, Danielle, Christopher, Ashley Shock, Amy Shock, and her great grandchildren, Dominic Shock and Vivianna McLean.

**Troy D. Allen**, Ph.D. (A&S 1990), a professor of African-American studies at Southern University-Baton Rouge, died on March 17. He was 57. According to SouthernDigest.com, Allen "taught thousands of students World Civilization, African-American History, Race Relations, and History of Ancient Egypt courses over a span of 20 years. He was also an adjunct instructor of African-American studies at LSU. Born in McKeesport, Pa., Allen earned his bachelor of arts in political science from Point Park in 1990. He went on to receive his [master's degree] in Black studies and Black community development from the Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in African-American studies from Temple University. In 2008 Allen's book, *The Ancient Egyptian Family: Kinship and Social Structure* was published by Routledge Press. His contributions to academia include scholarly articles on race and African-American studies published in the Journal of Black Studies and the Atlanta Journal Constitution. Read the entire obituary at: <http://bit.ly/2qAYs0X>.

## CLASS NOTES

**Betty L. Sarafin** (COM 1990) is serving as an advisor to the student staff of Berea College's collegiate newspaper, The Pinnacle. She also continues to advance her writing career in the genre of poetry. Her latest poem was included in an anthology titled *Where I'm From*, compiled by George Ella Lyons, poet laureate of Kentucky. Betty has lived, worked and played in the Bluegrass (Central Kentucky) since 2005. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and her M.B.A. at Point Park.

Know someone who can benefit from a Point Park education?

PointPark.edu/ReferAStudent

## 2000s

### IN MEMORIAM

**Delores (Nazura Asaseyeduru) Haymon** (A&S '05), who earned her degree in behavioral sciences, died suddenly on March 19. She was 38. According to the New Pittsburgh Courier, "more than 100 people gathered at the Community Empowerment Association in Homewood [on April 8] for a memorial ceremony celebrating the brief, but impactful life of Nazura Asaseyeduru. Born Delores Haymon, [she] was a community activist in Pittsburgh whose life ended suddenly on March 19 while attending a conference in Washington, D.C. Before the ceremony, a community procession with everyone in white, and the women wearing red, green and black head wraps, marched, danced and drummed from the Pittsburgh Coliseum on Frankstown Avenue to the CEA. The Red,

Black, and Green March set the stage for the occasion, which had all the pomp and ceremony due any true "Warrior Type," as she was referred to by spoken-word artist, Leslie Ezra Smith, in a poem he wrote in her memory. The central theme of the day centered around her character; a "Warrior Woman," a committed community activist whose determined spirit and commitment to her people was unrelenting and serious. Mistress of Ceremonies was local author and poet, **Dessie Bey**. "Nazura went to D.C. in May of 2005 for the celebration of African Liberation Day. It was during this time that she entered her Afrocentric consciousness, and she went from being Delores Haymon to Nazura Eshe Asaseyeduru, and began the fight for her people and to live out her life purpose, focusing on community organization—which she did until her last day," Bey said. Read the entire article: <http://bit.ly/2qB3omu>.

**Jasmine Goldband** (COM'03) has joined The Incline as a visual producer. According to The Incline, "Her photos and videos will tell their own stories, help elevate The Incline's other original narratives and bring our social media accounts to life. 'Joining a digital-only newsroom as a visual producer is a natural fit for me,' Jasmine said. 'I'm looking forward to providing dynamic visuals of the city, its neighborhoods and residents that I love so much.' She comes to The Incline from the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, where she started working as a photojournalist in May 2003 after graduating from Point Park University. Of note at the Trib, Jasmine covered the fatal shooting of three Pittsburgh police officers in 2009 and Hillary Clinton's primary run against Barack Obama in 2008. She also worked on a project documenting disparities faced by black women who have breast cancer and provided video coverage of the Steelers. She is a member of the Women's Press Club of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh chapter of Women in Film and Media, the National Press Photographers Association and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences." Read more: <http://bit.ly/2qCehJ>.

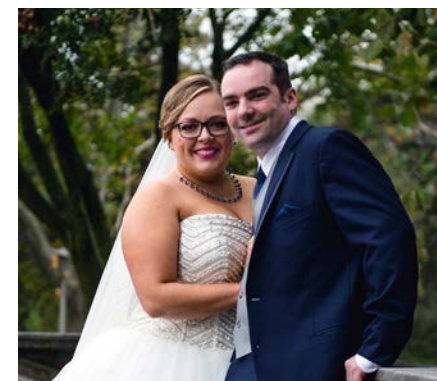
### 2017 Tony Awards

Several Point Park alumni are performing in Broadway productions that have been nominated for the 2017 Tony Awards. They are: **Jordan Grubb** (COPA '08), a native of Easton, Pa. who earned his degree in theatre arts, is a swing in the cast of the Tony Award-nominated new musical *Groundhog Day*. **Rachel Stevens** (COPA '09), a native of Astoria, N.Y. who earned her degree in theatre arts in 2009, is an assistant director for the Tony Award-nominated *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812*. Courtney Bassett, a native of Sterling, Va. who received her degree in theatre arts in 2011, is part of the same show's ensemble cast.



### Pioneers with the President

President **Paul Hennigan** (center) visited with alumni and friends of Point Park in several Florida cities last winter. He joined (from left) **Paul Meese** (A&S 1965) and **Carol Meese**, along with **Joann Stein** and **Steve Stein** (BUS 1970, HON '11) in the Sunshine State to share stories and bring news from the University's Pittsburgh campus.



### Heart of Point Park

**Kevin Moran** (COM '09) and **Jessica LaDow (Moran)** (COM '09) were married on Oct. 8, 2016. They are members of the Class of 2009 in the School of Communication. A former editor-in-chief of The Globe student newspaper, Jessica is a partner operations manager at Google in Pittsburgh. A photojournalism graduate, Kevin is marketing coordinator at FEIN Power Tools in Pittsburgh. Photo by friend and classmate **David Kelly** (COM '11), who earned his B.F.A. in photography at Point Park.

## 2010s

**Michele Tabaka** (COM '13) is a senior advertising coordinator at The Washington Post in Washington, D.C. Prior to that, she served as marketing manager at John V. Heineman Co. She earned her bachelor's degree in public relations and advertising, with a minor in business management, at Point Park in 2013.

**Angela Citrola** (COPA '15) writes, "Just wanted to update on the project I have been working on for the last year! I am currently the extras casting associate for the new Netflix series *Mindhunter*, executive produced by David Fincher and Charlize Theron. It is set to premiere on Netflix in spring 2017!" Citrola studied acting at Point Park's Conservatory of Performing Arts.

**DROP US A NOTE!**

Visit [PointPark.edu/classnote](http://PointPark.edu/classnote) to share your news.

## WHY I GIVE

“Coming into Point Park University, dance was the priority. The double major of dance and business allowed me to find happiness in other careers and interests I wouldn't have been able to pursue. Point Park has prepared me well to blend my passions in several areas into the ideal path for me.”

### LEAH CAIN

**B.A. in Dance; B.S. in Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management, '17**

### GIVING BACK

Leah gives to pass on the tradition of turning passions into reality for all students.

Whatever your reason for giving, your gift will provide opportunity. Please give to the **POINT PARK UNIVERSITY ANNUAL FUND.**

[PointPark.edu/Give](http://PointPark.edu/Give)

**POINT PARK UNIVERSITY**

Leah Cain (left) pictured with friend and fellow dance graduate Annette Elphinstone

## CLASS NOTES

**Emily (Harnett) Bezak** (BUS '10) completed her M.B.A. degree at the University of Pittsburgh's Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business in April 2016. She married Jeffrey Bezak on September 30, 2016 in Harmony, Pa. In her new job as senior marketing specialist at PNC, she is responsible for marketing campaigns and communications that support the commercial banking segment within the Corporate & Institutional Banking division. Bezak earned her degree in business management at Point Park.

**Rachel Shrensky** (A&S '12) writes, "Last August, I moved to Charlotte, N.C. and have been working at a charter school as an inclusion specialist. I work to support teachers and seventh grade students in the classrooms, coordinate and write IEPs, provide modifications and accommodations, as well as create meaningful relationships in my community. I would not have been prepared for this opportunity if it weren't for all the amazing and dedicated teachers from the Education Department!" Shrensky earned her bachelor's

degrees in early childhood education and elementary education at Point Park.



### Prince of Broadway Castmates

Broadway performers **Tony Yazbeck** (HON '16) and **Kaley Ann Voorhees**, both former students in Point Park's Conservatory of Performing Arts, have been cast in the premiere of *Prince of Broadway*, a musical celebration that highlights the six-decade career of legendary director and producer Harold Prince. Yazbeck, who trained at Point Park from 1997 to 1999, earned a Tony nomination as Best Leading Actor in a Musical for the critically acclaimed revival of *On the Town*. He also performed the lead role of J.M. Barrie in the Broadway musical *Finding Neverland*. Yazbeck, who recently released his debut album *The Floor Above Me*, was the 2016 Commencement speaker at Point Park, which presented him with an honorary degree. Shortly after completing her sophomore year as a musical theatre major in 2014, Voorhees was cast in the leading role of Christine in *The Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway. She has also appeared in *Candide*. *Prince of Broadway* starts previews on Aug. 3 and opens on Aug. 24 at MTC's Samuel J. Friedman Theatre (261 West 47th Street). Read the story at Broadway World: <http://bit.ly/2pUADVK>.



**Stoycho Stoychev** (BUS '14) is a credit management report and analysis manager and 14-Q corporate and CRE loan reporting analyst at The Bank of New York (BNY) Mellon. He earned his M.B.A. with a concentration in international business at Point Park in 2014 and his B.A. in criminology with a business administration minor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 2010. As a student, he was active in Point Park's Graduate Student Association and International Student Services and Enrollment. "I'm intrigued by quantitative analysis and behavioral finance, so I am always looking to expand my knowledge in those fields. My curiosity and desire for understanding how things work is what truly motivated me to get an M.B.A. and keeps me motivated to continue advancing my education."

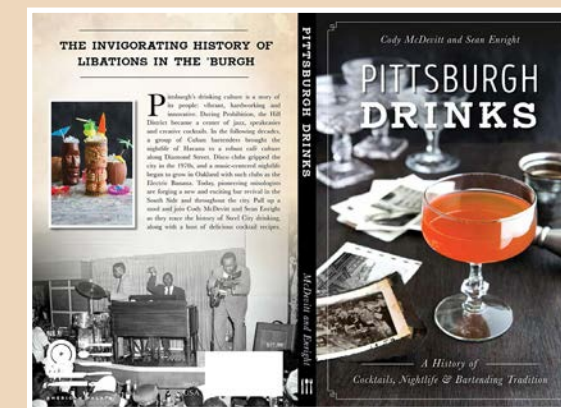
**Heather Olcott** (COPA '13) writes, "I recently worked as the assistant stage manager for the 2016 national tour of *Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. I am currently working on the national tour of *42nd Street* as assistant wardrobe [manager]. Olcott earned her B.A. in dance, with a minor in stage management, at Point Park in 2013.

**Barbara Arroyo** (A&S '11) was recently a finalist for the Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Awards. Coro Pittsburgh recognizes leaders in the community who take an inclusive approach to model Dr. King's legacy and values. Arroyo also was recently honored as part of Whirl Magazine's "13 under 30" 2017 class. She



### Pioneer Toasts Pittsburgh Drinks

**Cody McDevitt** (COM '13) is the co-author of *Pittsburgh Drinks, A History of Cocktails, Nightlife and Bartending Tradition*, published by American Palate and available on Amazon. According to the book's description, "Pittsburgh's drinking culture is a story of its people: vibrant, hardworking and innovative. During Prohibition, the Hill District became a center of jazz, speakeasies and creative cocktails. In the following decades, a group of Cuban bartenders brought the nightlife of Havana to a robust café culture along Diamond Street. Disco clubs gripped the city in the 1970s, and a music-centered nightlife began to grow in Oakland with such clubs as the Electric Banana. Today, pioneering mixologists are forging a new and exciting bar revival in the South Side and throughout the city. Pull up a stool and join Cody McDevitt and Sean Enright as they trace the history of Steel City



drinking, along with a host of delicious cocktail recipes." McDevitt is a reporter at the Daily American in Somerset, Pa. He earned his master's degree in journalism and communications at Point Park in 2013.

earned her M.S. in criminal justice administration at Point Park.

**Joseph Buckel** (BUS '15) writes, "I've accepted a new position as a client engagement special-

ist with Fi360 in Robinson Township, Pa. Fi360 empowers financial intermediaries to profitably implement prudent fiduciary practices." Buckel earned his degree in business management at Point Park in 2015. ❖



### Pioneer in Italy's Piedmont

**Paul Lally** (COM '03) read the article on this year's 10th anniversary of the International Media Class trips abroad (The Point, Winter 2017) and writes to say, "Happy to see **Helen Fallon** (School of Communication professor and Honors Program director) in The Point magazine, and the good results of the John Fallon Travel Scholarship Fund. Lucky kids and lucky world. Nothing like travel to humble and exalt at the same time. As for me, I'm still being the 'Energizer Bunny' [as executive producer of] *Ciao Italia!*, about to begin our 28th year of production. And I am also happy to say that, after a zillion years of writing ... and getting nowhere, my fiction writing took off a few years back and continues to gain readers. Five novels [published], now writing my sixth. It's a testament to not giving up, that's for sure. And so is my Point Park M.A. diploma, which hangs on the wall next to my computer. I see it every day, and it's a reminder that, thanks to [Helen Fallon] and a zillion years of trying, I finally DID it! Sending a gigantic hug from New Hampshire." Lally, who lives in Dover, N.H., presents the tastes and sights of Italy in his work leading the long-running cooking show *Ciao Italia!* (He is pictured on the right of the show's on-location crew in Valcasotto, Italy, in the country's Piedmont region near the Swiss Alps.) Visit: [www.ciaoitalia.com](http://www.ciaoitalia.com). Read more about Lally's novels at: [www.paul-lally.com](http://www.paul-lally.com).



# HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

by Kevin Taylor

*“I love it here at Point Park. The best decision I have ever made.”*

Ja’Nia McPhatter poses in Point Park’s Student Center Gym, with a backdrop of championship banners won through the years, including women’s basketball. Photos of McPhatter by Sam Reynolds.

## Point Park women’s basketball is the perfect fit for scholar-athlete Ja’Nia McPhatter

To say that Ja’Nia McPhatter has accomplished a lot at Point Park University would be an understatement.

On the court and in the classroom, McPhatter has made her mark. And the University has made an impression on her as well.

“I love it here at Point Park,” she said. “The best decision I have ever made.” McPhatter just finished up her playing career with Pioneers women’s basketball after the 2016-17 season. During that time, she was a star player and an outstanding student. And she did so while overcoming two different season-ending injuries along the way.

A native of New Castle, Pa., McPhatter was named all-conference first team during her senior season of 2016-17. It was the third time in her career she earned that honor. Also a top student, she compiled a 3.87 grade-point average as a pre-med major during her undergraduate studies.

### Stellar experience

McPhatter is currently working on her M.B.A. with a concentration in health systems management. She will finish up that program later this year, and plans to pursue medical school.

When all is said and done, McPhatter will be leaving Point Park with two degrees, a

stellar basketball career, and an overall outstanding experience. “It has been a really great experience at Point Park,” she said. “There were so many people who welcomed me and have been very supportive. It’s a place where I was able to achieve highly in academics and athletics.”



McPhatter came to campus as a sophomore in 2012-13 after transferring from La Roche College. McPhatter proceeded to put up 1,119 career points for the Pioneers, which ranks 11th in team history. She did all of that in just three seasons, although it took her five years of perseverance.

After leading the Pioneers to the NAIA Division II national tournament as a sophomore, she was injured in the next preseason and missed the entire 2013-14 year.

### Overcoming adversity

She came back strong the next year and again was named all-conference, but she suffered a knee injury late in the season. It was a costly injury as it forced her to miss the entire next season of 2015-16 during her year-long rehab.

“Looking back, I don’t know how I did it with the rehabbing,” she said. “It was about making up your mind that you are going to come back from this no matter what. It took a lot of perseverance.”

While she was rehabbing her second injury, she was an assistant coach on head coach Tony Grenek’s staff. Already done with her undergraduate degree and still many months away from being healthy enough to play again, the thought was that she had probably played her last basketball for Point Park.

But still with another year of playing eligibility left, McPhatter decided to give it another go for a final season. In order to do so, it was another year of recovery, something she would be faced with doing for a second time.

She made it back on the court for her senior year of 2016-17, and McPhatter led the Pioneers with 12.6 points per game. She provided a lot of leadership for a team that experienced a lot of injuries to key players. The Pioneers still managed a strong year of 18-12 overall.



Anna Shields competes at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championship March 2-4 in Johnson City, Tenn. She earned NAIA All-American honors finishing second in the mile and 1,000 meters. Photo courtesy of NAIA.



Jryi Davis competes at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championship March 2-4 in Johnson City, Tenn. He placed sixth in the triple jump to earn NAIA All-American honors. Photo courtesy of NAIA.



The competitive cheer team poses before its first competition in team history on Feb. 20 at the Missouri Baptist Spartan Showcase. The competitive dance team also had its first-ever competition there as well. Submitted photo courtesy of the cheer team.



Point Park's individual qualifiers for the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championship March 2-4 in Johnson City, Tenn., from left: Jryi Davis, Taylor Celich, Olukemi Olugbakinro, Katie Guarnaccia, Anna Shields and Tyler Carter. Photo courtesy of NAIA.



Gavin Rajahpillay led the Point Park men's basketball team this year averaging 16.2 points per game and earning all-conference honors. Photo by Sam Robinson.



## SPORTS ROUNDUP

Academically, sticking around another year allowed her to pursue the M.B.A. in health systems management at Point Park to advance her education even further. A 4.0 GPA in graduate school continued her strong grades.

"Point Park has taught me so much both in basketball and school," said McPhatter. "To work hard in all I do, about teamwork and dedication. The basketball team is a definitely a family atmosphere as well!"

### At the top

The Pioneers have always been at the top of the conference during the five years McPhatter has played for Point Park. They

even won the conference title twice during that period of time, although she had to miss the second of those due to injury.

"NAIA is a good, quality level of basketball, I'd say. I will never forget going to the national tournament. We were a really strong team that won our conference. And there were so many good players and teams at nationals that it was impressive."

Add in the academic offerings and the city environment, and Point Park was the perfect fit for McPhatter in the end. "As far as the school goes, being in the middle of the city has given me such a great experience and [the opportunity] to be in the real world, so to speak," she said.

"It has made me feel independent. Majoring in pre-med, and now [completing] my M.B.A., I am surrounded by hospitals where I have volunteered at, shadowed at, and worked at. Being Downtown is such a different experience than the usual campus.

"Downtown life, the atmosphere – you have a feeling of being free and have access to so many different things going on. Athletically, in every sport, not just basketball, we strive to win and be the best we can be." ❖

*Kevin Taylor is director of athletic communications at Point Park.*

### ► MEN'S BASKETBALL

Point Park was within playoff contention until the final weekend of the season but came up short in a very challenging River States Conference East Division. The Pioneers were 8-20 overall, 5-12 conference. Newcomer Gavin Rajahpillay, a junior guard, led the team at 16.2 points per game and made the all-conference second team. Art Christian, Jaylen Mann and Lassana Konate were the senior class.

### ► WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Pioneers had a record of 18-12 overall in a season that had them battle many injuries to key players. Point Park ended up coming one

game short of qualifying for the playoffs. Senior Ja'Nia McPhatter was named all-conference first team for the third time in her career. McPhatter and fellow senior Carly Forse both surpassed 1,000 career points at Point Park, the first set of Point Park teammates both over that milestone in over 20 years. Celina DiPietro and Devon Larkin were also in the senior class.

### ► INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

The Pioneers once again made a lot of noise in indoor track and field. Sophomore Anna Shields earned NAIA All-American honors, placing second in the nation in both the mile (4:51) and 1,000 meters (2:51). The Pioneers qualified their distance-

medley relay team to the national meet, and the group of Shields, Katie Guarnaccia, Olukemi Olugbakinro and Taylor Celich placed 10th in the country at nationals.

### ► COMPETITIVE CHEER & DANCE

Point Park's competitive cheer and dance teams participated in their first season during the winter of 2016-17. The Pioneers competed in five events in states such as Michigan, Missouri and Illinois. The NAIA regional qualifier was on Feb. 25 at Siena Heights, and the Pioneers came within a couple of placements of advancing to the NAIA national finals.

# THE POINT

Point Park University  
201 Wood Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT NO. 1674

Read The Point online! Visit [PointPark.edu/ThePoint](http://PointPark.edu/ThePoint).

## JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL **OPEN HOUSE** FOR PROSPECTIVE GRADUATE STUDENTS!



**Ask us about alumni,  
program and employer  
tuition discounts for  
on-campus programs.  
Alumni receive at least  
\$80 off per credit.**

Enjoy dinner and conversation with faculty members, admission counselors and current graduate students.

**June 20 | 5-7 p.m. | Lawrence Hall, Room 200**

### MASTER'S

#### Arts and Sciences

- Clinical-Community Psychology
- Engineering Management
- Environmental Studies

#### Business

- Health Care Administration and Management (online only)
- Leadership
- M.B.A.\*
- M.B.A. in Global Management and Administration

#### Communication

- Communication Technology
- Media Communication\*

#### Criminal Justice and Intelligence

- Criminal Justice Administration
- Intelligence and Global Security

#### Education

- Adult Learning and Training (online only)
- Athletic Coaching (online only)
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Educational Administration
- Secondary Education Leading to PA Certification in Grades 7-12
- Special Education Leading to PA Certification in Prekindergarten-Grade 8
- Special Education Leading to PA Certification in Grades 7-12

#### Performing Arts

- Writing for the Screen and Stage

\*Option available to earn this M.A. and M.B.A. concurrently

**RSVP** at [PointPark.edu/GradOpenHouse](http://PointPark.edu/GradOpenHouse) or 412-392-3808.

**POINT PARK**  
UNIVERSITY