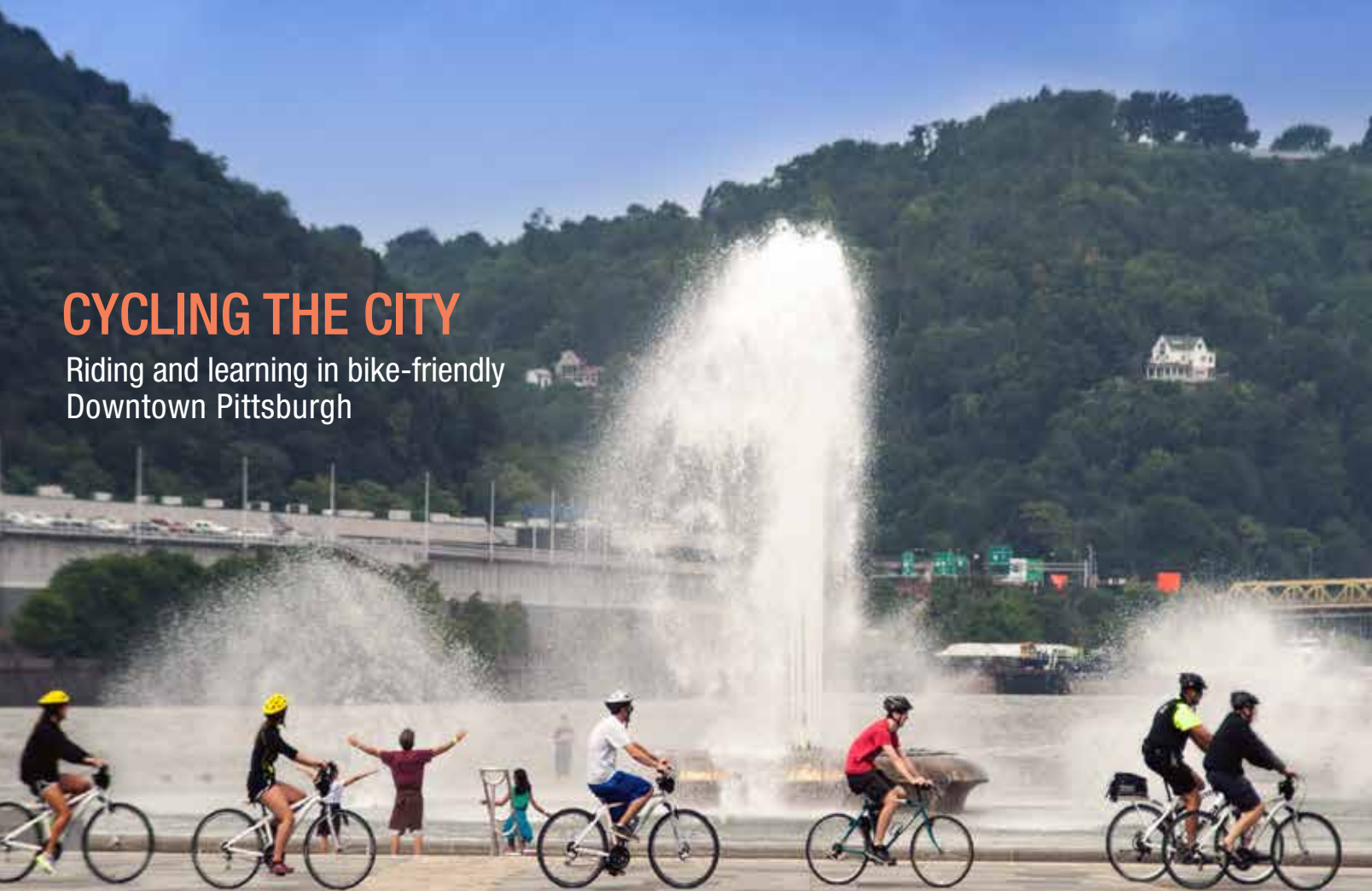


# THE POINT

## CYCLING THE CITY

Riding and learning in bike-friendly  
Downtown Pittsburgh



## ACADEMIC PROGRESS

New Ph.D. in community  
engagement, online M.S. in  
health care administration  
and management, and more

## WINNERS' CUP

Pioneers bring KIAC Cup  
back to Point Park



Dear alumni and friends,

Back to school season at Point Park is always a time of purposeful change and revitalization, for our students and their families as well as our dedicated faculty and staff.

As we all know well, change is a constant these days. At Point Park, we've carefully tracked the tremendous changes in the higher education landscape in recent years as the University has worked on its academic plans for the future. These changes have had a major impact on student enrollment at schools throughout the country. As a result

of shifting enrollment trends and changes in the higher education market, Point Park has not only reduced expenditures but also implemented a University-wide restructuring that will better invest and align our resources to support the evolving educational needs of our students. These changes led to the difficult decision to reduce the University's workforce by three percent, which impacted 32 part-time and full-time employees whose positions were eliminated last summer. We appreciate the service and commitment of our employees, and recognize how difficult this change was for everyone impacted by the strategic realignment.

In addition to this critical reorganization, Point Park has also made an important decision to end a longstanding dispute regarding the ability of full-time faculty to form a union under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). This issue began in 2003 with a faculty vote to unionize under a different University administration. The issue was disputed for several years through appeals to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the U.S. Court of Appeals. The case sat dormant at the NLRB from 2007 until February 2015, when it was remanded back to the Regional NLRB by the National NLRB for a ruling. Point Park has great respect for its full-time faculty and appreciates their commitment to academic excellence. In addition, the current administration does not wish to spend precious resources on a

costly legal battle. Therefore, the University has recognized the right of full-time faculty to form a union and begin collective bargaining accordingly.

Last fall, we welcomed the largest freshman class in our history, representing a continued interest in a traditional on-campus educational experience. At the same time, however, there has been a significant shift in adult students moving toward flexible delivery modalities, such as online delivery. To accommodate the demand of students seeking flexible options, Point Park has introduced 22 new online offerings leading to bachelor's and graduate degrees. And the University continues to establish innovative degrees such as an M.F.A. in screenwriting, a new online master's in health care administration and management, a new interdisciplinary Ph.D. in community engagement, and more.

As a University, we remain committed to academic excellence focused on the needs of our students. Together, we continue to strive to encourage innovation, ensure integrity and ethics in our actions, facilitate civic engagement, and adapt to change as we work to be one of the most dynamic private urban universities in America.

Warm regards,

Dr. Paul Hennigan  
President

President  
Paul Hennigan, Ed.D.

Vice President of  
External Affairs  
Mariann Geyer

Managing Director,  
University Marketing and  
Public Relations  
Lou Corsaro

Managing Director,  
Communications and  
Client Services  
Nancy Commella

Managing Editor  
Cheryl Valyo

Graphic Designer  
Judy Sporka

Manager of Printing  
Services  
Don Pastorius

Managing Director, Online  
Communications  
Christine Zapinski

Web Services Administrator  
Stephen Shanahan

Writers  
Amanda Dabbs  
Gina Puppo  
Kevin Taylor

Barbara Vilanova

Photographers  
John Altdorfer  
Victoria A. Mikula  
Martha Rial  
Christopher Rolinson  
Chris Squier  
Jeff Swensen



**On the cover:**  
Point Park President Paul Hennigan (far right) rides past the iconic fountain in Point State Park, where Pittsburgh's three rivers meet, as he leads students on his 2014 educational bike tour of the city. Photo by Chris Rolinson.

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### 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)

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#### 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 or gender or in a protected class which includes the following: race, ethnicity, religion, color, national origin, sex, age (40 years and over), ancestry, individuals with disabilities, veteran status, sexual orientation, height, weight, genetic information, marital status, gender identity, 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, policies or complaints of discrimination should be referred to the human resources officer, telephone number 412-392-3952. Inquiries regarding Title IX and the Title IX regulations should also be referred to the senior vice president of academic and student affairs as the Title IX coordinator or to the deputy coordinators: the associate vice president of academic and student affairs, the human resources officer or the dean of students.



## FEEDBACK

### A Historic Opportunity

The Point has printed a few articles about plans for Point Park's new Pittsburgh Playhouse [that will move from Oakland] to be built in Downtown Pittsburgh. In many ways, this move will represent a return to the historic theater district of the city. At one time, in the early 20th century, there were more than 20 theaters in Downtown Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh was a natural stop for touring productions, as they moved through the city by railroad, so the offerings were frequent and excellent. The venues for these shows ranged from simple lecture-type halls, located on the upper floors of Pittsburgh buildings, to more elaborate theaters. There were also numerous vaudeville halls that transitioned into vaudeville/movie venues, and then later showed movies alone. There were also movie palaces, such as the performance spaces that are now home to Heinz Hall (the former Loews Penn Theater) and the Benedum Center (the former Stanley Theater).

The Downtown Pittsburgh neighborhood is very rich in theater lore. For example, a building on Liberty Avenue had a private screening room for a movie distributor. The Warner Theatre had a movie screen that was 130 feet long and formed an arc that had three projectors throwing the image, almost like a horizontal IMAX. I recall seeing the movie *The Deer Hunter* from the third row; now that was an experience. The Alvin Theatre (now a fitness center) had the roof collapse during a movie in the 1920s, but no one was killed due to the heroics of the staff. The Nixon (now demolished) opened with a car being driven to the balcony to demonstrate its safety. La Gondola used to have pictures of vaudeville stars above the bar.

In short, there are a thousand stories about Downtown Pittsburgh theaters and the city's historic theater district. Point Park has an opportunity to revive these stories and build on this historic theater tradition, perhaps in the pages of your magazine.

Tom Harley  
Indiana, Pa

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### Professional Advancement

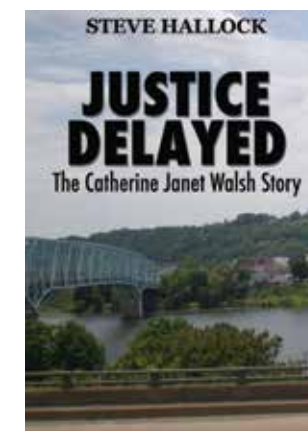
**Nelson Chipman** has been named as the new executive director for Point Park Online. He has been with the University for eight years. In his time at Point Park, he has served in a number of administrative positions, including the screenwriting concentration coordinator, screenwriting major coordinator, Cinema Department chair, interim dean for the Conservatory of Performing Arts, and program director for the new low-residency M.F.A. program.

**Susan Stowe**, professor of dance and former chair of the Department of Dance, recently completed a sabbatical. Last January, she taught master classes in Cancún, Mexico. Later Stowe taught master classes at New York City's Ballet Academy East and observed classes and rehearsals at Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet, one of the country's most highly regarded ballet training programs. Stowe also taught classes at Pittsburgh Youth Ballet and conducted a site evaluation for the National Association of Schools of Dance. She returned to teaching full-time this fall.

**Matthew Opdyke**, Ph.D., associate professor of environmental science, gave a presentation Aug. 14 at the Ecological Society of America's 100th Anniversary Conference on the wetland ecology research he conducted with Allegheny Land Trust. His presentation was titled "Plant succession in a restored floodplain wetland: 2010-2014." An abstract of Opdyke's presentation is published on the Ecological Society of America's website.

**Robert Skertich**, Ph.D., associate professor, and **Thomas Cook**, M.B.A.,

adjunct instructor, joined public administration student **Tony Zoroya** in leading a 170-hour entry-level firefighter training course this summer at the Allegheny County Fire Academy. "Training new firefighters this summer with Professors Skertich and Cook made me realize fire service education has become a calling for me," remarked Zoroya, who works as a transport coordinator for STAT MedEvac. "Working with new firefighters is such a rewarding experience. I get the same enjoyment out of expanding college students view of the world in my Political and Legal Foundations of Emergency Services class," said Cook, who is also assistant chief of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Fire.

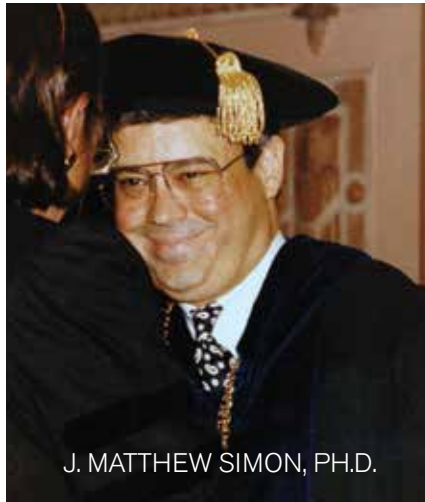


**Steve Hallock**, Ph.D., associate professor of journalism and director of the School of Communication's graduate programs, is the author of the new book *Justice Delayed: The Catherine Janet Walsh Story*. Hallock said he was inspired to write the book after reading a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette article published in 2012 — "Bridge-water councilman arrested in 1979 killing of woman in Monaca." The story reported that the original responding officer, **Andrew Gall** (A&S '07), was the lead detective on the case all of those years," explained Hallock. "I thought that a police officer staying with the

case all those years in itself was quite the story — but it became more intriguing as I investigated and learned that at the time of the murder, Gall, state police and county detectives had five suspects, each with opportunity and a few with motive." Using the entire case file, newspaper clippings, court transcripts, magazine articles and research journals, Hallock drew upon his more than 30 years of journalism experience to complete the research and writing of *Justice Delayed*. "This story emerged from cold darkness more than 30 years after the murder, thanks to new light shone on long-stored evidence through the use of DNA forensics. Officer Gall, now a detective with the Beaver County District Attorney's Office, in 2012 arrested one of the original suspects. This story is the true saga of crime, its investigation and trial, and of the effects of that murder on a small, close-knit community of friends, kin, neighbors — and others in Monaca," said Hallock. *Justice Delayed* features a book cover designed by Point Park Professor **Heather Starr Fiedler**, Ph.D. and is available on Amazon.com.

### New Academic Chairs

Point Park has announced the appointment of three new academic department chairs: **Gregg Johnson**, Ph.D., chair, Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology Department; **Brent Robbins**, Ph.D., chair, Department of Humanities and Human Sciences; and **Sarah Perrier**, Ph.D., chair, Department of Literary Arts. The Department of Literary Arts is a brand new academic department that was split from Humanities and Human Sciences and includes the English and English/Creative Writing majors.



J. MATTHEW SIMON, PH.D.

**In Memoriam**

**J. Matthew Simon**, Ph.D., who oversaw the acquisition of a new library while president of Point Park College from 1986 to 1995, has passed away at the age of 73. Point Park President Paul Hennigan said it was a pleasure for he

and his wife, Colleen, to get to know Simon and his wife, **Janet Simon**, Ph.D. "Matt was enormously helpful in my own transition to the presidency," said Hennigan, who noted Simon's passion for both Point Park and community service. "The time he spent with me imparting his knowledge and understanding of Point Park and its history was invaluable." Simon received a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 1969 under the direction of Professor Johannes Coetsee. He joined the Point Park faculty that same year. "He defended his dissertation at 10 a.m., and his first class at Point Park was at 2 p.m.," said Dr. Janet Simon, his wife of 48 years.

In 1973, Simon was sent to Switzerland as director of studies for Point Park's European Campus. He later returned to Pittsburgh and was asked by President

John V. Hopkins to serve as chair of the Department of Natural Science and Engineering Technology. Janet Simon said running the department was a challenge for her husband, and one he undertook with great devotion. His passion was so great, Simon often would recruit students to come to Point Park. In fact, he kept a box of Point Park ties in the trunk of his car, and would give them out to potential students – male or female. **Mark Farrell**, Ph.D., chair of Natural Sciences and Engineering Technology at Point Park, and a longtime colleague and friend, said Simon "truly loved Point Park. He wanted Point Park to be a place where students, regardless of their backgrounds, could gain the education they desired," Farrell said. "He raised a considerable amount of funding for merit-based scholarships that helped hundreds of local students succeed." Simon served as department chair until he was named president in

1986. "He was most proud of the fact that he paid off the roof and acquired the Bank Center," Janet Simon said. The Bank Center ultimately was converted into the University Center, which houses the school's library. Simon later became a Distinguished Professor at Point Park as well as an adjunct professor in Pitt's School of Education. He retired in 2007, then served for a year as a visiting scholar in Pitt's Department of Administrative and Policy Studies. Simon and his wife have two sons, Jacob Simon of Pittsburgh and Edward Simon of Bethlehem, Pa.

**Journalists Receive Awards**

Point Park journalists were among the winners of the Pennsylvania Women's Press Association (PWPA) 2015 Excellence in Journalism competition. Student **Sara Payne** won a first place award for her Point Park News Service profile of John the Craftist, a local maker. Recent graduate **Marina Weis** won a second place award for a profile on the sport of curling.

**Short Films Earn Top Honors**

Three short films made by cinema arts alumni and a student won top prizes at the National Film Festival for Talented Youth, the world's largest festival for emerging filmmakers. Held in April in Seattle, Wash., the festival showcases films by directors 24 and younger. The winning films are: *Diamonds in the Rough*, Audience Award in the Real-World, documentaries category—director/producer: **Dominique Carino** (cinema arts major), cinematographer: **Angelo Re** (cinema arts major), editor: **Kyle Rawlinson** (cinema arts major); *Milkman*, Audience Award in the Centerpiece category—director: **Garrett Kennell** (COPA '14), cinematog-



Jenkins performs with the band Lone Wolf Club. Photos by David Rowell, SAEM assistant professor.

**PIONEER RECORDS IN THE PARK**

**Hannah Jenkins**, a Point Park student and the first artist featured on the University's new record label, Pioneer Records, performed live in the Village Park last spring. Jenkins performed an hour of music, both acoustic and with the band Lone Wolf Club, while copies of her first CD, *Something Out of Nothing*, were sold at the event. "It was awesome being able to finally share with everyone what we've been working so hard on with Pioneer Records," remarked Jenkins, a sports, arts and entertainment management (SAEM) major. Pioneer Records is housed at Red Caiman Media, a commercial recording studio in Pittsburgh. Through a partnership with Point Park, students have access to the studio's recording and production rooms, allowing them to acquire firsthand experience on the various aspects of a record label. "This event was a great opportunity to showcase music from Hannah's new CD while celebrating the first year of Pioneer Records," said **Ed Traversari**, associate professor of sports, arts and entertainment management.

rapher: **Kevin Stiller** (cinema arts major), editor: **Timm Romine** (COPA '14); *Pass Me By*, Audience award in the Guide to Growing Up category—director: **Jared Passante** (COPA '14), producer: **Joe Balewski** (COPA '13), cinematographer: **Sam Mosco** (COPA '14), editor: **Graham Carroll** (COPA '14), sound designer: **Thomas Lechowicz** (COPA '14).

Earlier this year, Kennell's film was named best student film at the Los Angeles Independent Film Festival, and won the grand jury award at the Shot for Shot Student film festival in Pittsburgh. Carino's *Diamonds in the Rough* was accepted into the Los Angeles CineFest. In 2013, Passante's short film, *A Matter of Time*, was also screened at NFFTY. This

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- Nov. 7, 2015**
- Feb. 6, 2016**

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[enroll@pointpark.edu](mailto:enroll@pointpark.edu)  
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**POINT PARK**  
UNIVERSITY

year's NFFTY featured 248 films from 30 states and 25 countries, with directors ranging from age 11 to 24.

**Project BOLD Turns Three**

A special event at the Manchester Craftsmen's Guild on June 4 honored the student participants, mentors and community partners who have contributed to the success of the Building Our Leaders Daily (BOLD), a complementary program to Point Park's Urban Accounting Initiative. BOLD has completed its third year of creating awareness of careers in finance and accounting among urban middle school students throughout the region. **Dr. Herman Reid III**, a gynecologist and da Vinci surgeon, was the keynote speaker. Reid, a Pittsburgh native and graduate of Carrick High School, runs his practice in Fort Branch, Ind. Long-time KDKA-TV reporter **Harold Hayes** was master of ceremonies for the event, which enabled attendees to experience the emotional impact of the mentoring experience. The BOLD program boasts a number of prominent community leaders as mentors. **Herman Reid**, Ed.D., director of Academic and Economic Development at Point Park, and director of the BOLD program, said the mentoring from area professionals in accounting and finance, many with an urban background, is a unique, inspirational feature of the BOLD program.

**Television Critics Honor *The Chair***

The Television Critics Association honored the Point Park produced docu-series *The Chair* with a 2015 award for best reality show. The series, filmed on campus and in Pittsburgh in 2014, followed the production of two films – *Holidaysburg* and *Not Cool* – based on the same original story about college students returning home at



**INTERNATIONAL MEDIA CLASS IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL**

Students in Point Park's International Media class traveled abroad last May to explore media and culture in Spain and Portugal. Professors **Helen Fallon** and **David Fabilli**, retired faculty member **Jan Getz** and **Emily Kolek**, a graduate assistant and M.A./M.B.A. student, accompanied the group. "We had amazing access to Spanish and Portuguese media and communication agencies, and... the visits did not disappoint us. It is one thing to read about a newspaper, public broadcasting system, magazine or advertising agency. It is entirely something else to visit," said Fallon. Some of the visits included Condé Nast, Ketchum, Havas Media Group, Televisio de Catalunya, La Vanguardia and the Research Center in Media and Journalism at the University of Lisbon. The group also enjoyed cultural visits to Madrid's Royal Palace and Valley of the Fallen and tours of Segovia, Camp Nou, La Sagrada Familia and the UNESCO town of Sintra. Learn more at the student-created website: <http://spain.point-parkjournalism.com>. Photo by Courtney Giles, photojournalism major.

Thanksgiving. Viewers voted on which film should win a \$250,000 prize. In addition to Point Park and others, *The Chair* was produced by Steeltown Entertainment.

**AIU Brings Student Leaders to Point Park**

During the spring 2015 semester, 37 students from 22 high schools in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's leadership gifted and talented apprenticeship program came to Point Park to explore careers in broadcasting and public relations and advertising. Students had the unique

opportunity to work with alumna **Christina Praskovich** (COM '08), communications coordinator at Make-A-Wish, to create public service videos and posters to promote the Give Wishes Wings campaign.

**Perception of Complexion**

**Ej Brown** (COPA '15) can easily point to what happened on Aug. 9, 2014, in Ferguson, Mo., as a pivotal moment in his thinking about race and the complex perceptions that come along with it. To help grapple with the frustration many young African-American men feel over

the deaths of Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin and Freddie Gray, Brown took to visual imagery. He created a stark series of photos that feature classic police mug shots of several of his fellow Point Park classmates. Dressed in traditional cap and gown, each young man holds up a police placard that indicates his date of graduation and program of study instead of a criminal charge. *Perception of Complexion*, as Brown calls the campaign, has generated considerable attention on social media and in national media outlets such as the Huffington Post. Brown, a 2015 cinema production graduate, says he didn't set out to create a viral campaign, but he did need a way to express what he and many of his friends were feeling. "I felt the need to do something constructive so I ran to art. I wanted to knock down that wall and challenge people to look beyond the pigment of someone's skin and the stereotypes attached to it."



**SILVA IS KIAC MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

Point Park men's soccer player **Lucas Silva** was selected as the Kiac Male Athlete of the Year 2014-15. Silva had one of the best years ever for a male student-athlete at Point Park, and his outstanding senior season in the fall of 2014 stood out as the top performance in the Kiac. A senior forward from Sao Paulo, Brazil, Silva led Point Park men's soccer on perhaps its best season ever. He scored a school-record 26 goals, collected six assists and racked up 58 points. Silva garnered NAIA All-America Third Team honors as the first Point Park men's soccer player ever to be named an All-American. He also totaled 21 career assists to rank in the top five of the Pioneers record book. Silva continued his soccer career as a member of the Pittsburgh Riverhounds U23 PDL team in summer 2015.

When Tom attended Point Park, there wasn't a scholarship program for nontraditional students. There is now: **THE GOLONSKI FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND.**

"I went to night school for 11 years and gained a great respect for the educators who provided me with the tools that opened doors to career opportunities. It is still true to say 'You can get there from here.' I have always told my children, and now grandchildren, that an education is one of the things in life that no one can ever take from you."

**TOM GOLONSKI**

Nontraditional student (BUS 1972)  
Member, Board of Trustees, 1980-2008; Chair, 1997-2008; Trustee Emeritus, 2008  
Retired President and CEO, National City Bank

*Establish your legacy* through a gift, stock transfer or bequest. Contact Beth Exton, development director, at 412-392-4777 or [bexton@pointpark.edu](mailto:bexton@pointpark.edu), or visit [plannedgiving.pointpark.edu](http://plannedgiving.pointpark.edu)



## In Memoriam

MARION PETROV

**Marion Petrov**, who worked with her husband, Professor Emeritus **Nicolas Petrov**, to teach generations of ballet students in Pittsburgh and at Point Park, has died at the age of 80. According to her obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, "she was born in South Africa and...met her husband while touring in Sweden with the company founded by Leonide Massine, 'one of the great creative forces in 20th century ballet,' said Nicolas Petrov, a Yugoslavian-born dancer and choreographer... They continued to tour with ballet companies all over the world before moving to Pittsburgh in 1965, where, for the next four decades, she worked alongside him as a dancer and teacher. Nicolas Petrov started on the dance faculty at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, then helped found the Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (originally affiliated with Point Park College) and was its director from 1969 to 1977." Read the entire obituary: [bit.ly/1hGJaUu](http://bit.ly/1hGJaUu).

## Accounting Networking Panel

The Student Accounting Association, Alumni Relations, the School of Business and recent accounting graduate **Chris Cerda** hosted a networking panel event last spring featuring professionals from Schneider Downs, a top 60 certified public accounting and business advisory firm with offices in Pittsburgh and Columbus. "The industry panel was extremely beneficial for students because it allowed them to investigate many different career options in accounting all in one location," said **Amy Cesario**, C.P.A., M.B.A., visiting assistant professor

of accounting. Students were given "day in the life" job descriptions on the many different career paths in accounting, including internal audit, external audit, tax services, wealth management and business evaluations.

## CSI: Point Park 2015

Point Park's 2015 crime scene investigation summer camp brought in 38 high school students from states across the nation including Colorado, Georgia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania. During the four-day camp, students learned about careers in forensic science, criminal justice and intelligence and national security. They also engaged in a variety of mock forensic science work such as processing the CSI on campus and conducting labs on blood splatter, fingerprinting, hair analysis and impression evidence. "The students were smart, attentive and looking for as much knowledge as they could to get a better focus on specific career fields they want to pursue," remarked **Edward Strimlan**, M.D., assistant professor and coordinator of the forensic science program. "My favorite parts of the camp were the hands-on activities in the crime scene house," remarked Mitchell Luton, a senior at Quaker Valley High School. "I'm really interested in a career in the criminal justice field." In addition to doing crime scene work, the students also heard presentations on cyber threats and Ninja fighting. "We discussed what is known about the historical Ninja/Shinobi, common myths and misconceptions, their origins, types of missions, weapons, tools and tactics," explained **Sean Elliot Martin**, Ph.D., instructor for the Department of Criminal Justice and Intelligence Studies. "We also made a non-injurious version of one of their most inventive weapons."

## Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame to Induct Smith and Roddy

Point Park's Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame has announced the inductees for the Class of 2015: **Randy Smith** (Men's Basketball, 1989-93) and **Rachel Roddy** (Volleyball, 2007-10). Smith, from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, is a top-10 all-time scorer and rebounder in the history of Point Park men's basketball. An NAIA Honorable Mention All-American and a two-time NAIA District 18 all-star, Smith scored 1,494 career points and grabbed 696 career rebounds from 1989-93. He was also the president of United Student Government and an Academic All-American candidate. Roddy, from Greensburg, Pa., and Greensburg Salem High School, was the backbone of Point Park volleyball from 2007-10 and led the ushering in of the current state of the Pioneers program. An AVCA-NAIA All-Northeast Region player, Roddy had career totals of 1,628 kills and 1,668 digs to join a rare category of collegiate volleyball players surpassing 1,000 in both categories. In the classroom, she had a 3.92 GPA as an NAIA Scholar-Athlete. With the addition of Smith and Roddy, there will be 54 individuals and one team enshrined in the Hall of Fame display area on the second floor of the Student Center. The Hall of Fame Class of 2015 will be honored at a ceremony on Sept. 26 on campus. The ceremony will feature a reception followed by dinner. Tickets are \$25 per person and are on sale at: [www.pointpark.edu/Athletics/HallofFame](http://www.pointpark.edu/Athletics/HallofFame). The induction is a part of the Fifth Annual Point Park Athletics Alumni Weekend. The Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 1973 and then re-born in 2000 to recognize the accomplishments of student-athletes, coaches and administrators. Nominations are taken from the general public. Visit: [www.pointpark.edu/athletics](http://www.pointpark.edu/athletics).

## WHERE THE BISON ROAM

A bronze bison now welcomes visitors in the lobby of Academic Hall. Found in a Pittsburgh antique gallery, the stately beast was acquired for display on campus thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor. **The Bison** became Point Park's mascot in 1967, when the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity teamed with the Varsity Club to acquire a live bison named Black Diamond II (in reference to the Black Diamond bison on the reverse side of the U.S. nickel at the time). He was kept at South Park and was a popular attraction at parades on the Boulevard of the Allies as well as at sporting events. After Black Diamond II passed away, the Bison image remained as a symbol of school spirit and Point Park pride.





## ACADEMIC PROGRESS

A new Ph.D. in community engagement, new online M.S. in health care administration and management, and more

Business Professor Archish Maharaja. Photo by Martha Rial.

Point Park's academic offerings continue to expand, providing new opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students — on campus and online.

This fall, the University welcomed a new group of doctoral students into the region's first interdisciplinary Ph.D. in community engagement. Also newly launched is a fully online M.S. in health care administration and management, designed to meet the increasing demand for highly trained professionals to manage health care centers and services. This program is among many online degree opportunities at Point Park.

### Ph.D. Links Community Partners

The new Ph.D. in community engagement is designed to give current and future leaders the tools necessary to become agents of change in diverse community settings.

The 54-credit doctoral program can be completed in three years (less if post-masters credits are transferred in), attending class one night per week. The cost of the program is similar to Point Park's Ed.D. in leadership and administration program (estimated \$13,500 per year).

"This program will be a true social lab, with students working throughout their courses with community partners on real-world projects," said Heather Starr Fiedler, Ph.D., associate professor in Point Park's School of Communication. "This format will allow the students to come together as a team, bringing their collective wisdom and skill sets to help better serve the community."

For students, work with outside community organizations begins early in the program. Small groups will partner with local organizations to tackle problems or opportunities. Individual dissertations then will be combined to create a community report that will be presented publicly to ensure maximum benefit.

### Serving the Mission

"The community engagement report is the essence of Point Park's mission. It is a palpable demonstration of the University's contribution to the Pittsburgh community while supporting academic excellence and professional growth for students," said Helen Sobehart, D.A., who recently served as associate academic vice president for graduate education at Point Park.

The Ph.D. program is comprised of four blocks of study: Block 1: Community Engagement core (18 credit hours taken at the start of the program); Block 2: Research and Practicum core (12 credit hours); Block 3: Proseminars/Electives (choose 12 credit hours, taken during the summers. Up to 12 credits may be transferred into this block pending approval of the program director.); and Block 4: Dissertation and Collaborative Community Engagement Report (12 credit hours).

Courses in the Ph.D. program run year-round and are divided into eight-week sessions. Students will typically take one course each eight weeks, earning 15-21 credits per year. Most courses are offered in a hybrid format that allows working professionals to balance family, personal and career commitments while finishing all required courses and a dissertation.

For additional information, visit [PointPark.edu/communityPHD](http://PointPark.edu/communityPHD) or contact Kathy Ballas, director of the Office of Graduate Admission, at [kballas@pointpark.edu](mailto:kballas@pointpark.edu) or 412-392-3812.

### Fully Online M.S. in Health Care Administration and Management

In another first, this fall Point Park initiated one of the first fully online graduate programs in health care administration and management in the Pittsburgh region.

The 36-credit Master of Science degree was designed to meet the growing demand for highly trained professionals to manage health care centers and services due to the rapidly aging American population and overall expansion of health care. Pittsburgh has one of the highest populations of seniors in the country and is well known for its health care systems and groundbreaking medical discoveries.

### Flexible for Working Professionals

"Our fully online degree provides flexibility for working professionals while delivering the same quality and depth of instruction that one would receive on ground," explained

Archish Maharaja, Ed.D., C.F.P., C.P.A., associate professor of business management.

According to Maharaja, Point Park's online M.S. degree will equip current health care professionals, as well as those seeking a new career in the health care field, with the tools and skills needed to successfully plan, direct and coordinate medical and health services.

Students will have the opportunity to complete the degree in as little as 18 months (six semesters) at a tuition cost of \$550 per credit. The program offers a rigorous curriculum of quantitative and qualitative classes integrating theoretical learning, scholarly research and case analysis in national and global health care policies and practices.

Courses are taught by faculty with a diverse range of professional experience in the health care management field. They cover concepts such as the economics of health care, how government regulations affect health care administration, health care informatics and more.

"The faculty teaching in this program have management experience in both for-profit and not-for-profit health care organizations, including solo and group physician practices, insurance companies and a variety of medical specialties," remarked Maharaja.

Before graduating from the program, students are required to build a portfolio showcasing their knowledge, skills and experience as a way to help them enter or advance their careers in the health care field.

### Online Opportunities Grow

The new fully online M.S. in Health Care Administration and Management is among eight online master's degrees in such areas as business, education, and intelligence and global security. The University also offers 10 fully online bachelor's degrees (in such areas as business, communication, criminal justice and public administration), five online certificates (in public administration, Pennsylvania school principal K-12 certification, and intelligence and global security), and two associate degrees (in public administration and business management).

For more information about the new online M.S. in Health Care Administration and Management, or any of Point Park's online degree programs, visit [online.PointPark.edu](http://online.PointPark.edu). ❖

# CYCLING THE CITY

Riding and learning in bike-friendly  
Downtown Pittsburgh



Professor Rich Keitel commutes to campus along the Eliza Furnace Trail. Photo by John Altdorfer.



“There is nothing more beautiful than taking a bike ride, especially when the leaves are changing. You just see the world differently while riding a bike,” says Conservatory of Performing Arts Professor Rich Keitel, who regularly commutes between his Squirrel Hill home and Point Park’s Downtown campus by way of the bike trail along the Monongahela River.

“I try to bike every day, regardless of the weather. I really enjoy it,” says Keitel, who is an advocate for bike safety measures such as helmets and who also leads his own students on a six-mile loop around the rivers each spring. “It’s good exercise. [Cycling] wakes me up before class and relaxes me after class.” Chris Rolinson, associate professor in the School of Communication, agrees. He drives from his home in Coraopolis to the

city’s Manchester neighborhood on the Northside, then rides his bike along the rivers and arrives on campus via the Mon Wharf. “The early morning light in Pittsburgh is amazing,” says the photojournalist. “I’ve found [biking Downtown] to be very safe, and it’s a routine I really enjoy.”

## Bicycles Abound Downtown

Keitel and Rolinson are among a growing number of Point Park faculty, staff and students who cycle as they enjoy living, working and learning in the increasingly bike-friendly city of Pittsburgh. From cycling trails along the rivers and bike lanes on urban streets, to bicycle sharing stations on campus and throughout the city, there’s never been a better time to explore the city and its rich history on two wheels.

Point Park students can check out bikes for free at the Student Center, and bikes are also available to faculty, staff and alumni who pay a small monthly fee to use the Student Center gym and recreational facilities. “We’ve seen a steady increase in the use of the University’s bike lending program since it was instituted a few years ago,” says JW Tabacchi, director of student development. “It enables our students to get out and explore the city, which truly is their campus.”

Point Park’s United Student Government (USG) was instrumental in initiating the bike program, says Tabacchi. “USG is committed to the benefits of students having access to bikes. This basically serves as a form of free transportation around the city, enabling students to travel to events or a job or just ride for fun.”

## BikePGH at Point Park

“As someone who went to college here in Pittsburgh, I can attest that bicycling is a very popular way for students to get around,” says Scott Bricker, executive director of BikePGH. “You can get around to more neighborhoods, more quickly.” Summer 2015 marked the launch of Pittsburgh’s new citywide bike share system, Healthy Ride. Fifty stations, connecting 11 different neighborhoods, are now open and stocked with bicycles for public use, including a popular station on Third Avenue at Point Park. Bike riding Downtown is on the rise: in May and June alone, says Bricker, more than 24,000 bike trips were recorded by the pneumatic counter placed on the Penn Avenue bike lane.

*continued on page 14*





President Paul Hennigan (above left) guides student leaders on his annual educational bike tour in 2014. All photos by Chris Rolinson.



On Aug. 20, Point Park hosted a BikePGH conference on campus, an event that brought together architects and urban designers to discuss city ordinances on bicycles, design solutions for bike parking in new and retrofitted buildings, and other issues that impact city cyclists.

### Riding with the President

Also in late August, in what has become a Point Park tradition, President Paul Hennigan led student leaders on his fifth annual bike tour through the heart of Pittsburgh and along its rivers. For Hennigan, the annual ride is a chance to kick off the new academic year by bonding with the students who will be working with and mentoring their peers in Point Park's five residence

halls. For the students, it's a Pittsburgh history lesson and an opportunity to become acquainted the city's nearby recreational trails – then share all their new knowledge to help other students make the most of their college years in Downtown Pittsburgh.

As in previous years, Hennigan's ride was preceded by meetings with the students, covering where they would go and what they would see. During the second get-together, the students gave short presentations on the historical significance of buildings, locations and stops along the ride.

"The bike tour is a lot of fun, but it's also an educational opportunity," says Hennigan. "It's a chance to say, 'lets not only enjoy the ride, but also understand the history we'll see along the way.'"

### A Unique Perspective

The tour follows a 17-mile route through Downtown, the South Side, Station Square, Point State Park, the North Side and Washington's Landing. Riders enjoy lunch at Redfin Blues, a restaurant along the Allegheny River. According to Point Park student Sierra Barnett, a Columbus, Ohio native who joined Hennigan on his 2014 tour, the bike ride is truly a learning experience. "I really enjoyed [learning] that Pittsburgh, through all of the new development and through its impact on the world, [the city and its residents] really did have to pioneer the way through the years."

According to Hennigan, "viewing Pittsburgh from a bike gives a unique perspective. The familiar landscape looks completely new somehow, even to someone who has seen it over and over." Hennigan's recommendation, for students, faculty and staff to Downtown neighbors and city visitors alike, is to "grab a bike, strap on a helmet, and take your friends out for a ride. It's an experience like no other." ❖



### Point Extra:

Professor Chris Rolinson documented President Hennigan and students on the president's 2014 bike ride. See his video at [pointpark.edu/thepoint](http://pointpark.edu/thepoint).

## PHOTO FINISH

On the Boulevard of the Allies at Wood Street, the heart of Point Park's Downtown campus, runners passed the Village Park to cross the finish line of the Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon on May 3, 2015. In addition to welcoming athletes as they finished the race, the University hosted members of the media covering the event in nearby Lawrence Hall. Photo by Chris Rolinson.





# INTO THE WOODS, CHICAGO AND MUCH MORE

## Playhouse season includes crowd-pleasing musicals, classics and contemporary works

Point Park's Conservatory Theatre Company (CTC) will present five productions in 2015-16. The Tony Award-winning musical *Into the Woods*, Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's contemporary twist on classic fairy tales, opens the season on Oct. 16. Zeva Barzell, coordinator of musical theatre at Point Park, will direct. The season concludes with the blockbuster hit *Chicago*, the rousing Prohibition-era musical about two rival murderesses. Bob Fosse choreographed the original 1975 Broadway production and the show has since been identified with his style. Director and longtime faculty member Jack Allison has directed at regional theatres throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, including 36 productions as director of the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera.

### The Bluest Eye Among Diverse Plays

The CTC season also features award-winning playwright Lydia Diamond's adaptation of Toni Morrison's powerful novel, *The Bluest Eye*. It is the poignant story of an 11-year-old black girl who believes her family and friends will love her if she had blue eyes. Director Monica Payne is the founder of Theatre Lumina, a company devoted to cross-cultural collaboration and international exchange. Other upcoming CTC productions include Henrik Ibsen's masterpiece about family relationships, *The Wild Duck*, and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis' hilarious dark comedy, *Our Lady of 121st Street*.

### Choir Boy and The Flick at The REP

The REP, Point Park's professional theatre company, presents comedies and dramas by some of the best contemporary playwrights in the 2015-16 season. It opened Sept. 4 with Point Park Professor John Amplas directing *The Country House*, Pulitzer Prize-winner Donald Margulies' comedy about a theatrical family's dramatic weekend. The REP next presents MacArthur Genius award-winner Tarell Alvin McCraney's coming-of-age drama, *Choir Boy*, directed by Tomé Cousin. Opening Sept. 25, the play explores such issues as race and gender within a prestigious prep school's a capella choir. A Point Park alumnus, Cousin is an internationally recognized director, choreographer, performer and creator of musical theater works, ballets, films and art installations.

The REP season concludes with *The Flick*, Annie Baker's 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winner for drama, a funny and observant play about movie theater employees who tackle interpersonal battles and deal with love as they mop the floors between screenings. The director is Robert A. Miller, an acclaimed Hollywood producer and director known for producing the Academy Award-nominated film *The Crucible*. He also directed The REP's world premiere of *The Umbrella Man* in 2010 and is a producer of the movie of the same name. Miller has been Distinguished Master Artist in Residence at Point Park since 2009.

### World Premiere of Five

The Conservatory Dance Company's 2015-16 season includes the world premiere of *Five*, an original piece choreographed by Point Park's department of dance chair Rubén Graciani and faculty member and alumna Kiesha Lalama. Opening Feb. 5, the piece explores the theme of choice through the lens of the five senses. The CDC season also includes such annual productions as *Contemporary Choreographers*, in which luminaries of the dance world collaborate with students. Featured choreographers include: Gregory Dolbashian, Ori Flomin, Jessica Hendricks, and the artistic director of the Washington Ballet, Septime Webre.

### Playhouse Jr. Presents Holiday Show and More

Playhouse Jr., Point Park's family and children's theatre company, invites school and community groups and the general public to three engaging productions during its 67th season, which opens on Dec. 4 with a holiday themed production designed to entertain children of all ages. Later in the spring, Playhouse Jr. will present the musical fable *Stone Soup* along with *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, based on the classic Judy Blume novel about an oft-defeated 9-year-old. Both run May 7-22. Playhouse Jr. features acting, musical theatre, stage management and technical theatre/design students both on and off stage at the Pittsburgh Playhouse. ❖

## ON STAGE THIS FALL AND SPRING

### The REP

#### *The Country House*

By Donald Margulies  
Directed by John Amplas  
Sept. 4–20  
Rauh Theater

#### *Choir Boy*

By Tarell Alvin McCraney  
Directed by Tomé Cousin  
Sept. 25–Oct. 11  
Studio Theater

#### *The Flick*

By Annie Baker  
Directed by Robert A. Miller  
April 8–24  
Studio Theater

### The Conservatory Theatre Company

#### *Into the Woods*

Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim  
Book by James Lapine  
Directed by Zeva Barzell  
Oct. 16–25  
Rockwell Theater

#### *The Wild Duck*

By Henrik Ibsen  
Directed by Shirley Tannenbaum  
Nov. 6–22  
Studio Theater

#### *Our Lady of 121st Street*

By Stephen Adly Guirgis  
Directed by Steven Wilson  
Dec. 4–13  
Rauh Theater

#### *The Bluest Eye*

By Lydia Diamond  
Based on the novel by Toni Morrison  
Directed by Monica Payne  
Feb. 26–28 and March 10–13  
Rauh Theater

#### *Chicago*

Music by John Kander  
Lyrics by Fred Ebb  
Book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse  
Directed by Jack Allison  
March 18–27  
Rockwell Theater

### Conservatory Dance Company

#### *Student Choreography Project*

Oct. 1–3  
GRW Performance Studio

#### *Contemporary Choreographers*

Dec. 11–13  
GRW Performance Studio

#### *Point Park Connections*

Nov. 13–22  
GRW Performance Studio

#### *Five*

World Premiere  
Choreography by Rubén Graciani and Kiesha Lalama  
Feb. 5–14  
Rockwell Theater

#### *Conservatory Dance Company at Point Park University*

Choreography by dance faculty  
Feb. 25–28  
GRW Performance Studio

#### *Conservatory Dance Company at the Byham*

April 14–16  
Byham Theater (Downtown)

### Playhouse Jr.

#### *Holiday Production*

Original show designed for all ages  
Dec. 4–13  
Rockwell Theater

#### *Stone Soup*

May 7–22  
Rockwell Theater

#### *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*

Adapted from novel by Judy Blume  
May 7–22  
Rauh Theater

## SPECIAL OFFER FOR ALUMNI

Point Park alumni receive a 50 percent discount off regular ticket prices. Visit or call the box office: 412-392-8000. For more information on the 2015-16 Playhouse season, including subscriptions, tickets and alumni discounts, visit [pittsburghplayhouse.com](http://pittsburghplayhouse.com).

# SAFETY FIRST

## Police and cinema alumni collaborate on ALICE training film to increase urban campus safety

by Lou Corsaro



A man calmly walks into Academic Hall and enters the elevator. When the doors close, he unzips his bag to reveal a handgun and automatic weapon. What happens next?

It's a situation that has played out across the country, but one that no one can imagine happening so close to home. Jeff Besong, assistant vice president of public safety and police chief at Point Park, sought to create a video that would educate students, faculty and staff on what to do in such a situation, while also highlighting the protections in place on campus.

"When they see our own University, it will bring the scenario closer to home," Besong said. "They'll say, 'I sit in that classroom.' ... I think everyone will get a sense of ownership. Our hope is that they will better understand what actions can be taken in case of an armed intruder."

The video was conceived using the tenets of the ALICE Training Institute, a school safety company. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. The institute uses the acronym to highlight ways to respond to an active shooter situation on campus.

### First Response

Besong is aware of only a handful of training videos available to universities, and none of them deal with a situation on an urban campus. The final video will be presented in Point Park's City-University Life class, and all current and future students will see the video.

To produce the video, Besong hoped to use homegrown talent, and asked the Cinema Arts Department for a recommendation. Chair and Associate Professor Jeremy Braverman

recommended Garrett Kennell, Kevin Stiller and Timm Romine, all recent Point Park graduates.

"I think it's a great opportunity. It's the type of stuff they'll be getting paid to do as filmmakers," Braverman said. "It's a springboard. They're so talented, they can make anything look good."

Besong provided a script and a video done by Auburn University as an example to follow, customize and improve upon. While Kennell had never made an instructional PSA video before, he found elements of familiarity in the project.

### Homegrown Expertise

"What was cool about this project is that it had somewhat of a narrative attached to it," said Kennell, who directed the project. Stiller did the cinematography, while Romine acted as editor.



"We were able to construct a very loose narrative to this PSA. It actually gets people interested and attached more when you can follow a clear and concise story."

Kennell said all actors in the video were students and faculty members. Braverman said the project provided valuable experience for students, but the use of alumni to produce it was just as important.

"It allows [alumni] to feel even more connected to the University," he said. "It strengthens that relationship – it's very similar to *The Chair*. It's the same concept, as both students and alumni worked on that. This provides them an entry into the industry and connects alumni to students." ❖

*Stills from the ALICE training film provided courtesy of GTK Films, LLC.*

# CODED FOR SUCCESS

## Visiting Professor Mark Voortman makes programming focus of IT learning

by Barbara Vilanova

When Mark Voortman, Ph.D. came to Point Park University to help re-launch its IT program, he knew programming would play a key role.

"Programming allows you to turn ideas into something working, something practical. It can vary from writing a program that tracks your customers' purchases to controlling nuclear facilities," explained Voortman, Point Park visiting assistant professor of information technology.

According to Voortman, many well-known companies have been started by someone with programming experience, like Bill Gates at Microsoft or Mark Zuckerberg at Facebook. "Taking an idea, even if it's very simple at first, can be the beginning of something very big, and that's what programming allows you to do," he said.

### Revamped IT Program

To ensure the revamped IT program will give Point Park students every advantage possible, he sought out grants to help pay for needed equipment. "Every website that you access on the internet runs on a server so it's very important that students learn about client-server, architectures and how to deploy their own websites (or apps) on a server. It's really important each student has his or her own online space to create and explore," Voortman explained.

In addition to getting hands-on experience using servers, Voortman wanted to help students move programming into a practical, classroom experience and so the idea for creating an app was born. In speaking to students about what kind of app would help them make the most out of their campus experience, "We found many don't really check their email so push notifications may be a better way to communicate," he explained. Students hope the app will also make it easier for staff, faculty and clubs or sports teams to share event announcements and keep track of who will be attending. During the fall semester,

students will work on developing and fine-tuning the as yet unnamed app as part of classroom lessons and projects.

### Enriching Campus Life

Ultimately, IT students hope the app will make campus life richer for everyone. Besides programming, the re-launched information technology major will help students build a knowledge base of big data and business entrepreneurship, all valuable skills for the rapidly changing fields of IT and software development.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, many computer programmers work in computer system design and related services, an industry that is expected to grow as a result of an increasing demand for new computer software and services. In addition, new applications will have to be developed for mobile technology and the health care industry.

A self-described "high-tech junkie," Voortman grew up in De Kwakel, a small town 15 miles outside of Amsterdam. When he came to the U.S. in 2004 to write his thesis, his advisor at the time from the University of Pittsburgh asked him to stay to pursue a Ph.D. Since settling in Pittsburgh, Voortman is impressed by the transformation the city has made from primarily manufacturing to becoming a "high-tech hub with companies like Google and Apple, and being home to an active startup scene supported by companies like AlphaLab." Voortman has taken full advantage of Pittsburgh's river front trails and parks, and as an avid runner, completed his fifth consecutive Pittsburgh marathon last May.

Like any good teacher, Voortman said, "I would like to make a difference in a student's life." By developing a new IT program and investing in technology, he plans to immerse students in an environment where they will be well-prepared to pursue a meaningful career. "In the IT field, the more technical you are, the more valuable you are to a company. Programming is such a powerful tool." ❖

Visiting professor Mark Voortman.  
Photo by John Altdorfer.

# ALUMNI CONNECTION



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Sept. 25** (Pittsburgh): Golf Outing, Athletics Alumni Weekend
- Sept. 26** (Pittsburgh): Alumni Games, Athletics Alumni Weekend
- Sept. 26** (Pittsburgh): Pioneer Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
- Oct. 15** (Washington, D.C.): Alumni & Student Reception
- Oct. 20** (Online): Ask Me Anything (Career Related!)
- Nov. 12** (Pittsburgh): Recent Alumni Happy Hour
- Dec. 5** (Pittsburgh): Alumni Holiday Party

Visit [pointpark.edu/alumni](http://pointpark.edu/alumni) for more information.

Greetings from campus!

As I start my second year with the Point Park University community, I want to thank so many of you who have been generous with your time and with your feedback about your experiences with Point Park following graduation. It has provided a better understanding of the history of this University as well as the needs of the alumni community. Please know that I'm using your comments to help enhance your experience with Point Park for years to come.

A common refrain from alumni has been a need for a tool to help alumni connect with one another – to assist in making those individual connections when one is moving to a new community, heading down a new career path, or looking for professional advice. I'm thrilled to share that as of September 1, we've launched a new tool, Point Park's first Alumni App, to respond to these requests. The App is available exclusively for Point Park alumni, free of charge. The Alumni App provides secure access to multiple features such as an alumni directory, map of nearby alumni, professional information from LinkedIn, and social media streams. The App is a constantly updating, multi-faceted directory right in the palm of your hand, and a great way to keep in touch, create new friends, and network with your fellow alumni.

Visit [pointpark.edu/alumniapp](http://pointpark.edu/alumniapp) to learn more and to download the App. We'll have more information about the App at all of our alumni events this fall, so please come out and ask us questions in person.

Thank you again for your feedback this year. Please help keep the conversations going by contacting me, or Jennifer Moritz, assistant director of alumni relations (who joined Point Park in April), at [alumni@pointpark.edu](mailto:alumni@pointpark.edu) with any questions or feedback you may have.

I am grateful for your warm welcome over the last year and proud to count you as part of the Point Park family.

All my best,

**Sarah Myksin**  
Director of Alumni Relations  
[smyksin@pointpark.edu](mailto:smyksin@pointpark.edu)

# CLASS NOTES

## ► 1970s

**Kim Payne** (COM 1979) received her M.B.A. degree, with a marketing concentration, from Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Fla. last May. She earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and communications at Point Park in 1979.

**Karen Rushe** (Kosinski) (COM 1974) has been elected to the board for the Western Colorado Writer's Forum in Grand Junction, Colo. Rushe, who earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and communications in 1974, later received a master's degree in the Beatles, Popular Music and Society from Liverpool Hope University in Liverpool, England. She writes, "besides my studies, I worked part-time at The Beatles Story located at Pier Head, which is the second Beatles Story site (the first is Albert Dock). Albert Dock is a permanent exhibition about the Beatles [and] each of the Beatles' solo

careers. The Beatles Story I worked at had a floating exhibit. While I was there, we had the John Lennon exhibit followed by "Elvis and Us" - which was the first Elvis memorabilia [exhibition] outside of Graceland."

**George C. Schirm** (A&S 1970, 1979) is a project manager at Raytheon, a defense firm. He began his studies at Point Park in 1964, and later earned his B.S. in business management in 1970 and a B.S. in mechanical engineering technology in 1979. During his time as a Point Park student, he served as secretary of Alpha Kappa Psi/Theta Upsilon fraternity.

## ► 1980s

**David Perozzi** (COM 1988) is now a senior editorial producer at ABC News. In July 2014, ABC News re-hired Perozzi after a

seven-year departure. He writes that he is "working closely with television legend Barbara Walters on a six-part series ABC News is producing for ID Discovery. The series revisits and updates some of Ms. Walters' biggest crimes stories with fresh interviews and new updates. The series is called *American Scandal* and is scheduled to air in September, 2015."

**Janice Repka** (COM 1983) has been promoted to chair of the School of English, Communication, and Language Studies at Lake Superior State University. After earning a law degree in 1987 and practicing law for many years, she returned to school to get an M.A. in English and M.F.A. in Creative Writing in 2010. She is the author of two books, one of which was recently optioned for film, and numerous published short stories and poems. She was hired by Lake State

**PETER'S POINT PARK EXPERIENCE:**  
"Coming from a small town, I enjoyed going to school in a city that was an easy stepping stone to New York City or LA. ... With the Playhouse, there were a lot of productions and opportunities to perform."

**WHY I GIVE BACK:**  
"Point Park was a very informative part of my adulthood, my appreciation for arts and culture in general. My reason to continue supporting the University is so that others can go to school there and have a similar experience."

READ MORE ABOUT PETER'S STORY AND HOW HIS CREATIVE POINT PARK ROOTS LED TO HIS CURRENT POSITION: [pointpark.edu/alumni](http://pointpark.edu/alumni)

MAKE YOUR GIFT TO THE ANNUAL FUND: [pointpark.edu/give](http://pointpark.edu/give)

**Peter Wentzel**  
B.A. in Dance, 1981  
VP of Production Finance,  
MRC Studios  
Los Angeles, California

**POINT PARK**  
UNIVERSITY  
[pointpark.edu](http://pointpark.edu)

People

OF POINT PARK

#PeopleofPointPark

as an assistant professor of English and creative writing and recently promoted to associate professor. At Lake State, she teaches fiction, poetry, and performance writing, and is the coordinator of the Superior Children's Book Festival and the Visiting Writer Series. She twice has been nominated for the Distinguished Teacher of the Year Award.

### ► 1990s

**Pamela J. Walaski** (A&S 1995) has accepted a position as director of health and safety for GAI Consultants Inc., an engineering, planning, environmental and economic consulting firm.

**Sonya Toler** (COM 1995) was honored with the Communicator of the Year Award at the Pittsburgh Black Media Federation's 2015 Robert L. Vann Media Awards. Toler is the public information officer for Pittsburgh's Public Safety Department, where she is responsible for media relations for four bureaus: police, fire, emergency medical services, and animal care and control. She previously served as incoming Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto's communications manager (on an interim basis) and prior to that was communications director for the People for Peduto mayoral campaign. Raised in Pittsburgh, Toler was executive director of the Pennsylvania Governor's Commission

on African American Affairs during the administration of Gov. Ed Rendell. She has been a journalist for the New Pittsburgh Courier and the Pittsburgh Business Times and served as director of communications for the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

**Juli (White) Flasker** (COM 1992), who has worked for Mission Health System Inc. in Asheville, N.C. since 2009, was recently promoted to Executive Assistant III in Administration, working with the firm's vice president/corporate compliance officer and the senior vice president/general counsel. A certified health care administrative professional, she has served as president of the North Carolina Health Care Administrative Professionals (NCHAP) from 2013-2015 and is also a member of the national Association of Health Care Administrative Professionals (AHCAP). She has been married to Paul Flasker for 20 years and has a 17-year-old daughter, Sierra, and a 14-year-old son, Connor.

### ► 2000s

**Sam Kantrowitz** (A&S '00) has been named principal of College Road Early Childhood Center in Wilmington, N.C. He was previously the assistant principal at Myrtle Grove Middle School and, prior to that, served as an assistant principal at Murrayville Elementary School and as a teacher at Williston Middle School. In addition, he taught at Jefferson Davis Middle School in West Palm Beach, Fla. Kantrowitz received his bachelor's degree in education at Point Park in 2000 and later earned his master's degree in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

**Max Hurwitz** (COPA '03) writes, "I recently completed my studies at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and [received]

my Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree in June. Following graduation, I will complete my intern year at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh. From there I will move to Seattle to complete a residency program in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at the University of Washington." Hurwitz earned a degree in dance at Point Park in 2003.

**Ashley Laverty** (COPA '09) authored an original play for young audiences, *Nadine's Coloring Book*, which was one of three plays selected for a week of workshop development at New York University's New Plays for Young Audiences annual festival in June 2015. Fellow alumnus **Travis Kendrick** (COPA '08) directed the rehearsed reading. Laverty earned her degree in theatre arts at Point Park.

**Melodee Holsinger Bridges** (COPA '01), a children's entertainer who performs and teaches as Miss Melodee, released her second album, *Find Your Melody*, in July 2015. Based in Tarzana, Calif., the singer, songwriter and dance teacher for children says she produced the collection of fun pop songs and ballads in an effort to "inspire each child to discover their own melody inside." Songs on the album include: "Let it Go," "Star Tonight," "Find Your Melody" and "You Can Dance Anywhere." Miss Melodee, whose style has been described as "Snow White meets Katy Perry," creates songs and lessons that encourage children to gain confidence by using their imaginations to explore creative movement and dance. "There's no better way to be healthy and have fun than dancing to a good pop beat," she says. Her own Miss Melodee Studios, a fast growing studio in the San Fernando Valley, has more than 500 students. Her debut album was nominated for an Independent Music Award for Best Children's album in 2012. To learn more, visit [www.missmelodee.com](http://www.missmelodee.com).



## PIONEER CHASES BALTIC GHOSTS

**Jan Rygert** (A&S 1969) writes, "My husband and I recently took a genealogical journey through the Baltics, including Latvia. We visited a 'haunted prison,' used in the early 20th century, where many people perished under the Nazis, communists and others. Prisoners were tortured, killed and hanged there. This prison was even featured on *Ghost Hunters International*. Very spooky, cold and damp!" Now living in the Atlanta area, Rygert was raised in McKeesport and graduated from Point Park in 1969. She says, "I am a member of Point Park's Founders Society and an avid supporter of the University!" Where have you been in your Point Park gear? Send us a photo, and tell us your story, at [thepoint@pointpark.edu](mailto:thepoint@pointpark.edu).



### ► 2010s

**Colston Cooper** (A&S '15) is an engineering technician with Murray Associates Inc. in Pittsburgh. He graduated with a B.S. in civil engineering technology in May 2015. The former Honors Program student and disc jockey for WPPJ Radio says, "I learned that Murray Associates already employed two Point Park alumni, one of whom I knew personally from my surveying class. The company was looking to hire another Point Park graduate — which put me at the top of the list of candidates. I felt Murray Associates was the right fit for me because it was a small company and it was highly

recommended by my advisor." Cooper says, "I selected Point Park first and foremost because it had the major I wanted, which was civil engineering technology. I also liked Point Park because it was a small school where I could receive individual attention from all of my professors if necessary."

**Karl Palvisak** (BUS '11), chief financial officer with the national engineering and environmental consulting firm GAI Consultants, Inc. received a 2015 "C-Level" Award from the Orlando Business Journal. The annual awards celebrate central Florida's top CIOs, COOs, CFOs, CMOs, and CXOs of distinction. Palvisak earned his M.B.A. from Point Park in 2011.

## PIONEERS ARE EVERYWHERE



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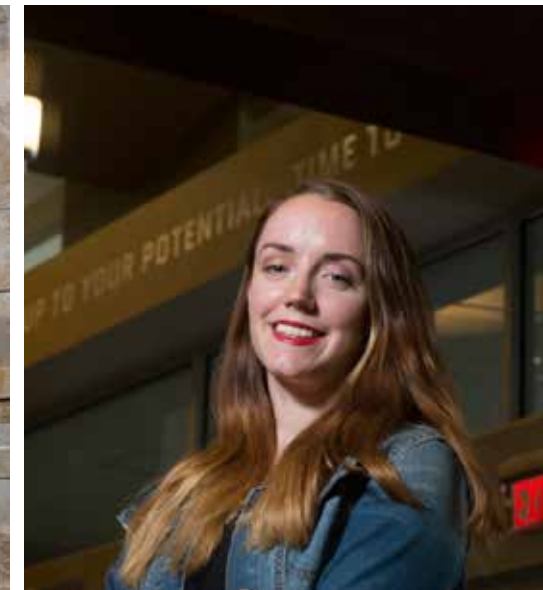
## A REUNION WITH HEART AND S.O.U.L.

Alumni who were part of the S.O.U.L. student organization that was active at Point Park in the 1960s, 70s and 80s gathered on campus for a reunion dinner on July 18. They shared memories, reminisced and enjoying seeing Point Park's growth in recent years. Celebrating with the group was former Point Park basketball star Bobby Franklin, Point Park Men's Basketball all-time leading scorer (2,020 pts 1973-77), who was inducted into the Pittsburgh Basketball Club Hall of Fame in 2014.

**Isabel Power** (COPA '10) writes, "[I am] embarking upon my third contract performing and traveling with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines. Will be spending the six months onboard the Adventure of the Seas porting out of San Juan, Puerto Rico and traveling all over the Caribbean!" A resident of Florida, Power earned a degree in dance at Point Park in 2010.

**Christina M. Beltran Revilla** (BUS '15) received a promotion from business proposal intern to proposal associate at ERT, a health care technology company in Pittsburgh. A graduate of Point Park's International Business program, she previously worked at Chatham University as an administrative assistant in the university's student affairs office.

**Christine Schell** (BUS '15) is a special events associate and social media associate at The Andy Warhol Museum and Peony Entertainment. She recently graduated with her B.S. in Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management. According to Schell, "At the Warhol Museum, I manage weekly events on site from set-up to tear down. The events range from weddings to corporate functions to sweet sixteen parties. For Peony Entertainment, I manage all of their event social media platforms. I develop content, maintain and schedule posts, as well as engage with our following and surrounding trending discussions. Most recently, I worked on the EQT Pittsburgh Three Rivers Regatta."



## RECENT GRADS JOIN DICK'S SPORTING GOODS

**Haleigh Kopinski** (A&S '15) is an e-commerce content coordinator for Dick's Sporting Goods in Pittsburgh. She earned her B.A. in creative writing/English with a minor in psychology in May 2015. The former president, campus correspondent, staff writer and photographer for Her Campus (Point Park) says "my experiences at Point Park, both in and out of the classroom, helped me to not only gain this position but

also to excel in it...Dick's Sporting Goods is a company that really stood out to me because it is based close to home yet has a national footing." Kopinski says that Point Park Professors Sarah Perrier and Karen Dwyer "really pushed me to do the best I could. They were very open and honest and at times hard on me, but it helped my writing in the long run. There was a lot of free rein in the program, which allowed me to take my writing to places I would not have been able to otherwise."

**Victoria Blackburn** (BUS '15) is an e-commerce content coordinator, athletic apparel and accessories, for Dick's Sporting Goods in Pittsburgh. She earned a B.S. in Sports, Arts and Entertainment Management (SAEM) in May '15. According to Blackburn, who says she learned about the opportunity through Point Park's Career Development Center, "As an e-commerce content coordinator, I work on the web content for the athletic apparel team products in the accessories division. My role is to write unique copy for each piece and then edit and upload product images from this division to the public website." Blackburn "took a nontraditional route with education by pursuing a career in ballet after high school. When I decided to go back to school, I knew I wanted to attend college in a city that had a strong connection to the arts...After talking with a former ballet teacher who had been an instructor in the Conservatory of Performing Arts, I became very interested in the SAEM program. As a dancer, I had always heard great things about Point Park and was excited to learn about the other programs the school had to offer. Overall, Point Park had everything I was looking for, so it was the perfect fit for me." ❖

## IN MEMORIAM

**Kelly C. Malloy** (BUS '07) passed away on September 17, 2014. She graduated from Point Park with an M.B.A. in 2007. Her mother writes, "Kelly always spoke highly of Point Park. She had many goals [but] unfortunately due to illness was not able to attain those dreams. On January 18, 2015, [I joined] friends and relatives to present the grassroots benefit "Open Arms," a night of karaoke and fun to raise money for the International OCD Foundation. The evening defined Kelly, her love for singing, and her lifetime battle with OCD. This is a devastating disease that needs to be brought to the attention of all those that have contact with young children. We need to recognize the signs so that it's not passed off as a phase, but dealt with properly to avoid the severity of how it can take over your life as an adult. Please consider donating to IOCDF in memory of my beautiful daughter Kelly."



# Winners' Cup



Point Park claims 2014-15  
KIAC Cup as top athletic  
department in the conference



Text by Kevin Taylor, photos by Chris Squier.

The title of top overall athletic department in the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has returned to campus.

Point Park claimed the 2014-15 KIAC Commissioner's All-Sports Cup, the award given annually to the conference school that has the best performance across all sports in the KIAC standings. "It's great to have the cup back," said Dan Swalga, director of athletics. "It's a testament to the good work of our student-athletes and coaches that Point Park claimed the KIAC Cup in 2014-15. Congratulations to everyone who made this possible."

## Victory Returns

It is the second time in three years that Point Park has won the KIAC Cup. The Pioneers also claimed the honor for the 2012-13 academic year, the University's first year in the conference.

Point Park narrowly finished second in the 2013-14 KIAC Cup standings and had to relinquish possession of the cup to conference member IU Southeast. But now it's back in Pittsburgh, hopefully for an extended stay.

Point Park claimed the KIAC Cup after competing for a conference

championship in just about every sport. Of the Pioneers' 13 varsity sports teams, 10 of them finished either first or second place in the KIAC standings.

There was stiff competition for the cup with 11 KIAC schools vying for the top spot. In the end, Point Park edged out KIAC newcomer Rio Grande (Ohio) for the title. Point Park's place in the final KIAC Cup standings was spearheaded by first-place finishes from the men's soccer, baseball and golf teams.

The Pioneers had seven teams finish second in the KIAC: volleyball, women's soccer, women's cross country, women's

basketball, softball, and the men's and women's track and field teams.

The men's basketball team finished sixth of 10 teams in the KIAC but made a great playoff run to the finals of the KIAC Tournament. Point Park's women's golf team was fourth in the KIAC, and the men's cross country team was fifth.

## National Achievement

Although the KIAC Cup standings were based on the regular season, the Pioneers did well in the postseason as well. The Pioneers' volleyball team finished second in the regular season

but captured the KIAC Tournament championship to qualify for the NAIA national tournament.

In men's soccer, Point Park reached the finals of the KIAC Tournament but was narrowly beaten by Rio Grande, the No. 1-ranked team in the NAIA. Point Park had beaten Rio Grande earlier in the year to claim the regular-season championship and earn an NAIA Top 25 ranking.

Women's cross country's second-place finish at the KIAC Championship Meet, which was hosted by Point Park, was the highest conference placement in team history. And in women's soccer and

women's basketball, Point Park reached the semifinals of the KIAC Tournament before coming up a few steps short of nationals.

In baseball, Point Park once again won the KIAC regular-season title, its third in a row. In the playoffs, Point Park made it to the final three teams in the KIAC Tournament but lost in the semifinals. The Pioneers, who were ranked in the NAIA Top 25 the entire year, came up just short of an at-large bid to nationals.

*continued on page 32*



## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### ► BASEBALL

The Pioneers had a strong season with a record of 37-13 overall and 16-4 in the KIAC for first place in the conference. It was the third straight KIAC regular-season title for the Pioneers, who reached the semifinals of the KIAC Tournament. Point Park was ranked in the NAIA Top 25 the entire year and came up just short for an at-large bid to the national tournament.

### ► SOFTBALL

Point Park finished in second place in the KIAC with a record of 29-16 overall and 21-7 in the conference. It was another playoff year for Point Park, which has made the playoffs all three years it has been in the KIAC. The Pioneers had eight players earn all-conference honors, led by KIAC Player of the Year Karen Mao, a senior first baseman.

### ► MEN'S GOLF

The Pioneers won the KIAC Tournament for the third year in a row to qualify for the NAIA national tournament for the third consecutive season. Point Park had four players named all-conference, including seniors Collin Holmes, Eric Poplowski and Diego Ortiz and freshman Max Kaminsky. The Pioneers finished 25th in the nation at the NAIA tournament.

### ► TRACK AND FIELD

In the inaugural year of competition, the Point Park men's and women's track and field teams placed second at the KIAC championship meet. Top performers for the men's team were freshman sprinter DeAnthony Morgan and freshman jumper Shaun Berry. For the women's team, Jahniah McAllister was named Team MVP and Katie Guarnaccia was the MVP of the KIAC meet.

### ► WOMEN'S GOLF

Point Park placed fourth in the KIAC Tournament led by senior Caroline Collins, who placed fifth individually. Collins earned all-conference honors and led a group of five seniors who were competing in their final event. Just six years old, the women's golf team debuted in 2009-10.

### Pioneers Sprint Forward

The 2014-15 season was the first for the newly formed men's and women's track and field teams, which made an immediate contribution to Point Park's KIAC Cup chances as they each finished second in the KIAC in their inaugural year.

The men's golf team provided the clinching points for the Pioneers to reclaim the KIAC Cup. The team won the KIAC Tournament in April to lock up the victory for Point Park. It was the third conference championship and third NAIA national tournament appearance in a row for the Pioneers.

And now, as the 2015-16 athletics year is underway, the quest for keeping the KIAC Cup at Point Park has begun.

*Kevin Taylor is director of athletic communications. Photographer and alumnus Chris Squier earned his bachelor's degree in journalism in 2015. ❖*

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